

c/o St Paul Hospital

Treasurer Walker Club Dallas, Texas  
Colored Cemetery  
Lexington Va

June 8 1929

Seeing your notice in Rockbridge County Va,  
I Enclose my check on 1st State Bank Ref, Okla  
for \$2.00 to help your club in your very  
laudable undertaking of caring for your  
cemetery, and I hope you have already had  
a generous response from the good people of  
your little city, white as well as colored.

I am a Virginian by birth and education  
my father having been a merchant in Rich-  
mond 1859 to 1865, and had <sup>three</sup> sons under the  
Confederate flag, and all survived the War.

I entered V. M. I in Sept 1862 and grad-  
uated July 4 - 1866, being with Corps of Cadets  
in the Battle of New Market, Va; and you will  
see my name in Roll of "C" Company (3rd Con-  
-poreal) on the monument at V. M. I; and my

my younger brother's name F. W. James in  
 Roll of A Co <sup>mb</sup> on said monument <sup>is brought</sup> ~~he~~ also gradu-  
 rated - in 1868 <sup>as private</sup> ~~at~~

I send this contribution on express Con-  
 dition that if the old time head cook or Baker  
 of V.M.I. that the Cadets thought so much of, was  
 buried in the Colored Cemetery that your Com-  
 mittee represents, you will see that a rose  
 bush is planted on his grave, and kept in  
 good order. He belonged to the State of Virginia  
 and for as I know, the only dusky ever owned  
 by that State. He was known to us Cadets as  
 "Judge", and was very popular.

When Hunter with his army came through  
 Lexington & burned everything, ah Institute except  
 Genl Smith's quarters, old "Judge" disappeared  
 and it was thought he had gone with the army.  
 But in a week or so, he turned up, and explained  
 that when he saw the soldiers burning the In-  
 stitute, he remembered he also was the property  
 of the state, and they might burn him too!  
 and so he went up the river & hid in a cave, and

friends fed him until the Yankees were gone, said he "had no idea of letting the Yankees burn him up with the rest of the State party." Gen. [Smith reopened the Institute in Sept 1865, and I returned then, with some 40 other and Cadets boarded up town. I boarded at Mr. Compton's, in front of Episcopal Church. I never saw or heard of Judge <sup>"</sup> any more. He may have left Lexington, and died somewhere else. But if his grave is anywhere in or near yr city, I wish a rosebush planted on it, for old times' sake, and in affectionate recollection of his devotion to the Cadets, whom he considered "his boys".

Some of the old time citizens, white or colored may help you to locate his grave.

Wishing you success, and asking you to write me  
Very truly yrs John G. James

c/o St Paul 140-142  
Dallas Texas

Am here in this big hospital for surgical operations for bladder trouble. May be here some months longer.  
I am now very near 84½ yrs old.

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