

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



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IRREVOCABLE DEATH

“Behold and see as you pass by
As you are now so once was I
As I an now soon you will be
Prepare to die and follow me.”

So reads the tombstone epitaph of Elijah Brown who died in 1803 and whose internment is the oldest marked grave in the county, being located in the Brown cemetery at The Bridges.

It has always been said that death and taxes are inescapable and now it seems that inflation is also irrevocable. From a statement to the estate of Mrs. Caroline Wilsea dated March 5, 1917 issued by McNall & McNall, Funeral Directors and Embalmers of Albion, we find the following itemized account:

Burial Case	\$50.00
Embalming	\$10.00
Hearse and Service	\$10.00
Carriages, 4 at \$4 ea.	\$16.00
	\$86.00

This vintage 1917 photograph, compliments of Maple Crest Hotel in Medina, shows in part what an \$86.00 funeral must have looked like. It would appear that the picture was taken in a private home, perhaps even the home of the deceased. Note the sheaf of wheat on the casket which is symbolic of a full and complete life.