Notes: #2 - It was thought by Hallwas that Calhoun was Waggoner, but this may not be correct information.
#20 - Oscar Baughman was an accomplice to #41 Chase Henry (Silas Dement) in burning the court house. Ellis Brown, the other accomplice is not buried in Lewistown.

ANTHOLOGY NAME ACTUAL NAME
1. Harold Arnett John Craig
2. Granville Calhoun D. J. Waggoner
3. Nicholas Bindle Nathan Beadles
4. Hod Putt William Phelps
5. Justice Arnett Addison M. Barnett
6. Searcy Foote Persis Foote
7. Cooney Potter Frank Sayre
8. Percy Bysshe Shelly Wm. C. Bryant
9. Henry C. Calhoun Harry M. Waggoner
10. Mary McNeely Mary Ross
11. Minerva Jones Margaret Wheadon
12. Samuel Gardner William Jones
13. Harmon Whitney Cassius Whitney
14. Judge Selah Lively Andrew N. Barrett
15. Mrs. George Reese Moses Turner
16. Mickey McGrew Henry Mickey McFall
17. Thomas Rhodes Henry Willis Phelps
18. Amanda Barker Lizzie Turner Phelps
19. Hamilton Greene Thomas A. Boyd
20. Not Anthology Character
21. Andy the Night-Watch Andrew Stevenson
22. Jack McGuire Bones Welby
23. Willie Metcalf Oscar Baughman
24. Indigination Jones Jonas Staton
25. Hare Drummer Frank Ehrenhart
26. Trainer the Druggist Nathan Painter
27. Magrady Graham Lewis C. Breeden
28. Mrs. Benjamin Pantier Emogene Thomas
29. Benham Pantier Kinsey Thomas
30. W. Lloyd Garrison Standard Frank J. Standard
31. Judge Somers Judge Winters
32. The Circuit Judge Simeon Shope
33. Editor Whedon William T. Davidson
34. Doc Hill Doc Hull
35. Flossie Cabanis Caroline Hull
36. Trainor the Druggist Phillip Randall
37. Lucius Atherton Lewis C. (Lute) Ross
38. Washington McNeely Lewis W. Ross
39. Charlie French Charles Bell
40. Silas Dement Frank Chase Henry
41. Chase Henry

"The Hill" recognized by Edgar Lee Masters consists of sections A & E of Oak Hill Cemetery. Masters also wrote about people buried in other sections here at Oak Hill, and other cemeteries. #41 listed here is Frank Chase Henry (Silas Dement) who is buried in St. Mary’s Cemetery located at the eastern edge of Lewistown. Take Halsey Ave., east, out of town, the Cemetery will appear on your left along the hill.
While serving as the primary cemetery for the town of Lewistown, it is also the most famous “fictional” cemetery in the world since it is the setting for Edgar Lee Master’s Spoon River Anthology. These poetic monologues in the form of epitaphs brought fame to Masters, and have continued in popularity for over ninety years. Drawing upon his early knowledge of town life, Masters created a world in microcosm, a portrait of the internal structure of community life which speaks to individuals everywhere.

The first cemetery in Lewistown was located to the south and was said to be the first burying ground in Fulton County. After a few years, due to the rapid expansion of the business district, that cemetery was abandoned and the burials were moved here to Oak Hill. The earliest death date recorded here is 1829. The oldest person buried here was Jacob Harwick, aged 108, who was born in 1759. Other interesting markers are Nathaniel Bordwine, 1799 – 1900, who lived in three centuries, and Emma Lee on whose stone the word “colored” is carved. Most of the founding fathers and early settlers of Lewistown and their families are buried here. Familiar names are Ross, Walker, Beadles, Phelps, Proctor, Simms, Bordner, Davidson, and others too numerous to mention, but important in the early development of Lewistown.

The beautiful pillars in the central part of the cemetery originally graced the former courthouse that burned in 1894. The present Lewistown Courthouse is the fourth to serve the county. The first courthouse, built of logs in 1823, was in use when much of Western Illinois, including Chicago, was under the jurisdiction of Fulton County. A wooden frame building replaced it in 1830. The third courthouse, built of brick in 1836 had a portico of four stone columns. These columns were quarried from the nearby Spoon River bottoms at a cost of $150 each.

Stephen A. Douglas served as a Circuit Court judge in this courthouse, and on August 17, 1858, Abraham Lincoln stood between the columns and delivered the much quoted “Return to the Fountain” speech.

EDGAR LEE MASTERS WHO WERE THE PEOPLE IN SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY?

On the back of this brochure is a partial list of names of people from Lewistown, who were models for Spoon River Anthology and the names given them by Masters in the titles of the book’s epitaphs. Some of the titles bear the real or slightly disguised names of people Masters knew in Lewistown, Petersburg, Galesburg, and Chicago areas. Masters said these people were presented in the epitaphs “under synthetic names with imaginative embellishments.” For example, the name of “Alfonso Churchill,” in the epitaph about Edgar Larkin, was a composite created from the names of George Churchill, a Galesburg educator, and Alfonso Newcomer, a Knox College Professor and the subject of the “Professor Newcomer” epitaph. The real names of Hannah Armstrong and Chase Henry, residents of Lewistown; Rebecca and John Wasson, Masters great-great grandparents; William Herndon, one of Lincoln’s law partners and law partner of Hardin W. Masters, Edgar’s father; and Anne Rutledge, an acquaintance of Lincoln, appear as titles of the epitaphs written about them.

Masters said he took other names for his titles from lists of signers of the Constitution of Illinois, and various other places. “There are fifty-three poems with names drawn from the Peters burg, New Salem, Concord, Sandridge country, and sixty-six from the Spoon River Country,” he wrote in The Genesis of Spoon River. The Anthology contains 244 epitaphs and mentions 269 names.

Some of the identifications come from the Edgar Lee Masters file in the Knox College archives. Others are from Spoon River Anthology an annotated edition by Professor John Hallwas of Western Illinois University and others from various sources, including Masters’ Across Spoon River and The Genesis of Spoon River, and Those People of Spoon River, by Ellen Coyne Masters, The Prairie Journal/Spring 1985, and Oak Hill Cemetery Sexton, Lloyd Chambers of Lewistown.

The map on the back of this brochure shows the locations of identified graves. Each is marked with a numbered silhouette of Masters mounted on a metal stake that corresponds to the numbered list. Be cautious in your journey throughout Oak Hill Cemetery.