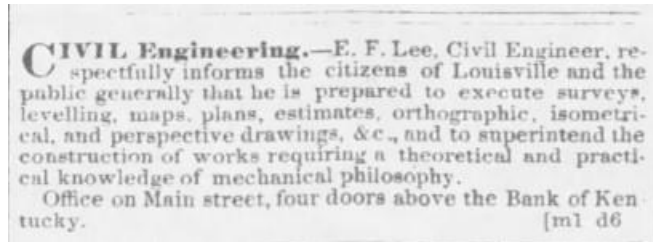




## Stories in Stone: Edmund Francis Lee, Civil Engineer, Cave Hill Cemetery's First Designer 1809 – 1857

By Alexandra Luken, Cave Hill Heritage Foundation

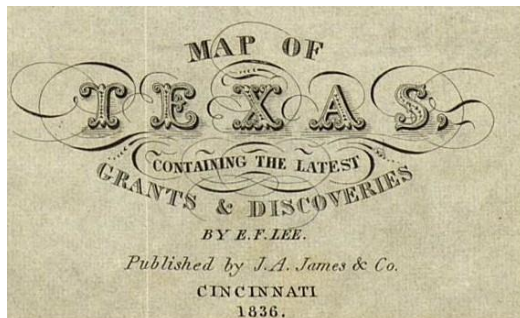
When Louisville city fathers acquired the original Cave Hill Farm tract in 1846 it was primarily for its quarries, grazing space for city work horses, and the conversion of the few flat areas into burying grounds. In 1847, a detailed study of the property by Edmund F. Lee sold them on the concept of a rural garden cemetery, based on the idea that a cemetery would be there in perpetuity. The entire cemetery would be designed at its inception to be sold off in lots, with a portion of lot sales going to the upkeep of the cemetery. Lee designed Walnut Ridge Cemetery in Jeffersonville, IN in 1838 in the same manner, inspired by Mount Auburn Cemetery in Boston, which opened in 1831. Walnut Ridge and Cave Hill are the only known cemeteries to be designed by Edmund F. Lee.



1836 advertisement for the services of Edmund Lee.

The concept of an independently managed cemetery was new to Louisvillians. Cemeteries were traditionally affiliated with religious denominations or fell under the oversight of the city government. Lee designed the cemetery, developed a plan for a governing board and hired a horticultural superintendent to oversee the landscaping of the property. The land was hilly, but winding roads followed the contours of the land, with basins becoming ponds and reserves planted with trees, created a place of beauty and grace in a parklike setting which blended life with death.

Edmund F. Lee was born in Berlin, CT in 1809. He received a formal education in civil engineering at the American Literary, Scientific and Military (A. L. S. M.) Academy founded by Capt. Alden Partridge at Middletown, CT. Partridge, a graduate of West Point Academy, was a professor of mathematics and engineering at the Academy and Superintendent of West Point from 1815-1817. A. L. S. M. ultimately became a private military academy in 1834, Norwich University. Partridge founded seven military academies and is considered the father of the American Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC).



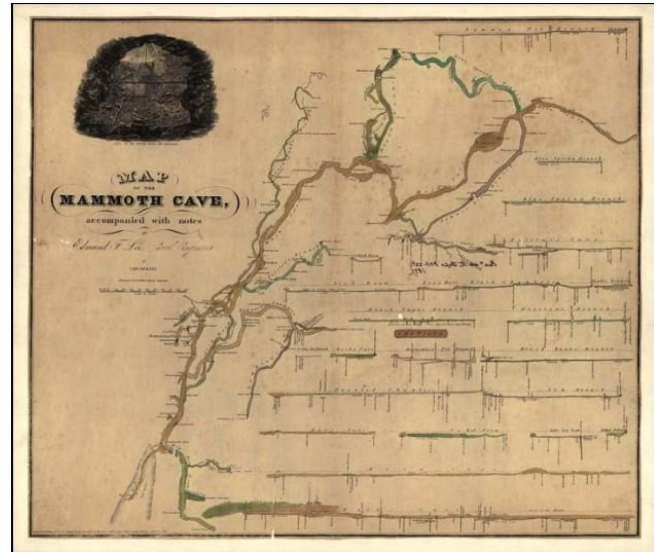
Portion of Map of Texas, designed by Lee

In 1835, Lee resided in Cincinnati, OH, where he worked as a cartographer for map publisher J. A. James & Co. His work is credited with one of the earliest published maps of the Republic of Texas, showing land grants and discoveries. Lee was hired by the owners of Mammoth Cave Charles Wilkins and Hyman Gratz to produce the first surveyed map of the first eight miles Mammoth Cave, along with a 30-page guide book describing what he saw within the cave. George S. Gatewood, a cave guide who assisted Lee with chaining, went on to become a Methodist minister and hold church services in Mammoth

Cave during the mid-1800s. Lee's map was used by Stephen Bishop in 1842 to create a hand-drawn version of extended cave passages and chambers as he documented his explorations. Lee and Bishop's maps were used as the definitive maps of the Mammoth Cave system until 1881, when the cave was resurveyed.

In 1836, Lee relocated to Jeffersonville, IN and was engaged by Rev. Robert Ash as an instructor of geography, mathematics, drafting, surveying and civil engineering in the newly formed Literary and Scientific Academy for boys and young men. Lee's wife, Meloria (Addison) Lee, co-taught with her sister, Henrietta (Addison) Ash in the Academy's counterpart for girls and young women. His employment as a teacher were short-lived, and in 1837, he resumed civil engineering as his primary employment on projects in Indiana and Kentucky, including the replatting of the town of Jeffersonville, IN.

Lee was elected Louisville city engineer and architect in 1846, a position he held until his resignation in 1856. His primary responsibilities included surveying city roads and railroad beds. In 1850 he produced a topographical map of the state of Kentucky that was used by both Union and Confederate armies throughout the Civil War. Prior to his resignation as city engineer, Lee prepared a detailed study for extending and improving the harbor and wharf of Louisville in order to accommodate increased steamboat and barge traffic. The plan included excavation of a larger harbor at the mouth of the canal opposite Corn Island to Second Street and the improvement of the city wharf along the river bank. The city accepted the plan at the time but did nothing with it. In 1867, the plan surfaced and was enacted to meet the expanding commercial requirements of the city.



Map of Mammoth Cave by Lee.

Edmund F. Lee passed away in 1857 and his wife, Meloria Addison Lee, in 1875. They were re-interred in Section O Lot 6 in 1906 by their son, Addison Wolcott Lee, a Louisville attorney. Following Lee's death, English civil engineer Benjamin Grove was retained to finish work on Cave Hill Cemetery.

Edmund Lee is buried in: Section O Lot 6 S1/2

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