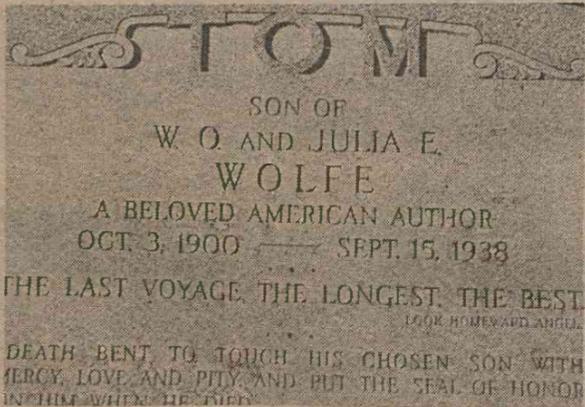


The Merrimons

This family rose to fortune in the nineteenth century, when Asheville was still in relative infancy. Like many other prominent local citizens of the period --- the Kimberlys, the Pattons, and the Hilliards --- they had a street named after them.



The Wolfe Plot

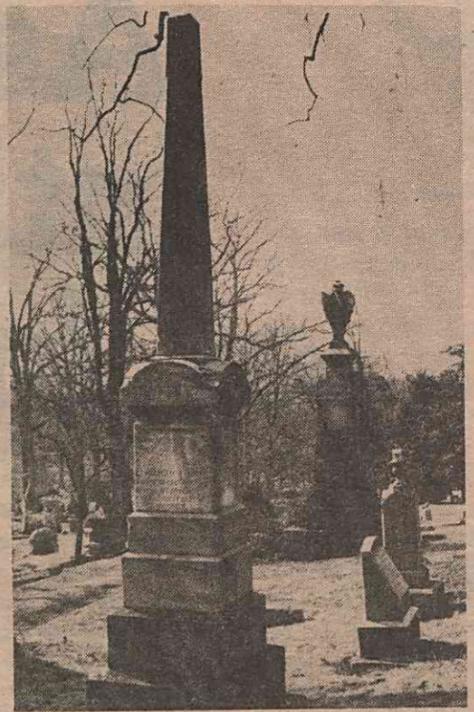
The resting place of Thomas Wolfe --- Asheville's most famous son --- although not always the town's favorite. He's buried with his parents, W. O. and Julia, and assorted brothers, sisters, and in-laws.

In the Spring of 1918, W. O. Wolfe and his father-in-law, Mr. Westall, purchased adjacent family plots at Riverside Cemetery. The Westalls lie just across the road from W. O.'s family, and there are also a few of these in-laws to the right of the Wolfe graves. At the base of one of the Westall tombstones is the inscription, "W. O. Wolfe-Maker." The elder Wolfe was a local stonecutter and monument carver --- his shop was located on Pack Square.

Tom Wolfe was buried here in 1938. The two inscriptions on his monument were selected by Maxwell Perkins and Edward Aswell, the two editors who played such important roles in his short but prolific literary career.

Fred, the sole surviving Wolfe brother, now lives in Spartanburg, S.C. He has the tombstones polished every couple of years, and although now confined to a wheel chair, still makes an annual visit to place flowers on the graves of each family member. Fred had his marker erected years ago. The inscription, "Luke in Look Homeward, Angel," was picked by Fred himself.

There are many other Ashevilleans in Riverside who could have made similar inscriptions on their own tombstones.

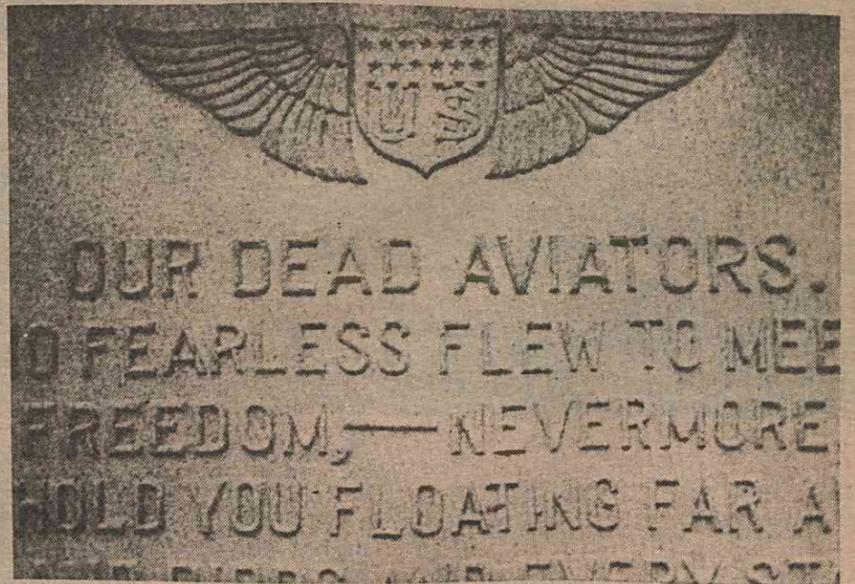


The Clingman Monument

Burial place of Thomas L. Clingman, of Clingman's Dome fame. U.S. Senator and a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army. Like most prominent Southerners of his day, he had served the governments of two countries during his lifetime.

Hot-tempered and argumentative, he shared the center-stage of a long-running debate with Elisha Mitchell, the man who measured the highest peak east of the Rockies. Clingman contended that his mountain was higher than Mitchell's, in effect saying that the nationally recognized scientist had missed his measurements. With his professional reputation on the line, the aging Mitchell returned to North Carolina to verify his figures. He died on the mountain that bears his name after slipping over a waterfall. Eventually, surveyors found Mt. Mitchell to be forty-one feet higher than Clingman's Dome.

According to one contemporary, the disdainful Clingman was "a man of considerable quality, but not the man he thought he was."



The Aviators

Although the United States did not enter the first World War until 1917, several young Ashevilleans went overseas in the early days of the conflict and fought alongside French and British forces. Many signed up with the newly formed air corps of the Allied countries. As members of elite squadrons such as the Lafayette Escadrille, they engaged the Germans in aerial duels over the trenches of France. Local pilot Kiffin Rockwell was the first American pilot to bring down an enemy aircraft. He, too, was later killed in the fighting --- his grave is in France. The young man buried here died at the age of twenty-six, shot down on a July afternoon just two weeks after being assigned to his fighter group.