

1885 the Old State House was remodeled and enlarged, and in making the necessary excavations, workmen discovered three graves on the State House grounds. Bones taken from these graves were placed in the cornerstone of the new addition, and the older people in the town began to search their memories to identify the disturbed graves.

W. G. Rankin of Perryville, a grandson of General Edmund Hogan, wrote a letter to the Daily Arkansas Democrat, published on August 22, 1885, in which he stated that the three graves were those of Edmund Hogan, his wife Francis Jane, and their son who Rankin believed died at about the age of 15 years. Mr. Rankin said, "In my younger days while growing up and after the state house was built, my mother...frequently told me that right where the state house stood they and her brother were buried, and it has always been the impression with me that they were buried to themselves, that it did not become a common burying place."

Although in 1885 there were still a number of people living in Little Rock who had been residents of the town at the time of Edmund Hogan's death none of them chose to dispute Mr. Rankin's statement. When the discussion concerning the location of the proposed state house was in progress, it was known that some graves were located on the site selected by Gov. Pope, and it was referred to as an Indian burial ground. These graves were the basis for some of the objections to the site, but Gov. Pope's reply was, "We will build a monument to their memory."

At that time, Edmund Hogan's death was still fresh in the minds of the people of Little Rock, most of whom had known him well. The circumstances of his death were sensational, certainly not soon to be forgotten. Judge Andrew Scott, in self defense, stabbed Hogan to death in 1828 during a political argument in McLain and Badgett's store at Markham and Main. It does not make sense that Hogan's old acquaintances would have called the proposed state house grounds an Indian burial ground if they knew it to be the burial place of Hogan and his family.

At the time of his death in 1828, and for several years before, Hogan lived at Crystal Hill. He was survived by his wife, Lucinda, and several children. Others in his family had died at Crystal Hill, and were probably buried there. It is perhaps worthwhile to mention here that Mr. Rankin badly garbled the known facts of his grandfather's life, and may have been equally confused as to the location of his grave. He was born years after Hogan's death, and relied entirely upon his memory of stories told to him during his childhood.

William F. Pope, who came to Little Rock in 1832, also wrote about the graves at the Old State House in his book EARLY DAYS IN ARKANSAS, published in 1895. Some of the earliest settlers in the area had told him that a party of gold-seekers from New Orleans had camped at the present site of the Old State House in 1809 (other sources say 1817 was probably more nearly accurate) and that some of them had died and were buried there. It was his opinion that these were the graves disturbed in 1885, although he added that possibly the place had also been an Indian burial ground. He made no mention of Hogan in this connection. Pope, however, like Mr. Rankin, was writing from hearsay evidence on this particular point.