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**SMA says Goodbye to Board Members  
Mary Adams & Wayne Rhodes**

The Southern Memorial Association will miss two important members who are leaving its Board of Directors: Mary Adams and Wayne Rhodes. Mary served on the Board since 2006 where she acted as Secretary of the Board and Chairman of the Community Relations Committee. In this latter capacity, she worked closely with the Lynchburg Neighborhood Development Foundation and the Tinbridge Neighborhood Council to help with projects and programs to benefit the residents of the cemetery neighborhood.

Wayne Rhodes served as an *ex-officio* member of the Board for ten years, representing Jones Memorial Library where he was Director from 1998-2008. Helpful in many areas of research into the early history of Lynchburg, Wayne has worked closely with cemetery Archivist & Curator Ted Delaney. Both of these former Board members have given valuable and diverse service to the Old City Cemetery. Their official loss is tempered by the realization they will continue to share their time and talents as generously as in the past.



**Old City Cemetery**  
**401 Taylor Street**  
**Lynchburg, VA 24501**



# Old City Cemetery

Volume 1, Issue 2



401 Taylor Street, Lynchburg, Virginia 24501 ~ 434-847-1465 ~ [www.gravegarden.org](http://www.gravegarden.org)



## Summer in the Gravegarden



*“Summer afternoon - summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.” ~ Henry James*

As we ring in the long and lazy days of summer, many people think this is the slow season for Old City Cemetery. Even though we have fewer programs during these hot and humid months, ‘going-ons’ around the grounds are anything but winding down. In addition to the following events, visitors can always stroll through the gravegarden at their leisure. There are two walking tour brochures to help guide you—*Quick Guide to Black History & Quick Guide to Gravestones*—as well as a *Scavenger Hunt* and *Kids’ Guide* pamphlet for the younger guests. Don’t forget the cemetery grounds are open 365 days a year, dawn until dusk, and can be a great place for an early morning walk (the cemetery loop is just about 1/2 mile) or a late afternoon picnic.

Saturdays in the Cemetery walking tours began its third season on June 7th and will continue every Saturday in June, July, and August. Each tour is free, begins at the Gatehouse at 10:00 a.m., and will feature highlights of the historic grounds. The following “special event” programs will also be offered:

**June 14th - Lynchburg Civil War Days**

**July 5th - Revolutionary War Tour**

**August 2nd - Butterfly Garden Tour**



Looking for a place to cool off at the cemetery? Here are some fun spots that will help you beat the heat! The Confederate Section has many old sugar maples that were planted by the Southern Memorial Association (SMA)—the non-profit organization that co-manages the cemetery—to provide shade for aging Civil War veterans at the turn of the 20th century. In the center of this area is



*Visitors enjoying a swing from the pecan tree at the Kids’ Haven Memorial*

a Veterans’ Bench and Speaker’s Belvedere, also erected by the SMA for the ex-soldiers. This is a great place to find mid-day relief from the sun or have a lunch under these shady memorials. You can also visit our Kids’ Haven area near the exit of the cemetery. Here you will find a pecan tree with a giant swing and several wrought-iron tables and chairs for an impromptu siesta!

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# From the Director

By Bruce Christian, Executive Director

In the last issue I mentioned the quiet stillness of winter. We have now just completed a two week period I call the phenomenon of the flowers. Everything is alive with color throughout the cemetery – fresh spring green on the trees, sassy buttercups, fragrant and regal roses, elegant irises. With this profusion of pulchritude come the hordes of visitors. This is truly an exciting and lively time in the Old City Cemetery.

Our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Rose Festival was a huge success. In the week before and after the Saturday event there were large numbers of visitors. We all believe it was a record attendance for the Festival itself - and they all bought! We have sold “lots and lots” of roses to borrow a favorite term of Jane White’s...and we still are. Tom Burford and Jane ensured we had plenty of plants available for all and Tom has served as our “Salesman Extraordinaire”. None of this would have been possible without all our volunteers who cheerfully and generously gave of their time and gifts. We are so appreciative. A special note of appreciation to our SMA staff and City personnel which put in countless hours of preparation to make everything come off so effortlessly.

In celebration of Memorial Day, Jane and I placed small American flags by the graves of all the veterans in the cemetery. We have veterans from every American armed conflict from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam. Special thanks to SMA board member Vivian Williams, who represented the Southern Memorial Association at the Confederate Memorial Day ceremony on May 26<sup>th</sup> by presenting our wreath. Close to 100 people turned out for the annual observance this year which, for the first time, included Union re-enactors.

My thanks to all of you who do so much to make this place the remarkable site it is. The compliments we hear every day are because of your efforts. It is such fun to see the reactions people have to the cemetery. From school groups to photo ops at the pond, from the birders to those gathering to remember a loved one, these 26 acres are unlike any others in the city. So whether you are a visitor or a volunteer, a regular or a first timer, please know we appreciate your presence as we continue to “Keep the Old City Cemetery Alive”.



*Pictures from top to bottom:*

*Rose Festival 2008; Confederate Memorial Day Service; Memorial Day Speaker, Dr. Clifton Potter; tombstone of Revolutionary War Soldier Lt. Francis Gray and his family decorated with American flags.*

## Announcements and News

### CALLING ALL ACTORS!!!

Old City Cemetery is looking for professional actors to portray citizens buried in the graveyard for its first annual Candlelight Tours being held on October 17th & 18th from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Actors must be available for a fitting date, all rehearsal dates—October 14th, 15th, & 16th—and one of the two tour dates, October 17th or 18th.

Auditions will be September 21st & 22nd at 6:00 p.m. in the Cemetery Center Community Room. Callbacks, if necessary, will be September 24th at 7:00 pm. Scripts will be provided and in monologue format, approximately five minutes in length. There are roles for 12 adults and some male roles may be assigned to females.

Auditionees must have prior acting experience in theater.

Actors will be paid a stipend of \$50.00 per night and may be cast for both nights, dependent upon need and actor availability. For more information, please call 434-847-1465 or email [dawn@gravegarden.org](mailto:dawn@gravegarden.org). Scripts will be available for pick-up after September 1st.

## Share Faire

### Coming in October:

#### Consignment Sale to Benefit Old City Cemetery

The Southern Memorial Association's Development Committee is planning a consignment sale to benefit the cemetery on Sunday, October 12th, from noon until 4 p.m. (Rain date: October 19th). Proceeds will be divided evenly between the seller and the Old City Cemetery. Items to be accepted on consignment include the following:

- Fine china, crystal, silver
- Good furniture and paintings
- Rugs, lamps, clocks, mirrors
- Costume jewelry, fine jewelry
- Vintage clothing, furs
- Garden ornaments
- Quilts, crocheted spreads
- Antique dolls and toys

*Watch for details about this exciting fall event!*

## Photos from Friends



This picture of one of the many frogs in the cemetery's Lotus Pond was taken by Kathy Kreeger on June 14, 2008.

To submit your photo to be considered for inclusion in our next newsletter please send pictures as an attachment to [dawn@gravegarden.org](mailto:dawn@gravegarden.org) and include "Newsletter Photo" in the subject line.

## Upcoming Events

**Every Saturday  
in June, July, August  
10:00 a.m.**

*Saturdays in the Cemetery*

~

**Special Tours  
Each Month:**

**June 14th - Civil War**

*History Walking Tour:*

*Celebrating Civil War Days  
in Lynchburg*

**July 5th - Revolutionary War**

*Walking Tour: Visit the graves*

*of the five Revolutionary War  
soldiers buried in the cemetery*

**August 2nd - Butterfly**

*Garden Tour: Celebrate the  
beginning of Monarch butterfly  
migration season with this  
entertaining program.*

~

**September 21st & 22nd -  
Auditions for Candlelight Tours**

*(see box above)*

**September 28th - Bawdy**

*Ladies of 19th-Century  
Lynchburg Walking Tour:  
Our most popular tour is back!  
\$5.00 per person.*

# Florticultural Highlights

By Laurie Jamerson, Historic Grounds Supervisor



Turn the calendar and we're in the next new season of my first year on site. Working about the Old City Cemetery (OCC) grounds, I have been seeing these 26 acres as our many daily visitors do. I find myself following a pattern my crew has developed over the years of welcoming these guests as they make their way among tombstones and trees, answering their inquiries when our paths cross. Often we meet walkers near dawn when we open the gates. Some are regulars, some with friends, some bring their faithful companions, and some just enjoy the peace and ever-changing beauty within the gates.

OCC has recently been recognized as a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Looking for ways to invite nature and also assist our busy maintenance and mowing schedules between events, we have added some meadow sites where there are no tombstones. We hope the cultivation of wildflowers in these areas will provide a seed food source for our large bird population this winter. This is one of the first new ideas we are trying and unlike mortar and stone, can easily be adapted to a larger or smaller scale as time goes on.

A recent article on Arlington Cemetery, the most visited cemetery in the United States, prompted me to calculate its statistics with OCC:

	<u>OCC</u>	vs.	<u>Arlington</u>
Acres	26		624
Groundskeepers	3		120
Acres per groundskeeper	8.67		5.4
Trees per acre	18.5		13.5



I invite you to stroll through our arboretum any day and discover the first bloom of a flower or shrub, or touch ancient trees with incredible bark details. Before you leave, be sure to experience the breathtaking mountain vistas speckled with church steeples by making your way to that little knoll by old 3<sup>rd</sup> street entrance (right where the sidewalk ends at the top of the hill near the entrance of the cemetery), then turn around and look from where you have come to see another side of OCC.

**We look forward to your next visit!**



*Pictures from top to bottom:*

*National Wildlife Federation sign certifying the cemetery as a Wildlife Habitat; one of the new meadows at the cemetery; a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains from the cemetery's historic first acre. The cemetery is the highest natural point in Lynchburg.*

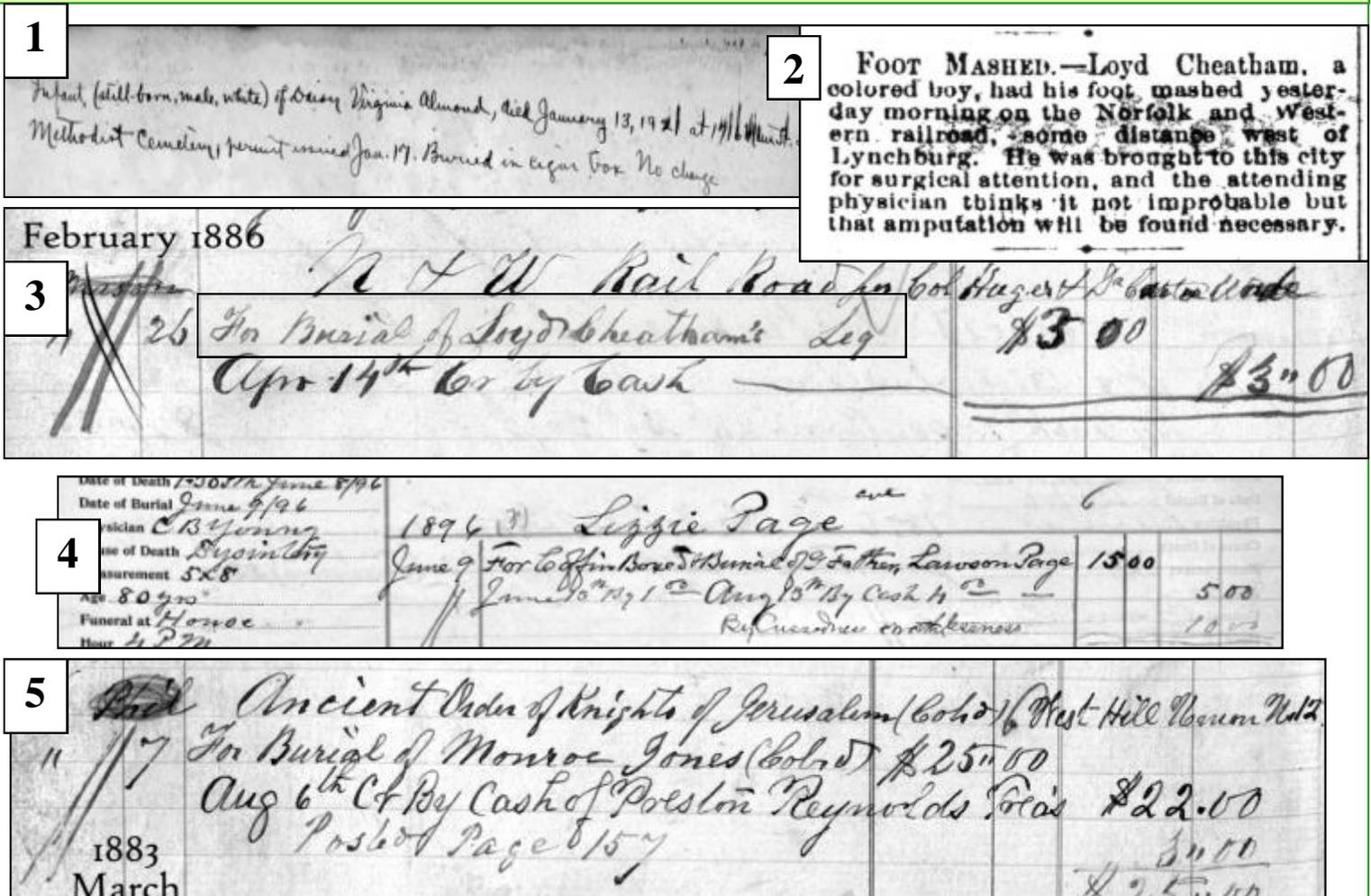
# Curator's Corner

By Ted Delaney, Archivist and Curator

The Cemetery's ambitious project to index the Diuguid Funeral Home records is well underway, and the collection continues to yield riches beyond our greatest expectations. When completed, the index will include roughly 78,000 individual burial or funeral records, which are found on over 20,000 pages spanning the years 1820 to 1950.

Since 2005, volunteers have been diligently indexing the old ledger books, preparing a searchable database that will be accessible this fall through the Cemetery's website, *gravegarden.org*. The index is now complete from 1820 to 1890, thanks to the painstaking efforts of Wayne Rhodes and Susan Pillow of Jones Memorial Library, and SMA volunteer Irene Cranston. More volunteers are needed to complete the index, so if this project interests you, please call or e-mail me at *ted@gravegarden.org*.

One of the many rewards of transcribing the Diuguid records has been the discovery of dozens of especially interesting, poignant, or amusing entries. Here are a few samples:



## CAPTIONS

Image 1: This entry was made on the inside back cover of a 1920's ledger. It records the interment of an unnamed stillborn infant in the Old City Cemetery.

Image 2 & 3 (inset): Diuguid provides the answer to the question posed by the local newspapers about the fate of Loyd Cheatham's foot.

Image 4: One of Diuguid's bill collectors credits a loss of \$10 in the account of Lizzie Page to her "cussedness and worthlessness."

Image 5: Diuguid's records provide invaluable documentation for African-American fraternal and sororal orders in the late 19th century. The Legacy Museum has incorporated reproductions of a dozen of these entries into its new exhibit, "For Our Own Good: African American Civic and Social Groups in Central Virginia."

## Old City Cemetery Receives Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Grant

The Old City Cemetery has received a \$10,000 grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

The grant will support the Cemetery's ongoing project to preserve the extensive records of Lynchburg's Diuguid Funeral Home. The Diuguid collection covers the years 1820-1950 and consists of over 90 ledgers containing burial records, furniture orders, and cemetery plot diagrams. The VHF award supplements a \$50,000 grant from the Easley Foundation, which the Cemetery received in 2007 for different phases of the same project.

The most exciting component of the Diuguid Project is a website that will provide free public access to 20,000 digitized record pages. The images will be fully indexed and searchable through an online database. The site will also feature background about the Diuguid undertakers and contextual information about their records provided by historians, genealogists, and other scholars. It will be the largest digital archive of Lynchburg records on the Internet when it is released in January 2009.

Diuguid Funeral Home is one of the oldest undertaking establishments in the United States. It was founded in Lynchburg in 1817 by furniture makers Sampson Diuguid and Alanson Winston. Although no longer family owned, it is still in operation today. Diuguid business records comprise an extraordinarily rare intact archive of a single American mortuary from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The potential for use by humanities scholars, genealogists, and ordinary citizens is unlimited.

Before the Civil War, Diuguid was Lynchburg's only undertaker, and until World War I the Diuguid Funeral Home buried a substantial majority of the City's residents, both black and white. For those who died between 1896 and 1912, when the Commonwealth of Virginia kept no official death records, the Diuguid Collection provides invaluable vital records that contain virtually identical information as one finds in post-1912 death certificates.



### CAPTIONS:

Pic. 1: A sample entry from the Diuguid books

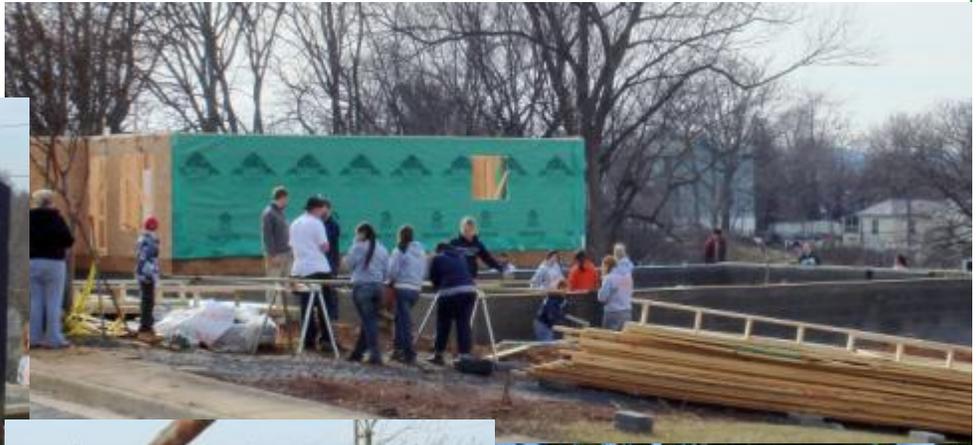
Pic. 2: A sample page from July 1862, a busy time for burials in Lynchburg due to the Civil War

Pic. 3: An advertisement for the Diuguid Funeral Home on Main Street. Note the phone number is 111.

Pic. 4: The Diuguid Burial Records collection

# Habitat for Humanity Project

By Mary Adams



## New Faces in the Neighborhood

This summer two new families will be moving into new homes on Wise Street near the exit to the Old City Cemetery. These homes are being built with help of the families, community sponsors and volunteers, and the staff of Greater Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity

407 Wise Street is being called the "Green Build," because emphasis is being placed on the fact that Habitat is using many environmentally friendly building products and techniques in its construction. Valvette Spradley, an employee of Randolph College, will be buying the home. Primary sponsors are Wiley & Wilson and Bank of America. Also donating funds and/or in-kind gifts are: Randolph College, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Cycle Systems, Evergreen Basement Systems, Hurt & Proffitt, CJMW, Master Engineers, Earthworks, AEP, City of Lynchburg, Counts & Dobyns, Dodson Brothers, and Whirlpool.

The 411 Wise Street home, the "Ortho/Youth United Build," will be purchased by Lynchburg Public School employee Gracie Moorman and her three children, Morgan, Sidney and Israel. Central Virginia Orthodontics (Dr. William Richardson) is the primary sponsor. Additional sponsors are: St. John's Episcopal Church, Dr. Robert Bowen Trust, Woody Lyles, Moore's Electric, Whirlpool, State Farm, Weyerhaeuser, City of Lynchburg, Schaub, and Dodson Brothers.

Recently, the SMA Board and cemetery staff provided lunch for the Saturday Habitat volunteers and the families working on the homes. "My children were excited to know that their house was going to be near the Old City Cemetery," Ms Moorman stated, "because they've visited with their school groups on several occasions and had such a good time learning there."

**The SMA welcomes these new homeowner families to the neighborhood!**