

(continued from front)

“You Can Get Married There?! Eight Local Places You Probably Never Thought of...”, and the Cemetery was ranked #1 on the list.

We have other activities for visitors during the summer months. Our annual *Saturdays in the Cemetery* series begins on the first weekend in June and is held every Saturday in June, July, and August at 10 a.m. These free walking tours highlight history and horticulture on the grounds. If you have never been on a Cemetery tour before or need something to entertain out-of-towners for an hour on Saturdays, it is a great choice. Plus, the tours are free and kid-friendly, so they are great for the whole family.

For more information on these and other events in the “Gravegarden”, including our upcoming Candlelight Tours, please call 434-847-1465 or visit our website at www.gravegarden.org. Hope to see you soon!

COMING SOON!

Once Upon a Time...
A Cemetery Story
by Jane Baber White

This beautiful coffee table book chronicles the historical and horticultural past and present of the Old City Cemetery. Mrs. White is the Director *Emerita* and former Restoration Chairman for the historic site. The much-anticipated book will be released in Fall 2009.

Check www.gravegarden.org
for more information.

Old City Cemetery
401 Taylor Street
Lynchburg, VA 24501



Old City Cemetery

Volume 2, Issue 2



2009

401 Taylor Street, Lynchburg, Virginia 24501 ~ 434-847-1465 ~ www.gravegarden.org

Notes from the Gravegarden

*I question not if thrushes sing, if roses load the air;
Beyond my heart I need not reach
When all is summer there. ~John Vance Cheney*



(Top): Kindergarteners from Paul Munro Elementary learn about composting at the Cemetery's Compost Education Center; (Bottom): The Chapel is decorated for the Twery wedding while a lone guest waits in the pews

Everyone knows the old saying, "when it rains, it pours," and it doesn't quite mean you should bring an umbrella with you. Well, it has been pouring like crazy here at the Old City Cemetery.

Up until a couple of years ago the Cemetery staff used to have a few quiet weeks a year (or even a whole month or two) to be able to catch up and plan for upcoming events. One of the quietest was always July because people didn't want to leave their house in 100 degree weather, much less go to a cemetery. But if last summer is any indication of the visitation we are to expect this year, we have got our proverbial umbrellas poised for the downpour.

Though we are always busy with our many tours and programs, the one activity that has been increasing in popularity here on the grounds is weddings. We have four scheduled for July and August already! We owe much of our sudden rise in popularity to a wonderful article in the Mar/Apr issue of *Lynchburg Living* titled

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From the Director

By Bruce Christian, Executive Director

We have had a most amazing spring here in the Old City Cemetery. We have been very busy with events, tours, weddings, funerals, and lots of visitors coming to see and smell the roses and other flora in bloom. It is interesting to review our visitor log and see who is passing through the "Gravegarden". We continue to be a top spot for locals to come and to bring their out-of-town guests. We even had a lady from North Pole, Alaska, pop in...and she was not Mrs. Claus.

While the weather was not particularly cooperative, the *Run for the Roses* was a huge success. We were very pleased to be able to act as host for this event. A very special shout out to Jane White for spearheading the race and getting so many people on the grounds. It took a great deal of orchestration and it showed.

We held our 14th Annual Antique Rose Festival the day before Mother's Day. Over 1,000 people came through to participate in rose tours and planting demonstrations, purchase roses and delectable baked goods, and simply enjoy being in a beautiful setting. This year we had more rose cuttings available for sale than ever before, over 1,100. We officially sold out as of the middle of June. A record year in a downturned economy! Many thanks to Laurie Jamerson, our Historic Grounds Supervisor, and our volunteers, Kaye Moomaw and Krissy Novak, for picking up the cuttings and setting them out for the sale, and to Phil Harris and Ken Peery who led our rose tours. A huge "attaboy" goes out as well to all our volunteers who baked goodies, answered questions, handled sales, and helped make Rose Festival a huge success. It helps when you have a beautiful day!

In the Confederate Section we have five new maple trees which are part of a generous gift from the Kirkwood Otey Chapter #10, United Daughters of the Confederacy. We are very grateful for our new trees as we continue to notice deep decline in some of our oldest. We are planning a renovation of the Medicinal Herb Garden next to the Pest House Medical Museum with the balance of the UDC gift.

Please plan to visit this summer. If you want to spend some "special" time with us we always have a list of weeding opportunities. Nature may be glorious but she is also relentless! We would love to see you.



Pictured above, top to bottom: Steve Bozeman and the Flag Corps run across the finish line of Run for the Roses; several youth runners await the start of the Race awards ceremony; Rose Festival 2009

Announcements & News

CALLING ALL ACTORS!

Tickets quickly sold out for last year's Candlelight Tours and much of its success was due to the amazing group of actors we had cast. This year we are adding three more nights to accommodate the demand we know we will have for tickets, and we can't do it without great performers! Old City Cemetery is looking for professional actors to portray citizens buried in the graveyard for its annual Candlelight Tours being held on October 15th, 16th, 17th, 23rd, and 24th from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Actors must be available for a fitting date, all rehearsal dates on October 12th, 13th, and 14th, and all performance dates.

Auditions will be held Monday, September 14th and Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Cemetery's Chapel. Callbacks, if necessary, will be September 16th at 7:00 p.m. Auditions are expected to last at least two hours and actors should plan to stay for the entire time, though will only need to audition one night. Scripts will be provided and in monologue format, approximately five minutes in length. There are roles for 8 -10 adults, but the Casting Committee will consider anyone 16 and over.

Auditionees must have prior acting experience, preferably in theater.

Actors will be paid a stipend of \$150. Unfortunately, travel costs cannot be paid at this time. Scripts will be available for pick-up after September 1st. For more information, please call 434-847-1465 or email dawn@gravagarden.org.



A deathbed scene from the 2008 Candlelight Tours

Upcoming Calendar of Events

**Every Saturday in
June, July, August at 10am**

Saturdays in the Cemetery
*Free, one-hour walking tours
highlighting history and horticulture
on the grounds. Meet at Gatehouse*

October 4th at 3pm

Blessing of the Animals
at the Chapel

**October 16th, 17th,
23rd, & 24th**

Candlelight Tours of
Old City Cemetery

*Costumed actors portray compelling
and poignant stories from local
history. Tickets must be purchased
in advance. Tours start at 6:30 p.m.
and run every 20 minutes until
7:50 p.m. Preview night on
Thursday, October 15th. \$15 per
adult, \$10 per student/child.*



*Please visit our neighbors, the
**Legacy Museum of
African American History**
at the corner of 4th and Monroe
Streets and their newest exhibit:
Much in Demand: 200 Years of
Central Virginia African Americans
in the Military Service. Call 434-
845-3455 or visit
www.legacymuseum.org*



Volunteer Spotlight

When Brookville High School senior Kaitlin Shiflett was getting ready to apply for her Girl Scout Gold Award, she wanted to do something that was related to history. She loved the Old City Cemetery but didn't know what she could do on the grounds that would account for the 65 project hours required for completion of the award. When she came in to the office and presented Cemetery staff with the requirements, they knew exactly where she would be able to help.



Thanks Kaitlin and good luck at Longwood!

Over the past few months, Miss Shiflett has been overseeing Phase One of the Confederate Tombstone Documentation Project. After volunteers photographed the 2200 tombstones in the Confederate Section, Kaitlin named and formatted each of the digital images for the Cemetery's official archives. Eventually all of these photographs will be placed on the Cemetery's website for researchers and genealogists to use. Due to the many phone calls and email inquiries our Archivist receives each week for photos of these tombstones, this will not only be a great resource for our visitors but a timesaving tool for the Cemetery staff as well.

We asked Kaitlin several questions about her project and what she learned along the way:

Old City Cemetery: What do you hope this project helps future researchers and visitors do at the cemetery?

Kaitlin Shiflett: I hope this project makes it easier for researchers and visitors to locate ancestors even if they can't come to the actual cemetery. It will also be good because people can research before they come and see if the person they are looking for is actually there.

OCC: When will you officially be awarded the Gold Award?

KS: I will hopefully be finishing it at some point over the summer before I head off to Longwood University. I also won the History Award that Brookville High School's History department gives to one devoted senior that plans to major in/enjoys History.

OCC: What did you learn from this project?

KS: I learned this is something I would love to do for the rest of my life. I love the feeling of being at the cemetery and looking through all the names of people buried in the sections I'm doing. This project proved to me that Public History is something I really want to do.



Pictured, top to bottom: Girl Scout Kaitlin Shiflett; inset: picture of one of the 2200 Confederate soldier tombstones being documented; volunteer photographers in Confederate Section; Cemetery Curator Ted Delaney, Board Member Rusty Hicks, and Kaitlin Shiflett beginning the documentation process.

Biographies of Our Citizens

By Lynne Spies
Cemetery Research Volunteer

Caroline F. R. M. Morgan - “Business Only Fit for Men to Pursue”

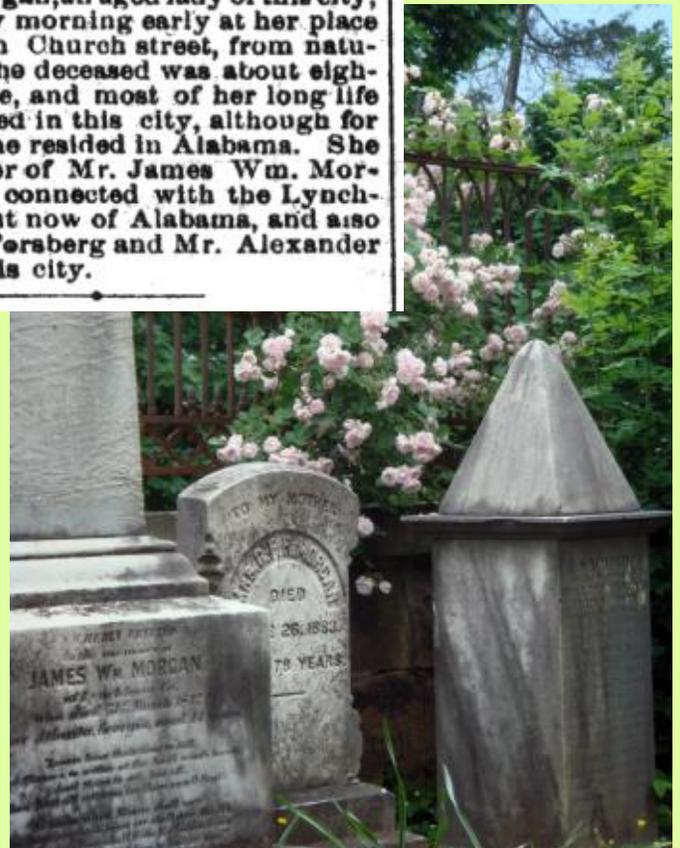
Born in 1805 to a New Jersey family connected to the founding of Princeton University, Caroline Fitz Randolph Morford came to be characterized as one of the great belles in her day. In the late 1820s she married Lynchburg native and wealthy tobacconist James William Morgan, and the couple established their residence in Lynchburg, eventually in a mansion near the corner of Court and Fifth Streets.

Caroline’s life became especially intriguing when she inherited substantial money and property after her husband died in 1847 and she met Dr. William Allison, a Mississippian about eight years younger than she. Several items in the Old City Cemetery’s archives document their relationship: a few love letters between the two before their marriage; an “Indenture,” a legal document which can be characterized in today’s terms as a pre-nuptial agreement preserving Caroline’s interest in and control of her finances; and a remarkable “Resolution” written by Allison largely to justify his behavior and demonize Caroline’s as their marriage broke apart. Much can be inferred about Caroline and William Allison’s relationship from these documents. According to Allison, Caroline proposed marriage to him—a rather unusual move for a woman in the nineteenth century! During this time Caroline took a great deal of interest in her holdings, perhaps somewhat uncharacteristically for a woman of her time and station, and despite Allison’s having signed the pre-nuptial “Indenture,” the essence of his complaints against Caroline appear in his written “Resolution”: “I think I see the cause of the whole unhappiness but it is not in my power to apply the remedy [. . .] while you have to attend to business only fit for men to pursue. What must everybody

think of a husband of such a woman if they know she has one? Never while you take upon yourself the management of the Estate, will you be happy or make your husband so [. . .].”

After their divorce in the late 1850s, Caroline resumed her life in Lynchburg as Mrs. C. F. R. Morgan, discarding entirely Allison’s name. She died on June 26, 1883, and was buried in the Morgan family plot in the Old City Cemetery. Her obituary in the *Lynchburg Virginian* states she was “one of the oldest residents of Lynchburg . . . an excellent lady . . . highly esteemed by all.”

DEATH OF AN AGED LADY.—Mrs. Caroline F. R. Morgan, an aged lady of this city, died yesterday morning early at her place of residence on Church street, from natural causes. The deceased was about eighty years of age, and most of her long life had been passed in this city, although for many years she resided in Alabama. She was the mother of Mr. James Wm. Morgan, formerly connected with the Lynchburg press, but now of Alabama, and also of Mrs. Col. Fersberg and Mr. Alexander Morgan, of this city.



Pictured: Caroline Morgan’s obituary in the *Lynchburg Virginian*; the Morgan family plot at Old City Cemetery. The plot is located in an iron-work enclosure on the left near the Cemetery’s entrance. Caroline’s tombstone is pictured in the middle.

Florticultural Highlights

By Laurie Jamerson
Historic Grounds Supervisor

Cemetery Trees are Unexpected Source of Beauty

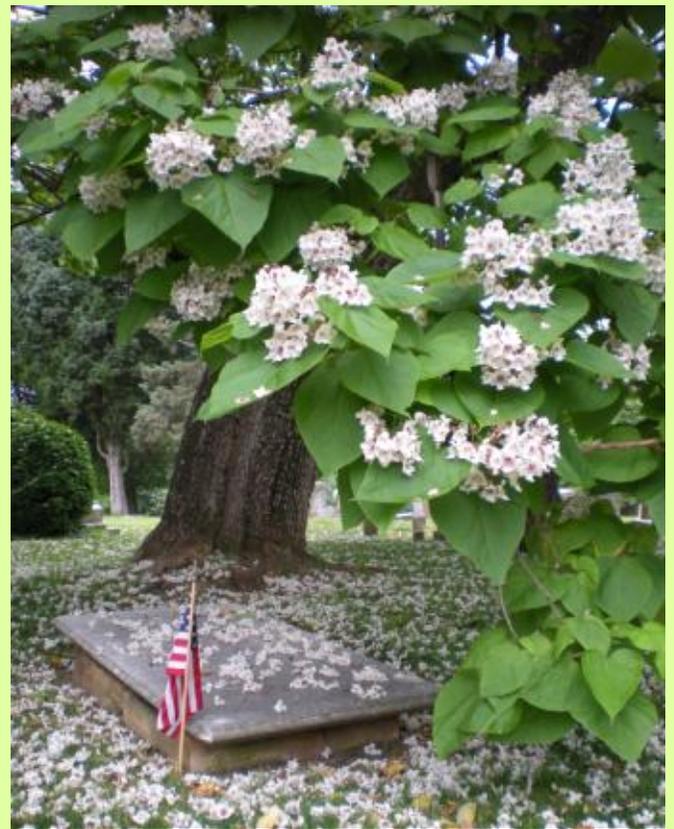
As the spring rains cease and summer starts to warm up, the abundance of white blooms beckon June brides to the historic arboretum for photo ops. The *campsis x. tagliabuana* (Trumpet Vine), with beautiful hues of peach and rose, complement the blushing bride as well. Sporadically, single roses will still burst into color, daring visitors to draw near and absorb their sweet fragrance. Seasonal color demands daily attention to be witnessed and one will often see an old favorite they missed on their last visit.



campsis x. tagliabuana (Trumpet Vine)

The simple pleasure of finding something blooming just about every day of the year is rewarding, but always in sight are the majestic trees that will take you back a hundred years and more. Thoughts of who planted them and worn names on the nearby tombstones bring visions of days long gone. Throughout the Cemetery in June clouds of *catalpa* blooms could be seen all over and provided a shower of white as people drove through the entrance and exit of the grounds. The mysterious ring around the *quercus acutissima* (Sawtooth Oak), or the 160-foot circumference of the Taylor Street *Magnolia grandiflora* near the Murphy plot are shadowed by the height and enormous sprawling limbs of the *liriodendron tulipifera* (Tulip Poplar) further down the cobblestone road at the Laughon site, just outside the Confederate Section. A *koelreuteria paniculata* (Goldenraintree) unites two Cox family headstones and may be 80 years old, but its knurled twisted shape is dwarfed by the Hubbard's *catalpa*—bulging protrusions on the trunk giving it both unique and grotesque features.

You can see these beauties everyday and as the light changes and their shadows stretch from west to east in the late afternoon summer sun, you can walk in the shade of cemetery history. I invite you to come by and experience our arboretum features for yourself and see how many more wonderful creations of nature grow and flourish on our grounds.



This picture is of the remarkable *catalpa speciosa* in full bloom behind the Cemetery's Gatehouse. The lovely white flowers have showered the gravestone of Colonel Jesse Perry, with the American flag providing a striking contrast to all the white and green.

Old City Cemetery in the News

“I never knew this was here,” is a comment we often hear from people who come into our Cemetery Center. But over the last few months there has been another statement many of our visitors have been saying: “I read about the Cemetery in [insert magazine/newspaper of your choice].” It seemed wherever we looked the Old City Cemetery was being featured in one media outlet or another, and there are more to come. Below we have listed how to find some of the items that have been released and those to look for in the near future. Hopefully, with all the new interest in us, we won’t be hearing, “I never knew this was here,” as much as we used to!

This spring the piece of news that had everyone in town talking was the review of Lynchburg as “Fine and Funky” by *Washington Post* writer Pamela Satran. With the article flanked by an ad for Brooks Brothers and peppered with quotes like “vibrant cultural scene” and “distinctly bohemian air,” many Lynchburgers felt almost worthy of being neighbors to our bigger and cooler older sister, Charlottesville. Though the Cemetery has been featured in the *Post* before, it was particularly nice to be included with the highlights of this “great undiscovered town” along with the tip: “For more activity, there are those who swear by the Old City Cemetery.” Go to www.washingtonpost.com and search for “Lynchburg” to read the complete article. Local writer Darrell Laurant also wrote a very entertaining column about the write-up and its circulation in Lynchburg titled “The Burg as funky? Who knew?”. It is definitely worth the read and can be found at www.newsadvance.com.

Associated Press National Garden Writer Dean Fosdick visited the Cemetery in May and the subsequent editorial piece detailing his visit was recently published in dozens of North American media outlets, such as *ABCNews.com*, *MSNBC*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. An internet search for “Old City Cemetery” and “Dean Fosdick” will show over 100 newspapers and journals that have picked up the article. You can click on any of those pages to see partials or complete versions, some even with pictures.

The Cemetery has lots more publicity coming up in the next few months. Be sure to look for the July/Aug issue of *Lynchburg Living* for info about the Cemetery’s Butterfly Garden, the Sept/Oct issue of *Virginia Living* for an unusual look at the Cemetery’s history, and the Fall 2009 *Country Gardens*—a quarterly national publication by *Better Homes and Gardens*—that details the horticultural aspects of the grounds. Thanks again to all of these great magazines for helping us get the word out about this wonderful Lynchburg treasure.



This picture of a Downtown shop appeared in a travel article about our city in the *Washington Post* with the tagline: “Lynchburg has a vibrant cultural scene and a distinctly bohemian air.” The picture was ranked as one of the most viewed in the *Post* for the week. Who knew!