

Continued from *Spring* on front page

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OPEN DAILY 11AM-3PM  
Located in the Cemetery Center

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renowned for its collection of over 200 varieties of antique roses. The Antique Rose Collection was planted in 1986 along the 500-foot remains of the 1860s Old Brick Wall. The varieties chosen are representative of rose history from 1581 through the 19th century and include the full range of classes and colors exhibited by these ancestors of modern day roses. The plants were gathered from all over the United States and Canada, as well as local gardens.

This year marks the 13th year of the Antique Rose Festival and the event will be held on Saturday, May 17th, 2008, from 9am - 2pm. Free rose walks and planting demonstrations will be held throughout the day. Bring your mystery rose for possible identification (include stem and foliage **with bloom**). **Don't miss this opportunity to purchase: rooted cuttings** of many of our antique rose varieties; a variety of rose books; *Billy-Doux* goat manure (a perfect natural rose fertilizer); and much more! Cemetery staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about the roses. All proceeds benefit the continued preservation and interpretation of the Old City Cemetery. This event will be held rain or shine and is free to the public.

THERE WILL BE A PRE-SALE OF THE ROSES PRECEDING  
**THE EVENT, BEGINNING MOTHER'S DAY, SUNDAY,  
MAY 11TH THROUGH FRIDAY, MAY 16TH FROM 10AM - 3PM.**

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Old City Cemetery  
401 Taylor Street  
Lynchburg, VA 24501



# Old City Cemetery

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring

2008

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



## Spring in the Gravegarden



*"I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden." ~ Ruth Stout*

Spring is arguably the most beautiful time to visit the Old City Cemetery and there is an abundance of activities available on the grounds that coincide with this spectacular season. For more information on these and other events at the cemetery, please call 434-847-1465 or visit our website at [www.gravegarden.org](http://www.gravegarden.org).



On March 7th & 8th, "Ready, Set...Bloom!", A Garden Symposium, will feature presentations and workshops by Stephen Scanniello, Scott Kunst, and Dennis Whetzel, each nationally known in their field of antique roses, old-fashioned bulbs, four seasons of companion planting, and the practical necessities of early spring gardening including pruning, planting, and propagation.

The event is sponsored by Bank of The James, Campbell Insurance, The City of Lynchburg, The Design Group, The Farm Basket, N.B. Handy Company, and Wiley & Wilson, Inc. Proceeds from the symposium will benefit the Horticulture Endowment of the Old City Cemetery.



April 22nd is Garden Day in Lynchburg and the Old City Cemetery will be open from dawn until dusk and admission to the site is free. A recommended spot to visit is the Earley Memorial Shrub Garden with its Antique Daffodil Collection and spring blooming shrubs; or simply drive through the grounds and witness the



*Pink Summer Snow rose, located near the old brick wall next to the Cemetery Center*



*Hearse House and Caretakers' Museum*

beauty of the buttercups, lilacs, dogwood, and that flush of spring green that transforms this rolling Virginia landscape.



Visitors from near and far always look forward to and make a special trip to the grounds for the cemetery's annual Antique Rose Festival. The cemetery is

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# From the Director

By Bruce Christian, Executive Director

I am sitting here looking out the window in my office on a still, winter day watching the goats frolic in their enclosure and a flock of robins devour every berry on the cedar tree. All visitors love the Old City Cemetery for different reasons and in different seasons. I particularly appreciate winter, which is very special in the Cemetery because of the stillness and the views we get without any foliage on the trees.

While the atmosphere may seem quiet, the activity level is still quite high. Visitors continue to arrive no matter what the weather brings. If you have not come recently, please plan to do so and view our Scatter Garden for the Ashes of Beloved Animals, a.k.a., the Pet Scatter Garden, under the grove of maples above the pond. It represents a beautiful addition which many people had requested. We are very grateful to the Lynchburg Humane Society for the gift of a life size statue of St. Francis, patron saint of animals, which overlooks the enclosure.

In February, the Board of Directors held an off site strategic planning meeting facilitated by Dr. Nancy Young. Out of this process came a vision statement, “Keep the Old City Cemetery Alive”, a new mission statement, and a set of prioritized goals for the next three years. The Board will continue to formalize the structure for accomplishing these as we go forward. Many thanks to the best board members anyone could hope for and to Nancy for her outstanding direction.

We are especially excited about the “Ready, Set,...Bloom!” Garden Symposium, March 7th and 8th. A historical tour of Lynchburg led by Mary Kathryn McIntosh kicks off the event, followed by supper at the home of Melanie and Lynch Christian. With the symposium, featuring three nationally known speakers presenting and offering workshops, our early spring horticulture is a real highlight. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this event such a success.

Thank you as well to all our volunteers and supporters. Without you there would not be this most wonderful site which continues to shine as a real gem for Lynchburg. Please know how much we appreciate all you do. Remember spring is just around the corner and the Cemetery will be “alive with new birth”.



Top to bottom: One of our resident goats; statue of St. Francis of Assisi overlooking the new Scatter Garden for the Ashes of Beloved Animals; springtime in the cemetery



## Announcements & News

### 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 5th, from noon until 4 p.m. (Rain date: October 12th)

Proceeds will be divided evenly between the seller and the Old City Cemetery.

- 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!



*Above: Target under the wagon wheel near the Station House Museum*

On February 12th, 2008, the cemetery lost one of its Station House cats, Target, to illness. Named for his unique stripe pattern, he was a shy, but loving, tabby who enjoyed the many visitors who came to see him and his feline friends. His ashes were scattered in the cemetery's new **Pet Scatter Garden**, located across the road from where he lived.

He will be forever remembered and greatly missed.

## Photos from Friends



This picture of the Confederate Section was taken February 16th, 2008 by Jeff Coleman.

To submit your picture for consideration for our next newsletter, email photos to [occ@gravegarden.org](mailto:occ@gravegarden.org), and include "Newsletter Photo" in the subject line. Photos for the Summer 2008 newsletter must be received by May 31st.

## Upcoming Events

March 7th & 8th  
*"Ready, Set,...Bloom!"*  
*Garden Symposium*

May 11th –16th  
10am - 3pm  
*Pre-sale of antique rose cuttings*

May 17th  
9am - 2pm  
*13th Annual Antique Rose Festival*

May 25th  
3pm  
*Confederate Memorial Day Service*

May 26th  
8:30am  
*Annual Memorial Day Bird Walk and Count*

Every Saturday  
in June\*  
10am  
*Saturdays in the Cemetery*

~  
*\*June 14th - Civil War History Walking Tour: Celebrating Civil War Days in Lynchburg*

# Horticultural Highlights

By Jane White, Director Emerita



In 2008, the City of Lynchburg did an innovative thing by authorizing a new position: “Historic Grounds Supervisor.” In doing so, they have recognized publicly the importance of the historic landscape and historic sites in Lynchburg.

Meet Laurie Jamerson, who assumed that post in October 2007. She spends most of her time on site at the Old City Cemetery, but is on-call to the city’s other historic properties (Point of Honor, Monument Terrace, or the city’s official Historic Districts) as needed. This is a positive, creative, and much needed position for the city. All of the city’s historic sites have functioned on volunteer garden historians for many years.

The Old City Cemetery is a treasure of historic horticulture. The Antique Rose Collection of over 200 varieties of old garden roses is known internationally. The initial advisor to the collection, Carl Cato, was recognized late in life as a world figure in saving historic species of roses.

Rudy Favretti, FASLA, author of a number of books on historic garden restorations, was an initial advisor in the rehabilitation of the cemetery grounds beginning in 1993. Most recently, with the assistance of a generous grant from the California-based Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, all of the plantings—trees, shrubs, roses, bulbs and perennials—in the Old City Cemetery are being mapped using state-of-the-art GPS equipment and numerous “gravegardener” volunteers. The ultimate goal is a record of the original historic horticulture of the cemetery before 1993, and of the rehabilitative plantings added since 1993.

The Old City Cemetery is a place of education, peace, and beauty. It provides an environmentally-friendly, sustainable landscape setting reflecting a graveyard of family offerings and native plants, and a home to birds and wildlife—all in a re-creation of a simple 19th-century graveyard.

As the original Restoration Chairman, Director, and now Director Emerita, it is a privilege and comfort to turn over the oversight of the treasured site to the capable guardianship of the Southern Memorial Association Board of Directors, staff, and Historic Grounds Supervisor, Laurie Jamerson.



Top to bottom:  
Historic Grounds  
Supervisor,  
Laurie Jamerson,  
pictured with the  
cemetery’s new  
Executive Director,  
Bruce Christian; the  
Cato Collection near the  
Pest House;  
gravegardener Sandra  
Weigand with her  
bucket and GPS  
mapping equipment





# Curator's Corner

By Ted Delaney, Archivist and Curator

Throughout the month of February I wrote a series of eight short biographies of local African Americans for the Lynchburg *News & Advance*. Each article ran as a special feature titled "Black History Month: Notable Central Virginians."

Despite the challenge of summarizing a life in 200 words and meeting biweekly deadlines, I enjoyed writing the biographies. The regular exposure they gave the Cemetery in an otherwise "slow" season was priceless.

The following eight men and women were featured this year. All except Dr. Lushington are buried in the Old City Cemetery.

Blind Billy (c.1805-1855) - **Musician and "Master of the Fife"**

Blind Billy was the most famous Lynchburg musician of the 19th century. He played the fife for countless military parades, militia drills, private parties, and balls in the city and throughout the state.

Martha Spence Edley (1826-1920) - *Domestic Servant*

"Aunt Martha" Edley was the beloved nurse and maid for three generations of the Spence and Gish families of Lynchburg.

Jane (Died 1864) - *Civil War Hospital Worker*

A slave known only as "Jane" was the only woman buried by the Confederate government in Lynchburg during the Civil War.

Emily Clements Jefferson (c.1845-1920) - *Cook and Innkeeper*

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, "Aunt Emily" Jefferson was renowned throughout Amherst County and Lynchburg for her exceptional cooking and hospitality.

Augustus Nathaniel Lushington (1869-1939) - *Veterinarian*

Dr. Lushington was the first African-American veterinarian in Central Virginia. He was also the first black graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine.

James William Mozee (1862-1941) - *Dunbar High School Principal*

In the late 1920s Mozee became the first African-American principal of the newly opened Dunbar High School for local black students.

Harry Wilson Reid (1892-1969) - *Pharmacist*

Reid was one of Lynchburg's earliest black pharmacists (or "druggists"). His pharmacy was a fixture of the Fifth Street business district for more than 40 years.

Rosa Jones Woodard (1885-1957) - *College Matron*

Woodard worked at Virginia Theological Seminary and College in Fairview Heights for 40 years. Most of her time at the college was spent as matron, or "dorm mother."



Blind Billy's tombstone



Martha Spence Edley



Slave "Jane"



Emily Clements Jefferson



Augustus Lushington



James Williams Mozee



Harry Wilson Reid



Rosa Jones Woodard

## Call for Volunteers!

The Old City Cemetery could not have become the success it is today without the help of our many dedicated volunteers. There are opportunities to volunteer to suit every interest and we need people in every area. Some of the positions available:

### Research Volunteer

Volunteers assist the Curator/Archivist with various research-related tasks.

### Tombstone Repair

Volunteers assist the Curator/Archivist with removing, repairing, and replacing broken and dilapidated tombstones.

### Cemetery Center Docents

Volunteers assist the Cemetery staff by greeting drop-in visitors, answering phones, and helping with various office-related duties.

### Tour Guides

Volunteers lead and assist the Cemetery staff with guided tours for adults and students. Costumes are not required. Docents are needed for the following areas of the cemetery: Pest House Medical Museum; Station House Museum; Mourning Museum; Chapel and Columbarium; Horticulture and Nature Tours; Black History; Confederate Section and Civil War History; Early Cemetery History; Tombstone Rubbings and Archaeology; and more!

### Gravegardeners

Volunteers help with various horticulture-related tasks in the cemetery such as pruning, weeding, hand work, fertilizing, planting, painting, plaque cleaning, and assisting with special garden events such as the Antique Rose Festival.

Full training is provided and is done on a one-on-one basis. Training time commitment is **dependent upon the new volunteer's field(s)** of interest and prior knowledge.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Dawn Fields, Public Relations and Visitor Services Manager, at 434-847-1465, [dawn@gravegarden.org](mailto:dawn@gravegarden.org), or visit our website at [www.gravegarden.org](http://www.gravegarden.org)

*Some of the many things our volunteers do...*



*Top to bottom, L to R:  
Volunteer beekeepers, Loretta and Wayne Denton; Master Gardener Mary Adams, working at the Compost Education Center; Kaye Moomaw and Lisa Lyne pruning roses; Revolutionary War re-enactor, Scott Smith, leading a tour; Betty Smith documenting the Diuguid Burial Records; gravegardeners repairing our deer fencing*



## Annual Memorial Day Bird Walk

By Virginia Delaney, Lynchburg Bird Club

You could not find a better place for a bird walk than at the Old City Cemetery. The cemetery with its birds, flowers, and stately trees welcomes all visitors. Memorial Day bird walks began in the year 2000.

The purpose of this Memorial Day Bird Walk is to honor and appreciate those who have served our country in the past. It is also a time to share our birding experience and knowledge with others. While doing this we find that many share their special expertise with us.

Among the many species to be observed are: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Flicker, Blue Jay, Tree Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Blue Bird, Robin, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, House Finch, and Gold Finch.

The walk begins with checking the Blue Bird boxes. There are usually nests found in each box, although one of them may belong to the Tree Swallows. House Wrens can be discovered nesting in the gourds found hanging in many of the trees. Sometimes birders receive a good scolding if the parents are feeding young.

It is also a time to enjoy the roses. Much information is exchanged as we walk past the antique roses along the Old Brick Wall. Discussions may be heard about herbs such as rosemary, lavender, and yarrow found among the roses. That these herbs are deer repellents is good news to gardeners.

The final stop of the walk is at the pond and train station. Here we

hope to find our special bird of the day—the indigo bunting. He has been seen on previous walks. His song is a musical high pitched series of paired notes. The male indigo bunting is a beautiful color of blue and sings from the treetops and high wires. He can be heard from dawn through the heat of the day to dusk. The brown female is seldom seen as she builds the nests, cares for the eggs and then the young. If the male helps at all, it is to feed fledglings while the female begins a new family.

We can't say thank you enough to all of the staff, the Southern Memorial Association, and the City of Lynchburg for maintaining this Historic Landmark. The Old City Cemetery is a special place to birders and nature lovers.

*"I value my garden more for being full of blackbirds than of cherries, and very frankly give them fruit for their songs."*  
~ Joseph Addison



*Carolina Wren*



*American Goldfinch*



*Male Indigo Bunting*

### Annual Memorial Day Bird Walk

WHEN:  
Memorial Day  
Monday, May 26, 2008  
8:30 a.m.

WHERE:  
Old City Cemetery  
Meet at Gatehouse

SPONSORED BY:  
Lynchburg Bird Club