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**Thanks to the Candlelight Tour Cast!**

*Pictured L to R, (Back Row): Eric Verdu, Bethany Emery, Dylan Amick,  
Carey Martin, Dee Ann Evans, Jeffrey Young, Tom Brown,  
(Front Row): Sarah Daggett, Erin Frick, and Maria Hayden*

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



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



## Autumn in the Gravegarden



*Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns. ~George Eliot*

The cemetery is probably best known in gardening circles for its Antique Rose Collection and it seems like May—the time the roses are at their peak of bloom—is the month when most people visit to see our horticultural highlights. But if there is a time when the grounds are really at the height of their natural splendor it most certainly would be autumn. In mid-October the stately sugar maples in the Confederate Section begin to turn a glorious palette of red, orange, and yellow. This fantastic grouping of trees is the centerpiece of the cemetery and can be seen wherever one happens to be on the grounds. Try to stay around for dusk when the leaves in this area reflect the amber light of the setting sun, for it is truly a magnificent sight to see!

October is also the busiest time for activities in the cemetery and this year was no exception. In this issue you will be able to read about all of the exciting events that have happened over the past few months, and we have included some great pictures as well. One of the most anticipated programs, the inaugural Candlelight Tours of Old City Cemetery, were held on October 17th & 18th and sold out very quickly, with approximately 200 people having to be turned away. We will definitely be holding this event again next year and will include extra evenings to accommodate the demand, but please enjoy

the many photographs we have included of the tours in the meantime.

We hope you like this issue of *Notes from the Gravegarden* and that we see you many more times on our grounds in the coming months. Happy Autumn!



*Bishop Neff Powell blessing the Cemetery's beloved goats*

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# From the Director

By Bruce Christian, Executive Director

Everything is ablaze with color here in the Old City Cemetery. While we came through a very, very dry summer where everything began to take on a brown and crunchy look, after some rains the Cemetery has returned to deep green. Our trees are now showing the annual wide spectrum of colors. Every day brings some new look to the grounds.

Autumn brings with it a flurry of activity, so there is much for me to report and I have included lots of photos as well. Our first Blessing of the Animals went very well. Approximately 150 people attended with their animals. Many thanks to Jane White, Marion Kanour from St. Barnabas and Trinity Episcopal, Cathy Montgomery from Grace Memorial Episcopal, and the Lynchburg Humane Society for their help in making this event a success.

Blessing of the Animals Ceremony beginning in front of the Chapel.



The Lynchburg Humane Society—the donor of the St. Francis of Assisi statue in the Cemetery's new Pet Scatter Garden—received lots of donations during the event.



Shoppers in the "Treasures" tent at Share Faire held on October 12th.



Soulsters from the Hill performing at the Lotus Pond during Share Faire



We had a very successful Share Faire consignment sale on a perfect October Sunday. There was music, food, and of course a wide variety of items for sale. Many thanks to board member Betty Davidson for heading up a committee of hardy workers along with the SMA staff, and for providing some "recruited" helpers of her own who pulled everything together. We are very fortunate to have such inspired and committed people working with the Old City Cemetery.

## Announcements & News

### 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:

#### 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; Horticulture and Nature Tours; Black History; Confederate Section and Civil War History; Early Cemetery History; and Tombstone Rubbings.

#### Gravegardeners

Volunteers help with horticultural tasks in the cemetery such as pruning, weeding, fertilizing, planting, painting, and assisting with special garden events such as the Antique Rose Festival.

Training is provided and is done on a one-on-one basis. Time commitment is dependent upon the new volunteer's field(s) of interest and prior knowledge. For more information, please contact Dawn Fields at 434-847-1465, [dawn@gravegarden.org](mailto:dawn@gravegarden.org), or visit our website at [www.gravegarden.org](http://www.gravegarden.org).



## Photos from Friends

This picture of the "Lady in the Garden", located in the Earley Memorial Shrub Garden near the exit of the cemetery, was taken by Virginia Travis earlier this year. 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 Winter 2008/2009 newsletter must be received by January 5th, 2009.

## Upcoming Events

### Wreath-Making Workshops

**Saturday, November 29th**

**Sunday, November 30th**

*Back by popular demand!*

*Each workshop is limited to 25 people. \$50.00 per person.*

*All materials provided.*

#### Workshop A - 11/29

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

#### Workshop B - 11/29

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Workshop C - 11/30

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### Chapel Open

### House Days

**Every Saturday in December**

**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

*The Chapel will be open every Saturday for drop-in visits and decorated for the holidays with greenery from the Cemetery grounds. Special holiday concert by Brookville High School on 12/20 at 3:00 p.m.*

### Wreaths Across America

**Saturday, December 13th**

**Ceremony begins at Noon**

*As part of a nationwide ceremony, commemorative wreaths will be placed on the graves of the many veterans buried on the Cemetery grounds.*

October gave a party;  
 The leaves by hundreds came -  
 The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,  
 And leaves of every name.  
 The Sunshine spread a carpet,  
 And everything was grand,  
 Miss Weather led the dancing,  
 Professor Wind the band.  
 ~George Cooper, "October's Party"

## Florticultural Highlights

By Laurie Jamerson, Historic Grounds Supervisor

We know winter is around the corner but the roses DO NOT! The abundance of blooms persists even after 30 degree overnight lows and the simplicity of a single flower in mid November is a sweet memory of the Rose Festival. The leaves are falling like rain showers and we are preparing to gather fresh greens for the Thanksgiving weekend wreath workshops.

There is a lot of recycling taking place at the Old City Cemetery this time of year, from mulching the green grass blades of late summer to the current golden hues of autumn leaves that blanket the landscape like patchwork. Evergreens that have overgrown their space regardless of the harsh drought conditions of summer past will be perfect for holiday decorations. The berries are more prolific on the hollies, dogwoods and red cedars to name a few trees, and this should please the palette of our feathered friends as colder weather approaches.

The eye-catching deep orange-yellow flowers of the *Helianthus angustifolius* added at the Gatehouse can be seen from as far away as Park Avenue and beckon to you. Once inside the gates, the faces on blue, yellow and white pansies found along the cemetery roadside will greet you all winter long and are the work of volunteers participating in our Adopt-a-Spot program. Look for more roadside color next spring.

Larry and Charles of our cemetery maintenance crew will soon be tackling some heavy equipment projects. Widening the walkway at the pond to provide safer access for visitors, especially groups of young children, is a priority on our list.



*Pictures from L. to R, top to bottom:*

*Burfordii holly* and *Deodora* cones are just some of the items that will be gathered and used for our Wreath-Making Workshops; a mid-autumn blooming rose in the Confederate Section

## *From the Director (continued)*

While we do not do “ghost tours”, our Candlelight Tours were a huge success. The weather forced us to rework some logistics which actually turned out to be better. There were six scenes involving people buried here, spread throughout the museums with actors telling “their” stories. The evaluations from attendees included statements like “loved it all”, “it’s hard to improve on perfection”, “the acting was so convincing...had to wipe away tears several times”, “kept our interest”, and “made us feel like we were there”. If you didn’t get a chance to attend the sold-out event, here are a few of the pictures from the tours. Kudos to Dawn and Ted for orchestrating such a splendid, entertaining, and historically authentic event.



*Pictured from L to R, top to bottom:*  
Eric Verdu as Richard Tyree; Dorothea Fuller checking in tour participants; Deathbed Scene in chapel; actor Dee Ann Evans and docent Yvonne Wright share mourning tips as actor Jeffrey Young steals a cookie while volunteer Troy Deacon mans the refreshment table; Carey Martin as John Jones next to Diuguid hearse in Hearse House and Caretakers’ Museum.



We are not done yet for 2008! We will be holding three wreath-making workshops the weekend after Thanksgiving. Also please make plans to come by in December when we will be hosting several special events. On the 13th the Blue Ridge Chapter of the DAR is sponsoring the Wreaths Across America event here in the Old City Cemetery at noon. Our chapel will be decorated for the season, courtesy of the Ragged Robin Garden Club. It will be open every Saturday in December from 1:00 until 4:00, and on the 20th we will have a special musical program at 3:00 in the chapel.

In this time we stop to be grateful, I have to say once again how thankful I am for all of you who do so much for this special place. Dawn, Kathy, and Ted and our wonderful Public Works crew work tirelessly to make everything look so simple. I feel very fortunate to get to work with such an energetic, engaging, and creative staff. Our volunteers put in enough hours in a year to equal another full time person. We could not do it without each of you. Just wait to see what we have planned for 2009!

# Curator's Corner

By Ted Delaney, Archivist and Curator

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



## A New Addition to the Landscape

Did you notice? A few weeks ago a “new” marble urn appeared on top of the Franklin family monument. For decades a rusted metal dowel (“Before” picture, inset) protruded from the top of the monument, begging for a crowning piece of marble to replace one that had been there many years ago. The new urn and its small pedestal (“After” picture) fit perfectly over the dowel—and instantly remedied this longstanding eyesore.

The Franklins’ pedestal-style monument is located very close to the Cemetery’s main drive, just below the ‘Kneeling Angel.’

The urn was given to the Cemetery in early October by Mr. Danny Snapp of Lynchburg. It had been an ornament in his backyard garden on Diamond Hill for many years. The origin of the urn is not known, although we are certain it was carved by hand in the mid-to-late 19th century.

The exact size and shape of the monument’s original finial remain a mystery. Given the circumstances, Mr. Snapp’s urn is not only fortuitous, but also very appropriate in terms of material, proportion, and style.

The original finial or urn atop the Franklin monument was probably destroyed by vandals. In the summer of 1953 the Lynchburg *Daily Advance* reported on a “strange and wanton outbreak of vandalism” in the Cemetery. Officials believed teenagers or young adults were visiting the Cemetery at night, throwing bricks and stones at monuments along the main driveway. The article specifically notes that marble urns and finials “seem to be a favorite target.”

The monument marks the graves of Phillip Franklin (1844-1916) and his wife Anna Eliza Franklin (c.1856–1892). Phillip was a “highly esteemed” waiter at the Hotel Carroll on Main Street for 14 years.

## *Confederate Tombstone Documentation Project*

### *Phase One*

*By Dawn Fields, Public Relations & Visitor Services Manager*

We give many guided tours throughout the year and the one thing I always include in the introduction is the information regarding the number of tombstones missing from the grounds. Out of the 15,000 people buried in the Old City Cemetery outside the Confederate Section, only about 10% of the tombstones remain. That's over 13,000 missing grave markers! The two main reasons for this are: (1) many people buried in our cemetery were very poor and could not afford a permanent marker, and (2) until recently, the grounds were not very well-maintained and many tombstones, for various reasons, were simply discarded over the years. The one exception to this was the Confederate Section.

From the very beginning, the Confederate Section has been meticulously cared for and documented—first by the Diuguid Funeral Home and then (and still) by the Southern Memorial Association. Every soldier buried within this area also has a tombstone—even if the identity of the man was not known—and George Diuguid was the main reason why this happened. From the first burial on May 19, 1861 (Thomas P. Plunkett of 2nd Miss. Regiment) to the last on September 19, 1868 (Colonel F. M. Windes of 4th Ala. Regiment), information such as the hospital in which the soldier died, the company and regiment, size of the coffin, and even to whom the death notice should be sent—Waddy Rowland's was delivered to “Emma E. Wagstaff, his love”—was written down by George Diuguid in his Soldier Book.

Now, to continue to add to the Cemetery's archives for the Confederate Section, the Southern Memorial Association will be launching the Confederate Section Tombstone Digital Documentation Project in November 2008. The goal of this project, with the help of a team of volunteers, is to digitally photograph every one of the 2000 tombstones in the Confederate Section and eventually have these pictures available for online researchers to access on our new Confederate Soldier database, to be launched later this year.

The first phase of the project is estimated to take three to four months. This phase will involve the volunteers photographing the stones and then the naming and formatting of the pictures by Kaitlin Shiflett, a Girl Scout who has chosen this as her Gold Award project. Phase Two of the project will consist of acquiring funding through grants and other aid to be able to put each of these pictures on the cemetery's website. Phase Three will then be the launch of the photo portion of the database. Due to the many phone and email inquiries the Cemetery gets each week from researchers and genealogists, this will not only be a great resource for our visitors, but a wonderful timesaving tool for Cemetery staff as well. More updates to come!

*Pictured from L to R: Romeo is one of the many visitors the Confederate Section has each year (this picture was taken by his mom, Sarah, on his birthday—Veteran's Day 2007); two of the over 2200 tombstones that will be documented over the coming months*

