

Old City Cemetery

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring
Summer
2011

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



Notes from the Gravegarden



Winter is the season in which people try to keep the house as warm as it was in the summer, when they complained about the heat. ~ Author Unknown

As I write this, the temperature outside is a not-so-lovely 94 degrees and it is the umpteenth 90+ degree day in a row (I really have lost count). As I am looking through pictures, trying to find one appropriate for this Spring/Summer issue, it is so hot I am very tempted to feature a lovely snow scene from our 2009/2010 blizzards. But, alas, I cannot, for I work at this beautiful “gravegarden” and am reminded every day that each season here is splendid and perfect unto itself and, no matter how blistering, bare, and dry everything appears to be, there is something colorful growing each day at the Cemetery. So I decided to venture onto the grounds in search of my newsletter cover shot. Off to the roses!

One thing I love about antique roses is how hardy many of them can be. Even in the face of extreme temperatures and very little rain, I see so many blossoms as I walk along the Old Brick Wall and through the

Stop #8: Rose “Alex Mosby” in bloom on August 8th, 2011.
This rose is located in front of the Pest House in the Cato Collection and was the eighth and final stop on my Rose Walk.



SMA/Dawn Wise

8

Cato Collection.

Many visitors to the Cemetery only come in May to see the official peak of rose bloom, but I hope this newsletter cover shot, as well as the other photos of my August rose walk on pages 8-9, will convince all of you to come visit us year-round. There truly is something beautiful to see every day.

~ Dawn Fields Wise

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From the Director

By Bruce Christian, Executive Director

Over the last month I have heard more than a few visitors say how much they love Old City Cemetery. For those of us who are here on a regular basis it is not at all difficult to understand that affection for this place.

As spring broke out the early spectacle of colors, our garden lovers flocked to see the latest bloom. Even for this winter person, I confess the first few daffodils that popped up just inside the entrance gate were warm sentinels of what is now here. The winter jasmine and forsythia were spectacular this spring. We had lilac, redbud, dogwood, and an early rose blooming in mid-April and there are many roses still blossoming in various spots throughout the grounds, adding a welcome visual respite from an otherwise green (and hot!) landscape.

We also recruited a new cadre of volunteers to augment our wonderful and generous group of troupers and are still hoping to add more. I am seeing more people who love the history of the Cemetery and appreciate our interpretation of the lives represented here. Often the puzzles of these “residents” become an obsession to “get it right.” We love giving a life to some of those who have been forgotten.

As we gear up for our fall tour season, I have watched children who are repeat visitors tell their friends how much they love the pond or the goats or doing a tombstone rubbing or most especially the swing. Their enthusiasm is infectious. What a school group learns as it is having fun is priceless.

I enjoy watching the families who come to remember a loved one who rests in this sacred spot. The colors of memorial items left on a grave in Potter’s Field or flowers at the Scatter Garden testify that the love we have for those who have died does not.

I had a tour come through the other week, a majority of whom had never been to the Cemetery. By the time we reached the exit I had exacted from them a sincere promise to return. My promise to them was something different will be happening the next time. It’s always different here whatever the season or your love.



From top to bottom: Two Paul Munro Elementary School kindergarteners gingerly hold earthworms as they learn about composting at the Compost Education Center; Nature Zone’s Kathie Driscoll teaches a tour group about ecosystems at the Lotus Pond; just a few of the many memorial items left for loved ones in Potter’s Field

Curator's Corner

By Ted Delaney, Assistant Director

This August marked the two-year anniversary of the beginning of Pat Dalton's volunteer service at the Old City Cemetery. She is one of our most regular and devoted volunteers, who has been coming to our office two days a week, for three or four hours each day, since 2009.

The major focus of Pat's work has been the Diuguid Burial Records Project. Although the highly-publicized, grant-funded portion of the project is complete, there is still much work to be done to add new information to the master database and correct existing data. Pat has spent countless hours indexing Diuguid records and transcribing the sometimes inscrutable manuscript—always with care and determination. To-date she has entered over 34,000 pieces of data (e.g., a name, date, or place) into the database, all of which the public can now search online, free of charge. Her labor behind the scenes will benefit genealogists and researchers for years to come.

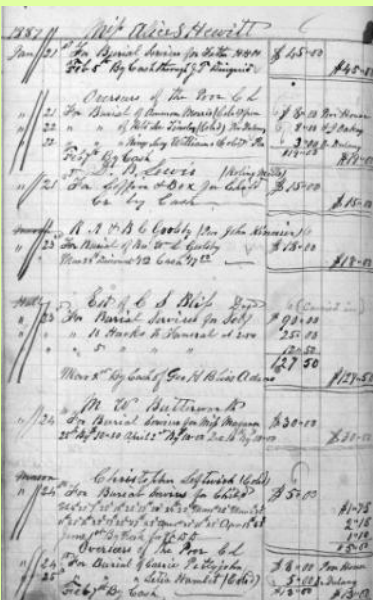
Pat's favorite part of volunteering is being able to experience history on a personal level, one ledger entry at a time. Details like a family bartering for funeral services with "eggs and chickens," or an entry for "burial of leg from City Hospital," make the work interesting and amusing.

Pat developed her wonderful attention to detail and exceptional patience during her 30-year career as an electronics inspector for General Electric. Although those skills have made her a perfect fit for the Diuguid project, she is always willing to help with whatever archival and research needs we have. Periodically she sorts and indexes our genealogical inquiry forms, and she helped Carolyn Bell with research for the Tinbridge Hill book last year. She is a pleasure to work with in any capacity.



Research volunteer Pat Dalton has been a dedicated "laborer in Diuguid's vineyard" since 2009.

SMA/Ted Delaney



Pat converts this Diuguid record (right) into this usable database. (below).

Pat is a native of rural, northwestern Pennsylvania, but has lived in the Lynchburg area since 1957. She has five children, four step-children, 10 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

We are so grateful for Pat and her volunteer service!

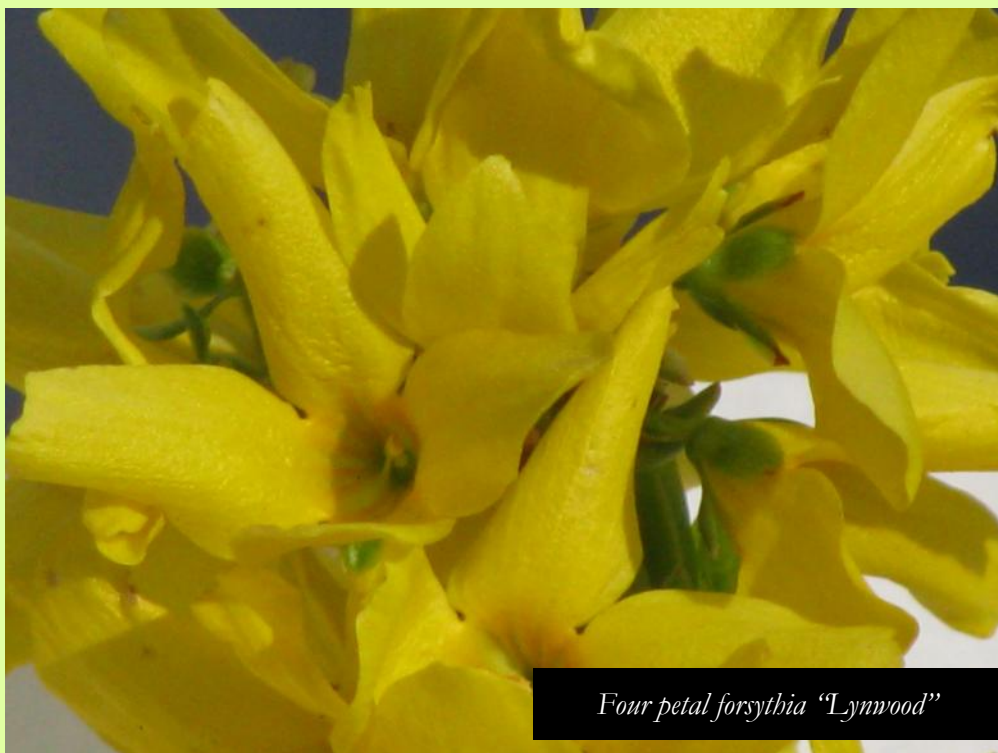
Burial	Page	Ent	Burial date	Services arranged by	Prenome	Surname	Notes	Place of interment
09	088	01	1887.01.21	Miss Alice S. Hewitt	H. H. (father of Miss	Hewitt		
09	088	02	1887.01.21	Overseers of the Poor, City	Ammon	Morris	col from Poor House	
09	088	03	1887.01.22	Overseers of the Poor, City	Robt. Lee	Tinsley	col per Dulany & J. O.	
09	088	04	1887.01.22	Overseers of the Poor, City	Nicey Lucy	Williams	col per Dr. Dulany	
09	088	05	1887.01.21	D. B. Lewis, Roling Mills	Child of D. B.	Lewis		
09	088	06	1887.01.23	R. A. & B. C. Goolsby, per Jc	Wm. L. (brother of R	Goolsby		Old City Cemetery
09	088	07	1887.01.23	Estate of C. S. Bliss	C. S. (self)	Bliss		Presbyterian Ceme
09	088	08	1887.01.24	M. W. Butterworth	Miss	Magann		
09	088	09	1887.01.24	Christopher Leftwich (col)	Child of Christopher	Leftwich	col	Old City Cemetery
09	088	10	1887.01.24	Overseers of the Poor, City	Carrie	Pettyjohn	from Poor House	
09	088	11	1887.01.25	Overseers of the Poor, City	Letia	Hamlet	col per Dr. Dulany	

Horticultural Highlights

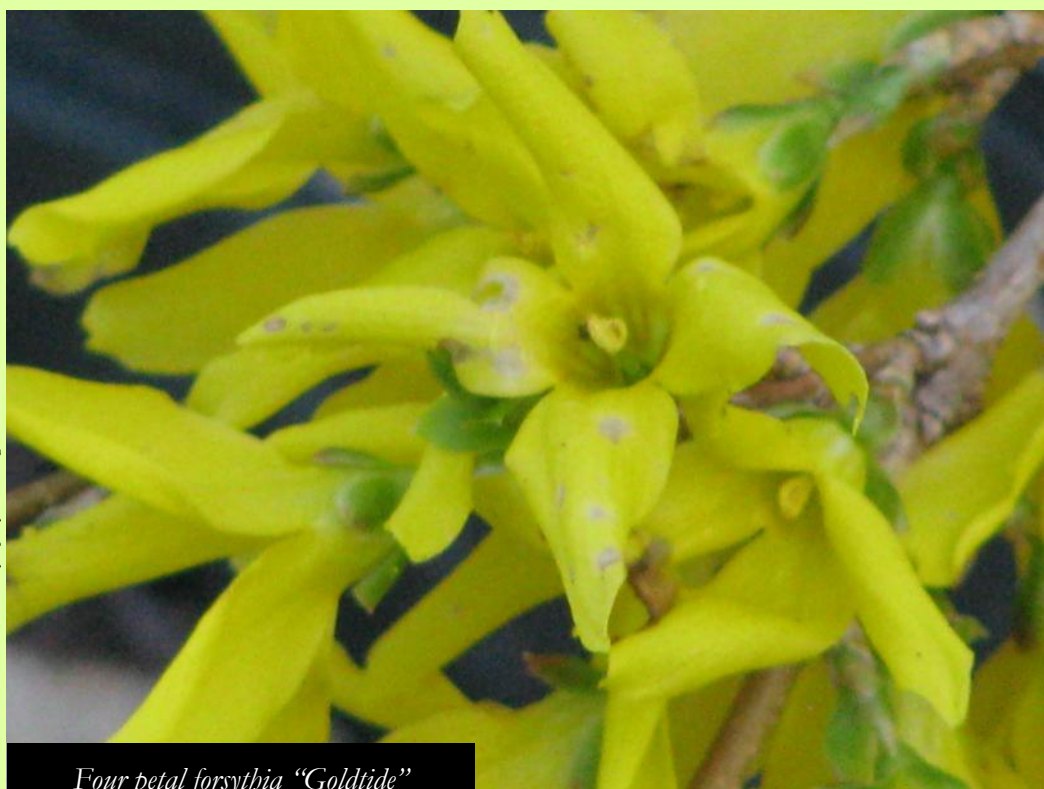
Spring was welcomed by many who attended several special programs held on the grounds. From a blustery tree dating workshop, a freezing pruning class, a chilly rose wall walk symposium and a damp preservation seminar, over 100 participants were introduced to new facts and images in the Cemetery.

Our golden jasmine and forsythia hedges lifted their spirits as they braved the raw weather. Turns out many people mistake jasmine for forsythia! Jasmine blooms first, usually early February and very few blooms are left by the time

forsythia comes into color about four weeks later. One question that came up was why some forsythia bushes look more green than yellow. There are 11 species of forsythia and over 41 cultivars. Some



Four petal forsythia "Lynwood"



Four petal forsythia "Goldtide"

plants have narrow pointed flower petals (*× intermedia*) and others have full broad rounded ones ('*Lynwood*'). The color ranges from pale yellow (*F. ovate*) to the most vivid canary yellow ('*Lynwood*'). Plants can be 3 foot tall dwarfs ('*Goldtide*'), usually average 9 feet and have been recorded as tall as 18 feet! Most forsythia in our area is deciduous, but in milder winters and climates it is evergreen. Some species are erect and others weep or creep, perfect for banks and erosion control as they contact root easily.

By Laurie Jamerson, Historic Grounds Supervisor

Visitors also saw the addition of four new trees along the main drive that are getting a head start to be replacements for the declining dogwoods. An April storm did severe damage to another dogwood in the Taylor curve and the broken section had extensive decay. The bracts, or the modified leaves that are mistaken for flowers, are very small on those aging trees. In the photo below the size difference is mammoth between the old and new trees. The myth that many berries mean a hard winter is actually the tree itself alternating years of heavy berry production. (This is true for fruit trees as well.) Pruning is best done as soon as the spring bracts fade to allow ample time for flower buds to develop in midsummer and the bracts will protect them over the winter. Dormant pruning will reduce your spring color dramatically.

There are over 50 species of dogwood, the largest recorded at 40 feet tall. The wood is dense and was used for daggers; hence the tree was called dagwood. In 1548 it was named dog tree and in 1614 renamed dog wood. Originally from China, Japan, Korea and the Mediterranean, sub-species are native from Canada, the U.S. east coast to California, and Asia.

The Cemetery Preservation Workshop, held on April 8th and 9th, shed a lot of light on preserving what has been painstakingly restored. Plant material growing in and on brick and stone walls, tombstones, and iron fences was shown to do extensive damage. Maintenance needs can be overshadowed when hidden. Over time, the acid or alkaline leaf litter also harms many porous monuments. The inscriptions cut into the finished surface already expose them to the elements, and evidence was seen where nature was damaging the structures, whether acid rain or bird droppings, since they make wonderful perches. Fortunately, the grass here is not fed, as the negative reaction from a dry broadcast spreader or liquid fertilizers could put extensive amounts of chemicals in the carved lettering on tombstones as well.

Headstones engulfed in tree trunks can be seen throughout the Cemetery. Photos of excavated graves illustrated how tree roots are drawn deep into the loose burial soil and damage the site. There are many examples in the Confederate Section where this has happened in less than 80 years.



“Remembering Tinbridge Hill”

About this project

The Tinbridge Hill history project, sponsored by the Old City Cemetery/ Southern Memorial Association (SMA) and funded by the SMA, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust, and several generous individuals, was initiated by neighborhood residents in 2009.

Tinbridge Hill is an overlooked neighborhood along the 5th Street corridor near Old City Cemetery. It has an illustrious past and a core group of people who have lived their entire lives within its limits. Some of Tinbridge Hill's most interesting history lies with them. Between August of 2010 and January of 2011, residents and former residents born between 1923 and 1957 met at the Yoder Community Center in Lynchburg, Virginia, to record 14 oral history interviews. Most of the interviews were conducted in small groups of neighbors who knew each other well.

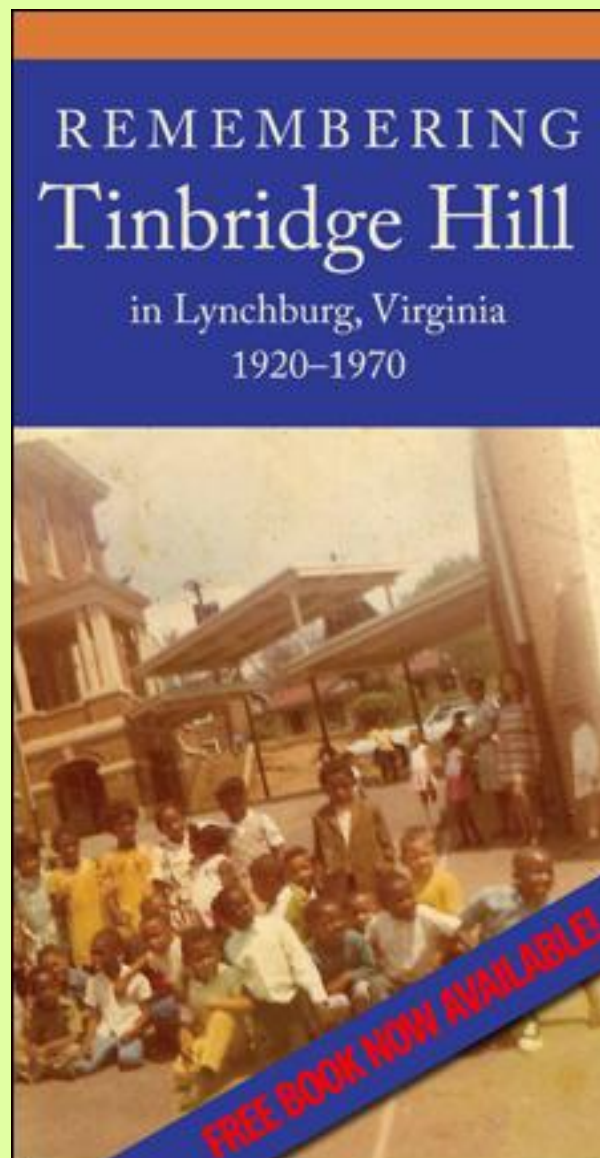
The result is the new book:

Remembering Tinbridge Hill in Lynchburg, Virginia, 1920-1970

102 Pages, Paperback

Many black and white photographs of
Tinbridge People, Places, and Artifacts

Cost: Free (shipping charges may apply)



Through the generosity of our sponsors, free copies of *Remembering Tinbridge Hill* are available by contacting Old City Cemetery Museums and Arboretum, 401 Taylor Street, Lynchburg or 434-847-1465.

History Project

The News & Advance has created a **Tales of Tinbridge Hill Multimedia Project**, available on the Old City Cemetery's website at www.gravegarden.org/tinbridge. Visitors to the site can hear as three residents recount their experiences in the neighborhood:

Aubrey "Chub" Barbour

is affectionately known as the mayor of Tinbridge Hill. Born and raised on the hill, Barbour, 73, has dedicated his life to improving his community, spear-heading anti-drug marches in the 1990s, helping craft a neighborhood revitalization plan, and organizing countless programs for youth and seniors at the local community center, which Barbour oversaw for more than four decades, before retiring last year.



Evelyn Thompson's

childhood days on Tinbridge Hill were filled with games of jacks and dominoes, tending to the needs of her five pet chickens, and lending her mother a helping hand with the family's washing and cooking. Thompson, now 79, still lives just around the corner from the house where she was born in 1931, "I was born on Tinbridge Hill," she said, "and I've never left since."



Mary Patrick

and her husband opened the Midget Market more than half a century ago, a diminutive neighborhood store dreamed up by Patrick's husband in order to give the children of Tinbridge Hill a place to shop. Patrick, now 84, ran the store for more than a decade. Her husband has since passed away and the market is long since closed, but Patrick still resides on Tinbridge Hill.



A Walk in August

By Dawn Fields Wise



Stop #2:

McCartney Rose

Also located on the sunny side of the Old Brick Wall is this gorgeous *Rosa Bracteata*. It blooms throughout the season as well, but is profuse in summer, seeming to actually thrive and become more brilliant the hotter it gets. It has fantastic orange hips in the fall.

Anyone here at the Cemetery will tell you I am not a “horticultural” person. I easily confuse irises and lilies, often interchange the words “hydrangea” and “hyacinth,” and definitely cannot tell the difference between a weed and a “keeper.” But one thing I am beginning to learn about quite well and love growing are antique roses.

I started my personal collection with some cuttings that were leftover from one of our annual Antique Rose Festivals. It was July and these 4” specimens needed a home, so I took them with me, popped them into a larger container, added a little plant food and watered like crazy, and anxiously waited for my new roses to thrive.

Fast forward two years and I am happy to report that I have since only lost three roses. One was due to my neglecting to plant it before the winter, keeping it in a pot all year with just a thin layer of mulch instead; my wonderful smelling *Rosa Moschata* was munched down to the root by a deer; and my equally delightful *Polk Street Noisette* (which I fell in love with and bought as a gorgeous, larger 2-gallon rose) was eaten by

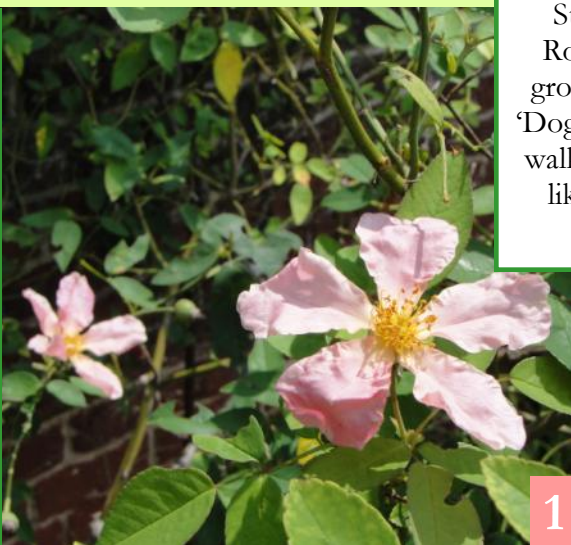
my then-new puppies the day after I put it in the ground. (I cannot be for certain this is what happened, but I did find the tiniest piece of a telltale root near the doggie bowls, so I am assuming this was its fate.) But my other roses are doing wonderful, having survived the snowstorms of 2009 and 2010, and the past two harsh summers. I am fascinated and still amazed whenever I look out my kitchen window and see the happy pink blooms of the *Champney’s Pink Cluster* poking out along the fence line or when the wind catches the wonderful scent of the *Polk Street Noisette* and carries it up to my porch.

So, I thought it was fitting to bring some of this rose joy to this newsletter by featuring the hardiness and resilience of the specimens here in the Cemetery. I visited eight roses and have included pictures that were all taken on a 95-degree day in early August. It is truly spectacular to see them doing so well.

Many visitors come see our roses in May, not realizing they are growing throughout most of the year. So, if you don’t already grow roses, I hope this will encourage you to start; or if anything, to come “meet our roses” in all seasons.

Stop #1: *Mutabilis*

Located on the sunny side of the Old Brick Wall, this rose is one of my favorites because it not only changes color—opening a honey yellow, then becoming coppery-pink, then watermelon, and finally a rich mahogany—it also stays in bloom from early spring to frost. It is magnificent and fitting of its common name: Butterfly Rose.



Stop #5 & #6: *Rosa Canina* and *Rosa Rugosa*
Rose hips can be just as much of a reason to grow a rose as the blooms. The *Rosa Canina* or 'Dog Rose' had a spectacular hip showing on my walk and the *Rosa Rugosa*'s hips looked so much like cherry tomatoes, I had to stop and do a double take.



All photos: SMA/Dawn Wise

Stop #3: *Rosa Moschata Plena*

This is the only rose I have lost to deer and I don't blame them. It has the most divine smell—hence its common name of 'Temple Musk Rose.' *Rosa Moschata Plena* is an extremely rare and old species, dating prior to 1596. Great if you can find it. Be sure to spy the tiny spider hiding in the petals in the picture.

Stop #7: *Marquise Bocella*

A hybrid perpetual, this rose is known by as many names as the Old City Cemetery! It is sold as 'Jacques Cartier' and has been bred as such, but is also known as 'Marquise Bocella'; if displayed in shows must be labeled 'Marquesa Boccella'; or as I best know her, *Marchesa Boccella*.

Whatever you want to call it, one thing certain about this rose is the smell...it is unmistakably damask and wonderful! And it was the perfect way to take a break from my walk...by stopping to smell the roses.

Stop #8 is on the front cover.

Stop #4: *White Pet*

This wonderful dwarf Polyantha is perfect for hedging and container planting because it doesn't get much bigger than 2 or 3 feet. I love it because it not only has great bunches of small, pom-pom like flowers (see inset) and blooms until frost, but it has the most adorable, perfect pink buds.



Announcements and News

Candlelight Tour Tickets On Sale



New Addition to the Old City Cemetery Family

Public Relations and Visitor Services Manager
Dawn Fields Wise and her husband, Travis,
welcomed their new baby boy,
Grayson William, on May 3rd, 2011.

Grayson weighed in at 6 lbs, 15 ounces and
was 20 inches long. Welcome to the world, Gray!



It's that time again!

Tickets for last year's Candlelight
Tours quickly sold out, so be sure
to get yours today. Candlelight
Tour dates are October 21st, 22nd,
27th, 28th, and 29th. Tours last
approximately 1 and 1/2 hours
and start at 6:30 p.m. and run
every 20 minutes until 7:50 p.m.
Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10
for students and children under
18. You may purchase tickets at
www.lynchburgtickets.com, or by
contacting the Cemetery Center.
For more information, please call
434-847-1465 or email
dawn@gravegarden.org.

Families and Old City Cemetery



"My granddaughters made placemats for Mother's Day. They used rose petals they found on the ground at the Rose Festival. Added a few greens from a bouquet that had been sitting on my counter for three weeks...and voila!...a beautiful gift." ~ Mary D. ↑



This picture was taken by Thomasina Metts last fall in the Cemetery's Confederate Section, and is titled simply, ← "Brothers."



Vicki Grigsby Joyce's granddaughter often came to visit Tellie, the Station House kitty. Tellie has since been adopted to a wonderful and loving inside home. ↑



These family photos were taken by 14-year-old Aubrianah Ronk. Ronk and friend, fellow 14-year-old Faith Perry, are aspiring photographers who have recently been given the assignment of photographing and interviewing fifty local women and girls of all ages to find out what makes them beautiful. The summer project is called "Just the Girls: ← Real Beauty." →



One of our youngest and most loyal friends is Carter Smith, seen here looking for frogs. His mother, Emily, brings him here almost once a week to visit the pond. Emily and husband, Scott, are both great docents for the Cemetery as well: Emily recently led a Botanical Illustrations Workshop on the grounds and Scott portrays a Revolutionary War soldier for several of our tours. →



Upcoming Calendar of Events

October 23rd

Autumn Afternoon

Free walking tour at the
peak of fall foliage.

3:00 p.m. Free.

October 21st, 22nd, 27th, 28th, & 29th

Candlelight Tours

Tours start at 6:30 p.m.
each night and run every
20 minutes until 7:50 p.m.

*Tickets must be purchased
in advance.*



Gravesite of Pvt. Thomas P. Plunkett of Co. D, 2nd Mississippi
Infantry. On May 20, 1861, he became the first of nearly 3,000
Civil War soldiers buried in Lynchburg.

Old City Cemetery
401 Taylor Street
Lynchburg, VA 24501

