

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

Autumn in the Gravegarden



Gary Payne portrayed William Littleberry Bryant on this year's Candlelight Tours. See more pictures of this year's tours on page three.

"I ain't quite sure how it happened...life goes by so fast, don't it?" is a line said by William Littleberry Bryant, a character on this year's Old City Cemetery Candlelight Tours, and is exactly how I would sum up 2011. It seems like it was just yesterday we were braving the cold for February's Tree Dating Workshop, lining up speakers for our Garden Symposium in March, training a new group of volunteers to assist with my upcoming maternity leave, excitedly awaiting the list of available roses for the 16th Annual Antique Rose Festival, working on the wonderfully fun Botanical Illustrations class, auditioning actors for Candlelight Tours, and much more!

But here we are in mid-November with just a few programs left in 2011, and then it will be time to start all over again. Figuring out the next year's Calendar of Events is probably my favorite thing to do—similar to how many look at New Year's Day—because it is a fresh start. I just love thinking of all the exciting new things we will be offering, while, of course, sticking with the tried and true ones that everyone enjoys. I can't wait to share them with all of our loyal fans and know that we will be making lots of new friends along the way when they see all we have planned.

In case you missed our biggest event—Candlelight Tours—I have included lots of pictures from the tour nights on page three. And if you want to get a head start on your own calendar for 2012, check out what's coming to the Cemetery in the new year with our lineup of events on page five.

As T.S. Eliot wrote, "For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await a new voice," here's hoping we hear a lot of new voices—and all of our familiar ones—at Old City Cemetery in 2012!

From all of us at the gravegarden, here's hoping you have a wonderful holiday season, and a happy and safe New Year!

~ Dawn Fields Wise

Inside This Issue

Notes from the Gravegarden	1	2012 Calendar of Events	5
From the Director	2	Horticultural Highlights	6
2011 Candlelight Tours	3	<i>Lessons Learned from a Poet's Garden</i>	7
Curator's Corner	4	Upcoming Events/OUAT on Sale	8

From the Director

By Bruce Christian, Executive Director

Fall traditionally brings a wonder of colors and textures to Old City Cemetery. This year, however, we have not had quite the display of years past. Nonetheless we have had our "spots of splendor" and these shortened and cooler days have been a welcome relief after the intensely hot summer. One aspect of horticulture here is there is always something of interest blooming or producing fruit which does not stop even with the changing season.

We have completed another year of successful Candlelight Tours. More and more I hear people say they cannot believe we continue to find intriguing and different stories to portray. The truth is there are thousands of stories we could tell. While we may not have a famous person (in today's world of celebrity reality shows), 205 years of being an active cemetery mean we have many lives represented here which have compelling stories worth "bringing to life." Many, many thanks to Ted and Dawn for their dedication once again to producing a terrific program with outstanding actors which sells out! Even the rain, wind, and cold did not sway people from coming. Much as everything else around here, Candlelight Tours could not be done without the aid of our volunteers.



New Pest House Garden and Walkway

As we begin to plan for 2012 there are so many ideas we have for the Cemetery. We continue to evaluate what we do, where we do it, and how we can enhance OCC. Weddings and other uses of the Chapel and Shrub Garden section have caused us to consider how to make that area more inviting and comfortable for guests and visitors. We are reviewing the main road through the Cemetery to figure the best way to make necessary road repairs while maintaining our sense of the place and providing a safe and accessible route. If you have been through in the past couple of months you no doubt have seen the renovation of the Pest House garden and walkway. Our plan is to provide a more proper pathway for visitors as well as spotlight some plantings for those who cannot walk to the Old Brick Wall. The new hardscape part of this project has turned out beautifully. Many thanks to Laurie Jamerson, Chip Tatum, and Kirk Schultz from the City for all their hard work and to Margi Vaughn and Kaye Moomaw for their eye to detail in drawing up of a plan.

Before we close out 2011, I do want to remind you of two big events we still have on the calendar. The first is our 4th annual Wreaths Across America service which will be held at noon on Saturday, December 10th. This year Blue Ridge Chapter NSDAR is being joined by James River Chapter. As always it promises to be a beautiful and moving event. Please consider sponsoring a wreath (or two or ten). They are only \$15 each. The following Saturday we will have our holiday open house in the Cemetery. Our museums will be decorated for Christmas and we will have light refreshments for all.

Thanks to all of you who through your interest, affection, and support of these 26 acres help make OCC a true gem!

2011 Candlelight Tours

Candlelight Tours were, once again, sold out for this year and to our surprise, much earlier than ever before. As of October 3rd, 2011, all tickets for this great event were gone and we had many people that were desperate to attend. Thankfully, we were able to offer additional tickets for two nights due to nice weather, but we still had many visitors that were turned away.

To help accommodate the increased demand for next year, we will be adding an additional tour time and tour night, for a total of six tours per night, over six nights. In the meantime, for those who were not able to make the tours this year (or for those who did and would like to relive the night) we hope you will enjoy these wonderful pictures of the event and some behind-the-scenes shots as well.



All photos: Joanna McGlothlin



Pictured : 1. Makeda Payne as Gay Alexander; 2. Mason Howard waits in the Columbarium before the start of the tours; 3. Greg Ritchie gets into character as he readies to portray Pvt. Thomas Plunkett, the first soldier buried in the Confederate Section; 4. Tom Baker played William "Crazy Willie" Hudson, a man who went insane after the death of his wife and child; 5. Tanya Anderson, Yvonne Wright, and Katt Carter were a fan favorite for the scene, "In Your Windows", about a man named "Reese" who died in a house of shame in 1883; 6. Jack-o-lanterns greet visitors as they end the tour at the Cemetery Center; 7. Laura Howard as Irish Immigrant Briget Kenidy.

Curator's Corner

By Ted Delaney,
Assistant Director

A large and long-sought piece of the "Caroline Morgan" puzzle fell into place recently with the discovery of a photograph of her in Florence, Alabama. Candlelight Tour-goers may remember the scene "Caroline and Willie" from 2009, which brought to life the odd relationship between Caroline Morgan and her second husband William Allison.

Patti Hannah, a librarian at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, contacted us by email, stating that she had a digital scan of an 1870s photograph identified as "Mrs. C. F. R. Morgan, Mother of Mrs. A. Forsberg." She had searched for those names on the internet and came up with the "amazing article" about Caroline by research volunteer Lynne Spies, which was posted on our website in 2010.

Patti noticed the statement in Lynne's article that "no photographs or paintings of her are known to exist." She wanted us to know one *did* exist, and we will be forever grateful to Patti and her library for giving us a face to go with the well-known name.

Our research of Caroline and her family, which began about a decade ago, has been full of remarkable coincidences and small miracles. This latest find is no exception. Caroline's son, James William Morgan, Jr., moved to Florence, Alabama, in the late 1860's and lived there all of his life. According to Patti, a collector in the Florence area named Jim Ingram "just happened by when one of the [Morgan] descendants was throwing away a lot of old photographs and said he would take them if they were just going to discard them." Mr. Ingram rescued the only known photograph of Caroline from the trash and saved it from being lost forever.

Mr. Ingram lent the photo to the library for scanning in 2008, and he kept the original. He passed away in 2010, and sadly, the people handling his estate lost the original photograph. Patti's diligent efforts to recover it have not been successful.

To Patti and all those who preserve rare photographs and portraits by making digital reproductions, Caroline thanks you.



Caroline Morford Morgan (1805–1883) is buried in the grandest family plot along the main driveway. This photograph was recently found in Florence, Alabama, where her son lived.

*Courtesy of the Florence-Lauderdale
Public Library Digital Archive*

*Mrs C. F. R. Morgan
Mother of Mrs A. Forsberg.*

Identification on the reverse, combined with the Plecker studio mark on the front, confirms the Lynchburg connections.

2012 Calendar of Events

OLD CITY CEMETERY
2012
Calendar of Events

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted (\$).

Feb. 4 **VINTAGE VALENTINE WORKSHOP \$** 10–12 p.m.
Make your own vintage valentines. All materials provided. Pre-registration required. Seating is limited.

NEW
Contest Dates: Jan. 1–Oct. 31
Workshop: Feb. 25
“FOUR SEASONS OF THE GRAVEGARDEN” PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
Enter a series of four photographs taken on Cemetery grounds in 2012 that represent each of the seasons. Judging, awards, and exhibit in late 2012. More information and entry forms available on our website. A special workshop on February 25 will provide tips on how to take and enter award-winning photos.

March 23 **5TH ANNUAL GARDEN SYMPOSIUM \$**
Lecture by noted horticulturist with reception to follow. See website for details.

May 12 **17TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE ROSE FESTIVAL** 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Enjoy the Cemetery’s famous antique rose collection near its peak of bloom. Heirloom rose sale: May 6–13
Special free *Mother’s Day Rose Walk*: Sun., May 13

May 27 **CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY** 3 p.m.
Annual Lynchburg tradition since 1866

May 28 **MEMORIAL DAY BIRD WALK & COUNT** 8:30 a.m.
Join members of the Lynchburg Bird Club for their annual species tally. Bring binoculars. Rain or shine.

June 1 **NATIONAL DONUT DAY** 11–1 p.m.
Drop by for a free donut and tour of the Station House Museum, as we honor the women who served donuts to soldiers during World War I.

We are so excited about our upcoming 2012 Calendar of Events and we have many new programs, as well as the usual tried-and-true, to share with you in the next few months. One event that will be bringing an extra amount of buzz and excitement is the “Four Seasons of the Gravegarden” Photography Contest. Look for more information about this on our website starting January 1st.

June July August **SUMMER SATURDAYS TOURS** 10 a.m.
Casual guided walking tours highlighting history and horticulture on the grounds every Saturday morning

Sept. 23 **BAWDY LADIES OF 19TH-CENTURY LYNCHBURG** 3 p.m.
Historian Nancy Weiland leads a tour to the graves of some of Lynchburg’s famous “sporting ladies.”

Oct. 7 **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS** 3-5 p.m.
Sponsored by St. John’s Episcopal Church

Oct. 18–20 25–27 **CANDLELIGHT TOURS \$**
Actors in period costume portray true stories of Cemetery residents. Six tours each night beginning at 6:10. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Oct. 21 **AUTUMN AFTERNOON TOUR** 3 p.m.
Guided walking tour highlighting history and horticulture on the grounds near the peak of fall color

Oct. 31 **ALL HALLOWS EVE SERVICE** 5 p.m.
Annual Episcopal service in the Chapel

Dec. 1 **HOLIDAY WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOPS \$** 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Make your own natural holiday wreath with greenery from the Cemetery grounds. All materials provided. Seating is limited. Pre-registration required.

Dec. 8 **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** 12 noon
After a brief ceremony, attendees lay evergreen wreaths on hundreds of veterans’ graves in the Cemetery.

Dec. 16 **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** 1–4 p.m.
Stop by the Cemetery Center for hot cider and cookies and last-minute gifts before going to the Chapel for a special holiday concert at 3:00 p.m.

Horticultural Highlights

By Laurie Jamerson,
Historic Grounds Supervisor

Bruce has covered the fleeting beauty of our foliage, and one additional observation worthy of noting was the early June appearance of brilliant scarlet patches on the two Black Gum trees (*Nyssa*) that dominate the north and south boundaries of the Confederate Section. These towering trees currently display very different silhouettes above the boxwood hedge. To the north, barely a leaf lingers on the silver-gray branches but the other is showing off a near-full canopy of color, rivaling any other tree on the grounds for attention in the deep blue autumn sky. It may have been just as spectacular last year, but the maples succeeded in stealing the show; as does the beautiful Beech featured below.

You may have witnessed the extensive construction project taking place around the Pest House during September and October, but the concept of a display garden featuring roses from along the wall took root last spring. Facilities & Operations Chairmen Sandra Weigand (2011) and Dan Hamilton (2012), Margi Vaughn, Kaye Moomaw, and Vivian Williams spent hours deciphering the best use, needs and materials to implement a design to fulfill the greatest potential for this garden. Realizing some of our visitors can not make the rose wall trek from end to end due to time constraints or sloping terrain, this new 3500 square foot garden area will allow viewing from curb side and flagstone walk ways. Species that hug the wall will stand alone to illustrate their versatility, and fresh plantings of medicinal herbs will be intermingled as well. This project used over 23 tons of hardscape materials, installed by Kirk Schultz, Chip Tatum and myself with a lot of help from John (Deere) and Bob (Cat). Two retaining walls of dry-stacked stone, two flagstone paths, and four steps made from curbing lead to a cobblestone-edged walkway that ends at three LARGE rock slab steps that take you to the Pest House door. One stone used for these last steps weighed in at about 1900 pounds! Two interns from Old Dominion Job Corp also put several days of hard work into the project, shoveling dirt, stone, and mulch.

We had many, many visitors that came for the Candlelight Tours, including the Central Virginia Antique Auto Club. We hope to continue to make our Cemetery appealing and inviting, both with the versatility of our programs and with the continued beautification of the site. We hope to bring much more of both to all of you in 2012!



Antique car in front of the Station House during Candlelight Tours



This beautiful beech is located in the Taylor Street curve

All photos: Laurie Jamerson

ANNOUNCING

Lessons Learned from a Poet's Garden

a beautiful and practical guide to restoring an historic garden, as told through photos, notes, and friendships.

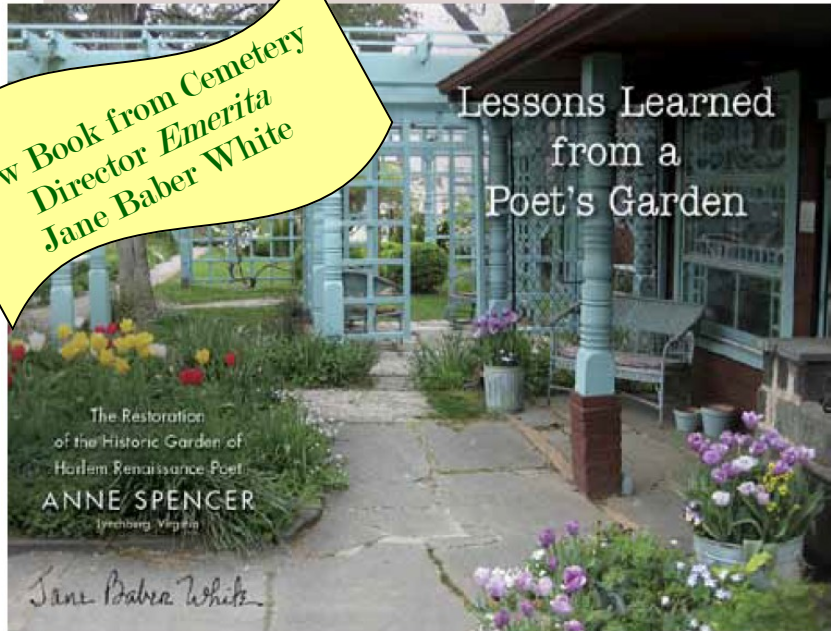
Using the charming garden of Harlem Renaissance poet Anne Spencer in Lynchburg, Virginia, as a case study, Jane Baber White has documented the steps taken by her garden club over a 28 year period to restore and maintain this historic National Register property. The beautiful results have received international recognition. Intermingled with the physical process is the fascinating story of new and meaningful personal relationships crossing traditional boundaries through the language of poetry and of the earth. The ladies of Hillside Garden Club, a member club of the Garden Club of Virginia, have provided an example of lessons learned which can serve as inspiration and instruction to others who face similar challenges, wherever they may be.

- Hardcover, with dust jacket
- 192 pages
- Lavishly illustrated with more than 310 photographs and illustrations (many full page or two-page spreads)
- Fully indexed
- Limited edition



PUBLISHED BY

BLACKWELL PRESS



Anne and Edward Spencer with two of their grandchildren in the 1930s

Please reserve _____ copy(s) @ \$45 _____
Virginia residents add 5% tax (\$2.25/book) _____
Shipping and handling via media mail = \$5 ea. _____
Total _____

Please make check payable to "Anne Spencer Book" and mail to:
Jane B. White, 1616 Langhorne Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503
(434) 384-3132 • email: janebaberwhite@gmail.com

Name _____

Address _____

Autographed? Yes _____ No _____

Special Instructions _____

Upcoming Events

Wreaths Across America

Saturday, December 10th
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.

Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 17th
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Cemetery's historic museums will be open to the public and decorated for the holidays with greenery from the grounds. Enjoy mulled cider and cookies in the Cemetery Center.

Old City Cemetery
401 Taylor Street
Lynchburg, VA 24501

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.gravegarden.org

Once Upon a Time—Now 30% Off!



Once Upon a Time— is now 30% off the retail price of \$60.00—just \$42.00 for this wonderful book.

And shop during our Holiday Open House on December 17th between the hours of 11 - 4 and the book will be 50% off for a price of \$30.00
Just in time for holiday gift giving!

228 pages, Hardcover with dust jacket.
Nearly 500 full-color photographs, fully indexed.
For more information or to order:
www.gravegarden.org or call 434-847-1465.

Note to readers: The last Notes from the Gravegarden mistakenly stated it was issue Volume 3, Issue 2. It should have stated it was Volume 4, Issue 1.