

# Notes from the Gravegarden

NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD CITY CEMETERY  
Lynchburg, Virginia

**"Give me juicy  
autumnal fruit,  
ripe and red from  
the orchard."**

—Walt Whitman

While I searched the internet looking for an autumn quote, I smiled when I read the one above. As I write this article, we have just completed a book signing with our own "Professor Apple," Tom Burford. His new book, *Apples of North America*, is a beautifully illustrated "encyclopedia of apples" and, as a longtime friend of the Cemetery, we were honored to host this event. In his remarks, Tom expressed to us his disdain for the "perfect red apple." It has nothing to do with Snow White; it has to do with the taste!

The Cemetery is constantly transitioning from one event to the next, and they are usually quite different from one another. The folks who attend one may not be here for any other. Our October calendar included Blessings of the Animals and the All Hallows Eve Service, both sponsored by local Episcopal clergy. The Candlelight

Tours and the Sunday "Autumn Afternoon" tour were attended by a wide spectrum of visitors. Some of our newer visitors were in town visiting their children in college and by chance, were coming here for the first time. The outreach is constantly changing.

As we get to December, the Cemetery is proud to host the Wreaths Across America ceremony at noon on December 14. This is our sixth year of participation in this national event. On the 15th, all of our festively decorated museums will be open free to the public, between 1:00 and 4:00. As a part of our holiday open house, cookies and warm cider will be served in the Mourning Museum.

This time of year is an especially tranquil time to walk or drive through the Cemetery. Please do not miss an opportunity to come by at any time!

—Karen Bracco

Autumn afternoon in the  
Confederate Section

Photo by Ted Delaney

# From the Executive Director

By Bruce Christian



St. Francis of Assisi watches over the Scatter Garden for Beloved Animals

Photo by Ted Delaney

As I sit here in mid-November and listen to the sound of the City workers running lawn mowers, I am reminded that 2013 has been a very unusual year here in the Cemetery. With the bountiful rains of spring and summer, we have heard more than the usual amount of mowing sounds. On the plus side, we have had a beautiful and colorful fall. There are three sassafras leaves clinging to a tree outside my window as if to say “when we let go, winter is coming.”

Before we get into another season, however, I have to mention how successful Candlelight Tours were. I knew it was going to be a special year when there was a lady waiting at the front door at 9:00 on August 1st to get her tickets. From that point until the last tour on October 26th, our office was a haven of juggling calls, emails, and drop in ticket buyers. We had a bounty of those who begged for “just two more” even though we were at our max. Due to great, albeit cold, weather we were able to expand the number per tour each night and

accommodate those who were not early birds. Many thanks go to our two sponsors this year, Diuguid Funeral Service and Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. Special thanks to Dawn Fields Wise and Lynne Spies whose writing truly brought our residents to life.

The staff has been planning the calendar of events for 2014. It seems each year we are able to add new and inventive programs to augment old favorites. I am very excited about the schedule for next year which allows us to showcase aspects of the Cemetery we perhaps have not in the past. Of course, so much of what we do here depends on our cadre of volunteers. If you were here for Candlelight Tours, you probably heard me mention “our over 100 volunteers.” Trust me we would not be able to do anywhere near what we do without these valuable members of the OCC family.

As we head in to a quieter time of year, I do want to encourage you to come for our last two major events. On December 14th the Cemetery will once again be the host site

for Wreaths Across America. If you have been previously, then you know how moving this program is. If you have never attended, I strongly encourage you to plan to be here. It is a beautiful service sponsored by the Blue Ridge and James River Chapters of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. Each person is invited to help lay wreaths on graves of veterans in the Cemetery. On Sunday the 15th, we will hold our Open House from 1-4 with refreshments here in the Mourning Museum. All of our museums will be decorated for the season and open for visitors. Docents will be available in each museum.

It being the month of remembrance and giving thanks, I simply want to say to each of you thank you for your interest and support of Old City Cemetery. You are such a big part of who and what we are. Without you, we would be a very different place. Because of you, we are able to continue making great things happen.

# Curator's Corner

By Phoebe Heaton, Research Volunteer

## Battle of Gettysburg Casualties in Lynchburg?

This summer, around the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3), we wondered if any soldiers buried in Old City Cemetery had died of wounds received in that particular battle. In the Diuguid undertakers' burial records we found 68 soldiers who died in Lynchburg in the months of July and August of 1863. I researched their causes of death and found the following:

Cause	No.	Percent
"Disease"	8	12%
Typhoid	8	12%
Fever	5	7%
Pneumonia	5	7%
<b>Wounds</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7%</b>
Diarrhea	5	7%
Tuberculosis	2	3%
Other	9	13%
<u>Not found</u>	21	31%
Total	68	100%

The results confirmed a surprising fact: about two-thirds of the men who died during the Civil War died not because of wounds, but from disease. Typhoid fever raged through many camps. Most of the soldiers were young farmers who had not been exposed to these kinds of diseases or to the cramped quarters of army life, and as a result, many of them died from illnesses such as measles and mumps. There was also inadequate medical knowledge and practice

as most surgeons received two years or less of instruction and no laboratory experience.

The form of death that I found most odd was diarrhea. I also expected there to be more wound related deaths. Unfortunately 31% of the soldiers' records did not contain a reason for death or I could not find the records.

Over 51,000 casualties occurred in the Battle of Gettysburg, making



Battle of Gettysburg as depicted in *Harper's Weekly*, August 8, 1863

Courtesy of [harpweek.com](http://harpweek.com)

*"It is well that war  
is so terrible,  
else we should  
grow too fond of it."*

—Gen. Robert E. Lee



it the bloodiest battle in the Civil War and the fourth bloodiest battle in American history.

Of the five men who died of wounds in July and August in Lynchburg, all of their regiments were somehow involved in the Battle of Gettysburg:

Robert Y. Carmikle . . . 53rd Georgia  
Michael Ruddell . . . . 28th Virginia  
William Shepperd . . . . 5th Alabama  
Jesse P. Story . . . . 37th North Carolina  
Robert W. Walker . . . . 22nd Virginia

Pvt. Walker is the only soldier whose service records explicitly indicate being wounded at Gettysburg. Further research is needed to confirm the circumstances of the others' wounds.

*Phoebe Heaton is a high school senior at New Covenant Schools in Lynchburg. She volunteered at Old City Cemetery during the summer of 2013.*

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Allen Winters

Allen Winters joined our weekly gravegardening crew this summer. Allen had moved to North Carolina after retiring, but when his son and family came to Lynchburg for new jobs, Allen came, too. Allen spent the majority of his career as a staff member of the Biology Department at Ball State University, as manager of the fields area. This entailed overseeing 500 acres of land, including a greenhouse and botanical gardens.



Photo by Karen Bracco

Our group works on all kinds of outside projects on Wednesday, and Allen jumps right in. A unique aspect is that Allen is 84 years young! If you live in the Boonsboro area, you might have seen him

walking his four Scotties. We appreciate his hard work and his cheerful working demeanor.

This is just another example of how all our volunteers make a difference. Thank you, Allen!



Allen Winters working with gravegardeners on the iris cleanup project  
Photo by Ted Delaney

# Horticultural Highlights

By Laurie McMinn, Historic Grounds Supervisor



Winter sunrise over  
the Pest House  
Photos by Laurie McMinn

Spring has buds and birds signaling warmer days are ahead, while summer breezes carry the sweet scent of roses across the grounds. The sheer essence of fall is catching a glimpse of the brilliant colors of the leaves as they change daily. Well, all the leaves have now fallen and the days are growing shorter, and winter's "blues" are trying to move in at Old City Cemetery. Many visitors will still drive through this winter, but what they will miss if they won't venture out of their toasty warm cars, are the wonderful teas Mother Nature has hidden throughout the landscape.

Something is blooming most everyday (yes, even in the winter!) and sometimes it takes a keen eye to find that special sight. Our famous roses have been photographed with a dusting of snow and some years the antique iris gracing the Hearse House porch have re-bloomed in December. The brick wall retains warmth from the low

winter sun, and is a shield from blustery winds for the few brave honey bees that venture out to inspect hellebores for pollen. The winter honeysuckle will probably bloom before the witch hazels, and a few violets and winter annuals will continue to pop up throughout the grounds.



Hellebores  
along the  
old brick  
wall

## Daffodil Photo Contest!



This season we are challenging you explorers and shutterbugs to capture the Cemetery's **first opened daffodil** on film, phone or other handy gadget. We have a de-light-ful prize for the winner: two tickets for the 2014 Candlelight Tours! The single image needs to have distinct landmarks to pinpoint the flower's location in the Cemetery,

and the date must be embedded in the digital image file for verification. Send your photo to Karen Bracco via email: [karen@gravegarden.org](mailto:karen@gravegarden.org). One entry per person, please. If Mother Nature cooperates, the winner will be announced in the Spring 2014 newsletter. Good luck, and come enjoy winter in the Cemetery!

# News & Notes

## Photo Contest Deadline

All "Kindred Spirits" photography contest submissions are due by December 31. Entries will be exhibited at the Cemetery Center, January 13–March 1. Drop in to vote for your favorite photo, January 13–25.

Please call or email Karen if you need an entry form: (434) 847-1465 or [karen@gravegarden.org](mailto:karen@gravegarden.org)

## 2014 Calendar of Events Announced

Note the new activities on the calendar this year (see next page), including two Civil War-themed events. We are introducing nature walks in March and April. The Endstation Theatre production of *Our Town* will be located on the Cemetery grounds in June and July. Also, two of our biennial events are back: Bawdy Ladies of 19th-Century Lynchburg and the Wreath Making Workshop.

## Honey and Maple Syrup Holiday Gifts

We have a small supply of "Died and Gone to Heaven Pure Honey" left for holiday gift giving! The 8-ounce jar sells for \$7.50.

Our pure maple syrup is from "the Mountains of Virginia." The price for a pint-size container is \$12 (mention this newsletter to get a 20% discount!).

## Outdoor Christmas Tree

The Cemetery has its own decorated evergreen tree outside the office this year. Drive by and see the spruce tree with hundreds of white holiday lights.

## New 2014 Photo Calendar

We now have a limited number of calendars featuring entries from our 2012 "Four Seasons of the Gravegarden" photography contest available for sale. The 4" x 6" calendars are \$6 each (\$8 with a magnetic or freestanding acrylic frame).



*Holiday Gift Ideas...*



# 2014 OLD CITY CEMETERY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

**Jan. 26** "KINDRED SPIRITS" PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST AWARDS RECEPTION 3:00 P.M.  
*Join us for the announcement of our 2013 contest winners and the 2014 contest kick-off. Exhibit of entries at Cemetery Center, January 13–March 1. Vote for your favorite photos January 13–25!*

**March 9** SECOND SUNDAY CONCERT 3:00 P.M.  
*Harp selections by soloist Hope Wright*

**NATURE WALKS IN THE GRAVEGARDEN** 10:00 A.M.  
**March 29** "EARLY SIGNS OF SPRING"  
**April 5** "NATURE'S BEST-KEPT SECRETS" by Greg Eaton  
**April 12** "TREES" by Klaus Schreiber  
*Join Master Naturalists on Saturday mornings in March and April for informal walking tours that highlight the diverse flora and fauna of the Cemetery.*

**April 27** CIVIL WAR MUSIC CONCERT 3:00 P.M.  
*The Lynchburg College Chamber Choir, led by Dr. Jong Kim, will perform a selection of songs popular during the 1860s.*

**April 29** GARDEN DAY & ARCHAEOLOGY OPEN HOUSE 10:00 A.M.–6:00 P.M.  
*The Cemetery will be at a beautiful stage of bloom and the perfect place for a picnic or box lunch. Stop by the Confederate Section to see archaeologists at work in our second "Yankee Square" excavation.*

**May 10** 19TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE ROSE FESTIVAL 9:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.  
*Enjoy the Cemetery's acclaimed antique rose collection near its peak of bloom. Heirloom rose sale begins on Garden Day (April 29). Special Mother's Day Rose Walk: Sunday, May 11.*

**May 25** CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE 3:00 P.M.  
*Annual Lynchburg tradition since 1866, sponsored this year by Garland-Rodes Camp No. 409, Sons of Confederate Veterans.*

**May 26** ANNUAL 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 July August** SUMMER SATURDAYS IN THE CEMETERY 10:00 A.M.  
*Casual guided walking tours highlight history and horticulture on the grounds every Saturday morning.*

**June 6** NATIONAL DONUT DAY 11:00 A.M.–1:00 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.*

**June 21** CIVIL WAR DAY 10:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.  
*Join us as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Lynchburg. Visit the graves of soldiers who died in the battle, talk to archaeologists as they excavate "Yankee Square," and see our new Civil War history brochure.*

**OUR TOWN \$** 7:00 P.M.  
**June 27 & 28 (Rain date June 29)**  
**July 5, 6, 10, 11 & 12 (Rain date July 13)**  
*Endstation Theatre Company will present a unique production of Thornton Wilder's timeless play, Our Town on the grounds of Old City Cemetery, a perfect location for a play that teaches us the importance of embracing the beauty of life as we live it. To purchase tickets visit [endstationtheatre.org](http://endstationtheatre.org).*

**July 13** SECOND SUNDAY CONCERTS 3:00 P.M.  
**Aug. 10** *Free and informal music performances in the Chapel*

**Sept. 21** BAWDY LADIES OF 19TH-CENTURY LYNCHBURG 3:00 P.M.  
*Historian Nancy Weiland leads a tour to the graves of some of Lynchburg's colorful "sporting ladies" of Buzzard Roost and Fourth Street.*

**Oct. 5** BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 3:00 P.M.  
*Sponsored by local Episcopal clergy*

**October** "OPERA TO LIVE FOR" CONCERT  
*Special concert in the Chapel with four soloists from Opera on the James. Free, but reservations required. Day and time TBA.*

**October 16–18** CANDLELIGHT TOURS \$  
**23–25** *Professional actors in period costume bring Cemetery residents to life with true stories from local history. Six tours each night beginning at 6:10. Tickets must be purchased in advance by contacting the Cemetery Center after August 1.*

**Oct. 26** AUTUMN AFTERNOON IN THE GRAVEGARDEN 3:00 P.M.  
*Casual guided walking tour highlights history and horticulture on the grounds near the peak of fall color.*

**Oct. 31** ALL HALLOWS EVE SERVICE 5:30 P.M.  
*Annual Episcopal service in the Chapel. Halloween costumes welcome.*

**Nov. 29** WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP \$ 9:30 A.M.  
*Make your own natural holiday wreath with greenery from the Cemetery grounds. All materials provided. Seating is limited. Pre-registration required.*

**Dec. 13** WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 12:00 NOON  
*After a brief ceremony, attendees lay evergreen wreaths on hundreds of veterans' graves in the Cemetery.*

**Dec. 14** HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & CONCERT 1:00–3:00 P.M.  
*Stop by the Cemetery Center for hot cider, cookies, and last-minute gifts before going to the Chapel for a special holiday concert at 3:00 p.m.*

## Notes from the Gravegarden

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*Edited by*  
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We Welcome Suggestions for Future  
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