



WWW.HOLLYWOODCEMETERY.ORG

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Follow the Blue Line

A Special Guide to Hollywood’s Highlights

With over 135 acres of rolling hills, winding paths, and thousands of gravesites, Hollywood can be overwhelming to visitors. But many can find an easy introduction to the cemetery by following a simple blue line, painted on the right side of the road.

“The blue line was first implemented in 1992 as a guide to help visitors follow the tour map to find the graves of notables who are buried here. The blue line on the roadway corresponds with the one on our tour map,” said David Gilliam, General Manager of Hollywood Cemetery.



Rolling hills of Confederate fallen.



A young girl’s four-legged guardian.

The approximately 2 ¼-mile route begins at Hollywood’s entrance. Across from the office, a large granite map of Hollywood shows the highlighted route (see page 3). The blue line takes a quick right turn at The Glade, then continues up Confederate Avenue. Here one arrives at a visitor’s favorite: the **black iron dog statue** that guards the grave of little Florence Rees.

From there, visitors veer right to tour the **Confederate Section**. Simple white tombstones lie in the shadows of Hollywood’s 90-foot granite pyramid, completed in 1869—a memorial to the 18,000 Confederate soldiers buried nearby. (And sharp-eyed visitors may discover a smaller, replica pyramid closer to the river for Leslie Dove, who died at age 17 at Gettysburg).

After circling this area, the blue line continues along Western Avenue, and then to scenic Ellis Avenue, which overlooks a valley. Here, two notables have gravesites right next to each other: Confederate **General J.E.B. Stuart** and Pulitzer Prize winning novelist **Ellen Glasgow**. An elegant tombstone with a quote from Milton (“Tomorrow to fresh woods and pastures new”) marks Glasgow’s grave. According to John O. Peters, author of *Richmond’s Hollywood Cemetery*, “the remains of her beloved Sealyham Terrier, Jeremy, were unearthed from her garden and placed in the casket with her.”

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Blue Line (continued)

Continuing down Ellis, one turns left onto Freeman, named after **Douglas Southall Freeman**, who is buried nearby on a triangular plot next to his wife. The editor of the *Richmond News Leader* for 34 years, Freeman also wrote two Pulitzer Prize winning biographies.

From here, the blue line continues back uphill, reaching the cobblestoned Presidents Circle, where monuments mark the gravesites of U.S. Presidents **John Tyler** and **James Monroe** (his famous “birdcage”) and their families.

Presidents Circle is also the location of what’s been called the “saddest angel in Hollywood” at the grave of **William N. Worthington** in the **Haxall plot**. Here too is buried Mary Triplett Haxall, whose beauty once inspired a deadly duel between friends.



Designed by famous Richmond sculptor Edward V. Valentine, “Grief” depicts a shrouded mother, on her knees, crying in grief, at the gravesite of William Worthington.

Up the road lies **Jefferson Davis Circle**, where the President of the Confederacy and his family members are buried. Near that circle, a large, curved bench monument known as an exedra commemorates the grave of congressman and public education pioneer **J.L.M. Curry** and his wife.

The blue line continues down Waterview, past the Palmer Chapel and the magnificent mausoleum of tobacco tycoon, real estate developer and philanthropist **Lewis Ginter**, with its three Tiffany stained glass windows. His equally impressive niece, philanthropist **Grace Arents**, is buried nearby in a simple grave bordered by boxwoods.

The blue line passes more highlights along the way, before completing its route near the entrance. All told, 49 notables are listed on the fold-up map—including some unusual sites, such as the **Lloyd Family Plot**. There, family members have ornately carved tree stones at their gravesites.



Douglas Southall Freeman (1886-1953) and his wife, Inez Goddin Freeman (1891-1974).

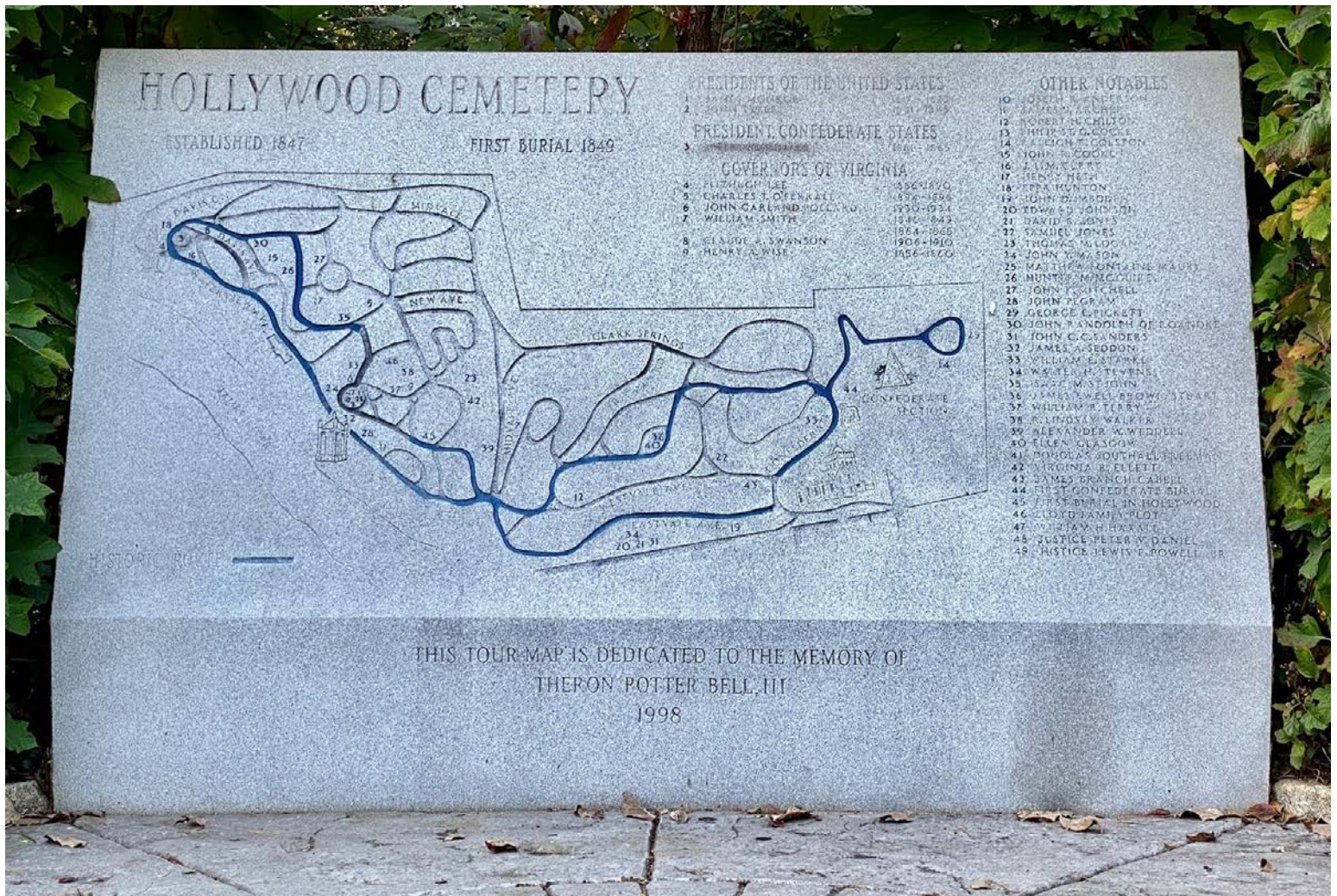
Because of the number of vehicles that come through Hollywood, the blue line must be repainted often due to its fading in high traffic areas.

“Many visitors return time and time again,” said Friends of Hollywood Cemetery Executive Director, Kelly Wilbanks. “But even if the blue line is all you have time for, you’ll still have a most enjoyable experience.”



Granite monuments in the Lloyd Family plot are carved entirely in the form of tree trunks, branches and stumps.

Visitors hoping to learn more can search the Hollywood Cemetery website and purchase a \$1 map, books and other items in the office. The DVD, *Hollywood Cemetery: A Historical Treasure*, which was written and narrated by the late Dr. Hunter H. McGuire, Jr., offers a charming tour of the cemetery and its many famous residents (“some good and some scoundrels”).



Remembering Theron Bell (1936 - 1992)

At the entrance to Hollywood, near the parking area on the right, a large granite marker displays a map of the cemetery. At the bottom, the words read: "This tour map is dedicated to the memory of Theron Potter Bell, III."

Born on the Eastern Shore, Bell was a beloved husband, father and grandfather, when he was killed, at age 55, by a drunk driver fleeing police just two blocks from Hollywood Cemetery on May 23, 1992. At the time, Bell was the Vice President of Auditing with Crestar Bank and a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, whose hobbies included gardening, fishing, sailing in the Chesapeake Bay, and photography. He had been a marathon runner and triathlete.

His family provided the funding for the map in his memory. When recently asked about it, his widow, Jeri, said, "I have a story to tell." She explained that she and Theron often got lost when trying to find their son's dorm at Virginia Tech. They would laugh about how each time, they had to rely upon the campus map—a large marker framed by Hokie stones—to find their way.

Years later, Jeri would often recall such memories as she visited Theron's grave in Hollywood Cemetery. "I worked downtown and close to Hollywood. I would go there to sit and have lunch and look at the pretty views." Often, she says, "cars would stop and ask me how to get to Presidents Circle or other parts of the cemetery. They often had license plates from out of state. One day, it dawned on me that they needed a map to get around...then I thought about the Virginia Tech map."

At the time, she had already approached Hollywood Cemetery about making a gift—and all agreed that a memorial map would be the perfect way to honor her late husband. Completed in 1998, the map includes lists of notables and charts the blue line route. Jeri's daughter, Cary Breierre, (who sadly, passed away in 1999) created a nearby garden.

Friends tell Jeri they think of Theron whenever they see the memorial.

"They couldn't have done a better job with the map," she said. "It turned out perfectly, as far as I'm concerned."

Hollywood Adjusts During the COVID Pandemic

Life during COVID-19 has created many challenges for the cemetery—from limitations on funeral services to keeping its many visitors to the grounds safe.

It seems so long ago now, but it was just March 7th when Virginia confirmed its first case of this deadly strain of coronavirus. The numbers soon escalated. By March 23, Governor Ralph Northam had issued an order banning all gatherings of more than 10 people, closing most businesses and public schools indefinitely.

“Hollywood enjoys visitors from all over the country. Before the Governor ordered the closing of businesses, we had already made the decision to close our office to the public because the registry showed we had visitors from states where the virus was already present in large numbers. All tours were also canceled until further notice,” said David Gilliam, the cemetery’s General Manager.

While funerals continued, the number of attendees was restricted to 10 in the beginning of the pandemic. “Funeral directors were largely responsible for enforcing attendance restrictions,” he said. “Many cremation services were canceled and rescheduled for a later date when family members could attend.”

As Virginia began its phased reopening, gradually more visitors were permitted to attend services, but funerals still had to be held outdoors, with social distancing and masks required. Today, outdoor funeral services are allowed, but visitors still must wear masks and remain six feet apart.

Early in the pandemic, many public parks operated with restricted hours and access, but Hollywood’s leadership decided the cemetery should remain open for regular hours.

During this time of quarantine and social distancing, when outdoor time is so essential to mental and physical health, visitor attendance has surged.

“We know that some people who came to the cemetery to walk or bike ride, or tour the grounds, appreciated the fact that our gates remained open because of comments made on our

social media pages. For some, it was their first time visiting the cemetery,” he said.

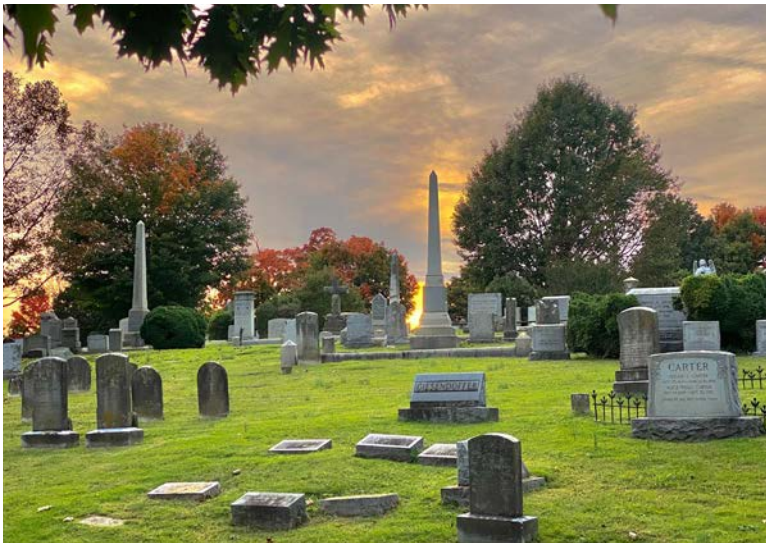
Gilliam provided some historical perspective on the cemetery’s appeal. “Ever since its creation in 1847 as a rural cemetery, Hollywood has been a place where many could seek respite from the stresses of daily life. Now, 173 years later, I am happy that our beloved cemetery is still providing a place where people from near and far can come to find comfort within our gates.”

The Hollywood Cemetery office has recently reopened. All visitors must ring the bell, and masks or face coverings are required for entry. The grounds are open from 8-5 p.m. daily.

Spanish Flu

This is not the first time Hollywood Cemetery has coped with a pandemic. In October 1918, the Spanish flu arrived in Richmond, “igniting 10,000 cases in a matter of days,” said Nelson Lankford, Ph.D. in the Friends of Hollywood Newsletter for Fall 2017. People donned surgical masks to prevent infection, and Westhampton Hospital was quarantined for flu victims only. City leadership “responded with admirable speed. At the request of the city’s chief health officer, the Virginia capital shut churches, schools, theaters, dance halls and all indoor public gatherings,” wrote Lankford, noting that Hollywood Cemetery’s annual report in Spring 1919 made reference to “the great upheaval of the past year.” The 1918 influenza epidemic claimed 1,014 lives in Richmond.

Hollywood Scenes Captured by Photographer Bill Draper



Notable Women Authors

Their Writing Gave Voice to Women's Suffrage

The centennial of the 19th Amendment offers an opportunity to explore Hollywood Cemetery and reflect upon our history. While numerous women's rights activists are buried here, Kate Langley Boshier (1865-1932), Mary Johnston (1870-1936), and Ellen Glasgow (1873-1945) were three popular authors whose writing lent a voice to women's suffrage.

Kate Langley Boshier

Kate Langley was born in Norfolk on February 1, 1865, near the end of the Civil War. She attended the Norfolk College for Young Ladies and later moved to Richmond in 1887 when she married Charles Gideon Boshier. She would live in Richmond for the next forty-four years, write ten novels, and take part in civic and political organizations.



Kate Langley Boshier (1865-1932)
Courtesy of Katherine Alden

Boshier wrote commercial fiction; this was quite popular in her day but it does not have the same lasting power as literary works. This is no insult to Boshier.

In fact, she joked that she did not look the part of a writer. In 1912, while attending a national meeting of booksellers, Boshier denied that she was *literary* although she had written three books in three years. She shared an anecdote about being introduced to a woman who inquired if she was “the Mrs. Boshier who writes?” When Boshier responded that she indeed was the writer, she hung her head; the woman responded, “nobody would ever guess it from looking at you.”¹

Although the anecdote makes Boshier seem unassuming, this was the same year that she spoke before the Virginia House of Delegates on the rights of women. Boshier, along with Mary Johnston and Ellen Glasgow, was one of the founding members of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia where she used her writing talent to publish a pamphlet for the cause. Not a passive spectator, Boshier spoke in front of various audiences, including the Virginia Press Association in 1916. She was elected as president of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia in 1919². And, she became a leader in the League of Women Voters in 1920.

While Boshier continued to be involved with women's rights, she also advocated for children even though she did not have any of her own. She wanted all children to have safe homes and a good education. In 1916 and 1922, the governor appointed her to the board of the Virginia Home and Industrial School, a reformatory for girls. In her will, Boshier bequeathed money to the Children's Home Society in the hopes of placing children in permanent homes.³

Boshier used her writing to focus on causes she held dear. Her most successful and popular novel was *Mary Cary, "Frequently Martha"* (1910), which sold over 100,000 copies within the first year of its release. The story of a spunky orphan who navigates her life in an orphanage with a corrupted caregiver was a huge success. This was the only one of her novels to have a film adaptation, the 1921 silent feature *Nobody's Kid* starring Mae Marsh as Mary, and directed by Howard Hickman.

(continued on page 7)

Authors (continued)

When Bosher died, she was considered one of the most noted Virginia authors and her estate was valued at \$165,000, equivalent to about \$3 million today.⁴ Kate Bosher is buried next to her husband in section 16-129.

We think of family members being buried close to one another; in Hollywood, friends are literally just around the corner. While looking directly at Bosher's grave, to the right is the grave of Mary Johnston, who is buried in section 16-126/128.

Mary Johnston

Mary Johnston was born in Buchanan, Virginia on November 21, 1870. Johnston was chronically ill in her youth and was educated at home. When her mother passed away in 1889, Johnston, the eldest of six children, became responsible for the household. Even with these additional



Mary Johnston
(1870-1936)

responsibilities, by the time the family moved to Richmond in 1902, Johnston had already published a few books including *To Have and to Hold* (1900), which sold over

500,000 copies and would be made into a movie twice.⁵

Johnston's status as a popular novelist was a great benefit to the suffrage movement. Like Bosher, Johnston used her writing talent to publish two leaflets for the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia. She was the first female novelist to top twentieth-century best-seller lists even though her novels, including *Hagar* (1913), were overtly political.⁶ Johnston supported other reforms including the labor movement and child labor legislation, but she did not always make her beliefs public in fear that they would eclipse her support of women's suffrage.⁷ After the Nineteenth Amendment passed, Johnston promoted racial justice through her novel *The Slave Ship* (1924) and her short story in *Century* magazine, "Nemesis" (1923), which depicts the lynching of a Black man in a small southern town. Walter White, the assistant secretary of the NAACP, wrote Johnston stating that he had never "read any story on this great national disgrace of ours which moved me as yours did."⁸

Similar to Bosher, Johnston's writing has not received the same scholarly focus as some of her contemporaries, including Ellen Glasgow. Buried in section DE-15, Glasgow's grave is a bit of a walk from Bosher's and Johnston's. In life, however, these ladies worked closely together in their efforts to bring about women's suffrage.

Ellen Glasgow

Born in Richmond, Virginia on April 22, 1873, Ellen Glasgow was frail and sickly and lost her mother at an early age, a similar experience shared by Johnston. The two met through Glasgow's sister, Cary Glasgow McCormack. When Cary became sick, Johnston wrote to Glasgow about her ailing sister and, from there, the friendship developed. Johnston and Glasgow were dear friends by the time they founded the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia in 1909. In Johnston's diary, she writes about trips to the theater and excursions to Hollywood Cemetery.⁹ Through their correspondence and Johnston's diary entries, we can see their friendship as both social and intellectual.

Glasgow published twenty novels and fourteen short stories, although she was known to disdain them. Her work focused on the changing environment of the South after the 1850s, including: *The Battle-Ground* (1902), *The Deliverance* (1904), and *Virginia* (1913); and, even when her involvement with the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia waned after the

(continued on page 8)

Authors (continued)

death of her sister, she still included themes of women's rights in her writing. "The Call," a poem published in *Collier's Magazine* in 1912 was as a "contribution to the cause."¹⁰ She also published an article, "Feminism" for the *New York Times* in 1913, which explains the significance of the women's movement.¹¹ Similar to Johnston's approach to racial injustices, Glasgow's last novel, *In This Our Life* (1941), boldly for its time included a progressive view towards African Americans. The book earned her a Pulitzer Prize and it was made into a film in 1942 starring Bette Davis and Olivia de Havilland.

Unlike Boshier and Johnston, Glasgow's work has received more scholarly and popular attention with critical essays being published and one of her ghost stories from *The Shadowy Third and Other Stories* (1923) being made for the television drama, *Ghosts* (1995). Although it may be easier to access Glasgow's work, the works of Boshier and Johnston are accessible in Project Gutenberg, an online library of free eBooks. All of the graves can be visited easily in the cemetery.

Contributed by Sharon Pajka, Ph.D.
Professor, Gallaudet University

¹*The Times-Democrat* (New Orleans, Louisiana), Jun 9, 1912, p. 45.

²*The Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland), Sep 25, 1919, p. 5.

³*Richmond Times-Dispatch* (Richmond, Virginia), Aug 3, 1932, p. 5.

⁴*Richmond Times-Dispatch* (Richmond, Virginia), Aug 3, 1932, p. 5.

⁵"Mary Johnston," *Notable American Women*, 2:282-83.

⁶Longest, George, *Three Virginia Writers; Mary Johnston, Thomas Nelson Page, and Amelie Rives Troubetskoy: A Reference Guide* (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1978), pp. 23-25.

⁷Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, "Mary Johnston, Suffragist" in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 100, No. 1. January 1992, p. 105.



Ellen Glasgow
(1873-1945)

⁸Brooks, Clayton McClure, Samuel P. Menefee and Brendan Wolfe. "Mary Johnston (1870-1936)." *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Virginia Humanities, 20 Mar. 2014. Web. 28 Sept. 2020.

⁹Mary P. Edward, "Tea and Metaphysics: Excerpts from Mary Johnston's Diary," *The Ellen Glasgow Newsletter*, October 1983, p.2.

¹⁰Undated letter to Mary Johnston, Mary Johnston Papers, Alderman Library, University of Virginia.

¹¹Ellen Glasgow, "Feminism," *New York Times*, November 30, 1913, p. 656.



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Making arrangements in advance is the best way to give you and your family peace of mind both now and in the future. Hollywood Cemetery offers several interment options, including lots, crypts, and niches, ensuring your place in history. As a fully-operational cemetery since the 19th century, Hollywood Cemetery serves as the final resting place for U.S. presidents, governors, and numerous other notables.

Summer Hours: 8:00am - 6:00pm daily
Winter Hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm daily

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Mason New Joins Friends Board

Friends of Hollywood is pleased to announce the election of J. Mason New to its Board of Directors.

Mason is the Founder and CEO of NewVia, which provides instructional design and consultation services to



businesses and organizations creating technology based learning environments, including online platforms.

A native of Richmond, Mason attended St. Christopher's School and The Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, NJ, then received a B.A. in English from Washington and Lee University, an M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John's College/Annapolis, and an M.S. in Education: Learning Design and Technology from Purdue University. His

past experiences include serving as Chair of the English Department of Episcopal High School in Alexandria and as a Corporal in the US Marine Corps Reserve.

Mason is married to Melissa, a native of Alexandria and alumna of Washington and Lee. The News have two children, Ibbey, 13, and Mason, 11. The older Mason's hobbies include reading, writing, playing the guitar, and enjoying the Rappahannock River during the summer with his family.

He has long felt a special connection to Hollywood, since his father and grandparents are buried there, but has come to know it even better through his involvement with Friends. He enjoys learning about everything from the cemetery's historical figures to its trees. More than a burial site, "it's this breathing entity; it's this living entity."

"I never ever would have thought that being involved with a cemetery would be such an interesting thing," he adds, with a laugh. "I find the place to be such a rich repository of these stories that maybe not very many people know. I think it's a beautiful place to be."

Welcome, Mason New.

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Ed

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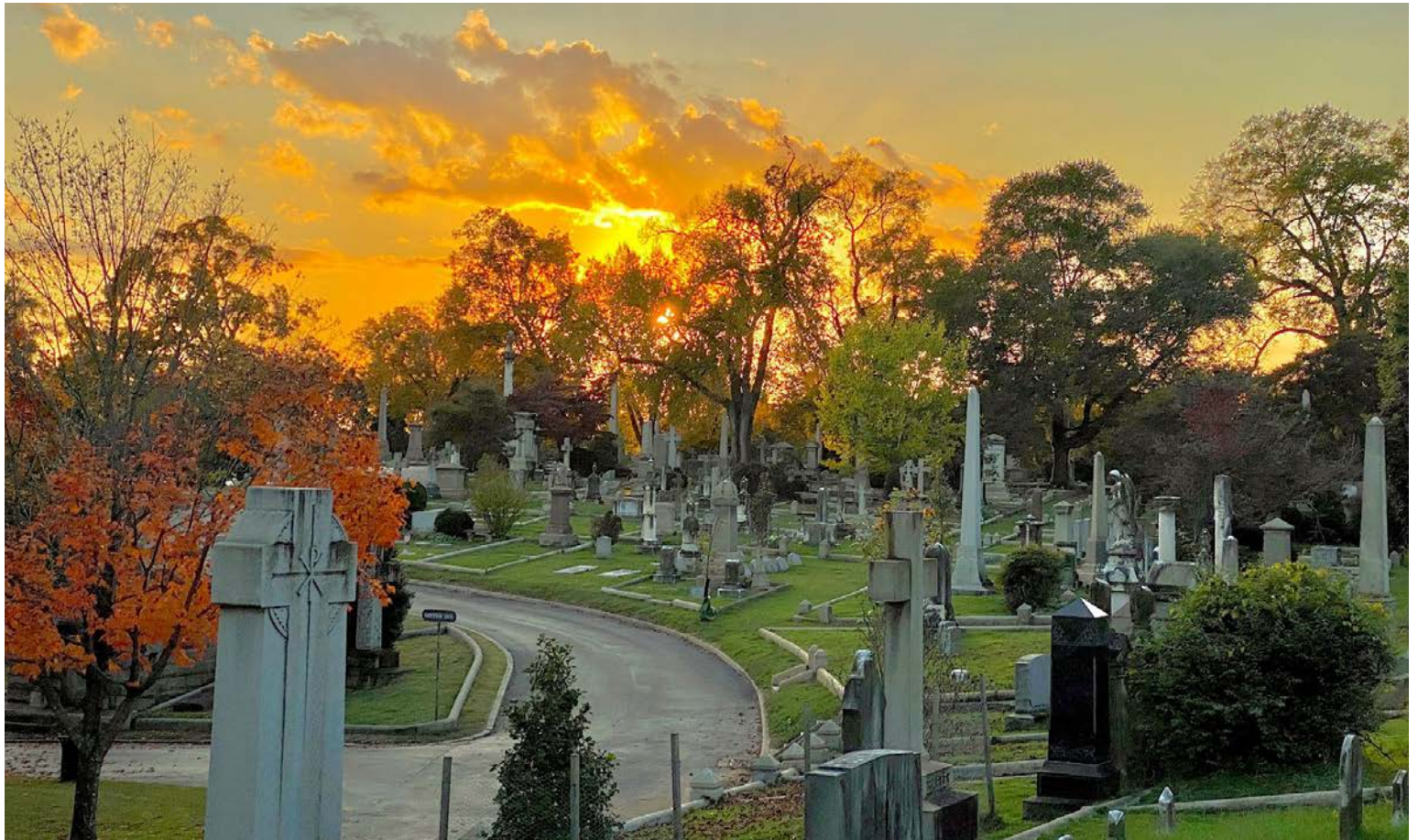
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A late afternoon setting sun provides a spectacular backdrop for some of Hollywood's loveliest monuments.

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