



WWW.HOLLYWOODCEMETERY.ORG

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*On Schedule and Under Budget***Phase II Monument and Fence Repair Half Complete**

The most extensive project of repair and restoration in Hollywood's history is entering its fourth year. Based upon an in depth 2007 study of the condition of cemetery monuments and fences conducted by Robert Mosko (Mosko Cemetery Company), Friends of Hollywood began raising funds in 2009 to address the challenge.

Because of its size, the project has been undertaken in phases. Phase I involving Presidents Circle and surrounding sections was begun in 2010 and completed in March, 2012. Five hundred two (502) monuments and forty-seven (47) fences were repaired/restored. One fence and one monument are still a work in progress.

Phase II involving the oldest sections of Hollywood and some of its greatest challenges was begun in April, 2012. The scope of work includes fourteen hundred two (1,402) monuments and eighty-one (81) fences. Over half the monuments have been addressed as well as sixty-nine (69) fences. The work is ahead of schedule and well within budget. It is expected that Phase II will be completed in 2014.

Most Phase II work has been completed by the "crew" (as Mosko refers to them). In 2011, Mosko interviewed twenty individuals who expressed an interest in learning monument and statue repair working on the job as Mosko interns in Hollywood. Three applicants were selected:

Veronica Huynl, William ("Will") Oakes, and Katherine Ragan. While Robert Mosko has been working offsite to complete the restoration of the Palmer fence, the "crew" completes assignments in Richmond based upon scheduling arranged by phone at the beginning of each week.



*Restoration interns kneel at the Norton plot restored tablets. From left: Katherine Ragan, William ("Will") Oakes, and Veronica Huynl*

Each monument to be repaired during the work week is carefully examined before any repair/restoration begins. "Each monument presents its own set of challenges," according to Will Oakes. "Despite a careful examination beforehand, you have no real idea of the condition of a monument until work begins. At the end of the week, completed work is photographed, documented, and uploaded to a Mosko Cemetery Co. database.

*(continued on page 2)*

Page 3

Rose  
Debut

Page 4

Fall  
Images

Page 6

Winnie  
Davis

Page 8

Genealogy  
Project

Page 9

Shepherd  
& Lee

Page 10

2013  
Contributors



The most challenging repair and restoration since beginning Phase II has been the Norton plot (Section D, Plot 204). In September, 2003, Hurricane Isabel inflicted severe damage to Hollywood—nearly one hundred monarch trees (100 years of age or older) were destroyed. Countless monuments and fences were battered beyond recognition. Section D was the epicenter of damage in Hollywood. In the center of Section D, the Norton plot was flattened beyond recognition.

“The Norton repairs—six tablet monuments in all—took forever,” according to Veronica Huynl. “The work was complicated and very slow going. The monuments were fragile, flattened, broken, and buried. Seeing them standing straight and in a perfect row again is really gratifying.”



*The condition of the Norton plot before repair and restoration earlier this year. Topped and broken tablets, dislocated bases, a mess!*

With good weather and fairly straightforward repair work, how many monuments can be restored in a week? Veronica responded, “our best week was thirty (30) monuments...the weather was perfect and the fixes easy.”

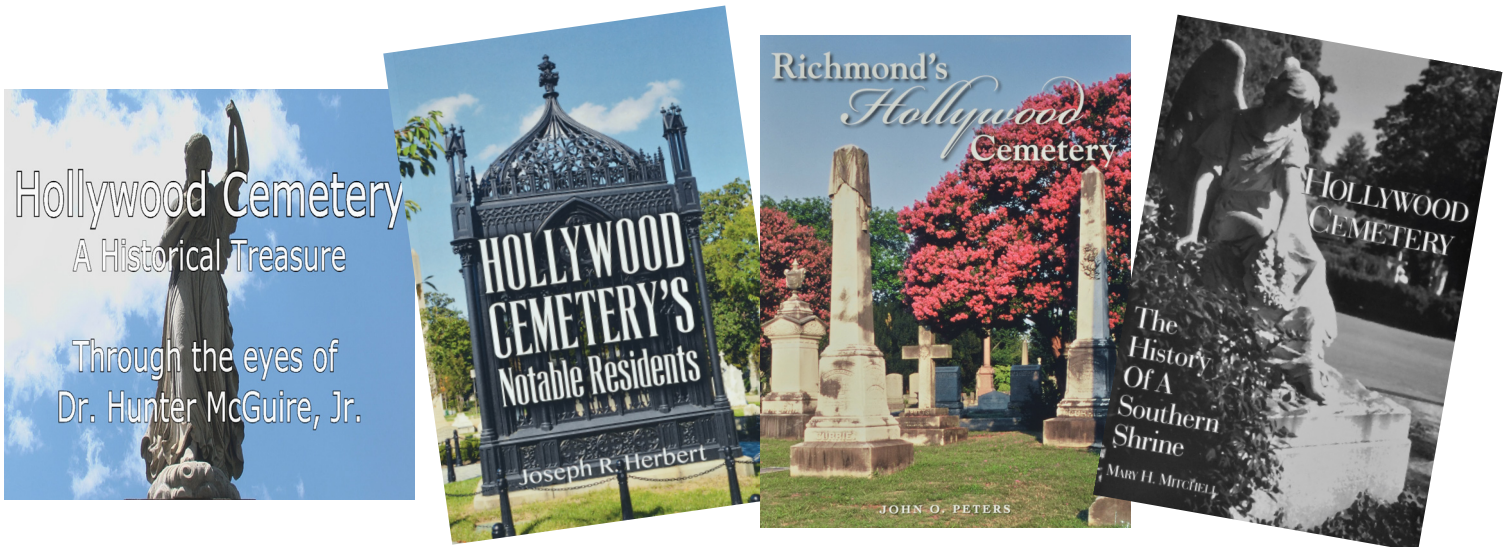
“Working outdoors in Richmond’s relatively short winter has not been a problem,” remarked Katherine. “Rain can slow you down as can extremes of heat and cold. Weather has everything to do with curing/drying. Each week, you have to think ahead about the weather before starting in on a particular kind of repair.”



*After nearly a month of work, the Norton plot appears as it did for generations*

Robert Mosko and his “crew” have made a transformation difference in the appearance of Hollywood’s monuments and statues in recent years. We are grateful to them and to the many Friends of Hollywood who have made that difference possible.

**Note:** Shortly before publication, it was learned from Shockoe Hill Cemetery Facebook page that the well known agronomist Dr. Daniel Norborne Norton, creator of the famous Norton grape of Virginia and a “notable” of Shockoe Hill Cemetery, is the same Dr. Norton whose wife, Lucy Marshall Fisher Norton and four children are buried in the Norton plot in Hollywood, beneath magnificently restored monuments.



*In addition to two familiar books about Hollywood Cemetery (by authors Mary Mitchell and John Peters) and a DVD (Dr. Hunter McGuire, Jr.), a recently published book by Joseph R. Herbert specifically highlights Hollywood’s notable residents. Each is available in the cemetery office.*



# Hollywood Roses Debut at Annual Rose Conference

The fall conference of the Heritage Rose Foundation—“Tracing our Rose Heritage: Discovering Our Roots”—was held November 14-17 on the grounds of Florida Southern College in Lakeland, FL. This annual event draws rose enthusiasts from throughout the United States and abroad, this year numbering over one hundred registrants.

One of this year’s featured speakers was **Connie Hilker**; her topic, *Documenting and Preserving the Roses of Hollywood Cemetery*. Hollywood contains one of the finest collections of heritage roses in the country. Newsletter readers may recall Connie’s most current connection with Hollywood. In the summer of 2012, Kelly Wilbanks, Friends Executive Director, met Connie at a Richmond Rose Society meeting. An immediate connection was made.

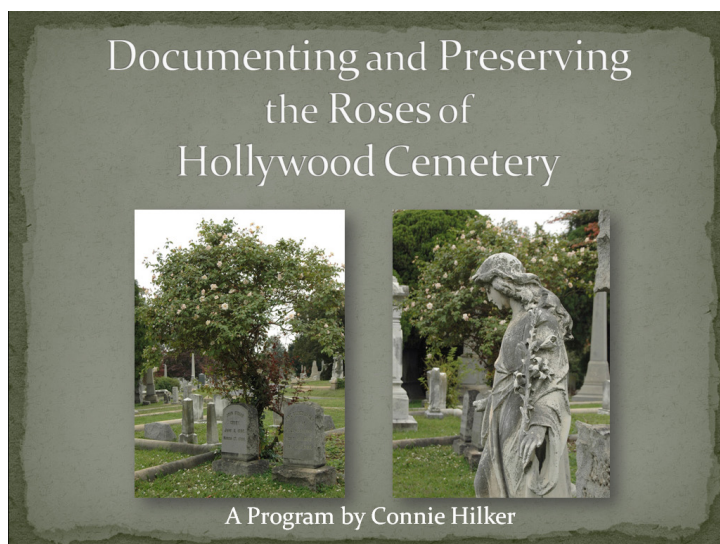
Since that time, Connie has spearheaded an effort to locate, map, and identify over one hundred heritage roses within the cemetery and to evaluate their condition, chart a maintenance program for each, and begin the painstaking task of conservation. Over forty volunteers rallied around Connie Hilker on a March Saturday in 2013 to begin a task not undertaken before



*Rosarian and extraordinary volunteer Connie Hilker addresses audience at fall conference of the Heritage Rose Foundation*

in modern memory. Hollywood roses were thinned, shaped, and put in good order for the 2013 growing/blooming season.

Connie’s participation in and presentation at the multi-day Heritage Rose Foundation convention was a red letter day for Hollywood Cemetery and the extraordinary collection of heritage roses that it boasts. “Heritage roses are historic roses,” according to Hilker. “They are closely aligned to families and family history down through the years. Their individual stories can be traced back for generations.” For more information, please see [heritagerosefoundation.org](http://heritagerosefoundation.org).



*Initial slide of Connie Hilker’s presentation on the heritage roses of Hollywood Cemetery*

Connie and her husband Steve live in Hartwood, VA (near Fredericksburg), in a 1840s house surrounded by nine acres of farm soil ideally suited for rose growing. It is the site of Connie’s former nursery, Hartwood Roses.

Connie’s work at Hollywood is continuing. Plans are being made for another rose volunteer day to be held on **Saturday, March 15, 2014** (March 22 has been detected as a bad weather back-up date). Notices will be mailed closer to the event. Meanwhile, if you are interested in having your name added to the event list, please contact Kelly Wilbanks with Friends of Hollywood ([kwilbanks@hollywoodcemetery.org](mailto:kwilbanks@hollywoodcemetery.org)).



*One of Hollywood’s treasured roses—Safrano—has been diagnosed with rose rosette disease and must be removed. Rose rosette is an untreatable virus and can spread quickly from plant to plant*





1

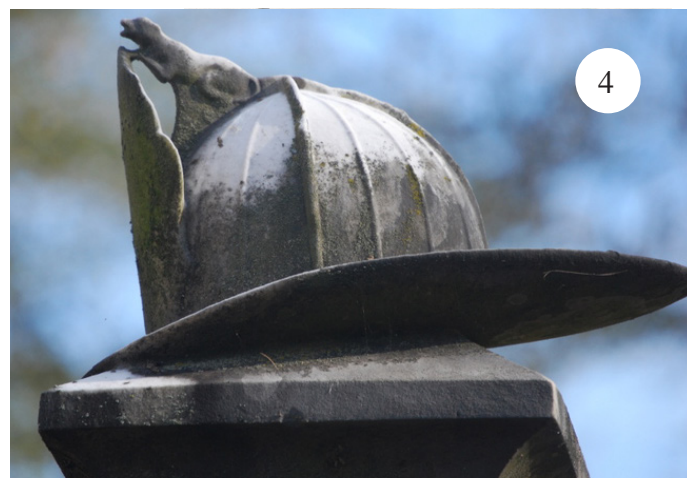
# Fall Images 2013



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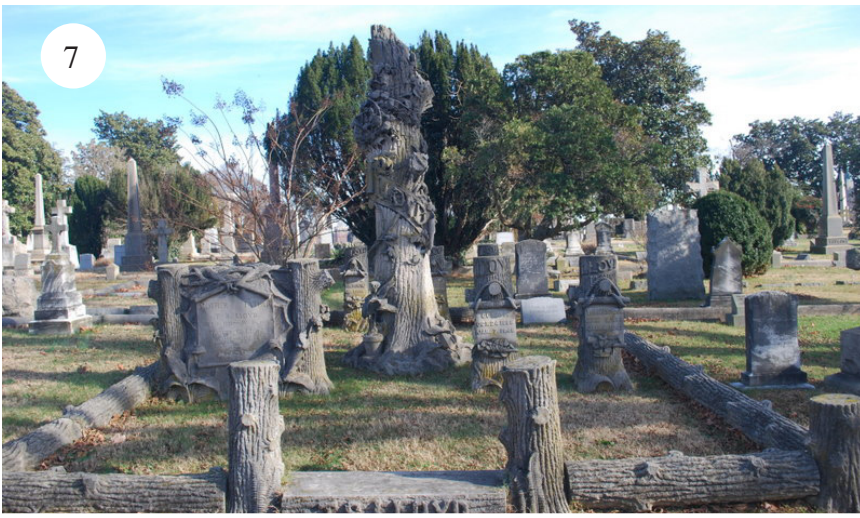
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6

[1] The Judson Boardman Wood Celtic cross featuring intricate carvings of Christ and the twelve apostles. [2] Bronze doors (the Lewis Ginter Mausoleum). [3] The Caldwell Fence, featuring twisted grape vines (life), inverted torches and wreaths (life extinguished); and below the bottom rail, heads of Jesus Christ (eternal life). [4] A fireman's helmet (with miniature Dalmatian dog) caps the obelisk of Richmond Fire Chief William Charters who at age thirty-six died with over sixty others in the disastrous balcony collapse—Virginia Supreme Court Chambers. [5] The grave of James Valentine, a railroad engineer, who died in a train crash at age thirty-two. [6] the Grounds Crew (from left): William Nunallie, Jr.; Hershul "Frankie" England; Corey Lawson; Andy Harper; Jonathan Hansen; William McCormick, III; Kenny Jarrell, Jr.; Tommy Karnes; James Barnes; and Donald Toney—Foreman. Not pictured: Steven Gilliam and Donald Grove.





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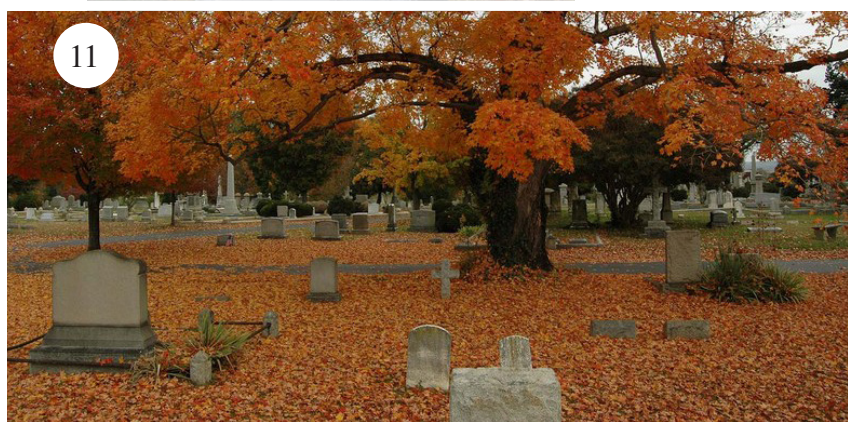
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11



12

[7] The T. S. Lloyd family plot. Each monument and piece of curbing is carved to resemble a log or tree stump. The motif has been generally associated with Woodman of the World, an Omaha, Nebraska insurance company dating to the late 19th century that provided burial monuments for its associates. [8] “Black Dog” (a cast iron Newfoundland) keeps vigil over the cradle grave of Florence Rees who died in 1862 (age two) from scarlet fever. [9] The monument of Herbert B. Quarles who died in 1895 at age twelve from appendicitis. Note the open school book, cap, and book bag. [10] Hollywood’s office staff. From left: Woodrow Harper, Mabel Toney, Kristina Coonley, and David Gilliam, Cemetery General Manger. [11] Maples in fall splendor. [12] Friends of Hollywood speaker Caroline (“Carrie”) Janney with Museum of the Confederacy President and CEO Waite Rawles following her presentation on the Gettysburg dead and Hollywood at the Virginia Historical Society on September 25.



## Varina “Winnie” Anne Davis – “Daughter of the Confederacy”

Among the many angels in Hollywood Cemetery is a marble one which sits in Davis circle above the grave of Varina Anne Davis, better known as “Winnie,” the youngest child of President of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis and his wife Varina Howell Davis. Often called the “angel of grief,” the statue is the work of the renowned sculptor George Julian Zolnay and is one of two works he was chosen by Mrs. Davis to do for the family plot. The other is the large bronze of President Davis which stands over his grave.

The solemn looking angel at Winnie’s grave is looking downward and holding a wreath of flowers in her right hand which she seems about to place at Winnie’s feet. The wreath and the gesture are symbolic of Winnie whose life was buffeted by the tragic winds of history from the moment of her birth at the White House of the Confederacy on June 27, 1864, less than a year before the end of the Civil War. Before she could walk she was carried in her mother’s arms as they fled southward with her brothers and sister when the Confederacy crumbled and the government abandoned Richmond. When her father was captured in Georgia, Winnie and her mother traveled back to Virginia with him by steamboat from which they watched as he was taken into the prison at Fort Monroe in the



*Davis family from left: Jeff, Jr.; Maggie; Billy; and Winnie. Courtesy of the Museum of the Confederacy.*

Chesapeake Bay where he was to live in isolation for over two years before being released on bond. When the other children were sent to live in Canada, Winnie stayed with their mother who worked relentlessly to free her husband.

When Jefferson Davis was finally freed, Winnie and her parents lived first in Canada and eventually in England. Winnie was sent to boarding school in Germany where she studied for five years and acquired an excellent education, despite being terribly homesick. By the time she was seventeen she was back in the United States. Within a few years of her return, her father had become the hero of the Lost Cause, and he was often asked to take part in benefits and ceremonies for Confederate veterans throughout the country. Winnie became her father’s

traveling companion for many of those appearances and in the process, thanks to her loveliness and graciousness, became famous in her own right. At one of her appearances, Georgia Governor John B. Gordon introduced her to the crowd as the “Daughter of the Confederacy,” and the label stuck.

But Winnie was much more than a figurehead, or a model of Southern womanhood. She was bright, well-educated and willing to work. After her father’s death, that is exactly what she did. Economic necessity demanded it. The Davises had never been wealthy, and her mother’s and father’s attempts to make money with, in his case, a history of the Confederacy and, in hers, a biography of her husband, were both financial failures. Winnie wrote articles and essays for which she was paid by magazines and newspapers, and eventually she published a memoir of famed Irish political figure Robert Emmet and two novels, *The Veiled Doctor* and *A Romance of Summer Seas* in both of which the central theme was thwarted love.

Winnie never married, but not because she didn’t have suitors. One of them, a Harvard educated young lawyer, proposed and was accepted, but when their engagement was announced, the enraged outcry from her Southern devotees was deafening and their marriage plans were cancelled.



Winnie Davis (age 26). Courtesy of the Museum of the Confederacy.

Winnie continued to write and by 1893 she had received sufficient recognition as a professional literary figure to be included with over 1,200 other women from various professions in a biographical dictionary devoted solely to women. Winnie also continued to appear at special events including one when she rode in a parade in an open carriage during a drenching downpour. By the time she returned to the summer resort where she and her mother were staying, she was very sick. She lingered, ever weakening, for several months before dying at age thirty-four on September 18, 1898. Her body was brought to Richmond by train for her funeral at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and burial near her father and brothers in Hollywood. The church was filled to overflowing, and thousands came to her burial.

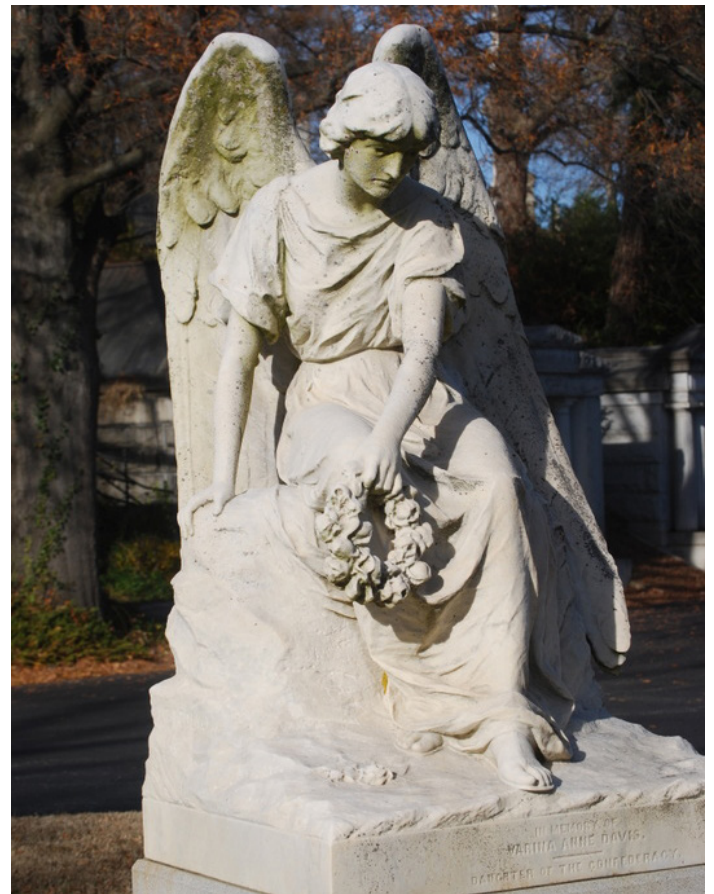
There were no tombstones for members of the Davis family at that time, but as Mary H. Mitchell reported in her history of Hollywood, "No sooner had Winnie been buried ... than donations began to pour in for a monument in her honor." (pp. 120-121).

Mrs. Davis chose sculptor George Julian Zolnay, a native of Hungary who had been educated at Vienna's Imperial Academy of Fine Arts, to design the monument for Winnie and also one for her father. Zolnay chose Carrara marble for the angel he designed for Winnie and sent his model of it to Italy to be carved. He chose bronze for a statue of a tall, dignified man standing with his hat in one hand and his other on his hip for Jefferson Davis. Of it Zolnay declared, "No one would ever say that was the statue of a Yankee." (Peters, p. 116) The seven foot tall bronze on Jefferson Davis's grave and the marble angel which still hovers over Winnie's grave were unveiled on the same day as a broken marble column by Andrew J. Wray in memory of Winnie's

brother Jefferson Davis, Jr. An enormous crowd led by former Governor Fitzhugh Lee gathered in Davis circle for the unveiling on November 9, 1899 to hear speeches by Governor J. Hoge Tyler and Beverly B. Munford, the orator for the occasion.

Readers interested in a more detailed treatment of Winnie's life will be happy to know that Heath Hardage Lee, a Richmond native and well known scholar in the field of women's history, has written a new biography—*Winnie Davis: Daughter of the Lost Cause*. See page 9.

**Contributed by:**  
**Mary Lynn Bayliss, Ph. D.**  
**Member, Friends of Hollywood**  
**Board of Directors**



Often called the "angel of grief," the George Julian Zolnay statue carved from Carrara marble watches over Winnie Davis's grave



# Genealogy Project Planning Gains Momentum

After nearly a year, significant strides have been made to better understand gaps in the genealogical records of individuals interred in Hollywood and how to address them. There are 62,000 individuals (including 18,000 Confederate dead) buried in Hollywood and approximately 120,000 missing pieces of data (e.g., date of birth or death, complete name, etc.).

Joseph R. (Joe) Herbert, with assistance from Friends Executive Director, Kelly Wilbanks, has recruited a group of project volunteers and conducted a number of project planning meetings. Topics included scope of work, manpower required, and technology needed. From these meetings, project goals and objectives for 2013 were established. A steering committee has also been formed.

One goal was to expand upon and enliven information contained on the cemetery's web site about the "Forty-Nine Notables" buried-in Hollywood. That work has been completed. A by-product of enriching web site content has been a new book written and published by Herbert about these unusual men and women—*Hollywood Cemetery's Notable Residents*.

A second goal was to field test a device capable of photographing each monument and uploading that data to a data base in the Hollywood office. Actual monument information can then be compared

with handwritten cemetery records to ensure that individual data is complete and correct. On July 27 and September 28, the project team photographed approximately half of the 1,800 monuments in Section 26. Also, on September 28, the team photographed all gravesites in Idlewood, the newest section of Hollywood.



*Genealogy project team leader Joe Herbert and team member Anna Moulis photographing gravestones during a team workday at Hollywood*

Several meetings have also been held with representatives of the VCU Department of History to discuss whether student volunteer support for the project may be available. A start has been made with the designation of a student for a special "for academic credit" project. Her work at the cemetery will begin in 2014 and last three months.

We salute the conscientious work of Kristina Coonley, a 4th year student at John Tyler Community College who will enroll as a zoology major at North Carolina State in the fall. Kristina has spent countless hours reviewing the photographs and information produced by the volunteers before uploading it to the cemetery's web site.

The scope of the genealogy project is immense. A successful conclusion will mean a state-of-the-art data base for Hollywood Cemetery researchers, historians, families and visitors for generations to come. For more information, please contact Kelly Wilbanks at [kwilbanks@hollywoodcemetery.org](mailto:kwilbanks@hollywoodcemetery.org).

We are extremely grateful to the following individuals who have volunteered their time and support in 2013 on this project:

Judith Bernicchi  
Peter Broadbent  
Hamilton Bryson  
Kathy Candler  
Jo Clark  
Brad Davenport  
Dana Finn  
Barabara Fore  
Marjorie Grier  
Alfred Hahn  
Joe Herbert

Elaine Kozlowski  
Kevin Lett  
Mac McGuire  
Tom Miller  
Anna Moulis  
Chrystal Raikes  
Sarah Sinsabaugh  
Toni Storey  
Josh Wilberger  
Patricia Wood

## A Letter from a New Friend of Hollywood

Dear Friends:

As a retired history teacher, I travel around the country and photograph the graves of "Notables" in American history. I have been to Hollywood Cemetery several times and enjoy the beauty and historical significance of the cemetery. Every time I travel near Richmond, I like to stop into Hollywood Cemetery.

I noticed of the web site of the cemetery that there is an organization known as Friends of Hollywood Cemetery. I have joined several "Friends" organizations including Friends of Laurel Hill [Philadelphia], Friends of Mt. Auburn [Boston], the Green-Wood Foundation [Brooklyn], Friends of Spring Grove [Cincinnati], Friends of Homewood [Pittsburg], Bonaventure Historical Society [Savannah], and Friends of Bellefontaine [St. Louis]. I have established a fund with the Philadelphia Foundation that will, upon my death, give grants to cemeteries for educational and preservation purposes. Until that time, I am trying to spread some small donations around to my favorite cemeteries. Hollywood Cemetery certainly qualifies.

Please accept the enclosed donation for the Friends of Hollywood Cemetery. Also, I would appreciate it if you would send me yearly reminders to renew my pledge to help Hollywood.

Thank you for preserving a beautiful piece of American history.

November 16, 2013



# Nancy Shepherd Joins Friends of Hollywood Staff



Nancy Shepherd has joined the Friends of Hollywood organization as part-time Development Associate. This “second career” follows thirty years of service at St. Catherine’s School as a volunteer and part- and full-time employee. From 1991 until her retirement in June, Nancy was a member of the Admissions Office staff.

During her tenure at St. Catherine’s, Nancy and her family also became part of the resident faculty when the school still operated a boarding department. She fondly remembers her work with boarding students.

Nancy will assist Friends Executive Director, Kelly Wilbanks, with managing Friends overall development program, community outreach efforts, and cemetery events (tours, picnics, speakers). Friends, a 501(c)3 organization, was formed in 2007. At that time and continuing to date, Friends’ primary goal has been restoration and conservation of monuments, sculpture, and ironwork within the cemetery.

Nancy has two daughters, Kara Hall Bleecher and Courtney Hall Barrett, and four grandchildren — all boys. “I am also lucky to have in my life two stepdaughters, a stepson, and four step grandchildren — also boys.” In her leisure time, she is interested in decorating and loves reading, music, cooking, and entertaining.

“This has been a wonderful new learning experience,” Nancy remarked. “I had no idea what Hollywood was really all about. I have learned so much. Just call me a sponge!”

*We welcome Nancy Shepherd*

# Heath Lee to Publish “Winnie” Davis Biography



Heath Hardage Lee will soon add another accomplishment to an ever growing list. In April, 2014, her first book entitled *Winnie Davis: Daughter of the Lost Cause* will be published by Potomac Books, a division of the University of Nebraska Press. It chronicles the life of one of the saddest figures of

the Civil War, the youngest child of President of the Confederacy Jefferson F. Davis and his wife, Varina Howell Davis.

Heath Lee has been intrigued by Winnie Davis and her tragic life story for over twenty years. She began her research of Davis — personal letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, and references in Southern history books — before graduating from college. It has been a continuing and expanding labor of love ever since.

Heath is a Richmond native and graduate of St. Catherine’s School. She holds a B.A. in History with Honors from Davidson College and an M.A. in French Language and Literature from the University of Virginia. Her background includes museum education, house museum consultation, historic preservation, and writing. Heath moved to Des Moines, Iowa, from

Richmond in 2008 with her husband Chris Lee. Heath and Chris have two children — Anne Alston and James.

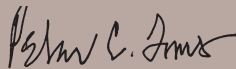
Heath will appear at the invitation of Friends of Hollywood at St. Catherine’s School in the Middle School auditorium on October 8, 2014 to discuss her new book and the lengthy journey she has taken to know and embrace its central character. Heath’s presentation will be free and open to the public. A reminder card will be mailed during the coming summer.

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## 2013 Contributors To Friends of Hollywood Cemetery

We are indeed grateful to the following donors for their generous support of Friends in 2013 through November 25. You have enabled us to raise awareness of Hollywood and to continue vital monument and fence restoration. Thank you for helping us to preserve Hollywood Cemetery for generations to come.



Peter C. Toms

Chair, Friends of Hollywood Cemetery

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We invite you to join the **1847 Society** and continue the ongoing restoration and preservation of Hollywood Cemetery.



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*The back sides of the Norton family plot tablets as they appear today. There is clear evidence of orange staining brought about from years of direct exposure to the ground. Section D, Plot 204. See page 1.*