



A Gateway Into History

WWW.HOLLYWOODCEMETERY.ORG

SUMMER 2010 • VOLUME I, NUMBER 1

Cemetery Progress Reported at 162nd Annual Lot Owners Meeting

Fielding L. Williams, Jr., President of Hollywood Cemetery Company, convened the 162nd Annual Meeting of Hollywood Lot Owners on May 18, 2010.

In his annual report, Williams addressed the Cemetery's financial condition, maintenance and preservation activities, ongoing daily operations, and the activities of Friends of Hollywood.

The Cemetery's current operating budget of \$2,025,000 is supported by lot sales, interment fees, and monument foundation preparation, as well as income from the Cemetery's endowment funds. Endowment preservation and growth is one of the Board's primary responsibilities. When the Cemetery no longer derives revenue from operations, the endowment will be the major source of support for perpetual care and preservation.

"Serving our families with funeral services is our top priority," Mr. Williams told lot owners, "and I am proud to say that Hollywood continues to hold a reputation of excellence in the cemetery and funeral industry."

For several years, Hollywood has allocated significant sums in its annual budgets for general maintenance. Accomplishments include new road surfacing, new curbs and gutters, and rebuilding of all cobblestone embankments (a four-year project). Final cobble embankment repair was completed in the winter of this year. In addition, thirty new trees of various species have been planted throughout the Cemetery in 2010 in accordance with a master arboriculture plan.

Given the age of the Cemetery and its structures, the unexpected is common. For several years, the brick foundation under the southwest wall of the historic stone Chapel building has been deteriorating at an alarming rate. Addressing this condition is no longer discretionary but mandatory. Extensive foundation stabilization will occur before year end at an estimated cost

exceeding \$250,000.

A new "genealogy" feature has been added to the Cemetery's web site that has been well received. Individuals are now able to submit information to the Cemetery about family members and have that information added to the individual's web page.

Tourism continues to be robust at Hollywood. The Valentine Richmond History Center conducts walking tours of Hollywood that attracted 1,000 visitors in 2009. It is the Valentine's most popular tour. In addition to the Valentine tours, thousands visit the Cemetery each year on their own. With the approaching sesquicentennial of the Civil War, it is expected that visitation will continue to increase.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the following individuals were elected to serve as directors until the next Annual Meeting in May 2011:

Mary Hoge Anderson
Ralph B. Higgins
Matthew D. Jenkins
Nelson D. Lankford
E. Bryson Powell
Frank L. Robinson
Fred T. Tattersall
Peter C. Toms
Fielding L. Williams, Jr.

Matthew Jenkins was elected to serve as President for the ensuing year. After six years of continuous service as President, Mr. Williams was praised for his diligent and effective service. "Few people," commented former Cemetery director S. Buford Scott, "have been more committed to or passionate about Hollywood Cemetery than Fielding Williams. We are indebted to him."

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Extensive Presidents Circle Monument Restoration Underway

In 2007, Robert Mosko of Mosko Cemetery Services in Hanover, Pennsylvania, conducted a full survey and assessment of every monument in Hollywood Cemetery. A complete report was issued to the Board of Directors. From that report, the Board has been able to prioritize restoration and conservation activities and assist Friends of Hollywood in establishing fund raising goals.

One of the Cemetery's oldest and most historic areas includes Presidents Circle (the "Mount") and sections contiguous to it with a view of the falls of the James River. These are some of the most frequently visited sections in Hollywood as well as some of those in greatest need of repair.

In early May, and with funds raised from individuals and foundations by Friends of Hollywood through December 31, 2009, Robert Mosko began an extensive project to restore and conserve 175 monuments in and around Presidents Circle. Work is expected to continue until August and cost approximately \$140,000. It is the most extensive undertaking of its type since Hollywood Cemetery opened in 1849.

Mosko has been engaged in cemetery monument restoration and conservation since 1998. To date, he has worked in 64 cemeteries in the eastern United States and repaired over 4,500 monuments, including tablets, ledgers, obelisks, crosses, and statuary of every type. Several of the oldest cemeteries in which Mosko has worked include Lower March Creek Presbyterian Cemetery (1741), Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, St. Thomas Episcopal Church (1742), Owings Mills, Maryland, and St. Paul (Ziegler's) Lutheran Cemetery (1774), Seven Springs, Pennsylvania. Mosko also serves as an adjunct professor, teaching basic cemetery conservation at Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland.

Mosko has received no formal education or training in his vocation. "I learned by watching other people's mistakes," he says proudly. The primary tool of his trade is modern monument putty, largely a trial-and-error mixture of his creation. When

applied horizontally to stone surfaces, the putty forms an air- and water-tight seal and vacuum at the joint. Mosko customizes the putty using a number of different pigments to match the color of the monument being repaired.

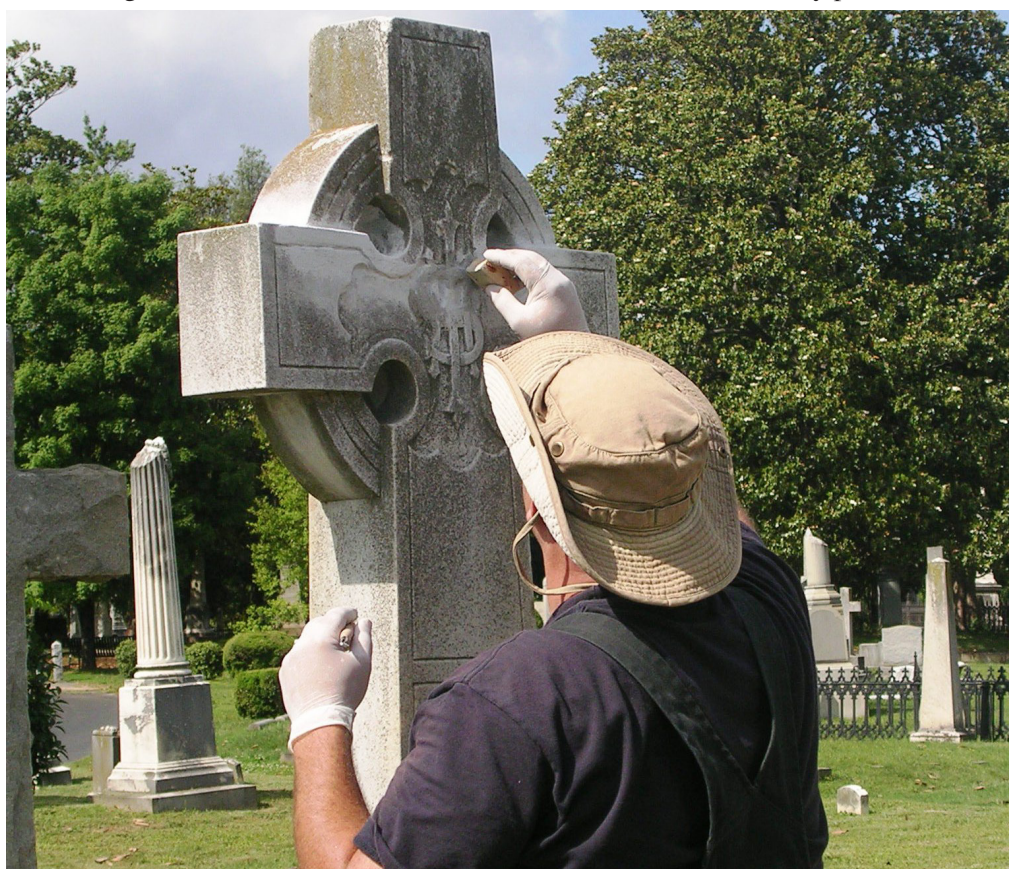
First repair priority is being given to monuments that are unstable. They may not appear so to the eye. "Monument stability is a serious problem in a cemetery," Mosko opined, "perhaps the most serious." Instability results from deterioration of original monument grout/mortar and fastening pins/devices as well as the compromising of bases because of soil erosion and collapse. To illustrate the latter, he had identified a tilting monument near the river, the base of which had been completely undermined by a sizable ground hog tunnel.

Mosko's work at Hollywood has been generally routine to date – stabilizing, straightening, bracing, re-attaching, and some lifting, all without the use of



machinery. As his engagement nears conclusion, some mechanical hoisting will be necessary. One of Mosko's first ever discoveries since working in Presidents Circle has been the use of an iron hook and eye to fasten a monument to its base. Normally, bolts or cement have been used for this purpose.

Robert Mosko welcomes visitors to his worksite and enjoys answering questions. "I have never worked in a better managed or maintained cemetery," he has remarked. "Richmond should be very proud."

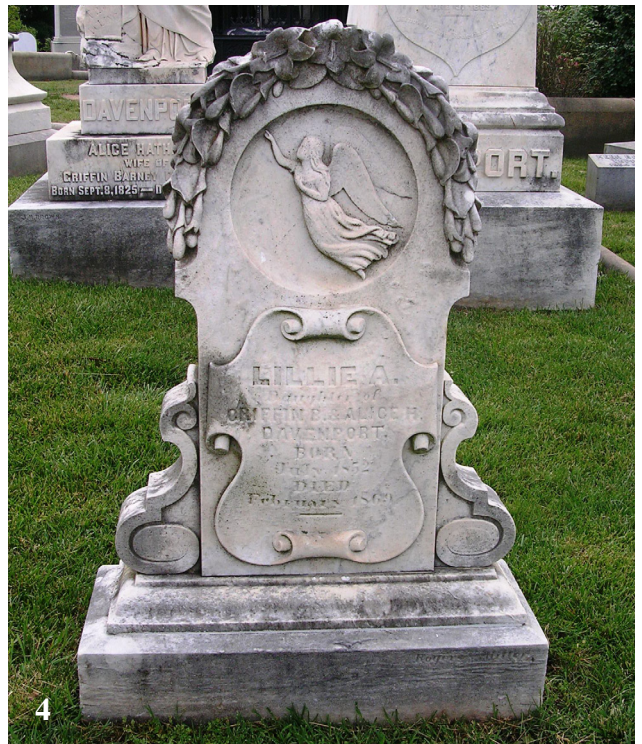


This Celtic cross monument, located within the "Mount" and commemorating the life of George Barksdale Wickham (1888-1928), was toppled from its base during Hurricane Isabel. The upper portion of the cross was broken off. Robert Mosko has securely mounted the cross to its base and is in the process of reattaching and sculpting the broken portion.

1 and 2. The two granite tablets in these photographs were also broken by falling limbs. Never repaired, the broken pieces were simply set back in place without being permanently secured. Mosko has cleaned the joints and is in the process of securing the pieces with special monument putty.



3 and 4. This unique monument within the "Mount" marks the resting place of Lillie A. Davenport (1852-1869). The monument had slipped on its base. When Mosko began his process of re-securing and stabilization, he discovered that the monument was attached to its base with an iron hook and eye fixture, inserted within the granite. It is the first such attachment Mosko has encountered after repairing over 4,500 monuments.



Hollywood Charts its Course as an Active Cemetery

Because it is an historic and well-developed cemetery, Hollywood may give the appearance of being full. This is a popular misconception.

A Master Plan Update completed in 2005 confirmed that Hollywood can be in business as a fully operational cemetery, offering new interment sites for sale for as many as fifty years. To do so, the Board of Directors and management have evaluated many different options for future in- and above-ground burials, including closing little-used walks and roads, reclaiming abandoned space within existing plots, development of cremation niches, and erecting a second mausoleum to be located on Eastvale Avenue.

With the opening of the Idlewood Section (contiguous to the Confederate Section in the northeast corner of the Cemetery) in 2000, the last large undeveloped piece of land within Hollywood was put to use. A granite elliptical cremation niche wall was added in 2007.

With Idlewood developed, the Board of Directors and management realized that in order to offer a continuous variety of interment sites, it would undertake for the first time a closed roadway project. A redundant and seldom used road in one of the most historic and serenely beautiful areas of the Cemetery was selected. The road, Chapel Hill Avenue, had been closed to vehicular traffic in 1998.

In early May of this year, the development of the Chapel Hill Avenue project was completed. The site includes 36 in-ground casket and 240 in-ground cremation sites. Granite obelisks, monuments, and benches were crafted by A. P. Grappone & Sons, Inc. of Richmond to blend with the beautifully aged stonework in the area. In the fall, trees and shrubbery will be added to the site.

The Code of Virginia provides that under certain circumstances, unused, abandoned lots can be reclaimed by

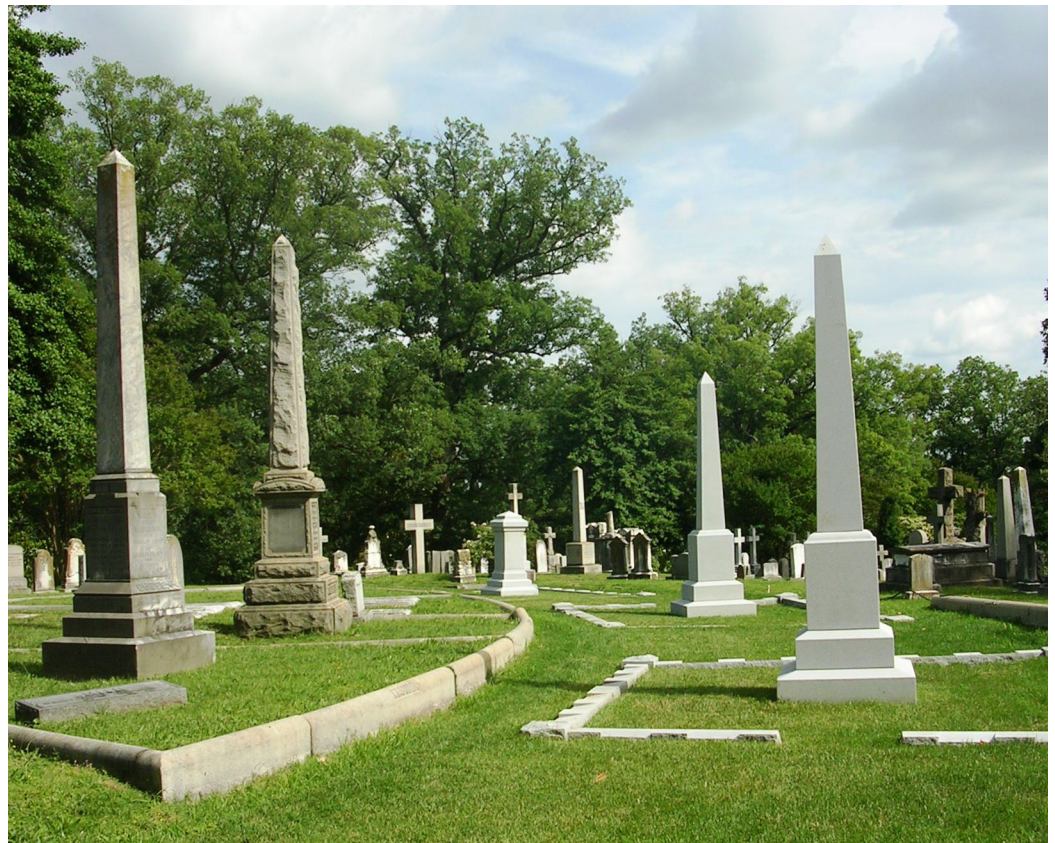
the Cemetery and resold. Hollywood General Manager David L. Gilliam has been instrumental over a number of years in shaping this legislation, ensuring a thoughtful and effective process for reclamation, while at the same time protecting original owner interests.

To date, Hollywood has reclaimed and is offering for sale 204 in-ground casket burial sites and 68 in-ground cremation sites in several of the Cemetery's oldest and most picturesque sections. There are a total of 273 additional sites of various sizes identified for reclaiming.

In the fall of this year, another roadway development project will be undertaken. Following a detailed site design prepared by Van Yahres Associates of Charlottesville, KBS Construction Company of Richmond will turn existing closed roads leading to and surrounding Presidents Circle into walkways constructed with custom granite paving blocks. *See opposite page.*

Adjacent to the walkways, ornamental granite curbs will be installed and lined with a total of 960 cremation niches. New trees and shrubbery will provide shade and, in time, a mature landscape. Presidents Circle (the "Mount") is one of the original sections of the Cemetery and the resting place of Presidents James Monroe and John Tyler, Matthew Fontaine Maury ("Pathfinder of the Seas"), William H. Haxall (a co-founder of Hollywood), and Joseph Reid Anderson (civil engineer, industrialist, and Civil War general).

Other projects will be evaluated as burial site demands require. In the meantime, Cemetery management will attempt to create a broader awareness of Hollywood's status as an active operating cemetery, offering a variety of interment options for years to come. Inquiries are always welcome at 648-8501 or by e-mail at info@hollywoodcemetery.org.



The closed road above located on historic Chapel Hill has been developed for in ground casket and cremation burials. Its monuments have been designed to blend with those surrounding it.

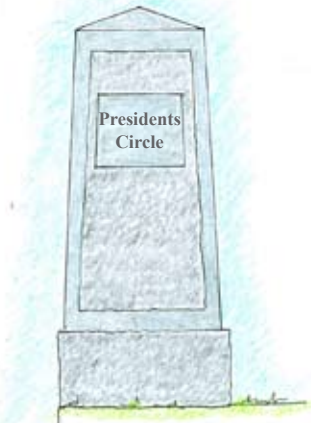
HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY • PRESIDENTS CIRCLE (THE “MOUNT”) PAVING AND CREMATION NICHE PROJECT

VAN YAHRES ASSOCIATES
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

MAIN ENTRANCE



After - with granite curbs and columns

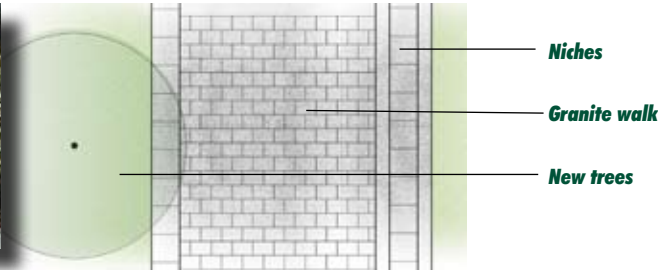


Granite entrance columns

NICHES



Granite niches- raised along the walk



Plan view of walks and niches

THE “MOUNT”



WALK TO THE “MOUNT” - with granite cobble walk and raised niches



THE “MOUNT” - with granite cobble walks, new granite edges and cast iron benches

Donald R. Toney – A Lifetime of Service



In 1967, at seventeen years of age, Donald Toney received a fortuitous telephone call in Stickley, West Virginia, from his father. The elder Toney had moved to Richmond the year before and taken a job at Hollywood Cemetery.

Toney recalls that in those days a young man either went to work in the coal mines or moved to Ohio to pursue factory employment. Neither of those options was particularly pleasing to him. His father explained that Richmond seemed a fine place in which to live and that Hollywood Cemetery was hiring.

Without thinking a great deal about it, Donald boarded a Greyhound bus for Richmond and what would become a lifelong vocation. His older brother, Arthur, would make the same decision several years later, to move to Richmond and to work at Hollywood.

This year marks Donald Toney's 42nd anniversary with the Cemetery. He has served as Grounds Foreman for the past 23 years. Both his father and brother worked under him. "There was never a problem with that," he explained proudly during a recent visit. "I have always been a working foreman." Indeed, there have been few tasks that Toney has not performed over his Cemetery career. "I just love this place and have never

considered going anywhere else. I get up in the morning and really enjoy coming to work." Toney's workday begins at 6:30 a.m.

"I began by sweeping stones..."

Donald was too young to operate mechanical equipment during the first few months of employment. "I began by sweeping stones. I would neat up after the lawn mowers came through." At eighteen, he graduated to a mower crew. He made \$1.10/hour, \$47.00/week. He lived in a furnished room in an Oregon Hill building at 721 W. Cary Street owned by Harvey Hardware Company. Harvey's was a neighborhood institution and landmark. "Good people!" Rent was \$17.50/week, and he could walk to work in a matter of minutes.

In the late sixties, most graves were dug by hand. Cremation interments were rare. It took approximately 4 hours for two men to dig a standard 5 ½ foot deep grave. When it came to graves for double casket interments, Toney explained that buckets would be required for hoisting up the final few feet of dirt. On hillsides, graves generally were dug 13 feet deep at the top in order to be 5 ½ feet deep at the foot. "Being country boys, we all worked hard," he exclaimed

with pride. "Digging was what we knew how to do."

Donald Toney has worn his 60 years well. His West Virginia accent is refreshing. He parts his snow white hair down the middle and sports a well-groomed moustache. Behind narrow rimmed spectacles, his eyes have a definite twinkle. He has a friendly smile. The day we met, he wore a fresh white work shirt with name and Hollywood Cemetery patches. "The name patch [which reads 'Toney'] throws some people off. They think it's my first name and sometimes refer to me as Toney Donald." Donald is engaging, an avid conversationalist and story teller. You should be prepared!

Toney brings innovation and savings

Toney has definitely been a Hollywood innovator over the years. At the mention of leaves, I settled back as Donald explained that everything was done with rakes in the old days. It would take all winter to get them up, almost to the beginning of grass-cutting season. The Cemetery did own one all-metal, 43-lb. back-pack blower in the late sixties. It was extremely heavy and cumbersome. Donald was aware that Harvey's had begun selling a new and lighter back-pack blower, 15 vs. 43 lbs. He talked General Manager John Brown into buying one. Then there were two, then three, and the rest is history.

Donald also pushed the Cemetery to purchase modern gasoline trimmers. Mr. John Brown, frugal with Hollywood funds, allowed Toney once again to experiment with just one. It would become the trimmer of choice and replace the generator-driven antique Stanley trimmer that Hollywood had used for years. Using the "Stanley," according to Toney, posed risks of physical strain (the generator weighed 600 lbs.), electrocution, as well as injury from its exposed, rapidly moving blades.

In 1973, Toney remembers asking Brown whether he could use the Cemetery's backhoe to dig a grave. The hoe had been owned since 1959 but was seldom used. The reluctance was rooted in fear that monuments could be easily damaged by the slightest misstep with so large a piece of equipment. John Brown agreed. "It took me all day to dig the King grave in Section 26 with that backhoe. But I proved that it could be done safely, even in a tight area." This was a watershed moment. Hand digging at Hollywood would soon pass into history.

Toney remembers Hollywood when far more stately trees punctuated its landscape than is the case today. They formed a lush overhead canopy. "It was like an umbrella." Storms, and he remembers each of the major ones, have been devastating to Hollywood trees. "There was one in the '70s that seemed to come down Cary Street and took out beautiful old sycamores in the Confederate Section. Worse than Isabel and the others," he continued. "We were sawing wood for weeks. People came and helped themselves."

***"Twenty-seven maples
out there are mine"***

Toney is particularly proud of the Cemetery's policy to plant new trees as old ones succumb to age or Mother Nature. "Twenty-seven maples out there are mine," he explained. "I dug volunteer seedlings from the area between Hollywood and Riverview with special attention to their shape." Each is a mature and healthy tree today. "Donald's trees" will be one of his many Hollywood legacies.

One of the most significant and challenging funerals that Donald has overseen was that of Supreme Court Associate Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. "Security was all over the place because all the 'Supremes' were here to attend the service. Whenever we had to attend to any final preparations at the grave site, the security people would be right behind us, looking over our shoulders."

Donald has worked as many as 100 hours a week during his career when he held down his grounds job as well as that of Hollywood security guard. For the latter, he dressed in an official blue uniform with security officer arm patches. He had been authorized to carry a handgun. One day, a frequent Cemetery visitor and lot owner encountered him in his security attire and questioned him about the side arm. "Well," she exclaimed, "if it is so dangerous down here that you have to wear a gun, perhaps I should think twice about coming." Shortly thereafter, the Board agreed that a sidearm was unnecessary.

Donald Toney lost his first wife in 1997. In 2006, he remarried Cemetery co-worker Mabel Ford from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Mabel joined the Cemetery grounds staff in 1988. She too had lost her spouse. "She was my friend long before she became my wife," Donald explained. "There's not much she can't do. She even baits her own hook and that's pretty cool, let me tell you." Mabel Toney serves today as Administrative Assistant in the Cemetery's office.

Donald has frequently told Hollywood lot owners that "his job is grounds...and to please them!" With a dedicated crew of 8 (vs. 22 in 1967 when he first began work), an enviable work ethic, a joy in what he does, and a great deal of mechanization, Donald Toney delivers on his commitment, day after day.

Thank you, Donald.

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Peter C. Toms – Vice President
David L. Gilliam – Secretary and General Manager
Woodrow C. Harper – Treasurer
Mabel E. Toney – Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer

Mary Hoge Anderson
Ralph B. Higgins
Matthew D. Jenkins
Nelson D. Lankford
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Mary Hoge Anderson – Chair
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Peter C. Toms – Treasurer

Mary Hoge Anderson
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David L. Gilliam – General Manager
Woodrow C. Harper – Assistant General Manager
Mabel E. Toney – Administrative Assistant
Matthew G. Jernigan – Office Assistant

Historic Trees, Rose Bushes, and A New Map

The James River Garden Club of Richmond has informed the Cemetery of its interest in publishing a new map and guide to Hollywood trees and historic roses. Hollywood's stately trees authenticate the age and historical relevance of the Cemetery and are some of the most magnificent trees in the Richmond area.

The new publication will replace Hollywood Cemetery's Historic Tree and Rose Tour Map. Unlike the current brochure that includes all noteworthy trees in the Cemetery, the new fold-out map will feature ±25 trees as well as each of the Cemetery's more than one dozen historic rose bushes.

The Club voted recently to move ahead with the project according to immediate past Club President Evie Scott. "Everyone is very enthusiastic. We want it to be very educational and informative, but simpler." The pamphlet will contain descriptive information about each tree and rose bush and be well suited for the casual visitor as well as the trained horticulturist and arborist. Scott expressed optimism that the pamphlet could be available by fall.

Each member club in the Garden Club of America has been tasked with undertaking a special project to commemorate G.C.A.'s 100th anniversary in 2013. The James River Club has selected the Hollywood tree and rose map as its project. "We are simply delighted with the Club's choice for a project," David Gilliam, Cemetery General Manager, said recently. "Our old map and guide became out of date the moment Hurricane Isabel ravaged the Cemetery in September 2003."

Isabel felled an unprecedented number of stately trees in the Richmond area. In the wake of its winds and cyclonic activity in Hollywood, Isabel left over 80 monarch and historic trees uprooted or too damaged to save.

Currently, the Cemetery is home to approximately 100 monarch and historic trees. The Cemetery's principal arborist, Van Yahres Tree Company of Charlottesville, defines a monarch tree as one measuring 35 inches in diameter at breast height, a long-lived species, in good condition, structurally superior, and in a prominent location. An historic tree is one deemed noteworthy for its species and located along the blue line historic route. The new pamphlet will include monarch and historic trees, as well as a number of trees that are neither monarch nor historic but considered especially beautiful and unique.

Monarch and historic trees, as well as other important trees in the Cemetery, are part of a faithful evaluation and arbor care program that includes regularly scheduled inspection, trimming, repairing, disease treatment, and deep-root feeding.



Above and opposite: Black Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*, 45" diameter at breast height. One of the monarch trees that will be highlighted in the new fold-out map. With its brilliant red fall color and horizontal branching, the Black Gum is often considered Virginia's most beautiful native tree. This particular example, located on the hillside above Clark Springs Avenue, is so notable that it was featured in *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*, published in 2008.

Habitat: Mid to eastern US

Shape: Horizontal branching

Special Interest: Scarlet color in fall



Photograph by Robert Llewellyn for Remarkable Trees of Virginia Project

John O. Peters Captures Hollywood in a Forthcoming Book

A new book, *Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery*, by John O. Peters will be released in the late fall or in early 2011. It will be the first, all new complete work on the Cemetery, its history, stories, monuments, and statuary since 1985.

John Peters, a long-time Richmond resident, practiced law with Williams Mullen for most of his professional career. In 1995, he co-authored with his wife, Margaret, and provided photography for *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*. In 2001, Peters provided the original photography for *Richmond's Monument Avenue*. And in 2004, he authored *Blandford Cemetery – Death and Life at Petersburg, Virginia*, a book in which there has been considerable interest.

“I learned so much about cemeteries in the process of doing the Blandford book,” he explained, “that I wanted to do another. There were so many aspects of Hollywood deserving of more attention.” Like so many Richmonders, Peters has long been an admirer of Hollywood, caught up in its history and artistic and natural beauty.

Peters began work on the Hollywood project in the summer of 2006. Preliminary discussion with various interested parties started earlier that year. The manuscript and all photography were completed by October 2008. The Valentine Richmond History Center will publish the book.

The local printer, Owen Printing/Dietz Press, will oversee the designing and printing.

Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery will feature a wide assortment of color and black and white photographs. Some are historic but many are the original work of Peters, a talented photographer in his own right. To capture various light, moods and individual seasons, Peters' photography required over a year to complete.


Starting with Hollywood's place as one of America's great rural cemeteries in its magnificent setting on the banks of the James River, the author provides intriguing stories about Hollywood's ironwork, stone carvers, mausoleums, and symbolism.

Dr. Edward L. Ayers writes in his foreword to *Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery* that those interred at Hollywood – professional, business, political, and creative leaders; 18,000 Confederate dead; and ordinary citizens from every walk of life – “speak to us still.” And indeed they do.

It is expected that *Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery* will be on sale at the Valentine Richmond History Center, at Hollywood, and in many area bookstores.

2009 Contributors To Friends of Hollywood Cemetery

We are indeed grateful to the following donors for their generous support of Friends in 2009. You have enabled us to begin a significant monument restoration project in and around Presidents Circle, fully described elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you for helping us to preserve Hollywood Cemetery for generations to come.


Mary Hoge Anderson
Chair, Friends of Hollywood Cemetery

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A nineteenth century engraving of the original gateway entrance to Hollywood Cemetery located on Cherry Street. The tower, half its height today, was decorated with a parapet and housed the original cemetery office. The new gateway, appearing on the front page, was constructed in 1920 at the end of Albemarle Street.
Courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society