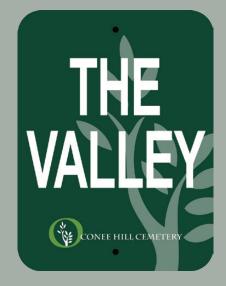
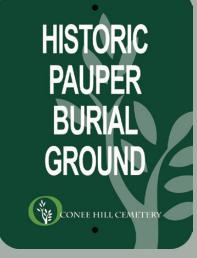
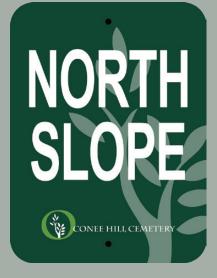




FRIENDS OF OCONEE HILL CEMETERY







Fall 2016

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HISTORIC
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Cover Image: New signage at Oconee Hill (see page 3).

From the President

One of the many wonderful aspects of serving on this board is to see and learn first-hand about all of the ways our community gives and serves the cemetery. As I conclude my service as president of the Friends of Oconee Hill Cemetery, I wish to give thanks to the many members of our organization and board. It has been a real honor to serve the members and work alongside a dedicated board. You, the members, are our lifeblood. Without your generosity, we could not accomplish the many projects and serve the cemetery to enhance and preserve its history. The current board has served with great dedication: raising funds through grant writing, seeking new memberships as well as renewals, coordinating the rental of the Sexton's House and Wingfield Chapel and managing the funds in a most prudent manner.

"There is no one thing to be thankful for...there are many things for men to be grateful for in this world.

Each man may perceive things on a different level, in a more pleasing way...just as some people are more agreeable with some than others."

—Jesse M. Govea

In this issue, you will see a summary of the past year's accomplishments that were presented at the recent annual meeting. We continue to serve you and the cemetery. Of great interest are three projects that have begun in the second half of the calendar year. We are pleased to note we received a substantial grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Fund to assist with tree management, specifically pruning and crowning of dangerous limbs on trees. The design and creation of new signage for the cemetery has also taken place. Installation of new section signs throughout the cemetery is imminent to aid visitors. The Friends have also been awarded a substantial grant for repair and restoration of the Wood and Perot iron fence from ca. 1860 at the Cobb-Lumpkin plot. Saving this fence has been a goal of the Friends since our inception in 1999. These grant funds will be added to private family funds that have been raised for this project.

Oconee Hill is a long-lasting work in progress. It requires constant attention, care and support. In the days ahead, we all will be asked to continue our support of the cemetery. One of the most important projects in our near future will be supporting the trustees in their efforts to increase current giving as well as the perpetual care endowment fund. This fund needs to grow so that the increased income can be used to provide the cemetery the care it deserves.

As I conclude this letter and term of service, there are truly many things I am grateful for in this corner of our world. I challenge each of you reading today to give thanks to the board members who serve on your and my behalf. Give thanks also to those who serve as our trustees. All of these people are volunteers who share a common love for Oconee Hill. May each of you, and the cemetery, continue to thrive as we work together for the preservation and growth of Oconee Hill.

Joe Tillman
President

New Friends Board Members

A Georgia resident since 1973, Carol Reap has been actively involved in historic preservation, especially historic cemeteries, for many years. She was founder and longtime chair of the Friends of Decatur Cemetery and has served on the Boards of the Historic Oakland Foundation. DeKalb Historical Society, Decatur Preservation Alliance and Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation and is a longtime member of the Athens



Historical Society. Reap has won a number of awards for her preservation work, including the Decatur Preservation Commission's Award for Personal Achievement (2001) and the DeKalb Historical Society "Volunteer of the Year"

award (1995). Reap has also served on the Board of the Audubon Society (Atlanta Chapter), the Ladies Garden Club (Athens) and in many capacities at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, where she and her husband are longtime members.

In her professional career, Reap was for 10 years a planner for the Northeast Georgia Area Planning and Development Commission and recently retired after a lengthy career with the Treasury Department SE Region. Her husband, James, is a professor and graduate coordinator of the Master of Historic Preservation program at UGA.

Tom Hodgson is a native Athenian who has recently retired and returned to the Classic City, where his family has a long history. Hodgson's



Oconee Hill Cemetery.

business career in financial printing was primarily in New York City and Atlanta. He lives on his old family farm with his wife, Patti. Their three children all live in Atlanta. Four generations of Hodgson's ancestors are buried at

On the Cover: New Signage

Early in 2015, the Friends of Oconee Hill Cemetery received a \$4,000 grant from the Athens Area Watson-Brown Foundation Junior Board (matched by \$6,000 from the Friends) for "preparation and production of brochures, maps, and signs, together with website enhancements, all aimed at (1) discussing the history and significance of the cemetery and (2) aiding visitors in locating graves and other key sites within the cemetery." The Junior Board is a branch of the Watson-Brown Foundation's philanthropic endeavors. These teenagers make grants to help preserve historic structures, cemeteries and archaeological sites in their communities. While Friends board members have been working on various aspects of this project for a year and a half, the first visible signs—and they really are signs—of our visitor information project are finally about to be installed.

Signs are being placed throughout Oconee Hill's 100 acres, marking the names and locations of the cemetery's 20-plus sections. Dan Roth, of Athens Creative Design Company, designed the signs that appear on the cover of this newsletter. Friends board members Gene Howard and Richard Lane were co-chairs of this project. These signs are the vital first step in the development of self-guided tours that will include both printed materials and electronic resources. The writing, design and production of these materials will be based on work conducted by University of Georgia geography professor Nancy O'Hare as well as an Athens Academy 12th-grade history class as part of the Georgia Virtual History Project.

GREENWAY UPDATE

The trustees continue to study the Greenway proposal and no decisions have been made. We met with Greenway officials recently and presented our "wish list." Our responsibilities as trustees include protecting the cemetery and our patrons from harm. At this point, we feel that the Greenway is benefiting from this proposal much more than the cemetery is benefiting. We have requested financial compensation, increased security, access to water and road repairs. We also want guarantees going forward that we can close the cemetery to Greenway traffic when necessary: for example, football Saturdays, for certain funerals, etc. We also want an "escape clause" if this contract is broken.

must say that the vast majority of input I have received has been negative. At this point I am pessimistic about the probability of the Greenway crossing the cemetery but we are keeping an open mind for the time being.

Mark J. Costantino, M.D. President, Board of Trustees Oconee Hill Cemetery

Charlotte Thomas Marshall's Cemetery Videos

During the past year, the Friends of Oconee Hill supported the professional video recording and editing by Athens Video Company of Charlotte Thomas Marshall as she shared stories from 31 gravesites in the cemetery. Eventually, these videos will be used on Oconee Hill's website to share its stories and history. They are also a way to capture Charlotte's vast knowledge, insight, humor and love for the cemetery. Don Smith, a member of the Oconee Hill team, encouraged Charlotte to film the vignettes and sold the FOH board on underwriting professional filming and editing.

On July 12, trustees, Friends members and special guests were invited to a viewing party and reception at Ciné in downtown Athens, thanks to Kathy Prescott and Grady Thrasher. The videos open with beautiful drone shots of our beloved cemetery and Peggy Galis' atmospheric narration in her charming southern accent. Peggy took Don Smith's script and added her own inimitable touch in evoking the magic of our great open-air museum, which is one of Athens' hidden jewels. Without any notes, Marshall told the history of plots belonging to individuals and families including Chancellor Walter Barnard Hill, Alice Comer, Elizabeth Church Robb, Frederick Lucas, Governor Wilson Lumpkin, Mildred Lewis Cobb, Andrew Jackson Lamar, George Center, John White, the Receiving Vault, the Griffith Lot, Robert K. and Cornelia Bancroft Bloomfield, Martin Luther Smith, Dr. Henry Jackson, Howell Cobb, Marco Phinizy, the Barrow Lot, Ellison D. Stone, Ferdinand Phinizy, Colonel John Billups, Sarah Watkins Harris, the Hull Lot, Taylor Mausoleum, William Tate, Rufus Moss, General Burwell Pope, John Addison Cobb, the Lumpkin-Cobb Lot, Annie Waddel and Gertrude Gottheimer Glaser. To watch this video, go to http:// oconee.exxus.net.

Marshall will do more filming, and those who are interested in featuring a loved one who is buried at Oconee Hill can make a donation of \$250 per lot, payable to the Friends of Oconee Hill Cemetery, to cover the cost of filming and editing. Families can have Marshall do a custom video by providing biographies and photographs of their loved ones. If you are interested in a video of a lot, contact Don Smith at dhsmith@bellsouth.net.

VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE 2016

THE CHIEFE

Nancy Bowen, president of FOH, welcomed everyone to the annual Veterans Day observance on November 11 at 11 a.m. She introduced Rev. Betsy Butler of Athens First United Methodist Church, who gave the invocation. UGA's Army ROTC posted our nation's

colors, followed by "The Star Spangled Banner," sung by Athens Academy's general music students from the 5th grade, directed by Leslie Setzer, and the Pledge of Allegiance. Gib Johnston, an FOH board member, introduced the day's speaker, LTC George M. Whitton. A native of Columbus, Georgia, Whitton graduated from UGA as a distinguished military student in 1959. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army at Fort Benning. He left the service but continued as an active reservist with Special Forces. He reports that, as he played football at UGA for Coach Wally Butts, he was well prepared for the rigorous Special Forces training. He retired from active and reserve duty in 1986 and became head of the Trust Department at the Athens office of Bank of America. He and his wife Beth live in Athens. Athens Academy music students closed the program with "America the Beautiful." Following the program, everyone was invited to visit with the veterans present and tour the cemetery grounds.

Photo By Kelley Cuneo.



Oconee Hill trustees arranged with Herdscapes owner Mikey Salter to bring a group of 20 goats to graze in the Pauper and the African American sections of the cemetery to eat undergrowth and invasive plants, especially Chinese privet. Salter fenced in the area where the goats grazed and checked on them daily during the 10 days the goats were at the cemetery. He also left his Great Pyrenees dog Korra to protect the goats from stray dogs and coyotes. Salter made sure that Korra had food and water when he visited each day. For additional information, visit the Herdscapes website at www.herdscapes.com. Photo by Helen Mills.

Oconee Hill Cemetery was founded 160 years ago. Lots in the oldest sections known as West Hill and East Hill were sold at public auction in the fall of 1856. By 1896, it was evident that the cemetery needed more space as all of the lots had been sold. In 1898, the trustees acquired an additional 82 acres across the Oconee River.

OCONEE HILL CEMETERY: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Oconee Hill Cemetery is an outstanding example of the fashionable natural landscape cemetery movement that began early in the 19th century in Europe. Known for its charm and beauty, Oconee Hill is significant for its landscape architecture, decorative funerary markers, distinctive cast-iron fencing, a rare through-truss bridge and a Sexton's House of architectural significance. The grassy and rolling terrain with woods, flowing water and scenic vistas makes the cemetery a pleasant place to visit and stroll among the graves of many notable Georgians. Since its inception, Oconee Hill has been a public burial ground for our community. Citizens from all walks of life are buried here. It remains a working cemetery with lots still available.

Sadly, many of those buried at Oconee Hill have no markers, and others have no known descendants. When the first lots were sold, there was no perpetual care provision. Originally the city of Athens assisted the trustees by maintaining roads, supplying water and otherwise caring for the cemetery until the middle of the 20th century. Since the late 1990s, when Athens and Clarke County consolidated, the responsibility and upkeep of Oconee Hill have been left to the trustees, the Friends and the cemetery staff.

The trustees and Friends have been busy raising money through membership dues and grants. These funds went to restore the Sexton's House, to preserve the iron truss bridge over the Oconee River and to build the open-air Wingfield Chapel. Both groups remain active and committed to the cemetery that we all love and respect.

In 2013, the Friends commissioned Michael Trinkley and Debi Hacker of the Chicora Foundation of Columbia, South Carolina, to perform a multi-day on-site inspection of our cemetery. They submitted a comprehensive report of over 200 pages in early 2014. UGA Professor James Reap and his historic preservation class stressed the need for an overall assessment of cemetery needs and identified the Historic Preservation Division of

Georgia's Department of Natural Resources as a potential funding source. Rob Trevena guided the grant application throughout the process.

The Chicora report was a bit overwhelming in that it concluded, "many historic sections [of Oconee Hill] will soon be beyond repair." It reports that the cemetery needs to address the following critical issues:

- Immediately undertake significant repairs of infrastructure including:
 - -Repairing and resurfacing all paved roads
 - -Checking and repairing all steps and railings
 - -Building new retaining walls with period-appropriate materials
 - -Providing new water lines or deep wells to make water available to all sections of the cemetery
 - -Beginning rehabilitation of the landscape
 - -Making all signs consistent with a uniform template.
- Hire an experienced stone and brick mason to make necessary repairs to stones and coping and an experienced ironsmith to repair fences around family plots.
- Maintain six full-time employees (double the current staff) to care for the cemetery's nearly 100 acres.

In the near future the trustees of Oconee Hill Cemetery will seek to address these critical issues and double the perpetual care endowment fund so that income from that endowment can be used to care for the cemetery that we all respect and love. To care for this beautiful cemetery is a way to honor those who have gone before us and are buried at Oconee Hill. Please help us give Oconee Hill the care it deserves.



Katelyn Corbett (seated) and Katy Dingler (standing) scanning Oconee Hill Cemetery documents in the Sexton's House. Photo by Don Smith.

SCANNING OF OCONEE HILL DOCUMENTS

Don Smith is overseeing a project of scanning multiple volumes of paper documents depicting lot diagrams of Oconee Hill Cemetery. The lot diagrams are identified by section, lot and grave numbers. Katelyn Corbett and Katy Dingler, both UGA alumnae who have worked at the Richard B. Russell Special Collections Library, are doing the scanning. The scanners being used represent the latest technology available. The scanning is taking place in the Hartman Room of the Sexton's House for approximately 90 days. The ultimate goal is to have a searchable online database on the Oconee Hill website. When visitors come to the cemetery to visit a relative's grave, they could access the database on their smartphones and be directed to the grave of their loved one. Today, the location of many graves is unknown. Once this project is completed, that issue would be resolved, although there are also many unmarked graves at Oconee Hill.

Annual Meeting 2016

The 2016 FOH Annual Meeting convened on October 23, with FOH board members, general membership and the trustees meeting at the Sexton's House. Outgoing president Joe Tillman presented an update on the A-CC proposal to route a section of the N. Oconee River Greenway through OHC property. Members approved the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting and the annual treasurer's report. The nominating committee recommended the following slate of officers, which membership approved: Nancy Bowen, president; Kathy Hoard, vice president; Carol Reap, recording secretary; Susan Field, corresponding secretary; and Sue Boatright, treasurer. Joe introduced two new FOH board members: Carol Reap and Tom Hodgson.

Joe reported on recent projects including a Watson-Brown Junior Board grant for informational materials about OHC, a series of ads to increase community awareness and interest in the cemetery and a Poppy Party for youngsters to learn about Moina Michael while making paper poppies for Veterans Day. FOH was honored to receive the 2016 Excellence in Stewardship Award

from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation in April. Don Smith convinced Charlotte Thomas Marshall to do video tours of some of those buried at OHC. The trustees sponsored an Easter Sunrise Service at the Wingfield Chapel. Current board members Kathy Hoard and Richard Lane recognized Rob Trevena, Director of Housing and Community Development for A-CC, for his help in getting two grants for OHC and presented him with a token of appreciation.

Then, incoming president Nancy Bowen reviewed current projects including a grant from the Watson-Brown Foundation to repair the Cobb-Lumpkin lot fence. Trustee Lucy Allen collected contributions from family members to combine with the grant and restoration of the fence will begin soon. Nancy thanked Joe for his service and announced FOH will honor him by planting a specimen tree of his choosing at the Wingfield Chapel site. She concluded by presenting an American flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol in October in honor of Oconee Hill's 160th anniversary to trustee Tom Wilfong. The new flag will fly at OHC.

In Memory

Janey Cooley Ann Moseley

Elise Dunkel Costantino

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bishop Phyllis and Sam Christian Beth and Tom Hawk Susan and Peter Hodgson Bess and Bill Hopkins Mrs. Michael Gregory Claire R. James Fran and Richard Lane Laura and Jim Miller Mr. and Mrs. Tony Salloum

Ceanne Crane

Meg Gunn Dure Ann Moseley

Meg Gunn Dure

Sue Boatright Anna Burns Dyer

Debbie Erwin Ann Moseley

Dr. Michael Gregory

Betsey and Ricky Chastain Claire James

Robert Russell Gunn II

Fran and Richard Lane Laura and Jim Miller Sally and Winston Wilfong

Marguerite Moss Heery Anna Burns Dyer

Mr. And Mrs. William E. Hopkins Ir.

Dr. and Mrs. Mark Costantino The John and Gwen Griffin Family Mulberry Grove W. Thomas Wilfong

Mary And Billy Hudson

Tom and Marcia Hudson

Maxie Hubbard

Dr. and Mrs. Mark Costantino

Winifred Doggett Jahnke Deborah Jahnke

Janet McPherson

Meg Gunn Dure

Kate Middendorf Helen and Mark Costantino

Herbert Moseley

Ruth M. Curtis

Iean-Pierre Piriou

Helen and Mark Costantino Peggy S. Reeves

Nancy Bentley Scruggs

Meg Gunn Dure

Martha Segrest

Meg Gunn Dure

Betty Jane Coleman Spooner

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith

Alwyn Stiles

Betsey and Ricky Chastain

Julia Hunnicutt Terry

Betsey and Ricky Chastain Helen and Mark Costantino Meg Gunn Dure

Louise P. Tillman, Thomas M. Tillman And John H. Terrell Jr.

Thomas McKey Tillman Foundation, Inc.

Thomas M. Tillman Jr.

Anna Burns Dyer Susan and Peter Hodgson

Harry O. Yates III

Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Kilpatrick

In Honor

Rinne Allen

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bishop Margaret and Gene Howard

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lane Margaret and Gene Howard

Dr. and Mrs. Ham Magill Margaret and Gene Howard

John H.T. McPherson Family and in memory of Elise Dunkel Costantino and Margaret Lore McPherson for improvements and landscaping around Wingfield Chapel and website improvements

Alice and Noah N. Langdale Jr. Foundation, Inc.

Helen and Milton Mills

Tom and Marcia Hudson

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Cobb-Lumpkin Fence

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Gerry G. Hull

Leslie B. Morris

Holding Vault Project

The Peyton Anderson Foundation

Repair of A.K. Childs Monument

Charlotte Thomas Marshall

Repair of James and Patience Barrow Obelisk

Charlotte Thomas Marshall

Video History of Rev. Young Harris

Southern Mutual Insurance Company

Donations Through October 31, 2016



Featured Stone: Asaph King Childs, West Hill, Lot 54

Born in Massachusetts in 1820, A.K. Childs came to Georgia as a teenager. The census of 1850 lists Childs as a watchmaker in Athens, but he was much more than that. As an influential businessman. Childs invested in the National Bank of Athens (now SunTrust Bank) after the Civil War and went on to be named to its board of directors. He served as bank president from 1881 to 1900. Childs was also a principal in building the Northeastern Railroad that ran from Athens to Clayton. After completion of the railroad he bought a gold mine later named Sautee Gold Mine that was successful. He often visited north Georgia because he enjoyed the cooler summers there. Childs and R. L. Moss began to operate a hotel named Cliff House overlooking Tallulah Gorge. This area and the hotel became popular tourist destinations.

Historians have reported that Childs was blessed with the Midas touch. He was generous with his earnings and shared them with his community. He made significant contributions to the founding of the Lucy Cobb Institute in Athens. In 1866, Childs went into partnership with Reuben Nickerson (a fellow New Englander, from Maine) to open a hardware store later known as Athens Hardware Company. As a silversmith, he made a beautiful silver service that the citizens of Athens presented to Alonzo Church, UGA president from 1829 to 1859. The Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation now owns this silver service.

Childs married Susan Baker Ingle in 1856. They lived in a house on Thomas Street located where the Classic Center now stands. When his wife was away visiting relatives one summer, he sold the house and furniture without her knowledge. Needless

to say, she was unhappy. In an effort to placate her, Childs purchased the Joseph Henry Lumpkin House on Prince Avenue (now owned by the UGA School of Law). Childs was an early trustee of Oconee Hill Cemetery. He and his wife, their







daughter Susie (who died at age 6) and their son Walter and his wife Florence are buried in this lot. Their other daughter, Frances Ingle Childs, is buried with her husband, Chancellor David Crenshaw Barrow, in the Barrow lot, Valley 36. Many of you knew Susan Frances "Sue Fan" Barrow Tate (1908-2003), beloved UGA special collections librarian, historian, author and wife of UGA's Dean William Tate. Mrs. Tate was the great granddaughter of Susan and A.K. Childs. She and her husband are buried on East Hill in Oconee Hill Cemetery.

The beautiful Childs marker is topped by a female figure holding an anchor, symbolizing Christian hope. This monument was made by J. Karins & Co. in Louisville, Kentucky. In August, a storm damaged it. In September, Neale Nickels, the director of preservation for Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery Foundation and the owner of Virginia Preservation LLC, and his colleague Ashley Shares restored the monument. Nickels said, "this project was challenging because of its location, which was not adjacent to a road. It required the use of scaffold and hoisting equipment, which meant that we got both a good workout and a renewed appreciation for the hard work that sculptors and laborers of the pre-industrial era endured." He also said that they were "delighted to return to such a beautiful place" as Oconee Hill Cemetery."

Sources for this article include Charlotte Thomas Marshall's "Oconee Hill Cemetery," vol. 1 and her article "The Bookends of Downtown" in "The Tangible Past in Athens, Georgia" and "Remembering Athens" by Susan Frances Barrow Tate.

(top) An August 2016 storm damaged the Childs monument. (middle) Restorers hoist the piece

that rests between the statue and the pedestal—lifting it sideways, then setting it flat on the scaffold to lift it in the same orientation as it belongs on the monument. (bottom) Neale Nickels and Ashley Shares are proud of a hard day's work resetting the Childs monument.

All photos by Kenneth Storey



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UGA AND OCONEE HILL MAKE GOOD PARTNERS

UGA is now requiring entering freshmen to meet an experiential learning requirement. Students will engage in hands-on learning in a variety of ways including internships, studyabroad, research and service learning. Oconee Hill is excited about the possibility of UGA students satisfying this requirement at the cemetery.

Freshman College Event at OHC

Each summer, students accepted to UGA for the fall semester have an opportunity to attend Freshman College Summer Experience for 4 weeks. These students live in a dormitory and take a 3-hour core course and a service-learning course. The service-learning class allows students to address a community need and enhance their own learning. Professor Chris Pisarik assigned five students in his course to Oconee Hill and charged them with learning about Oconee Hill and planning an event at the cemetery. All students at Freshman College were invited to this event, on July 28, and about 100 attended.

UGA History Students at Oconee Hill

UGA professors Stephen Berry and Scott Nesbit taught history classes last spring semester in which the students were assigned research projects on some of those buried at Oconee Hill. Last April, the students stood by the graves and reported



(l to r) David Durden, Professor Pisarik, Caroline Andersen, Dr. Linda Bachman (director of UGA Experiential Learning), Kathryn Wyckoff, Keely Thompson and Emily Brown

on their research. UGA's Willson Center for Humanities and Arts and the Friends of Oconee Hill sponsored a lunch. Students also researched the cemetery by section, compiling detailed information about each area with added insight about the materials used

and the symbolism inherent in funereal art. This information will aid the Friends in producing brochures and digital apps to aid in specific tours. Professor Berry is teaching another class this fall semester, and again his students will meet at the cemetery in December to report on their work. The Friends hope for much more interaction between UGA students and OHC as the experiential learning requirement moves forward. The proximity to the campus and the wealth of resources and opportunities for research make these two ideal partners.