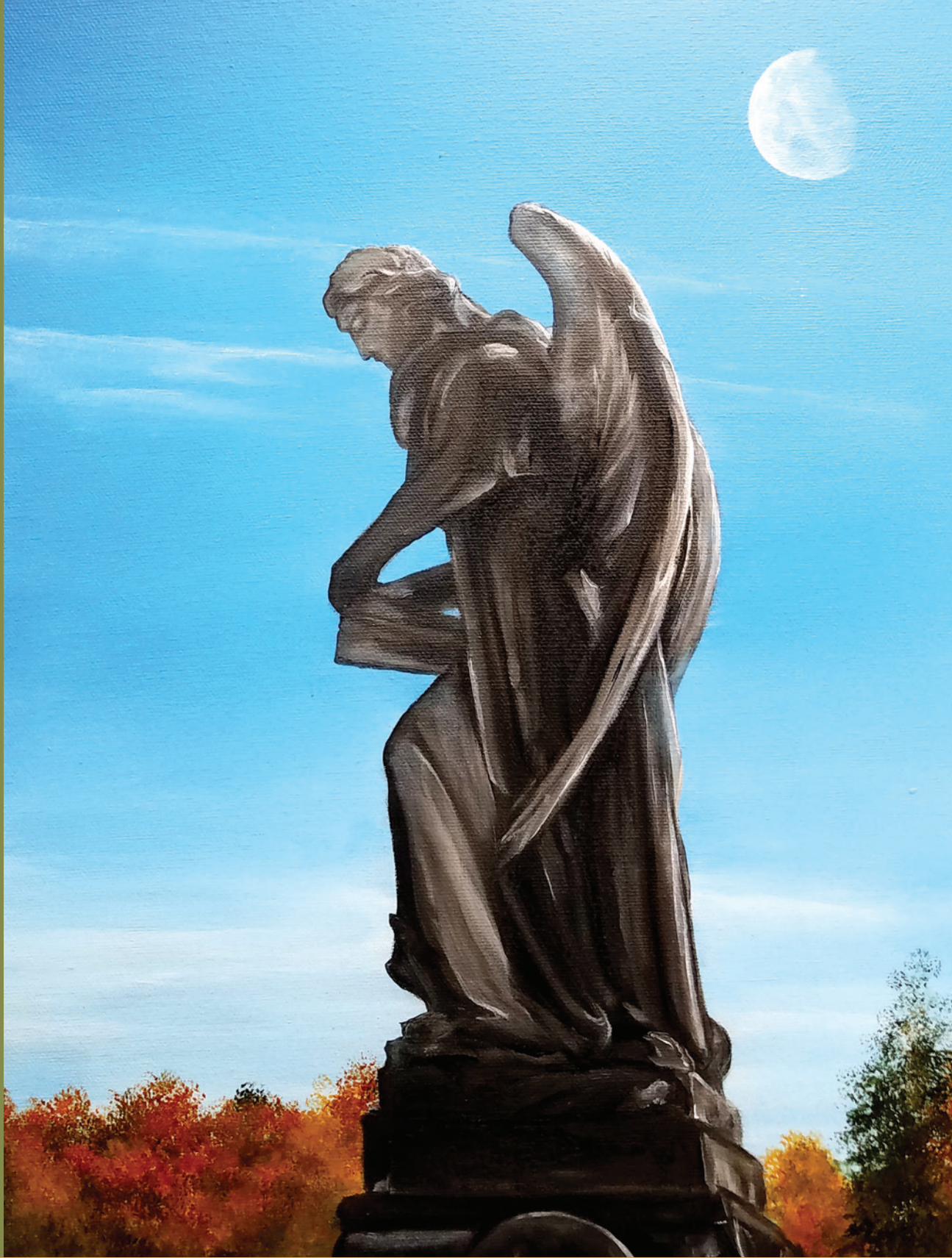


FALL 2021 / WINTER 2022



*FRIENDS of
OCONEE HILL
CEMETERY*

Board of the Friends

(founded 1999)

Officers, 2021–23

President, vacant

Vice President, Sallyanne Barrow

Secretary, Milton Perry

Treasurer, Sue Boatright

Board of Directors

Sallyanne Barrow

Garrison Bickerstaff

Sue Boatright

Jody W. Boling

Gene Howard

Claire R. James

J. Gibson Johnston

Nan R. Leathers

Charlotte Thomas Marshall

Janet Patterson

Milton Perry

Marcia Griffin Talmadge

Gail Wilfong

Terry Wingfield Jr.

Emeritus Board Members

Nancy Bunker Bowen

Helen M. Costantino

Susan Field

Richard B. Lane

Founding President

Mary Anne Bittner Kenner (deceased)

Historical Consultants

Charlotte Thomas Marshall

John Waters

Trustees

Helen Hudson Mills, *chair*

Lucy Erwin Allen, *vice chair*

Cissy Alexander Hutchinson, *treasurer*

Mark John Costantino, *secretary*

Kelly Girtz, *Mayor, Athens-Clarke County, ex-officio*

Joseph E. Tillman

W. Thomas Wilfong, *immediate past chair*

Invited Guests

Jody W. Boling, *FOHC representative*

Donald H. Smith, *general manager, OHC*

Cover Image: Recording Angel monument, painting by Cheryl Washburn. Cheryl is a native Athenian who has been painting for the last 30 years, and in oils for the last several. A favorite theme is the much beloved Oconee Hill Cemetery, which she sees as a place of historic and serene beauty.

From the Outgoing President

Space is needed for our news, and I won't belabor you with the multiple reasons for the extended delay in publishing this newsletter. The joyful news is that we've accomplished important things! The pandemic has not sundered us.

The office of president is now vacant awaiting a willing candidate. The business of the Friends is being conducted by a triumvirate of the vice president, secretary and treasurer. Bless them! While the pandemic has definitely hampered our ability to attract new members to the board, very capable volunteers have offered their services. I will leave it to the triumvirate to introduce the new board in the spring newsletter.

Although the Sexton's House has remained closed through 2021 and continues so as another COVID variant proves virulent, FOHC and the Trustees have accomplished great things in the cemetery.

Thanks to your generosity, the Sexton's House and Office have undergone repairs, painting and reroofing. We were blessed by the careful and caring work of Lawrence Jones. He not only replaced wood damaged by wood rot but also replicated beautifully crafted trim across the front of the house. Bone Dry Roofing and CertaPro Painters were responsive and very professional. The Friends' expense for this work was slightly more than \$18,000. The house is in good shape to reopen once it is safe to gather. Recent gifts of furniture and appointments will be of interest. For the first time, we have a complete pictorial inventory, with provenance, of the contents of the house. This is the fine work of Claire James and Nan Leathers, longtime hostesses of the house.

Much needful work has been accomplished through the cemetery grounds, and the Greenway construction is very visible as the New Year begins. The amount of ground preparation is impressive and carefully executed.

We've lost many of our Friends in the past year, people who have contributed significantly in a variety of ways. In addition to our tribute to Terry Wingfield in this newsletter, I want to mention Mary Bondurant Warren, who led the first effort in the early 1960s to re-create records lost to fire in the 1890s. She organized the membership of the Athens Historical Society to copy every tombstone inscription, lot by lot, section by section, in the original sections of the cemetery. My 2009 book began with those transcriptions.

We've gained new Friends, and the board is on the cusp of a vigorous launch of new developments. Your support is essential to our future! Let's keep joining hands! Please use the membership renewal envelope developed by treasurer Sue Boatright. It frees us from the cost of a second mailing and provides space for information needed in correctly listing and contacting you.

May it be safe for us to meet again in 2022!

Charlotte Thomas Marshall

President 2019–21



Our Mission Statement

The Friends of Oconee Hill Cemetery is a nonprofit organization in Athens, Georgia, that is dedicated to building a partnership between the cemetery and the community by focusing attention on the cemetery's beauty, historic legacy, facilities and needs, particularly for the restoration and support of the cemetery through membership dues and other funding.

Preparation of riverbank for Greenway path, which will go under the end of the bridge.

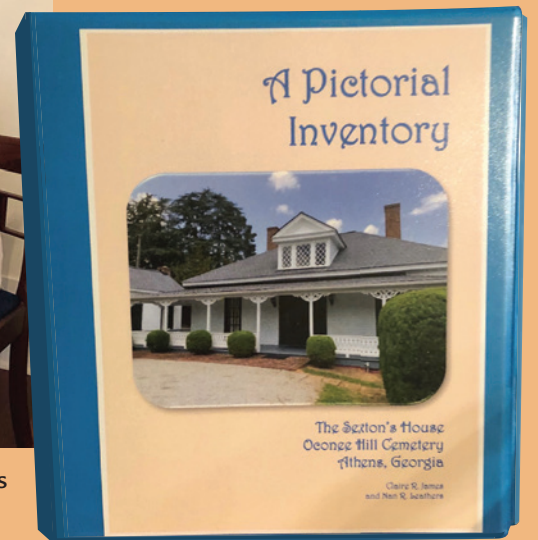
Tree removal has been followed by rock removal. A high fence will separate the path from the cemetery.



At present there are many surveying posts and flags on the hillside of the chapel. They are there as reference points; no intrusion will be made on the chapel hill or the drive around it. (Photos by Charlotte Thomas Marshall)



Nan Leathers and Claire James, retiring co-chairs of the Sexton's House, have meticulously compiled a pictorial inventory of the furnishings — a priceless gift to the Friends and a testament to our many donors.





Terry Wingfield (1929–2021)


by Richard Lane

*Dedication of Wingfield Chapel,
October 26, 2014. (left to right):
FOHC outgoing president Jane Begnaud,
builder and architect John McLeod,
FOHC incoming president Joe Tillman,
honorees Terry and Joy Wingfield.
(Photo by Mark Costantino)*

With the death of William Terrell “Terry” Wingfield at the age of 92 on August 26, 2021, the Friends of Oconee Hill Cemetery lost a faithful member, ardent supporter and generous donor.

When our organization was launched in 1991, Terry and Joy Wingfield immediately enrolled as charter members. They made it a point to get to know the Friends’ founding president, Mary Anne Kenner, telling her that they embraced the stated mission of the fledgling foundation “to build a partnership between Oconee Hill Cemetery and the community by focusing . . . on the cemetery’s beauty, historic legacy, facilities, and needs” and assuring her of their ongoing interest and encouragement.

As a trustee and later chair of the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation, of Tucker, Georgia, Terry was in a position to be an exceptionally generous donor to any number of deserving agencies. Terry did not propose donations to organizations in his hometown of Athens without carefully studying the organizations that appealed to him, making certain that their leaders were conscientious in using money contributed toward their causes. After evaluating the programs and leadership of FOHC for several years and becoming convinced



that the organization was exceptionally well run and its money always wisely spent, Terry told his friend JoAn Lewis Salloum, then president of FOHC, that our group should present a grant request to the Wilson Foundation.

The Friends board proposed the restoration of the Sexton's House to the Board of Trustees of Oconee Hill at a cost of approximately \$150,000. The goal was to convert this abandoned residence into a gathering space for families and friends following funeral services in the cemetery. At Terry Wingfield's suggestion, we proposed a challenge grant to the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation: \$75,000 from the foundation to be matched by an equal amount raised by the Friends.

Terry presented the good news that our request had been approved at the Friends annual meeting in October 2005. We had until May 15, 2006, to raise \$75,000, and we were delighted and surprised when we were able to raise the necessary amount in a mere six weeks rather than the stipulated six months without holding a single bake sale! One person was not surprised: Terry Wingfield. Having watched FOHC evolve over five years, he said, he'd had full confidence in our ability to raise the money.

Terry carefully watched the restoration of the Sexton's House, occasionally even advising, though never attempting to direct or insist on any aspect of our work. He was our most enthusiastic supporter, and he was as proud as anyone of our accomplishment. He also assisted us in obtaining an additional \$25,000 for landscaping, including walkways and the parking lot around the house.

In 2012, on the eve of Terry's retirement as chair of the Wilson Foundation, FOHC presented another grant request: for a chapel, eventually to be known as the Wingfield Chapel in honor of Terry and his family. This chapel was envisioned as a beautiful, useful, and appropriate structure upon the knoll near the bridge that connects the old and new sections of the cemetery, one of the prettiest and most prominent

spots on the grounds. Essentially an outcropping of solid granite, the knoll had never been considered feasible as a site for graves, but it had long been viewed as an ideal setting for a small chapel.

We presented our grant request for this project twice. The first time, Terry was less than enthusiastic about our wish to name the chapel in his honor, and his board followed his lead, offering minimal financial support. The second time, fellow Athenian and Friends member Lawton Stephens urged Terry to allow the Wilson Foundation trustees to consider our proposal as not only a project but also a way to honor a man who had for decades served both the Wilson Foundation and the Friends wisely and well.

Wilson Foundation trustees responded in an unprecedented fashion, awarding FOHC even more money than we had asked for in our grant request. Designed and built by Terry's friend John McLeod, the beautiful stone chapel stands today as a spot for private reflection and spiritual contemplation. Serving also as a place where families can gather for outside funeral services even during inclement weather and as a venue for services, lectures and meetings, the chapel welcomes visitors to the cemetery. As an open-air facility, it has been particularly useful throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, providing a safe spot for groups.

Both Terry and Joy loved the chapel, often visiting until Joy's death in 2019. Fittingly, their family saw to it that their appreciation for the Wingfield Chapel and their commitment to the preservation and enhancement of Oconee Hill Cemetery would continue even beyond their lives, designating in their obituaries that contributions in their memory be given either to Athens First United Methodist Church or to the Friends of Oconee Hill Cemetery. As has become a treasured tradition with the Wingfield family, a private memorial service for family was held at the chapel for Terry prior to his public service. We remember and thank Terry Wingfield for his enduring support.

**Memorials and Honoraria
received February 15, 2021, to January 20, 2022**

Memorials

In Memory of Emily Aderholt Barrow

Jack and Suzanne Bennett

In Memory of Terrell William Benton Jr.

Jack and Suzanne Bennett

In Memory of Eve Marie Carson

Dennis Utley

In Memory of the Center Family

Larry and Gail Mauney

In Memory of Cissy Erwin

Mark and Helen Costantino

Chad Erwin

In Memory of Edwina Ferguson

John and Cindy Ferguson

In Memory of Gwen West Griffin

Sallyanne and Jim Barrow

Janet and Bob Bishop

Jody Boling and Richard Warner

Bob and Maxine Burton

Skeet and Beth Cathey

Helen and Mark Costantino

Patricia Crabtree

Chad Erwin

Fortson, Bentley and Griffin, P.A.

Penny Giles

Susan and Peter Hodgson

Ina and Jim Hopkins

Margaret and Gene Howard

Jimmy and Brenda Klein

Richard and Fran Lane

Gabriela Lindsey

Ann Moseley

Carl and Kathryn Nichols

Lee and Pat Sheridan

Lyn Thornton

In Memory of Pauline Hartford

Richard and Fran Lane

*In Memory of Joseph L. Hull Sr. and
Joseph L. Hull Jr.*

Joseph L. Hull Jr. Foundation

In Memory of Leonidas Milton Leathers III

Sallyanne and Jim Barrow

Jack and Suzanne Bennett

Jenny W. Best

Marguerite Burch

Lynn Carithers

Teresa and Bob Carson

Mark and Helen Costantino

Randy and Mary Dudley

Theresa Flynn and Douglas Hellmann

Jack S. Hollis and David A. Hammond

Lyn and Drew Hill

Cissy and Pete Hutchinson

Mr. and Mrs. James G. Jordan

The Julie and John McLeod Fund at the
Athens Area Community Foundation

Cole and Margie Kelly

Richard and Fran Lane

William Loughner

Ann Moseley

Kathryn and Carl Nichols

Peter and Berry Rice

Eden Rafshoon

The Thomas W. Scott III Fund at the
Athens Area Community Foundation

Sally Smith

Brandt Tucker

Arva Weinstein

John Whitehead

Ellen W. Wiley

W. Thomas Wilfong

In Memory of Dean Louise McBee

Anonymous

In Memory of Jim McCullough

Thomas Lanford

In Memory of Charles Warren McMullen

Skeet and Beth Cathey

Ann Moseley

*In Memory of Dr. Thomas Hamilton
Milner III*

Jack and Suzanne Bennett

Jody Boling

Richard and Fran Lane

In Memory of Eugene Moody Sr.

Thomas Lanford

In Memory of Agnes Broadnax Parker

Mark and Helen Costantino

In Memory of Gwendolyn Griffin Riddle

Betsy Riddle Ruderfer

In Memory of Sonny and Jane Roberts

Mimsie and Reese Lanier

In Memory of George Marshall Scott Jr.

Paul F. Clay

Phyllis Dill

Richard and Fran Lane
 Catherine B. Slaughter
In Memory of James Peyton Sullivan
 Jody Wilson Boling
In Memory of Tena Walton
 Thomas Lanford
In Memory of Mary Claire Bondurant Warren
 Emmet Bondurant
 Marguerite Morrell
 Lucy Nickerson Tresp
 John and Patricia Whitehead
In Memory of William Terrell "Terry" Wingfield Sr.
 Brooks and Kim Arnold
 Athens City Club
 Athens Tech Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors and Staff
 John and Susan Barrett
 Suzanne and Jack Bennett
 Howard and Sandy Betts
 Jody Boling and Richard Warner
 Dave and Devereux Burch
 Marguerite A. Burch
 Laura W. Carter
 Skeet and Beth Cathey
 Mark and Helen Costantino
 Gay and David Crowe
 Mrs. E.H. Culpepper
 Robert and Cynde Dickey
 Barbara and Vince Dooley
 Chad Erwin
 Victoria P. Farmer
 Mary Forehand
 Joe and Vicki Gaines
 Laura Melton Geiger
 Brent Shuford Gunn
 Bertrand and Joanna Hill
 Lyn and Drew Hill
 Nancy and Curt Hockemeier
 Peter and Susan Hodgson
 Bill and Donna Hopper
 Gene and Margaret Howard
 Cissy and Pete Hutchinson
 Walter and Sandy Jarrett
 Tom and Kelly Johnson
 Rodney and Catherine Jones

Tom and Anne Lane
 Steve and Cynthia McConnell
 Jim and Becky McGarry
 John McLeod
 Shelley Quillian McLeod
 Steve Middlebrooks,
 Heyward Allen Toyota
 Helen Mills
 Wilma L. Minix
 Ann Moseley
 Donna and Larry Moseley
 Deanna Dooley Rogers and
 Destry Rogers
 Marianne Rogers
 Mr. and Mrs. Tony Salloum
 Joe and Trish Tillman
 Mrs. Thomas M. Tillman Jr.
 Sally Vandiver
 Delia Whitley
 W. Thomas Wilfong
 Winki Winburn
 Fran and Terry Wingfield Jr.
 Marianna and Hank Wright
 Ewelina Zmuda
In Memory of Norman Wood
 Suzanne Bennett
 Mark and Helen Costantino
 Richard and Fran Lane

Honoraria

In Honor of Lucy Allen
 The Dan T. and Sara Wyche Coenen
 Fund at the Athens Area Community
 Foundation
*In Honor of Walter and Evalyne Eckles for
 upkeep of the Sexton's House*
 Charlotte E. Crowe
In Honor of P. Balfour Hunnicutt
 Jack and Suzanne Bennett
In Honor of Charlotte Thomas Marshall
 Steven Hollis and David Hammond
 Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, M.D.
 Leolene M. Tate
 University Woman's Club

Campaign

Buddy and Lucy Allen
 Sue Boatright

Tom and Nancy Bowen
 Dave and Devereux Burch
 Butch and Janie Bush
 Betsy Calhoun
 James and Frieda Clarke
 Mark and Helen Costantino
 Charlotte E. Crowe
 Cecelia "Toodie" Emerson
 Joe and Lisa Frierson
 Denny and Peggy Galis
 Kathy Hoard
 The Irving Family Fund at the Athens
 Area Community Foundation
 Walter and Sandy Jarrett
 Richard and Fran Lane
 Tom and Anne Lane
 The Thomas H. Lanier Foundation
 Fund at Communities of Coastal
 Georgia Foundation, by Reese and
 Mimsie Lanier
 Beverly Logan
 Robert G. Marbut
 Corky and Sally Sams
 Mollie Magill Sloan
 Frances Mock Williams
 Carole King Yoho

Other Donations

Ruth M. "Tweet" Curtis
 Cecelia "Toodie" Emerson
 The Epting Family Foundation Fund
 at the Athens Area Community
 Foundation
 Peter and Susan Hodgson
 Tom and Patti Hodgson
 Charlie and Anne Horton
 Alice and Noah N. Langdale
 Foundation, Inc.
 A. Rebecca Owens
 Katherine O. Phillips
 George Suddath and Family
 Terrell Family Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Underwood
 Frances Mock Williams
 The Winthrop Foundation

*Membership renewals will be included in the
 spring newsletter.*



Friends of Oconee Hill Cemetery
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Athens, GA 30604

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**Vintage Brumby Rockers
Once Belonging to John H. T.
McPherson, OHC Longtime
Trustee, Now Welcome Visitors
to the Sexton's House**

Three antique Brumby Rockers now grace the Sexton's House front porch thanks to a donation from Helen McPherson Costantino (Mark) and Margaret McPherson Smith (Don). The rockers were once owned by their late grandfather, Dr. John H.T. McPherson (1865 - 1953), a trustee of Oconee Hill Cemetery from 1902 to 1946 and head of the history department at the University of Georgia from 1898 to 1940. (Photo by Don Smith)