

# Inscriptions

VOLUME 7, NO. 2

FALL 2011

## Family Reunion Results in Monument Restoration

by Tillman Cooley

Oakdale Cemetery contains a striking 1848 obelisk marking the grave of Captain John Henry King Burgwin in Section H-89. It will be around a lot longer thanks to the conservation efforts of his relatives.

In November 2010, under the leadership of Charlotte attorney, Thomas Ashe Lockhart, his son Jimmy of Atlanta and Tillman Cooley of Dallas, one hundred descendants of all three of John Burgwin's children held the first full family reunion since 1837! The catalyst was a book, *Captain Jack*, published by Henry Burgwyn V of Denver, on the life of Capt. John Henry King Burgwin. The reunion included a trip to Oakdale to visit family graves.



Tom Lockhart, a descendant of Caroline Burgwin Ashe, had visited the plot in 2000, and saw that the whole plot needed attention. Also he noticed that "Aunt Sallie," one of J.H.K.'s sisters and Tom's mother's favorite aunt needed a marker. On the advice of the then cemetery superintendent Tom Sneed and restoration specialist, Ed Turberg, Tom had Ann Maria's daughter Sally Burgwin Quince Maffitt's deep headstone cut in half horizontally to create a stone for "Aunt Sallie." He had J.H.K.'s obelisk cleaned, straightened, raised on a granite pedestal and engraved with Ann Maria's name. He added granite

*Continued on page 3*



## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, September 17, 2011**

### Last Summer Walking Tour

Led by Bob Cooke, local historian and author of *Wild, Wicked, Wartime Wilmington*, an interesting book about the city during the Civil War. Tour begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 12:00 noon. Admission is

\$8 per person, free to Friends of Oakdale members. Tour is cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

**Saturday, October 15, 2011**

### Cleaning Graveside Monuments

Eric Kozen, Superintendent, Oakdale Cemetery, will conduct a workshop on cleaning graveside monuments. Workshop begins at 10:00 and should end by 12:00 noon. \$10 per person. Call the Oakdale office, 762-5682 for reservations.

**Sunday, October 16, 2011**

### Horse-drawn Wagon Rides.

Nip and Tuck, two black Percheron horses, will again be at Oakdale for an afternoon of wagon rides. Rides begin at 3:00 p.m., with the last tour leaving the main gate at 5:30 p.m. A guide will ride on the wagon giving a commentary on the history of the cemetery. Non-member adults cost is \$10.00; children, 12 and younger, \$8.00. Members, \$8.00 and their children, 12 years and younger, \$6.00. Tours are cancelled in the event of inclement weather.



**Sunday, November 6, 2011**

### Luminaries at Oakdale.

At a new event this year, luminaries will be placed on several paths in the cemetery, lighting the way to the Confederate Mound. At the mound, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, noted Civil War Historian, will be the featured speaker. There will be two tours, the first leaving the main gate at 6:00 and the second at 6:30. Three other interesting sites will also be emphasized. Tickets are \$10 per person and will be available at the Oakdale Cemetery office starting October 3, 2011. There are a limited number of tickets per tour. (See further details about this event on page 3 of the newsletter)

**Deadline to order Christmas greenery —  
November 30, 2011**

## NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

(Recorded between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011)

If you joined during this time and we failed to list your name, please phone the office and we will correct the listing in the next issue of *Inscriptions*.

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### A REMINDER

To all the Friends of Oakdale, when receiving this periodic publication news and events of the Friends, this is not a reminder of your membership status. The Membership Committee sends out a specific letter. These letters are mailed to you annually when the time arrives according to the month you had renewed last or joined.

### VOLUNTEERS WELCOMED!

If you would like to become more involved with the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc., we have lots of opportunities for you.

- TOUR GUIDES
- RESEARCH
- NEWSLETTER
- LANDSCAPING/  
GARDENING
- FUND RAISING
- DISTRIBUTION  
OF EDUCATIONAL  
MATERIAL

Please call the Oakdale Cemetery office for more information.

**910-762-5682**

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\$40-\$99

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\$15

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Ms. Juanita Rehder

## For our Handicapped Friends

For any of the tours, a golf cart is available for those who have mobility challenges. The capacity of the vehicle is only 5 persons; therefore, registration is necessary to reserve a space on the cart by calling the Oakdale Cemetery office, 762-5682.

## Burgwin Monument Restoration

*Continued from front page*

coping, an entrance way and biographical information about Maria Nash Burgwin cut on her stone. The plot was vastly improved; however, during the reunion we discovered that significant weathering problems had developed with J.H.K.'s obelisk.

The story of "Captain Jack" has resonated with the family and we engaged a professional conservator as a family project. Oakdale superintendent Eric Kozen suggested we ask Jonathan Appell of Connecticut, to make a proposal for complete restoration and conservation of the monument. We found Appell's credentials impeccable and his proposal comprehensive. He began a two-phase project: first, cleaning, repointing and repairing broken elements, such as the sword carved on one face; and second, impregnating the stone with strengthening and water repelling solutions. The entire cost, estimated at \$12,000, has been raised through family donations.

### What the Future Holds?

On your next trip to Oakdale, you may notice a barcode on the information

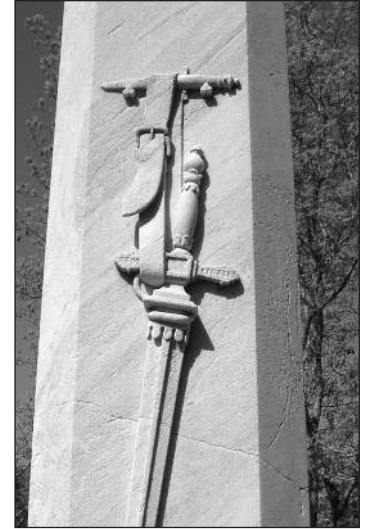


board, located just to the right of the main gate. A QR code (abbreviated from Quick Response code) is a type of matrix barcode (or

two-dimensional code) designed to be read by smartphones. The code consists of black modules arranged in a square pattern on a white background. The information encoded may be text, a URL, or other data. For those who have smart phones (cell phones with internet access), you can scan this barcode with your phone. This will take you directly to the Oakdale Cemetery's website <http://www.oakdalecemetery.org>. From there, you will have access to a self-guided tour and information about the cemetery. We are not sure where this technology is going to take us. We are simply exploring possibilities. ❖

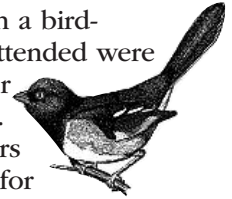


Thanks to our Burgwin relatives in Pittsburgh, we will also mount a "Memory Medallion", allowing visitors to link their smart phones to a website with more information about the monument and family history. ❖



### Bird Tour

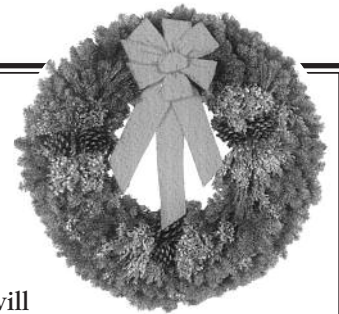
On a beautiful spring morning last April, Dr. James Parnell, a noted local ornithologist and retired UNCW professor, lead a group of enthusiasts on a bird-watching tour of Oakdale. Those who attended were greeted by the sounds and sights of over 20 different species of our avian friends. Some are year-round residents and others were just passing through long enough for us to enjoy seeing them. Imagine seeing graceful Great Egrets, Yellow-Rumped Warblers, Rufous-Sided Towhees or a pair of speedy Wood Ducks while strolling along the quiet paths of Oakdale. Many thanks to those who were able to enjoy the crisp air and the sights during this special event. Please watch the "Friends" calendar for upcoming events and programs throughout the year. *Contributed by Clint North.* ❖



### Luminaries at Oakdale

Plans are being made to have over 600 luminaries put on several paths in the cemetery, leading to the Confederate Mound. Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Professor of History at UNCW will give a brief talk about the over 300 unknown Confederate soldiers buried on the lot. Ladies and gentlemen, dressed in 19th Century costumes, will guide visitors to the mound and to three other interesting sites. The lovely Murchison angel, William Ellerbrock's obelisk and the grave of murder victim, Lizzie Turlington will be featured. Light refreshments will be served. Call the Oakdale Office (762-5682) to make tour reservations, at 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011. The cost is \$10 per person.

### SALE OF Christmas Greenery & Poinsettias



The Friends of Oakdale will be selling Christmas Wreaths and Poinsettias to be placed on loved ones graves this 2011 holiday season.

*Watch for postcards in early November with ordering details.*

# Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc.

520 North 15th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

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*Inscriptions* is published periodically.  
Ann Hutteman and Tee Woodbury, *Editors*



## **BE a Friend of Oakdale Cemetery!**

*Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to:*

**Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc.**  
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