

Inscriptions

VOLUME 4, NO. 1

FALL 2008

Gossip, Graves & Grapes

Sunday, September 28, 2008, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery will once again host *Gossip, Graves and Grapes* — an afternoon lawn party with delicious delicacies and wine. Dish the dirt with your Friends at GGG while you take a memorable walking tour of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery, visiting the graves of intriguing citizens associated with the creation and preservation of Thalian Hall. Guests will be entertained by Tony Rivenbark, Sue Ellen Yates, Steve Coley and other Thalian notables as they tell the life and death stories of

some of the more fascinating internees, all of whom were associated with various theatrical pursuits. Offered on Sunday,

September 28 between 4 and 7 PM, *Gossip, Graves and Grapes* celebrates the 153rd anniversary of the opening of Oakdale Cemetery and the 150th anniversary of City Hall/Thalian Hall.

Gossip, Graves and Grapes has a limited capacity; advanced paid reservations are required. The fee is \$35.00 and \$25.00 for members of Friends of Oakdale Cemetery. To make an advance reservation, please phone the Oakdale Office at 910-762-5682. The event will be held rain or shine. ❖

Holiday Wreaths and Poinsettias

The Friends of Oakdale Cemetery will again offer Christmas wreaths and poinsettias to be placed on the graves of your loved ones. Look for a mailing regarding this traditional holiday sale. ❖



FRIENDS OF OAKDALE CEMETERY

would like to thank Janet Seapker for her valued leadership as President of the Board of Directors of Friends. Beginning with her vision in 2004, followed by three years of dedicated service, Janet led Friends to become the successful organization that it is today. Although she retired from our board in April of this year, she has promised her continued support as an active volunteer. We will miss her as President but we look forward to many more of her wonderful historic tours!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides!

Looking for a fun family outing with a little history thrown in? We have the perfect answer — Friends of Oakdale Cemetery will offer horse-drawn wagon tours

in the cemetery on Sunday, October 19, 2008 (rain date — October 26).

Nip and Tuck, two magnificent Percheron horses, will pull the wagon driven by Ed Lewis of Currie Work and Driving Horse Farm. Climb aboard Ed's wagon and enjoy a 30-minute, late afternoon trot and narrated tour of

North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery. Tours are offered every thirty minutes from 3:00 PM, with the last tour leaving at 5:30 PM. The fee is 10.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children 12 and younger. (Friends of Oakdale members receive \$2 off the price!) Mark your calendar now because this is something you won't want to miss! ❖



"Nip" & "Tuck" back by popular demand

What Are Your Dollars Doing?

We are happy to report that the installation of section signs throughout Oakdale is complete! Thanks to your donations, and the help of two Eagle Scouts, visitors can now easily find their way around our lovely cemetery. If you haven't already seen them, we hope you'll come see what a nice addition they are. ❖

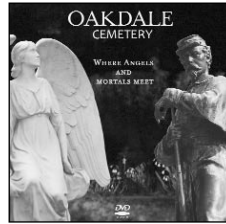


Friends of Oakdale Cemetery Releases Documentary DVD

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery announces the availability of a new documentary, *Oakdale Cemetery, Where Angels and Mortals Meet*. It tells the story of Oakdale, North Carolina's first Rural cemetery, opened in 1855. The documentary was underwritten by the generous donations of:

- **Matthew and Hilda Dill** in honor of **Elisabeth and Margaret Dill**
- **Henry E. Longley**
- **PPD, Inc.**
- **Bill and Emma Mitchell Wilcox**, in memory of **George L. and Annie Worth Mitchell, and George L Mitchell, Jr.**
- **Sylvia Orrell Stoudenmire**, in memory of **Edward and Carrie Orrell**
- **William T. Warner**
- **Thomas Ashe Lockhart**

Oakdale Cemetery, Where Angels and Mortals Meet was produced and directed by Don Koonce, researched by historian Janet K. Seapker, scripted by Neil Shurley and Don Koonce. Mark Alexander shot the video which was supplemented with still photographs by Melva Calder, Photography; Janet K. Seapker; Don Koonce; and Eric Kozen. The North Carolina Room, New Hanover County Public Library; the North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina; UNC Wilmington, Randall Library, Special Collections; St. John's Lodge No.1, Wilmington, NC, A.F. and A.M. and Elisita McCauley, provided documentary photographs. John Pucci owner of Springbrook Farms supplied the horses and hearse.



The producer, Donald Koonce, is a native Wilmingtonian and owner of Ferncreek Creative, Greenville, SC. Koonce is an award winning film and video producer who specializes in documentary work. He has produced and directed special documentaries for NASA, The Gettysburg

National Battlefield Park, The National Air and Space Museum and numerous museums throughout the country. His production for the South Carolina State Museum, "Destiny's People: Stories of South Carolina" was awarded an international CINE "Golden Eagle" by the Committee for International Nontheatrical Events.

We encourage civic clubs and school classes who need of a program to request a showing of the documentary by calling the Oakdale office (910-762-5682). *Oakdale Cemetery, Where Angels and Mortals Meet* may be purchased for \$15 via the Friends' web site (www.oakdalecemetery.org.) It also is available at retail and museum gift shops.

Oakdale Cemetery is among the earliest Rural cemeteries in the country. Authorities recognize Oakdale for its aesthetic richness and historic significance. Its diverse assemblage of monuments, statuary, and funerary art, as well as its fine collection of flora and fauna put it in the forefront of the state's historic treasures. All of these aspects are featured in *Oakdale Cemetery, Where Angels and Meet*. ❖

UNCW School of Education Cemeteries Project

by Denise Ousley, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor, Secondary English Education, Watson School of Education, UNCW

Beginning in June of 2007, the secondary education faculty from the Watson School of Education paired with the Friends of



Assistant professor Chris Fonvielle describes gravemarker types to UNCW education students.
PHOTO BY KRISTINE WETHERILL

Oakdale to pilot the first interdisciplinary Cemeteries Project. The Cemeteries Project is designed to help pre-service teachers across disciplines examine Wilmington's history through its public resources. Watson School of Education secondary program faculty (English, social studies science, and math), education students, UNCW Arts and Sciences faculty, and local experts from Oakdale and Pine Forest participated in the Cemeteries Project. Prior to touring Oakdale and Pine Forest, Janet Seapker presented to students and faculty on the history and features of the cemeteries and facilitated the tour groups during the October visit.

By using Wilmington's public cemeteries as historic document and postmodern text, students and faculty benefited from field-based engagement with our community. Through the Cemeteries Project, UNCW students explored the socio-cultural and historic diversity among Wilmington's communities.

The unique interdisciplinary experiences offered by the Cemeteries Project will have impact long after the project concludes. Teacher and students will learn, discuss, negotiate, and create with colleagues across disciplines, thus increasing the probability for interdisciplinary work in their future teaching. Finally, students and faculty are joining the community in site-based, educational research, increasing opportunities for teaching and learning beyond the traditional classroom environment. ❖

THANKS

On behalf of the Oakdale Cemetery Company Board of Directors, we would like to thank Janet Seapker for her leadership, commitment and tireless effort on behalf of Oakdale Cemetery. Through her initial and sustaining interest, the Friends of Oakdale was established and developed into an effective and supporting organization. Under her chairmanship, the history and beauty of Oakdale Cemetery has been presented through several successful projects including the 'Walking Tours.' In addition, Janet and the Friends' board have successfully implemented various fundraising and promotional activities which benefit Oakdale Cemetery. We are grateful that Janet has indeed been a 'Friend' of Oakdale Cemetery, and appreciate all that she has done on its behalf.

EELCO TINGA, *President*
Oakdale Cemetery Board

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

(recorded between July 1, 2007 and July 15, 2008)

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 of news and events of the Friends, this is not a reminder of your membership status. The Membership Committee sends out a specific letter to each member as a kindly reminder of your renewal. These letters are mailed to you annually when the time arrives according to the month you had renewed last or joined.

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc.

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Wilmington, NC 28401

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Inscriptions is published periodically.
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Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc.
520 North Fifteenth Street ❖ Wilmington, NC 28401

Questions? Call us at 910-762-5682

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Membership is for one year. ❖ Many volunteer opportunities!

Please contact me about volunteering!

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded to support the Cemetery. The mission of the Friends is to assist the Oakdale Cemetery Company in preserving and promoting the historical character of Oakdale. The Friends, achieve the mission by raising funds and seeking contributed services; by preparing educational and research materials emphasizing the historical, architectural and cultural importance of Oakdale Cemetery; and by providing tour guide services so that the cemetery is available for educational use by the public.