

# Inscriptions

VOLUME 9, NO. 2

FALL 2013

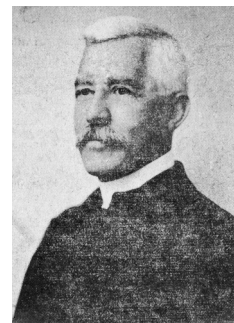
## Luminary Tour OCTOBER 20, 2013

This year, the third annual Luminary Tour will feature clergymen who are buried in the cemetery. Nearly seventy have been identified, who served protestant religions and the Jewish faith. No Catholic priests are buried in Wilmington, with the exception of Father Thomas Murphy who was interred under the altar of St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church on Dock Street. The others were buried either in Belmont, North Carolina or in later years in Newton Grove. Both towns have large Catholic cemeteries.

Perhaps, the youngest of the group is the Rev. B. Henry W. Runge, who was 31 years old when he died a mere thirteen days after he was ordained a Lutheran minister in 1895. There are several Bishops of the Episcopal Church – Rt. Reverends Alfred Augustine Watson, Hunley Elebash and Thomas Campbell Darst. The Rev. Robert Brent Drane, Rector of St. James Episcopal Church, died in the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1862. There are Presbyterians



such as Jeremiah Stephen Crowley, Dr. B. Frank Hall, Dr. Alexander Doak McClure and Andrew Jackson Howell. Besides the prominent Baptist cleric, Dr. John Lamb Prichard, who also died during the Yellow Fever Epidemic, others of that faith include John Alexander Neilson, John M. Kester and A. Paul Repiton. The Rev. R. S. Moran of the Methodist faith has an imposing



Dr. Alexander Doak McClure

*Continued on page 3*



## Calendar of Events



### Third Annual Luminary Event – Sunday, October 20, 2013

Tours depart from main gate: 6:30, 6:45 and 7:00 p.m.

Join us for this extremely popular event. This year, the tour highlights noteworthy clergy, who are buried in the cemetery. Over 600 luminaries will light the path as we walk a beautiful and impressive route to visit gravesites and listen to interesting facts of six of about 70 preachers buried here. Light refreshments will be served. \$10.00 for everyone. Limited tickets will be available at the cemetery office starting October 1, 2013. This tour sells out so get your tickets early!

### Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides – Sunday, November 10, 2013

Tours depart gate at 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00 and 4:30 p.m.



Photo Courtesy of Mark Stanley

Two black Percheron horses, Nip and Tuck, will pull a wagon for a pleasant autumn ride around the cemetery. A guide will ride on the wagon, giving a commentary on the history of the cemetery. Adults, \$10; children, 12 and younger, \$8; Friends of Oakdale, adults, \$8; children 12 and younger, \$6.



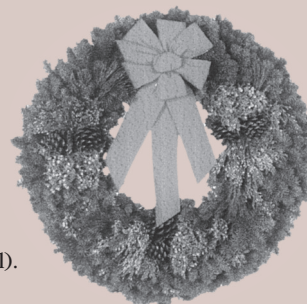
### Veteran's Day – Monday, November 11, 2013

Flags will be placed on graves of Veterans, located throughout Oakdale. Enjoy a drive through the cemetery the weekend prior to Veteran's Day and remember those who have served and those who have sacrificed their

lives for our freedom. Donations will be accepted in the cemetery office to help allay expenses for the many flags purchased for the commemoration.

### Deadline for Ordering Christmas Greenery – Friday, November 29, 2013

Once again, the Friends of Oakdale are selling wreaths and trees to be placed on the graves of loved ones during the holiday season. Look for order form on page 2 of this newsletter for details. (Or watch for a reminder post card in the mail).



**ALL TOURS ARE CANCELLED IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.**

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF OAKDALE CEMETERY, INC.  
520 NORTH 15TH STREET, WILMINGTON, NC 28401 E 910-762-5682  
EMAIL: FRIENDS@OAKDALECEMETERY.ORG E WWW.OAKDALECEMETERY.ORG

## NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

(Recorded between January 1, 2013 and June 30, 2013)

If you joined or renewed your membership 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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## Holiday Wreaths and Christmas Trees Available

**ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY NOVEMBER 29TH, 2013.**

The Friends of Oakdale Cemetery offer Christmas wreaths and small trees. This year the fresh live wreaths will be identical to last year's - 25" across with a waterproof red bow. Additionally, we are offering again this year, fresh small Christmas trees - approximately 25" in height, with a red small bow tied at the top. The wreaths and trees will be placed on the gravesite of your loved ones beginning the week of December 12th.



**ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY NOVEMBER 29, 2013.**

*Make checks payable to:*

**Friends of Oakdale Cemetery**  
520 N 15th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

**PLEASE MARK THE ITEM OR ITEMS YOU WISH TO ORDER.**

\_\_\_ Wreath, 25" across  
\$30.00 each.  
(\$2.00 off each for members)

\_\_\_ Christmas Tree,  
25" tall, \$20.00 each.  
(\$1.00 off each for members)

**Provide the name of the person BURIED on the lot and check the appropriate selections.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ WREATH \_\_\_ TREE \_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ WREATH \_\_\_ TREE \_\_\_

*Record YOUR contact information should we need clarification on your order.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**If you need assistance with your order, please call the cemetery office at 910-762-5682.**



## A Sight Worth Seeing

by Eric Kozen

Not only are there distinguished people buried in Oakdale Cemetery, but the cemetery is also known for a famous shrub. It was first noted in a newspaper article in the *Wilmington Messenger* on March 30, 1893. Oakdale Superintendent, Timothy Donlan, described the plant as 23 feet in height and 100 feet around. He said that “it was a sight worth seeing and that a great many people have expressed a desire to see this plant in bloom.”

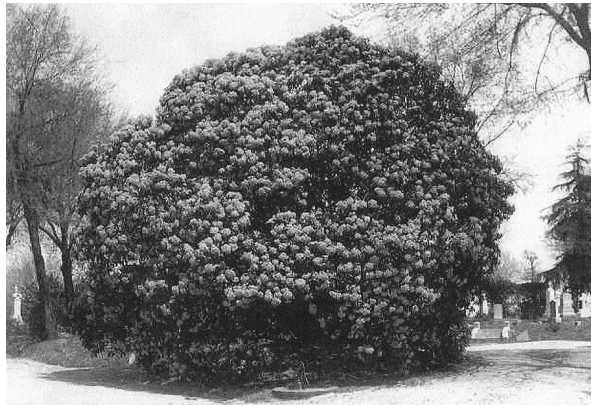


Photo Courtesy of Cape Fear Museum of History and Science, ca. 1900

Newspapers in subsequent years continued to document the plant. In April 1901, Mr. Donlan reported to the *Messenger* that “the magnificent *fortuna globula* is now in full bloom. The plant is 25 feet in height and 130 feet in circumference.” In April 1904, “Donlan calls our attention to the fact that the *Forthane Globular* plant of the mountain laurel family is in full bloom. The plant is 190 feet in circumference and 35 feet high.” This particular description showed that the plant had grown with vigor and the spelling of its name had changed. The *Wilmington Dispatch* of March 1905 reported: “It is said to be the largest bush of its class in the country and when it blooms ever year, it is viewed by hundreds of people.” The newspaper also weighed in with another spelling of the plant’s name – *Forthane Ghlober*. After researching the Latin names provided in the newspapers, there is no horticultural match. Discussions with landscape historians were not able to identify such a species. Its true identity is

## Luminary Tour

*Continued from front page*

mausoleum on the main street. Two of pastors married the Dreher sisters – the Rev. Neilson and the Rev. George Carter Ackerly, a Lutheran pastor – and are buried on the Jeremiah Dreher lot.

Four Rabbis are interred in Oakdale’s Hebrew Cemetery – Samuel Mendelsohn, Karl Rosenthal, Mordecai Thurman and Albert A. Gordon. Another, Howard L. Fineberg is buried across the bridge in the cemetery’s annex. All were Rabbis at the Temple of Israel, located at Fourth and Market streets.

Of course, time and distance will prohibit us from visiting all of their graves. We will line the paths with over 600 luminaries to light the way to graves of six of the ministers. The choice of gravesites was dictated by location, so as to provide an easy and logical route. A guide will be stationed at each grave to tell about the life and career of each cleric. Join us for this tribute to our distinguished men of the cloth. ❖

a *Photinia Fraseri*. It could be mistaken for the mountain laurel family purely because of the similarity of its growth and woody branches. The Cape Fear Museum image archive has a picture of a plant, dated circa 1900, that seems to fit the description of the plant. It has an identification of “hydrangea” written on the photo. It is more than likely the plant described above because it is hard to believe that a hydrangea could grow so large. The photo was taken in a location of the cemetery

that was in the original road plans, dating back to 1855-1860.

Today, this plant still thrives and is seen by many visitors. Located just below the



Confederate Mound to the North, it proudly stands on its own little island of turf. While it is not in its glory of 130 plus feet in circumference and nearly 35 feet in height, it is still a marvelous plant, which can be seen in full bloom towards the end of March and early April depending on spring temperatures. ❖

## Friend’s Projects

Several projects have been completed by the Friends of Oakdale during 2013. The fencing on the bridge to the Annex and Memorial Park was replaced and new safety bumpers were added. The roadway over the bridge was resurfaced. Pruning and needed



removal of some trees continued over the spring and summer. Final and iron fencing pipe rails have been ordered so as to restore some of the iron fencing throughout the cemetery. ❖

# 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.**  
520 North Fifteenth Street ❖ Wilmington, NC 28401

**Questions? Call us at 910-762-5682**

*Please check one:*

- Founder**  **\$2,500 & up**  
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\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE FIRST NAME(S) LAST NAME

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE EMAIL

Membership is for one year. ❖ Many volunteer opportunities!

*Please contact me about volunteering!*

### A REMINDER

To all the Friends of Oakdale, when receiving this periodic publication, 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.