

# Inscriptions

VOLUME 9, NO. 1

SPRING 2013

## Recognized Inventor of Modern Finger Painting Ruth Faison Shaw

Most American children have delighted in finger painting some time in their lives. Ruth Faison Shaw is the recognized inventor of modern finger painting. The idea was not new. In prior centuries, finger painting was used in murals on the walls of Etruscan tombs and in ancient Chinese manuscripts. However, it is generally accepted that Miss Shaw was the first artist to make the paints safe for children using non-toxic ingredients, while at a school for English-speaking children in Rome in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

She discovered the technique purely by accident. While teaching one day, Miss Shaw sent a small



boy who had cut his finger to the bathroom to put some iodine on the cut. The youngster did not return for some time. When his teacher went to see what had happened, she found that he had smeared iodine all over the tile walls as far as he could reach. This incident gave her an idea – children loved to smear and what if that natural inclination could be harnessed in something constructive. Hence, her adventure in the discovery of finger painting began.

She was born in Kenansville, Duplin County, NC, on October 15, 1889, the daughter of the Rev. William Mitchell Shaw, a Presbyterian minister, and Alberta Columbia Faison Shaw. In addition to his pastoral duties, her father was also principal of the James Sprunt Institute. She was the only girl in a family of four

*Continued on page 3*



## Calendar of Events



### Friends of Oakdale Board Meetings

Second Tuesday of every month, 12:00, noon, Kenneth Sprunt Building, Oakdale Cemetery

### Annual Meeting of the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery

Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 12:00 noon, Kenneth Sprunt Building, Oakdale Cemetery

### Easter Lily Sale

Deadline for ordering lilies is March 15, 2013. Easter is March 31, 2013. Friends of Oakdale is offering for sale full, fresh Easter lilies for the graves of loved ones. These lilies are beautiful, substantial, two-stemmed plants with foil and a bow. The lilies will be placed on the graves in the week before Easter and will be removed when they wane. They are \$35.00 for non-members and \$33.00 for members. (See the Easter Lily order blank on page 4 of this newsletter.)

### Oakdale Tour – Sunday, March 31, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

Architectural historian, Janet K. Seapker, will lead a tour emphasizing the evolution of the rural cemetery and the establishment of Oakdale Cemetery. She will reveal the meaning of symbols used on Victorian funerary art. The walking tour allows participants to explore Oakdale's treasures first-hand and to enjoy the spring flowers. Space is limited. Please call the Oakdale Office, (910) 762-5682, to make a reservation. \$10.00 for non-members; free for members.

### Bird Tour – Saturday, April 27, 2013, 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Enjoy a morning of birding at Oakdale with Dr. James Parnell, noted ornithologist and author of numerous books and articles about birds. Dr. Parnell is a retired professor of biology at UNC-W. \$10 for non-members; free for members.

### Walking Tour – Saturday, May 18, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Robin Triplett will be the guide for the tour. Admission is \$10.00 for non-members; free for members

### Walking Tour – Saturday, June 15, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Chris Nelson, a battalion chief with the City of Wilmington Fire Department, will guide the tour of the cemetery. Admission is \$10.00 for non-members; free for members.

### Walking Tour – Saturday, July 20, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Eric Kozen, Oakdale Cemetery Superintendent, will guide the tour of the cemetery. Admission is \$10.00 for non-members; free for members.

### Walking Tour – Saturday, August 17, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

David Rice and Eric Kozen will be the co-leaders for this tour. Admission is \$10.00 for non-members; free for members.

### Walking Tour – Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Bob Cooke, noted Civil War historian, will lead a tour that will include not just the Civil War era, but World War I and II. Admission is \$10.00 for non-members; free for members.

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

Tours depart the main gate at 6:30, 6:45 and 7:00 p.m. Over 600 luminaries mark the route through the historical cemetery. Refreshments are served. \$10.00 for everyone. Limited tickets will be available at the cemetery office.

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

## NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

(Recorded between July 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012)

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*.

### BENEFACTOR

\$1,000-\$2,499

Dr. Ogden O. Allsbrook, Jr.      Mrs. Henry Longley  
Mr. Scot Andrews                Mr. George Rountree, III  
Mr. Tom Kenan, III

### SPONSOR

\$500-\$999

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Dill      Mr. D. C. North  
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Hutaff, Jr.    Mr. Rye Page  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Morris      Ms. Pamela Brown Vinson

### PATRON

\$250-\$499

Dr. and Mrs. Joe Broughton      Ms. Catherine T. Latham, Orrell  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Capps    & Reiner  
Mrs. Mayo Darby                  Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Wootten  
Ms. Ann Hewlett Hutteman      Mrs. Ann Wyckoff

### DONOR

\$100-\$249

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton W. Allegood	Ms. Shirley M. Mikulas
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Atwood	Mr. Joseph & Robert Morrison
Mrs. Martha Beery	Mrs. Elaine H. Neuwirth
Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Black, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. John A. Newton, Jr.
Mrs. Lillian Bellamy Boney	Mrs. Lewis T. Nunnelee, II
Ms. Katherine Boone	Mr. John E. Orrell
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Boylan	Ms. Shirley Orrell
Ms. Nancy Tinga Braswell	Dr. James F. Parnell, Ph.D.
Mr. Robert S. Bridgers	Mr. and Mrs. William E. Perdeu
Ms. Catherine E. Burney	Mr. Robert N. Post
Ms. Bonnie O. Burriss	Mr. and Mrs. Ed Powers
Ms. Janet Carriveau	Mrs. Thomas M. Ramseur
The Rev. and Mrs. Robert Cook	Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Robertson
Mrs. Haywood Emerson	Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Rozear
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Essig	Mr. and Mrs. William Salter
Mrs. Alice Evans	Ms. Patricia K. Schultz
Mr. Donald W. Fisher	Mrs. Adelaide Ann Smith
Mrs. Ligon B. Flynn	Mr. William R. Smith, Jr.
Mr. Terry Fulbright	Ms. Celia Snow
Mrs. Rosalind Napier Fuller	Mrs. Kenneth Sprunt
Mr. Robert Godley	Mr. and Mrs. Ben Steelman
Mr. Adair Graham	Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Stone
Mrs. Carolyn Hall	Mr. Harry W. Stovall, III
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene B. Hardin, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Stovall, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lou Hargett	Mrs. Martha K. Taylor
Mr. E. Wilson Horton	Ms. Elizabeth Taylor
Mrs. Sara Hufham	Mr. and Mrs. Victor G. Taylor, Jr.
Mrs. Barbara B. Jamison	Mrs. Louise Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Keon	Ms. Patricia Tillery
Mr. James E. (Jim) Knight	Mr. and Mrs. Mark R. Vinson
Mr. and Mrs. Emsley A. Laney, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wallace
LT General James M. Lee	Mrs. Louise W. Wells
Mrs. Doris R. Lewis	Mr. John C. Wessell, III
Mrs. Mayo Little	Mr. Lonnie B. Williams
Mr. Walter Love	Dr. R. Bertram Williams, Jr.
Mrs. Mary Ann Massey	Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Woodbury
Mr. Michael E. Mauney	Mrs. Thomas H. Wright, Jr.

### FAMILY

\$40-\$99

Ms. Rebecca Mahler	Mrs. Ruby Bissette
Ms. Carita C. Rothing	Mr. George T. Clark, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Smith, II	Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Dunlea
Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Lewis, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. George R. French
Lt. Col. Gene McCarley, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. George, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. James T. Peebles	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gordon
Mrs. George F. Tilley	Mr. John R. Hicks
Mrs. Lyda T. Venters	Mr. and Mrs. William F. Lyon
Mr. and Mrs. Ben White, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. P. Thomas Marshburn, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Willard	Mr. Wallace C. Murchison
Ms. Mary Jo Barbaretta	Mr. and Mrs. Peyton E. Pitts
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Biggs	Mr. Joel Pretlow, III
Mrs. Imogene C. Biggs	Ms. Eleanor M. Price
Mrs. Elma Porter Bowden	Mrs. Fred Rippy, Jr.
Miss Valerie Burnie	Mr. James H. Toms
Mr. Joseph A. Clendenin	Mr. Sidney Andrews
Mr. Chad Farriss	Ms. Frances B. Frampton
Mr. Herbert T. Fisher	Mrs. Wanda Moore
Mr. Richard Hanson	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dunn
Mrs. Gerry Harris	Mr. Jack McCarley
Dr. John Humphries	Mr. and Mrs. John C. Symmes
Mr. Harry Latimer	Mrs. Katherine Furr
Mr. E.A. Shands	Mr. and Mrs. Chester Watts
Ms. Julia S. Worth	

### INDIVIDUAL

\$30

Mrs. Nellie Allen	Mr. and Mrs. George Mahler
Ms. Dorothy Ballard	Mrs. Anna Laura Martin
Ms. Emily W. Barefoot	Mrs. Kathryn P.W. Minnick
Dr. Heyward Bellamy	Mr. and Mrs. Warren P. Moses
Mr. Kirk Binning	Ms. Ellen Munds
Mr. Randall Broadfoot	Mrs. Margaret Munsch
Mrs. Bonnie Cooper	Mrs. Loraine Oppenheimer
Mr. and Mrs. William S. DeRosset	Ms. Mary Palmer
Ms. Marie V. deRosset	Ms. Ruth Parker
Ms. Gladys M. Dickie	Ms. Charlotte Jones Parker
Mr. Daniel H. Earp, Jr.	Ms. Margaret Payne
Mrs. Maurine Elebash	Ms. Julia Pridgen
Ms. Leslie Emerson	Ms. Mary-Louise Rhodes
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fetner	Mr. Steven Robertson
Miss Pauline Formyduval	Mrs. Marilyn L. Rosen
Mrs. Louise C. (Polly) Franklin	Ms. Angeline B. Saffo
Mrs. Nancy Kennon Frazier	Ms. Shirley Shaw
Mrs. Lucy Ann Glover	Mrs. Polly T. Sheats
Ms. Sylvia Hales	Mr. James B. Stokley, Sr.
Ms. Carlene K. Hendrix	Mrs. Ruby J. Stoudenmire
Ms. Margaret Higgins	Ms. Caroline N. Swails
Mrs. Sandra L. High	Ms. Mary Virginia Swain
Mr. John C. Hines	Mr. John T. Talbert, III
Mrs. Gail Kermon	Mrs. John D. Taylor
Ms. Martha P. Kidder	Ms. Susan M. Trulove
Mrs. Elizabeth LeGwin	Mrs. Rachel P. Turner
Ms. Ann Mebane Levine	Ms. Helen R. Ward
Mrs. Billie Little	Ms. Feriba Weltin
Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Lockfaw	Mr. John Winecoff
Ms. Jean F. Lynch	Mrs. Frances D. Woodbury

### STUDENT

\$15

Master Robert Henry Ziegler

### 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.

# Ruth Faison Shaw

*Continued from front page*

boys, with four other male cousins living nearby. She once told a friend, "By the time I grew up, I knew enough about boys that I didn't want to marry one."

In 1906, Miss Shaw graduated from the James Sprunt Institute for Girls. Later, she attended a teachers' college in Baltimore, MD. She taught in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina and for a time was a teacher of piano in Wilmington and Southport.

Just after the Armistice was signed ending World War I, she sailed for Europe, where she was a worker for the YMCA, spending about six months shuttling between London, Paris, Verdun, the Argonne and Romagna. After the war,

she was asked to set up the school for English-speaking children in Rome, where she made her notable invention.

The success of finger painting established her as a celebrity and with her wit and soft Carolina accent, she became a popular speaker. For several years, she lived in Paris, lecturing at the Sorbonne and leading workshops at the Trocadero School.



*Ruth Faison Shaw – Wilmington Star-News, Oct. 4, 1983*

## Friend's Projects



The Friends of Oakdale Cemetery had a very busy year in 2012, completing several important projects. We donated funds for iron fence renovation and for the trimming, removal and replacement of trees. We fixed and straightened the fence and installed bumpers on the bridge to the annex. We planted pansies at the main entrance. ❖



In 1932, Miss Shaw returned to the United States bringing her techniques with her. For a year, she taught at New York's prestigious Dalton School before opening her own institution – the Shaw Finger-Painting Studio. She patented her finger painting formula and wrote a book, *Finger Painting: A Perfect Method of Self-Expression* (1934).

During World War II, she traveled all over the United States for the USO, entertaining servicemen with her demonstrations in finger painting and telling stories as she painted. Eventually, she purchased a home on Cape Cod and had a finger painting school there for small children.

Miss Shaw saw her experiment as a way to aid psychotherapy, since people who were disturbed could paint things that they could not express. For several years, she worked at the renowned Menninger Psychiatric Clinic in Topeka, Kansas. By the late 1950s, she was living in Chapel Hill, NC, where she worked with mental patients at UNC's Memorial Hospital and at the Murdoch Center for Children at Butner, NC. At the same time, she continued to teach and exhibit finger painting in her home.

Miss Shaw died on December 3, 1969 in Fayetteville, NC. Her brother, William M. Shaw, was that city's postmaster for many years. She is buried in Oakdale Cemetery. ❖

*Source: Ruth Faison Shaw folder, North Carolina Room, New Hanover County Public Library*

## BOARD MEMBERS UPDATE

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery welcomes two new members:

A native of Wilmington, Catherine Freeman Halligan moved back home about three years ago. She graduated from Cape Fear Academy, attended Salem College and transferred to UNC-Chapel Hill where she received her BSN degree. She practiced nursing in Raleigh and in the obstetrics department at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. In 1984, she married and moved to the Boston area for fourteen years and to Rochester, NY for another ten years. She currently volunteers with the Coastal Land Trust, Second Helpings and Meals on Wheels. She enjoys tennis and bridge in her free time. She eagerly looks forward to serving on the Friends Board and hopes to advocate for the continued preservation and beautification of its history and natural beauty.

Ogden O. (Obby) Allsbrook, Jr. is also a native of Wilmington. He attended local schools and graduated from Wake Forest College and from the University of Virginia. After service in the U.S. Army, he moved from Wilmington to Athens, Georgia, where he was an economist on the faculty at the University of Georgia for more than a quarter of a century. Upon retirement, he returned to Wilmington, maintaining his family home here as well as his home in Athens. His parents and maternal grandparents are interred at Oakdale, while two earlier generations are buried in Southport, NC.

These two new members take the places of Clint North and Sylvia Stoudenmire, who are the last original board member to rotate off of the board. We thank them for their devotion, generosity and for the countless hours of dedicated service to the Friends of Oakdale.

The Cherokee Tribe of Indian Princess Program visited the grave of Miss Shaw on January 19, 2013. They finger painted at her grave as a tribute to her. This organization promotes understanding and companionship between fathers and daughters between the ages of five and twelve.

# Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc.

520 North 15th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
P A I D  
Wilmington, NC  
Permit No. 1



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann H. Hutteman, *President*  
Cathy F. Halligan, *Vice-President*  
Carlton W. Allegood, *Secretary*  
Jerry Woodell, *Treasurer*  
Ogden O. Allsbrook, Jr.  
Edward C. Gibson  
Elizabeth Brown King  
Mark Stanley  
Ellen D. Wells  
Melanie Williams  
Tee Woodbury

### **Ex-Officio:**

Clint North, *Past President*  
Sylvia Stoudenmire, *Volunteer Coordinator*  
Rob Bridgers, *President*  
*Oakdale Cemetery Company*  
Eric Kozen, *Superintendent*  
*Oakdale Cemetery Company*

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

## Order Your Easter Lilies NOW

**ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY  
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2013**

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery are offering  
for sale full, fresh, Easter Lilies for graves of loved ones.

\$35 for non-members

**\$33 for members of Friends of Oakdale Cemetery.**

These lilies are **beautiful, substantial two-stemmed** plants  
with foil and a bow.

(NOT THE SINGLE-STEMS THE DISCOUNT STORES SELL.)



**Easter  
is March 31.**

*The lilies will be placed on the  
graves starting the week of  
March 25th and will be  
removed when they wane.*



**PLEASE MAIL THIS  
FORM WITH  
YOUR CHECK  
MADE PAYABLE TO:**

**Friends of  
Oakdale  
Cemetery, Inc.**

520 North Fifteenth St.  
Wilmington, NC 28401

**(910) 762-5682**

Please provide the name of the person(s) buried on the lot:

NAME OF DECEASED: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF DECEASED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF DECEASED: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF DECEASED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your name, address, phone number in case we need to contact you for further information.

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_