



OAKDALE  
CEMETERY

# INSIDE OAKDALE

A Newsletter of the Oakdale Cemetery Company  
520 North 15th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 • (910) 762-5682  
[www.oakdalecemetery.org](http://www.oakdalecemetery.org)

Summer 2007

Editors: Catherine Solomon and Eric Kozen

## *Message from the President*

Dear Lot Owners and Friends of Oakdale:

Oakdale Cemetery continues to be active in so very many ways. Thanks to all of you who are Friends of Oakdale, many activities and improvements are "on-going" – fence restoration on orphaned lots, our new website and angel repair to mention a few.

Unfortunately, your board has authorized an increase in internment fees in April. Our last increase of this sort was back in March of 2001. This was necessary because the cost of maintaining the grounds and rising cost of EVERYTHING. If you are interested in helping your cemetery, one way is to make a tax deductible donation to the cemetery by filling out the form on the back of this newsletter. Our Superintendent continues to do an outstanding job of maintaining our grounds. We are indeed extremely fortunate to have a gentleman of Mr. Kozen's knowledge and expertise with us.

We are in the process of planning an area in Oakdale for cremations. As I know you are aware, there is a strong trend for this type of burial. In 2006 we found that 37% of the burials were cremations. We certainly want to make available what you would be interested in having as a last resting place. If you are interested and wish to voice some ideas, please let us know. Also many people have said they have been told Oakdale is full and we have no more space. This is NOT true, we do have space (not in the old section) and more land that can be developed in the future.

In the near future you will be better able to locate sections as section signs will soon appear in the old section and Live Oak section (opened in 1992). These will be helpful to lot owners as well as visitors. With the help of an Eagle Scout, these will be placed hopefully before the year end. These scouts have done many projects at Oakdale and we have benefited greatly from each of them.

The Board was very sorry to receive the resignation of Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Jr.. We do appreciate his time with us and his knowledge of not only Wilmington but Oakdale as well. We welcome to the board, Mr. Thomas Wolfe and look forward to working with him.

Again, thank you for your support and contact any board member with any questions or ideas you may have.

*Catherine Solomon*

President

## SUMMER CAMP



On June 21st, the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society conducted their annual summer camp for summer vacationing school kids. This year as part of the summer camp they came to tour Oakdale Cemetery and learn some of the history. On this day they were told the stories of Rose O'Neale Greenhow, Mrs. Eliza DeRossett, Miss Amy Bradley, and Dr. James Henderson Dickson. Our very own Superintendent told the life of Dr. Dickson and his efforts to comfort the patients who were stricken with Yellow Fever in 1862. Dr. Dickson would soon follow in his patients' path and become one of the many to die from this epidemic that killed 43% of the population in Wilmington.

## WATER USAGE



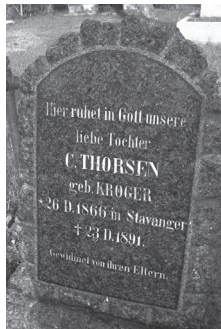
Please be aware that the use of water comes with a cost to the cemetery. Per the Rules and Regulations, the watering of lots must not be used for more than 1 hour at any one time, nor left unattended with the exception of a properly installed and monitored sprinkler systems. With the recent drought we are experiencing this spring

into summer, many lots have been left unattended while being watered. Please understand that our water supply comes from the City of Wilmington, and these incidents have created an increase in our water bill. If lots are found unattended without the aid of a sprinkler system, the water will be turned off.

## A STONE OF INTEREST

This stone is located in a Special Plot for strangers in Section H. The stone is inscribed in German. Catherine Thorsen had died aboard a vessel the Norwegian Bark Rosenberg in Southport whom her husband was Captain of. She actually died December 23, 1890 and her stone reads the year 1891. The stone translates as:

*Here rests in god, our dear  
Daughter  
C. Thorsen  
Born Kroger  
Born 26 D. 1866 in Stavanger  
Died 23 D. 1891  
Dedicated from her parents*



## WORLD WIDE WEB

[www.oakdalecemetery.org](http://www.oakdalecemetery.org)

is finally here! A great thank you is in order for the following people who were instrumental in getting this accomplished, Oakdale Cemetery Board member John B. Codington, Jr., Eric Kozen, Superintendent and Janet Seapker, President of Friends of Oakdale Cemetery. An additional big thank you goes to the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery for their generosity in covering the cost, and to Sage Island for all their hard work building the website. Now we have come into the 21st Century and people from all over may see this wonderful treasure we call Oakdale. People will be able to view pictures, read about news and up coming events, pursue genealogy thru the burial database and learn some of the history that makes this place so special.

## NEW BOARD MEMBER TOM WOLFE

Thomas "Tom" Wolfe is a Wilmington native. He moved to Jacksonville, Fl., in 1960 with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. After graduating from Jacksonville University and a short tenure with an international public account firm, Tom embarked on a retail career that took him and his family on job assignments throughout the U.S. and Canada. In 1996 he retired as President, CEO of the Bombay Company-Canada, and returned to Wilmington. He is currently an active commercial real estate broker with Prudential CRES. He is married to the former Helen Taylor, also a native Wilmingtonian. He is an active ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, a member of the Wilmington Civitan Club, serves on the Board of Directors (Treasurer) for the Regional Commercial Alliance of SENC, a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers, where he served as Canada's national committee Chairperson and was a frequent lecturer. He served as Chairperson, Retail Council of Canada, a national organization of Canada's largest retailers. Tom has had a long time interest in Oakdale. He and Helen have five generations of family members interred at Oakdale, including their daughter.

## DR. CHRIS FONVIELLE, JR. RESIGNS

Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Jr. resigned from the Board of Directors in June of this year. His work load as a professor of history at UNCW has increased as well as his writings on the region especially of Civil War events. We will miss his knowledge of history, but always know that we can call upon him for answers to some pertinent questions.



## **PRICE INCREASES**

Please be advised that this past April, fees increased. As it seems with everything today, prices just seem to continue to rise. We have always tried to do the best that we can in keeping costs down. Since Mr. Eric Kozen has arrived he has found ways to cut costs and increase productivity



while keeping the cemetery in good order. In the past year he has been struggling to keep these costs down, but with the price of fuel near \$3.00 per gallon, it is hard to accomplish this. You can view the website for these fee changes.

## **NEW LOGO**

Welcome our new logo! The Oakdale Cemetery Board of Directors have been discussing ways to improve our image and provide a professional appearance to the public. The first step was to renew our logo for the cemetery and give it a new refreshing look. It is the beginning phase of our image make over, and we have incorporated the new logo on our stationary and our new website. We hope to enhance the entrance to the cemetery with some new signs sporting this logo and renewing the appearance of this location in the future.



1852  
**OAKDALE**  
CEMETERY

## **WATCHING OVER HIM AGAIN**

For some time now the angel that stood over the grave of William Lovell Hooper who died on March 7, 1857 at the tender age of 22 had been damaged more than once. Back in October 2004 was the final blow to this angel. It was evident that this angel had been repaired in the past when the wings were damaged, but the vandalism of 2004 broke the angel into several more pieces. Since the angel had some prior damage and there were no descendants to contact, it was decided that a replica should be made. Both The Oakdale Cemetery Board and the Friends of Oakdale covered the cost of a new angel. Mr. Robert Mihaly of Durham North Carolina was contracted to perform this duty in December of 2006. Mrs. Janet Seapker, President of the Friends of Oakdale gladly obliged to take the remaining parts of the angel to Mr. Mihaly at an arranged meeting in Raleigh so he would have some idea of its size and style. Mrs. Seapker was also gracious enough to have pictures of the head intact before it disappeared so Mr. Mihaly could replicate its likeness. On May 14, 2007 Mr. Mihaly returned with the angel and personally came to Oakdale to place the angel back into its proper place. Now, once again, William Lovell Hooper has an angel watching over him.



OAKDALE CEMETERY  
520 North 15th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

Address Correction Requested

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Wilmington, NC  
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**CONTRIBUTION FORM**

Please mail to the  
Oakdale Cemetery Office  
520 North 15th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401  
[www.oakdalecemetery.org](http://www.oakdalecemetery.org)

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of tax deductible gift \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Address of person(s) to be notified \_\_\_\_\_

## Have Old Photos?

Do you have any of families at the gravesite or old photos of the just general pictures of the cemetery? We are trying to expand our archives of pictures of Oakdale. We are looking for any photos that are before 1960. They could be photos



## Contributions

With your continued support in monetary help, Oakdale is able to do so much more in the care of these grounds. As you have read, the rising costs are beginning to affect us to maintain this glorious place. All contributions are tax deductible and a great way to honor a loved one or friend. We gratefully appreciate your support in maintaining the cemetery where our beloved rest