

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc.

520 North 15th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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Inscriptions

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SPRING 2019



Oakdale Cemetery was the first rural cemetery in North Carolina and established in 1852. The first rural cemetery in America was Mount Auburn which was located in Cambridge, Massachusetts and established in 1832, so the question is what defines a rural cemetery?



In the mid-19th century, the industrial revolution was well under way and American cities were growing very rapidly. The traditional

burying sites at that time were primarily in church graveyards within the city limits and they were becoming very overcrowded. This represented some serious health issues and numerous American cities began to adopt the Boston model of establishing new and much larger cemeteries such as Mount Auburn in rural locations well outside the existing city limits. Thus, this became known as "the rural cemetery movement".

These rural cemeteries were usually located no more than 1-3 miles outside the existing city limits. They needed to be accessible to the residents of these

Continued on page 2



Calendar of Events



Friends of Oakdale Board Meetings

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



Deadline for ordering Easter Lillies Monday, April 8, 2019

Easter is April 21, 2019. The Friends of Oakdale Cemetery are offering for sale full, fresh Easter lillies for the graves of loved ones. See details on insert sheet of this newsletter.

Horticultural Tour with Eric Kozen, Superintendent Saturday, April 27, 2019, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Kozen has decades of horticultural experience and will delight you with the knowledge of the flora of Oakdale. There are truly magnificent specimens found in Oakdale and Mr. Kozen will tour the grounds showing off the true gems of a rural garden cemetery. Tour begins at 10:00am and will last about two hours. \$10.00 for non-members; FREE for members.

Summer Flashlight Tour Series

Saturday, May 18, 2019, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historians, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Robin Triplett and Superintendent Eric Kozen. Each of these historians will lead you through the cemetery and speak about the history of Oakdale, Civil War veterans, Funerary Art as well as a taste of Oakdale's prominent citizens. Cost is \$15.00 per person and you must supply your own flashlight.

Summer Walking Tour Series

Saturday, June 15, 2019, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian, Robin Triplett. Ms. Triplett will lead you on a journey through Oakdale and will delight you with many tales of those interred in the cemetery. Learn some local history from a long time Wilmingtonian. Cost of the tour is \$10.00 per person.

Summer Walking Tour Series

Saturday, July 20, 2019, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Historical walking tour of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by the Cemetery Superintendent, Eric Kozen who will take you on a journey of the past. He will focus on the beginnings of the cemetery as well as explain some of the funerary art and some tales of those who are laid to rest here. \$10.00 for non-members and FREE to members.

Summer Flashlight Tour Series

Saturday, September 21, 2019, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historians, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Robin Triplett and Superintendent Eric Kozen. Each of these historians will lead you through the cemetery and speak about the history of Oakdale, Civil War veterans, Funerary Art as well as a taste of Oakdale's prominent citizens. Cost is \$15.00 per person and you must supply your own flashlight. Tours are cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

ALL TOURS ARE CANCELLED IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.

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
Benefactor \$1,000-\$2,499
Sponsor \$500-\$999
Patron \$250-\$499
Donor \$100-\$249
Family \$40-\$99
Individual \$30
Student \$15

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.

Oakdale Cemetery

Continued from front page

representative cities since travel at that time was mostly limited to walking, by horse or horse drawn carriage. These cemeteries sold lots and were obviously used to bury people, but that was not their only purpose. The city organizers and leaders at that time also saw them as a way to finance other products such as beautiful landscapes and Oakdale managed nature, essentially creating a green space for the living to occasionally escape their crowded and polluted surroundings within the city proper.

Thus, these new rural cemeteries were being planned not only for the dead but for the living as well and became the predecessors to city parks which didn't exist at that time. The city leaders and organizers of rural cemeteries saw them as no different than any other civic improvement that was for the general welfare of their growing populations. They were in fact prototypes for urban planning, zoning ordinances, paving streets and numerous other initiatives to manage their cities, but in this case through partnerships and restrictions of private property.



In designing these rural cemeteries a considerable amount of emphasis was placed on landscape design and professional management of the available nature which in many cases included rolling terrain and water features such as lakes and rivers. To help them design and manage the landscape features, many of the rural cemeteries also established partnerships with local horticultural societies for the proper selection and care of the many unique plants and trees.

Early on Oakdale had the good fortune of hiring Charles Quigley as its first superintendent. Mr Quigley was previously employed by Mount Auburn Cemetery and brought some of his valuable experience in helping establish Oakdale as a quality rural cemetery. By the late 19th century Oakdale had become well established and was a very popular venue for lot owners and the general public, particularly on Sundays. Back

then a 6 day and 66 hour workweek was the norm so Sundays were the only day to enjoy any available leisure time. At that point Oakdale had become so popular attendance had to be limited by issuing tickets with priority going to lot owners visiting their interred relatives. Many families spent the entire day at the cemetery maintaining the grave sites and picnicking among their departed relatives. Over time the cemeteries became less popular for these Sunday visits as cities began to build parks for the public to commune with nature but also included recreational facilities for tennis and baseball.

Today when one visits Oakdale, it still has retained most of its initial beauty from yesteryear in spite of a number of severe weather events over the past 160 years. And many families still thoroughly enjoy visits with their departed relatives while enjoying the peaceful and sacred setting. One can trace almost the entire history of Wilmington on the grounds of Oakdale and contemplate what our ancestors endured over their lifetimes, from the Civil War to Vietnam, epidemics such as yellow fever and the great flu epidemic of 1918 and the great depression years. All of this history is etched in stone at Oakdale when one spends some time there exploring it's many secrets and stories of the past to the present. It's still such a very pretty place and continues to be enjoyed by so many of our local residents. ❖

By Ray Kozen

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery Board Member



www.oakdalecemetery.org

For those interested in Oakdale Cemetery, the website provides spectacular photography by Kenneth Newland. Featuring a fresh updated look and offers a more user friendly experience, improved navigation, and more interactive resources including maps, burial database, the ability to purchase items online, history, news, calendar of events, comprehensive cemetery information, newsletter archive and much more.



PLEASE FOLLOW US

Hurricane Florence



Thanks to all those who donated and continue to donate towards the relief efforts from Hurricane Florence. Oakdale has a new landscape as a result of this storm. More than 200 trees were damaged and many majestic oaks came down throughout the grounds. Nearly 120 trees were removed and 72 stumps were ground. More than 100 monuments also suffered damage as well. To date, Oakdale has received \$89,000 in donations and has spent \$133,000 on repairs so far, with still more work ahead.

The grounds crew has done a fabulous job on the clean-up efforts, but it will take several more months until most of the work will be completed. ❖



Passing of Edward F. Turberg

Edward F. Turberg
December 24, 1939 – December 22, 1918



It is with sadness that we report the death of The Friends of Oakdale Cemetery's longtime board Secretary, Ed Turberg.

Ed was much more than our secretary. He had been one of our tour leaders for many years. His historical knowledge of Oakdale's history, funerary architecture, as well as the stories of many of those

interred in Oakdale made his tours especially popular.

All of us who served with Ed on the board of The Friends of Oakdale Cemetery will miss his presence. ❖

Beloved Blueberry

It is with a heavy heart that we must give this news that our beloved "Blueberry" has passed. He was found a week or so after Hurricane Florence in Pine Forest Cemetery. Ever since that day in February 2016, Blueberry has graced the properties of Oakdale and Pine Forest Cemeteries as well as our lovely neighbor's yards who cared for him each and every day as well. ❖



Campaign Planting



Hurricane Florence put a slight kink in getting things kicked off for the Campaign Projects. But we are pleased to inform you that 100 new dogwood trees have been planted this past December. All were planted in the Annex portion of the cemetery across the bridge. This area has suffered a great loss of dogwood trees over the past 10 plus years due to age. They were originally planted around 1950 and have been in rapid decline over the years since dogwoods live about 60-80 years. These are perfect street trees for this area and we look forward to having them grow for our future generations to enjoy. In February of this year (2019) another 150 dogwoods were planted in the historic section of the cemetery, specifically sections C, D, G, N and O. More tree plantings will occur this fall. ❖