

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc.

520 North 15th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

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*Oakdale Cemetery Company*



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  
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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.

# Inscriptions

VOLUME 18, NO. 1

SPRING 2022

## David Brinkley

Written by Ann H. Hutteman

Perhaps one of the most famous recent interments in Oakdale Cemetery is that of David McClure Brinkley, who became a noted network TV anchor. The youngest of five children, he was born in Wilmington on July 10, 1920, the son of William Graham Brinkley and Mary MacDonald West Brinkley. Sadly, his father died at age 52 when David was eight years old. During the Depression, his family struggled financially; his mother going to work renting bathing suits to tourists at the Lumina Pavilion on Wrightsville Beach. At the age of twelve, he also worked for the Tidewater Power Company at Lumina, changing light bulbs on the giant “Lumina” sign on the top of the building. He once told an interviewer, “that there were 126 light bulbs and almost every night 10 or 12 of them burned out.”



A loner and furious reader, the young David spent many hours at the local library when it was on the third floor of City Hall. The librarian at the time, Emma Woodward, became a mentor as well as Mrs. Burrows Smith, a high school English teacher at New Hanover High School, who suggested that

he become a journalist. Mrs. Smith helped arrange an internship for him with the *Star-News* newspapers, which at that time published two papers every day – *The Morning Star* and the *Wilmington News*.

Continued on page 2



David Brinkley on the set of ABC's  
“This Week with David Brinkley”  
Photo courtesy of Getty Images/Bettman



## Calendar of Events



### Friends of Oakdale Cemetery Board Meetings

Board meetings will be held virtually until further notice due to current COVID-19 restrictions and precautions. Time and date TBD.



### Deadline for ordering Easter Lillies

Friday, April 1, 2022

Easter is April 17, 2022. 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 23, 2022, 10:00 a.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 Walking Tour Series

Saturday, May 21, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

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. Tour is from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Cost of the tour is \$10.00 per person.

### First Person Portrayal of Rose Greenhow

Friday, June 10, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Emily Lapisardi has portrayed Rose Greenhow for museums, historical societies, round tables, and educational institutions in fourteen states and the District of Columbia. She is the editor of Rose Greenhow's “*My Imprisonment*”: *An Annotated Edition* (2021) and currently serves as Director of Musical Activities at the Catholic Chapel of the United States Military Academy (West Point, NY). Mrs. Lapisardi will provide a first-person portrayal, drawn from primary sources including Greenhow's memoirs and correspondence. She brings her vividly and realistically to life through her own words. This event is brought to you by the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Cost is \$10 per person and will start at 5:00pm, please arrive by 4:45pm!!!

### Summer Walking Tour Series

Saturday, June 18, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian, Hunter Ingram, who created Burgwin-Wright Presents and Cape Fear Unearthed Podcasts. Mr. Ingram will lead you on a journey through Oakdale and will delight you with many tales of those who are interred in the cemetery. Tour is from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Cost of the tour is \$10.00 per person.

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

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



## A Letter from the President of Friends of Oakdale Cemetery

Hello Friends of Oakdale!

It sure does feel like January! The ground is cold and crunchy and there's more brown than green everywhere. Despite the gray weather, there is still a lot of coming and going at Oakdale - joggers, dog walkers, bikers, and gravesite visitors. As we anticipate the year ahead, we are looking forward to returning to some of our familiar traditions, especially our walking tours. Unfortunately, we have no idea of the direction that Coronavirus will take as the year unfolds. Please keep an eye on our website for information about these enlightening and educational tours which traditionally begin in the spring. One thing we know we know for certain is that Oakdale will continue to need the daily maintenance and yearly projects important to its preservation. For these, Oakdale relies on your generosity. We thank you for that and hope that you'll come out for a walk to enjoy these beautiful grounds so full of history

Cece Lippitt Snow, President, Friends of Oakdale Cemetery

### David Brinkley

*Continued from front page*

He was offered a job at the newspaper and seems to have left school without graduating to work full-time for the *Star-News*. The *Star-News* publisher, Rinaldo B. Page, made a deal with a local radio station to broadcast a five minute news summary from Associated Press reports. David was assigned to this task.

When World War II broke out, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent to Fort Jackson, SC, for basic training. During a physical, he was misdiagnosed with a kidney condition, which ended his military service.

He then joined United Press, a news service, as a reporter, living in Atlanta; Montgomery, Alabama; Nashville and Charlotte. In 1943, the NBC radio network hired him as a Washington correspondent. His entry into television was reading regular news on John Cameron Swayze's *Camel News Caravan*, an early TV news program. Almost everyone was aware of his wry wit, his unique drawl and arched eyebrows.

In the summer of 1956, NBC tapped him and Chet Huntley to cover the Republican and Democratic national conventions. They were such a popular duo that the network assigned them to be co-anchors on the Huntley-Brinkley Report, which debuted October 29, 1956. Huntley retired in 1970 and David continued as co-anchor with John Chancellor on the newly named *NBC Nightly News*. He left NBC in 1981, to become the host of ABC's *This Week with David Brinkley*, retiring in November 1996.

He exhibited a fondness for his hometown, visiting Wilmington often. He was an ardent supporter of downtown historic preservation and was honored in 2001 by his name being placed on Wilmington's Walk of Fame. Additionally, UNC-W awarded him an honorary Doctor of Letters.

Mr. Brinkley was married twice and had three sons by his first marriage. He died on June 11, 2003, in Houston, Texas. His widow, Susan Adolph Brinkley died on June 6, 2019 and is also interred in Oakdale.

In this day and time, we forget how important network news shows were before the advent of twenty-four hour news channels. Americans got their news from TV on three national channels. David Brinkley was certainly a pioneer in broadcast journalism.

Sources:

Steelman, Ben. Obituary, *Star-News*, June 13, 2003;  
Brinkley, David, Autobiography, 1995. ❖

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

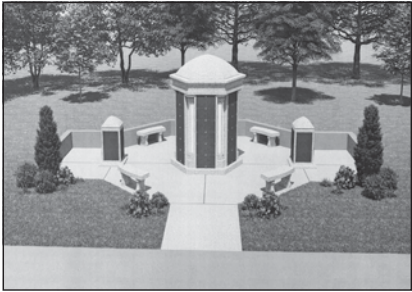
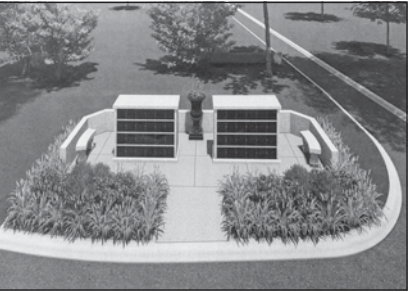
For those interested in Oakdale Cemetery, the website provides spectacular photography by Kenneth Newland. Featuring a fresh updated look and offers a more user friendly experience, improved navigation, and more interactive resources including maps, burial database, the ability to purchase items online,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



PLEASE FOLLOW US

## Campaign Projects Underway

We have been busy and under construction for the last few months preparing and constructing some new cremation additions for Oakdale Cemetery. Two sites have been under construction in the historic portion of the cemetery near Section D and one in our newest section known as the Live Oak section off of 15th Street. We hope that most of the work will be completed this year and we will be excited to share this news to you in the next newsletter, STAY TUNED!!! Below are some renderings for what is to come. ❖



## Veterans Day Flags

Thanks again to the Laney High School JROTC unit for coming out to place over 1,000 flags at the graves of Veterans this past November. We had close to 75 cadets along with some parents and even had some past cadets (already graduated) who came to help perform this patriotic duty. We would also like to thank Woodmen Life for helping supply the flags each year for this annual tradition, donations are always appreciated to help defray some of the cost of flags. ❖



## Garden Ladies Love Playing in the Dirt



A much appreciated thank you goes out to the ladies from the Loblolly Garden Club who have been working hard this past Fall sprucing up the entrance to the cemetery. They acquired and planted 10 encore azaleas along 15th Street, removed the grass at the flagpole and replaced it with some attractive

flagstone and finally they planted pansies at our flower beds at the main gates. Thank you ladies for all of your hard work!!! They have more plans to plant and care for perennials along the 15th Street drive to the main gates. ❖

## Celebrating 100 Years

The Stamp Defiance Chapter, NSDAR, Wilmington NC gathered on a beautiful fall morning back in October to honor the memory of their organizing, Regent Bessie Ledford Gore Martin. The Stamp Defiance Chapter was founded 100 years ago in 1921. Family descendants were also in attendance for this momentous occasion and unveiling of a new marker at her grave. ❖

