

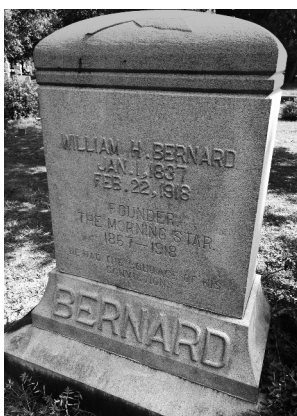
Inscriptions

VOLUME 13, NO. 2

FALL 2017

*'StarNews' founder
had the courage of his convictions*
**William Henry Bernard,
1837-1918**

The *StarNews* and Oakdale Cemetery are two constants serving Wilmington since the 1800s, so it seems appropriate that North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery would be the final resting place for William Henry Bernard, the founding editor and owner of the *Morning Star*, which has evolved over the past 150 years into the *StarNews*, North Carolina's oldest daily newspaper in continuous publication today, which is celebrating its sesquicentennial year in 2017.



Bernard's gravestone, located in Lot 112 in section K, bears a writer's quill, a symbol appropriate for a man who worked his entire career as a journalist and editor.

Bernard was a native of Petersburg, Va., born in 1837 into a family of journalists. His father, printer and publisher Peter Dudley Bernard, owned and edited *The Southern Planter*,



an agricultural magazine in Richmond, Va. His maternal grandfather, Thomas Willis White, was founder and editor of *The Southern Literary Magazine*.

As a student at Richmond College, Bernard was an editor of the *Star*, a publication of the Mu Sigma Rho Society. He left college at the age of 18 to study law in Texas under prominent attorney William Stedman but soon gave up that course of study to pursue his true interest in journalism, publishing a weekly paper in Texas, *The Star Spangled Banner*. He also founded *Young America*, a weekly humor publication.



Bernard returned to Virginia in 1858 and married Maggie Stedman of Fayetteville in 1859. The couple moved to Helena, Ark., where they lived until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. Bernard was a member of the Whig Party, initially supporting the Union and against the secession of North Carolina and the actions of the Southern Democrats. However, when the war broke out, he chose to support the Confederacy, moving to Fayetteville and, at the age of 24, enlisting in Company H, First Regiment, the North Carolina Volunteers. He fought at the Battle of Big Bethel in 1861 under the command of Captain Wright Huske. Bernard served as a private but

Continued on page 2



Calendar of Events



Annual Meeting of the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. at the Kenneth Sprunt Office Building.

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery Board Meetings

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

Walking Tour – Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Summer Walking Tour Series. Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian, Robin Triplett. Ms. Triplett will take you on a journey through time and delight you with the history and some interesting tales of those who are interred at Oakdale Cemetery. Tour is from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. \$10.00 for nonmembers and FREE to members.



Veterans Day Remembrance

United States Flags will be placed on the graves of veterans of all wars who are buried throughout the cemetery on November 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Greenery Sale

Deadline will be November 27, 2017 for ordering Christmas wreaths or trees, which will be placed on the graves of loved ones during the second week of December. See back page for more details and ordering information.



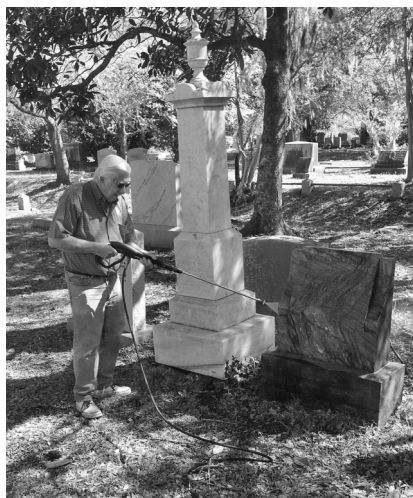
ALL TOURS ARE CANCELLED IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.

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

Stone Cleaning Project Makes Impact at Oakdale

Thanks to a dedicated effort this year, more than 1,000 grave stones have been cleaned at Oakdale Cemetery, including each of the stones in the Hebrew cemetery dating back to 1855.

New board member Ray Kozen, father of Superintendent Eric Kozen, started the project by cleaning more than



200 stones this spring. The Friends of Oakdale got behind the effort, granting funds to employ part-time help to continue the project throughout the property.

An important aspect of maintaining the appearance of a cemetery is the proper cleaning of headstones. Over time, tombstones will accumulate a layer of deposits resulting

from hard water, dust, dirt, lichens, mold or fungus that typically grow on porous stone. Proper cleaning techniques



and the timing of such cleanings serve to help preserve gravestones while making inscriptions more legible and the gravesite well-kept.

"The stone cleaning project

is making an impact at Oakdale," says Eric Kozen. "We are definitely seeing positive results throughout the cemetery." ❖

William Henry Bernard

Continued from front page

attained the rank of major before being discharged honorably due to physical disability. From that time on, he was known as "Major."

Bernard returned to Fayetteville to work at the *Presbyterian* and the *Daily Telegraph* until the end of the war. The Bernards moved to Wilmington in 1867, where the Major and Col. John D. Barry founded the *Wilmington Dispatch*, with offices on Market Street between Front and Second streets. The partnership lasted a few months and the paper ceased publication three years later.

Bernard began publication of the *Star* in September 1867 as an afternoon paper, but relaunched October 15, 1867, as the *Morning Star*. An editorial in the paper declared, "*The Evening Star* goes down (but not in defeat) and the *Morning Star* rises in its place." Bernard remained as editor for 40 years, also writing a daily column taking on the issues of the times.

"A big factor in the *Star's* survival had to be the personality and character of 'Major' Bernard, who edited and published the paper for more than 40 years," wrote Ben Steelman in the *Star-News* in 2007.

Bernard retired in 1909, selling the paper to a corporation of local businessmen, retaining, along with his son, a minor interest in the ownership.

"Founder of the *Morning Star*. He had the courage of his convictions," reads the epitaph on his gravestone. ❖

SOURCES:

Confederate Major Bernard's Wilmington Star Newspaper, by Bernhard Thuersam, Cape Fear Historical Institute

William Henry Bernard, by Roy Parker Jr., Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, 1998

Bernard, William Henry, by Samuel M. Gainor, 1979, NCPedia
The *StarNews* archives

Notecards Feature Angels of Oakdale



The notecards printed in color, merge art and photography, as they represent the grace and grandeur of eight cemetery angels. The cards feature the photography of Kenneth Newland and were created by the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery. These make great stocking stuffers and gifts for your friends and family. These are available at the Oakdale Cemetery Office for \$10 which includes a pack of 8 cards and envelopes. We can mail them to you as well for an additional \$2 to cover the postage. ❖

NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE!
www.oakdalecemetery.org

Flag Retirement Ceremony is Annual Oakdale Tradition

The United States Flag Code states, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." The most important aspect of a flag retirement is to do it with dignity.


Thanks to the Lower Cape Fear Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Boy Scout Troop #232, nearly 150 flags were retired with appropriate dignity in a Flag Retirement Ceremony at Oakdale Cemetery on June 14. The Flag Day event



included a special demonstration on how to properly fold an American flag.

Oakdale has honored Flag Day for the past several years by giving the local community a ceremony and a place to properly dispose of their American flags.

"It is something we do annually on Flag Day," says Oakdale Superintendent

Eric Kozen. "There aren't a lot of organizations that conduct flag retirements, so we are proud to offer it to the community to provide a proper and dignified way of retiring flags." 

Eagle Scout's Projects Benefit Oakdale

Oakdale Cemetery is the beneficiary of the interest, generosity, and hard work of Wilmington Eagle Scout Tab Taylor, who has completed and continues work on numerous projects.




This year, Taylor built a flag retirement box made of IPE decking wood, which is the best wood for outdoor use, to hold the remains of flags after they are properly retired on Flag Day, every June 14, at Oakdale. He also enlisted the help of his Boy Scout Troop #232 to assist with the Flag Retirement Ceremony.

"Many thanks to Tab Taylor along with Boy Scout Troop #232," says Eric Kozen. "This is the final resting place and repository for flags that have been properly retired. What a fine job and craftsmanship."

Taylor became interested in Oakdale after he participated in a Friends of Oakdale tour and wanted to do more. He and his family were inspired to hold his eighth birthday party at Oakdale, which included a mini tour. While on the tour, Tab learned about Ruth Faison Shaw, the originator of finger-



painting, and began maintaining her grave site. For years, he purchased holiday decorations for Christmas and Easter through the Friends of Oakdale. He began and continues to clean the grave area today.

Taylor has also had a sign made to recognize and name the victims of the tragic Yellow Fever epidemic of 1862, whose remains reside mostly in unmarked graves. 

VOLUNTEERS WELCOMED!

If you would like to become more involved with the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc., we have lots of opportunities for you.



910-762-5682



Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc.

520 North 15th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Holiday Wreaths and Christmas Trees Available

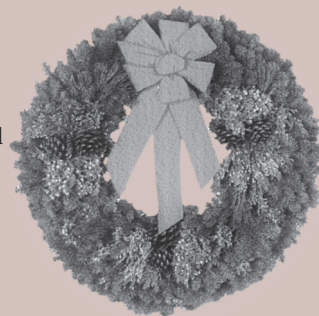
ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY NOVEMBER 27, 2017.



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 30" high, which will also have a red small bow tied at the top. The wreaths and trees will be placed on the gravesite of your loved ones during the second week of December.

Wreath, 25 inches \$35.00 each. (\$2.00 OFF EACH FOR MEMBERS)

Christmas Tree, 30 inches tall \$25.00 each. (\$2.00 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 _____

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.

**ORDERS MUST BE
PLACED BY
NOVEMBER 27, 2017.**

Make checks payable to:

**Friends
of Oakdale Cemetery**

520 N 15th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401