

# Inscriptions

VOLUME 14, NO. 1

SPRING 2018

*Buried at Oakdale*

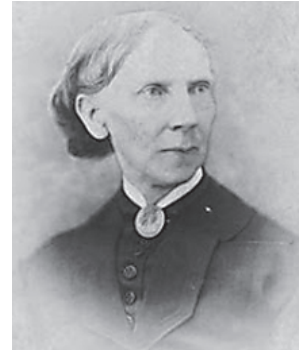
**“Our School Mother”  
Amy Morris Bradley  
1823-1904**

*by Mrs. Diane Cashman*

For a few years in the Nineteenth Century Amy Morris Bradley was a household name in the Boston area and other parts of New England, Costa Rica and finally Wilmington, North Carolina. When she was quoted and she often was or when her activities were described and they often were, all the identification she needed was “Miss Bradley”. Her notoriety was based on



her service to the Union Army as a nurse, matron on the transports during the Peninsula Campaign, and her leadership in US Sanitation Commission projects, establishing the first English school in Costa Rica, and her work on behalf of public education in Wilmington.



Amy Morris Bradley

She was extremely proud of her Connecticut Yankee ancestry. Her great grandfather's house is the headquarters of the Old New Haven Historical Society.

*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 Lilies

**March 21, 2018**

Easter is April 1, 2018. The Friends of Oakdale Cemetery are offering for sale full, fresh Easter lilies for the graves of loved ones. See details on insert sheet of this newsletter.

### Easter Sunday Funerary Art Tour

**Sunday, April 1, 2018, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Oakdale Cemetery Funerary Art Tour will be held on Easter Sunday. The tour will be led by architectural historian, Janet Seapker, who will explain the evolution of the rural cemetery and the opening of Oakdale Cemetery in 1855. Janet Seapker will focus on the symbolism of Victorian funerary art. \$10.00 for non-members; FREE for members.

### Horticultural Tour with Eric Kozen, Superintendent

**Saturday, April 21, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to Noon.**

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. \$10.00 for non-members; FREE for members.

### Summer Walking Tour Series

**Saturday, May 19, 2018, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

MUSIC and MAUSOLEUMS TOUR. Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local architectural historian, Ed Turberg. Mr. Turberg will lead you to those interesting mausoleums in Oakdale and tell the history of these prominent structures. You will also be delighted to experience a musician at some of the mausoleums providing some enjoyable melodies (bagpiper, harper, flutist and violinist). \$15.00 per person.

### Summer Walking Tour Series

**Saturday, June 21, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Historical walking tour of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery, 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.

**Flashlight Tours – Sat., July 21, 2018, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

**Sat., August 18, 2018, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historians, 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. \$15.00 per person and you must supply your own flashlight.

### Summer Walking Tour Series

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian, David Rice. Mr. Rice will be accompanied by the Superintendent Eric Kozen as they take you back to the time of the (Spanish) Flu Epidemic in 1918. One of the most deadly worldwide epidemics that occurred right as WWI was ending. \$10.00 for non-members and FREE to members.

### Summer Walking Tour Series

**Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian, Janet Davidson. Mrs. Davidson will take you on a journey through time and delight you with the history of World War I and some interesting tales of those who are interred at Oakdale Cemetery. \$10.00 for non-members and FREE to members.

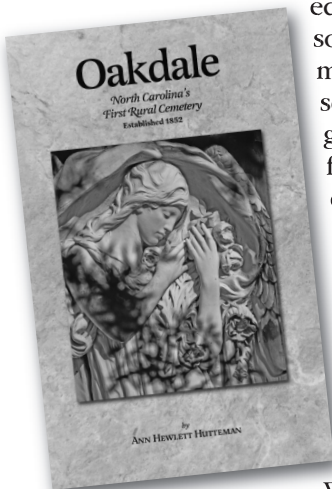
**ALL TOURS ARE CANCELLED IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.**

## Road Repairs

Last fall the Friends helped repair some of the roads in the cemetery. According to the Superintendent, some of the asphalt needed repairs in multiple areas where repairs to the water had occurred over the last few decades, root intrusion and typical erosion. While not every single location was repaired due to cost, this has made a great impact on improving our road surfaces. The white stripe which aids people from the main entrance to the bridge and Annex was also repainted. ❖

### NEW BOOKLET "Oakdale"

Many thanks to Ann Hewlett Hutteman who recently updated our historical booklet about Oakdale Cemetery. Ann served as President for the Friends of Oakdale from 2013 – 2015 and has a vast knowledge of Oakdale and its history. Along with Ann, several folks as well as local historians provided their input and work on this project and we are most grateful for their efforts. We hope that this publication will continue to serve as an



educational source for many visitors, school groups and families who come to visit Oakdale and wish to learn more about the history of Oakdale. These booklets will be for

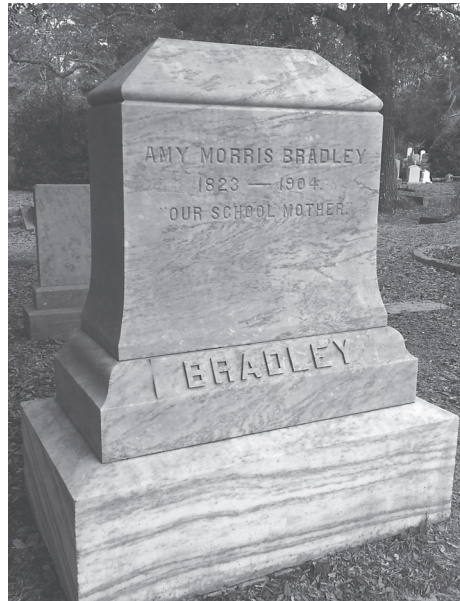
sale and made available in the cemetery office. ❖

## Amy Morris Bradley

*Continued from front page*

No shrinking violet, she cultivated important people from Gen. George Meade with whom she shared a house to Frederick Law Olmstead who directed her activities on the transports to Ralph Waldo Emerson who attended her retirement party.

When she came to Wilmington on a snowy day at the end of 1866, she received an icy welcome although members of the Kidder, Chadbourn, Martin and French families did support her efforts and within time the



community recognized that this tiny woman had the ability to move mountains and she did – her crowning achievement was the Tileston School. Many local citizens came to recognize that despite her Yankee notions Miss Bradley dispensed a superior education, an education that would benefit their children and so her school thrived.

After her retirement, everyone assumed she'd return North but Wilmington had won her heart and it was in the brown cottage on the Tileston School grounds where she died.

Her death merited front page headlines and a lengthy obituary. She lay in state beneath a floral pall

that read "Our School Mother" at Tileston, hundreds attended her funeral. Her nephew said that her hometown cemetery was no more – a total fabrication – so she was given a twelve person plot at Oakdale crowned with an impressive marker inscribed again with the quaint epitaph "Our School Mother". The valedictorian at New Hanover High School is awarded the Amy Bradley Medal\*.

Goethe once wrote "A teacher affects eternity. One never knows where his influence stops."

Perhaps some of Amy's influence may be found in the Capitol's Lincoln Memorial. Its architect Henry Bacon was one of Amy's "scholars" and he spent many an hour absorbing her tributes to the President she so revered.

\*NHHS former principal Robert Moore tells me that there is no official list of the honorees. I know that the late Miriam Miller Warshauer was one as was Mr. Charles Harrington's daughter, Nancy Stovall (Horton) and in more recent times Wade Tillery III, Andrew Boney, John Strawn and Lauren Collins.

Mrs. Diane Cashman won her fourth Clarendon Award for Headstrong, her long out of print biography of Amy Morris Bradley. ❖

[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

## Music and Mausoleums Tour in Oakdale Music Filled The Air

In September The Friends of Oakdale Cemetery hosted a Music and Mausoleums tour in Oakdale. We had over 100

people attend this first event of its kind. We were led into the cemetery by a bagpiper march to our first stop where we were greeted with the sweet sounds of a harp. Mr. Ed Turberg who is a noted local Architectural

Historian as well as the current Secretary for the Friends



Group, led the tour and spoke of the history and construction of these majestic mausoleums and a few family stories too. Along the way at each mausoleum, the tour was sweetened by period music from local musicians playing acoustic guitar, harp, flute and an acapella group. We are most thankful for all who put this wonderful tour together Cece Snow, Julie Rehder,

Ed Turberg, Cathy Halligan as well as the musicians Lynne Boney, Sallie Dunn, Susan Savia and Tom Tillman and the group Coastal Blend. ❖



## 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 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. ❖

## The Symbolic Lily Flower

The Easter Lily is one of the most widely used flowers at not only a funeral but also adorning gravestones. You will find many of them in Oakdale Cemetery upon the stones in many different forms. Most popular are on the cross in

a full bouquet showing their splendor. The Easter Lily symbolizes purity with its pure unblemished white color and can be extended to attaining spiritual qualities. The lily can also symbolize the Resurrection since it returns every year as a perennial flower in our gardens.



The lily is also widely used on monuments to show that ones life has been cut short. As we tend to flowers in our gardens, we nurture these flowering plants such as a lily to produce such a magnificent flower in the Spring to one day find the stem has been broken before it has reached its greatest potential. This intentional break of the flower stem can be seen on many monuments depicting the tragic loss of ones life that has been cut short. ❖



### 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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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Cece Lippit Snow  
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Ann Hutteman, *Past President*  
Sylvia Stoudenmire, *President*  
*Oakdale Cemetery Company & Friends*  
*Volunteer Coordinator*  
Eric Kozen, *Superintendent*  
*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
- Sponsor  \$500-\$999
- Patron  \$250-\$499
- Donor  \$100-\$249
- Family  \$40-\$99
- Individual  \$30
- Student  \$15

\_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE FIRST NAME(S) LAST NAME

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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.*