

# Inscriptions

VOLUME 8, NO. 1

SPRING 2012

## Captain J. H. K. Burgwin

By Tillman Cooley and Janet K. Seapker

*The Fall 2011 edition of *Inscriptions* contained an article about the Burgwin family reunion and the subsequent restoration project they undertook on Capt. J.H.K. Burgwin's obelisk. Here is some history about the man the monument memorializes.*

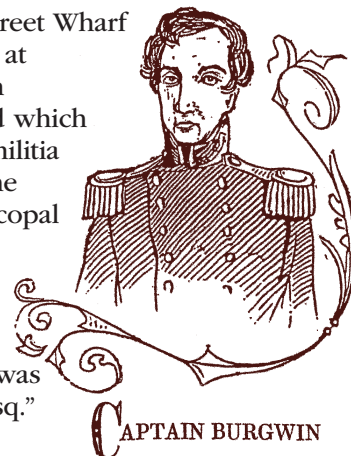
John Henry King Burgwin (July 1, 1810-February 7, 1847) was a grandson of John Burgwin, owner of the Burgwin-Wright House at Third and Market Streets and his country seat, The Hermitage. On his mother's side, he was a grandson of North Carolina Governor Abner Nash. An 1830 West Point graduate, he was a friend and colleague of Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston in the pre-Civil War U.S. Army. John spent his career exploring and protecting western states and territories. In 1847, during the Mexican War, his troops were sent from Santa Fe to quell a Mexican/Indian rebellion in Taos, which is now in New Mexico. He was mortally wounded while leading a contingent of his command against rebels fortified in the chapel at Taos Pueblo. Initially, he was buried at the army encampment in Taos, later named Fort Burgwin. Shortly afterward, his remains were removed to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, headquarters of Gen. Stephen Kearny's Army of the West (and where Capt. Burgwin reportedly had a lady friend) where they remained for a



little over a year. His disinterred body "was carried down the Mississippi to New Orleans, there shipped by vessel to Charleston." Transferred to the steamer, Governor Dudley, they arrived in Wilmington on May 19, 1848.

The *Wilmington Commercial*, May 20, 1848, reported that the remains "were received by Capt. Howard's troop on foot and the officers

of the Militia at the Market Street Wharf under a discharge of artillery at 7 o'clock A.M." There was an impressive procession formed which included a "band of music," militia officers as pall bearers and the Rev. Drane (of St. James Episcopal Church) and mourners. "The procession went up Dock Street to Front Street to the Bank of Cape Fear where a halt was made and a eulogy was given by Joshua G. Wright, Esq."



*Burgwin sketch from John Frost, Pictorial History of Mexico and the Mexican War (Philadelphia: Thomas, Cowperthwait and Co., 1849) page 461.*

*Continued on page 3*



## Calendar of Events



### Friends of Oakdale Board Meetings

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

### Sunday, March 4, 2012, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

#### Camellia Tour -

Bill Wilcox and Ed Powers, long time members of the Tidewater Camellia Club, and certified judges of the American Camellia Society will lead the tour. \$8.00 for non-members; free for members.

### Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 12:00 noon

#### Annual Meeting of the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery

Kenneth Sprunt Building, Oakdale Cemetery

### Saturday, March 24, 2012, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

#### Bird Watching Tour

Dr. James Parnell, noted ornithologist and retired UNC-W biology professor, will be the tour guide.

\$8.00 for non-members; free for members.

### Easter Lily Sale

Deadline for ordering lilies is Tuesday, March 27, 2012. Easter is April 8, 2012. Friends of Oakdale Cemetery is offering for sale full, fresh Easter lilies for the graves of loved ones. These lilies are beautiful substantial two-stemmed plants with foil and a bow. The lilies will be placed on the graves starting April 5, 2012 and will be removed when they wane. They are \$35.00 for non-members and \$33.00 for members. (See Easter Lily order blank on page 4 of the newsletter)

### Summer Walking Tours

These tours will begin on Saturday, May 19, 2012. They will be held on the third Saturday of each month May - October 10:00 to 12:00 noon. These 2012 tours will be on June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, and October 20. Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be lead by various local historians, each giving their own personal twist to Oakdale's history. \$8.00 for non-members and free for members.

**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

## NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

(Recorded between July 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011)

If you joined or renewed your membership during this time and we failed to list your name, please phone the office and we will correct the listing in the next issue of *Inscriptions*.

### **BENEFACTOR**

\$1,000–\$2,499

Dr. Ogden O. Allsbrook, Jr.  
Mr. Tom Kenan, III

Mr. and Mrs. George Rountree, III  
Ms. Pamela B. Vinson

### **SPONSOR**

\$500–\$999

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Ms. Ann Hewlett Hutteman

Mr. D. C. North

### **PATRON**

\$250–\$499

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Mrs. Teresa Lewis  
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Mr. Fred E. Little, Jr.  
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Mrs. Henry Longley  
Mr. Jack McCarley

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Ms. Elaine H. Neuwirth  
Mr. and Mrs. David Nimocks  
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Mr. Lewis T. Nunnelee, II  
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Mr. Rye Page  
Mrs. Walter L. Parsley  
Mrs. Edith D. Paulmann  
Mr. Robert N. Post  
Ms. Eleanor M. Price  
Mrs. Thomas M. Ramseur  
Orrell & Reiner  
Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Rozear  
Mrs. Richard S. Shreve  
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Mr. William R. Smith, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Stone  
Mr. Harry W. Stovall, III  
Ms. Elizabeth Taylor  
Mr. and Mrs. Victor G. Taylor, Jr.  
Mrs. Louise Thompson  
Mr. and Mrs. W.V. Venters, II  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Wells, III  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben White  
Mr. Lonnie B. Williams  
Dr. R. Bertram Williams, Jr.  
Mrs. Louise H. Wilson  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Woodbury  
Mrs. Thomas H. Wright, Jr.

### **FAMILY**

\$40–\$99

Ms. Mary Jo Barbaretta  
Mr. and Mrs. Pete Bieber  
Mrs. Imogene C. Biggs  
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Biggs  
Mrs. Ruby Bissette  
Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Black, Jr.  
Mrs. Elma Porter Bowden  
Ms. Nancy Tinga Braswell  
Mr. Randall Broadfoot  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brown  
Miss Valerie Burnie  
The Rev. and Mrs. Robert Cook  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Dunlea  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dunn  
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Erickson  
Mr. Chad Farriss  
Ms. Frances B. Frampton

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Mr. Terry Fulbright  
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Mrs. Gail Kermon  
Mrs. Elizabeth King  
Mr. Harry Latimer  
Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Lockfaw  
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Mr. and Mrs. P. Thomas Marshburn  
Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Mathews, Jr.  
Lt. Col. Gene McCarley, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. James T. Peebles  
Mr. Joel Pretlow, III  
Mr. and Mrs. Haskell S. Rhett, III

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\$40–\$99

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Mr. E.A. Shands  
Mr. and Mrs. Sam I. Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Symmes  
Mr. John T. Talbert, III

Mr. James H. Toms  
Mrs. Lyda T. Venters  
Mr. John C. Wessell, III  
Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Willard

### **INDIVIDUAL**

\$30

Ms. Sara Allen  
Mrs. Nellie Allen  
Ms. Grace Avery  
Ms. Emily W. Barefoot  
Mr. Kirk Binning  
Dr. Donald Bland  
Ms. Marie V. deRosset  
Mr. Daniel H. Earp, Jr.  
Mrs. Maurine Elebash  
Ms. Leslie Emerson  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fetner  
Miss Pauline Formyduval  
Mrs. Nancy Kennon Frazier  
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Mr. William David Holmes  
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Mrs. Rachel P. Turner  
Mr. Robert C. Wallen  
Ms. Helen R. Ward  
Ms. Feriba Weltin  
Mr. John Winecoff  
Ms. Julia S. Worth

### **STUDENT**

\$15

Mr. Zachary Rhineland  
Mrs. Loraine Oppenheimer

Master Robert Henry Ziegler

## BOARD MEMBERS UPDATE

Bill Wilcox, one of the original Friends of Oakdale Board Members, Leslie Emerson, Past President, and Helen Wolfe all retired from the Board after the January Board meeting. We wish them well and thank them for their many contributions to our organization.

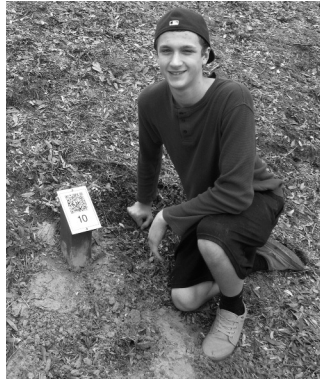
We welcome Melanie Beall Williams to our board. Jerry Woodell, Ellen Dunn Wells have been on the Friends' Board in the past and have graciously consented to serve once again.

Melanie Beall Williams is one of the new members of our board. She was born in Lenoir, NC, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. James Harper Beall, Jr. She graduated from high school at St. Mary's Junior College in Raleigh, NC and from college at UNC-Chapel Hill where she was a member of Chi Omega sorority. Melanie is married to Wilmington native R. Bertram Williams, III and is the mother of four children. Seven years ago, the couple lost their youngest, Harper Beall Williams, in a tragic car accident. He was a 19 year old freshman at UNC-Chapel Hill. Harper is buried in our beautiful cemetery and Melanie has taken a special interest in it.



## 150<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Yellow Fever Epidemic

As part of his Eagle Scout project in November 2011, Alec Hunnicutt and Troop #234, Boy Scouts of America, planted 2,000 daffodil bulbs in the Yellow Fever section of the cemetery. The planting was to replenish bulbs which have declined in number due to recent droughts. Alec also built and installed two planters at the site to be used for annual plantings. The Friends of Oakdale Cemetery funded this project as a part of the Sesquicentennial (150th year) Anniversary of the tragic epidemic which took place in the late summer and fall of 1862. With the mild winter this season, the bulbs may perhaps bloom much earlier than normal.



Alec's project did not stop there. He replaced all of the numbered signs at each of the designated self-guided tour locations with QR (Quick Response) Code signs.

## Captain J. H. K. Burgwin

*Continued from front page*

The remains were taken to the train depot for the rail trip to the Hermitage, the country seat of G.W.B. Burgwin, Esq., father of the deceased, where they were interred "to mingle with their native earth."

The graveyard at the Hermitage was not to be Captain Burgwin's final resting place. As the family fortunes declined during the Civil War, his family was concerned that they might lose their plantation. Thus, in 1872, his remains and his obelisk were moved once again to Oakdale Cemetery.

The 17 foot tall monument was carved in 1848 of marble by the firm of Bell and Packie of Baltimore, Maryland.

An unmarried sister, Sarah (Sallie) Priscilla Burgwin (1823-1904) purchased the Oakdale plot when it became apparent that much of the acreage of the Hermitage was going to be sold. The plot contains the remains of their parents, George and Maria Nash Burgwin, the latter who died in 1847, said to be of a broken heart over the death of her eldest son. Also interred here are Sallie, her sister, Ann Maria Burgwin Quince (1821-1899) and three others, probably the three siblings who died young. The Burgwin obelisk has a duplicate in Raleigh at the grave of John's



nephew, Confederate General George Burgwin Anderson, who was mortally wounded at Antietam in 1862.

Funds were contributed by the Burgwin family to restore and conserve the obelisk and the other monuments in the family plot in 2011. ♦

Visitors can scan these signs with their smart phones and tap into a historical article about each site on the cemetery

website. Funds of the Friends of Oakdale were provided to get the website capable to produce these codes and historical information. ♦



## Oakdale's Luminaries

More than 100 visitors attended a very successful event held in November 2011 at the cemetery. Over 600 luminaries were placed lining pathways from the cemetery's entrance to the Confederate Monument, the Murchison Angel, the Ellerbrock monument and Lizzie Turlington's obelisk. At each place, guides told important information about the site. Again, we have to thank the Boy Scouts, under the direction of



Clint North, for setting out the luminaries and picking them up after the program ended. Plans are being made to have another luminary event in the fall. ♦

## Lucas Plot

Another project, that was completed in 2011 and funded by the Friends, was the restoration of the Lucas Plot, which is on a prominent main road in the cemetery. A



large oak on the lot was removed after it had been in declining health for some time. It finally died as a result of the previous year's drought. Erosion caused much of the soil to wash

away over the years and the plot became an eye sore. A concrete wall was constructed surrounding the lot and low maintenance evergreens planted.

Colonel Eugene W. Van C. Lucas and his wife, Agnes Daniel Lucas are interred on the lot. She died in 1916. The Colonel became so despondent over her loss that he took his own life in New York City on March 8, 1921. An 1887 graduate of West Point, ranking third in his class, he served in the Spanish-American War and in 1916 was on active duty on the Mexican border. He was also a veteran of World War I. ♦

## Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc.

520 North 15th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

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Eric Kozen, *ex-officio*  
*Superintendent, Oakdale Cemetery Company*

*Inscriptions* is published periodically.  
Ann Hutteman and Tee Woodbury, *Editors*



## Order Your Easter Lilies NOW

**ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY  
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012**

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery are offering  
for sale full, fresh, Easter Lilies for graves of loved ones.

\$35 for non-members  
**\$33 for members of Friends of Oakdale Cemetery.**

These lilies are **beautiful, substantial two-stemmed** plants  
with foil and a bow.

(NOT THE SINGLE-STEMS THE DISCOUNT STORES SELL.)



**Easter  
is April 8.**

*The lilies will be placed at  
the graves starting April 5th  
and will be removed  
when they wane.*

**PLEASE MAIL THIS  
FORM WITH  
YOUR CHECK  
MADE PAYABLE TO:**

**Friends of  
Oakdale  
Cemetery, Inc.**

520 North Fifteenth St.  
Wilmington, NC 28401

**(910) 762-5682**

Please provide the name of the person(s) buried on the lot:

NAME OF DECEASED: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF DECEASED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF DECEASED: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF DECEASED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your name, address, phone number in case we need to contact you for further information.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_