

# Inscriptions

VOLUME 3, NO. 2

FALL 2007



## Gossip, Graves & Grapes

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery will host afternoon walking tours of the cemetery on Sunday, October 14, 2007. Dish the dirt with your Friends at *Gossip, Graves and Grapes*, an innovative program

in North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery. Offered between 3 and 6 PM

*Gossip, Graves and*

*Grapes* features tours and stories about intriguing, well-known and little-known internees who were employed by or directed the railroads. A lawn party with delicious delicacies and wine are part of the afternoon's offerings. The fee is \$35.00 and \$25.00 for members of Friends of Oakdale Cemetery.

*Gossip, Graves and Grapes'* guests will hear the life and death stories of some of the more fascinating internees, all who were related to railroad pursuits. Interpreters will gossip about: Governor Edward B. Dudley, Platt K. Dickinson, and Emma Bellamy Williamson Hendren and others-maybe even your relatives!

*Gossip, Graves and Grapes* has a limited capacity; advanced paid reservations are required. For reservations please phone the Oakdale Office at 910-762-5682. It will be held rain or shine and is one of the events held to celebrate the 152nd anniversary of the opening of the cemetery in 1855. ❖



## A Design Contest

Ann Conner, vice-president of the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, has announced a contest to design a memorial monument commemorating the victims of the 1862 Yellow Fever epidemic who are buried in Oakdale

Cemetery. Oakdale, the earliest rural cemetery in NC, has abundant funerary art, and is rich in cultural and historical heritage and natural resources. The outdoor monument will be erected in the cemetery and will accommodate the names of four hundred victims buried in the area.

The artist of the winning design will receive \$1,000. Proposals are due on October 1, 2007 and the winning design will be announced in December 2007. Interested parties may find details on the Oakdale web site, [oakdalecemetery.org](http://oakdalecemetery.org) or by picking up the specifications at the Oakdale office. ❖

## FALL CALENDAR

### HORSE-DRAWN WAGON RIDES:

Sunday, September 9 & September 16, 2007. Narrated tours every 30 minutes beginning at 3:00 PM, last tour at 5:30 PM; adults, \$10; children 12 and younger, \$8; members: adults, \$8; children 12 and younger, \$6.

### GOSSIP, GRAVES AND GRAPES:

Sunday, October 14, 2007, 3-6 PM. Tours feature stories about intriguing citizens related to the railroad industry buried within Oakdale, lawn party delicacies and wine. \$35.00; \$25.00 for members of Friends of Oakdale Cemetery. **THIS IS NOT YOUR MOTHER'S CEMETERY TOUR!** Reservations required; call 762-5682.

### DEADLINE FOR ORDERING CHRISTMAS GREENERY:

November 28, 2007. (See page 3 for particulars and order form)



Horse drawn wagon ride through Oakdale Cemetery. The Rev. Bob Cook said of the September non-hay ride, it... "was wonderful, and reminded Ann and me of how many things in this town we really want to do, but simply let slide. Oakdale is such a gift to us; thanks for the guide service."

## A LITTLE HISTORY

FEBRUARY 28, 1855

The Proprietors of the Wilmington Cemetery Company resolved that the grounds of this company be known by the name of "Oakdale Cemetery."

## Reclamation

One of the last grave markers damaged during the 2004 vandalism at Oakdale has been restored. The William Hooper monument has been the target of at least two incidents of vandalism. Literally



Angel in original condition.

a target in one instance, the head of the angel atop the obelisk has been missing for several years — shot off by an excellent, if insensitive, marksman.

The 2004 vandals added further injury when they pushed over the obelisk, causing the angel to collide with a low-setting marker, breaking off the delicate wings. Repair was out of the question, so we sought a sculptor. We selected Rougemont sculptor, Robert Mihaly (robertmihaly.com) who proved ready for the challenge. Robert, a self-trained craftsman has been sculpting limestone and marble for 20 years — virtually his entire adult life. Of the work, Mihaly noted, “Carving a work like the Hooper Angel is an extremely special experience for me. As I slowly chip and grind away at the marble I feel that I am part of an ancient and honorable activity that not only reached sublimity in Hellenistic Greece and the Italian Renaissance, yet truly dates into deep, mysterious prehistory. These works live on through so many generations. They are time capsules, with which I am so grateful to work.” And, the Friends and the Oakdale Cemetery Company, who shared the cost of reproducing the angel, are similarly grateful for Robert’s talents.

Had the angel’s head not been missing, it would not have been much of a challenge to carve a replacement angel. Local artist and photographer, John W. Golden (johnwgolden.com) fortunately had taken some photos of the monument before the decapitation. Mihaly used Golden’s photos to recreate the head.

The William Hooper memorialized by the monument is no kin to local Revolutionary War hero of the same name. Oakdale’s William Hooper was from New York and died in 1857 at age 23. His parents erected the striking obelisk topped with an angel in his memory. We know nothing more about the young man, including the identity of any descendants. That is the reason the Friends took on the reproduction of the angel. ❖



Carving in process.



Mihaly installing new angel.

## THANKS

*Contributions were received from the following:*

**Hester F. North** in memory of **Dr. Mary Kerr Sutton**  
**Jim and Roxanna Atwood** in honor of **Eric Kozen**

## Friends’ Board Member Profiles

### ELIZABETH BROWN KING

Elizabeth King, an eighth generation Wilmingtonian, was born on March 12, 1952. She has worked in Washington, DC for the US House of Representatives, taught mathematics in middle and high schools, and sold real estate in Wilmington. Currently she works part time as a sales representative for a gift ware company.

Elizabeth is a member of several civic organizations including the Ministering Circle and the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. She serves on the board of the Wrightsville Beach Museum, and the Cornelia Nixon Davis Health Care Center, as well as Friends of the Oakdale Cemetery.

She has a diverse combination of personal interests which include sports, reading, traveling and historic preservation. She places a high value on family and friendships. Her only child, John Norris, age 26, lives in Washington, DC. She is married to William M. King, Jr. also a native Wilmingtonian.

### LESLIE P. EMERSON

Leslie, who replaces Betsy Leonard on the Friends’ board of directors, was born and reared in Wilmington. In fact, except for her college years at St. Mary’s and Carolina, she’s never lived anywhere else. Her attachment to Oakdale Cemetery “goes way back.” Having spent her childhood years on North Fifteenth Street, Leslie fondly remembers Sunday afternoon walks with her family to the Pretlow plot in the cemetery and many a bicycle ride on the winding roads of Oakdale. She happily accepted the opportunity to join the board of the Friends and is eager to become involved in promoting, preserving and protecting Oakdale.

After thirteen years of working for Elizabeth Lowe Antiques, then seven years of managing the main office of New Hanover High School, Leslie is now in her sixth year at PPD as a research coordination manager (and loves being back downtown.) She is happiest when spending time with her sons, William and Clay, who also live in Wilmington. Leslie also volunteered with Lower Cape Fear Hospice and Lifecare Center and First Presbyterian Church. ❖

## Internal Audit

Ham Hicks, Bill Wilcox and Deese Thompson of the internal audit committee reported a clean audit and found the financial management of the corporate funds to be sound. ❖

## Holiday Wreaths and Poinsettias Available

### ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY NOVEMBER 28TH, 2007.

The Friends of Oakdale Cemetery offer Christmas wreaths and poinsettias. This year the wreaths will be identical to last year's — 26" across with a waterproof red bow and frosted pine cones — and will be placed on stands. Additionally, we offer beautiful live\* poinsettias in 7" pots. The wreaths and poinsettias will be placed on the gravesite of your loved ones beginning the week of December 17th.

(\*Are subject to freeze or frost.)

**PLEASE MARK  
THE ITEM OR ITEMS  
YOUR WISH TO ORDER.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Wreath, 26"  
\$ 35.00 each.  
(\$2.00 off each for members)

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettias, 7" pot  
\$15.00 each.  
(\$1.00 off each for members)

Provide the name of the person **BURIED** on the lot and check the appropriate selections.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ WREATH \_\_\_\_\_ POINSETTIA \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ WREATH \_\_\_\_\_ POINSETTIA \_\_\_\_\_

Record **YOUR** contact information should we need clarification on your order.

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_



**ORDERS MUST BE  
PLACED BY  
NOVEMBER 28, 2007.**

*Make checks payable to:*

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery  
520 N 15th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

**If you need assistance with your order, please call the cemetery office at 910-762-5682.**

## NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

(recorded between February and July 2007)

If you joined 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*.

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## Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Inc.

520 North 15th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

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*Inscriptions* is published periodically.  
Janet K. Seapker, *Editor*  
Joan Howard, *Proofreader/Editor*



## 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**

*Membership is for one year.*

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
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!* ☐

Friends of Oakdale Cemetery is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded to support the Cemetery. The mission of the Friends is to assist the Oakdale Cemetery Company in preserving and promoting the historical character of Oakdale. The Friends, achieve the mission by raising funds and seeking contributed services; by preparing educational and research materials emphasizing the historical, architectural and cultural importance of Oakdale Cemetery; and by providing tour guide services so that the cemetery is available for educational use by the public.