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“A Daunting Undertaking”

Project Begun to Address Incomplete Hollywood Records

Seldom have I ever received an e-mail like the one that came to the Hollywood office last July,” David Gilliam, Cemetery General Manager, recalls. I did not recognize the name of the sender but his message thrilled and intrigued me.”

I have recently returned to Richmond where I was born and raised. I have many fond memories of Hollywood where more than nineteen members of my family are buried. Please let me know how I can help out and “give back to such a wonderful place”.
Joseph R. Herbert

In the early fall, Herbert, Gilliam and Kelly Wilbanks, Friends Executive Director, met at Hollywood. It was the first of many meetings. As that first conversation developed, Herbert shared his interest in genealogy and explained that he had just completed a book outlining the history of the Herbert family for his daughter, Jennifer. Gilliam began to smile.

For many years, David Gilliam has wanted to begin a project to address gaps in the genealogical records of individuals interred in Hollywood. Historically, a “record” was written on a three by five card and included name, location and date of burial. “Sort of like a catalogue system in a library that only captures book name and author, shelf and row, and date of publication,” Gilliam smiled.

Today, more complete information is gathered about a deceased. It is recorded on the customary three by five card but then entered in the Cemetery’s genealogy data base and finally uploaded to Hollywood’s web site where it is available to families, researchers, etc.

As Joe Herbert has discovered, there are over approximately 62,000 individuals resting in Hollywood. Missing information of the most basic sort (date of birth, date of death, etc.) may approach 120,000 individual records. Gilliam has been waiting for the right time and right person to begin scaling this Mt. Everest.

Herbert is no stranger to numbers, analysis, planning, and information technology. He has served as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of a number of major public and privately held companies. Most of his working career has been

spent in Connecticut and New Jersey. Neither is Joe Herbert a stranger to Hollywood Cemetery. “On countless occasions when I was a boy,” he recalls, “my grandmother brought me and her other grandchildren to Hollywood for picnics.”

While interested in what Gilliam had to say, Herbert needed time to consider overall scale, feasibility, and how exactly he might test the water without over committing himself or the cemetery staff. In the fall of 2012, Herbert shared a plan with Gilliam and Wilbanks, and later with the Friends Board.

He described an approach whereby he would first enrich the web site information about the Cemetery’s forty-nine “notable” residents (U.S. Presidents, President of the CSA, Virginia Governors, Civil War Generals, U.S. Supreme Court Justices, business leaders, teachers, preachers, etc.). What the web site currently offers about many of these individuals is sketchy at best. “It could include more complete background and history about each person, including dates, accomplishments, and so forth,” Herbert explained. The finished product might even lend itself to publication.

A second goal for 2013 was also discussed. It would involve selecting one section of the cemetery and gathering missing information from monuments and markers in that section. Section 26 was mentioned because of its more manageable size (1800 interments). Although an approach to the task is not yet developed, it would include recruiting volunteers, visiting the actual grave sites, collecting data using special computer input forms, and finally, entering data by the cemetery office.

“It’s an enormous, daunting undertaking,” Herbert explained, “but when you break it down into manageable pieces, it can begin to happen. It goes without saying that I will need volunteer help from folks who see the same value in this project as I do. Filling some of these gaps will make Hollywood an even more historic cemetery than it already is.”

We are grateful to Joe Herbert for seeing the possibilities!

If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Kelly J. Wilbanks at kwilbanks@hollywoodcemetery.org.

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March 23, 2013

Volunteers Transform Historic Hollywood Roses

A cool March breeze blowing off the James River did not deter thirty-nine volunteers assembled at Hollywood Cemetery's collection of over one hundred roses. The event, sponsored by Friends of Hollywood, involved months of planning by local rosarian, Connie Hilker, owner of Hartwood Roses near Fredericksburg.



Hollywood roses are regarded as one of the finest collection of cemetery roses in the country. The collection contains many old and historic roses, the origins of which can be traced to England and Europe as long ago as the sixteen and seventeen hundreds. The actual ages of Hollywood roses vary. Some were planted relatively recently, others as long ago as a hundred years or more.

In the summer of last year, Friends of Hollywood Executive Director Kelly Wilbanks attended a meeting of the Richmond Rose Society. Wilbanks was seeking help for the cemetery's roses. Hilker recalls Wilbank's question to the group – "Would anyone here be interested in giving us some help with Hollywood's roses?" She also remembers her unhesitating response, "When can I start?"

"Helping was sort of a wide open question," recalls Wilbanks. "I wasn't even sure what help meant and had no idea where it might lead or what it might produce. It was not long before I found out."

One early observation confirmed that this wasn't Hilker's first rose project. "If help is needed," she said, "we need to find out what we are going to help and how. An inventory is step one." During the fall of 2012 and continuing into January and February, Hilker and Hollywood Grounds Supervisor, Donald Toney, located and identified every rose in the cemetery (134

total). Toney, an employee of the cemetery for over forty years, remarked, "We even found some roses I had never seen before."

Each rose was photographed, its type, growth habits, and exact condition noted (including any immediate attention required), and its location (section and lot) marked on a master map of the grounds. "I don't know if such an extensive and accurate cataloguing has ever occurred," Hilker reported later. "The task was enormous but exciting."

Hilker is no stranger to rare and historic roses. Hartwood Roses is not a nursery but an educational and display garden specializing in rare and unusual antique roses. Her collection tops eight hundred plants. Hilker describes herself as a "certified rosarian, master gardener, carpenter, remodeler, and a dreamer."

Working with the cemetery staff, Hilker selected March 23 as a rain or shine, Hollywood rose volunteer workday. News of the event spread quickly through Richmond's extensive network of rose enthusiasts. Tammie Smith covered the event with an article in the *Richmond Times Dispatch* which drew in additional participants.



After registration and organizational remarks, Hilker divided the volunteers into teams of two, three, and four with a mentor assigned to each. Each team was given a list of assigned roses, a location map, and instructions regarding the pruning to be done on each plant. In addition, teams received small squeeze bottles of 91% alcohol. Rose diseases can spread from plant to plant on the blades of pruners, loppers and saws. "Be sure to use your alcohol," Hilker reminded.

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Before teams dispersed, Hilker introduced a special guest volunteer, Stephen Scanniello. Because of Richmond family ties as well as his life-long passion for unusual and rare roses, Scanniello is no stranger to Hollywood Cemetery. He is best known as an approachable, hands-on gardener who transformed the Cranford Rose Garden of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden into one of the world's most acclaimed.

After leaving Cranford in 1998, Scanniello maintained and designed private gardens throughout the United States. Today, he serves as President of the Heritage Rose Foundation. Scanniello has authored a number of books on roses including the award winning classic, *A Year of Roses*, a must read for all rosarians.

Scanniello praised the day's volunteers for their interest and devotion to Hollywood. "It is a remarkable cemetery with an equally remarkable collection of old, very special roses. They will be much better for your work today." And by any measure, they were.



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The following impromptu remarks capture some of the energy of this first ever Volunteer Rose Day:

- "I know this was to be over at 1:00 p.m. Is it ok to stay longer?" [a dozen volunteers worked into the afternoon]
- "Connie Hilker is the most organized person I have ever met!"
- "When can we do this again?"
- "Today was really exceptional. Great fun."
- "You know. I'll go anywhere and do anything for a Sally Bell box lunch [served to all volunteers at morning's end]."
- "Thank you for asking us."

And thank you, Connie Hilker, and each of the volunteers who gave so generously of their time to tend a very needy and special rose collection. Of Hollywood's 134 roses, 120 were touched on March 23.

1. *Donald Toney, Hollywood Grounds Superintendent, and Connie Hilker of Hartwood Roses*
2. *Rose Day Volunteers*
3. *Each team of volunteers received its own red book of instructions*
4. *Stephen Scanniello of the Heritage Rose Foundation signing his classic A Year of the Rose*
5. *The pruned canes and dead wood from a single rose are making quite a pile*

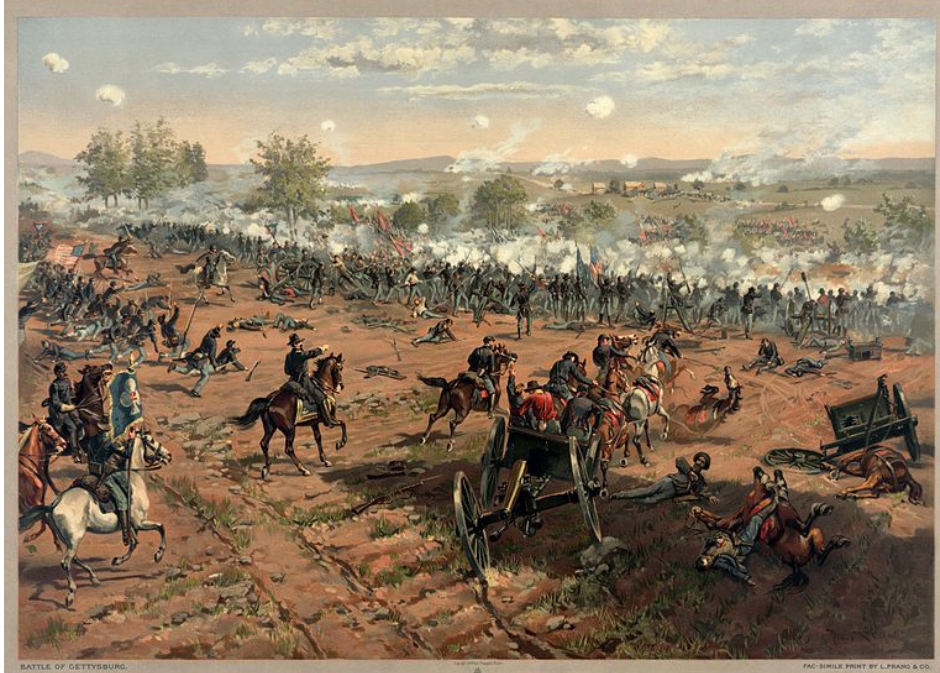
Hollywood Rose Day Volunteers March 23, 2013

Kathy Andrews	Catherine Moser
Rick Brown	Rebecca and Linda Nordan
Larry Buntin	Mary Norri
Anne Call	Lynn Pappas
Karen Day	Marina Parr
Lori Eddy	T. Tyler Potterfield
Barbara Fore	Joan Rowan
Pam Hawkins	Stephanie Rowan
Patti Heindl	Stephen Scanniello
Kim Heindl	Dean M. Siwec
Alesa Hemenway	Caroline Tisdal
Connie Hilker	Meg Turner
Dodi Kolb	Nanette and Richard Whitt
Grace LeRose	Bernadette & Darrell Williams
Jeanette and Fran McClendon	Charlotte & Gibson Worsham
Sherry and Al Minutolo	Lucimar Wortman

Gettysburg and Hollywood – An Historic Connection

In the unforgiving glare of a July sun, more than 12,000 men in gray stepped briskly across a mile of undulating Pennsylvania farmland that shimmered in the heat. Artillery shells hammered them from the outset. Then canister shot and rifled muskets shredded their ranks as they neared the ridge where Union regiments waited. By the time they reached a low stone wall sheltering northern infantry arrayed in firing lines up to four ranks deep, this lethal hail had inflicted an awful toll. It cut down nearly half of the attackers, who lay dead, wounded, or dying, without respect to rank.

Brigadier General Richard Brooke Garnett and his Virginia brigade had missed the first two days of Gettysburg. On July 3 he insisted in spite of fever and injury on riding with his men, conspicuous on horseback, across that plain filled with noise and smoke and death. Garnett nearly reached the high point of the charge, the Angle on Cemetery Ridge, waving his hat to



Thure de Thulstrup – L. Prang and Co. – Battle of Gettysburg – Restoration by Adam Cuerden

inspire his men, when a fatal bullet struck him in the head. As the ragged Confederate lines receded, they left a ghastly detritus of more than a thousand dead. Four times as many suffered wounds. Total deaths on both sides in the sprawling three-day battle approached 8,000. Before the acrid pall of gunpowder had completely dissipated, Union soldiers began the grim task of covering bodies that soon bloated in the summer heat.

That November, President Abraham Lincoln spoke at the consecration of the cemetery created there for the Union fallen. And he uttered words that the world may have little noted at the time but that come down to us with lucid, resonant power:

the Gettysburg Address. This year marks the 150th anniversary of those momentous events forever etched into our collective national memory.

Because they abandoned the field, the Confederates had to leave their dead behind. Union burial teams placed some corpses in individual graves but massed most of them anonymously in long trenches. Although individual headboards marked many of the Union dead, that was rarely the case for Confederates graves where, typically, crude signs only noted the number of soldiers interred at a given location.

By the end of the decade, many southerners were increasingly troubled by the knowledge that their soldiers lay in shallow, untended, often unmarked graves at Gettysburg, subject to the abuse of repeated spring plowing. Ladies' memorial associations began campaigns to exhume the remains and rebury them in southern cemeteries. In Virginia, the Hollywood Memorial Association of the Ladies of Richmond (HMA) enlisted in this effort. The HMA had already achieved much in a scant few years: beginning the Memorial Day tradition, tending Confederate graves already in Hollywood, and building the granite pyramid that towers over the Soldiers' Section of the cemetery. Indeed, the HMA, though entirely separate from the company that owned the cemetery, proved vital to its survival in the forlorn early years after the Civil War.

The HMA's grandest project was the effort to re-inter in Richmond the remains of all Confederate soldiers who fell at Gettysburg, not just Virginians. When the General Assembly appropriated a mere \$1,000 for this purpose, the HMA committed to raise the far larger sum necessary to complete the project. To scout out the task, it sent an emissary to Pennsylvania, Charles Dimmock, the Richmond engineer who had designed the ninety-foot pyramid memorializing Hollywood's Confederate dead.

On his return, Dimmock highly recommended Dr. Rufus Weaver to supervise the project. Weaver's father, a Gettysburg drayman, had been instrumental in the reburial of Union soldiers in the national cemetery there. Dr. Weaver had just finished medical school and begun practice, but he accepted a moral obligation to help, in part because he had inherited his father's extensive notes on the locations of Confederate graves. In fact, Dimmock said about the elder and the younger Weaver, "but for them little would now be known."

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While it raised money, the HMA authorized the doctor to begin. He personally oversaw the effort, which started in April 1872, often working from dawn to nightfall. He even went to Washington to consult official documents to supplement his father's painstakingly assembled records. In little more than a year, Weaver sent six shipments to Hollywood containing a total of 2,935 Confederate remains.

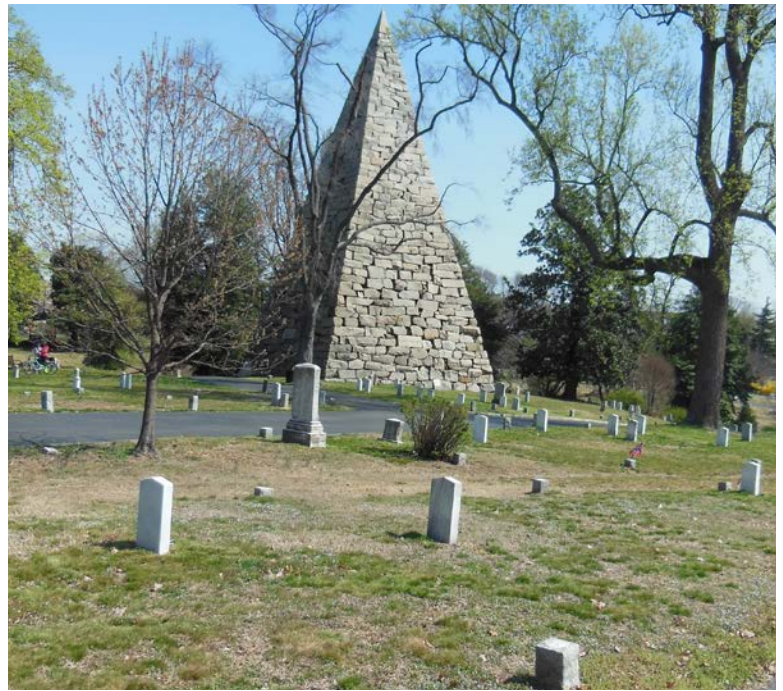
When Weaver's first cargo arrived by steamship at Rocketts Landing in June 1872, Richmond responded with somber, elaborate ceremony. Crowds lined the streets as boxes of remains, offloaded onto wagons, were draped in white and black and covered with Confederate banners and flowers. Policemen, a brass band, and city dignitaries headed the procession. Next came the 1st Virginia Regiment and the Richmond Howitzers, colors furled. At the rear walked four Confederate generals and a thousand veterans, followed by a mass of civilian carriages. Flags flew at half-mast; buildings along the route displayed mourning colors. Even the postmistress, Elizabeth Van Lew, the city's most celebrated Union spy during the war, closed her office for the occasion.

When the cortege reached Hollywood, the Rev. Moses Drury Hoge, pastor of Second Presbyterian Church and perhaps the most famous Confederate clergyman, conducted a funeral service in the area known thereafter as Gettysburg Hill. Among the remains were likely those of Richard Garnett. But no one really knows because no one had ever identified his body. It probably had been buried in haste with other unidentified Confederates at Gettysburg.

The sad epilog to this story dragged on for decades. Weaver



had expected to be paid in full for his efforts, as he had for his work in behalf of memorial associations in Charleston, Raleigh, and Savannah. But the HMA could not collect enough money, and then R. H. Maury & Co., the firm where it invested most



of its funds, collapsed in the financial panic of 1873. Weaver pressed for \$6,499 still owed him, to no avail. As writer John Peters concludes in his recent history of Hollywood, the HMA "simply walked away from its obligation to pay Weaver."

The dispute became dormant as the HMA itself waned over the next decade. By the 1880s, however, it revived and raised money for the Lee statue on Monument Avenue. News of this success traveled north, and Dr. Weaver renewed his campaign for payment. Some of the funds thought lost by the Maury firm in fact were recovered, and the General Assembly also appropriated \$3,000 for Weaver. Even so, he never received the full amount, and the discord left a bad residue of bitterness on all sides.

The checkered partnership between Weaver and the HMA nevertheless achieved its goal of re-interring at Hollywood nearly all Confederates killed at Gettysburg. Their work shapes the contours of the cemetery today. It would be tempting, but incorrect, to cloak their effort in sentimental terms that stress reconciliation of the once-warring sections. In fact, what motivated the re-interment movement was explicit Congressional action barring Confederate remains from national military cemeteries. Sectional animus on both sides would take generations, not years, to abate. Today, on the 150th anniversary of Gettysburg, such rancor thankfully agitates only a dwindling fringe, and we should devoutly hope that, in Lincoln's words, the reunited nation that arose from the Civil War "shall not perish from the face of the earth."

Contributed by Dr. Nelson D. Lankford, Vice President for Programs and Virginius Dabney Editor, Virginia Historical Society

The Hollywood Trefoil – A Past Revisited

Signs and symbols are carved in countless Hollywood monuments and markers. The significance and meaning of many these are apparent. Others may not be so easily understood and serve as mere clues to the past.

In 1999, Jane Garnett, leader of Girl Scout Troop 555 from Cloverdale, Virginia was visiting Richmond with her troop. The purpose of the trip from Roanoke was to permit the scouts to earn a Historic Richmond patch.

Various historic sites in Richmond were selected for visiting. A specific object or landmark at each site had to be identified. The girls showed certain impatience after visits to all the most well traveled sites. They wanted to learn something that they didn't know or hadn't studied. Then came the Maggie Walker House in Jackson Ward. The scouts were fascinated to learn the story of this remarkable pioneer in the history of Richmond and America.

On the last day, the troop visited Hollywood Cemetery. Garnett recalls that the black dog statue was the landmark to be located. Once accomplished, girls began walking, enjoying the beautiful natural surroundings as well as some of Hollywood's art in stone.

Garnett's daughter was admiring a carved angel when, quite by chance, she glimpsed a very familiar symbol. An image of the well recognized Girl Scout Trefoil had been carved on an adjacent monument. It marked the grave of Isabel Fuller Matthes, "daughter of Edward and Belle Pelouze Fuller, wife of A. J. Matthes, died March 11, 1925 at age 27 years."



The troop gathered excitedly around the monument. What an interesting discovery. Who was this person? What was her connection to the Girl Scouts? The Girl Scouts was a very small movement, only thirteen years old at the time of Matthes' death. Might she have known the Girl Scouts' founder, Juliette Gordon Low?

These questions nagged Jane Garnett after her return home. She was determined to get to the bottom of the Trefoil mystery. Through a distant Pelouze relative in Richmond, a bit of Pelouze family history, and a lucky hit on the Internet, Garnett made contact with Isabel Matthes' son, an only child then residing in Oregon. He had no memory of his mother who died when he was young, but he did provide Garnett with a copy of her obituary which revealed answers to some unanswered questions.

Matthes, the daughter of a Virginia state senator, was graduated from Vassar College in 1918. She began graduate studies at Columbia but did not conclude them. In Richmond, after completing her education, she was a teacher as well as active in social work, playground work, and the local Girl Scout movement. She was athletic and an

accomplished swimmer. At age 12, she received The Carnegie Medal for Bravery for saving the life of a drowning man.

Believing there must be more to learn, Garnett contacted Vassar's historian. In 1921, *The Roll Call*, Vassar's alumnae newsletter, reported that Isabel Matthes had taken a new job as the second Executive Director of the Richmond, Virginia Girl Scouts. She reported that she loved scouting and her new position. Sadly, she held it for only two months before contracting tuberculosis. Isabel died at 27 years of age. Later, her mother sought and received approval to place the Trefoil symbol on her daughter's monument in Hollywood.

Thanks to Jane Garnett and Troop 555, light now shines on an individual long forgotten and a Hollywood monument, like so many, that can bear the seed of an interesting story.

A sequel to Garnett's discovery is worthy of mention. Several years ago, several members of Richmond Girl Scout Troop 495 visited Hollywood. They had heard of the Trefoil monument and wished to see it for themselves. Their field trip visit was long, hot and unsuccessful. In the summer of 2011, a second attempt was made. After three hours, Scout Leader Beth Lang recalls, "We were really getting disillusioned." Rain was beginning to fall as the group happened upon Grounds Superintendent, Donald Toney. "I can't remember where it is," Toney

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**Welcome to our Girl Scout Self-Guided
Walking Tour of Hollywood Cemetery**
The estimated walking distance is 1.6 miles

We created this guide because we heard there was a Girl Scout grave at Hollywood Cemetery. After two trips to Hollywood Cemetery, we still could not find it and the people we asked also did not know where it was. After our second walk, as it was about to rain and we were hot and tired from walking we found "Donald" He did not know where the grave was, but knew his wife, Mabel, did AND he told us we could follow him in our car to find it.

After many twists and turns in the Cemetery and being guided to Isabel Matthes grave we agreed we needed to be able to clearly guide other Scouts here. Along the route to the Trefoil Grave there are so many interesting things to see and great history to hear about that we decided a kid-friendly guide was needed for our fellow Scouts.

There is a lot to see at Hollywood Cemetery, this guide contains what WE found interesting in a manageable walking distance.

Molly E. Humold *Jaime Scott*
Haelle Jagou *Sahana*
Sharanam

- Rules of Hollywood Cemetery**

 - This is an active Cemetery, please respect family members coming to visit loved ones
 - No artificial flowers are allowed
 - Tombstone Rubbings are not allowed
 - When walking stay close to edges of cemetery and out of the way of cars
If you get lost, head downhill – all roads headed downhill lead to Westvale Ave and the gate.

Author to Speak on Gettysburg and Hollywood



In this sesquicentennial year of one of the most storied battles of the American Civil War, Friends of Hollywood is pleased to be able to present Caroline E. Janney, Associate Professor of History at Purdue University.

Janney will speak at the Virginia Historical Society on **Wednesday, September 25th at 6:00 p.m.** The title of her presentation will be **Those Honored Dead: The Hollywood Memorial Association and the Re-interment of the Gettysburg**

Dead. The event will free to the public. It is hoped that many Friends of Hollywood will find it possible to attend.

Eighteen thousand confederate dead are interred in Hollywood, one of the largest numbers of fallen soldiers in any cemetery in America. Gettysburg contributed nine thousand of these. Their story and Hollywood's place in it, to be developed more fully in Dr. Janney's

remarks, have been summarized by Dr. Nelson Lankford elsewhere in this newsletter.

Carrie Janney, a native of the Shenandoah Valley, received her Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of Virginia. She is the author of essays about the Civil War that have appeared in numerous journals including *The Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of the Civil War Era*, *Civil War History*, and the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. She has written three books, the first of which was published in 2008 and entitled *Burying the Dead But Not the Past: Ladies' Memorial Association and the Lost Cause*. The third will be released next month. In addition to teaching, writing, and lecture engagements, Janney also serves as the co-editor of the University of North Carolina Press's Civil War America Series.

Waite Rawles, President and CEO of the Museum of the Confederacy, recently had the following to say. "The story of the ladies of the Hollywood Memorial Association is simply remarkable, and their work with the Confederate dead from Gettysburg tops the list of accomplishments. Nobody knows the story better than Carrie Janney. My favorite speech—and I've given it literally dozens of times to audiences across the country – comes straight from her book."

confessed. "But if anyone knows, it will be my wife, Mabel." And he was correct. It was only a matter of moments before the girls were soon standing in front of the illusive marker.

Later, the Troop decided that they wished to do something to enable future Girl Scout visitors to find the resting place of their scouting leader more easily. A map? A booklet? And what about some other points of interest in the cemetery? The Trefoil monument is quite a hike from the main gate of Hollywood, and there is much to see along the way.

In September, 2011, with help and encouragement from Scout Leader Lang, Scouts Kaelie Jager, Molly Hunold, Sahana Tharakan, and Jaime Scott published a pamphlet entitled the *Girl Scout Self-Guided Walking Tour of Hollywood Cemetery*. The Guide contains much interesting material, including a brief history of Hollywood, a hand drawn map (perhaps, the most challenging aspect of the project), interesting cemetery facts, and a chart of common tombstone symbols. The tour is 1.6 miles long, and passes twenty points of interest selected by girls (each explained in detail), including the Trefoil monument. The walking distance between and location of each point of interest are detailed. It's as easy as following the yellow brick road.

The Girl Scout Self-Guided Walking Tour of Hollywood Cemetery is believed to be the first Hollywood guide written specifically for young visitors. The Scouts intended above all that the pamphlet be "kid-friendly" as indeed it is. It is also adult-friendly and a worthy contribution to the numerous guide materials in the Cemetery's collection.

A copy of the walking tour guide can be found on the cemetery's web site -- www.hollywoodcemetery.org

Friends of Hollywood Cemetery
Invites you to our Second Annual
SUNDAY PICNIC at HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY

Sunday, May 5th, 2013
1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Performances by the
Oak Lane Band
and
Censations
from St. Catherine's School



Courtesy of Virginia Historical Society

Pack a picnic basket, bring a blanket and relax to sounds of great entertainment. Guided trolley car tours will be provided. Cupcakes from Pearl's Cupcake Shoppe, an ice cream truck from Cool Concessions and hotdogs from The Dog Wagon will be on site.



Please email Kelly Wilbanks at kwilbanks@hollywoodcemetery.org or call 648-8501 to make reservations.

Rain Date - Sunday, September 22nd at 1:00 P.M.

A Morning with the Mysterious Crenshaw Rose

On rose volunteer day, I left home with my camera, simply intending to take as many pictures of the event as possible. I soon realized that I was missing out on all the excitement.

Quite by chance, I found myself in a small working group consisting of Meg Turner, Anne Call, and Stephen Scanniello. Our short drive ended

at the Crenshaw plot, the location Hollywood's most famous historic rose. The team's assignment was to address years of neglect and to give this truly unusual rose a new lease on life.

Stephen Scanniello, President of the Heritage Rose Foundation, needs no further introduction here. An author, lecturer, and extraordinary rosarian, he is passionate about what he knows and anxious to learn what he doesn't. His field is antique (old) and historic roses. His excitement radiated at the prospect of overseeing the spring resurrection of the Cemetery's most notable rose.

Stephen explained to Meg and Anne exactly how they would approach their task. I listened carefully, snapping away the frames on my camera. "We will begin at the bottom of the bush, at the ground, and work up...slowly, ever so slowly. The dead or diseased canes come out first. Then crossing or rubbing canes. You will see a difference very quickly." And he was right.

As the three of them began cutting, sawing, and lopping, I felt the overwhelming urge (experienced by anyone who does roses) to enter the fray. I began trying to do what I could without the benefit of gloves or hand pruners. After an early and painful encounter with a thorn, I was off to Stephen's garden bag to equip myself properly. For a wannabe rosarian, the opportunity to observe, work with and learn from the real thing is not to be missed.



"Think about what you are cutting and what it will look like when you do. Take your time," Stephen advised. "Have in mind the shape you ultimately want to achieve, and the height. This is a cluster-flowered rose. In fact, it is the 'mother of all cluster-flowering roses.'" As we worked along, we began approaching the upper parts of the plant – twisted, protruding, and definitely growing unnaturally and top heavy to one side. An inexperienced pruner might have begun here – at the top, clipping, lopping, and producing instant gratification. But this day, it would be by the book. Gradually and systematically, the top of the tangled bush was thinned, and we could finally look over and through to see one another from all sides.

It is generally believed that the Crenshaw rose was planted in Hollywood in the mid-1800s. Despite extensive research and investigation in both Virginia and North Carolina, its exact origin in the Crenshaw family is a mystery. The botanic name for the Crenshaw rose is *Rosa moschata* (musk rose). Its white flowers grow in clusters (single and double blooms) from June until December and emit a delightful aroma, especially in the evening.



Courtesy of Hartwood Roses

History is clear that early settlers from England brought plants and cuttings to the new world, to Virginia, and the Carolinas. While the time and circumstances of its appearance in America are unknown, no doubt remains that *Rosa moschata* made the crossing. This particular rose was in cultivation as early as the sixteenth century and valued in English gardens.

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In Virginia, *Rosa moschata* may have been part of the colonial garden(s) of the Burwell family in Southside Virginia. The family dates to the early 1600's in Virginia. The exact origin of the rose in the Burwell family has not been established. We do know however of its existence in the family in the early 1800's from diary entries made at the time.

When Robert Armistead Burwell moved his young family from Chesterfield, Virginia to North Carolina in the 1830's, one of the rare roses must have been included in the move. When they arrived in Hillsborough, Robert's wife, Margaret Anna Robertson, opened the Hillsborough School for Girls in order to supplement Robert's salary as a minister. Margaret was a skilled gardener.

In the 1970's, one hundred fifty years later, a *Rosa moschata* was positively identified by members of the Heritage Rose Foundation growing on the old school grounds in Hillsborough. Later, following the Burwell trail, a musk rose was identified in Charlotte, a city to which the family had moved, in the Burwell family plot in Elmwood Cemetery where Robert and Margaret Anna are interred. Subsequent to these discoveries, the trained eyes of Foundation members saw the Crenshaw rose in an entirely new light. Crenshaw was in fact another splendid example of *Rosa moschata*.

Researchers and investigators had hoped to establish a genealogical connection between the Burwell and Crenshaw families but none appears to exist. If there is a relationship, it will most likely be through a third family common to both (e.g. Spotswood), a family which in some way may have also come in touch with our mysterious rose.

There are other isolated instances of *Rosa moschata* discoveries, in South Carolina and at Bremo Recess, Virginia,



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a short distance from Charlottesville. None of these can be linked to either North Carolina or Hollywood.

After two and a half hours of work, and great coaching from an enthusiastic and wonderfully patient mentor, the Crenshaw rose stands tall (as opposed to lop-sided, dense, and neglected), ready to perfume the Crenshaw lot with its magnificent and fragrant blooms.

Finally, I had to ask my fertilizer question. After all, what garden center doesn't extol the virtues of rose food and miscellaneous additives and "cides" to keep our plants prospering? "So what about fertilizer, Stephen?" I asked. He smiled. "Hollywood roses don't need fertilizer. This ground is full of it. And it's the best kind!"

PCT

1. *Rosa Moschata* depicted with its characteristic cluster bloom
2. *Rosa moschata* in bloom. Courtesy of Hartwood Roses
3. The Crenshaw Rose before pruning, with its impenetrable base and top heavy branches growing to the left
4. Left to Right: Stephen Scanniello and volunteers Peter Toms, Meg Turner, and Anne Call stand behind the finished product

**2012-2013
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Friends of Hollywood Cemetery**

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Edward M. Farley, IV – Treasurer

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Mary Lynn Bayliss, PhD
William R. Claiborne
Edward M. Farley, IV
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Kelly Jones Wilbanks, Executive Director

**2012-2013
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David L. Gilliam – Secretary and
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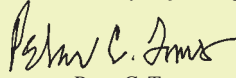
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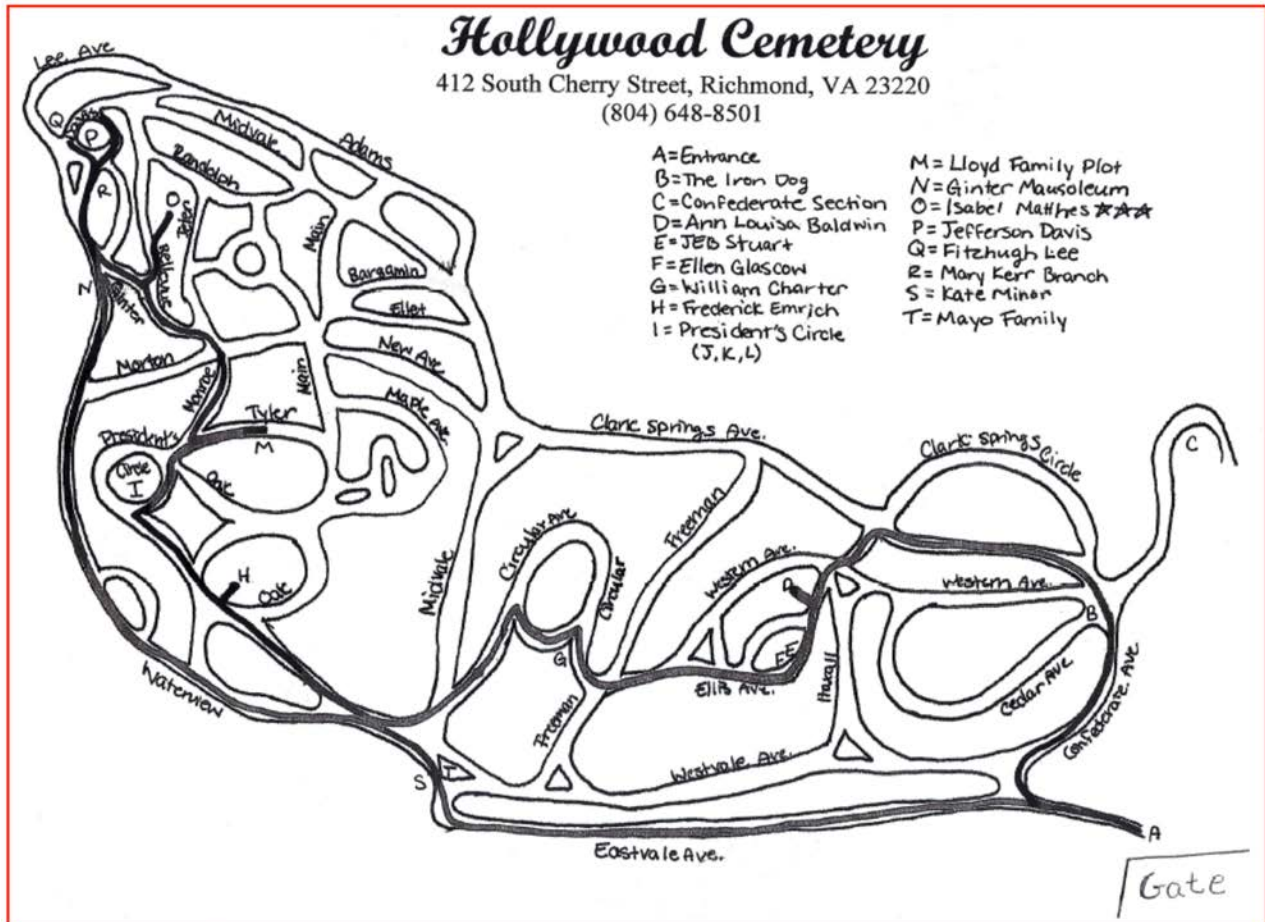
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A hand drawn map by Girl Scout Troop 495 member, Jaime Scott, for the "Girl Scout Self-Guided Walking Tour of Hollywood Cemetery." It provides the location (Point of Interest "O") of the Trefoil Monument.