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Cabell and Parsons Challenges Met

Friends Contributions Increased Threefold in 2011

Two generous challenge grants of \$100,000 each announced in late 2010 were successfully met in 2011, capping the most successful fund raising year for Friends of Hollywood to date. Friends, a 501(c)3 organization, has been the fundraising arm of Hollywood Cemetery since 2008.

Challenge grants from The Cabell Foundation and The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation are the largest single financial contributions ever received by Hollywood Cemetery. Each required a dollar-for-dollar match. For each challenge dollar, Friends of Hollywood was required to raise a dollar from new or existing sources. Each challenge stipulated that a significant portion of the match be satisfied by individual contributions. And, coincidentally, each grant notification was received within weeks of the arrival of Friends Director of Development, Kelly Jones Wilbanks.

"I was overjoyed at the news but was at the same time overcome by the prospect of having to raise two hundred thousand matching dollars during my first year on the job," she recalls. "Looking back now, it was one the most exciting and gratifying experiences that I have had."

In May 2011, Friends announced a successful completion of The Mary Morton Parsons challenge and in November 2011, The Cabell challenge from contributions received in 2010 and 2011. Total contributions to Friends from all sources in 2011 totaled \$358,819. A report of donors appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Since 2009, Friends has focused its attention on raising funds to perform monument and historic fence restoration and stabilization in the oldest portion of Hollywood – Presidents Circle and the four sections adjacent to it. The undertaking constitutes Phase 1 of a multi-phase project that will address the entire Cemetery over many years. The budget for Phase 1 is \$1,494,000. The estimated budget for all phases is \$5.0 to \$7.0 million.

Since Phase 1 began and through the end of 2011, a total of 435 monuments and 53 wrought iron fences have been stabilized and restored. Most notable of the fences is the Palmer Fence in Presidents Circle, due to be reinstalled in the first months of 2012. The Palmer Fence, an exceptional example of the ornamental "rinceau" style, has been recreated using the same long-discontinued techniques of mold making, casting, and finishing employed for the original fence over one hundred years ago.

As Hollywood begins its 163rd year as an operating cemetery, Friends hopes to cultivate numerous new friends – individuals, foundations, and corporations, to add to our growing list of interested and loyal supporters. Also in 2012, Phase 1 work (21 monuments and 6 iron fences remain) will be completed, and attention will be focused on Phase 2. This second phase will address the restoration and repair of \pm 1,400 monuments and 79 iron fences and take two to three years to complete, depending upon available funding.

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Intern Program Underway	Flower Power	Profile: Henry A. Wise	2011 Images	New Directors Elected	2011 Contributors

Intern Program Initiated at Hollywood

Robert Mosko of Hanover, Pennsylvania, restorer and conservator of historic monuments and statuary at Hollywood since 2010, has launched a first ever program at the Cemetery that may be unique in the entire area. In 2011, Mosko visited Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) to discuss his idea of launching a paid intern program for individuals interested in learning cemetery monument restoration and conservation. He envisioned an "on the job" experience that would involve continuing education credit for a master's level degree.

His idea struck an immediate chord with VCU's Katherine H. Hartwell, Recruitment Coordinator in the University's Career Center. Program specifics were settled upon in short order. In late summer, 2011, VCU and Mosko circulated information about the new program. Within a few weeks, eighteen applications were received. After screening and interviewing, three candidates were hired.

For William Oakes, Katherine Ragan, and Veronica Huynl, their first days on the job consisted of a cram course on monument restoration/stabilization techniques delivered by Robert Mosko, not only skilled at his trade but also at classroom lecturing. He smiles as he proudly reports, "they received in 1½ days of crash lecture what normally requires a week or longer. It was a baptism of fire, but they handled it. They were eager learners!"

Following the classroom, the apprentices spent three days in the Cemetery observing Mosko perform basic functions such as preparing monuments for needed stabilization and repair ("prep work"). Prep work might include clearing invasive and overgrown vegetation, addressing root wedging, assessing the condition of the monument and identifying work to be done, and excavation. "This is tedious work," Mosko emphasizes, "but it is critical work. No shortcuts!"

Stressing the importance of addressing vegetation issues, Intern William Oakes recalls that "one day, we actually discovered a monument completely hidden by ivy. We try to be very sensitive to vegetation," he continued. "There is vegetation that a family most likely intended and then there is the uninvited kind. It is the latter that we attempt to remove."



Interns and Board members gather around as Robert Mosko explains the nature and extent of restoration that will be required to protect one of Hollywood's most unusual monuments created in the Gothic Revival style and erected in 1851 by Matthew H. Nace.

Intern hours total approximately 35 per week – from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays, and from 8:00 a.m. until Noon on Fridays. Mosko, who typically attempts to spend every other week in the Cemetery, establishes a work schedule for the interns for those weeks when he is back in Pennsylvania.

Over the months, the interns have become an effective team. When Robert Mosko is away, they work unsupervised. Their differing skills and backgrounds are complementary and have made for a rewarding work experience.

Intern Katherine Ragan reports that Mosko is a good teacher. "It is clear that he wants to stretch us. And that's a good thing. So far, there have been no disasters. Robert has often said that if you are uncomfortable doing something, then don't do it. There's too much at stake. His is good advice."

"We have worked in a number of sections. Each has its own challenges." comments Intern Veronica Huynl. "The hardest has been Section L because of the steep slope. Everything is installed at an angle. And each monument has its own distinct problems."

The intern program is expected to last two years. "The work performed by the interns allows me to better utilize my time when I am in Richmond," remarks Mosko. "I was a one-man show when I began at Hollywood, and the going could be quite slow. With Katherine, Veronica and Will on board, we are able to move faster and to address more monuments."

Coincidentally, Hollywood is affording each of its interns with opportunities to explore special interests. Veronica, whose artistic background is metal working/ sculpting, is being exposed to the Cemetery's treasure trove of iron fences, stained glass windows, and special pins that fasten and brace. Katherine, recently with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, is now experiencing funerary art, quite different from canvases at VMFA. And Will, a history major, has developed a strong interest in historic Masonic and other symbols carved in many of the statues and monument of Hollywood.

The interns are enthusiastic and, furthermore, are delighted to share their enthusiasm with others. Hollywood friends and visitors should feel free to visit with these wonderful new Hollywood assets.

Intern Profiles

Veronica Huynl holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in Sculpture and minors in both Art History and Painting and Printmaking from Virginia Commonwealth University where she graduated in 2011. Veronica brings a very strong artistic and creative knowledge to her internship.

Veronica has a gift for color matching and a very strong interest in bronze and metal sculpture. She enjoys the engineering aspect of handling hardscape as well as working with various pigments. Veronica's eye for aesthetics combined with engineering skills bring a unique combination of talents to the work. William Oakes holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Virginia Commonwealth University where he graduated with honors in 2011. Will brings not only brawn but a strong, creative, approach for conducting research and fact finding. He enjoys working outdoors and the many challenges that it brings.

Will is constantly thinking about better ways to improve a method and/or technique and quickly adapts to adverse conditions in the field. He has a strong love for history. Everyday in Hollywood, a new door to the past opens for him.

Katherine Ragan is a graduate from Buffalo State College's Art Conservation M.A. (Master of Art) and C.A.S. (Conservation of Art Sciences) programs. Katherine comes to the project as a Graduate Intern in Sculpture and Decorative Arts Conservation from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and will use her internship experience to help complete her degree.

Katherine brings a very strong knowledge base of conservation and preservation techniques. She is leading the group in special assignments to repair, restore, and preserve stained glass windows in some of the Cemetery's private mausoleums.



From left to right: David Gilliam, Hollywood General Manager, Veronica Huynl, Intern, Robert Mosko, Restorer, Katherine Ragan, Intern, Bryce Powell, Hollywood Board member, and William Oakes, Intern.

Flower Power Comes to Hollywood

Fifty members of the James River Garden Club gathered at Hollywood's Palmer Chapel on a brisk fall morning for the Club's November 2011 meeting. The venue was selected during a visit to the Cemetery earlier in the year by Club President, Susan F. Robertson.

"We were very excited by the Club's decision to meet at Hollywood," David Gilliam, Hollywood General Manager remarked. "Hollywood is beautiful year round but especially in the fall."

During the meeting, David Gilliam shared some of the Cemetery's current activities and projects as well as future plans. He also thanked Club members for their interest in and support of the Cemetery. In 2010, the James River Garden Club published a new guide brochure to significant trees and rose bushes within the Cemetery. Hollywood is home to some of the oldest and most noteworthy trees in Richmond as well as some of its oldest and most beautiful roses.



Dr. Hunter (Mac) McGuire shares his distinctive Hollywood vignettes with Club members in the Palmer Chapel.

In addition to normal Club business, members were treated to a talk by Dr. Hunter (Mac) H. McGuire, Jr. As readers may recall from a "Profile" appearing in the last "Gateway Into History" newsletter, Mac McGuire is a walking encyclopedia of Hollywood history and lore. His talk was filled with delightful vignettes about some of Hollywood's

most interesting residents – saints, scoundrels, notables and not so notables, men and women. Mac frequently uses the word "characters" to describe his subjects.



Chamie Valentine (second from left) and former Hollywood Board member, Margaret Bemiss, third from left, engage Mac McGuire following his talk.

During 2012, the Club has generously offered to provide identification labels for the notable trees and roses (the oldest of Hollywood's historic roses is one that was first grown in England in 1540), which are highlighted in Hollywood's new tree and rose map.

Following the business meeting, David Gilliam conducted a well-attended tour of newly developed and restored Presidents Circle.

The James River Garden Club was founded in Richmond in March 1915. In 1920, it hosted a gathering of eight other clubs from around the state. Preliminary discussions led eventually to the formation of the Garden Club of Virginia. In 1929, the James River Garden Club suggested that some Virginia residents might wish to open their homes and gardens for a springtime pilgrimage. Proceeds from a small admission fee could be used for restoration of the grounds of Kenmore in Fredericksburg. The first event was a success, and thus, Historic Garden Week in Virginia was born.

"Hollywood is a Richmond treasure. We hope that other groups like the James River Garden Club will consider Hollywood as a possible setting for gatherings," according to Kelly Jones Wilbanks, Friends Director of Development. Inquiries may be addressed to Kelly Wilbanks at kwilbanks@hollywoodcemetery.org or David Gilliam at the Hollywood Office – 648-8501. (see top page 5)



From left to right: Margaret Reynolds, James River Garden Club First Vice-President, Susan Robertson, President, and Evelina (Evie) Scott (Immediate Past President). Margaret Reynolds holds a copy of the Club's notable tree and rose guide.



David Gilliam, Hollywood General Manager, explains to Club members the history of Presidents Circle and its recent development and restoration.

Hollywood's Crown Jewel Restored

A fter years of planning and nearly twelve months of construction, Presidents Circle has regained its place as the crown jewel of Hollywood. A \$1,000,000 development effort was completed in 2011 and included removal of abandoned roadways and installation of meandering cobblestone walkways, granite coping, and extensive landscaping. Completion of the project represented a major milestone in the Cemetery's long-range plan and overall capital budgeting process.

Lining the new walkways are 905 above ground, for sale cremation niches. "There is no more beautiful or historic venue in the entirety of Hollywood Cemetery," remarks David Gilliam, Hollywood General Manager. "The Presidents Circle niches bring additional diversity to Hollywood's current cremation interment options that also include a variety of lots, the Palmer Chapel overlooking the James River, and Idlewood cremation wall."

Contrary to a current misconception, Hollywood Cemetery is by no means full. Inquiries may be addressed to the Cemetery Office at 648-8501.



A Quintessential Virginian

A mong the permanent residents of Hollywood Cemetery, none more belligerent or quarrelsome elbowed his way into the crowded Pantheon of nineteenth-century Virginia politics than Henry Alexander Wise. Long hair and gaunt, angular features gave the Accomack County native the look of a dangerous man. That he was. He suffered no fools and, indeed, fought a duel with an opponent for a seat in Congress.

Impetuous by nature, he defended southern rights against the least slight, real or imagined. As governor in 1859, he rushed to Harpers Ferry to interrogate the captive John Brown, who had tried to spark a slave uprising. Wise publicly acknowledged Brown, while loathing the prisoner's cause. Ralph Waldo Emerson called the affinity Wise expressed for Brown's character "a bond of union between two enemies." And Wise gave Brown the one thing he craved: martyrdom on the gallows.

Sixteen months later Wise dominated the Virginia convention called to address the constitutional crisis triggered when the Deep South seceded from the Union. A figure of mesmeric intensity, Wise captivated the assembly. Not for him the silken, cloying rhetoric of southern gentility. He gesticulated wildly as he spoke and, dribbling tobacco juice down the front of his linen shirt, breathed fire and damnation to his opponents. The radicals had found their champion.

At a critical point in the debates, he pulled a revolver from his coat and theatrically placed it on the podium before him, a symbol of menace and of the extralegal military force he



Henry A. Wise
Member, U. S. Congress
and Governor of Virginia
1806 – 1876
Courtesy: Library of Congress

summoned in the name of revolution. "His features were as sharp and rigid as bronze," reported an eyewitness. "His hair stood off from his head, as if charged with electricity." On the fateful April 17th of 1861, Wise demanded a vote and led his fellow delegates in passing the ordinance of secession.

Henry Wise's importance for Hollywood, however, came before any of these tumultuous events in the breakup of the nation.

James Monroe, the fifth president and the fourth from Virginia, had died in New York City at the home of his daughter, Marie Gouverneur. He was buried in the city's Marble Cemetery. Twenty-seven years later, in 1858, citizens of that metropolis proposed to erect a monument to him. But first they prudently wrote the governor of Virginia to ask if

any plans were afoot for a memorial in the Old Dominion. Because the answer was no, the letter smote a chagrined Henry Wise like a thunderbolt. He immediately begged the General Assembly to act, lest the honor of Virginia be sullied.

Earlier, he had supported preserving Mount Vernon as a national shrine and proudly presided over the dedication of Thomas Crawford's massive equestrian Washington on Capitol Square in Richmond. But Virginia failed to convince the family that the proper place for Washington's remains was beneath that statue. Wise hoped to redeem the failure with Monroe.

His reaction to the letter from New York set in motion a chain of events that led to one of the great set-piece civic dramas of nineteenth-century Virginia. This solemn yet exuberant public expression of patriotic devotion returned the mortal remains of James Monroe to the state and ensured the future popularity of Hollywood Cemetery. It started badly. The cemetery president, Thomas Ellis, initially misquoted the price of the plot to the state. Governor Wise uncharacteristically agreed to compromise after he learned the true price, and honor was satisfied.

After extracting the consent of the Monroe family—warily given, for they wished to avoid ostentation—Wise sent his son at the head of a large delegation to witness the disinterment. Thousands of New Yorkers filed past the new mahogany coffin, adorned with silver handles and thirteen stars, as it lay in the Church of the Annunciation on West 14th Street. With cannons booming and



James Monroe
Founding Father and
Fifth President of the United States
1758-1831

church bells tolling, militiamen escorted the coffin, borne in a glass-covered hearse topped with black and white feathers, through the streets to city hall. New York's smartly dressed 7th Regiment and the Virginia dignitaries boarded the steamship *Jamestown* to accompany the coffin to Richmond. Following an afternoon of speechifying fortified by copious mint juleps in Norfolk, where the Jamestown stopped on July the Fourth, the ship continued upriver to the capital.

In stifling heat, soldiers of the Richmond Grays relieved the New York 7th at Rocketts Landing, and a lengthy procession of notables and ordinary citizens snaked through the city streets to Hollywood. The eight black-clad pallbearers following the hearse on horseback included two of Hollywood's founders, Thomas Ellis and William Haxall.

Wise gave a eulogy as cemetery workers lowered Monroe's coffin into a new grave in what would become Presidents Circle. After the burial, the governor

also spoke at florid length when the Richmond militia entertained their New York counterparts at a banquet. The event took place at Gallego's, then the largest flour mill in the world and the only indoor space in town big enough for such a gargantuan sit-down dinner. Newspapers regaled their readers with reports of an astonishing number of toasts, in which the soldiers pledged fraternal solidarity and devotion to the Union that bound them. To the dismay of some Richmond papers, the populist Wise also seized the opportunity to praise the common man at the expense of his betters. "I thank God," he taunted Virginia's elite, "that the old colonial aristocracy of Virginia, which despised mechanical and manual labor, is nearly run out."

It was also Henry Wise who chose the design of architect Albert Lybrock for a High Victorian Gothic tomb for Monroe. Its black iron grillwork still graces the center of newly restored Presidents Circle today. (Removal of Monroe's remains to Hollywood emboldened Wise to try to dig up Jefferson and Madison and replant them there too, but in that scheme he failed.)

Less than three years after proclaiming Virginia's undying devotion to the Union, Wise nailed his colors to the Confederate standard and never looked back. He served as a brigadier general with erratic energy, competent but not brilliant. Present at the defeat of his cause at Appomattox Court House, he offered a pitiful sight, a stooped, sickly figure, legs wrapped in gray blankets. Defeat did not crush him, though. His defiance and eccentric spirit made Wise, in the words of one historian, "the quint-essential Virginian, widely loved and deeply hated."

He was the first governor to be buried at Hollywood. His remains rest in a modest grave in the Wise family plot on the fringes of Presidents Circle. It should please the sardonic ghost of the cantankerous, vitriolic, but always entertaining Henry Wise that against a tree beside his grave grows one of Richmond's most luxuriant specimens of *Toxicodendron radicans*—poison ivy.

Contributed by Nelson D. Lankford Member, Hollywood Cemetery Board of Directors



The Victorian Gothic, cast iron tomb of James Monroe, sometimes referred to as the "birdcage," was erected in Hollywood Cemetery in 1859.

Courtesy: Library of Congress.

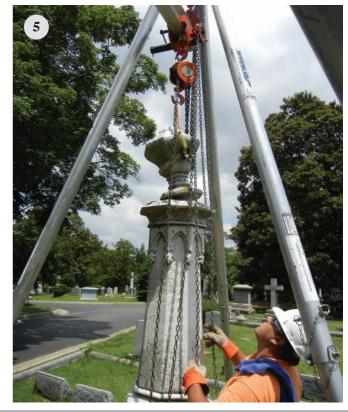
Two Steps Forward...



- **4.** Once minor excavation has occurred, a small, single cylinder hydraulic jack can be placed under and used to lift and level a threeton obelisk. As the monument is effortlessly raised, crushed stone is inserted underneath.
- **5.** Robert Mosko erected a gantry crane in order to lift this three-hundred-pound granite capital (carved in the style of an urn) back to its place atop pedestal and base.



- **1.** A first iron cast of the delicate curved corner portion of the Palmer Fence in Presidents Circle is being studied for fit and shape by Brian Weaver of Weaver Glass and Ironworks, Hanover, Pennsylvania. The actual fabrication of the mold and casting of the missing sections of fence will occur at OK Foundry Company, Inc., Richmond, utilizing long-abandoned techniques.
- **2.** Intern Veronica Huynl observes as a severely tilted monument is being lowered back into place on a newly prepared foundation of crushed stone.
- **3.** The tedious process of resetting original cobblestone embankments is nearly completed. When final embankments are restored in 2012, attention will be turned to stabilizing and replacing granite curbing.



And One Step Backwards.



6,7, and 8. Hollywood was not spared the severe winds and ground soaking rains of Hurricane Irene. Nature took a century or more to bring these specimen trees to monarch status in Hollywood but less than a day to destroy them.

Four New Directors Join Board with Perspectives and Talent for the Future

Four new, highly qualified and talented directors were elected to the Hollywood Cemetery Company Board of Directors in 2011 – Mary Lynn Bayliss, Edward (Ted) M. Farley, IV, Elizabeth Cabell Jennings, and Evelina (Evie) M. Scott. Mr. Farley was also elected to serve on the Board of Friends of Hollywood.

Lynn Bayliss, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, earned her doctorate from the University of Tennessee. She has been writing and lecturing about figures in Virginia history, particularly Richmond history, for over twenty years. She is currently writing a biography of Major and Mrs. James H. Dooley, two of Richmond's most notable philanthropists. Dr. Bayliss resides in Manakin-Sabot.

Elizabeth Jennings has been associated with Thompson, Siegel and Walmsley of Richmond for twenty-six years. She is a Portfolio Manager and Director of High Net Worth and Regional Institutional clients for the firm. Elizabeth served as Chair of the Board of Governors of St. Catherine's School, Richmond from 2006 to 2011 and currently serves on the boards of Westminster Canterbury Foundation, The Foundation for William and Mary, and Virginia Theological Seminary.

Ted Farley is principal of CNA Management Company LC, a small private investment fund in Richmond. Ted is a graduate of St. Christopher's School and North Carolina State University. He is an active Board member of St. Andrew's School and The Museum of the Confederacy.

Evie Scott has been a self-employed architect since 1980. She is an avid gardener on an old family farm in Goochland County, and is currently a board member of Partnership for Smarter Growth. Evie grew up in Richmond, graduated from Vassar College and received her Masters in Architecture from the University of Virginia.

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2011-2012 Officers and Directors Friends of Hollywood Cemetery

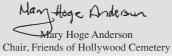
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We are indeed grateful to the following donors for their generous support of Friends in 2011. You have enabled us to meet two challenge grants and to continue vital monument and fence restoration. Thank you for helping us to preserve Hollywood Cemetery for generations to come.



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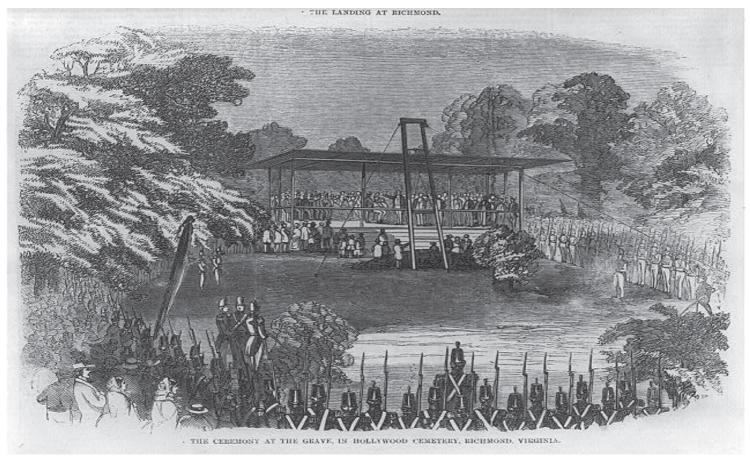
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A wood engraving depicting the reinterment of President James Monroe in Hollywood Cemetery on July 4, 1858 as the 7th Regiment of the New York National Guard stands in formation. *Courtesy: Library of Congress*