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Cabell and Parsons

Challenge Grants Raise the Bar for Friends

In November 2010, Friends of Hollywood was notified of two outstanding challenge matching grants of \$100,000 each, one from The Robert G. Cabell III and Maude Morgan Foundation and the other from The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation. The Cabell and Parsons Foundations, both of Richmond, have been long recognized for their extraordinary philanthropy and support of local and statewide causes and projects.

If the Friends of Hollywood is able to match these challenge grants dollar for dollar, the prospect exists of deploying a total of \$400,000 to further their restoration and renovation activities in Presidents Circle, the original and most historic section of Hollywood Cemetery.

"These two grants are the most significant in the Cemetery's one hundred sixty-two-year history," according to the Cemetery General Manager, David Gilliam. "They can take us to the next level in our fundraising efforts on behalf of Hollywood and our restoration work."

Payment of the Cabell and Parsons grants is contingent upon Friends raising **a new dollar** for each grant dollar, a total of \$200,000. New funds may come from lot owners, individuals, corporations, foundations, and state/federal agencies or organizations. Friends has twelve months in which to meet the terms of the challenges. "We are thrilled by the generous response to date," states Kelly Wilbanks, Friends Director of Development. "Not only are we seeking financial support to achieve our challenge goals but also new and renewed interest in this remarkable Richmond and national landmark."

Friends of Hollywood was organized and received its tax exempt status in 2007. In 2008, it became the first adjunct of the Cemetery fully dedicated to fundraising. Its stated purpose is to

keep Hollywood a relevant and vital part of the community and Commonwealth through conservation, preservation, education and outreach.

For the past several years, Friends has focused its efforts wholly on raising funds for the restoration and renovation of broken and damaged monuments, statues, and ornamental fences in Presidents Circle, comprised of the Mount, burial site of James Monroe and John Tyler, and sections contiguous to it. "It is the most visited section of Hollywood, an historic treasure," comments Mary Hoge Anderson, Friends Chairperson. "We wished to begin our restoration work where it might have a significant impact upon the future of the Cemetery as well as its visitors. After much research, the Mount and the sections surrounding it were chosen."

"There are only two other cemeteries in the country that, like Hollywood, are resting places for two Presidents of the United States," Gilliam states proudly. "One is Arlington National Cemetery (William Howard Taft and John F. Kennedy) and the other, United First Parish Church (Unitarian) in Quincy, MA (John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams).

With contributions to Friends, the Cemetery was able to begin active restoration of statuary and fencing in Presidents Circle in 2010. During the year, 192 monuments were stabilized, repaired/restored. In addition, 17 iron fences were also re-welded and repaired. In 2011, conservation and restoration will continue. Plans include reconstruction of the Cemetery's most beautiful iron fence surrounding the Palmer family plot as well as restoration of 265 markers, monuments and statues.

"Time can only make matters worse," David Gilliam shares. "Without attention very soon, some of Hollywood's most exceptional works will be beyond repair and lost permanently to future generations."

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110-Year-Old Chapel Stabilized



A major project to stabilize the walls of Hollywood's historic, hundred-and-ten-year-old Chapel was successfully completed in December 2010. Constructed in two phases, the Chapel (now serving as the Cemetery office) is one of Hollywood's most outstanding architectural features.

A two-story tower in the Gothic Revival style was completed in 1871. It served as a gate house and office when the entrance to Hollywood was located on Cherry Street. Phase two involved the addition of a third story to the tower and construction of an adjoining chapel/mortuary building. Work on this phase was completed ca. 1898. Plans for phase two were prepared by the well-known Virginia architect, Marion Johnson Dimmock.

Granite from James River quarries was the primary building material for both the Chapel and tower. Over the years, these heavy blocks have exerted significant downward pressure on their foundations and the soil strata beneath. Nowhere was this settling force and movement more obvious than in the southwest and southern walls of the Chapel. In the location where the southern wall adjoins the tower, a gap of nearly one-and-a-half to two inches had formed. In other locations, movement approached four inches.

Extensive geotechnical, structural and architectural field studies were undertaken at the request of the Board of Directors

in late 2009 and early 2010 by the engineering firm, S&ME, Inc. – Richmond Office, in cooperation with structural engineers Fox & Associates, P.C. and Cornerstone Architects, both of Richmond.

After digging a number of test pits, performing borings, and analyzing findings, S&ME reported that the southwestern and southern walls were being compromised by deteriorating and loosely compacted sub-foundation materials (clay, sand, small gravel) as well as moderate amounts of soil moisture.

It was recommended that the condition be addressed without delay. The remedial technique would involve pit underpinning as opposed to bracing or straightening of walls. The problem would be mainly addressed under ground rather than above ground. Pits would be dug straight down alongside the exterior walls, in some places as deep as ten to twelve feet below grade, and then at right angles under the walls. They then would be filled with reinforced concrete.

"How in the world do you do that?" asked one board member. "The old fashioned way," responded Jesse Darden, S&ME geotechnical engineer, "with shovels, buckets, and a great deal of care." Pit underpinning is a centuries old, reliable and highly successful technique, but despite modern-day building technology, it is still very much a manual process.

The project would also require roof repairs, gap/joint pointing, the disassembly and rebuilding of a major stone support buttress and extensive interior repair and painting.

The general contractor chosen for the project was RVA Construction of Richmond. Dean Van Arsdale, RVA partner, explained that his first assignment was to challenge the S&ME/Fox conclusions. "Was there another way, a less expensive yet reliable way of doing the job?"

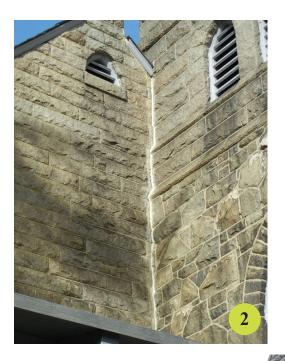
Several foundation specialty firms were consulted. "We simply weren't 100% comfortable with the alternative approaches," Van Arsdale explained. "After much investigation and thought, we concluded that pit underpinning was the way to go."

The actual underpinning work was subbed by RVA to Berkel & Company Contractors from Silver Spring, Md. Berkel created the design plan for how the project would be executed. It involved the digging of ten separate pits along the foundation, each approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide.

The depth of each pit was determined as digging proceeded. In some cases, a depth of 12-13 feet below grade was required in order to reach firm soil strata. Each pit excavation extended under the brick foundation and granite walls – from front to back, a distance of 6-7 feet. Digging was sequenced to ensure the greatest degree of foundation/wall stability and worker safety.

"I was surprised by how stable the old brick foundations were," Van Arsdale remarked. "Normally old brick deteriorate under ground, particularly in moist soil." Regardless, each pit worker was required to wear a safety harness attached by ropes to a hoist at the surface.

"We are delighted to have this project completed," says David Gilliam, General Manager. "Preserving the building and rededicating it one day to its original use as a chapel and meeting place have always been a dream of mine."



1. An early image (ca. 1900) of the re-designed tower and newly constructed Hollywood Chapel. Courtesy of the Library of Virginia

2. The visible separation of the south wall of the Chapel from the west wall of the tower has now been repaired.

3. A buttress supporting the west wall of the Chapel had shifted by four or more inches. It was dismantled stone by stone and re-assembled once underpinning was completed.

4. Workmen installing a steel I-beam ("dead man") to stabilize the southwest corner of the Chapel prior to excavation.

5. A workman standing 12 feet below grade in a safety harness measures in one of ten pits. A five gallon bucket used for removing excavated material is visible suspended from a rope. The original brick foundation of the Chapel appears in the upper left and a yellow ventilation pipe in the lower left.

6. A pit recently filled with reinforced concrete (approximately 4 cubic yards). Several inches of space between the top of concrete and the base of the foundation have been filled with packed dry grout – a substance that does not shrink when it sets.



A Second Life for Presidents Circle

Ground was broken in September 2010 for one of the most significant projects contemplated by Hollywood's 2005 Revised and Updated Master Plan. The project involves the permanent closure of all roads leading into Presidents Circle and replacement with meandering cobblestone walks lined by over nine hundred granite cremation niches.

Project planning has been under review for several years. At a cost of approximately \$1.0 million, it is the largest developmental undertaking in Hollywood since the construction of the Palmer Mausoleum beside the James River. Completion, including the planting of new ground covers, shrubbery and trees, is expected to occur by May 1.

"The project timing coincides beautifully with the efforts of Friends to restore monuments and fences in and around Presidents Circle," according to David Gilliam, General Manager. "The two

projects are distinctly different but totally complimentary. The result will be magnificent."

The Board retained Van Yahres Associates of Charlottesville to develop the detailed site design. Important to the Board and Van Yahres was preservation of the unusual geometric symmetry of original roadways and walks.

Michael ("Mike") Van Yahres, Partner, has an intimate familiarity with Hollywood Cemetery. "I realized that we were being asked to work in some pretty intimidating surroundings," he shared recently. "Presidents Circle and the historic sections that surround it are Hollywood's *bull's eye*. We saw our charge as supporting the art in stone and iron that is there, and not competing with it."

After reviewing a number of bids, the project was awarded to KBS, headquartered in Richmond and one of the largest and most well-respected general contractors in the Mid-Atlantic region. KBS's local accomplishments include numerous highly visible projects such as the UNOS Donor Memorial Garden, CarMax Corporate Headquarters, Luck Stone Headquarters, Country Club of Virginia Aquatic Center, and VCU's Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences. Messer Companies, especially known for its work on the State Capitol Visitor Center, was retained for all stone and masonry work.

A total of 607 tons (1,214,000 lbs.) of granite was required for the project and provided by Luck Stone Corporation, including edging, low and tall curbing, and over 100,000 individual, seven-and-a-half pound cobblestones. Every piece of stone was pre-cut prior to delivery and designed to fit together with all other pieces on site just like a giant jigsaw puzzle.

"KBS and Messer have exceeded all

expectations," Mike Van Yahres remarked. "There have been few if any problems or change orders. The project has proceeded extremely well."

Individual cremation niches lining the cobblestone walkways will be covered with smooth, rectangular granite covers, large enough to contain suitable engraved identifying information. All niches have been designed to contain two cremains.

Hollywood seeks to be an active cemetery for at least fifty or more years. To do so, the Board and Management Staff wish to be able to offer a variety of interment sites and options to individuals and families at all times and to dispel the notion that "Hollywood is full."

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"Presidents Circle deserves the attention that it is getting," states Gilliam. "There are few spots like it in the state or country." In addition to two Presidents of the United States, it is the final resting place of Matthew Fontaine Maury (known throughout the world as the Pathfinder of the Seas), Joseph Reid Anderson (one of Richmond's most influential and effective citizens and founder of Tredegar Iron Works – the largest in the South), William Henry Haxall (one of the four visionary founders of Hollywood in 1847), Moses Drury Hogue (first pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, and a leading clergyman of his time), and Lawrence Waring. Waring,

a forty-three year old physician at the time of his death, succumbed to exhaustion caring for the poor of Richmond in the mid-nineteenth century. His grateful patients and friends erected a monument to honor his life and mark his grave.

In addition to the soon-to-be-opened niche walkways at Presidents Circle, Hollywood offers burial sites in the Idlewood Section and Cremation Wall, the Palmer Mausoleum, the Chapel Hill Avenue closed road project, and in numerous reclaimed (abandoned) lots in older sections of the Cemetery. For information, call the Cemetery Office at 804-648-8501.







- 1. An aerial view of the Presidents Circle Project. The circular Mount containing the monuments of Presidents Monroe and Tyler appears in the upper center. Roads have been removed, and new walkways are under construction. Cremation niches, to be covered with granite tops, are visible in the lower right.
- 2. Over 100,000 pre-cut granite cobblestones will be required for the project. Here, workmen lay stone at the base of President Monroe's Tomb. Stones are set on 1½ to 2 inches of compacted sand.
- **3.** Cobblestones were ordered in three distinct shades in order to achieve color variation in the new walks.
- **4.** Many pieces of curbing that defined the perimeter of the Mount were missing. Replacement granite curbing was ordered. In order to properly fit new to old, it was necessary to start from scratch. All existing curbing was removed, a new foundation was poured, and then, piece by piece, a new perimeter was created.
- **5.** Overseeing day-to-day progress, KBS Project Supervisor Tony Zimmer has become a Hollywood fixture.

Teaching the Lessons of Hollywood

A surgeon's keen eye and steady hands led him to a successful career in medicine. The same qualities gave him the talent of a true artist. These attributes, combined with a Renaissance interest in history, instilled in him a passion for Hollywood. Meet Dr. Hunter H. McGuire, Jr.—not surprisingly one of the cemetery's most notable recent directors and its widely acknowledged unofficial historian.

Known to his friends as Mac, Dr. McGuire recently reflected on the cemetery for this newsletter. In a lively conversation peppered with wry wit, Mac likened Hollywood to a kaleidoscope of the city's storied past.

Childhood memories

His love of the cemetery's rolling hills came to him in childhood during the 1930s when his mother took him and his siblings for Sunday afternoon strolls. Mrs. McGuire used these walks to tell stories of the Richmonders buried there—high and low, noble and wicked. As they walked, the children searched the monuments for the smallest angel, or the saddest, or the most unusual.

Undoubtedly, says Mac, the weeping angel monument for Nicholas Worthington is the saddest. The most impressive, they thought, was the bronze angel at the Rueger family plot because it looks like an Augustus Saint Gaudens statue, though it isn't. Today, one of his favorites is the angel at the John Akin Branch tomb. It holds poppy seeds in one hand—representing sleep—and a serpent eating its tail in the other hand—symbolizing eternity.

Both then and now, Mac's favorite spot has been Presidents Circle, the last resting place of Presidents Monroe and Tyler. Here, Mrs. McGuire would recite her favorite verses from Psalm 46. When she got to the line, "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God," Mac remembers with a grin, he knew Richmond was indeed the Holy City.

On those joyful outings, the games they played were fun, but Mrs. McGuire encouraged them for another purpose. Imperceptibly, her children absorbed stories about the people threading the tapestry of Richmond's history.

At the monument of James Valentine, the children recalled the railroad engineer who died in a train wreck. At the one for Gov. William "Extra Billy" Smith, they learned how he led his Confederate regiment into battle carrying only an umbrella to protect him from the sun. Dr. Lawrence Waring died from exhaustion while caring for the indigent. In gratitude, the city's poor collected donations to build his monument. Another favorite grave was that of writer Ellen Glasgow. Buried with her dogs and her ear trumpet, she wanted to hear the last trump on Judgment Day.

Vibrations from the grave

During their Sunday rambles, the Mc-Guires often sought out the grave of the acerbic nineteenth-century misanthrope John Randolph of Roanoke. Randolph, who loathed his contemporary, Thomas Jefferson, proclaimed that he himself loved freedom but hated equality. Mac reminds you that his mother made this



Hunter "Mac" McGuire and St. Patrick -- Hill of Slane, Ireland, 2008

point during the presidency of Franklin Roosevelt. If they put their hands on Randolph's monument, Mrs. McGuire said, they could feel Randolph spinning in his grave to protest the federal government's growth under the New Deal. With a twinkle in his eye, Mac says it was literally true. You could feel the vibrations from Randolph's grave—but perhaps only when the coal trains rumbled past.

A love of Hollywood came naturally to someone whose family included notable contributors to Virginia history. Mac enjoys saying that the ancestor whose name he bears "assisted the fatal exit" of Stonewall Jackson. If you're familiar with Mac's humor, you'll see the irony. That devoted army surgeon strove heroically, but in vain, to save Jackson's life after he was wounded at Chancellors-ville. That doctor's son organized a field hospital from the Medical College of Virginia in France during World War I.

With medicine so much a part of his family's history, Mac naturally looked to

the healing professions for a career. After studying at the University of Virginia and MCV, he practiced surgery in Richmond and retired as chief of surgery at McGuire VA Medical Center, named for his great grandfather.

Pilgrim and campaigner

When the Hollywood board elected Mac a director, he went on pilgrimages to other historical resting places to learn how they capitalized on their strengths and addressed their challenges. Top on the list was Mount Auburn, the Boston model that inspired Hollywood's founders.

As his knowledge of Hollywood grew, Mac began to write down the stories he had accumulated and self-published a short book. By this time, he had become known as the conscience of Hollywood, a tireless campaigner for viewing it not only as a working cemetery but also as an ideal place for telling stories that transmit local culture from one generation to the next.

Next, he created a witty slide presentation to show the mystical quality of Hollywood's hills, trees, and monuments and to share the intriguing stories he had learned. When he gave that talk at the Virginia Historical Society, it was the society's most popular lecture to date. Filled to capacity, the VHS still had to turn away more than a hundred people and schedule a repeat performance.

In the talk, he beguiled his audience with the tales his mother had taught him about famous Richmonders buried at Hollywood. For example, she separated one prominent family into the Tobacco Williamses and the Pious Williamses according to professions chosen by that numerous clan's different branches. Early twentieth-century entrepreneur John Langbourne Williams was memorable not so much for his big monument as for the dispositions in his will: he left all his money to his wife but enjoined his children to "cherish the Holy Scriptures."

A visit from Edward Ayers

Mac's knowledge came to the aid of the internet radio show, BackStory, created by three historians, one of them Dr. Edward L. Ayers, now president of the University of Richmond. When the program planned a segment on death and dying, Dr. Ayers called on Mac for his wisdom. On an auspiciously gloomy and rainy day, Ayers and members of the Hollywood board roamed the winding lanes with Mac in a covered golf cart to hear his tales about the people whose monuments dot the hillsides.

Mac delighted in telling the story of Mary Thomas, who saved the bell of First Baptist Church from being melted down for Confederate cannon. Her husband provided the main funding for Richmond College, antecedent of the University of Richmond. Mac also showed Ayers the large area that Thomas set aside for the burial of future presidents of the university.

When writer and photographer John Peters conceived an illustrated history of Hollywood, he consulted Mac, who generously shared his voluminous research notes. For Peters, the most gratifying response to his handsome book was a letter from Mac praising his

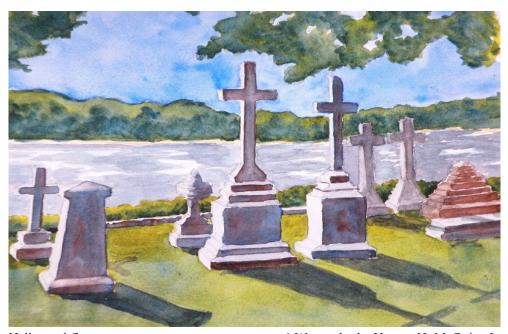
accomplishment.

From early days as a medical student, Mac demonstrated artistic promise. Now McGuire watercolors grace a growing number of Richmond homes. In recent months, for his painting inspiration Mac has turned to Hollywood.

How could it have been otherwise? Although he rotated off the board several years ago, Hollywood still claims his affections. He dreams of digitizing its records for online visitors and fiercely opposes the use of plastic flowers.

His love of the setting and vast knowledge accumulated over a lifetime make the cemetery the perfect subject for his art. One of his watercolors is reprinted here. It shows the view near the edge of the cemetery, looking past gracefully aging monuments to bygone Richmonders and across the eternal rapids of the James. Not far, one suspects, from the spot where visitors—if they listen carefully—may still hear John Randolph of Roanoke spinning in his grave when the CSX coal trains rumble past.

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



Hollywood Cemetery

A Watercolor by Hunter H. McGuire, Jr.

Rain or Shine

Spring Tours Planned For Lot Owners and Friends Supporters

Friends of Hollywood have scheduled three walking tours and one riding tour of the Cemetery in May for Hollywood lot owners and friends.

"It is a beautiful time of year at the Cemetery," says Kelly Wilbanks, Director of Development, "and we wished to do something special for our Hollywood families and supporters."

Trained guides from the Valentine Richmond History Center will conduct the free of charge tours on the following dates. Tours will originate at the Hollywood Chapel/Office and last approximately an hour and a half.

- Tuesday, May 17th, 11:30 am (immediately following the Annual Meeting of Lot Owners)
- Thursday, May 19th, 10:30 am
- Saturday, May 21st, 10:30 am
- Sunday, May 22nd, 2:00 pm BUS TOUR

The Valentine Richmond History Center has been conducting tours of Hollywood for many years. "It is one of the most popular tours we offer," according to Linda Krinsky, the History Center's Director of Tours. Guides are extremely knowledgeable not only of the history of the Cemetery, but also "the landscape design, architecture, symbols and the notables buried in Hollywood."

Following each tour, Friends will provide light refreshment at the Chapel.

Please e-mail Kelly Wilbanks at Kwilbanks@ hollywoodcemetery.org or call the Cemetery Office at 648-8501 to reserve a place. Tours will be limited to fifteen (15) persons each.

Annual Meeting of Lot Owners

The 163rd annual meeting of Hollywood Cemetery lot owners will be held at the Cemetery on Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at 10:30 a.m. Notices and proxies have been mailed. Please mark your calendars for this informative meeting. A spring tour will be offered immediately following the meeting. Please see the article appearing on this page.

Wilbanks Joins Friends Staff

On November 1, Kelly Jones Wilbanks joined the staff of Hollywood Cemetery Company and Friends of Hollywood Cemetery as Director of Development.

The new position was approved by both Company and Friends Boards in 2010 to address the increasing fundraising responsibilities and tasks being shouldered by a small Cemetery office staff and Friends directors.



"Kelly has become an invaluable resource," states Mary Hoge Anderson, Friends Chairperson. "Her interest in and enthusiasm for Hollywood and the work of Friends have exceeded all expectations."

Kelly is a graduate of St. Catherine's School in Richmond and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For over ten years, she held various positions with ADIA Personnel Services including Vice President of the Northeast Region based in New York as well as Vice President of National Accounts. ADIA Personnel Services, now the Adecco Group, is the world's leading provider of personnel services and is based in Zurich, Switzerland.

Kelly's experience also includes Human Resources with Crestar Bank, now Suntrust Bank, as well as Director of Administration for Harris Williams & Co., a Richmond investment bank. Leaving Harris Williams, she decided to stay at home with her two young children. Later, she was recruited by her alma mater, St. Catherine's School, to be Director of Admission until 2009 and helped transition the 120-year-old school from a dayboarding school to an all-day school.

"I was generally familiar with Hollywood but had no real concept of its significance as one of our City's most important landmarks," Kelly remarks. "It is a museum, an outdoor museum, as well as a park of unique and special beauty. One of my primary goals is to increase awareness of Hollywood to the Richmond community and to introduce it to a new generation of Richmonders."

Kelly is married to Dr. Peter Wilbanks. They have a son, Thorn, and a daughter, Jonesy.

"A Feast for the Eyes as well as the Mind"

This was the manner in which John O. Peters's latest book, *Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery*, was described in Virginia Book Notes of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (January 9, 2011).

This is the seventh book for which John Peters has written the words or taken the photographs, sometimes both, as is the case with this work. Peters began work on the project in the summer of 2006. His final manuscript was completed in October 2008. *Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery* was published by the Valentine Richmond History Center and released in October 2010.

"Working on the Hollywood project was an absolute delight," recalls Peters. Over the months, Peters has conducted a number of book signings and spoken several times about his book, including two well-attended Banner Series lectures at the Virginia Historical Society.

Prior to beginning his second career as accomplished author and a talented photographer, Peters practiced law in Richmond for more than 30 years. He is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and the University of Virginia School of Law. Currently, Peters is hard at work on a new manuscript on the history of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

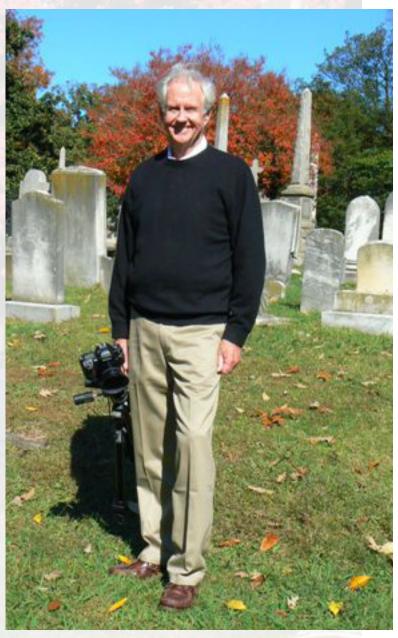
Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery is a collection of Hollywood history, stories, and anecdotes covering 160 years. Peters writes about architecture, landscape, ironwork, stone carvers, mausoleums, symbolism and residents – notable and otherwise. Peters is the second author given access to Hollywood minute books and records from which to perform original research.

Included in *Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery* are nearly 200 images, 45 of which are in full color. There are also numerous historic photographs not previously published. Peters spent nearly a year photographing the Cemetery in order to capture various light, moods, and the individual seasons.

In his review of *Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery* appearing in *Style Weekly* on October 6, 2010, Edwin Slipek not only heaps praise upon Peters's work but also provides some unusual imagery. He said that Peters "has surely and assuredly woven a lively and layered quilt that patches together some 160 years of intriguing corporate, political, military, architectural, social and funerary history." He concludes with: "But author and photographer Peters takes things further. He almost makes the mummies dance" – a reference to the autobiography of Thomas Hoving, former

director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Making the Mummies Dance*.

Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery is available at Barnes and Noble, the Valentine Richmond History Center Gift Shop, Virginia Historical Society Gift Shop, Hollywood Cemetery, the Richmond Visitors Center and at local booksellers such as Fountain Books and Book People. The book also is available for purchase online at www.richmondhistorycenter.com.



John O. Peters Courtesy of the Valentine Richmond History Center

2010 Contributors

Friends of Hollywood Cemetery

We are indeed grateful to the following donors for their generous support of Friends in 2010. You have enabled us to begin a significant monument and fence restoration project in and around Presidents Circle. Thank you for helping us to preserve Hollywood Cemetery for generations to come.

Mary Hoge Anderson

Mary Hoge Anderson

Chair, Friends of Hollywood Cemetery

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