



Friends of Baldwin County Cemeteries, Inc.

Milledgeville, Georgia

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Fence Restoration

In spring 2010, we applied for a grant from the Watson-Brown Junior Board to pay for about half of the repair of the Boughton family 1860s cast iron fence in Memory Hill Cemetery. We were successful in obtaining the grant! This project is now in the final stages of completion. The trees that had knocked the fence over have been removed, and the granite coping has been re-laid. The final step, the return of the repaired fence from the blacksmith's, is about to occur at any moment! We are excited about having this beautiful fence restored to its previous glory.



Sang Ah Kim of the Watson-Brown Junior Board gives a \$6,000 check to Friends' members Angie Duke, Kathe Fuller, Sue Harrington and Floride Gardner

Meanwhile, fence painting projects completed within the last year include the Miller fence (funded by our members Dave and Charlotte Conn Ferris) and the B. B. Adams fence. In the fall of 2010, our celebration of the repair of the Miller and Conn fences was a huge success. This spring, Brenda Briley, Anne Collier, Warren Layfield and Sue Harrington also painted the Spellen Teeling fence. The fences in Memory Hill look beautiful

and are better protected from the elements, thanks to our efforts!

Memory Hill Trees

One of the most notable features of Memory Hill is its trees. The size, diversity, and beauty of the trees give Memory Hill a park-like ambiance. Unfortunately, too many of Memory Hill's trees are in a mature or declining stage. In addition, in some situations trees have been planted too close to monuments or other trees, resulting in monument damage or a struggle for the trees' survival.

This year we began to focus on trees, with the goals of improved tree pruning and the planning of future plantings. The City has worked with us, and the result is better and much needed trimming and pruning. We have benefited from the expert help of volunteers Bob Miller and Cindy Gilbert, who are skilled in landscape design and maintenance. We have made great progress in understanding the issues and challenges of the approximately 2500 trees in the cemetery. Among our future goals are to plan the replacement of dead and dying trees, identify planting spaces, select appropriate trees for planting, and implement a memorial gift program for selected trees. We already have planted some dogwoods as part of the tentative memorial gift program. Stay tuned for more on this effort in the future!

Brick Repair

Look around in nearly any 1800s cemetery in our area and you will see hand-made or "soft" bricks in walls, slabs, and vaults. Memory Hill is full of loose soft brick. Believe it or not, *loose* soft brick means the mortar has been made correctly with lime. Lime mortar draws moisture from the old bricks and does not strip away the surface of the brick like cement-based mortar does. The lime

mortar sacrifices itself and protects the brick from damage, but the mortar needs to be re-pointed from time to time. We have begun this effort in Memory Hill by using high lime mortar to re-point two badly deteriorating mid-1800s box graves.

Memory Hill Acorn / Pineapple

Have you ever noticed the welcoming pineapples (or acorns) on the gates of Memory Hill? Pineapples mean “welcome,” while acorns generally mean life, youth and immortality. Although there is some question whether the gates contain acorns or pineapples, the gates have a stately and welcoming appearance. Unfortunately, one of the acorns/pineapples on the west side had been broken for some time. Valette Jordan Adkins sought out Tim Hall, who was able to repair it -- no



small task since much of the stem of the 200-pound acorn/pineapple was missing. Happily now the entrance has been returned to its former stately appearance. The families of Mr. & Mrs. Robt. H. Harper and Lillian Stiles Saville, in whose memory the gates were dedicated, generously donated to the repair.

Tim Hall, Gary Hall and helper work to restore the repaired acorn/pineapple to the west gate.

Moran Family Cemetery

Off Lake Laurel Road is the old William Moran family cemetery. Many of these graves are brick with no identification, but thanks to the Moran family descendants, a written record has been kept of who is who. The earliest known graves date from the 1860s, although some unmarked graves may be earlier.

The cemetery had become badly overgrown to the point that individual graves were no longer visible. Also, several of the graves were badly crumbled.

The Friends talked to the Church of Latter Day Saints about the possibility of cleaning up the cemetery, and a cleanup project was organized to fulfill the Eagle Scout requirements for Tristan Thompson. After Tristan and his team cleaned the cemetery, the cemetery looked nothing like it had before! It looks fantastic!

The Friends hired brick masons to repair the now visible brick structures. Every effort was made to put the structures back to what they were like originally, including using the original bricks. This successful project was a fine collaborative effort by all involved.



Once barely visible under the brush, the graves of William Moran II (1790-1870) and Temy Moran (1800-1869) emerge after Eagle Scout candidate Tristan Thompson and his team cleaned the cemetery.



The graves of William Moran II and Temy Moran, as well as Henry Moran in background, after restoration.

Ongoing Projects

This year the Friends have continued to contribute to the care of Baldwin County Cemeteries by providing the very popular Memory Hill walking-tour brochure, painting the gazebo, killing weeds, trimming bushes, repairing gravestones and walls, and providing input to the new City cemetery ordinance.