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CLEMSON
UNIVERSITY

TO: Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee

THRU: Angie Leidinger

FROM: Jeannette Braine-Sperry 

The enclosed summary and cemetery map are the culmination of one year of research from the Board of Trustees office. This research was done as time was available, and was initiated because of the strong interest Sally Gillespie and I have in Woodland Cemetery.

Previous information and ongoing research will continue to take place to provide more of the history and more complete and accurate records on the whole of Woodland Cemetery. Again, this will take place as time is available.

Also included is an update on plots available for assignment. Based on the plots there are, on average, enough plots available for another twenty plus years.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Board office with any follow up questions you may have.



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Woodland Cemetery Status Report
December 14, 2009

Purpose:

- To determine the status of each burial plot at Woodland Cemetery

Research & Sources:

- Records housed in the Office of the Executive Secretary to the Board of Trustees
- *The Greenville News* (Online obituaries)
- Photos of headstones taken in 2003 (Obtained from Jeff Godwin)
- Duckett-Robinson Funeral Home
- Dillard Funeral Home
- Summer Student Survey

Please note that no funds have been expended to date in researching the whereabouts of plot holders and their families. If funds became available, the following sources could prove helpful with further research:

- www.legacy.com
- www.deathindexes.com

By the Numbers:

- Of the 590 full burial and cremation plots at Woodland Cemetery, 194 plots have evidence of at least one person buried in them.
- There is evidence thus far to support the burials of 459 people at Woodland Cemetery (including the Calhouns).
- Of the 158 family-sized plots, there are only 13 family plots that appear to be either close (at least five burials) or at capacity.
- There are 188 assigned plots that appear to be void of burials.
- The cemetery is at 64.75% capacity of presently marked plots.
- Over the past four years, an average of 7.25 plots has been assigned each year (3 full burial and 4.25 cremation).

<u>Plot Assignments Over 5 Years</u>			
<u>Year</u>	<u>Full Burial</u>	<u>Cremation</u>	<u>Total Plots Assigned</u>
2005*	35	5	40
2006	7	4	11
2007	3	3	6
2008	1	5	6
2009	1	5	6

*The assignments made in 2005 were an aberration, so they were not included in the average. Woodland Cemetery Policies and Procedures were amended in April 2005 to increase minimum years of service for eligibility from 10 to 20 years. Records indicate that 31 of these plots were assigned a few weeks prior to the policy change.

<u>Breakdown of Family Plots</u>		
<u>Number of Burials</u>	<u>Number of Plots</u>	<u>Percentage of Family Plots</u>
0	21	13.29%
1	25	15.82%
2	58	36.71%
3	27	17.09%
4	14	8.86%
5	5	3.16%
6	3	1.90%
7	3	1.90%
8	1	0.63%
9	0	0.00%
10	1	0.63%

Plots Remaining:

- 168 full burial plots available for assignment (assuming trees have not encroached on plots marked for full burial)
- 40 cremation plots available for assignment
- If assignment trends continue at the current rate, full burial plots will be exhausted in 55.67 years. Cremation plots will be exhausted in 9.41 years.
- Recent trends would suggest that cremation plots are becoming increasingly popular.

Plots to Revert:

- At least five plots should revert to the University (2 family-sized and 3 couple-sized).
- Depending on circumstances, 20 plots may partially or fully revert to the University (19 family plots, 1 smaller plot).
- If family members agree, larger family plots could be split to allow for more burials in the older section of the cemetery.

Other Observations:

- 62 plots were assigned in 1954. 30 have burials that occurred before the assignment.
- Family plots with only one or two burials comprise 52.53% of family plots within the cemetery. Numbers indicate assigning plots only large enough for employee and spouse is justified.
- Historical records suggest that at one point the intent was to assign plots near the Calhouns to presidents.
- Clemson University has had sixteen presidents. All presidents since 1924 (when the cemetery was established) are either buried or plan to be buried at Woodland Cemetery (Riggs, Earle, Sikes, Poole, Edwards, Atchley, Cox, Lennon, Prince, Curris, Barker).

Recommendations: Based on research to date, the following actions are recommended:

- Survey the cemetery for trees that would impede burial. The current plat is outdated with respect to trees and it makes assigning plots difficult.
- Based on the new survey, plots, because of slope and size, need to be designated as cremation plots on the plat.
- Plots that have the potential to either partially or fully revert to the University should be examined to determine if circumstances would allow for the plot's reassignment.
 - If conditions are favorable for return of any of the plots in question, the closest surviving family member should be contacted to officially return the plot to the University.
- Family-sized plots that are returned to the University should be split into smaller plots.
- Create a listing of all policy violations within the cemetery to monitor and respond to violations in a timely manner.

Woodland Cemetery Meeting
December 2, 2009

Notes:

- Please remove Hughes from #318.
- Please change the spelling on #419 to Haque.

Questions:

- In some cases, coping makes the plot smaller than actual boundary lines would indicate. Why? (Instances: 39, 50A, 53, 80, 104, 111, 129, 138, 145, 167, 177, 178, 180, 193, 195)

Don't know

Can the unused portion of those plots be assigned to someone else?

- Based on the map, some unassigned plots still appear large. Can they be split into smaller ones? (Instances: 30, 93, 125, 153, 173, 189)

- There are unused areas on the map that appear to be large enough to create new plots. Is that a possibility? Would the slope be an issue in these areas? (Examples: Between 43A and 43, triangle by 59, between 142 and 143, between 144 and the road, between 176 and the road)

Yes

- Based on the map, some unassigned plots appear too small for full burial. Should these be relabeled as cremation plots? (Examples: 108, 230, 256, 281, 324, 369, 379, 386)

Yes

Blue, red, magenta

- When were trees last surveyed and new results included on the map? How often should this happen?

Never been done

We need one.

- Are there any plots that should be reconsidered and perhaps deemed unusable due to slope of land, trees, etc.?

Yes

Can the equipment fit to do it?

- A small section was examined via radar in 2005 and no burials were found. Has radar been used to detect burials throughout the cemetery?

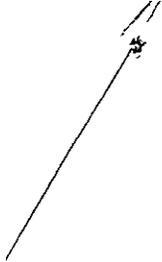
No

- Are there pins in the ground for plots #393 – 471?

Yes

- Are there any sources that may provide more information?

- Has there been discussion about the next area to be staked?

- 
- A few weeks ago, there were trucks with ladders in the cemetery. What were they doing?