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**Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee  
Annual Report  
March 15, 2003**

**Proceedings**

The Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee met on April 3, September 13, and September 23, 2002. Bobby McCormick continued in his service as Chair of the Committee, and Gerald Vander Mey continued to serve as Recording Secretary. The minutes of each meeting are attached in Appendix A.

**Mission Statement**

The Committee adopted the following mission statement in 2001, and it is included here as a backdrop and reminder of the Committee's charge:

*The Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee will consider, recommend, and engage actions to protect and enhance the integrity, character and traditions of the Woodland Cemetery and its environs.*

**Master Plan**

The latest draft of the Woodland Cemetery Preservation and Development Plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Cemetery Master Plan") was completed in September, 2002, in anticipation of the adoption of the new Long-Range Campus Master Plan. The Stewardship Committee is currently making final updates and revisions to the Cemetery Master Plan in hopes of presenting it to the Administrative Council and Board of Trustees for approval in the Summer of 2003.

While the Cemetery Master Plan provides considerable detail regarding the current and future work of the Committee, several items are highlighted for additional emphasis in this report. The current draft of the Cemetery Master Plan is attached as Appendix B.

**Boundaries**

The Committee deemed it necessary to clearly define the geographical area represented by the term "Woodland Cemetery" in order to fully perform its duties with regard to holistic site preservation and development. With that end in mind, a metes and bounds survey was commissioned by the Committee in the fall of 2002 to precisely define the proposed area of the Cemetery site, previously described as 'asphalt to asphalt,' or more specifically, all the grounds contained within the intersections of Williamson Road, the C-3 Commuter Lot, A-Street and Memorial Stadium. With the completion of the survey (see Appendix C), the proposed boundary definition was presented to and adopted by the Board of Trustees at their meeting in October, 2002.

As an antecedent to that boundary definition, J. Thornton Kirby, Secretary to the Board of Trustees and Executive Assistant to the President, requested that the Committee conduct a

review of the pertinent South Carolina laws regarding cemeteries. Former Student Body President Rita K. Bolt (Class of 2001), a current law student at Harvard, submitted the findings of her research into that subject during her summer internship with the Wyche, Burgess, Freeman, & Parham law firm in Greenville. Her report (Appendix D) concludes that because the Woodland Cemetery is private in nature, it does not fall under the stipulations of the General State Regulations for cemeteries, therefore allowing Clemson University freedom to maintain the Cemetery as it sees fit. Another Clemson graduate and practicing lawyer, Keith Munson (Class of 1984) with Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice in Greenville, corroborated these findings with Mr. Kirby and satisfied his request for legal review.

Besides the demarcation of the perimeter of the Woodland Cemetery grounds, two other important boundaries within the Cemetery also deserve mention. The first is the area traditionally known as Cemetery Hill, which crowns the rise of the newly defined Cemetery grounds and is bounded by a chain-link fence. The Committee unanimously agrees that the existing fence should come down in favor of a more aesthetically appropriate boundary. However, because of the steep topography in much of the enclosed area, a safety audit has been requested in order to better understand any potential dangers associated with removing the existing fence. Meanwhile, long-range planning is underway to develop concepts for a future boundary to replace the existing fence. Sketches of some of these ideas will be available in early April, and the Committee will work this year to adopt one proposal to submit for the administration's review and approval.

The second important boundary to note is a new one put in place during the spring of 2002 to protect the graves outside the southwest corner of the traditional Cemetery Hill site. Many of these suspected graves are marked with small head and footstones and are believed to hold the remains of victims of a 19<sup>th</sup> century whooping cough or tuberculosis epidemic. The new black vinyl chain-link fencing that surrounds these probable graves is intended only a semi-permanent measure to prevent dumping and/or other erosion or activity in that area. Future development work at the Cemetery would provide for further research into the nature of these graves, as well as a more permanent marker and boundary to protect and preserve them.

### **Woodlands**

In 2002 the Committee helped further the Cemetery Tree Plan developed by University Facilities by coordinating the planting of seven new trees on the site. Tiger Brotherhood took on this project as part of Campus Sweep in 2002, and plans to again plant trees as part of its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in April of 2003.

Suspicious regarding an infestation of pine beetles within the Cemetery have proven to be true, and several trees have been removed or marked for removal as a result. The Tree Plan will serve to mitigate the effects of diseased or dying trees in the Cemetery by planting a series of young hardwoods on the site over the course of the next several years.

### **Historical Research**

In an effort to further investigate the possibility of unmarked slave grave sites within the Cemetery, the Committee worked with Dr. Jonathan Leader, State Archaeologist, to apply Ground-Penetrating Radar technology to the search for old grave shafts. Unfortunately wet soil conditions prevented conclusive findings during Dr. Leader's two visits to campus in 2002, but there was some indication that his device detected bone matter beneath some of the suspected graves in the newly-fenced burial site. No similar findings were reported inside traditional Cemetery grounds at the former Cowan-Ricks research site, but because of difficult terrain and wet soil, more investigation will be required. The Campus Planning Office intends to have Dr. Leader come back to campus with his equipment when soil conditions are more favorable, most likely in the summer of 2003. Pending the results of his investigation, the Committee will develop a proposal to appropriately mark any gravesites that are found or recommend the release of unallocated plots to those persons currently on the waiting list (26 individuals).

On a different note, the Committee regrets to report that our monetary reward offer in 2002 did not turn up any information regarding the theft of the James Edward Calhoun grave marker. However, a replacement marker supplied by the U.S. Military was installed in early 2002.

### **Clemson World**

Liz Newall, Editor in Chief of the *Clemson World*, continues to be gracious in allowing the Committee to publish its regular *Cemetery Chronicles* feature in the magazine. The *Chronicles* articles for 2002 included profiles on J. L. Marshall, J.C. Littlejohn, R.F. Poole and S.B. Earle, and a copy of each is included in Appendix E. The articles continue to generate great interest among readers as evidenced by the several requests for and contributions of information from family members of those buried in the Cemetery.

### **Fundraising**

While the Committee has not yet launched a public fundraising campaign, we are pleased to report significant contributions to the Cemetery Preservation Fund. As of March 1, 2003, the Fund contains \$11,563.12 from a total of 65 gifts. In addition, there are nearly \$70,000 in pledges allocated to the Fund as a result of the silent campaign efforts of Jim Hendrix, the Committee's fundraising chair, and Mendal Bouknight, Development Officer. \$50,000 of those pledges comes from a single donor. The Committee plans to launch a public phase of the fundraising campaign in mid-2003.

The Committee wishes to here acknowledge and thank President Barker once again for providing his sketch of the Cemetery for inclusion as an identifying mark in our correspondence and fundraising materials.

**Conclusion**

Several important milestones were reached by the Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee in 2002, including Board approval of the surveyed boundaries, further revisions to the Cemetery Master Plan, substantial commitments to the Cemetery Preservation Fund, and continued interest-generation via the *Cemetery Chronicles* in the *Clemson World*. With that foundation in place, 2003 promises to be an even more productive year with the launch of the public phase of fundraising, approval of the Cemetery Master Plan, and adoption of a plan to replace the existing chain-link fence at the site.

The Committee is committed to and excited about the work that lies ahead, and we continue to be grateful for this opportunity to serve Clemson.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,

Robert E. McCormick  
Professor and BB&T Scholar  
John E. Walker Department of Economics