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**Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee
Initial Assessment and Annual Report
January 30, 2002**

In accordance with the charge given the Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee in your memo dated December 13, 2000, and reiterated in person at the Committee inaugural meeting on February 6, 2001, the Committee respectfully submits this document as an initial assessment and first annual report.

Proceedings

The Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee convened for the first time on February 6, 2001, and in that meeting elected Jim Hendrix as its first Chairman. Following his enrollment at the University of Chicago's Business School the following September, Jim expressed a concern that his distance from campus would prevent him from being the most effective Chairman for the Committee. Jim thus nominated Bobby McCormick to assume the duties of that office, and the Committee endorsed that nomination at its meeting of September 19, 2001.

On February 8, 2001, Sonya Goodman accepted your invitation to serve the Committee as an ex-officio member by way of her position as the Administrative Manager of University Property and her expertise regarding the Woodland Cemetery.

The Committee met in person or via teleconference seven times between February and December, 2001. The minutes of each of those proceedings are attached in Appendix A.

Mission Statement

The following mission statement was adopted by the Committee in order to help its members maintain a clear focus on the charge you have given it:

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

Given the long-term mission and broad scope of the Committee, it was agreed among its members that a thoughtful framework was needed in order to facilitate and organize the breadth and depth of our efforts, and hence a rough Cemetery Master Plan was outlined. As an initial foundation for the Cemetery Master Plan, the Committee agrees that portions of the Cemetery Hill Development & Expansion Program, prepared by the Campus Master Planning Group in August, 1997, are useful and instructive. Specifically, Sections 2, 3 and 4 of that report, entitled "History," "Orientation Information" and "Analysis Issues," respectively (see Attachment B) are helpful in understanding the current state of the Cemetery and its environs. (The committee wishes to note here that it agrees with the University's decision to forego the Land Use Plan Concepts outlined in Sections 5-7 of that proposal.)

In addition to the background information provided in the aforementioned document, the Cemetery Master Plan is also comprised of the specific, yet broad issues presented by subheading in the remainder of this report. The Committee also recognizes that the University is currently engaged in the revision of its overall Long Range Master Plan with the help of Dober, Lidsky,

Craig, and Associates. In light of that work, the Committee discussed each portion of this Cemetery Master Plan to varying degrees with George Mathay of Dober, Lidsky, Craig, and Associates at the Committee's meeting on March 26th, 2001.

Boundaries

In order to fully understand the scope of the work before us, it was first necessary to define the boundaries of the space which shall be considered the "Cemetery and its environs." The Committee believes that the proper boundary definition for the Cemetery should be "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. That area is hash-marked and labeled "Site" on Page 8 of Appendix C. The Committee is excited to have your verbal endorsement of this boundary definition and has sought guidance from you and Thornton Kirby, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, on whether this designation should be presented to and ratified by the Board. His research is not yet complete, we therefore await his report back to us.

Within the confines of the Cemetery lands, there are other boundaries that should also be considered. While the Calhoun family plot that crowns the top of Cemetery Hill is surrounded by a stone and wrought iron fence that is aesthetically pleasing and fits with the woodland ambiance of the site, the chain-link fence that surrounds the wider portion of the Cemetery is both unsightly and out of place. One of the Committee's key objectives is to recommend and help provide resources for replacement of the existing chain-link fence with a more appropriate boundary.

There is also a question of how best to delineate the boundary of the marked graves outside the southwest corner of the Cemetery that are believed to be the remains of victims of a 19th century whooping cough or tuberculosis epidemic.¹ The Committee would like to ensure that those graves are properly preserved, acknowledged, and protected from inadvertent intrusion.

Woodlands

Wishing to preserve the very "Woodland" nature that makes the Cemetery a "private" and "contemplative room" as you have described it, the Committee has initiated a review of the tree inventory for the site. This tree inventory will allow us to understand the health and expected life span of the trees in the Cemetery so that we best plan for the preservation of its woods. We are fortunate to have on our Committee Dr. Tom Wooten, who as a Forestry professor best understands the current and long-term implications of the tree life on Cemetery Hill. He reports that most of the trees on the west side of the Cemetery are loblolly pines planted by university employees in the 1950's, and that presently there are no imminent threats to the health of the trees from beetles or other pests. However, recent conversations with Adrienne Gerus of University Facilities suggest that there may in fact be some incipient pine beetle damage, and the Committee will work with her office to stay well-informed on this issue. Given Dr. Wooten's expertise and the ongoing work of University Facilities, the Committee will be able to recommend the best allocation of resources to ensure that the Woodland Cemetery remains wooded for generations to

¹ The field stone marked graves outside the Cemetery on the southwest are more a mystery than a truth. There is some reason to believe that around 60 workers died on the plantation around 1860 of whooping cough and thus the theory, as these graves all appear to be the same age and at one time probably numbered around 60 headstones. The Committee fears this cemetery is going to be lost if not enclosed and marked soon.

come.

Maintenance

The Committee understands that maintenance issues are critical for the preservation of the Cemetery, and there are several items which punctuate the top of that list. Chief among them is erosion control, which is particularly important given the topography of the site and the steep terrain which prevents much of the area from being used for traditional burial plots. University Facilities personnel have a good understanding of the erosion problems and potential solutions, and the Committee will work to make monetary and labor resources available to them to accomplish those tasks. With funds that had previously been designated for the Cemetery, Facilities personnel were able to install a stone retaining wall east of the Calhoun plot in mid-2000 to halt severe erosion in that location, and they also reset and reinforced the stone columns of the fence surrounding the Calhoun plot. Remaining needs include replacement of the railroad tie wall on the northeast side of the Cemetery and erosion control of the steep grade in the southwest corner of the Cemetery.

The Committee also sees a need to upgrade the existing roads within and immediately outside the fenced area of the Cemetery. The roads are currently passable but deteriorating and in need of repair. In addition, the current irrigation system is not adequate for the space, but with a properly managed tree and plant material strategy, however, adequate irrigation might be provided with minor expenses.

There is currently \$11,000 of unspent funds allocated to the maintenance of Cemetery Hill in the Facilities and Maintenance Operations budget. The Committee will help prioritize these funds for use during Campus Sweep in April, 2002.

Historical Research

Just as important as the physical elements of the Cemetery's preservation are its historical dimensions, and several efforts are underway to help preserve its rich heritage. First, the Committee firmly believes that it is imperative to find an answer to the persistent question of whether or not slaves may have been buried on Cemetery Hill. A clear understanding of that issue will allow either the needed and proper recognition of the slaves who were buried there, or the allocation of the questioned space to traditional burial plots to meet the demand of the current waiting list. The work that Dr. Carrel Cowan-Ricks initiated in the early 1990's to investigate this issue was inconclusive, but all of her files and artifacts have been placed on reserve in the Strom Thurmond Institute for the Committee's review.

Since the time of Dr. Cowan-Ricks' research, a new technology called ground-penetrating radar has become a feasible technique for detecting old grave shafts. The Committee has contacted State Archeologist Dr. Jonathan Leader, whose agency owns the necessary ground-penetrating radar equipment and who offers its use to public entities at a much lower cost than would private archeological firms. Dr. Leader has tentatively agreed to work with the Committee on this project, and a formal proposal was submitted to his office in mid-January.

As a corollary to the investigation of potential slave sites, the Committee also understands the need to consider the long term space allocation issues for the Cemetery, particularly with regard to the direction and manner in which any future expansion might occur. The Committee believes

its ongoing study of and involvement with the Cemetery will allow it in the future to recommend the best course of action in this regard. Currently, there are 376 assignable plots in the Cemetery.² Because of high demand and the topography of the site, several smaller spaces have been created and allocated within the past few years for non-traditional plots to hold cremation remains. A small number of these plots are currently available to any qualifying person, while a list of individuals are on a waiting list for traditional sites.

On another front, Liz Newall, Editor in Chief of the Clemson World, has been gracious enough to accommodate the Committee's request for a regular feature called "Cemetery Chronicles" in the alumni magazine. Each article focuses on the life and contributions of one of the persons who has earned the right to be buried on Cemetery Hill. The first article, published in the Summer 2001 issue, included a brief history of the Cemetery and an announcement of this Committee's work, while the second article in the Fall issue contained a profile of P. B. Holtzendorff, Jr. Both of those articles are included in Attachment C, along with the upcoming article on John Logan Marshall for the Winter 2002 issue. Other profiles scheduled to be written by members of our partner, Tiger Brotherhood, and published this year include J.C. Littlejohn, Enoch W. Sikes, and S. M. Martin.

The response from these Clemson World articles has been extremely positive, as several alumni and family members of persons buried on Cemetery Hill have contacted Committee members to share family histories and anecdotes and to seek more information about the Committee's work. One family even volunteered to be the adopted caretakers for Francis Lever's gravesite.

As the Committee continues to seek and collect this kind of historical information from family members and local residents, the Committee envisions using that information and other resources to find a way to tell the Clemson story through the Woodland Cemetery. This unique and profound Clemson history might be highlighted discreetly throughout the Cemetery and in brochures made available at the Visitor's Center, or perhaps in some other thoughtful and appropriate manner. The Committee's long term vision also includes a more formal linkage between the Cemetery property and the Calhoun mansion, and consultations will continue with university historians and outside sources, such as Arlington National Cemetery, to determine how best to honor and remember the contributions of those interred at the Woodland Cemetery.

The recent heightened awareness of the Cemetery has also translated into unsolicited contributions to the Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Fund, described in more detail below. Unfortunately, the publicity has not yet produced any information regarding the theft of James Edward Calhoun's grave marker sometime in the last year. Sonya Goodman has since received indications however that the U.S. Military has a policy for providing replacement markers for veterans (James was an Army Captain during the Spanish-American War), and she is currently pursuing that possibility (any more detail there?). The \$1,000 reward that the Committee offered in May for information leading to the return of the stolen marker still stands.

² Twenty-four 24 of these are held for President's and Trustees and 63 are unassigned due to possible slave cemetery on west side. The balance are assigned to faculty and staff with at least 10 years of continuous employment.

Fundraising

The work of the Committee is certainly limited by the resources available to it, and thus fundraising is an important facet of its duties. No specific solicitations for supporting the Cemetery work have yet begun, but progress has been made on that front nonetheless. A Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Fund was established last spring, and already the account totals nearly \$4,738. \$1,500 was contributed by Tiger Brotherhood from proceeds of the *R.C. & Moonpie Downhill Run*, and \$1,300 has been collected from individuals since November, presumably as a result of the publicity generated by the *Clemson World* articles. Given this kind of support to date with no specific solicitation, the Committee is hopeful for a very positive response when donations are solicited more aggressively later this year. The Committee plans to focus initially on the families of those who are buried in the Cemetery, along with those who have a reserved but as of yet unoccupied plot. Tiger Brotherhood also remains committed to donating the proceeds of the *R.C. & Moonpie Downhill Run* to the Cemetery Fund in August, 2002, as well as additional proceeds from future fund raising efforts.

The Committee is also excited to have access to your sketch of the Cemetery. The Committee plans to use this sketch as an identifying mark for all of its correspondence, including *Clemson World* articles, solicitation mailers and thank you notes. We hope to also sell prints of that sketch to the public with proceeds being directed to the Stewardship Fund. The Committee is grateful to you for your time, dedication, and spirit, revealed in the loving sketch. Thank you.

Student Involvement

The Committee believes that direct student involvement is critical to long term success of the its mission. Accordingly, the Committee determined that Tiger Brotherhood was dedicated to providing various partnership-like duties at the request of the Committee. So far these efforts include offering informational tours to campus guests, site cleaning, and fund raising.

Several tours were requested through the Committee this past year and were conducted to rave reviews. Of particular note was a tour conducted by several members of Tiger Brotherhood for the Women's Alumni Council and their "Bring Your Daughter to Clemson" fest..

Conclusion

In closing, the Committee would like to express its continued gratefulness and excitement for the opportunity to work on this very important endeavor for Clemson. There has been much preliminary work accomplished in a few short months, and the Committee is eager to continue building upon that progress. With your blessing upon the work submitted in this report, the Committee will continue to forge ahead in this noble 'marathon' assignment.

**APPENDIX A
MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

FEBRUARY 6, 2001

The Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee met for the first time in the Board of Trustees Conference Room to organize and accept the charge of the Board and President Barker.

President Barker presided and the following members were present: Matt Dunbar, Wil Brasington, Jim Hendrix, Gerald Vander Mey, Tom Wooten, and Bobby McCormick. Don McKale, on sabbatical, was absent.

The Committee began by receiving an explanation of its charge from President Barker:

- The Cemetery is a special piece of earth and it deserves and requires special stewardship
- The Committee must maintain this sacred ground for a Bright future
- The Hill is a remarkable set of contours and views
- The History of the People interred there tells the story of Clemson University
- There is a special obligation about this piece of campus
- There has to be a balance of thinking with head and heart
- We have to be intellectually smart about the management of the property
- This Committee is an advisory group to the President, nothing else
- The creation of this Committee does not disturb the long-standing and proper role of the Trustees in managing the Cemetery
- The President reserves all rights to decision and actions
- This is a long-term effort and the life-term appointment of several members is a symbol of this point
- This is a perpetual effort—a marathon, not a sprint
- The Committee will have to make choices within a defined budget and assign priorities
- The Cemetery is
 - reflective and private
 - personal and contemplative
 - a “room”

The Committee then entered its initial discussions focusing on what it is—defining itself. Issues of people and institutions who might be sources of information and funding were discussed. The notion was agreed that we shall be liberal in our interpretation of “the hill.” Several members expressed the opinion that the trees of the Cemetery, in keeping with its name, are an integral part of its heritage and help create the privacy, solemnity, and intimacy of “a room,” and this in spite or in perfect harmony with its physical proximity to Memorial Stadium. This very proximity creating both opportunities for abuse and reverence that must be carefully considered and cautiously crafted.

We agreed, informally, that there were three current priorities:

- History
- Archeological work
- Development of a master plan in conjunction with the University Master Plan

The idea was raised that the Cemetery should be visually, physically, and conceptually linked with the Mansion. President Barker suggested that a trip to Ft. Hill or Woodland Cemetery should be “one visit.”

The Committee then agreed, informally, to discuss the following ideas:

- Create an Inventory of Souls on the Hill
- Create a link/dialog with the University Historian, to the extent that such a person exists
- Buy a tree for Woodland Cemetery concept as a fund raise

The Committee took the following official actions:

- Jim Hendrix was elected Chairman of the Committee
- Ask Sonya Goodman to be an Ex Officio member and to request that President Barker make this action possible

The Committee agreed to meet on Friday, March 2, 2001 at 4:30 PM in Room 222 Serrine Hall. With ;no additional matters for the moment, the Committee adjourned.

MARCH 2, 2001

The Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee met for the second time in Room 222, Serrine Hall. Chairman Jim Hendrix called the meeting to order at 4:30 with a cheerful greeting to all present.

Members present included Matt Dunbar, Wil Brasington, Jim Hendrix, Gerald Vander Mey, Tom Wooten, and Bobby McCormick. Don McKale, on sabbatical and out of the country, was absent. The Committee is indeed fortunate that Sonya Goodman has accepted the invitation to be an ex-officio member, and she too was present.

The minutes from the February 2, 2001 meeting were examined, amended, and approved.

The Committee discussed and proposed the following mission statement for itself:

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

The Committee tabled discussion on the proposed mission statement until the next meeting.

The Committee then discussed several areas of concern, notably the boundaries of the Cemetery. It was proposed that the Cemetery be defined as all that area bounded on the north by the unnamed road bordering Memorial Stadium, on the east by Williamson Road, on the south by the unnamed road coming off Williamson Road part way down the hill and continuing around the west side bordering on the parking lot adjacent to Perimeter Road. Briefly, it is asphalt to asphalt and all in between surrounding the current Cemetery grounds.

Discussion on this proposed definition of the Cemetery was tabled until the next meeting.

Tom Wooten displayed a number of recent and old aerial photographs of the Hill and its environs which provided insight into the area prior to the construction of Lake Hartwell. He also reported that the pines on the west side of the Cemetery were planted in the 1950s by hand, probably by physical plant employees.

The Committee agreed to commence an information campaign to publicize the presence of the Cemetery Endowment for those who would like to make contributions. This fund is named the

Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee Fund and is kept by the Clemson University Foundation.

The information would be spread through *Clemson World*, *Inside Clemson*, *Orange and White*, and other media which would announce also, the existence of this committee.

A partnership with student organizations was discussed, and it was agreed to ask Tiger Brotherhood to become involved via fund raising and other efforts consistent with their mission of supporting the University.

Gerald Vander Mey agreed to set up a project website for all business of this Committee using Buzzsaw.com as the tool. The Committee agreed to ask Liz Newell if she could set up a special section of *Clemson World* to be titled "Cemetery Hill Chronicles" which would contain, in every issue, some history of the Hill or people buried there.

Matt Dunbar agreed to contact the State Archeological Society to determine if there were funds or other support available to continue physical research on the Cemetery.

The meeting adjourned after we agreed to meet again on Monday, March 26, 2001 at 6:30pm.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

Conference Call

Members on call: Sonya Goodman, Gerald Van der May, Don McKale, Bobby McCormick, Jim Hendrix.

Jim Hendrix resigned as Chairman due to his relocation to Chicago to pursue education at another seminary of learning. Bobby McCormick was, somewhat reluctantly, elected Chairman.

Discussion followed on several fronts:

- Need for including an arborist and willingness to fund a tree survey. Discussion tabled to next meeting.
- Fund raising plan, Jim Hendrix to pursue.
- Discussed writing letter to President Barker to properly define Cemetery grounds.
- Discussed need for a permanent endowment of \$40-\$50k. Until fund reaches this level it will be an expenditure fund.
- Discussed parking near front door of Cemetery.
- Wil Brasington will continue his work on plaque development.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting time to be arranged.

DECEMBER 19, 2001

Location: Gentry Hall

Attending: Bobby McCormick, Matt Dunbar, Don McKale, Tom Wooten, Sonya Goodman, Gerald Vander Mey, and Jim Hendrix (via telephone). Guest in attendance; Barry Anderson.

1. Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm
2. September Minutes approved.
3. Old Business
 - a. Matt Dunbar was recognized for outstanding efforts related to the articles in Clemson World publication. Next article is to focus on John Logan Marshall.
 - b. The sketch requested of President Barker of Cemetery Hill is complete. The committee generally agreed that the sketch should be used in the best ways possible including identification and fundraising.
 - c. The state archeologist will be working with the committee to settle the issue of historic gravesites in the Cemetery. The time necessary to complete the effort could be of fairly long duration, but will be substantially more economical than having a private firm complete the work.
 - d. Activities Master Plan reviewed by Gerald Vander Mey (attached). Comments were requested.
 - e. Issues relative to the Physical Master Plan were reviewed by Barry Anderson (attached). Comments were requested.
 - f. The tree inventory is complete. Adriene Gerus and Gerald Vander Mey to develop a specific plan for implementation.
 - g. Jim Hendrix reported that here is \$4,738 in the Cemetery Fund account that is held by the Clemson University Foundation. This represents a very significant increase over the previous balance. The Tiger Brotherhood raised \$1,500 through a fundraising effort, and there were several individual donations that helped boost the account to its present state.
 - h. Sonya Goodman distributed an updated Internment Inventory to the committee.
 - i. The Mission Statement for the Woodland Cemetery Stewardship committee was discussed for a final time. The committee voted on the statement and it was unanimously approved. The Mission Statement is as follows:

“The Woodland Cemetery Stewardship Committee will consider, recommend, and engage in actions to protect and enhance the integrity, character, and traditions of Woodland Cemetery and its environs.”
 - j. The headstone that was stolen a few months ago is to be replaced by a headstone to be provided by the military. It will arrive in the next few months.
 - k. The Annual report of the Committee is being produced by Bobby McCormick and Matt Dunbar, and will be available to the committee soon.
 - l. New Business ? none.
4. Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 pm.

APPENDIX B
(see attached booklet)

APPENDIX C
Articles for *Clemson World*