



Linwood Legacy

HISTORIC LINWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
VOLUME 18 NUMBER 2 SPRING 2014

You are cordially invited to the

Historic Linwood Foundation, Inc.

18th Annual Meeting of the Membership

Thursday, May 15th, 2014

5:30 pm

In the Lummus Chapel

*A short business meeting, including the
election of officers will precede the program*

Guest Speaker:

Diana Andrews, Assistant Director of Education

And Tour Coordinator for the

National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park

Refreshments will be served.

For further information call 706-321-8285

**Historic Linwood
Foundation**
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Stone Faces and Sacred Spaces

Dear Linwood Members and Friends,

Where has the time gone? It just seems like yesterday we were welcoming 2013, and now here we are in 2014. When I was younger, I never could understand what the older generation meant when they said, "time goes by faster the older you get". Well, now that I'm approaching the "senior citizen discount" group, time really does seem to be going by faster.

Looking back over 2013, we had a very busy year. We started with the Home School Tours sponsored by the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau. We had one week of tours for students ranging from elementary school to high school seniors. We had a very favorable response from the participants, and we will be participating with the CVB again this year for the tours.

At Easter, we sold Easter Lilies, and we had a great response. We are planning on selling them again this year, so watch your mail in the not too distant future for more details.

The Easter Sunrise service was well attended, and this year we will be having it again. The service will be held in the chapel at 7:30 am on Easter morning, Sunday April 20th.

Our 3rd Saturday Tours were a success, and we are planning to continue them this year starting May 17th. If you would like to volunteer to be a tour guide, please let me know.

We had more visitors to the cemetery last year than we have had in a very long time. The photo contest brought photographers in at all times of the day, and sometimes at night. High school and college students were constant visitors, doing research for various classes. We partnered with several professors from CSU so their students could do research on various topics. The students never realized there were so many *different* topics on which they could gather data just by looking at headstones!

"Morbid Curiosities" was the theme of the ramble last year. If you missed it, you missed a great time. This year the Ramble will be on Thursday, October 23rd, so go ahead and mark your calendars. The theme this year will revolve around the photo contest and the book that will be published from the pictures entered into the contest. The exact theme hasn't been decided as of yet, but I know it will be an interesting one. Make your plans now to attend!

In November, Delta Company 1-81 Armor Regiment Staff from Ft. Benning had a tour of the cemetery. This was a direct result of the 3rd Saturday Tours. A wife of one of the officers took the Saturday tour and suggested to her husband the cadre should come to Linwood and see where Gen. Benning was buried. It was amazing that none of these Cavalry officers knew that Gen. Benning was buried so close to the fort which bears his name.

The year ended on a sad note with the death of Warren Foley. Warren was the driving force in getting the Historic Linwood Foundation started. His vision for the cemetery came into being after much hard work and dedication. Warren will be missed greatly!

Until next time,
Jane Brady

Member Renewals for December 14, 2013 to April 17, 2014

Mr. and Mrs. W. Mizell Alexander
Mr. and Mrs. Arch V. Arnold III
Mr. and Mrs. Walker R. Bickerstaff
Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Bickerstaff III
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Mr. and Mrs. R. William Brooks
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Mr. and Mrs. Sam M. Wellborn
Mr. Robert E. Willett
Ms Elizabeth W. Willis
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Winn
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Wood
Mr. William C. Woolfolk III

Welcome New Members December 11, 2013 to April 17, 2014
The Columbus Museum
Rebecca P. and Courtney R. George
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Sahn

Memorials & Gifts ...

December 31, 2013 to April 15, 2014

*Historic Linwood Foundation is grateful for
the generosity and support of the following donors:*

In Memory of Mr. Warren Foley

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Amos
Ms Suzanne F. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Childs
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Ms Julie Woodruff

In Memory of LTC. Ret. Richard Munn, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Galer

In Memory of Mr. Joseph Clinton Russell

Mrs. Louise Thomas

In Memory of Mrs. Helena "Boo" Tuggle

Mr. and Mrs. John Page

From our President: John Page

This will be my last letter to you as president of the Historic Linwood Foundation. It has really been a pleasure working so closely with the Foundation over the last two years, and I do plan to continue to work with the Board. I do hope you will attend the Annual Meeting on May 15th at 5:30 where new officers will be elected, and we will enjoy a wonderful guest speaker.

Thank you for your support of Historic Linwood and I look forward to seeing you soon and often around the cemetery.

Best,
John

The Singer Story

Most of you don't know this but, I collect old sewing machines. There, I said it. Most men don't admit to such things, but I love the vintage machines and enjoy using them. The life of the man most associated with sewing machines is none other than Isaac Merritt Singer of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. Singer was born in New York on October 27th 1811. Many people mistakenly believe that Singer invented the sewing machine. He did not; he is, however, credited with making several important improvements to the design of it and became most known for his marketing genius. There were many sewing machine makers in business at the same time as Singer, but he was one of the first to start using a payment plan system so households could afford the high cost of the machines – plus he began producing machines overseas and thus avoided the financial strain of the American Civil War. Singer was quite a character and fathered at least 24 children with various wives and mistresses. It was in the south of England in 1863 that Singer retired and settled in with his French born (and final) wife, Isabella Eugenie Boyer. Isabella is said to have been the beautiful woman used by the sculptor Bartholdi as the model for the Statue of Liberty. Isaac Merritt Singer died on July 23rd 1875 and left his fortune of about 14 million dollars, a colossal sum in those days, to his many children. A fantastic book about Singer's life is *Singer and The Sewing Machine, A Capitalist Romance* by Ruth Brandon (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1977).

OK, here is the big reveal. Just after I had finished reading this book, Jane and I were walking through the cemetery and spotted a grave marked "Francis Merritt Singer, Born Feb 3rd, 1923, Died Dec 12th, 1948" and my first thought was that there was no way that this person could not be related to Isaac! After much research, I determined that he is in fact the great grandson of Isaac Merritt Singer! It was quite an eye opener to realize there is a connection to the Singer Sewing Machine Company in Columbus, Georgia, and Linwood Cemetery. Francis' father, George (a son of Paris Eugene Singer, one of Isaac's sons by Isabella) had moved the family to Columbus about 1929. Later, Francis attended Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta and worked for a while at Southern Telephone & Telegraph Co. I believe that he was married for a short time. He died tragically in a car accident in 1948 at the young age of 25 years old.



Francis Merritt Singer

Francis' mother, father and sister moved to Daytona, Florida, and are buried there. If any of our members know of additional information concerning the Singer Family, please let me know.

Now, I think I'll get back to restoring another Singer sewing machine.

Contributed by David Brady