

Linwood Legacy

VOLUME 5

MAY 2002

NO. 4

President's Column

In this, my last report to you as President of HLF, I want to thank the officers and members of the board, and the efficient and dedicated Executive Director, Linda Kennedy and her assistant, Lee Ann Meeks, who have been helpful in carrying our mission forward. Thanks to all the volunteers who did the jobs that otherwise never would have been done; and a special thanks to all the members who continue to be a sustaining force for Historic Linwood Foundation.

During my two year tenure as President, HLF has made great strides toward our many goals. Among the outstanding projects were the restoration of the Gate House and occupancy as our headquarters, and a restoration fund begun, allowing significant repair of markers by professionals. Other important successes were establishing a web site, adding new events to the schedule, and executing a landscaping plan. People are beginning to notice a difference.

There is a great deal of forgotten history in Linwood Cemetery that needs to be shared with everyone. So, as I step down to serve as a member of the board for the next two years, I have already begun research to identify the artisans who provided the 19th century, museum quality, monuments and markers in the cemetery. I welcome help on this project.

It has been a pleasure to work with all of you, and I've enjoyed every minute of it (almost).

Mary Jane Galer
President

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Warren Foley, Chairman
 John Sheftall, President
 John Holt, Vice President
 Callie McGinnis, Secretary
 Frank Lumpkin, Treasurer
 Linda Kennedy, Executive Director
 and Editor

Memorials

Lucille Callaway
 Louise Smith Walker
 Steve & Mary Olive
 Mr. & Mrs. James R. Price
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bruce
Mrs. Lamar Zahn
 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Hamlett
Mr. Leonard Garrard Pease, Jr
 Mrs. Jerre L. Pearson, Sr.

Executive Director

The crew of Stone Faces and Sacred Spaces have moved on to other cemeteries and left Linwood with 15 monuments and tablets repaired. The restoration demonstration showed us exactly what was involved in repairing these old marble monuments. We are extremely pleased to have had someone of their caliber working in our cemetery and hope we are able to have them back next year. As you know, there is much more work to be done.

I hope you have noticed the improvement of Center Street. We are gradually getting the brick walls repaired that border the old cemetery. Eventually we will be repairing all the walls that border the roads.

Lee Anne Meeks, my assistant, Helen Horwitz, Board Member, and I will be traveling to Savannah June 26-30 to attend the Association of Gravestone Studies conference. I will be doing a slide presentation on Linwood's monuments and fences. Also, I have been asked to lead a hands-on workshop on cleaning and resetting tombstones. Classes will be offered on different aspects of cemetery restoration and conservation. Volunteers will keep the office open, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The Annual Meeting was attended by about 60 people. Callie McGinnis gave us an excellent talk about cemeteries and the attendees participated in a cemetery "Scavenger Hunt." Winners received a gift certificate to Rankin Deli, passes to Port Columbus Civil War Naval Museum, and coupons for Dinglewood's scrambled dogs. The first ever Autry Award was presented to Warren Foley for his commitment to the mission of Historic Linwood Foundation.

New officers and Board Members were elected at the May Board Meeting. They are as follows:

Officers
 President: John Sheftall
 Vice President: John Holt
 Secretary: Callie McGinnis
 Treasurer: Frank Lumpkin

New Board Members
 Lea Dowd Mimi Childs
 Nancy Reaves Mary Jane Galer
 John Lewis Dexter Jordan
 Scott Boyce Steve Gunby

We appreciate the services of retiring Board Members Ed Bouchard, Frank Schnell, Pat Walters, Billy Winn and Billy Young.

Sisters of Mercy in Columbus, GA

There are three Sisters of Mercy buried in Linwood Cemetery in Columbus, GA. The story of their coming to Columbus is an interesting one. In mid-August 1861, because of the fast approaching threat of war, Bishop Augustin Verot, decided to remove the Sisters of Mercy from their convent and school in St. Augustine, Florida. He thought inland Georgia would be less likely to be attacked than the ancient coastal city.

On August 17, 1861 five Sisters began an arduous journey from St. Augustine to Columbus. The trip was filled with hardships and perils. There were no railroads; stage transportation was prohibited by martial law; horses were few, and mostly in use by the Confederate army. So, the Sisters and Bishop Verot traveled in an old shambling wagon pulled by a single horse and two dump carts pulled by mules. The Sisters sat on top of their trunks and boxes of provisions.

After many mishaps along the way, the Sisters arrived in Columbus on September 4, 1861. They opened a school – St. Joseph’s Academy on October 1 of that year. As we all know, Lee surrendered at Appomattox on April 9, 1865; the news did not reach Columbus until after the city was destroyed by General Wilson on April 19. During the war, the Sisters closed the school to attend to the sick women and children of the city. (By 1871, sickness and death among the Sisters caused them to move inland to Macon, where they opened a school, Mount de Sales Academy, which was chartered in 1876 and remains there today.)

The three Sisters who died in Columbus, and are buried in Linwood Cemetery are Sister Mary Magdalen (Dora Corrigan), Sister Mary Philomena (Agatha Usima), and Sister Mary Teresa Plicque. There may be a fourth sister, Sr. Mary Evangelist O’Neil, who died in Columbus on Oct. 4, 1885, whose burial site remains unknown.)

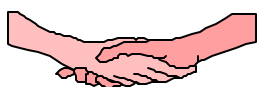
Sr. Mary Magdalen Corrigan was born in County Sligo, Ireland on January 14, 1827. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in St. Augustine, FL in 1850; took her vows in March 1862. She was 38 years old when she died in Columbus on March 10, 1865. She was buried in the Thweatt family lot in Linwood Cemetery. (There are five unmarked graves in Lot 631C, located next to two Confederate Soldiers whose tombstone headings indicate they died in the War 1862-1865.) Sr. Magdalen was one of the Sisters who came with Bishop Verot from St. Augustine.

Sr. Mary Philomena Usina was born March 25, 1842 in St. Augustine, FL, entered the Sisters of Mercy in March 1866; took vows on September 24, 1868; died in Columbus, GA August 27, 1872; and is buried in Linwood Cemetery. (She is buried in the McCauley family lot; her cause of death is listed as tuberculosis; she was 28 years old when she died.)

Sr. Mary Teresa Plicque died June 18, 1872. Other information about her is not known, except Meningitis is listed as cause of death. She is buried in Linwood Cemetery in the McCauley Lot, next to Sr. Philomena – whose baptismal name was “Agatha”. Sr. Agatha Plicque is the name on Sr. Teresa’s headstone.

This article was written by Sister Grace Marie Dillard, RSM. Retired from Pacelli High School, she now volunteers as Community Service Coordinator for the school.

The information given above is taken from **The Sisters of Mercy in the United States 1843-1828** by Sr. M. Eulalia Herron; and **Rebel Bishop: The Life and Era of Augustin Verot** by Michael V. Gannon



***Welcome
New
Members***

Linda Vingi
Columbus, Georgia

James C. Gibson, Jr.
Salem, Alabama

Beverly Jenkins
Columbus, Georgia

DONATIONS WANTED

Historic Linwood Foundation could use the following items:

City Directory
Typewriter
Slide Projector
6' Step Ladder

If you have these items that could be donated it would be greatly appreciated.

And we are always looking for photographs of people buried in Linwood Cemetery.

Warren Foley receiving the first Autry Award presented by John Sheftall, Vice President for Mary Jane Galer, President.

Stone Faces & Sacred Spaces
Visit to Linwood from February 10th to March 11th 2002

David Via demonstrating repair of an obelisk on February 23rd in Linwood Cemetery.

Lynette Strangstad showing members of the Foundation the different varieties of flowers growing in Linwood.

Membership Form

MISSION STATEMENT: TO PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN LINWOOD CEMETERY AS AN HISTORIC AND CULTURAL SITE OF IMPORTANCE TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS AND ITS CITIZENS, TO ASSIST THE CITY OF COLUMBUS IN RESTORING, PRESERVING, IMPROVING, MAINTAINING, AND MANAGING LINWOOD CEMETERY, AND TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC WITH RESPECT TO THE CULTURAL AND HISTORIC VALUES OF LINWOOD CEMETERY, AND FOR OTHER EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

DO YOU HAVE FAMILY BURIED IN LINWOOD? _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

STUDENT _____ \$15.00 GUARDIAN ANGEL _____ \$250.00

FRIEND _____ \$35.00 ARCHANGEL _____ \$500.00

GATE KEEPER _____ \$100.00 PATRON SAINT _____ \$1000.00

To become a member, please check level of membership desired and return with your check to P. O. Box 1057, Columbus GA 31902. For more information, call 321-8285.

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