

Linwood Legacy

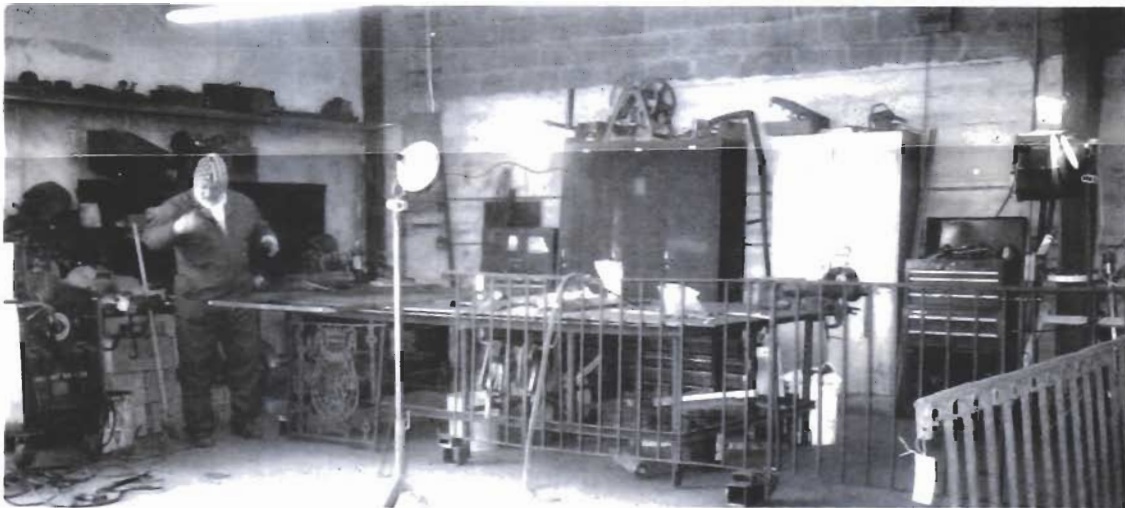
VOLUME 7

FEBRUARY 2004

NO. 3

Executive Director

In spite of the really cold weather we have had for the past three months, our Foundation office has been very busy. Your participation in Victorian Christmas left our cemetery looking very well cared for. The graves of many loved ones were decorated with wreaths, poinsettias, and other greenery. See picture on page 4.



RESTORATION. David Via was here in November and December working on fencing. He has completed one fence that will be put back up in March. At that time, David will be also working on resetting monuments that were dismantled during an earlier visit to safeguard them as they were a danger to visitors or in danger of falling.

We have had many visitors to the office seeking help in finding the burial places of their ancestors. We had a visitor from Virginia who was descended from Edward Lloyd Thomas, the surveyor who laid out the city of Columbus in 1828. She was looking for the grave of Truman Thomas, his son, who died during the survey and was the first person buried in the city cemetery. I was sorry to have to tell her that we did not know his burial place.

Mary Jane Galer, Mimi Childs, and I have been busy putting together a picture history book of people buried in Linwood. It has finally been sent to the publisher and hopefully will be published and ready for purchase in July.

Because of the generous contribution to our fence fund, started by the legacy of Evelyn Holt, we have been able to complete the Linwood Boulevard portion of our plan to fence all of Linwood Cemetery. Your donation of \$750.00 will purchase a 6 1/2 foot panel. Thanks to all who have contributed to this point.



RESTORATION. Our brickwork restoration has been ongoing all winter. Bo Patterson is working steadily at restoring brick walls and graves. Bo will be with us until spring and will return in the fall.

The only thing that has suffered during this cold, wet, winter has been the survey project. As you know, we are doing a lot by lot survey of Linwood. Some Columbus High School students have chosen Linwood Cemetery as their community service project and have donated 20 hours each to help us survey. While this is a tremendous help, we still could use more volunteers. If this is something you would be interested in, please call me at 321-8285 and I will gladly tell you what is involved. The best times for surveying is Spring and Fall.

John Kennedy has completed the mapping of Linwood and we soon will have a map showing every lot and grave in the cemetery. It has been a tremendous undertaking starting from 1997. We will soon have this map on display.

As Executive Director, I would like to express my appreciation to all our members for their support of Historic Linwood Foundation. Our Foundation is what you, the members, have made of it.

Linda J. Kennedy
Executive Director

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John Holt, Vice President
Mimi Childs, Secretary
Frank Lumpkin, Treasurer
Linda Kennedy, Executive Director
and Editor



Our cemetery is in need of trees!

One tree has already been donated by member **Helen Horwitz** in memory of her parents, **John and Charlotte Strenkert**. If you would like to contribute a tree, our master gardeners will see to the planting of it.

Please call 321-8285 for more information.

Welcome New Members

Bo Patterson
Lansing, NY
Nell Gardiner Turner Spettel
Columbus, GA
Ene Watkins Pate
Columbus, GA

Memorials

Mr. William H. Young, III

Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. Reed
Eleanor Woolfolk Roberts
Mrs. Carter Woolfolk
Mr. & Mrs. Frank G. Lumpkin, III
Mr. Andrew Prather, II
Mr. & Mrs. John Page
Mr. & Mrs. Sam M. Wellborn
Paula D. Hill
M. & Mrs. Buddy Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Lothar L. Tresp
Mrs. Jerre L. Pearson
Peggy P. Jenkins

T. Earl Taylor

Warren Foley & Jim Gray

Bettye Kyle Patterson

Mr. & Mrs. Ben H. Hudson
Mr. & Mrs. Henry D. Wiley

In Honor Of

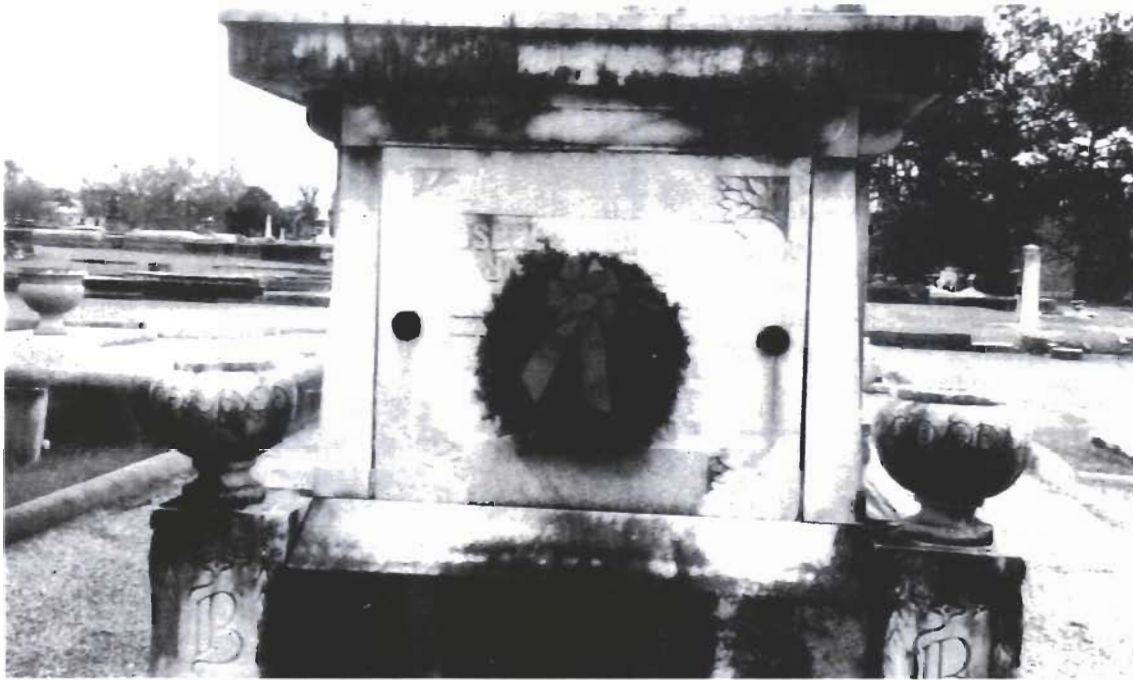
Camille Yow

Eleanor Woolfolk Roberts

Mr. Neal Wickham

Mrs. Carter Woolfolk

Historic Linwood Foundation has received a beautiful drawing of the big old oak in the old cemetery. It was given to us by Trees Columbus. Please stop by the office to see the drawing.



Victorian Christmas 2003. The above wreath on the Bullock lot is one of 60 wreaths placed in the cemetery. Pictured are volunteers Warren Foley, Murray Craig and Bill Reaves. Chairman for this Victorian Christmas was Nancy Reaves who did an outstanding job.

William Cason Gray

A tombstone in Lot 81, Section F, of Linwood Cemetery has the following inscription:

Wm. C. Gray
 born in Jasper County, Georgia
 October 18, 1818
 died at Chunnenugee, Alabama
 October 6, 1883
Asleep in Jesus
 A devoted husband, an affectionate father
 A sincere Christian, a loyal friend.
He has fought the good fight
He has kept the faith..
Triumphant he has fallen asleep
in the bosom of his father and his God

Now largely forgotten, William Cason Gray was an active figure in the business, political and social life of Columbus during the middle decades of the nineteenth century. An enterprising businessman, he was also a patron of the Columbus Volunteer Fire Company, a pillar of the First Baptist Church, and three times elected Alderman from the First Ward. He arrived in Columbus with his parents, Richard and Margaret Gray, the year of its founding, when he was only ten years old. By his twentieth birthday William C. Gray had become a small scale investor and parlayed a partnership in the 1840's and 1850's into the Muscogee (later Columbus) Building and Loan Association. He then formed a partnership with cotton broker E.S. Greenwood. Greenwood and Gray maintained offices on Randolph Street, between Broad and Front, and a cotton warehouse on the site later occupied by the Sol Loeb firm. During the Civil War, Greenwood and Gray opened a rope works that soon employed "an army of men, women and children," who made cordage from bear grass when the blockade cut off the supply of hemp. Greenwood and Gray also financed J.P. Murray who set up a workshop to produce carbines and "Mississippi rifles;" the shop quickly expanded into a two-storey factory. A terrible fire in Gray's cotton warehouse destroyed 7,000 bales and may have motivated William into serving in the Volunteer Fire Company. Near the close of the Civil War Gray served as a captain in the Georgia Reserves.

After the war Gray recovered from his losses and resumed his cotton warehouse and commission business. His resulting prosperity enabled the Gray family to visit fashionable spas in Virginia and to send a daughter to Hollins College. Unfortunately much of his wealth evaporated following another disastrous warehouse fire and other business losses in the 1870's. However, Gray continued to own a plantation on Chunnenugee Ridge in Bullock County, Alabama. He and his wife opened a boarding house at 122 Broad Street which expanded into the Planters Hotel by 1880. Health problems, including blindness, dogged his last years. He died in 1883 while visiting his property in Bullock County.

William C. Gray married Caroline Heard on 8 March 1847; she was a daughter of William M. Heard and Elizabeth Hopkins Heard of Harris County. They had ten surviving children. Caroline Heard Gray survived her husband by seventeen years. The report of her death in the July 14, 1900, issue of the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, referred to her late spouse as "a leading and influential citizen of Columbus," and herself as having "one of the most beautiful and loveable of characters." She was buried beside her husband in Linwood Cemetery.