

# Linwood Legacy

VOLUME 8

NOVEMBER 2004

NO. 2

## *Executive Director*

These crisp fall days are very beautiful but the best thing is that the grass has quit growing. It is such a problem for our city workers to keep the cemetery mowed. Have you noticed the new trees planted in the cemetery? The article that was in the Ledger-Enquirer produced some fantastic results. Pat Walters and her committee still have promises of trees that will be planted soon.

We had many compliments on the Ramble this year. Even though the attendance was not as great as we expected, the presenters did an excellent job. Many said they enjoyed the family stories immensely. The Brookstone students who volunteered their time, provided a much needed service as golf cart drivers. The weather cooperated and the sunset was beautiful. Being able to park in the cemetery was great.

Restoration efforts slowed down during the summer, but with both David Via and Bo Patterson working in the cemetery during the winter, we should get lots of restoration accomplished. Several monuments have been marked for repair and many of the brick walls and brick graves will be restored also.

By now, each member should have received our letter for our Annual Restoration Campaign. This is the first letter of this type that we have sent out. Our capital campaign that we started in 2001 generated enough money to restore the gate house and pay for restoration for several years, but the time has come for us to re-build our restoration fund.

If you remember what the cemetery looked like before our Foundation started, you realize that we are making progress. Sometimes, it seems to me that we are crawling toward our goal of restoring Linwood, but every year, I can point to repaired markers and walls. Thanks to each and every one of you for your support.

Linda Kennedy  
Executive Director



**Historic Linwood Cemetery  
Book Still Available!!!**

As you know, Ivan caused our lecture and book signing at Historic Columbus to be cancelled, but we do have our cemetery book available for sale at the Gate House in Linwood Cemetery. They make fine gifts for friends and relatives who have loved ones buried in Linwood or for those who are interested in Columbus history. Stop by and get your copies Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM at the Gate House Office. Cost is \$21.40.



***New Staff Member***

Historic Linwood Foundation has a new staff member, Mrs. Annie Laura Tillman. Annie Laura is taking Brenda Evans' place who is no longer working. Annie Laura is a master gardener and has worked as a volunteer planting and watering trees and helping out at the Ramble. We are pleased to have her working with us.



**Christmas Wreaths**

Don't forget to order your wreaths from our Foundation. The wreaths are 24 inches in diameter and made of fragrant balsam fir with a bright red bow, cones and berries. Decorate your family lot with these beautiful wreaths or even purchase one for your door. The cost is \$25.00. You should have received an order form, but for information call us at 321-8285. We will be available on December 11th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM to place wreaths for those who cannot get to the cemetery. Join us for hot chocolate and cider and place your own wreath. The wreaths are being shipped from Maine so be sure and get your order in soon.



Historic Linwood Foundation, Inc.  
 P. O. Box 1057  
 Columbus, GA 31902-1057  
 1-706-321-8285  
 E-mail: hlinfo@knology.net  
 Website: historiclinwood.org

Warren Foley, Chairman  
 John Holt, President  
 Frank Lumpkin, Vice President  
 Mimi Childs, Secretary  
 Scott Boyce, Treasurer  
 Linda Kennedy, Executive Director  
 and Editor

*Memorials*

*Mrs. J. Edgar Chancellor, Jr.*

Katherine Waddell

*Dr. Jack Hughston*

Warren W. Foley

*Dr. Tom Crymes*

Ben and Iva Hudson

Rebecca Yarbrough

*Welcome New Members*

Kent Hart Butler  
Columbus

Mr. And Mrs. David Cartledge  
Columbus

Lynn B. Fulton  
Memphis

Mr. And Mrs. Gardiner W. Garrard, Jr.

Mr. And Mrs. William Huff  
Columbus

Michelle Ogletree  
Columbus

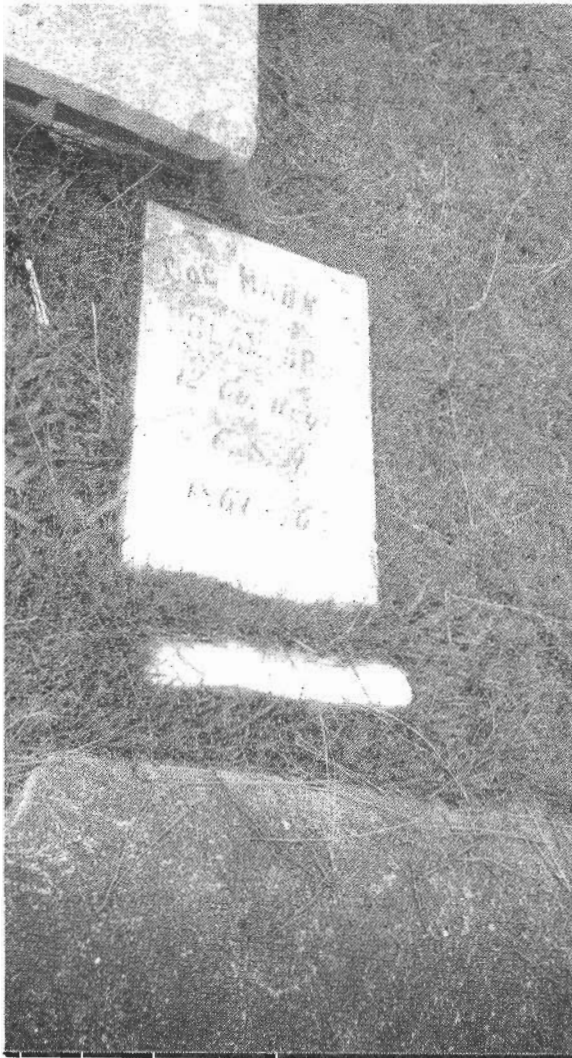
Mrs. Richard Watkins  
Columbus

The picture below is of a lot that has been "adopted" by a 4-H group. They cleaned the lot of weeds and ant beds and planted flowers in the planters that were already in place. There are many lots that have no local owners that could use some beautification. Call 321-8285 if this is a project that would interest you.



*Mark Hardin Blanford*  
1826-1902

The burial place of Mark Hardin Blanford could be described as an obscure portion of Linwood Cemetery, with no markers of any beauty, just simple concrete slabs with names and dates, some unmarked, but one with a broken military marker with the name of Colonel Mark Blanford, 12th Georgia, CSA, 1861-1865.



Is there a story with this simple marker? Mark Hardin Blanford was born in 1826 in Jones County, Georgia to Clarke Blanford and Nancy Hardin. He had two siblings, Carrie and Francis. The father, Clarke, brought his family to Harris County where he served as clerk of the Superior Court.

Our story of Mark Blanford's life begins with his schooling. Though no record has been found of his attendance, it is believed that he attended a school in Pennfield, which later became known as Mercer University. By an act of the legislature, he was admitted to the Bar in 1844, at the age of eighteen.

As Columbus was the Georgia Military Headquarters for the 1846 Mexican War, many area residents volunteered for service. A reference is found that says M. H. Blanford was 4th Corporal in the Columbus Light Infantry. As a young man of 20 years, he served in his first war.

After that war, Blanford returned to take up his practice in Marion County. There he married Sallie Daniel, daughter of Young and Nancy Brown Daniel. They had eight children, of whom only two sons and one daughter survived their father. He established a thriving law practice along with a plantation and was very well thought of by all who knew him.



Soon, the country was involved in the struggle between the South and the North and Blanford commanded a company in the 12th Georgia. He lost his right arm in a battle in McDowell, Virginia. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in January of 1863 and resigned his commission in June of the same year. Still desiring to serve the Confederacy, he was elected to the Confederate Congress and served during the years of 1864-1865.



**Mark Hardin Blanford**

He moved to Columbus in 1868 and in 1872, he was elected justice of the Georgia Supreme Court where he served for 8 years. A quote from the *Constitution* after his death says, "eminent jurist, distinguished judge of the supreme court of Georgia and one of its most esteemed citizens."

Mark Hardin Blanford died on January 31, 1902 at his residence on Lawyers Lane in the Wynnton area. He is buried in Linwood Cemetery.

So friends, think, as you stroll the grassy lanes in Linwood! A broken marker that states only a name and some dates and gives the appearance of "nothing much," holds the story of a life of great accomplishments and service to his country.

*Bibliography furnished on request.*