

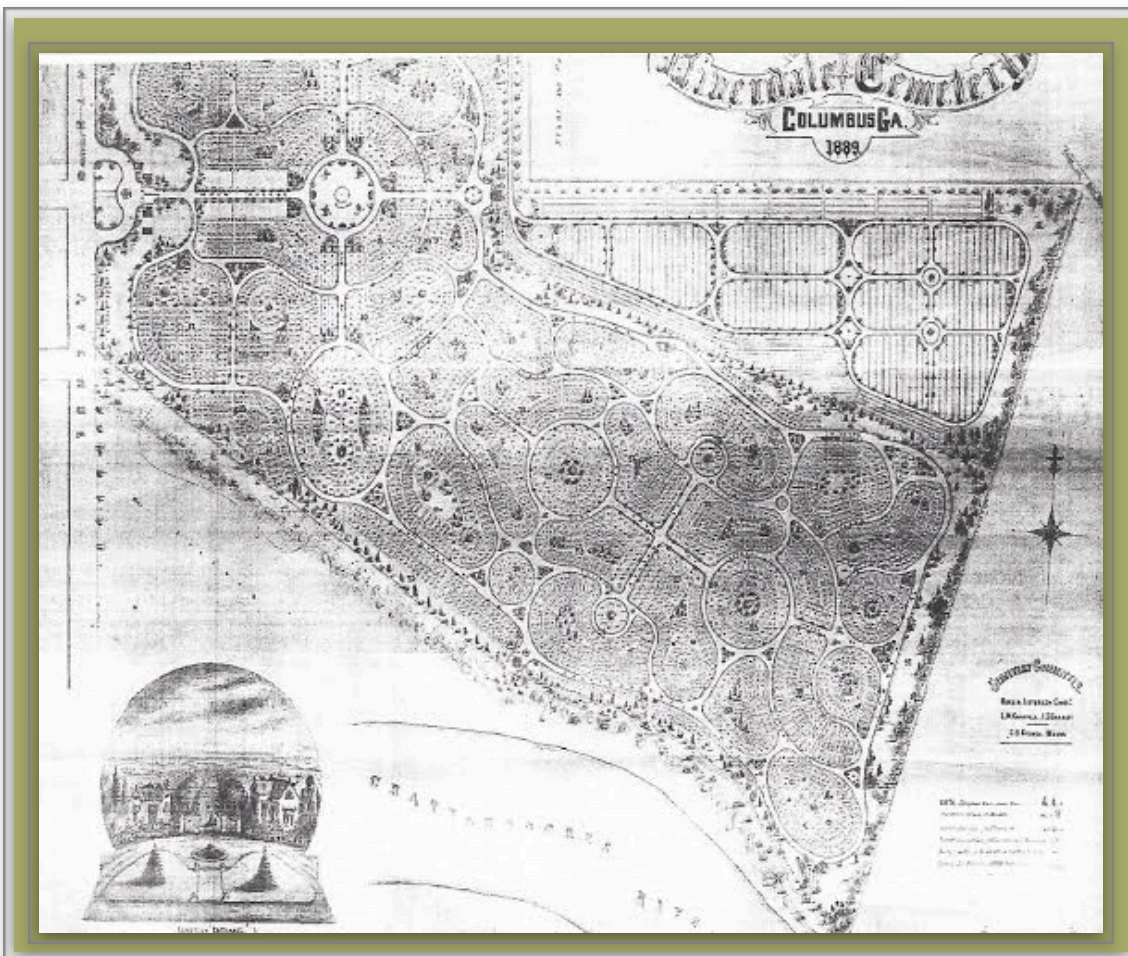
Focus on Riverdale



Visitors to Riverdale Cemetery get an interesting history lesson at the entrance driveway by way of a Historic Marker given in 2006 by former Trustee Laurette Rosenstrauch, which explains that "...as availability of lots at Linwood Cemetery... was becoming scarce... the city acquired additional property on 10th Avenue that became Riverdale Cemetery. The brick building near the entrance, erected in 1915, originally included a chapel, housing for the City Sexton and a bell tower atop the arched passageway for funeral processions."

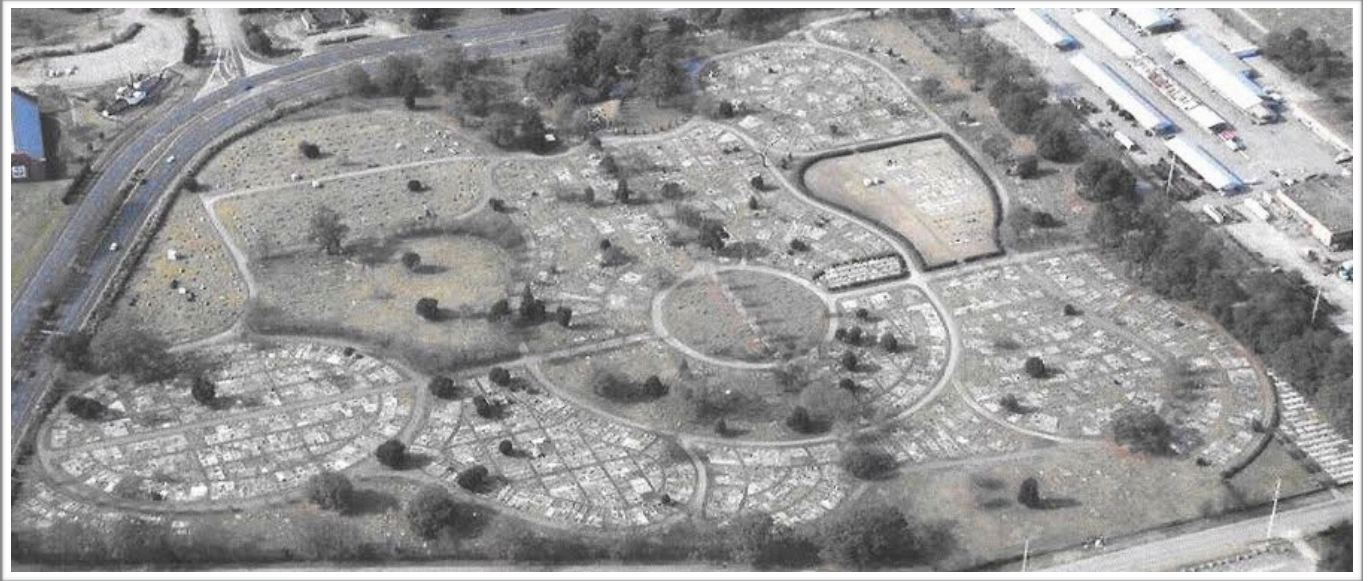
In the late 1880s, well-known landscape architect Benjamin Grove was engaged to survey and design this new cemetery based on his fine reputation for similar areas in Indiana, Kentucky Louisiana, and Missouri, among other locations. Grove's artistic skills centered on picturesque landscaping techniques in curvilinear designs. A framed copy of his plan hangs in the Riverdale Building, and Columbus State University's Archives has recently acquired a larger print of the plan for display.

(continued inside)



Original Benjamin Grove design of Riverdale Cemetery (1889)

(Focus cont.)



Drone view of Riverdale Cemetery(2017)

Bringing our thoughts of this amazing design into the present, local drone enthusiasts Jim Gates and Bill Edwards photographed Riverdale from 250 - 300 feet high, showing Grove's designs holding strong and clear in the present. And recently Jim's brother Tom, a member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, presented two enlarged, framed prints of the drone shots for display.

Through the years several areas have been marked for particular burials. There are two sections for members of the Temple Israel and Shearith Israel communities, and a large section set aside by the American Legion for veterans of our armed forces. Additionally there is an area for veterans of the Spanish American War, including a monument featuring a plaque made from metal salvaged from the *USS Maine*. And a small area has several markers for veterans of the Civil War.

Renovation of the Riverdale Building began in 2010, when the City of Columbus and the Riverdale-Porterdale Cemetery Foundation began working together to bring the brick structure up to date and make it more useful. The arched passageway was enclosed with large glass sections, making a bright and interesting area for funeral services or other gatherings. Now on display in the building are many pictures of Columbus in the early 20th century and unique artifacts relating to various people buried here and in the Porterdales. A lovely fountain was donated by descendants of Helen Dodd Buck and Thomas Bryant Buck, Sr. Various landscape and security improvements have been completed in recent years. Presently work is being done to enhance the pavilion near the building, making it more suitable for services and other functions.

Future plans....? There's always more to be done. We hope you will come by for a visit, to learn a bit of local history, or just to enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

The Dales Society

Representing Riverdale, Porterdale and East Porterdale, the Dales Society is our membership organization. Various levels of participation are available, and renewal notices are sent on the anniversary of joining. Income derived is used for property improvements, office expenses and special events. Membership forms may be obtained in the Riverdale Building by calling the cemetery office (706-653-4579), or requests may be made through the Foundation's website:

www.riverdaleporterdale.org



Legends

Elizabeth Frances Cantey (1875 - 1948)

Elizabeth Cantey was born in 1875 in Ft. Mitchell, Alabama, but moved to Columbus with her family early in her childhood. She attended the local public schools, and eventually was among the first graduates of Tuskegee Institute.

Miss Cantey became a teacher and made the school system her life and her love for more than fifty years. She taught in the 28th Street School, Sixth Avenue School, Spencer High School and Manly Taylor School, demonstrating her commitment to the public school system through the service of four School Superintendents.

Her devotion to youth, especially those less fortunate than others, made her a role model and an important influence for children throughout the community. Additionally, she provided leadership and advocacy to several civic, social and welfare movements in Columbus. Religious pursuits were also important to Miss Cantey, as evidenced by her long membership and inspirational participation in St. John A.M.E. Church.

The Housing Authority of Columbus honored her memory in 1950 by naming a new housing development The Elizabeth F. Canty Homes. At the unveiling of her portrait during the dedication of that development, Chairman Theo J. McGee deemed Miss Cantey “an inspiration to all people in the city of Columbus.”

Elizabeth Frances Cantey died on May 4, 1948 and is buried in her family’s plot in Porterdale Cemetery.

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Prefer sharing your time inside... or outside?
We're flexible!

The Foundation has a list of services ranging from record keeping to landscaping, from techno-genius to techno-novice. We're even open to your suggestions of how you might improve what we do and how we do it.

Use the 'contact us' page on the Foundation website
www.riverdaleporterdale.org
to check out the possibilities.



