



Spring 2017

Riverdale-Porterdale
Cemetery Foundation

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Focus on East Porterdale



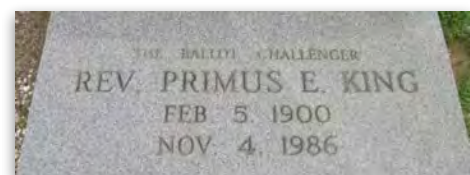
By the mid 1940s, the city of Columbus determined that Porterdale Cemetery was reaching its capacity. The solution was to open East Porterdale on land directly across Tenth Avenue. Featuring single lots in double rows on either side of the central drive, this cemetery was carefully designed to avoid the confusion of unmarked plots in the much older Porterdale. In many cases, families purchased several spaces and set them apart with low coping. Mature trees were left in place along the perimeter of the property. The first burials in this area were in 1946, and the original price for a plot was \$20.25.

Currently, there are slightly more than 4000 burials recorded in East Porterdale. Prominent among these is the Reverend Primus King, whose courageous determination to vote in a primary election in 1944 eventually resulted in the elimination of legal barriers for black voters of Georgia.



Photograph generously provided by
Mr. Donny Kent.

In 2010 R-PCF installed iron gates flanked by brick columns at the driveway; in a later project, volunteers planted a line of shrubbery at the south side of the cemetery to shield this area from unattractive views and noise. The Foundation continues to consider ways to further enhance this important part of our community's history.



Legends

Dr. Fidella Howard Odom LiFrage

A unique individual buried in Riverdale is Fidella Howard LiFrage. Born in Columbus on December 27, 1880, Fidella Jane Howard was the fourth child of James William and Jane Hendrix Howard. She spent two years studying at Georgia Eclectic School in Atlanta, and graduated in 1910 from Hospital Medical College. She later graduated from Tulane Medical Schools.

Medical training in the early twentieth century was vastly different from our experience today. There were seven medical schools in Atlanta during this time, and medical students were allowed to practice medicine before actually receiving their degree. Fidella was an example, returning to Columbus by train on weekends to see patients. According to an account in The Columbus Ledger's 75th Anniversary edition, her first patient in 1907 was "a very sick baby.....The child recovered, and after this her practice grew rapidly, and before the summer was over she had to buy a horse and buggy to answer calls. The customary fee then, for either office or home call, was \$1.00."

Fidella married S. H. Odom in 1898; he died in 1921, and in 1925 she married C. E. LiFrage. Besides her devotion to medicine, Fidella was very active in Rose Hill Baptist Church, where her father had been the minister.

This interesting and courageous Columbusite retired from her medical practice in 1935, and she died in 1968.



Thanks to Callie McGinnis for contributing parts of information above.

Marker Art and Symbolism



Above left: Woodmen of the World: fraternal and beneficial society, founded in 1890 by Joseph Cullen Root in Omaha, Nebraska. Grave markers often crafted in the shape of a tree trunk or a stack of logs, with various embellishments.

Above right: Free Masons, the oldest and largest fraternal organization, was begun in medieval Europe as an organization of stone masons. Its emblem includes a square and compass, manual tools used by masons. Its members share ideals of both a moral and metaphysical nature, and often by a common belief in a Supreme Being.

Below left: Shriners, an offshoot of Freemasonry, focus on fun and fellowship in the emphasis on fraternity and philanthropy. The emblem features a crescent, saber and star.

Below right: The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) was founded in 1868 in New York City, primarily as a social organization. Its four cardinal rules are Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. The elk was chosen as its emblem because it displays a noble stature and is indigenous to America.



Contributions

In honor of
Mr. D. Hal Averett
by

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Wellborn

In memory of
Mrs. Erie Sue Buck
by

Mrs. Beverly Taylor

In honor of Mrs. Margaret G. Zollo
By

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The Dales Society

Representing Riverdale, Porterdale and East Porterdale Cemeteries, 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 'contact us' page in the Foundation's website, www.riverdaleporterdale.org.



P.O. Box 5128
Columbus, GA 31906



Volunteer Opportunities Available

Do you have a little free time?
Do you like local history....genealogy... research?
Have we got a job for you!

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 in the Foundation website, www.riverdaleporterdale.org, to check out the possibilities!

Riverdale-Porterdale Cemetery Foundation, Inc.

