



P.O. BOX 5128
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA 31906

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SUMMER 2014

Riverdale-Porterdale Continues Tradition Of Honoring Veterans On Memorial Day

To honor Veterans buried in our three cemeteries, small American flags were placed at grave markers before Memorial Day in May. Trustee Johnnie Warner has been placing flags in Porterdale and East Porterdale for the last few years, and the Board wanted to expand his program by distributing them in Riverdale as well. Further, the Trustees have recently agreed to continue this practice in future years.



Opportunities abound for interested readers:

- Locating the graves of military personnel (outside the American Legion Section) is a very pleasant way to spend an hour or so, and get some exercise at the same time.
- Undoubtedly there are many markers which have no reference to military service, but family members with that information could notify the Foundation, so that a flag can be placed appropriately in future years. Contact can be made by mail to Riverdale-Porterdale Foundation, P. O. Box 5128, Columbus, GA 31906; through the Contact Us page on the web site (www.riverdaleporterdale.org), or by calling the cemetery office, 706-653-4579.

Do You Know Of A Veteran Whose Grave Is Unmarked? **Maybe We Can Help!**

Your veteran may be eligible for a permanent grave monument provided by the Veterans Administration.

This includes veterans of all U.S. conflicts - even Confederate service personnel - as well as military personnel who died while serving in peacetime. The research and application process is a free-volunteer service sponsored jointly by the

Riverdale-Porterdale Cemetery Foundation
and the

Chattahoochee Valley Cemeteries Society.

For more details about obtaining a grave marker for your veteran, please contact:

John Mallory Land

PO Box 6967

Columbus, GA 31917-6967

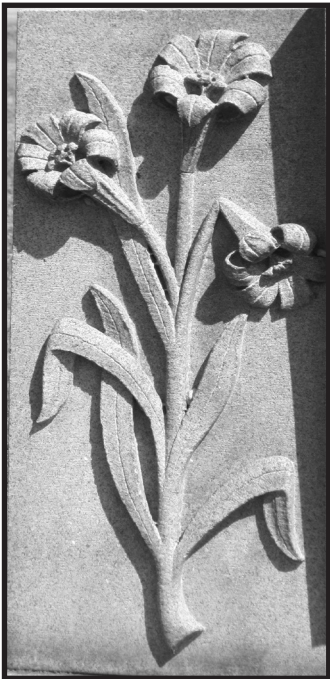
469.995.5222 (cell)

newsompage@yahoo.com

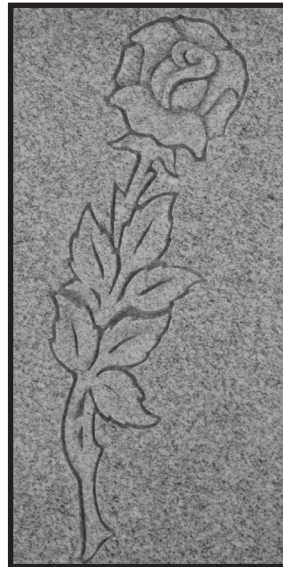


Marker Art And Symbolism

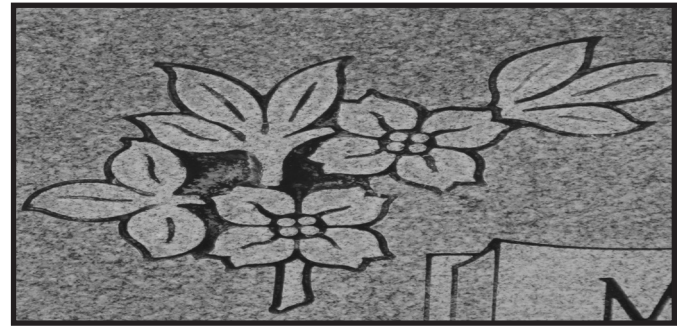
Walking in a cemetery can be like ambling through a history book, or maybe like visiting an outdoor gallery of art and architecture. Especially in older burial grounds, the sizes, shapes and styles of markers are fascinating, and Porterdale, Riverdale and East Porterdale are no exception. Flowers are frequently part of the designs, and below are descriptions of the symbolism associated with some of the samples we can see locally. Future issues of the newsletter will focus on religious symbols, leaves, trees and vines, fraternal associations and other subjects and styles of art.



Lily: beauty, purity, innocence, love, fidelity



Rose: beauty, completion, brevity of earthly life; a rose bud may signify a child



Dogwood: resurrection, sacrifice, eternal life

Other flowers not pictured include:

Garland or wreath: victory in death; saintliness and glory

Sunflower: devotion to God

Thistle: earthly sorrow; thorns refer to the crown of thorns and Passion of Christ

Broken bud or stem: an untimely or premature death

Trees For Porterdale

Thanks to the Beautification Division of the Public Works Department, Keep Columbus Beautiful, and

Trees Columbus, 26 young oak and cypress trees have been planted recently in Porterdale Cemetery.

Scott Jones, Gloria Weston-Smart, and Dorothy McDaniel met with Deborah Abraham to select the best

locations for installation. Please express your appreciation when you see these busy folks!

Memorials and Honorariums

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

In Memory of
Jack M. Averett, Sr.
by

Mrs. Martha Y. Bishop
Mr. and Mrs. Wright Waddell

In Memory of
Dr. Roland B. Daniel
by

Mrs. Ann Cox Strub

In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. J. Caris Rowe
by

Mrs. Robert H. Rowe
and the late Mr. Rowe

Donors

Mrs. Deborah Abraham
Mr. and Mrs. D. Hal Averett
Mrs. Carolyn Z. Crenshaw
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Grimes
Mr. and Mrs. Kerry W. Hand
Jackson-Burgin Foundation
Mrs. Mary Alice Humes
Mrs. Jean K. Kent
Mrs. Nelia S. Partain

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Pound
Mrs. Marjorie T. Richardson
Ms. Leslie C. Search
Mrs. Ann Cox Strub
Mrs. T. Earl Taylor
Mr. William B. Turner
Mrs. Susan Weigl
Mrs. Margaret G. Zollo

Special thanks to Mr. Hal Averett for his donation of a grass edger, which will be a great help in maintaining the appearance of the fountain garden.

The Riverdale-Porterdale Cemetery Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is grateful to these generous donors for their interest and financial support.

Dales Society of the Riverdale-Porterdale Cemetery Foundation

The Dales Society has celebrated its second birthday and renewal notices are being mailed to members as their anniversary dates approach. Revenue from Society membership is used for everyday expenses like printing, postal charges, office supplies, special events and some grounds maintenance not covered by the city.

Dales Society membership is open to everyone and intends to represent all three cemeteries: the two Porterdales and Riverdale. Membership forms are available in the brick building in Riverdale, or you may call the cemetery office at 706-653-4579 to have one mailed to you.

If you are already a member, thank you for your interest and support. When you receive your renewal notice, please respond as generously as you can. We would like to double the membership this third year.

RIVERDALE-PORTERDALE CEMETERY FOUNDATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 5128
COLUMBUS, GA 31906

Staff Highlights

The maintenance staff for all city cemeteries is an essential part of the well-being of Porterdale, East Porterdale and Riverdale, and therefore an important asset for our foundation which supports these hallowed places. In this and future newsletters we will introduce you to members of this staff, so that you may know and appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

Tommy Woods, Crew Leader, has been employed by the City since 1978. A native Columbusite, he is married and has four children. His hobbies include fishing and basketball. Tommy has seen major changes through the years - early in his experience 16 employees and helpers used sling blades for cutting grass; currently four employees and their helpers use weed-eaters and choppers. In spite of the usual solemnity of cemeteries, funny things do occur: the winner of that category for Tommy was an early morning call from 911 to report that a man had dug up his mom's ashes to take her for a ride!

Chatman Ward, Maintenance Worker I, joined the staff in 2007. He was born in Coney Island, New York, and moved to Columbus in 1977. He is married with five children, and enjoys yard work and vacations. A memorable experience for Chatman occurred when a lady visiting her family lot thought she saw a fox, and asked him to put his hand in the hole to see if the critter was there. Without thinking about possible injury, he did just that. Luckily - no fox!

Nothing gives Tommy and Chatman more pleasure than for someone to let them know how pretty the cemetery looks. One visitor said it best: "It looks like you do your work from the heart and not just because it's your job."