

Focus on Porterdale



Porterdale Cemetery is receiving special attention this fall from a Boy Scout who chose this location for his Eagle Scout project. Pearse King, 16 years old and a student at Harris County High School, wanted to provide several benches for visitors to the cemetery, to be installed in various places around the property. He also researched Richard Porter, for whom the cemetery was named, and made arrangements for markers showing his name and his wife's name to be placed at their grave sites.

This cemetery is located in an area designated for burials in the earliest map of the frontier town of Columbus, established in 1828; eventually it became known as the Colored Cemetery. The oldest marked grave surveyed so far is dated 1836, but the area was undoubtedly used for earlier burials which were not recorded or marked, or those markings have disappeared. Much of this history was of the oral tradition, so has been lost over time. A map from 1931 shows a more logical plan of rows of numbered single lots then available for sale.

Richard P. Porter was named Sexton of this cemetery in December 1873 by City Sexton Richard Lynah. He remained in this position until shortly before his death in 1920 at the age of 79. In 1936, the cemetery was named Porterdale in his honor, recognizing his long and faithful service as its custodian.

Pearse's Eagle project is a thoughtful tribute to Richard Porter and, combined with the attractive benches now in place, form a wonderful addition to Porterdale Cemetery.



Legacies

Dr. Lewis A. Henderson

Lewis A. Henderson, D.D. (1878 -1934) was a man of wide-ranging interests and abilities. He studied law and practiced that profession locally, also serving in both houses of the Georgia General Assembly. Later he felt the call to religious study, entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was ordained. He served Rose Hill Baptist Church for many years. Dr. Henderson's gregarious personality and generous spirit led him to leadership positions in the Kiwanis Club and other community organizations for which his views and services were eagerly sought. One particular habit brought comfort and pleasure to many: he visited City Hospital as often as possible, making his way through the wards to cheer patients whether he knew them or not, always leaving them feeling better.



The work of this interesting citizen was recognized and honored in a unique way during his funeral service: Rose Hill Baptist Church was filled to overflowing, local businesses closed and the service was broadcast on the radio.

Dr. Henderson was survived by members of the Henderson and Tingle families, which now include grandsons Jack Basset and Lewis A. Henderson, and granddaughters Sara Jo Henderson, Mary Agnes Henderson, Beatrice Isaf and Sara Jo Isaf.

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 volunteer activities 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.

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

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 to the Foundation's website

www.riverdaleporterdale.org.

Contributions

Glenn Family Fund

Ms Virginia Shierling

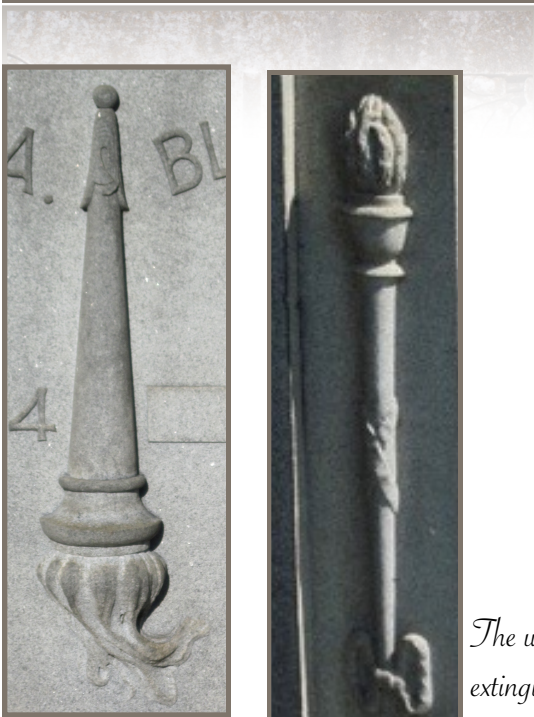
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford J. Swift

Mrs. Margret G. Zollo



*Flame represents
life and breath*

*Candles symbolize the
spirit or the soul*



*Marker Art
and
Symbolism*



*The upward torch depicts life whereas the downward torch illustrates life
extinguished.*



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Riverdale - Porterdale Cemetery Foundation, LLC



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