

# Woodland Cemetery Preservation Project Monthly Newsletter

October 2021

Volume 1, Issue 1



Photograph by Brian Stack

Welcome to the first edition of our newly launched monthly newsletter for the Woodland Cemetery Preservation Project. This newsletter will keep you informed about our recent and future activities, events, and research findings about this sacred space. Between July 2020 and January 2021 ground penetrating radar revealed 667 unmarked burials in Clemson University's Woodland Cemetery believed to belong to Africans and African Americans and dating to the antebellum era. This project intends to uncover the histories of the known and unknown burials in Woodland Cemetery and to properly commemorate all who are buried at this historic site.

In this issue you can read about research and community updates, register for our free virtual research symposium and find out about our upcoming events.

## Free Virtual Research Symposium

Join us Thursday, October 7, 2021 from 9am to 8pm (EST) for our free virtual research symposium "Historic Cemeteries and the University: The Power of Place and Community." You can register for our panels and evening facilitated conversations online: <https://www.clemson.edu/about/history/woodland-cemetery/symposium.html>.

As the research and community engagement team at Clemson works to recover the history of this burial ground, we have invited scholars, community members, and professionals to discuss and engage

**HISTORIC CEMETERIES AND THE UNIVERSITY: THE POWER OF PLACE AND COMMUNITY**

VIRTUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021  
9 A.M. - 8 P.M. (EST)  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Join the Woodland Cemetery research and community engagement team and invited guests for the following sessions:

- 9:10-11:45 a.m. - Archaeology Methods and Analysis for Historic Cemeteries
- 10:30-11:45 a.m. - Engagement with Multiple Stakeholders on Campus and in the Community
- Noon-1 p.m. - Video Tour of Woodland Cemetery and the African American Burial Ground at Clemson University
- 1:30-2:45 p.m. - Archival Research: Collaboration and Discovery
- 3-4:15 p.m. - Known and Unknown Burials: Storytelling and Memorialization for Historic Cemeteries
- 6-8 p.m. - Facilitated Conversations About Historic Cemeteries
- SESSION 1 - Memorials, Monuments and Markers
- SESSION 2 - Community Engagement, Collaboration and Restorative Justice
- SESSION 3 - Archival Research Methods and Strategies
- SESSION 4 - Archaeology Tools and Techniques

Click below to register and access:  
[clemson.edu/about/history/woodland-cemetery/symposium.html](https://www.clemson.edu/about/history/woodland-cemetery/symposium.html)

Sponsored by The Legacy Council, Woodland Cemetery Project, Clemson University and The City of Clemson

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Phone: 864-656-8855  
Email: [afamburials@clemson.edu](mailto:afamburials@clemson.edu)  
Website: [clemson.edu/cemetery](http://clemson.edu/cemetery)

in conversations with the public about historic cemeteries and the university. Presenters will discuss archaeology, cemeteries, engaging campus community stakeholders, collaborative archival research, storytelling and memorialization, historical markers and monuments, restorative justice and community engagement. We will also be debuting a virtual introduction to Clemson's Woodland Cemetery and African American Burial Ground at noon that day.

If you have questions about the Research Symposium, please email [afamburials@clemson.edu](mailto:afamburials@clemson.edu) or call (864) 656-8855.

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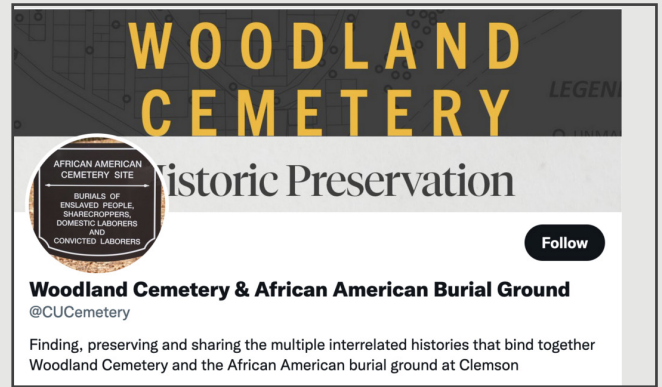
Photograph by Clemson University Creative Operations

Sponsored by the Legacy Council and the Clemson University Board of Trustees

[www.clemson.edu/cemetery](http://www.clemson.edu/cemetery)

# Social Media Launched

We're pleased to announce that the cemetery project has launched two new social media pages. Follow us on our Facebook page [@ClemsonUCemetery](#) and on our Twitter page [@CUCemetery](#). We'll be using these accounts to share information about our research findings and promote events taking place about the cemetery or events sponsored by our community partners. We'll also provide some opportunities for you to comment on the sources and information that we discover as the project progresses. Please share our social media links in your networks and reach out to us if there is anything you would like to be featured on our pages.



## Creative Inquiry Class

This Fall Dr. Sara Collini is leading a team of undergraduate students in the class Creative Inquiry in History: The Woodland Cemetery Preservation and Memorial Project. The 15 undergraduate students in the class represent a diverse range of majors and colleges from across the campus community. The students will conduct research and participate in community engagement activities to assist with the development of the preservation plan and memorial for Woodland Cemetery. Some of these activities include completing genealogy research, doing archival research, conducting historical tours, creating social media posts, and writing biographical narratives.



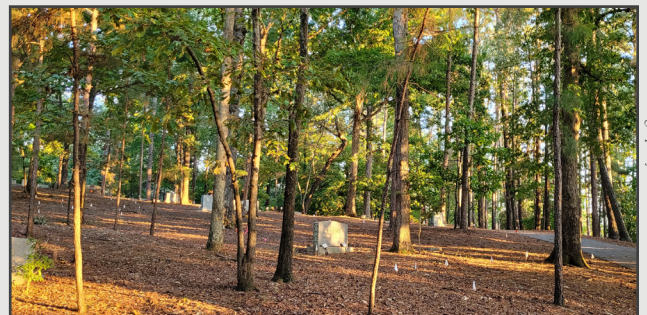
## Tour the Cemetery

The research and community engagement team offers tours of Woodland Cemetery every Friday and every other Monday through November 19<sup>th</sup> to groups of ten or more. If you're interested in touring the cemetery and learning about this history, please use our [Google Calendar](#) to schedule a tour date. Tours on Fridays before football home games do not require registration. If you cannot attend a pre-scheduled time and would still like a tour, please visit our website [www.clemson.edu/cemetery](http://www.clemson.edu/cemetery) to schedule a tour for your group.



Photograph by Brian Stack

Thank you for making  
this history a part of  
Clemson's story.  
-2021 Tour Participant



Photograph by Brian Stack

## Research Update

With the hiring of Dr. Mandi Barnard, the research team is fully staffed and eager to share their findings with you. Among our new projects is a biography series that we will launch this fall. The first biographies in this series will be:

- Judge Crawford, an African American employee who worked at Clemson for 57 years.
- Carrel Cowan-Ricks, an African American archaeologist who worked at Clemson and studied the cemetery from 1990-1993
- President Walter Riggs, a former Clemson President who first proposed creating Woodland Cemetery in 1923.
- Sergeant & Mrs. Stern, a husband and wife who were the first persons to be buried in Woodland Cemetery.

We are always learning more. If your family is connected to the unknown burials, please email [afamburials@clemson.edu](mailto:afamburials@clemson.edu)



Photograph by Brian Stack



Photograph by Clemson University Creative Operations

## Community Engagement Update

Community engagement efforts for the project are in full swing. We have a plethora of events and engagement opportunities. Our September community event in Clemson's Nettles Park was well attended and yielded great suggestions about accessibility in the cemetery and the creation of a Black History Trail that loops through the City of Clemson and Clemson University. Please join us in Seneca on Monday October 25 in Norton Thompson Park at 6pm for our second in-person community update event which includes facilitated conversations.



Photograph by Clemson University Creative Operations

We also have many other ways for you to get involved with the project. We're currently training tour guides for our weekly cemetery tours. Email Brian Stack ([bestack@clemson.edu](mailto:bestack@clemson.edu)) to schedule a tour guide training for yourself or your organization. The only requirement is to have already taken a cemetery tour. You can also email Brian to help with our research projects. We are consistently looking for new stories to tell and have lots of archival documents for you to research or review.

Check out [www.clemson.edu/cemetery](http://www.clemson.edu/cemetery) for all of our upcoming events.

# Upcoming Events

Please consider attending our upcoming events. More detailed information and registration for Zoom events can be found on the cemetery webpage [www.clemson.edu/cemetery](http://www.clemson.edu/cemetery) and our social media pages.

- Thursday, October 7, Research Symposium, 9am-8pm (EST), Zoom
- Monday, October 18, Researching Your Family History Workshop, 7pm, Zoom
- Thursday, October 21, Empowering Black Entrepreneurs Workshop, 6pm, Cheezem Education Center and Zoom
- Monday October 25, Seneca In-Person Community Update, 6pm, Norton Thompson Park
- Wednesday November 10, Black History at Clemson, 12:30pm, OLLI

## Free walk-up cemetery tours at 9am, 10am, and 11am

- Fridays: October 29, November 12, and November 19.
- No registration required.
- Tours begin at cemetery entrance on Williamson Road.
- Wear comfortable walking shoes. Masks encouraged.



Photographs by Clemson University Creative Operations



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## Meet the Research and Community Engagement Team

- **Dr. Rhondda Thomas**, Calhoun Lemon Professor of Literature, Call My Name Faculty Director, and Coordinator of Research and Community Engagement for the African American Burial Ground and Woodland Cemetery Historic Preservation Project.
- **Dr. Mandi Barnard**, Research Historian.
- **Dr. Sara Collini**, Postdoctoral Fellow in University History.
- **Marissa Davis**, Graduate Research Assistant.
- **Dr. Brian Stack**, Community Engagement Assistant.
- **15 Undergraduate Student Researchers**, Creative Inquiry in History: The Woodland Cemetery Preservation and Memorial Project, HIST 3890.003, Fall 2021.

## And Meet Our Community Engagement Council

- **From Anderson:** J. T. Boseman, Jack Henderson, Nekaun Swinger, Dr. Beatrice Thompson
- **From Clemson-Central:** Rosa Grayden; Dalphene Jameson; Pastor Zackary Johnson
- **From Pendleton:** Terence Hassan
- **From Oconee County:** Shelby Henderson; Kathy Jenkins; Helen Rosemond-Saunders

Questions about the cemetery project? Email [afamburials@clemson.edu](mailto:afamburials@clemson.edu) or call (864) 656-8855

Sponsored by the Legacy Council and the Clemson University Board of Trustees

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