

WOODLAND CEMETERY AND AFRICAN AMERICAN BURIAL GROUND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT

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Photograph by Brian Stack

The Woodland Cemetery and African American Burial Ground Historic Preservation Project seeks to tell the stories of the known and previously unknown burials located in Woodland Cemetery on the Clemson University campus. Through research and community engagement we intend to uncover as much as we can about this historic space and to properly commemorate all who are buried here.

In this issue, you can find out how to submit to the 2022 Research Symposium, learn about the environmental history of the cemetery, read our research and community engagement updates, and stay up-to-date with upcoming events.

In This Issue

Page 1: 2022 Symposium Call for Papers

Page 2: CI Class; History Series #7

Page 3: History Series #7 Continued; Research Update

Page 4: Community Engagement Update; Upcoming Events

Page 4: Upcoming Events; Meet the Team

Call for Papers: 2022 Cemetery Research Symposium

The project and the Legacy Council at Clemson University are pleased to invite you to submit a proposal for our second annual Research Symposium. This year's theme, "Historic Cemeteries in Cultural Contexts, Local to Global," encompasses the broadest conception of burial grounds, from local cemeteries to shipwrecks on the seafloor. Burial grounds in diverse places require recognition and memorialization. Over two days, this symposium will bring together research concerning historic burial grounds and cemeteries; the local, national, global, and cultural contexts of cemetery research and community engagement; and the multifaceted efforts to commemorate such spaces. We encourage proposals from the public, professionals, scholars, and

graduate students of all disciplines. Potential topics might include:

- Public and community archaeology
- Various burial practices and markers
- Global religions and syncretism
- Expanding conceptions of burial sites
- Cemetery visitation and remembrance rituals
- Mapping, geolocation, LiDar, GPR and geophysical tools
- Community engagement, including descendant communities
- Education and pedagogy involving cemeteries
- Histories and legacies of colonialism, slavery, and racial inequality
- Environmental cemetery histories



- Institutional history, including campus histories and burial grounds
- Memorialization efforts and memorial design
- Reframing, reclaiming, and/or decolonizing cemetery research and archives

Proposals should be submitted to afamburials@clemson.edu by July 15, 2022. Direct questions to the same email or call 864-656-8855. More information [is on our website.](#)

Creative Inquiry Class

The students in the Creative Inquiry (CI) class turned in their final research projects and wrote reflection essays on their experiences with archival research and community engagement. The students produced fantastic work, which will be incorporated into the project website that will include a visual history of the cemetery. They all have made invaluable contributions to the Woodland Cemetery and African American Burial Ground Historic Preservation Project! We congratulate the students who graduated this past May and are excited for those who will be continuing with the class next semester. We will be offering the CI class again in Fall 2022, and it is open to all Clemson students. Please email Dr. Sara Collini (collini@clemson.edu) for more information.



Cemetery History Series #7

Hartwell Dam's Impact on the Campus Environment, Part 1

This is part of an ongoing series highlighting various aspects of Woodland Cemetery history.

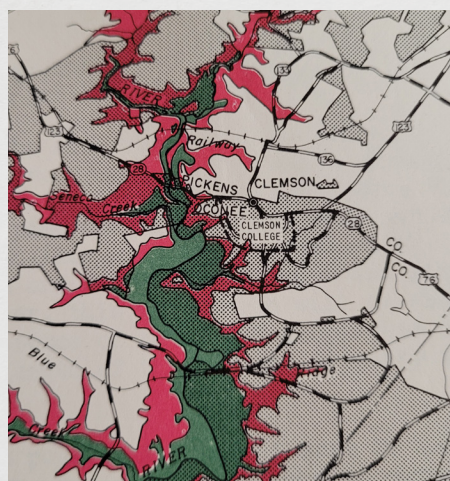
Over the course of the past 80 years, Clemson development has significantly altered this sacred ground. The next few history series entries will focus on the environmental history of how this landscape has changed.

Perhaps the first major way in which campus development impacted the cemetery was the construction of Memorial Stadium in 1941. To build the stadium, Clemson football coach Frank Howard had his players clear trees and stumps in a ravine at the edge of Woodland Cemetery where the stadium now resides.¹ The choice to build a stadium next to a cemetery came from Clemson Professor H.E. Glenn. Glenn was intimately familiar with the layout of Woodland Cemetery, having created one of its first plot maps in 1938. If graves were found while constructing Memorial Stadium, evidence of such disturbances has not been recovered to date. However, recent ground penetrating radar studies have found numerous graves abutting Press Road, which now serves as a buffer between the stadium and the cemetery.

The most significant changes to

the cemetery's landscape were not just related to the football stadium. The construction of Hartwell Dam in the 1960s significantly shrank the woodlands on the west side of Cemetery Hill, disturbed African American burials, and permanently altered the landscape of this site.

The Hartwell Dam project was one of several mid-twentieth-century hydroelectric power initiatives tied to national defense. Controlling the flow



The green and red areas show the potential flooding that would occur by constructing Hartwell Dam without diversion dikes. Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Impact of the Hartwell Project on the Services of the Clemson Agricultural College (United States Department of Agriculture: Washington, D.C., 1957).

of the Savannah and Seneca Rivers to the west and south of Clemson would provide a significant source of energy for the local population, as well as for a Du Pont plant near Aiken, SC which would produce materials for hydrogen bombs.² To generate the power necessary for this, the federal government proposed a series of dams along the Savannah River, including a 670-foot dam at Hartwell.

According to H.E. Glenn, the Hartwell Project threatened to flood 7,000 to 8,000 acres of campus lands that were below the dam's 670-foot elevation.³ If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's project went through as initially proposed, the College would lose valuable extension lands, agricultural research facilities, and also Memorial Stadium.

That Hartwell might also impact the cemetery was known as early as 1949 when H.E. Glenn wrote to Clemson President Robert F. Poole that the dam threatened to flood "the dwellings constructed for the negro mess hall help on Cemetery Hill west

Continued on next page

Cemetery History Series #7

Continued from previous page

of the stadium," a neighborhood in an area called the Bottoms.⁴ Yet when Clemson administrators and Trustees wrote about the dam's impact, their concerns mostly centered on its potential to flood the football stadium and extension lands, which brought

profit and prestige to the institution.⁵ By the time that construction of the dam began, four of the nine houses in the Bottoms were vacant, and the other five needed significant repairs. By 1960, the neighborhood had been destroyed to facilitate campus

development and parking for Memorial Stadium.⁶ That history, and the construction of two campus dikes to prevent the flooding of the stadium, are the subject of the next edition of this history series.

¹ "Clemson Football Program Feature: History of Memorial Stadium," *Clemson Tigers*, Wednesday, September 8, 2020, <https://clemsontigers.com/clemson-football-game-program-feature-history-of-memorial-stadium/>.

² "Truman Proposes Funds for Waterway Projects," *Rome News-Tribune* (Rome, GA), January 22, 1952, 2.

³ "Excerpts from Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees held at The Clemson House, June 17, 1955," in *1949-1956 Chronology of Hartwell Dam Project*, prepared for Clemson Board of Trustees (n.p., n.d.).

⁴ "Excerpts of October 1, 1949 memorandum from H.E. Glenn to Dr. R.F. Poole," in *1949-1956 Chronology of Hartwell Dam Project*.

⁵ *1949-1956 Chronology of Hartwell Dam Project*, prepared for Clemson Board of Trustees; United States Department of Agriculture, *Impact of the Hartwell Project on the Services of the Clemson Agricultural College* (United States Department of Agriculture: Washington, D.C., 1957).

⁶ Henry H. Hill, "Housing Report," February 25, 1955, Series 87, Box 27, File 18, Clemson University Special Collections and Archives, Clemson, SC; Photograph of Construction, c. Summer 1960, Athletics Communication Records, Folder 1960 Construction, Clemson University Special Collections and Archives.

Research Update

Dr. Mandi Barnard has conducted ongoing research for Andrew Pickens "A.P." Calhoun and Business Manager James C. Littlejohn. She has sought manuscript records for A.P. and his family, and is currently working with a genealogist in Alabama to obtain deeds of sale for A.P.'s properties there, and to see if any inventories of enslaved persons exist associated with those sales. This research will help the team determine which enslaved individuals were moved between A.P.'s Marengo properties and Fort Hill, when, and what impact enslavement had on health and mental wellbeing by reconstructing epidemiological data documented by A.P.'s overseer, A. Walker, in Alabama. His manuscripts shed light on antebellum cotton markets, finance, banking, and lines of credit, as well as highlighting political shifts in the South in the decade prior to secession and civil war.

Dr. Barnard's continuing research on James C. Littlejohn is aimed at producing a biography of Littlejohn's contributions to Clemson and his role in decision making at Woodland Cemetery during his lifetime. Further, his collection contains a broad base of primary documents that lay out the history of Clemson and the people who operated it, and major events in its first 60 years of operation. This information can help reconstruct a timeline of events at Woodland Cemetery and changes to the landscape as the campus expanded.

Dr. Sara Collini is finishing up the visual history of the cemetery for the project website. Historical maps of the cemetery and Clemson campus will be available to view, including the earliest known map depicting Cemetery Hill



"Map of Clemson College Bottom Lands Showing Dike, Seneca River, and Other Surroundings," ca. 1903, Survey by P.T. Brodie and S.W. Reaves. Map provided by Clemson University Facilities.

from ca. 1903. Aerial photographs taken of campus will also be available to explore, from the earliest one taken in 1938 before Memorial Stadium was built to the present day. Viewers will be able to compare and contrast the maps and photos of the cemetery over time, including the impact of stadium construction and the impact of the Hartwell Dam project in the 1960s.

Dr. Rhondda Thomas traveled to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia to research and document the deaths of convicted laborers at the Clemson College worksite between 1890 and 1915. She learned that thirteen convicted laborers died on campus and are believed to have been buried on the west side of Cemetery Hill. Dr. Thomas is also investigating ideas for memorial designs and preparing for the launch of the cemetery project's oral history initiative this summer.

Community Engagement Update

On Saturday May 21, 2022 we held a Black Business Expo at the Littlejohn Community Center in Clemson, SC. More than 20 local Black-owned businesses were on site selling goods and promoting their businesses. Special thanks to the Clemson division of the South Carolina Small Business Development Centers for organizing an entrepreneurship panel and to *for the love of community* for their help planning the event and helping at the Expo. We plan to hold another expo in Spring 2023!

Weekly cemetery tours ended in May. Since the beginning of 2022, over 500 people have taken a tour. In May, we gave tours to a variety of groups, including faculty from the Department of Bioengineering and students and faculty from Furman University who are in a class on the legacies of slavery at universities.

We will have limited cemetery tours available over the summer. The only scheduled tours for the summer are

on Sunday, July 10, 2022 between 12:00pm and 4:00pm on the hour. These tours will be open to both individuals and groups. See the events section below for a link to register. If you would like to request a cemetery tour at another date and time please email bestack@clemson.edu.

Dr. Rhondda Thomas and Sally Mauldin have also continued to

provide cemetery tours for families associated with modern burials of Clemson employees and their families.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay up to date with cemetery events.



Local businesses and community members mingle at the Black Business Expo. Photograph credit Brian Stack.

Upcoming Events

More detailed information and registration for Zoom events can be found on the cemetery web page and our social media. Email bestack@clemson.edu to suggest an event or get involved. Please also visit the websites for the [Clemson Area African American Museum](#) and [Bertha Lee Strickland Cultural Museum](#) to find other events going on in the community.

July 10, 2022 Cemetery Tours

Use [this Google Form](#) to sign up for one of our cemetery tours on Sunday, July 10, 2022. Tours are open to individuals and groups. The form contains additional information about the tours, including details about parking.

Volunteers Needed for Clemson's Juneteenth Celebration

Clemson's Juneteenth Celebration will take place on Saturday, June 18, from 2pm to 7pm at Nettles Park. There are many opportunities to get involved with this celebration, including [signing up your Gospel group](#) for a performance between 4:00pm and 5:00pm, [regis-](#)

[tering to take part in the poetry slam](#) from 5:00pm to 6:00pm, or booking a time to [share your stories and histories](#). You can also [register to be a volunteer](#) for the event. Vendors can sign up to participate [using this Google Form](#).

Upcoming Events

Continued from previous page

City of Seneca Juneteenth Celebrations, June 15-18, 2022

- Wednesday, June 15 at 6:00pm. *The Chronicles of Adam: A Reenactment*. Seneca River Family Life Institute, 298 S. Poplar St., Seneca, SC.
- Friday, June 17 at 6:00pm. Haute Couture Fashions by Haggan of Southern Jersey Inc. Crown & Crest Events Center, 114 North Walnut St., Seneca, SC.
- Saturday, June 18, 11:00am - 7:00pm. Juneteenth Festival. Norton Thompson Park, Main Street, Seneca, SC.



City of Anderson Juneteenth Celebration, June 18, 2022, from 10:00am to 7:00pm at the Anderson Civic Center.

The event will explore the theme "Shifting Our Priorities" and include performances by Dottie Peoples and Company Band as well as a Car & Bike Show, Art, and a Kids Zone.

Meet the Research and Community Engagement Team

- Dr. Rhonda 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
- Lucas DeBenedetti, Undergraduate Research Assistant

And Meet Our Community Engagement Council

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

Questions?

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