

WOODLAND CEMETERY AND AFRICAN AMERICAN BURIAL GROUND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT

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Photograph by Marquise Drayton

The Woodland Cemetery 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 we will review outreach efforts for memorialization to descendant communities in New South Associates, explain how the 1978 expansion of Memorial Stadium impacted Woodland Cemetery, provide research, community engagement updates, and highlight some upcoming local events.

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Meeting with New South Associates

On August 18th, 2022, Velma Fann, historian for New South Associates, met with descendant communities within Sistine Hall at Clemson University to discuss ideas for memorialization at Woodland Cemetery. Based in Columbia, South Carolina, with additional offices in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, New South Associates is a women-owned small business that provides cultural resource consulting services. Their work with history and archeology includes contextualizing cemeteries, highways, and plantations throughout the southeast. Working within federal and state laws parameters, New South Associates makes a concerted effort to involve local community members in their historic preservation process.

Fifteen members of the local descendant community brainstormed ideas for what Woodland Cemetery's memorial to African Americans buried there could encompass. The responses varied between the two sessions with New South as one group discussed different ideas from 3-5 PM and another from 5-7 PM. The first group was composed of mainly Black residents from Clemson and Seneca. They discussed how to incorporate visual and auditory elements, such as light and the sound of the wind, to commemorate people of African descent who are buried in the cemetery. The second group was primarily composed of Clemson, Anderson, and Pendleton Black descendants. Their approach to a memorial was more steeped in spirituality and



New South Associates Headquarters Office in Columbia, South Carolina. <https://newsouthassoc.com>

tranquility through the creation of a peaceful place on campus to reflect. This initial meeting was the first of a few planned with New South as the Pathways Project for the cemetery is set to begin in January 2023.

Cemetery History Series

1978 Expansion of Memorial Stadium

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

In 1976, the Board of Trustees recommend that financing be secured for an ambitious expansion of Memorial Stadium: the addition of upper deck seating. That November, the University of South Carolina (USC) game was played at Memorial Stadium to the largest ever crowd of 54,000. Forty-three thousand Tiger fans sat in permanent stadium seats while thousands of others sat on the grassy corners near the endzones. It seemed fortuitous that the addition of the south upper deck would add over 8,800 seats and an expanded press box.¹

In the last three newsletters, we have explored how the encroachment of Lake Hartwell and the expansion of the athletics program have adversely impacted the total area of Woodland Cemetery. The installation of the south upper deck was no different. In 1969, plans were drawn up for the proposed upper decks. But Clemson football had a few lackluster years in losing games and plans to expand the stadium were shelved until 1976. Incidentally, that was Clemson's best football season in years as coach Charley Pell led the Tigers to an 8-3 season and to their second Gator Bowl appearance.²

The stadium contractor, Gilbert Engineering Co., designed the circular pedestrian ramps to the upper deck directly at mid-field. This feature required that Press Road be reconstructed over 100 to 150 feet further south into the northern slope of Cemetery Hill. In January 1978, the South Carolina Highway Department granted permissions to begin construction of the new Press Road into Cemetery Hill at the border of

Woodland Cemetery.³

However, there was a hitch in the plans. In December 1977, as the footings for the vertical piers were being constructed, they began to sink and lean. All construction was halted. The problem was that the foundation for the upper deck was laid on ground that was in-filled with stone and dirt at some previous stage of the stadium construction. The engineers' concern was that if the foundation was not repaired, wind loads and weight would compromise the structure.⁴

By May 1978, after the State had approved \$3.8 million in stadium bonds, the engineers' redesign of the upper deck footings led to cost overruns. In turn, the Athletics Department took a loan from IPTAY to complete the addition. During the 1978 season, work continued on the stadium, and the upper deck was filled for the USC game, hosting a new record crowd of 63,000. In 1979, when the

south upper deck was fully completed, it increased permanent seating capacity from 43,451 to 53,100 seats.⁵

As discussed in our last newsletter, the expansion of the stadium in 1960 combined with the Lake Hartwell Dikes project meant that much of the lands surrounding Cemetery Hill were cleared and designated as home game parking. In 1960, human remains were disturbed when the parking lot was installed and then reinterred on the south side of the cemetery. In 1978, just as the building project ran into problems, old Press Road had already been demolished. The steps taken to put in conical footings to firm up the foundation and to lay new Press Road on a graded slope indicate that there was the potential for disrupting burials without workmen knowing. To date, it is unknown if there were unmarked African American burials destroyed at that time.⁶

The final act of encroachment on the cemetery was designating parking in an area on the southeast side of the cemetery in 1980. IPTAY used that parking area, Lot 7, for tailgating space for its members, along with the roads in the cemetery. Though this tradition was in place for two decades prior to the construction of the south upper deck, it was monetized and became a coveted location for IPTAY members to tailgate. Through ground penetrating radar studies, we now know there are burials under the roadways in the cemetery. The Pathways Project, set to begin in January 2023, will install new pathways that wind around African and African American burials. IPTAY discontinued gameday



Box 123 Memorial Stadium Folder, Athletics Communications Records, Clemson Special Collections and Archives.

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Cemetery History Series #10

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parking at the cemetery in the fall of 2020 out of respect for the dead. In the October issue of the newsletter, we will discuss the first attempt to recover these burials conducted by archeologist Carrel Cowan-Ricks in 1991.⁷

CITATIONS

- 1) "Item 8: Enlargement of Clemson Memorial Stadium," Board of Trustees, Clemson University, "Clemson Trustees Minutes, 1976 April 10" (1976). Minutes. 260. Page 20. https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/trustees_minutes/260/; Clemson University, "South Carolina vs Clemson (11/25/1978)," (1978). Football Programs. 136. Pg 20. https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/fball_prgms/136/.
- 2) Finch and Heery Architects and Engineers, "Schematic Phase Report: Proposed Additions to Memorial Stadium, Clemson University." In Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance Records, Series 087, Box 89. Special Collections Library, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, South Carolina.; David McGrew, "1977: The Drought Ends," Clemson Tigers Football, October 10, 2002. <https://clemsonigers.com/1977-the-drought-ends/#:~:text=Clemson%20finished%208%2D3%2D1,seasons%20during%20trial%20by%20fire.>
- 3) "Item 4: Enlargement and Improvement of Memorial Stadium Phase II," Board of Trustees, Clemson University, "Clemson Trustees Minutes, 1977 September 9" (1977). Minutes. 258. http://tigerprints.clemson.edu/trustees_minutes/258/. "Item 9: Memorial Stadium Right-of-Way Easement," Board of Trustees, Clemson University, "Clemson Trustees Minutes, 1978 January 14" (1978). Minutes. 249. Page 7. https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/trustees_minutes/249/.
- 4) "Bad Foundation Halts Stadium Work," Clemson University, "The Tiger Vol. 71 Issue 13 1978-01-20" (1978). Tiger Newspapers. 2444. https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tiger_newspaper/2444/; Chick Jacobs, "Upper Deck History one of Delays," 12. Clemson University, "The Tiger Vol. 72 Issue 11 1978-11-10" (1978). Tiger Newspapers. 2467. https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tiger_newspaper/2467/.
- 5) "Item 22: Stadium Improvement Bonds," Board of Trustees, Clemson University, "Clemson Trustees Minutes, 1978 January 14" (1978). Minutes. 249. 16. Clinton Calhoun Lemon, MSS 067, Box 5, Folder 68-70. . Special Collections Library, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, South Carolina.; Clemson University, "Furman vs Clemson (9/8/1979)," (1979). Football Programs. 137. Pg 20. https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/fball_prgms/137/.
- 6) Carrel Cowan-Ricks, "Project Director's Field Notes, July 17, 1992, In Carrel Cowan-Ricks Papers, MSS 366, Box 1, Folder 18 Cemetery Hill Archaeological Project, Field Notes, Second Summer Session, 1992. 31-32. http://media.clemson.edu/library/special_collections/findings/manuscripts/Mss366/Mss366_B001_F018.pdf. Chick Jacobs, "Upper Deck History one of Delays," 12. "The Tiger Vol. 72 Issue 11 1978-11-10" (1978). Tiger Newspapers. 2467.
- 7) David Ingram, "IPTAY Parking Expands," Clemson University, "The Tiger Vol. 73 Issue 23 1980-04-04" (1980). Tiger Newspapers. 2402. https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tiger_newspaper/2402/; Clemson Creative Media Services Woodland Cemetery GPR Map, Woodland Cemetery and African American Burial Ground Historic Preservation Project, <https://www.clemson.edu/about/history/woodland-cemetery/histories/project-history.html>; Clemson News, "Clemson Board of Trustees Meeting Overview-July 8, 2022," Woodland Cemetery Upgrades Approved. <https://news.clemson.edu/clemson-board-of-trustees-meeting-overview-july-8-2022/>.

Research Update

Dr. Mandi Barnard attended The Berkeley Oral History Center's Advanced Oral History Summer Institute in August as the project moves toward gathering oral histories. She has also worked to curate the primary source collection for students to evaluate in a section of ENGL 1030 led by PhD Candidate Sarah Richardson, a service learning course that will focus on Woodland Cemetery this semester. Dr. Barnard is writing articles for the History section of the newsletter this fall and is preparing to present a paper at the Universities Studying Slavery Conference at the University of Virginia based on project research conducted over the past year.

Sara Collini has been continuing to research the Athletic Director Records in the campus archives. This department was responsible for road construction projects surrounding Memorial Stadium and the parking lots, which impacted the landscape of Cemetery Hill. The recently published Visual History of Cemetery Hill on the project website documents these changes through images and aerial photographs.

The Creative Inquiry class for the project is starting again this fall. Students on the CI Team will be training as tour guides, engaging with different communities involved with the project, and visiting local museums. The students will also be creating a Virtual Tour of the cemetery for visitors to explore. They will conduct historical research in the campus archives, listen to oral history interviews, write each tour stop, shoot



Dr. Sara Collini (left) and Marquise Drayton (right) at the CU Gantt Multicultural Center's 2022 Grill & Greet showcase. Photography by Patrick Wright (University Relations)

video footage of the cemetery space, and develop their skills in digital storytelling.

On August 22, 2022, Dr. Sara Collini and Marquise Drayton represented Woodland Cemetery at the 2022 Clemson Alumni Association Welcome Back Festival in downtown Clemson. Students and community members expressed much interest in volunteering as tour guides and researchers. The next day, they met again at a table for the Fall 2022 Clemson University Center for Student Leadership and Engagement Tiger Prowl event in Memorial Stadium. Many students signed up to receive the newsletter during that time. Finally, on August 25, 2022, they both sat in on the 2022 Clemson University Gantt Multicultural Center's Grill & Greet showcase. A former student from Dr. Collini's Creative Inquiry class came to check how the project was progressing.

Community Engagement Update

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

Marquise Drayton has been diligently meeting people on campus as the academic year begins. On August 11, 2022, he networked with Rick Owens, Preservation Officer for Clemson Facilities, to lead Dr. Christopher Gillam and other members of Clemson Facilities on a Woodland Cemetery tour with the research team. Dr. Gillam is a Visiting Professor of Anthropology at Winthrop University and works with the Historic Brattonville Museum in York County, South Carolina. The group then had lunch at Sole on the Green Restaurant with faculty from the Fort Rutledge Project near Lake Hartwell.

After lunch, he joined the group for a site visit to Fort Rutledge led by Dr. Josuha Catalano and Dr. David Markus. Then the group took a tour of Hopewell Plantation and Keowee Heights led by Rick Owens and Russell Hardee, Forest Manager for the Clemson Experimental Forest. Additionally, Drayton has immersed himself in local community events. On August 6, 2022, he attended the "Old Fashion Fish Fry" in Westminster, South Carolina. There, Helen Rosemond-

Saunders led him on a tour of the Retreat Rosenwald School near Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. He has also been attending church services at Golden View Baptist and New Hope Baptist, both in Clemson, South Carolina, to spread the word about the preservation project and connect with local community members.

The Woodland Cemetery and African American Burial Ground Historic



Photography by Marquise Drayton

Preservation Project is seeking to hire a Clemson University undergraduate student to assist with communications, including creating social media posts and flyers for events, for a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 hours per week.

Expected duties assist with:

- Researching, writing, and posting social media posts
- Collecting survey information about activities for the project
- Booking event spaces and advertising for events planned by the Community Engagement Coordinator and Staff Assistant
- Keeping track of volunteers for the project
- Maintaining and updating events calendar and schedule
- Creating engaging written, audio, or visual materials for the newsletter, social media, or other event activities as needed
- Connecting with community

The new application deadline is September 9, 2022. Pay level: \$12 hour for 10 to 20 hours/week. Desired Class Level: Sophomore, Junior, Senior. Job #: 146586. Students can apply for the job at the [Michelin Career Center website](#).

Upcoming Events

More detailed information and registration for Zoom events can be found on the cemetery web page and our social media. Email mdrayto@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.

"Wouldn't you wanna know about Woodland Cemetery?" Kahoot Trivia Game, Wednesday, September 21, 2022 from 5-6:15 PM, Yount's South Club, Memorial Stadium, Clemson, SC

Please join us for fellowship, free food, and fun facts you were unaware of in campus history. On Wednesday,

September 21, 2022, from 5-6:15 PM in the Yount's South Club of Memorial Stadium, the Woodland Cemetery Preservation Project will host a Kahoot trivia game testing your knowledge of the campus cemetery, Calhoun/Clemson Family, and general university history. We will have free food catered for the event, distribute Clemson swag

at the end of the game and giveaway a special Clemson Football prize.

Please RSVP [here](#). The deadline to register is September 15, 2022. There is limited space at the venue. The Yount's South Club is on the left of Memorial Stadium at Gate 16 on Press Road across from Woodland Cemetery.

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Upcoming Events

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Students, faculty, and staff should enter as if they are going into the President's Box Suite, then turn right where the event will occur.

STEP AFRiKA! in Clemson, South Carolina

Please join the Clemson Area African American Museum (CAAAM) as they host STEP AFRiKA! on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 6:30 PM. They will perform a short preview of their performance "Drumfolk." CAAAM will serve light refreshments. Registration is required to attend the event. STEP AFRiKA! will deliver their main performance of "Drumfolk" on September 22, 2022, at 7:30 PM at the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts at Clemson University.



CAAAM GLOBAL BLACK STUDIES nefa Brooks Center for the Performing Arts

Members of Step Afrika! of the New York Theatre, performing "Drumfolk" in their production "Rhythm Nation 181" at the New York Theatre

Welcome
STEP AFRiKA!

Join us to welcome STEP AFRiKA! to Clemson.
Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm
Clemson Area African American Museum
214 Butler Street, Clemson, SC 29631
Enjoy light refreshments and a short preview of the performance, "Drumfolk".

Registration is Required!



SCAN ME

And... Join STEP AFRiKA! for their main performance as they present "Drumfolk" Thursday, September 22 @ 7:30 PM @ The Brooks Center for the Performing Arts

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
- Harolynn Williams, Graduate Research Intern
- Marquise Drayton, Community Engagement Assistant
- Alleyia Bailey, Undergraduate Research 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