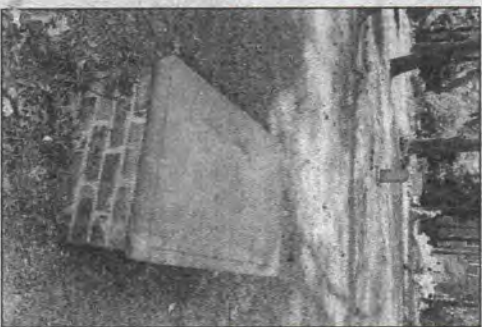


Black students' grievance prompts new look at town graveyard



HERALD-SUN FILE PHOTO

Restorer Dean Ruedrich (at left) talks about how he repairs damaged burial markers during a restoration project in 1996. Ruedrich reconstructed Ellington Burnett's gravestone (at right), shown as it appears today, from a clutch of broken pieces and its pedestal from a "pile of bricks." Burnett's was the first burial site marked by name in the two historically black sections of the old Chapel Hill Cemetery. Burnett died in 1853.



THE HERALD-SUN/BILL WILCOX

By RAY GRONBERG

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CHAPEL HILL, — UNC and town officials say they're willing to look into a student group's complaints about the condition of two historically black sections of the old Chapel Hill Cemetery.

But criticism from Black Student Movement activists who allege that nothing has been done to restore the graves of former slaves puzzled some officials, who noted that a 1996 project sponsored 57 headstone repairs in the two sections.

"There has been attention paid to this," said Catherine Frank, chair-

woman of the town's Historic District Commission and director of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society.

Controversy over the cemetery surfaced early this month when more than 100 students marched to South Building to protest the state of race relations on campus.

The group gave UNC administrators a list of demands that included a request for the restoration of the headstones. Activists said the work has been a Black Student Movement goal for 30 years.

UNC officials have started researching the matter, even though maintenance of the cemetery has please see **GRAVEYARD/PAGE 1**

GRAVEYARD

FROM PAGE 1

been a town function since 1922 and the cemetery has been town property since 1989.

"We're scheduled to converse with a couple of individuals in and outside of town government who know what the exact status of the cemetery is," said Archie Ervin, UNC's director of minority affairs. "We'll be trying to find out exactly whose remains are interred over there and what the actual physical condition of it is."

The cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been in use since 1798. Its first known burial was that of George Clarke, a 19-year-old white student from Bertie County who died for reasons lost to history.

The two historically black sections of the cemetery lie on its western edge, close to Winston and Connor halls. One of the two sections was a slave cemetery, but until 1853, its only grave markings were rocks of softball size and larger. Many are still visible.

The first named headstone in the two sections belongs to Ellington Burnett, who died in 1853 at the age of 21 or 22. The town's National Register application says that nothing else is known about him.

Maintenance of the cemetery has been a headache for decades, whether it was under town or university control.

Football fans used the black sections of the burial ground as a parking lot on at least one occasion prior to the town's takeover of ownership. And vandalism is a continual problem.

"To be honest, there is probably a little more on that end," Public Works Director Bruce Heflin said, referring to the black sections. "Without pointing too many fingers, it is close to the residence halls. We have traced vandalism to students in the past."

Town Manager Cal Horton was slightly more blunt during a 1999 budget debate.

"The reason we have vandalism at



THE HERALD-SUN/BILL WILLCOX

Surveyors found the headstone of Thomas Fletcher, a black man who died in 1862, resting in five pieces. A contractor reassembled the sandstone tablet in 1996.

the old cemetery is drunken college students," he told elected officials.

Conditions attached to the town's acquisition of the cemetery required it to plan for its maintenance and restoration. That prompted the hiring of a consultant to survey the condition of the graveyard's headstones and, eventually, a contractor to carry out repairs.

The survey cataloged dozens of shattered headstones in both the black and white sections of the cemetery. Burnett's marker was "in 10 or more pieces" and the structure that once supported it had been reduced to a "pile of bricks."



THE HERALD-SUN/BILL WILLCOX

A 1996 restoration assembled the headstone of Edward Swain, a black man who died in 1923, from four fragments.

Grants from state and local sources financed the 1996 restoration. The project consumed slightly more than \$42,000 and repaired at least 124 headstones in the cemetery as a whole.

Restorer Dean Ruedrich pieced together most of the shattered stones, including Burnett's, now one of the centerpieces of the black section. Most of his work was still intact as of Monday, though Frank said vandals have undone at least a few of the repairs.

As Historic District Commission chairwoman, Frank has told officials that more money should be spent on maintenance. Chapel Hill

capital improvements plan supplies \$10,000 a year for cemetery work, but repairs to even a few headstones might consume the allocation quickly.

For example, "the Preservation Society recently received an estimate of over \$5,000 to repair five gravestones that were part of the earlier repair that have since been vandalized," Frank said.

Elected officials haven't been looking to increase the cemetery's capital allocation. And it survived an attempted budget cut in 1999 only after a longtime activist in the black community, Rebecca Clark, told officials a reduction would undercut their promise to maintain the graveyard.

"I'm going back to them," Clark said on Friday. "They have not kept up."

Management of the cemetery is

scattered among several town departments, with engineering, public works and planning all playing a role.

Heflin's staff handles the graveyard's maintenance, paying for routine jobs like mowing out of its operations budget.

Engineering keeps the burial records, which arrived in 1989 in a student-style composition book. The planning office helped arrange the grant that financed the 1996 restoration and handled the paperwork for the National Register listing.

The town has been urged to centralize management of the cemetery, to reduce confusion and improve oversight.

"One knowledgeable person

should oversee all aspects of the operation of the burying ground," consultant Lynette Strangstad wrote in her 1994 marker survey.

Preservation Society members are interested in revisiting the management issue, although any discussion will be complex because many interests are involved, Frank said.

"It is one of the significant places in town where town and gown come together," Frank said. "So many people important to the town are buried there, and it's also important to many people active in our society. So we don't want it to be overtaken or fall by the wayside."

Raleigh, N.C.

Burial ground getting a push

Preservationists seek recognition

By JANE STANCILL

Staff writer

CHAPEL HILL — After years of vandalism and deterioration within its rock walls and iron fences, the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery may finally get some glory.

Preservationists are trying to get the cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places — recognition that could provide permanent protection for the seven-acre graveyard, which dates back to 1798.

The cemetery is the final resting place of state dignitaries, war veterans and slaves. Playwright Paul Green is buried there. So is Frank Porter Graham, former senator, statesman and president of the University of North Carolina. And there are still unmarked graves on one side of the wooded burial ground.

'This is one of the first cemeteries we have considered more for the history and the people buried there than the artistic significance of the design.'

— Claudia Brown,
historic preservation official

"It's the history of Chapel Hill and the university," said Mary Arthur Stoudemire of the town's Preservation Society.

Stoudemire lives about a block from the cemetery and has guided tourists through it for years.

"People are always interested," she said. "Just last week I took a couple of ladies on a tour."

The national recognition would give the cemetery protection from highway encroachment or other development. It also would open the doors for state and federal funding for upkeep.

"It would really be wonderful," Stoudemire said. "There are a lot of cemeteries with houses sitting on top of them."

The cemetery has come a long way in recent years. The university gave it to the town in 1988. Soon after, a massive effort began to rid the cemetery of the deterioration years of neglect and damage from vandals had caused.

See CEMETERY, page 2B

Cemetery in line for registry

Continued from page 1B

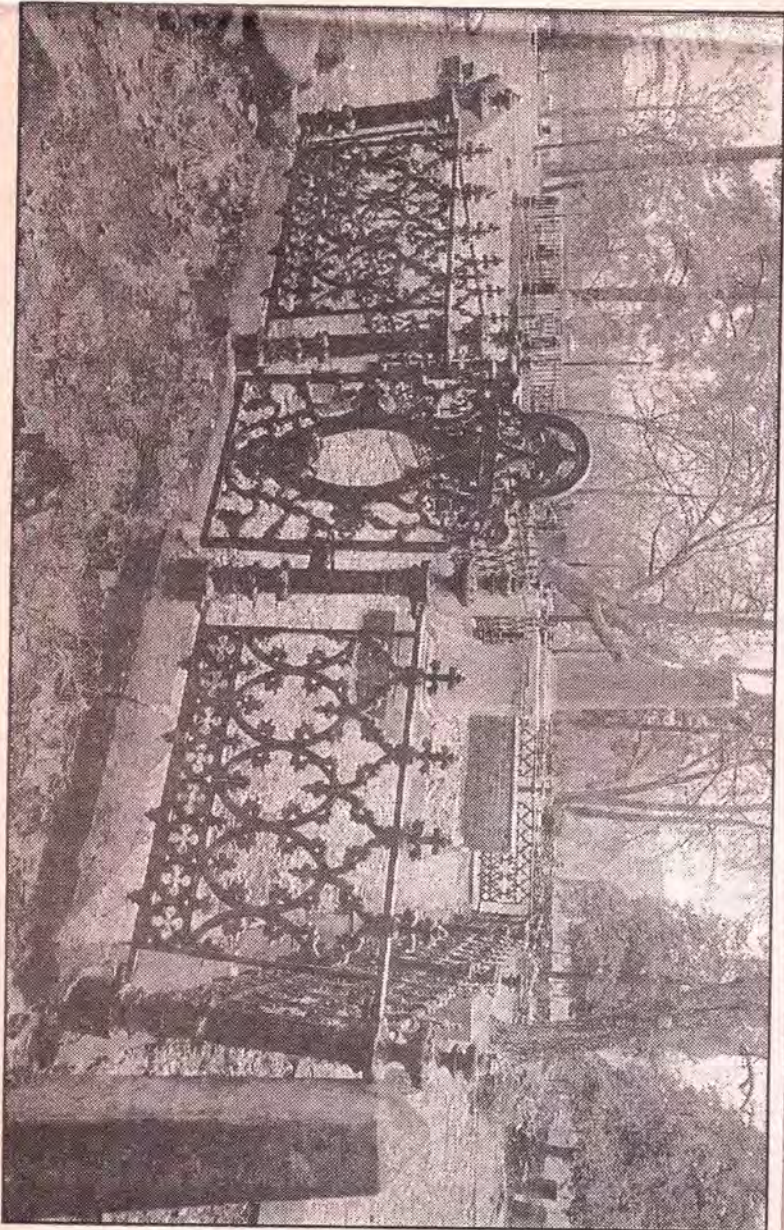
Crumbling walls, a rotted gazebo and ground erosion had given the cemetery a desolate appearance.

In 1991, the town devoted \$250,000 to the renovations, which included repair of walls, curbs and sidewalks and eventually the construction of a new gazebo. A survey was done on marker identification and a directory of graves was completed.

Now the town has asked the General Assembly for \$7,500 for further restoration. Stoudemire said she hoped part of that would go toward grant applications for the historical designation.

A consultant would have to be hired to do the necessary research and documentation. The Preservation Society would then have to seek approval from the state Division of Archives and History. Finally, the nomination would be forwarded to a federal agency in Washington.

Claudia Brown, a supervisor at



Staff photo by Chuck Liddy
Supporters are seeking a spot on the National Register of Historic Places as a means of protecting the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, where many dignitaries as well as slaves are buried.

the State Historic Preservation Office, said she thought the effort would pay off.

"I think their chances are pretty good," she said. "This is one of the first cemeteries we have considered more for the history

and the people buried there than the artistic significance of the design. There are so many people of statewide significance buried there."

Brown said cemeteries usually make the register only because

they are part of old churchyards or happen to be in historic districts already.

Only 13 cemeteries in North Carolina have independently gained a spot on the national register.

the chapel hill Herald

APRIL 25, 1996

THURSDAY

VOL. 8, NO. 325

An edition of The Herald-Sun, Durham, N.C.

Cemetery restoration leaves all stones unturned



ROCKS OF AGES: Restoration expert Dean A. Ruedrich explains how he restores old grave markers in the old Chapel Hill Cemetery on the edge of the UNC campus Wednesday. After a 1994 study, the town received a \$20,000 grant to restore the graves, some dating to 1798.

The Herald-Sun/CATHY SEITH

Respect for detail marks work on historic graveyard

By RAY GRONBERG

The Chapel Hill Herald

CHAPEL HILL — Restoration expert Dean Ruedrich hasn't healed all the wounds nearly 200 years have inflicted on the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery.

He hasn't tried — out of respect.

"The one thing we want to do is make sure that, for anybody coming back here a hundred years from now, we won't be destroying anything they can learn from," Ruedrich told a small group of officials and preservationists during a tour of the graveyard Wednesday.

During the tour, Ruedrich, a Bunn-based contractor, explained the techniques he's used to clean and repair about 50 headstones in the historic cemetery on the edge of the UNC campus.

The principles involved are not unlike those used in restoring a work of fine art — fitting, perhaps, for a cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ruedrich explained to Town Manager Cal Horton and other onlookers that he uses materials and methods that will, as much as possible, pre-

Chapel Hill Herald 4/25/96

"The one thing we want to do is make sure that, for anybody coming back here a hundred years from now, we won't be destroying anything they can learn from."

RESTORATION EXPERT DEAN RUEDRICH

serve the look of the original markers.

That means, for instance, that he forgoes the sandblasting sometimes used to overcome the effects of weathering.

"It probably takes 150 years off a stone," he explained. "For the fine detail, in no time, after two sandblastings, you won't be able to read it."

Nor will he use concrete or metal rods to reinforce or patch together a weak or broken marker — unlike some restorers who've tried their hands in the graveyard over the years.

Walking by the grave of Nancy Hilliard, he winced at the half-inch thick layer of concrete

added to her marker in 1978 to hold it together — and at the initials the person responsible left behind as it dried.

"He was proud of his work," Ruedrich mused.

"Old 'J.M.' I'm not going to sign any of mine."

His clients, meanwhile, seemed satisfied Wednesday with his work.

Chapel Hill officials began the restoration effort in 1994 with a study of the condition of the cemetery's older markers, according to Historic District Planner Beverly Kawalec.

The study's authors determined which of the markers were in need of repair, set priorities among them and specified how the work should be done, she said.

A \$20,000 grant financed by the town, the state and the Chapel Hill Preservation Society allowed officials to hire Ruedrich last year. When the money's gone, he'll have finished most of the top-priority repair jobs.

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery dates from 1798. In its first 100-odd years it served as the burial ground for the University of North Carolina. Buried on the site are "everyone from slaves to university presidents," Kawalec said. It is a rare example of an integrated cemetery, fact that she said helped it earn its place on the national register.

Durham Morning Herald

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Editorials

Chapel Hill Cemetery Plan A Good Example

The Chapel Hill Town Council has made the kind of commitment to improvements at the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery that should be a model for Durham.

The council has approved improvements over the next several years that will cost \$290,000, not including labor performed by town crews. They will include landscaping, lighting, rock walls and pavement.

In Durham, there has been some progress—but too little—toward improvements at the city-owned Maplewood Cemetery. Two excuses have been given: The city lacks the resources and there are no family members around to tend many of the graves in the older section.

To its credit, Durham does intend to seek landscaping bids and more information about the cost of repairing damaged and vandalized tombstones. But the city's plans seem to be spotty and short of the kind of long-range vision that would ensure the beauty and serenity of Maplewood Cemetery.

Chapel Hill's approach to dealing with the needs of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery was to get citizens involved. A cemetery

task force was organized more than a year ago. It asked people what they expected at the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery and developed a master plan. That plan was presented to the Town Council this week, and the council members endorsed it enthusiastically.

In Durham, the debate about Maplewood has risen from a few people who have complained about the conditions. Many citizens do not understand how bad it is. Anyone who visits would be aghast.

Durham will have to spend much more money than it is planning to spend to restore the cemetery to its deserved beauty. The incentive to spend that kind of money will not arise simply from discussions between the City Council and the city administration. The money will be available only if there is a public demand for it. And public demand will come only if a group, such as Chapel Hill's cemetery task force, demonstrates the need for it.

The Durham City Council should adopt Chapel Hill's approach, which will provide a long-term commitment rather than bureaucratic patchwork. ■

Chapel Hill cemetery to undergo renovation

By JOHN WELTER

Correspondent

CHAPEL HILL — The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery will have its monuments rebuilt and its fences mended as part of a \$290,000 plan to renovate the burial ground.

"I didn't think it was kept up like it should have been," Rebecca S. Clark, co-chairman of a task force that helped shape the plan.

The cemetery, which dates from the 18th century and where slaves and UNC presidents have been buried, had fallen into disrepair before it received publicity after a football game between UNC and Clemson University Nov. 5, 1985.

The crowd of Tar Heel and Tiger fans was so large that day that many people who couldn't find legal parking spaces decided to park in the cemetery, causing damage to grave markers and to the cemetery grounds.

"That's what really got this thing started," Richard E. Terrell, general services superintendent for the Chapel Hill Public Works Department, said of the renovations and of the improvements scheduled for the cemetery by his department and by a private architectural firm during the next five years.

UNC formerly owned the cemetery, but transferred the property to the town in July.

'Why let it [the cemetery] run down? I just feel like the dead should be respected.'

— Rebecca S. Clark

The department hasn't decided when work will begin at the cemetery.

The Town Council created a task force of Chapel Hill residents in October 1986 to decide what work needed to be done at the cemetery, and the task force worked with the Raleigh firm of Hunter, Reynolds, Jewell P.A. to draw up plans for repairs and for renovations at the cemetery.

The firm had its master plan for the cemetery approved Oct. 12 by the Town Council.

Improvements will include:

- Repairing broken and cracked monuments.
- Constructing new rock walls and fences and repairing the original walls and fences.
- Building new paths and establishing a cemetery directory and guide.
- Installing new light fixtures.
- Landscaping the cemetery and placing a boulder with the name of the cemetery inscribed on it in a prominent place.

"Right in front of Carmichael [Auditorium], they're going to have a big stone," Mrs. Clark said

of the inscribed boulder that will face the auditorium on South Road.

Mrs. Clark, who has lived in Chapel Hill since 1932, had spoken to the Town Council about the disrepair of the cemetery before football fans had parked on it in 1985. She was invited by the council to join the cemetery task force.

In addition to damage from cars, Mrs. Clark said the cemetery had experienced such problems as decaying walls, toppled gravestones, sunken graves and excessive undergrowth. She said she felt that was shameful for a historic cemetery.

Mrs. Clark said many of the blacks buried at the cemetery had been poor, but asked "why let it [the cemetery] run down? I just feel like the dead should be respected."

The other co-chairman of the task force, real estate broker Eunice M. Brock, agreed with Mrs. Clark about the historic value of the cemetery.

"It signifies to me the history of this town. We have four presidents of the university ... who are buried there," she said in a telephone interview. The former presidents are Frank Porter Graham, Francis Preston Venable and Edward Kidder Graham. Former acting president, William Donald Carmichael, also was buried there.

Mrs. Brock said the project to restore and to renovate the cemetery "signifies to the whole community our regard for our history."

Here's how to reach us

The News and Observer

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Rebecca S. Clark, task force leader, examines toppled gravestone at Old Chapel Hill Cemetery

Thomas Green for The News and Observer

6-28-87
7-9-87
& 1989

Chapel Hill Gets Deed To Cemetery

Herald Chapel Hill bureau 7-9-87

CHAPEL HILL — The state decided Tuesday to deed to Chapel Hill its right to the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, the ownership of which has been in limbo for years.

The cemetery, at Country Club and South roads on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus, has been main-

tained since the 1920s by the town. Actual ownership of the land has recently come under debate as citizens have complained of vandalism and a need for major repairs.

After hearing a cemetery task force report in March, the Chapel Hill Town Council agreed to spend \$15,000 to hire a landscape architect to write a master plan for repairing damage at the cemetery.

■ **Hunter Reynolds Jewell**, a landscape architectural firm, has been awarded a contract from Chapel Hill to develop a master plan for improvements to the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery near UNC. The company was also awarded a contract from Raleigh to develop a master plan for Mordecai Historic Park. DMH 6-28-87

State Returns Cemetery Deed

Herald Chapel Hill bureau

CHAPEL HILL — The state decided Tuesday to deed to Chapel Hill its right to the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, the ownership of which has been in limbo for years.

The cemetery, at Country Club and South roads on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus, has been maintained since the 1920s by the town. Actual ownership of the land has recently come under debate as citizens have complained of vandalism and a need for major repairs.

The cemetery dates to the pre-Civil War era and contains two sections, one for whites, one for blacks.

A prominent black resident, Rebecca S. Clark, complained to the Town Council in 1985 about broken headstones and a lack of

See Cemetery/4B

Cemetery

From 1B

maintenance in the black section. Football fans reportedly drove over and parked on gravesites.

After hearing a cemetery task force report in March, the Chapel Hill Town Council agreed to spend \$15,000 to hire a landscape architect to write a master plan for repairing damage at the cemetery.

Bruce Heflin, the town's public works director, said Wednesday the final plan is scheduled to go to the Town Council for adoption in late August.

Durham Morning Herald 2/19/70

Chapel Hill: Its Special Quality Cut Deep In Cemetery Stones

By MARGUERITE SCHUMANN
CHapel Hill.—The special quality of life in Chapel Hill—described variously by her sons and lovers as “a kind of Athens,” “a holy hill,” “the capitol of the Southern mind,” “an oasis,” “touched by a strange magic,” and “the Southern part of Heaven”—is deeply incised in the stones of the village cemetery.

Literate artists of the epitaph have left the monuments of Chapel Hill marked with beauty of rhetoric. A cemetery anywhere is a history book, a park, a testament to the Christian-Hebraic tradition, a sociological study of tastes, beliefs, emotions, and a part of life as it continues for the living. But the “Old Chapel Hill Cemetery” has something beyond those things: it reflects the luminous life of the mind as it has been lived in this place for one and three-quarters centuries.

First, the life of the mind focuses on students, and there are the graves of students—poignant early deaths in an era when it was not possible to carry them home. Ornate iron fences and elaborately wrought gates enclose the graves of student members of the two literary societies—the Dialectic Senate (1795), and the Philanthropic Society. Inside, the monuments

are as tall and decorative as chess pieces: a broken classic column, an urn underlined by a swag, slender shapes topped by flames, artichokes, doves. The solemn refrain is chiseled again and again, “A member of the freshman class in this university,” or “a member of the senior class.” Supplementary inscriptions speak well for the literary level of the societies—“the modesty, industry and decorum of his youth gave promise of a useful and honorable manhood,” “a monument of brotherly love,” “a character in which the social companion and Christian went happily united,” and “Virtue! Liberty! Science!” A cemetery is a history book. If one knows how to read the names, seventeen decades of Chapel Hill are spread before the eyes.

There lies Cornelia Phillips Spencer (1825-1908), “Historian, writer, teacher, friend of the university, helper of the helpless, faithful unto death.” She was the gallant woman who mounted the tower of South building to ring the bell, announcing that the university would reopen after Reconstruction. The first woman’s dormitory was named for her, and

she was the first woman to receive an honorary degree from the university in 1895. Among other eminent Philipsees who surround her—professors and editors—is James, a mathematician, who “died conducting college prayers.”

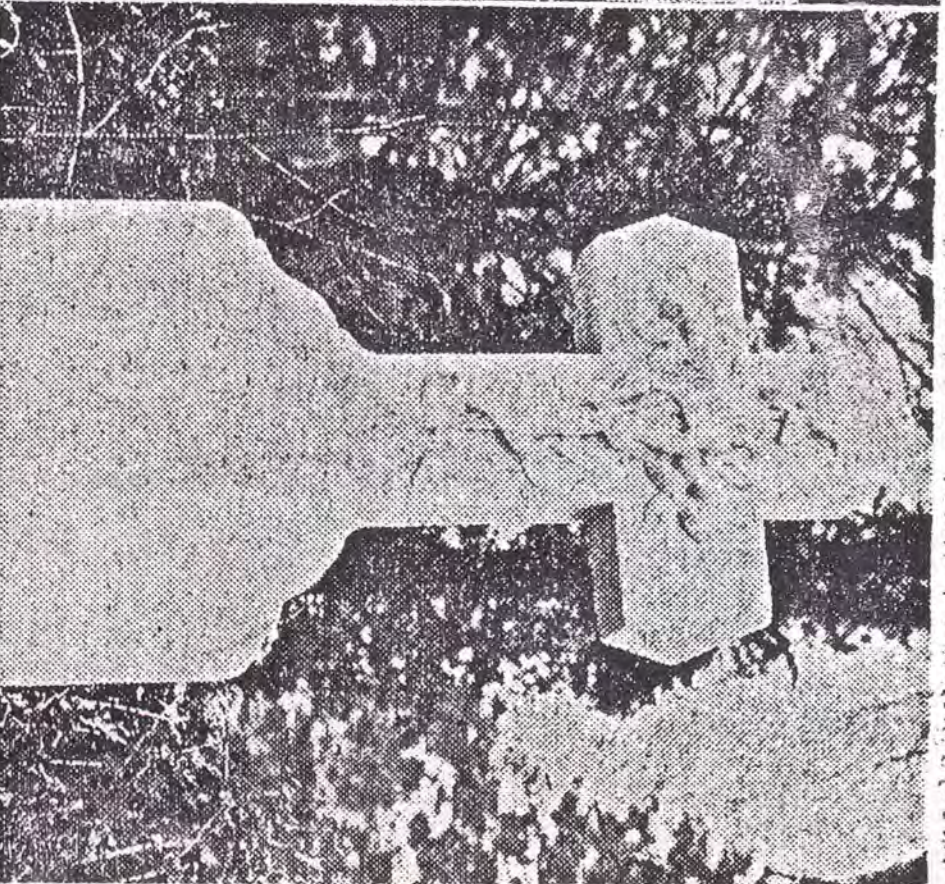
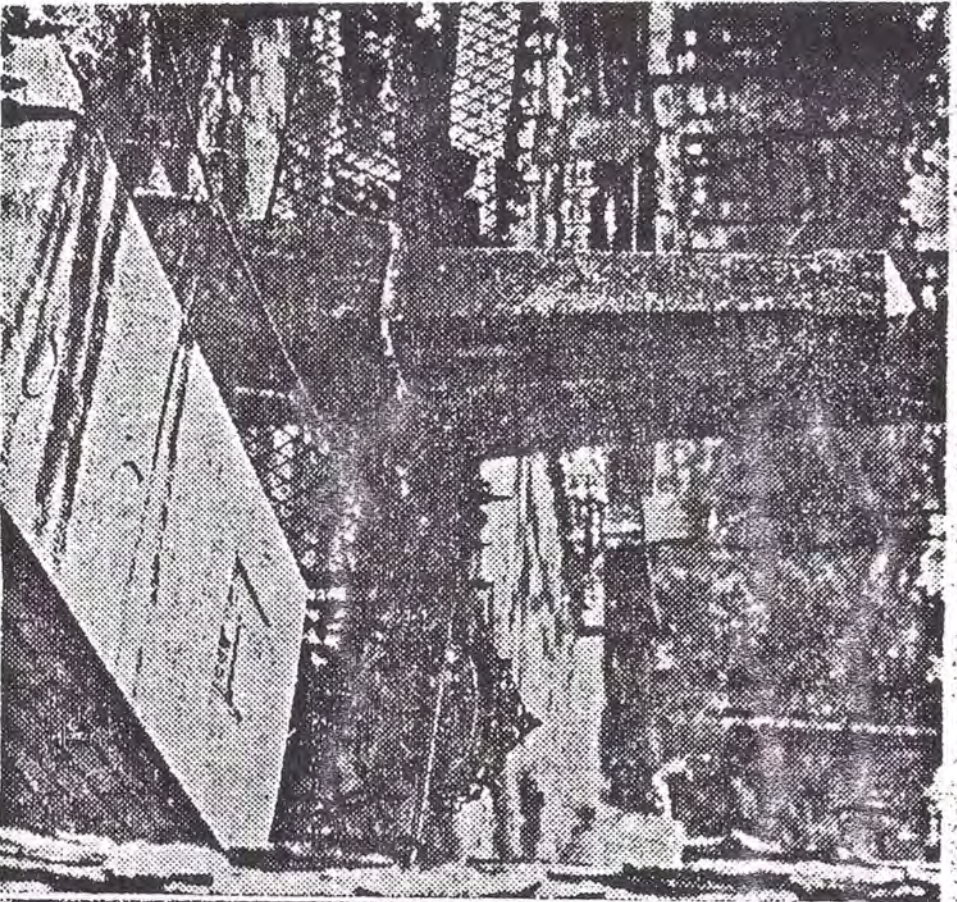
The first president of the University of North Carolina is buried in the center of the campus, but monuments to four others are found in the cemetery—one of them, happily, still among the quick. There are the graves of Francis Preston Venable, eighth president from 1900-14; Edward Kidder Graham, ninth president from 1914-18, who died of the great killer of World War I—influenza; and his immediate successor, Acting President Marvin H. Stacy, who died in the same epidemic for months later.

Three of these presidents are memorialized in buildings on the UNC campus. President Venable has the additional unique distinction of having the railway terminal on the west edge of town named in his honor, for he was influential in having the spur line built.

There are dozens more whose names are written large in university annals. There is the rest-

ing place of William Chambers Coker, head of the botany department for 36 years, whose name is given to a hall and to the arboretum of North Carolina plants which he created in midcampus from a swampy cowpasture. There is the professor of history who founded the Southern Historical Collection in the library, J. G. De Rouhae Hamilton. There is the grave of Frederick Koch, identified simply as “Founder of the Carolina Playmakers.” A half block away, however, is a marker that reads like a poem: “For here now under the greenwood tree in a new-world forest of Arden, through love and admiration of thousands of students is dedicated to Frederick Henry Koch this open air palace of light and sound, haunt of birds and breezes and human voices, home of natural beauty, poetry and drama—set upon the warm earth in enduring stone—to commemorate an ardent genius who inspired and fostered the American folk play, and like another Johnny Applesseed, sowed the creative seeds of communal authorship throughout the American continent.”

Monuments in Chapel Hill Cemetery



Through The Ages, Rest In Peace

Old Chapel Hill Cemetery carries many interesting stories, and famous persons associated through the years with the University of North Carolina are at rest there. Numerous tombstones are well preserved. The inscription on the stone

at right reads: "Lucy Battle Cobb, wife of Collier Cobb. Her babe, Richard Battle, lies in her arms." She died 21 days after her first wedding anniversary—one story among the many.

Chapel Hill restores cemetery to keep town's history alive

N90 11/15/90
By LINDA FOX
Staff writer

CHAPEL HILL — The stories in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery rival those of any town gossip.

Some are funny, like the one about A.A. Klutz, a Chapel Hill store owner who loved chess more than customers. When one would come in to shop during a back-room game, Mr. Klutz would tell his partner to keep quiet long enough for the intruder to give up and leave.

Others, like those about soldiers who died in America's wars, are solemn reminders of history and the town's part in it.

"The people that I knew or knew of, they come alive when I go up there," said Mary Arthur Stoudemire, a longtime Chapel Hill resident who lives a block from the cemetery through which she regularly leads tours.

Until recently, however, the storybook was deteriorating.

Vandalism and tree roots had destroyed grave markers and wrought iron fences surrounding graves dug by the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, debating clubs at the University of North

'We want to make it look like nothing happened.'

— David T. Swanson,
landscape architect,

Carolina at Chapel Hill responsible for burying the dead.

The stone walls surrounding the 7-acre cemetery, which was owned by the university and maintained by the town, were falling. And a gazebo that used to shelter contemplative visitors had decayed and was removed earlier this year.

But Chapel Hill began to repair time's damage after UNC-CH gave the property to the town in 1988. Most of the work, which will cost about \$250,000, should be completed by next year. The town also plans to establish an escrow account that will be used to fix grave markers of untended graves.

Supporters said improving the cemetery, an outdoor museum where residents and visitors can learn about the town, was an important investment.

"It's a historic landscape and we're losing a lot of historic landscapes just with development and a lot of other things that people don't think about," said David T. Swanson, a landscape architect who helped develop improvement plans for the cemetery.

Rebecca Clark, whose complaint six years ago stirred the town to action, said the responsibility was even more personal.

"There were a lot of slaves buried there, and all they had were rocks," she said. "It needed to be protected."

So far, several trees have been removed or pruned, the gravel sidewalks have been repaired and old-fashioned bollards have been installed to keep vehicles off the four paths running through the cemetery.

The most recent project, which began last week, is the installation of an irrigation system to keep the lawn a lush green.

Next will be construction of a new cross-shaped gazebo where visitors can meet, rest or pick up a brochure with information about

See CHAPEL HILL, page 11F

New and Observer 11/15/19

Chapel Hill is repairing cemetery

Continued from page 1F

the graves anywhere the famous — Paul E. Gren or Frank Porter Graham or Hrace H. Williams — can be found. They'll also be able to find the obscure-but-interesting, such as George Clark, the first person buried in the cemetery, in 1798.

Mr. Swanson wrote an inventory of all the graves with the help

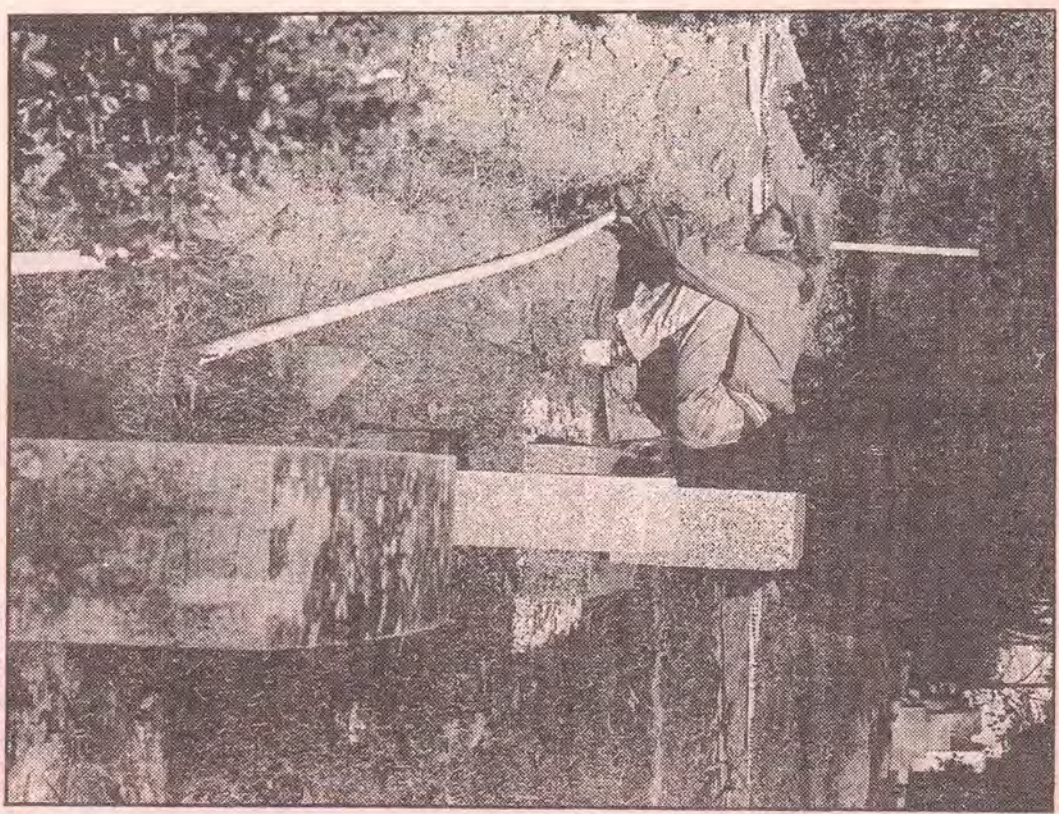
of his wife, Terri. Information they collected will be printed to help guide visitors.

"Part of the whole thing was to know what's out there and who's out there," Mr. Swanson said.

The town also plans to repair the walls surrounding the cemetery, add a sign marking it more prominently, plant trees and landscape the property's borders with shrubs and ground cover.

However, Mr. Swanson said the repairs would not make the cemetery look like new.

"We want to make it look like nothing happened," Mr. Swanson said. "When you walk in that space, there's a character, a feeling of history and old Chapel Hill, and we didn't want to disturb that."



Staff photo by Laura Dorton

Douglas W. Minor, who lays irrigation pipe, is working on the latest restoration project in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery

Cleanup of historic cemetery

By Laurie Willis

The Chapel Hill News Sunday, November 27, 1994

back on town's to-do list

By LAURIE WILLIS
The News & Observer

CHAPEL HILL — The historic Chapel Hill Cemetery, final resting place for many famous UNC-CH alumni, has survived 196 years of wear and tear, at least seven wars, and pranks by rowdy students.

In one case about four years ago, police arrested a UNC-CH student for stealing part of a monument after they followed a trail of fragmented monument chips to his

dorm. His punishment: clean up the place.

These days, cleaning up the cemetery — and restoring it in the process — is back on the town agenda. But this time, town officials plan to do the work. They want to get the cemetery in a shape befitting its entrance to the National Register of Historic Places.

There are headstones and rock walls to be repaired, landscaping to be done, turf to be rebuilt.

"The headstones and markers need to be restored because a number of them are damaged," said Bruce Heflin, Chapel Hill's public works director. "It needs to be cleaned and put in good condition."

Built in 1798, the cemetery is the resting place for more than 2,000 people, including many famous alumni of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It is located on campus, behind Conner residence hall.

the cemetery in good shape, but he estimated it will require "tens of thousands of dollars."

Its new ranking on the register, awarded this summer, should help with the fund raising.

"Now that we're on the national register, we are qualified to apply for grant monies from the state for the actual physical restoration," said Terri Swanson, hired by the town to help with restorations.

"The town also plans to do some fund raising from private sources

and other groups who are interested in restoration."

Already, the Chapel Hill Preservation Society has raised about \$10,500 toward the restoration of badly damaged stones, said Mary Arthur Stoudemire, a member of the Chapel Hill Cemetery Committee.

"We're very excited about being on the national list," Stoudemire said. "It took a lot of work."

Getting the cemetery on the register was a big accomplishment,

said Linda Edmisten, national register coordinator with the State Historic Preservation Society. Only about 20 individual cemeteries statewide are on the list, she said, excluding cemeteries associated with farmsteads or churches.

The seven-acre Chapel Hill Cemetery received the distinction for several reasons, including its importance to the development of UNC-CH and its significance to the town, Edmisten said. It also was recognized for its funerary art, she added.

But the burial place is more than just a historic site in Chapel Hill. To many, its importance is hard to put into words.

"It has much of the history of Chapel Hill written right there," Stoudemire said.

Frank Porter Graham, UNC-CH's 14th president, is buried there. So are playwright Paul Green, after whom a Chapel Hill repertory theater is named, and Adeline McCall, who helped organize the N.C. Symphony and brought music into the public schools.

The oldest known grave belongs to former university student George Clarke, who died while attending the university.

Heflin didn't have official cost estimates on what it will take to get

Council Endorses Plan For Improving Cemetery

DMH 10/13/87

By JACK WEIBLE
Herald Chapel Hill bureau

CHAPEL HILL — Town Council members endorsed with enthusiasm Monday a master plan that calls for long-term improvements at the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery.

Members took the action after hearing a report from the cemetery task force formed a year ago in response to complaints that the historic cemetery was in disrepair.

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery is on Raleigh Road across from Carmichael Auditorium on the University of North Carolina campus. The town has maintained the seven-acre cemetery for several decades but was only given the property by UNC earlier this year.

The master plan calls for improvements phased in over the next several years at a cost of about \$290,000. Those are direct capital costs and do not include labor performed by town crews.

Of the total, \$107,000 would be used for landscaping, \$47,500 for lighting, \$38,500 for rock walls and \$26,000 for pavement improvements.

Another \$24,500 would go toward equipment, \$22,000 for plot fencing work, and \$20,000 for monument work.

Town Manager David Taylor said that along with capital costs, the cemetery plan calls for another \$50,000 annually in staffing and support costs. Three employees would be hired to work exclusively at the cemetery.

The plan puts no time limit on completing the renovations or hiring the extra employees. Taylor told council members that budget priorities in the coming years will determine just how fast the work goes, but assured them the project will not be ignored.

"The resolution does not in itself commit yourself to a specific dollar amount today or next week," Taylor said.

Council members said the plan, as drawn and presented by architect David Swanson of the firm Hunter, Reynolds and Jewell, was excellent in specifying where the renovations would occur.

"I think it is an excellent map. I was impressed with the detail of it," said Nancy Preston.

Councilman R.D. Smith asked assurances from Taylor that the town would give high priority to the cemetery project in future years. He also asked if money could be freed up from this year's budget to begin work now.

Taylor responded that the town had already spent \$15,000 from the capital improvement budget to pay for the architectural study.

Eloquence...Monuments Of Mind

1 Cemetery Records The History Of Chapel Hill

BY MARGUERITE SCHUMANN

UNC-CH News Bureau

CHAPEL HILL — The special quality of life in Chapel Hill — described variously by her sons and lovers as "a kind of Athens," "a holy hill," "the capitol of the Southern mind," "an oasis," "touched by a strange magic," and "the Southern part of Heaven" — is deeply incised in the stones of the village cemetery.

Literate artists of the epitaph have left the monuments of Chapel Hill marked with beauty of rhetoric. A cemetery anywhere is a history book, a park, a testament to the Christian-Hebraic tradition, a sociological study of tastes, beliefs, emotions, and a part of life as it continues for the living.

But the "Old Chapel Hill Cemetery" has something beyond those things: It reflects the luminous life of the mind as it has been lived in this place for one and three-quarters centuries.

First, the life of the mind focuses on students, and there are the graves of students — poignant early deaths in an era when it was not possible to carry them home. Ornate iron fences and elaborately wrought gates enclose the gates of student members of the two literary societies — the Dialectic Senate (1795) and the Philanthropic Society.

Inside, the monuments are as tall and decorative as chess pieces: a broken classic column, an urn underlined by a swag, slender shapes topped by flames, artichokes, doves. The solemn refrain is chiseled again and again, "A member of the freshman class in this university," or "a member of the senior class."

Supplementary inscriptions speak well for the literary level of the societies — "The modesty, industry and decorum of his youth gave promise of a useful and honorable manhood," "a monument of brotherly love," "a character in which the social companion and Christian went happily united," and "Virtue! Liberty! Science!"

In the Philanthropic plot is an eloquent Latin inscription, "Apud Dominum misericordia et copiosa apud eum redemptio." Epitaphs in other sections of the cemetery have stately cadence: "Integer vitae Sclerisque Purus," (drawn from Horace) and "Todo o nada," and "Um Ende siegt ein gottgebornes Greben."

A cemetery is a history book. If one knows how to read the names, 17 decades of Chapel Hill are spread before the eyes.

There lies Cornelia Phillips Spencer (1825-1908), "Historian, writer, teacher, friend of the university, helper of the helpless, faithful unto death."

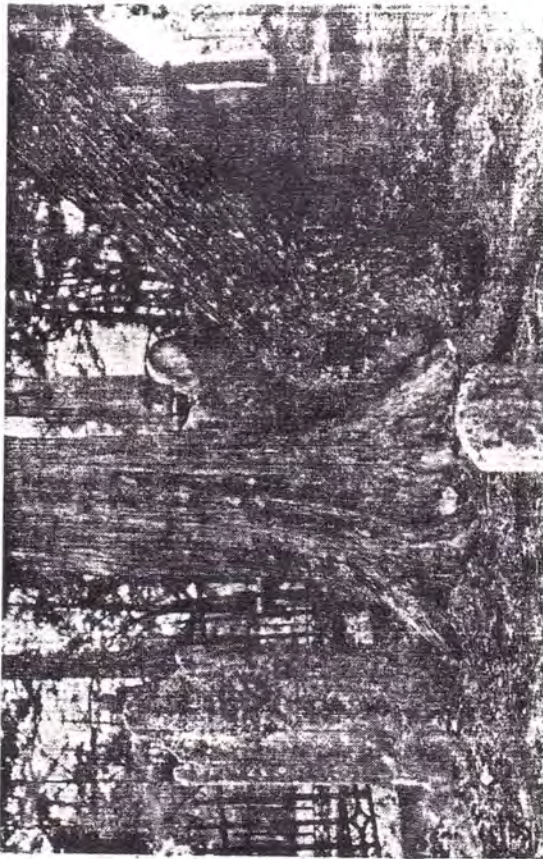
She was the gallant woman who mounted the tower of South Building to ring the bell, announcing that the university would reopen after the Reconstruction. The first woman's dormitory was named for her, and she was the first woman to receive an honorary degree from the University in 1895.

Among other eminent Phillipses who surround her — professors and editors — is James, a mathematician, who "died conducting college prayers."

The first president of the University of North Carolina is buried in the center of the campus, but monuments to four others are found in the cemetery — one of them, happily, still among the quick. There are the

graves of Francis Preston Venable, eighth president, 1900-14; Edward Kidder Graham, ninth president, 1914-18, who died of the great killer of World War I — influenza; and his immediate successor, Acting President Marvin H. Stacy, who died in the same epidemic four months later.

Three of these presidents are memorialized in buildings on the UNC campus. President Venable has the additional unique distinction of having the railway terminal on the west edge of town named in his honor, for he



Graves And Trees In The Shadows Of Time

was influential in having the spur line built.

There are dozens more whose names are written large in university annals.

There is the resting place of William Chambers Coker, head of the botany department for 36 years, whose name is given to a hall and to the arboretum of North Carolina plants which he created in midcampus from a swampy cowpasture.

There is the professor of history who founded the Southern Historical Collection in the library, J. G. De Roulhac Hamilton.

There is the grave of Frederick Koch, identified simply as "Founder of the Carolina Playmakers." A half-block away, however, is a marker that reads like a poem:

"For here now under the greenwood tree in a new-world forest of Arden, through love and admiration of thousands of students is dedicated to Frederick Henry Koch this open air palace of light and sound, haunt of birds and breezes and human voices, home of natural beauty, poetry and drama — set upon the warm earth in enduring stone to commemorate an ardent genius who inspired and fostered the American folk play, and like another Johnny Appleseed, sowed the creative seeds throughout the American continent."

Wilson Monument

In the cemetery is the monument to Henry Van Peters Wilson, for 47 years a teacher, first professor of biology in UNC, one of the first group of Kenan professors, founder of a laboratory that has become the Fisheries Marine Biological Station at Beaufort, and president of the American Society of Zoologists. His name has been given to Wilson Hall, but a more accurate index of academic immortality is that he was given a nickname as well. He was called "Froggie."

lies there too, created a legend. When he was offered the deanship of the Vanderbilt medical school he said, "Well, my family has been buying milk from the Sparrows for three generations. It's too late to change my habits now." Not far away, there are a flock of Sparrows, as well.

The Chapel Hill cemetery is not all gown. There is the town — the people whose names are on the streets, on the shops, the men who died in four wars. There are the highly individualistic Klutzes, one of whom led his cow to pasture from the back seat of an automobile, another of whom ran a checker game in the back room of his haberdashery shop. When a customer came in, he was likely to whisper, "If we keep quiet, he will go away."

Across the road is a gray granite marker to Dilsey Craig, 1802-1894, "60 years a slave, chiefly in the house of Dr. James Phillips, whose grandchild erects this in grateful memory. Well done, good and faithful servant."

Elaborate Crypt

The most elaborate crypt is found in the fenced Guthrie family plot, where graves are separated by iron-tasseled chains. On the tomb of Col. Hugh Blair Guthries, who died in 1881, is inscribed a U.S. flag and a clenched fist:

"Patriotism was the dominant sentiment of his life. He was born a Whig and died a Republican. He taught his children to revere the flag of our country and the motto of the old Whig Party — the Union, the Constitution and the enforcement of the law."

The Guthrie tombs contain a number of poems as well, one of which reads:

"Guardians of my earliest years;

Ah! Angel Mother patient, just;

With filial love unchanged by cares;

I place this tribute to thy



Staff photo by David Surowiecki

NAMESAKE SOUGHT — Frank Porter Graham Elementary students (from left) Sarah Edney, Alex Runyan and Scott Morris trace the name of their school's namesake off "Dr. Frank's" grave marker in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery on the UNC campus.

FPG students seek grave of namesake on field trip

►By VIC SIMPSON

Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Twelve students from Frank Porter Graham Elementary School darted through the old Chapel Hill Cemetery last week, scanning names on the weathered tombstones.

Within five minutes, 11-year-old Chris DuBose had found the final resting place of his school's namesake.

DuBose, who spent the last few weeks with his classmates in the after-school program learning about Frank Porter Graham, used more than headstone letters to help him in his mission.

"We knew he was buried under a dogwood tree," the fifth-grader said proudly. "That's what we were looking for."

The Tuesday afternoon field trip, one of several taken each year by after-school students at FPG, was part of school librarian Barbara Dewey's effort to teach

students about Graham (1886-1972), who was the first president of the University of North Carolina system in 1933.

Participating students recently watched a biographical video on Graham, a Fayetteville native who remains one of the most popular and effective teachers, administrators and presidents the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has had during its 200-year history.

Using charcoal pencils and tissue paper, DuBose and the other youngsters made "grave rubbings" of Graham's tombstone. Later this month, they'll include one of the reproductions in a time capsule to be buried underneath one of four new town markers going up in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area.

At first, not all of the students were enthusiastic about wandering through the graveyard on South Road, near the heart of the UNC-CH campus. "It was kind of scary at first because the graves were so old," DuBose said.

Graveyard markers keep C

By KATHY PETERS

Staff Writer

Between the bounce of balls on the tennis courts near Cobb Residence Hall and the blare from Winston Dormitory's stereos, a University timepiece sleeps in restless silence.

Decades older than the Bell Tower, the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery houses 188 years of Chapel Hill history.

People are beginning to notice that heritage. Existing plots are growing rarer and rarer; the owners who bought their spaces for \$30 could now sell them for \$1,000, according to Wallace Womble of Walkers' Funeral Home in Chapel Hill. Womble has directed over 300 services in the cemetery.

Womble said that he gets frequent calls about the plots. "We have a lot of people who come in here and have relatives buried ... (in the cemetery)."

Visitors to the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery view weathered graves of those who knew early days of the South and beginnings of Tar Heel tradition. Traipsing around the gravesites is like perusing a book about the UNC history.

The cemetery, once swampland, has a long history. The oldest graves

date back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries, when it was impossible to take students' bodies long distances home for interment.

The earliest marker belongs to George Clarke, a student who died at 19. Standing at the east edge of a fenced plot near the center of the cemetery, Clarke's tombstone records his date of death as September 28, 1798, three years after the opening of the University.

Clarke's grave is in the Dialectic Literary Society's iron-fenced plot. The Society and another former UNC organization, the Philanthropic Society, have plots that house the embellished graves of some of Chapel Hill's earliest students.

Unmarked slave graves protrude from an older section of the segregated cemetery.

Four past University presidents — Francis Preston Venable, Edward Kidder Graham, Marvin H. Stacy and Frank Porter Graham — are buried in the 6.5-acre lot.

So, too, is Cornelia Phillips Spencer, a legend in University history and the first woman to receive an honorary degree from UNC.

Echoes of the Civil War reverberate around the tombstone of Confederate Colonel Edward Mallett,

who died at Bentonville, one of the final battles.

Nearly every dormitory and building on campus finds its namesake in the mesh of graves and grass. The Carmichaels, Pattersons, Cobbs, Teagues, Caldwells and Woollens all have plots, according to Womble.

Womble noted Jane Tenney Gilbert's 1980 tombstone with its oft-repeated epitaph, "I was a Tar Heel born/ and a Tar Heel bred/ and here I lie/ a Tar Heel dead."

According to historian and former UNC faculty member William S. Powell, a landowner donated the cemetery to the University trustees. But in the 1920s, the vacant gravesites were sold and the town of Chapel Hill gained ownership.

The Chapel Hill Preservation Society works with the town council to maintain the graveyard. The society has contributed funds to clean up the cemetery, and Bruce Heflin, director of public works, has appointed a committee to oversee the efforts.

According to Mary Arthur Stoudemire, past president of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society, the graveyard bears scars of vandalism. On Thanksgiving night, 1985, vandals smashed about 30 tombstones.

Carolina history writ in stone



The cemetery behind Cobb dormitory

DTH/Larry Childress

While some families restored their ancestors' graves, other markers were left in shambles, according to [unclear] and want to learn or improve your

Stoudemire.

While preservation society members await more careful grounds

upkeep, the cemetery slumbers and hurried students rush by aged tombstones to Woollen Gym.

The 'graveyard' shift

Chapel Hill Herald, date unknown



Working a "graveyard" shift, of sorts, Lorenzo Johnson and Mark Casey of Cary work on a sprinkler system that runs through a cemetery on Raleigh Road in Chapel Hill.

The Chapel Hill Herald/Chuck Liddy

Unlike their counterparts, whose jobs have them laboring through the night, these men were spotted Wednesday doing their work during the sunlit hours of the day.

Historic plaque sought for cemetery

By ANNE BLYTHE

Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The 21 young men in the Philanthropic Society at the University of North Carolina spent most of the evening of Sept. 11, 1798, debating whether the U.S. government should build a navy for its defense.

The minutes of that meeting do not indicate that George Clarke, one of the debating society's officers, was ill. But 17 days later, the 19-year-old scholar from Bertie County died.

It's not certain why Clarke's body was interred on a plot of land that is now the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, the final resting place for famous educators, university administrators, politicians and artists. But historians believe Clarke's classmates and professors fear he may have died of a contagious disease and called for a swift disposal of his remains.

That, as far as historians can determine, was the first burial in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, six acres dotted with gum trees, hickories, maples, cedars, pines and crape myrtles on the corner of Raleigh and Country Club roads.

Since that day, 196 years ago, more than 1,600 have been buried there. Among them are Frank Porter Graham, a former U.S. Senator and president of the university; the playwright Paul Green; Joseph Caldwell, the first president of the university; Algernon Barbee, a former mayor of Chapel Hill; and Cornelia Phillips Spencer, the teacher and writer who ascended the steps of South Building to announce the reopening of the university after Reconstruction.

The Chapel Hill Historic Commission has drafted an application to submit to the U.S. Department of the Interior so the cemetery can be included with 1,750 other historical North

Cemetery

Continued from Page A1

Carolina sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It would mostly be an honor," said Town Manager W. Calvin Horton. "The main thing is that it would recognize [the cemetery] as an historic site."

Tonight the Town Council will be asked to adopt a resolution in support of the Historic Commission's endeavor. If the resolution passes, the document will be sent to the N.C. National Register Advisory Committee, whose members decide whether the application should be forwarded to the national offices.

Along with the powerful names that adorn the grave markers scattered throughout the cemetery, the craftsmanship of 19th-century monument makers is worth a close historical look.

Etchings on every marker tell the story of Chapel Hill's history.

They go back to the days of slavery,

where masters and slaves were separated by walls.

One end of the cemetery is believed to be a burial ground for the town's earliest African-American residents. But that side of the tract has fallen into disrepair — a matter that sends longtime Chapel Hill resident Rebecca Clark into tirades.

As was customary centuries ago in this country, the grave sites of slaves were often marked with little more than a stone. Some markers that were erected on sites have been broken and removed by vandals.

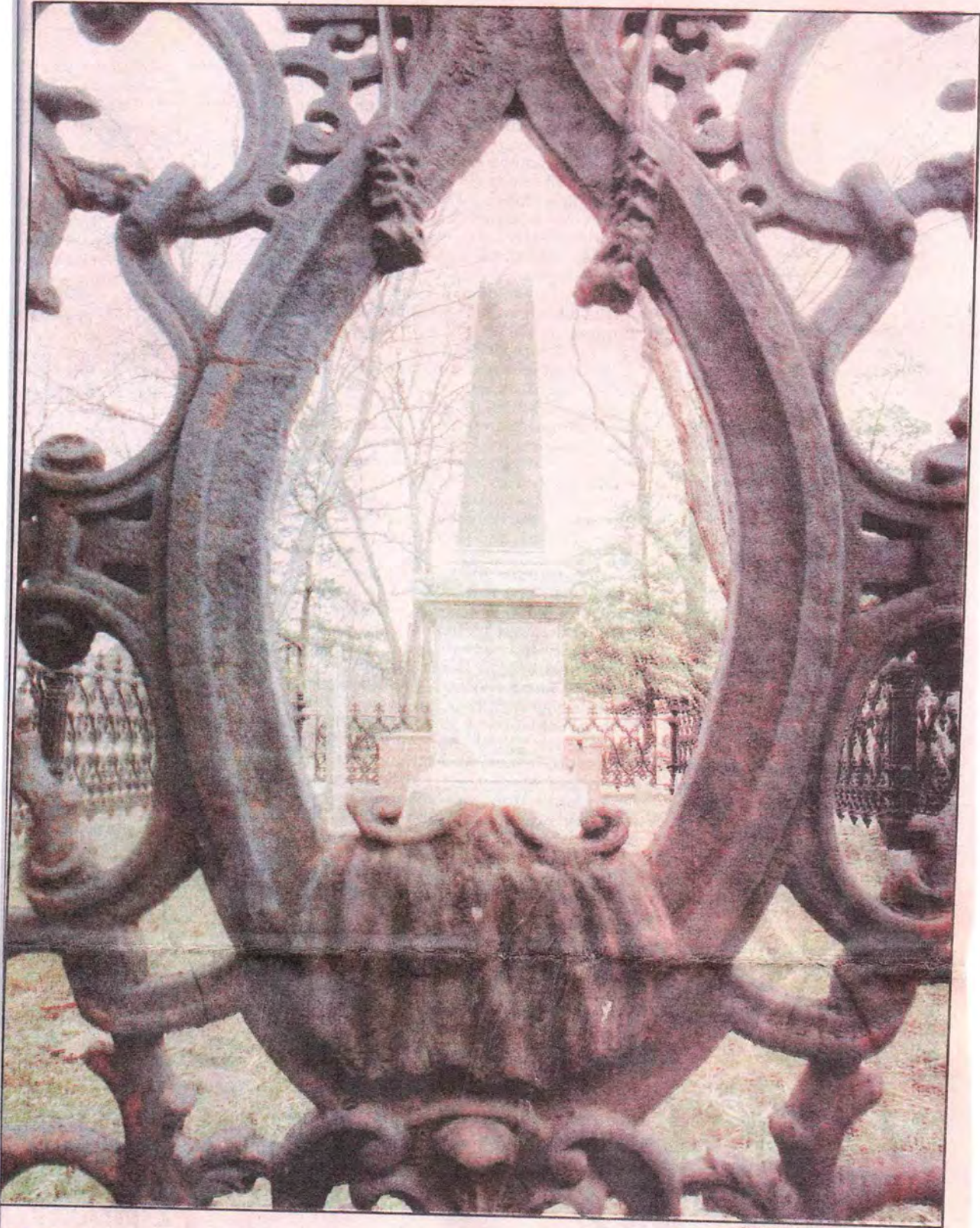
But the worst deterioration occurred in 1986, when football fans attending the game between the Tar Heels and Clemson parked in the black cemetery. They made rubble of markers and knocked down stone walls.

Since that day, Clark has returned to Town Hall, asking staff to put in drains along the cemetery driveways so water won't further erode the plots.

Clark said she hopes the council will adopt the resolution to list the cemetery on the National Register.

Chapel Hill

WEDNESDAY, March 16, 1994



ORIGINS — Ornate iron grillwork frames a mid-19th century obelisk in a section of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery where members of the Dialectics Society are buried. The debating society has been linked to the origins of the cemetery.

Staff photo by David Surowiecki

Husband, wife work to resurrect town cemetery

C.H. Newspaper
7.10.92

►By ANNE BLYTHE

Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The tombstones in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery offer a who's who of town notables from the past two centuries, but vandals and the ravages of time are threatening to blot out some of those names.

On the 7-acre tract across from Carmichael Auditorium, a number of the cemetery's 1,600 grave markers have crumbled into bits, been knocked flat or broken in half.

The threat of losing what some people consider to be a Chapel Hill historical resource has prompted concerned citizens to take action.

The Chapel Hill Preservation Society, which plans to hold fund-raisers throughout the fall and winter for a restoration project, has earmarked \$10,000 for the rehabilitation of the cemetery.

The Town of Chapel Hill has kept up the common area, but when it comes to individual plots, law keeps them from doing very much.

David and Terri Swanson have spent a good portion of the last six years surveying the gravesites, reading epitaphs and devising preservation plans for the cemetery at the corner of South and Country Club roads.

"To improve it, first you have to understand

it," said David Swanson, a landscape architect in Chapel Hill. "All the improvements should be in keeping with the character of the cemetery."

Swanson set out to "understand" the cemetery in 1988, when he was hired by the Town of Chapel Hill to survey the site and determine what improvements should and could be made. The landscape architect looked beyond the broken markers to walkways and stonework in disrepair and how the lay of the land affects those characteristics.

Meanwhile, Terri Swanson updated a survey that Mary Claire Engstrom completed in 1976.

The Swansons say they work well together. Terri Swanson gravitates toward the historical aspect, while David Swanson is more interested in the landscape.

"Mayors, professors, all sort of prominent people are buried there," said Terri Swanson. "Once you get to know the markers, you get to know the people. I would like more people to know about the history, so they're not just tombstones."

Among the Chapel Hillians buried in the cemetery are playwright Paul Green, Nancy Hilliard, who ran a boarding house in town,

►See CEMETERY, Page A10

Chapel Hill Newspaper 7/15/92

Cemetery

Continued from Page A1

Cornelia Spencer, Frank Porter Graham, Dilsey Craig, the author William Meade Prince and Louis Graves, who founded The Chapel Hill Weekly.

Terri Swanson has become so familiar with the markers that her husband can point to one on the map and she tells him instantly who is buried at the site and offers an interesting tidbit of information about that person.

The signature of J.L. Sutton is carved into the headstone of the founder of Sutton's Drugstore, who died in 1950.

"You see names out there that are on street signs, buildings," said

Terri Swanson. "It's really a record of the town."

The oldest gravestone there that the couple knows about bears the name of George Clarke, who died in 1798 while a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The cemetery dates back to the days of segregation, when blacks were buried on one side of the tract and whites on the other. Many of the markers in the old black cemetery are in dire need of repair, the couple said.

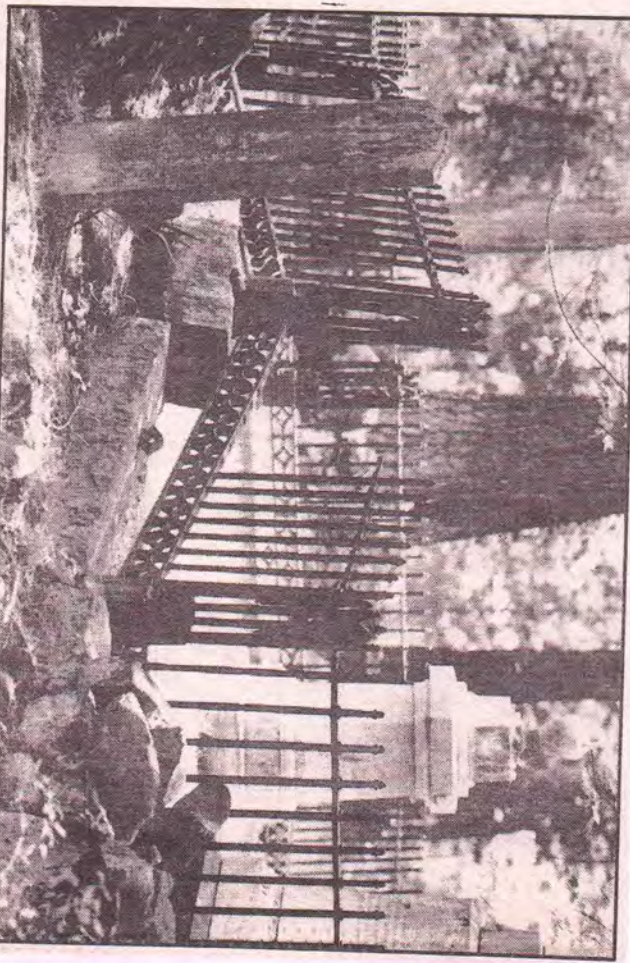
But the restoration of grave-markers is a very specialized procedure, said David Swanson, one that requires careful study of the materials involved.

"They all need cleaning, a certain amount of leveling," he said. "It's really important to get it fixed up. Of course it takes money to do this."

Terri Swanson has put all the information she has gathered into a computer and cross-referenced it. The book she has compiled lists who — if the information is available — is buried at each site, the condition of the markers, any epitaphs or engravings on the marker and any other information she has gathered from history books or talking to people.

"Eventually, epitaphs are lost," said Terri Swanson. "That's why I wrote them down. We want to try to have a visual record."

"What we want now is to get this in the public realm."



Staff photo by Barbara Corso

GRAVE CONDITION — Portions of a gate surrounding a family grave site in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery have been uprooted over the years. The Chapel Hill Preservation Society plans to raise money to finance an effort to restore the cemetery, which is one last resting place of such notable Chapel Hillians as playwright Paul Green and one-time UNC president Frank Porter Graham.

Chapel Hill News

11-10-93

IN BRIEF

►Cemetery seminar

CHAPEL HILL — If you like to stroll through graveyards and read epitaphs, a two-day conference this weekend might be just what you're looking for.

"Grave Affairs: Cemetery Preservation and Restoration," a program sponsored by the Chapel Hill Preservation Society, the Town of Chapel Hill and the N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources Division of Archives and History begins at 1 p.m. Friday at the Institute of Government on Raleigh Road.

The first day's events include a tour through St. Matthews Cemetery and the Old Town Cemetery in Hillsborough and Maplewood Cemetery in Durham.

On Saturday, scheduled speakers include Davyd Foard Hood, a private consultant in architectural and landscape history; Peter Sandbeck, a senior restoration specialist with the State Historic Preservation Office; and Linda Edmisten, national register coordinator in the survey and planning branch of the state historic preservation office. The topics range from gravestone and cemetery preservation, maintenance and restoration to the wooden markers of the Coastal Plain.

For information, call 942-7818.

—FROM STAFF REPORTS

CHAPEL HILL HERALD Cemetery workshop slated Fri.-Sat. 11-10-93

A two-day workshop entitled "Grave Affairs: Cemetery Preservation and Restoration" will be held in Chapel Hill Friday and Saturday.

The workshop is sponsored by The Chapel Hill Preservation Society, the town of Chapel Hill and the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History.

For more information, call 967-3355 or 942-2007.

Online edition link

Kuralt believed you can go home again

The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL — Charles Kuralt, who took to the road to celebrate America, chose the campus that he loved so much as his final stop.

Kuralt's final request — to be buried in Old Chapel Hill Cemetery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — was to be honored this morning at a private family ceremony.

The cemetery, located near the Paul Green Theatre and across the street from Woollen Gym on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus, has served for two centuries as the final resting place for professors, campus presidents and townspeople.

Kuralt's grave is in the center of the cemetery, near the graves of former UNC President Francis Venable and botany Professor William Coker.

The 1798 cemetery, which once was called "College Graveyard," was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. Now owned by the town of Chapel Hill, it has been restored in recent years after decades of neglect and vandalism.

Monday, passers-by watched as city workers tidied the grounds for the Kuralt funeral. Those who love the old cemetery say they're glad a spot was found for Kuralt, who traveled the world but never forgot where he felt most at home.

"People have a very sentimental attachment to Chapel Hill," said Terri Swanson, who helped

Kuralt

☐ FROM PAGE 5A

prepare a detailed survey of the cemetery several years ago. "People have a real emotional tie to this place, and that's obviously how Mr. Kuralt felt."

Kuralt, a Wilmington native who became a broadcasting legend at CBS, died Friday in New York.

Retired CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite, Gov. Jim Hunt and PBS talk show host Charlie Rose were among those expected to speak today at a memorial service following the burial.

UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Michael Hooker was to preside over the memorial program at noon in Memorial Hall.

Others on the program were Kuralt's friends and colleagues Hugh Morton, developer of Grandfather Mountain; composer Loonis McGlohon, with whom Kuralt created the 1987 program *North Carolina is My Home*; UNC President Emeritus William Friday; and UNC President C.D. Spangler Jr., with whom Kuralt grew up in Charlotte.

9 July 1997 - source unknown

Living things

Cemeteries draw preservationists

By SUSAN MARGOLIS
The Chapel Hill Herald

CHAPEL HILL — Strolling through the town's oldest cemetery Saturday afternoon was much more than a grave affair for 30 history buffs.

They walked along the leaf-lined paths, stopping to admire the markers in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery and often hearing accompanying history.

"Cemeteries are historically and archaeologically significant," Mitch Wilds, a restoration specialist with the State Historic Preservation Office, told the group after the one-hour tour.

"Cemeteries are living," he said. "They change."

The tour marked the midpoint of the last day of a two-day workshop on cemetery preservation and restoration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill sponsored by state, town and preservation officials.

Participants discussed problems with the cemetery that UNC deeded to the town in 1988: markers sinking into the ground, broken stones, vandalism and trees uprooting historic graves.

Wilds pointed to the slanted grave of the Rev. Joseph Martin, who died in 1897, as an example of work that needs done. "Reverend Martin's tipsy," he joked.

Town officials and preservationists are trying to list the cemetery in the National Register of Historic Places. The designation would give the cemetery near the corner of South and Country Club roads state and local designations, said Betsy Baten, the consultant who is preparing the nomination.

She predicted officials would approve the application once she submits it in January. "I think there will be no problem with it at all," she said of a hearing scheduled for April.

State preservation experts agreed that the mix of faculty, students, local leaders, Confederate soldiers, blacks and others made the cemetery interesting.

"It's kind of an unusual

please see **GRAVES/11**

GRAVES

FROM 3

blend," said Peter Sandbeck, a senior restoration specialist with the State Historic Preservation Office.

He noted how closely blacks are buried to other sections of the cemetery.

Since there were no black church cemeteries in Chapel Hill in the 18th and early 19th centuries, village slaves were buried in a segregated section of the cemetery separated from other graves by a low rock wall, according to a new brochure about the cemetery.

George Clarke, a 19-year-old UNC student, was the first person believed to be buried at the cemetery in 1798, though the stone dates from the mid-19th century.

The two oldest sections of the cemetery are enclosed by iron fences and feature the graves of students killed in their prime. The UNC Dialectic and Philanthropic Society were the first to establish burial plots.

"These are not just monuments to dead people," Sandbeck said, noting that many graves show the history and styles of the time.

David Swanson, one of the conference organizers, noted symbolism on many graves, including roses cut at the bud for people who died young or columns purposely cut in the middle.

UNC officials enclosed the cemetery with a brick wall in 1835 for \$64.41, the brochure states.

Now restoring stone walls to a higher quality will cost up to \$150,000, Swanson estimated. Repairs to markers, some of which are no longer upright or in several pieces, should cost about \$20,000, he added.

Town officials already have built a gazebo for about \$30,000 and added cast iron posts to keep motorists from driving into the cemetery, a town employee said.

Though the town has paid for some of the work, officials are seeking private funds to cover work on headstones and other improvements. People interested in donating or getting more information can contact the town's cemetery fund at Town Hall or call 968-2796.

ARTS AND FEATURES

Local history haunts campus cemetery

By Yi-Hsin Chang

Staff writer

Graham, Green, House, Berryhill, Manning, Phillips. The same names of various buildings on campus can be found carved on stone markers in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery.

Located on the eastern edge of campus and flanked by the Paul Green Theater and Connor Residence Hall, the cemetery sprawls on the corner of South Road and County Club Road.

Once owned by the University, the cemetery is home to some of the people who helped to shape the history of the University. Former University Presi-

dent Frank Porter Graham and his family lie on the eastern-most section of the cemetery. Next to them is the grave of the man for whom the Paul Green Theater is named. Former Chancellor Robert House also rests in close proximity.

Samuel Phillips, founder of the law school, shares a plot with the members of his family. His sister, Cornelia Phillips Spencer, who rang the bell to reopen the school after it had been closed during the Civil War years, lies to his side.

Not only does the cemetery preserve the history of the University, it also reveals much about the history of Chapel Hill.

Mary Arthur Stoudemire, a long-time

resident of the town and an expert on the historical landmarks in Chapel Hill, said many important townspeople were buried in the cemetery.

"Clyde Eubanks, (former) president of the Bank of Chapel Hill and (former) owner of Eubanks Drug Store, and his family are near the prominent Strowd family, who owned the town's first automobile agency — the Strowd Ford Motor Company," she said.

The most elaborate markers in the cemetery were placed by the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, whose plots were enclosed by iron fences, Stoudemire said.

"It was the duty of these two Univer-

sity societies to have charge of burials for students who died here," she said. "The oldest tomb in the cemetery is a slab placed there by the Phi society marking the grave of 19-year-old George Clark who died here in 1798."

Edward Harrelson, a law student and member of the Phi society, said when the University first opened, everyone belonged to either the Di or the Phi society. When members died while on campus, the societies often requested permission from the families to bury the students in the cemetery.

As was the custom when the cem-

See CEMETERY, page 7

Cemetery

from page 2

etery was first established, the black and white sections are separate, Stoudemire said. Tim Smith, town of Chapel Hill grounds program supervisor, said there were two black sections and four white sections. The cemetery is no longer segregated, he said.

Although many black graves are nameless and only marked with field stones, the grave of Wilson Swain Caldwell is marked by a large obelisk, dominating the western part of the cemetery. It is a memorial to Caldwell and three other slaves, erected by the members of the class of 1891, Stoudemire said.

Smith said the University decided the cemetery to the town in March 1989 after the town submitted a master plan for restoring the grounds.

Over the years, the cemetery has been the victim of vandals who have broken and knocked over many tombstones. Smith said the most recent incident occurred Oct. 17 when 22 stones were damaged.

"We've contacted the Chapel Hill police," he said. "They have a special watch for the cemetery.... We're trying

to get beefed-up control for Halloween."

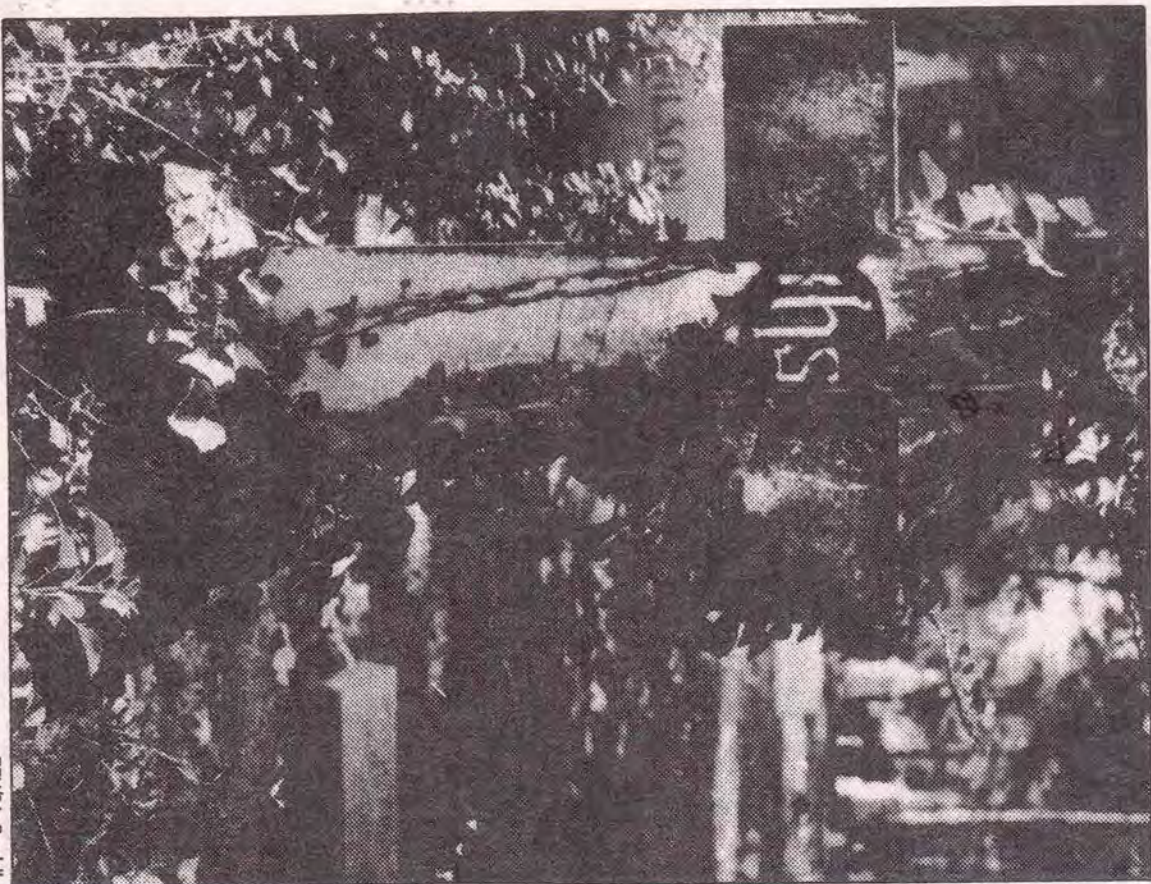
Stoudemire said, "It makes me sad and angry that people would want to destroy the cemetery, a place that's important to many people and to the history of the town."

Harrelson said, "It should be viewed as a town and University treasure. Students should appreciate and remember to take care of it."

The Capital Improvements Program, the town's plan for restoring the cemetery, has already installed an irrigation system, a gazebo and sidewalks, Smith said. The CIP plans to work on restoring markers and the rock wall that outlines the cemetery.

There is little available space in the cemetery for new graves, and all plots of land are privately owned, Stoudemire said. But when plots do go on the market, they are highly sought after and sold for \$5,000 to \$10,000.

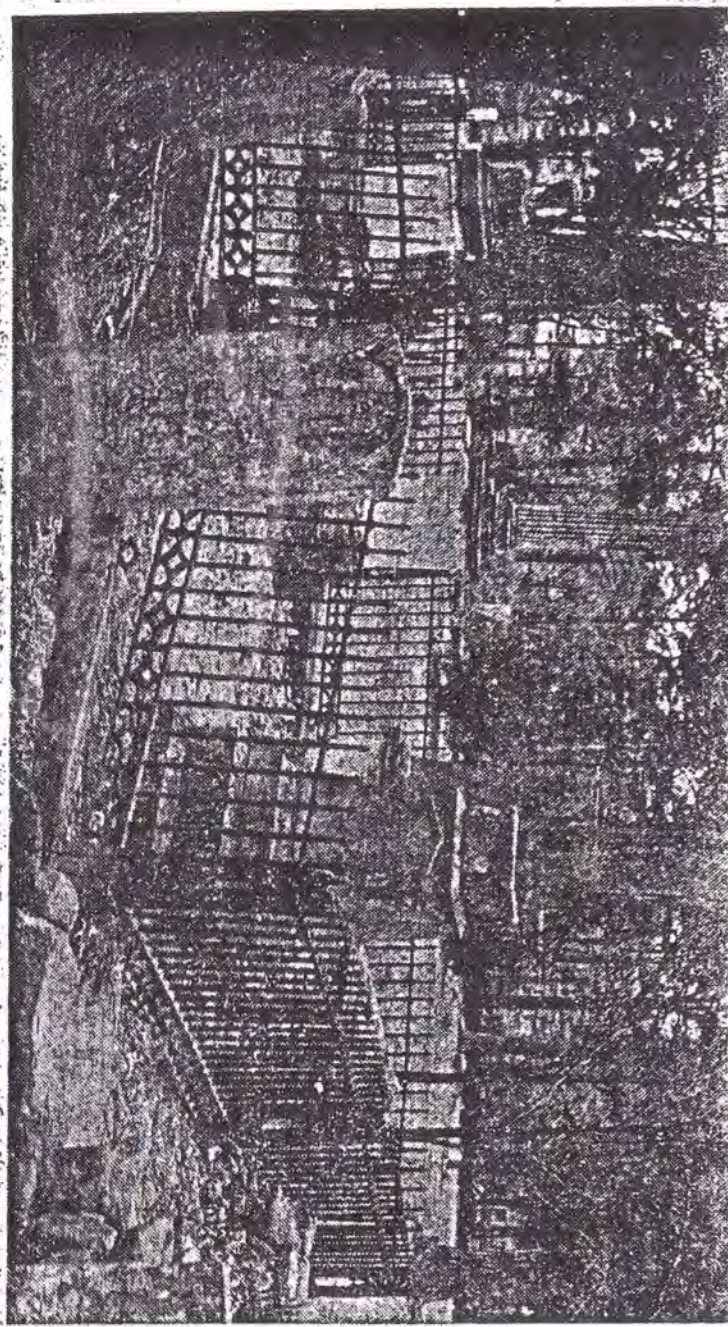
The marker that captures the essence of the cemetery is the Tenny stone near the tennis courts. Its inscription: "I'm a Tar Heel born, I'm a Tar Heel bred and when I die I'm a Tar Heel dead."



The history of the University lies in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery

DTH/Erin Randall

Source / doc. uncertain
may be student pub, 1970's



A cemetery is a history book
Monument to 'Luminous Life'

By Marguerite Schumann

Special Correspondent

CHAPEL HILL

The special quality of life in Chapel Hill is described variously by her sons and lovers as "a kind of Athens," "a holy hill," "the capitol of the Southern mind," "an oasis," "touched by a strange magic," and "the Southern Part of Heaven." — is deeply incised in the stones of the village cemetery.

Literate artists of the epitaph have left the monuments of Chapel Hill marked with beauty of rhetoric. A cemetery anywhere is a history book, a park, a testament to the Christian-Hebraic tradition, a sociological study of tastes, beliefs, emotions, and a part of life as it continues for the living. But the "Old Chapel Hill Cemetery" has something beyond those things. It reflects the luminous life of the mind as it has been lived in this place for one and three-quarters centuries.

First, the life of the mind focuses on students, and there are the graves of students — poignant early deaths in an era when it was not possible to carry them home. Ornate iron fences and elaborately wrought gates enclose the graves of student members of the two literary societies — the Dialectic Senate (1795) and the Philanthropic Society.

Inside, the monuments are as tall and decorative as chess pieces: a broken classic column, an urn underlined by a swag, slender shapes topped by flames, artichokes, doves. The solemn refrain is chiseled again and again, "A member of the freshman class in this university," or "a member of the senior class."

Supplementary inscriptions speak well for the literary level of the societies — "the modesty, industry and decorum of his youth gave promise of a useful and honorable manhood," "a monument of brotherly love," "a character in which the social companion and Christian went happily united," and "Virtue! Liberty! Science!"

A cemetery is a history

book. If one knows how to read the names, 17 decades of Chapel Hill are spread before the eyes.

There lies Cornelia Phillips Spencer (1825-1908), "Historian, writer, teacher, friend of the university, helper of the helpless, faithful unto death." She was the gallant woman who mounted the tower of South building to ring the bell, announcing that the university would reopen after Reconstruction. The first woman's dormitory was named for her, and she was the first woman to receive an honorary degree from the University in 1895. Among other eminent Phillipses who surround her — professors and editors — is James, a mathematician, who "died conducting college prayers."

The first president of the University of North Carolina is buried in the center of the campus, but monuments to four others are found in the cemetery — one of them happily, still among the quick. There are the graves of Francis Preston Venable, eighth president from 1900-14; Edward Kidder Graham, ninth president from 1914-18, who died of the great killer of World War I, influenza, and his immediate successor, Acting President Marvin H. Stacy, who died in the same epidemic four months later.

Three of these presidents are memorialized in buildings on the UNC campus. President Venable has the additional unique distinction of having the railway terminal on the west edge of town named in his honor, for he was influential in having the spur line built.

There are dozens more whose names are written large in university annals. There is the resting place of William Chambers Coker, head of the botany department for 36 years, whose name is given to a hall and to the arboretum of North Carolina plants which he created in midcampus from a swampy cowpasture. There is the professor of history who founded the Southern Historical Collection in the library, J.G. De Roulhac Hamilton.

There is the grave of Frederick Koch, identified

simply as "Founder of the Carolina Playmakers." A half-block away, however, is a marker that reads like a poem: "For here now under the greenwood tree in a new-world forest of Arden, through love and admiration of thousands of students is dedicated to Frederick Henry Koch this open air palace of light and sound, haunt of birds and breezes and human voices, home of natural beauty, poetry and drama — set upon the warm earth in enduring stone to commemorate an ardent genius who inspired and fostered the American folk play, and like another Johnny Appleseed, sowed the creative seeds of communal authorship throughout the American continent."

In a plot of Princes is William Meade Prince, author of "The Southern Part of Heaven," and designer of the round-the-world circus parade wood carving that ornaments the pink-mirrored walls of a room in the faculty club. There are the tombs of Woollens, Carmichaels, Bynums and Caldwelles, whose surnames are in the permanent daily vocabulary of the university.

The Chapel Hill cemetery is not all gown. There is the town — the people whose names are on the streets, on the shops, the men who died in four wars. There are the highly individualistic Klutzes, one of whom led his cow to pasture from the back seat of an automobile; another of whom ran a checker game in the back room of his haberdashery shop. When a customer came in, he was likely to whisper, "If we keep quiet, he will go away."

Only in Chapel Hill, perhaps, will be found a fresh bouquet of daisies and ageratum on the 51st anniversary of a death, or a Delft vase ornamenting a grave.

Only in Chapel Hill will a spirited tennis volley sound from one side of the cemetery, while the spirited strains of Major John Yesulaitis' marching band sound from the other.

Only in Chapel Hill do student geologists cruise the burying ground, tape-recording their scientific observations about lichen growth and stone deterioration.

Only in Chapel Hill

date unknown
News & Observer

New gazebo marks refurbishment of historic Chapel Hill graveyard

By TOM PARKS

Staff Writer

The Town of Chapel Hill has begun a series of repairs to the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery that will cost at least \$250,000 and take until the year 2000 to complete.

Though the graveyard is far from being an eyesore, it does show every one of its 192 years in places, especially on the west side where most of the older graves are, and some markers are knocked down or chipped.

By the cemetery's 200th anniversary in 1998, most of the problems it has should be fixed, according to Richard Terrell, a town public works superintendent.

Construction workers this fall began building a gazebo, along with a memorial

plaque, drains and irrigation ditches, Terrell said.

Old Chapel Hill Cemetery is across the street from Carmichael Auditorium on South Road. The gazebo will replace another that town workers tore down two years ago for fear that it would soon collapse.

No bands will play at the new gazebo, Terrell said. It is there just for visitors, not special events.

"We have a lot of elderly people, as you can imagine, who go there to visit," he said. "They can sit there and watch the sun set."

Chapel Hill gained responsibility for the cemetery when the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill deeded the parcel to the town in February 1989.

The gazebo will have a green tin roof and field stones around its base. Town workers eventually will put in a directory of the cemetery, showing who has been buried there since it opened. For example, Terrell said, the directory would show visitors how to find the grave markers for Playwright Paul Greene and historian Albert Coates.

The gazebo will cost \$20,000 to construct. It and other improvements are part of a plan adopted in 1987 by the Chapel Hill Town Council.

Also in the works is a better drainage system. Terrell said parts of the cemetery, which is divided by short, stone walls, tend to flood.

See CEMETERY, Page A3

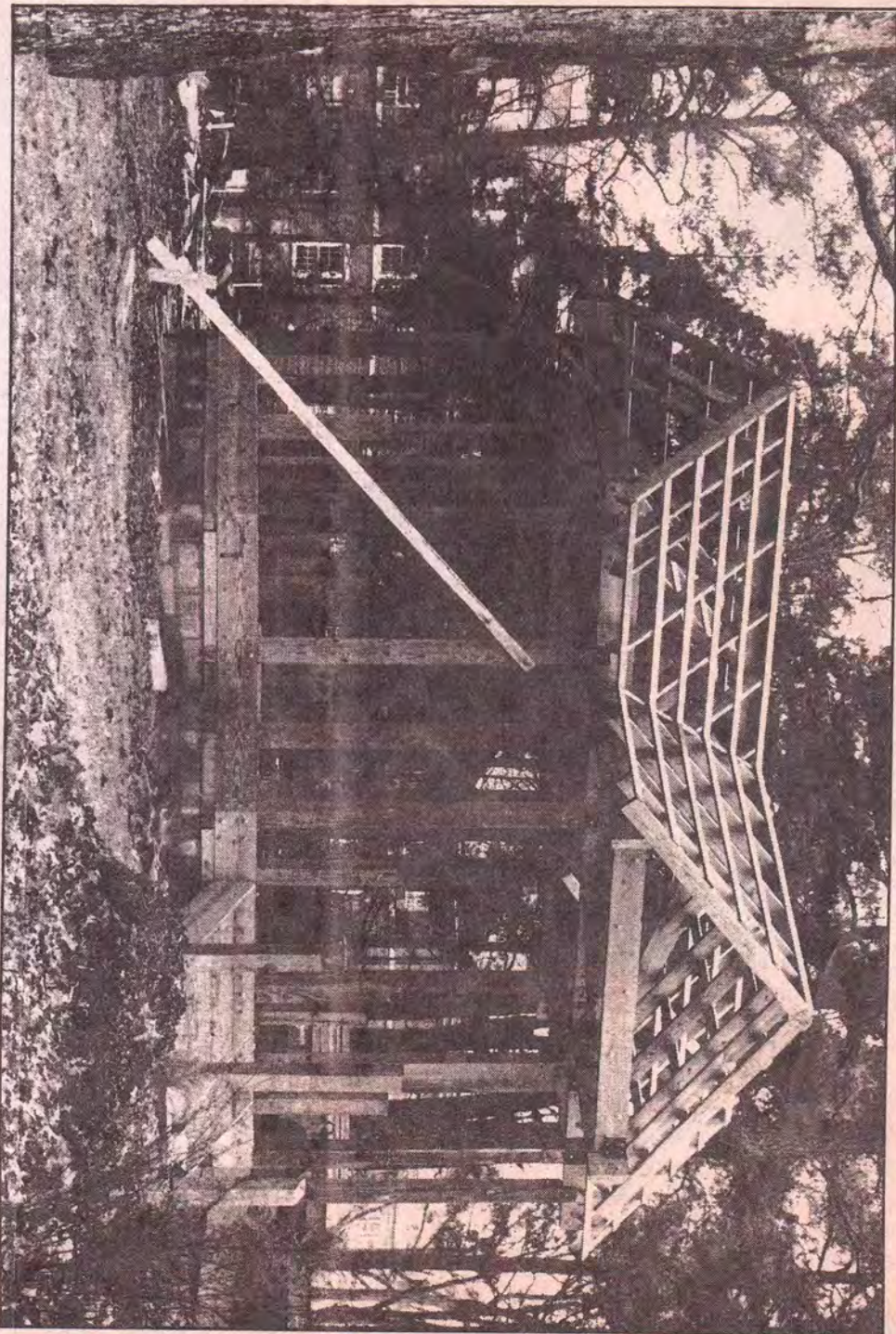
Cemetery

Continued from Page A2

A plaque marking the cemetery will be added by early spring at the southwest corner of the cemetery.

Workers have replaced the cemetery's rusted bollards with ones that match lampposts on campus. Bollards are three- to four-foot-tall posts planted in drive-ways to block traffic.

Renovation of the older grave markers, resurfacing the cemetery's driveway, reroofing and the repair of the graveyard's stone walls are planned for the future, Terrell said.



GOING UP — Workers from the Town of Chapel Hill South Road last month. The University of North Carolina began rebuilding a gazebo in the center of a cemetery on at Chapel Hill gave the cemetery to the town in 1989.

Staff photo by Neil Pittenbury

LETTERS

Mail letters to Editor,
The Chapel Hill News,
Post Office Box 870,
Chapel Hill, N.C.
27514.

Old cemetery is a historic site

The Feb. 27 article entitled "Burying Ground Getting a Push" made me recall those late, hot summer days, I often find myself walking through the old Chapel Hill Cemetery, to the large gazebo with the setting sun carved in its dormers. For a brief time I have my tranquility and privacy, which seems to be one of the last places I can find, in these busy days living in Chapel Hill.

As I watch a small bird perch himself on a white marble marker, which stands within a large stonewall plot, facing the

gazebo, I ponder if this is a daily visit for him, as I have seen him there before. He flies away, but often returns during my stay.

My thoughts then drift to days gone by of the "Village of Chapel Hill," back to the time William Meade Prince, (who is buried nearby,) talked about in "The Southern Part of Heaven." These day-dream thoughts are aroused by old tombstones with familiar names; markers of Confederate veterans, (one, I know, Capt. Edward Benton of Raleigh, buried by the Medical School senior class of 1920 in a snow storm,) and the large rocks that mark many unknown graves that surround me.

Well known people and families of the community, the university, and the state rest within the long stone walls which encircle the burying ground, started sometime in the 1790s. To those who know the history of the University of North Carolina this wooded area, which is the highest point in Chapel Hill, is a page out of a history book.

It is sad to see the many damaged old tombstones that used to stand upright, and one marble stone in particular depicting a hand with a finger pointing upward, is now broken in two, and pointing off in some distorted and obstructed direction. I often visualize the old part of the cemetery when all the markers were clean and stood strong and unbroken. And when the intricate ornate wrought iron fences, and gates, surrounding several plots were new and in one piece; it must have been a beautiful resting place.

It would be a great honor for the old Chapel Hill Cemetery to be included on the National Register, as well as the Gingham neighborhood to be listed on the Register of Historic Places. Both are indeed unique places of the state, and our community. I wish the Chapel Hill Preservation Society and the Historic District Commission, with my deepest sincerity, success in their most valuable endeavors.

WILLIAM PRESTON MANGUM II
Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill News 4/11/93

Chapel Hill News
72-8-84

Old Chapel Hill Cemetery Officially Deded To Town

24N
7,887 By TOM MOORE
Staff writer

Questions about who will maintain the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery were finally resolved Tuesday by state officials.

The Council of State — which includes Gov. James Martin and other state officials — voted to deed the state's rights to the cemetery grounds to the Town of Chapel Hill. The move ends the lingering debate about who is responsible for the full upkeep of the historic cemetery, located on the UNC campus near Carmichael Auditorium.

"It was a simple, straightforward conveyance of what rights the Uni-

versity held to the Town so the Town can put into its own budget money for the work that needs to be done," Grace Wagoner, UNC's property officer, said in an interview. "The Town didn't feel it could do the budgeting for land it didn't own the rights to."

Chapel Hill — under a 1929 agreement with UNC — has maintained the cemetery grounds, but has not repaired broken gravestones or fences because Town officials felt they did not have the legal authority to do so.

"In the 1929 agreement, the Town was allowed to sell off (cemetery) lots and use that money for maintenance," Wagoner said. (See Cemetery, page 12A)

Cemetery nominated for register

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery has been recommended for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The cemetery was nominated by the N.C. National Register Advisory Committee. The recommendation will go to the U.S. Department of the Interior, where

final approval is expected in about three months.

The burial place dates to 1798. It is the final resting place for slaves, war veterans and famous North Carolinians, including playwright Paul Green and former UNC-CH President Frank Porter Graham.

(1994?)

(Continued from page 1A)

er said this morning. "That worked very well for a long time, but in recent years there haven't been any more lots to sell and no money was coming in for maintenance."

The Council of State's vote was prompted by a recommendation from a special task force appointed by the Chapel Hill Town Council earlier this year to examine how the cemetery can be better maintained. The task force decided if Chapel Hill owns the land, the cemetery would receive better care.

The cemetery dates back to the 18th century and a brick wall divides sections for whites and blacks. No one is certain how many bodies are buried there since many of the graves are unmarked.

In recent years, the cemetery's fences have fallen apart and many of the gravestones have been vandalized or cracked with age.

At the request of the six-member task force, Chapel Hill has hired a landscape architect to develop a plan for restoring the cemetery. The plan, which is expected to be completed this summer, will recommend installing new walkways, planting more trees and repairing the damaged gravestones and fences.

Preservation group wants to bring Old Chapel Hill Cemetery back to life

By MO DICKENS
Correspondent

CHAPEL HILL — The residents aren't complaining about the condition of their neighborhood, but some of their best friends are stepping in to help fix up the place.

Hoping to speed up town restoration efforts at the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, the Chapel Hill Preservation Society has earmarked \$10,000 for grave marker repairs. Some markers date back to the late 1700s in the 5.5-acre, town-owned graveyard at the corner of South and Country Club roads on the UNC campus. Many

markers are cracked, leaning or dirty. Some have fallen over and broken into several pieces. Vandals and age are largely responsible for the poor conditions.

The preservation society plans to raise money for the project by resuming its Christmas Home Tour, a regular event of the 1980s which took a one-year break last December.

Mary Arthur Stoudemire, who lives just a few doors from the cemetery, said she is happy the preservation society wants to restore the cemetery, where many of Chapel Hill's most prominent citizens from years past rest.

The cemetery serves as the final resting place for band leader Kay Kyser, dramatist Paul Green and Playmakers founders Frederick Henry Koch. Names that mark buildings on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus, such as Graham, Carmichael, Wilson and Verable, can be found on tombstones there. The cemetery's west end holds the remains of ancestors of many of the prominent black families in the community such as Caldwell, O'Kelly, Bynum and Barbee.

"I know so many of the people who
please see **CEMETERY**/1.

Chapel Hill Herald 10/15/92

CEMETERY

FROM 3

there, either personally or historically," said Stoudemire, a member of the town's cemetery task force.

Nearly five years after the task force's master plan to restore the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery was presented to the town council, many problems have not been addressed.

"They're doing a little better about keeping it up, but there's still a lot of work to be done," task force vice chairwoman Rebecca Clark said.

"Five years ago, when we submitted our plan to the town, we thought all the work would have been finished by now," added Clark, a community activist who moved to Chapel Hill more than 60 years ago.

"I don't think I'll live to see all the work done."

In addition to the marker repairs, the task force recommended repairing the rock walls around and within the cemetery, installing non-obtrusive lighting to discourage vandals and erecting signs. Some landscaping has been performed at the site since 1987 and a gazebo was replaced after a fire. Town officials estimated the total cost of restoration in 1987 at more than \$200,000. Town manager Cal Horton said last week

that a tight budget has led the town to delay as many capital improvements as possible. "This has not been the kind of year in which optional improvements could be afforded," he said.

Clark praised the preservation society's move, but emphasized she feels town officials should do more to improve conditions.

Stoudemire and Clark agree that a notorious incident in the fall of 1985 — when football fans invaded the cemetery, parked on graves and drove over gravestones — renewed town interest in halting deterioration of the site.

"I've never been so angry in my life," Stoudemire said. "That was the first time I ever wrote a letter to the editor."

The letter called the desecration of the graves "a sickening sight" and urged the town to increase its care-taking efforts at the cemetery.

Problems existed even before the football fan incident, however. Clark remembers protesting the placement of a Dumpster by university officials at the edge of the graveyard, which had resulted in garbage being spilled on some graves.

"There was cans and bottles and trash all

over the graves, and the university did move the Dumpster," Clark said. "But the most appalling thing was when those cars parked on the graves."

In an effort to prevent such incidents from recurring, town staff members replaced chains with substantial metal posts, called bollards, at the ends of the cemetery's driveways.

Town officials plan to seek bids on the marker restoration work in the next three months, said Tim Smith of the public works department.

Any contractor hired for the project will have to follow strict guidelines for the sensitive work, he said. Landscape architect David Swanson, who has worked on the cemetery project for about five years, drafted the contract specifications.

Using the wrong cleaning agents on the markers could do more harm than good, said Swanson. He said experienced grave-marker restorers are rare.

While studying the cemetery, Swanson and his wife, Terri, have compiled an extensive registry of the burial sites. Swanson said he hopes to find funds to publish the registry.

Chapel Hill Newspaper



Mary Arthur Stoudemire sits near a deteriorated grave marker in Old Chapel Hill Cemetery

The Chapel Hill Herald/Mark Don

Preserving history stone by stone



Staff photos by David Allord

Dean Ruedrich examines a headstone that was repaired years ago with steel rods and has again come apart. Now, restoration specialists use nylon rods, which don't expand over time. He has worked closely on the restoration with Chapel Hill preservation leader Mary Arthur Stoudemire, seen below walking with him through the historic site.

Age, weather, vandalism and football fans have all taken their toll on the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery. But a restoration now in progress is reversing that.

Chapel Hill News 7/21/96

By DONNA DELENO
Correspondent

Chapel Hill

THERE ARE OVER 200 years of rich history buried at the Old Chapel Hill cemetery, and Dean Ruedrich is working to make sure all of that history lasts centuries longer.

Ruedrich is the Bunn-based restoration specialist who has been hired with \$25,000 raised by the Town of Chapel Hill, the Chapel Hill Preservation Society and the North Carolina Historical Society for a major restoration of one of the town's most historic sites.

Some of the cemetery's noted residents, p. A9.

"It's fascinating" said Ruedrich, who is restoring the cemetery's headstones. But sometimes people don't realize how important — historically and artistically — a cemetery can be.

"It is hard to get people all jazzed up about a cemetery," said Julia Williams, executive director of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society.

"A cemetery reflects the social conditions and artistic expression of that period, and is a repository of people who made history. What more appropriate record of history than where people are buried?"

The cemetery is on the edge of UNC's campus, between Country Club Road and the northwest corner of N.C. 54. Mature oaks, cedar and pine trees delicately shelter Chapel Hill's past dating back to 1798. Scattered shrubs, English ivy and vinca overgrow many individual plots, and low

See **CEMETERY**, Page A9



Cemetery

Continued from Page A1

rubblestone walls surround the cemetery, setting it apart from the dormitories and tennis courts.

It's divided into six sections, according to race and time of interment. Sections A and B are where the slaves and freed African-Americans were buried. A low rock wall, which still stands, separates these two sections from the remaining sections, where white university staff, students and family members are buried.

"The cemetery has an impressive collection of eminent people and literary figures," said Bev Kuwalec, Chapel Hill's historic district planner — impressive enough to have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

But you better have your checkbook ready if you're thinking about trying to become a piece of that history yourself. Mary Arthur Stoudemire, a leader of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society, points out that she purchased gravesites at the Old Chapel Hill cemetery in the late 1940's for \$10 a site. Last she heard, each site is now worth \$8,000.

To Ruedrich, working on the cemetery is like doing a jigsaw puzzle. In one case, pieces of brick and stone found strewn under overgrown bushes turned out to be the base of the tomb box of Ellington Barnett, the cemetery's first known African-American interment, in 1853.

"Every brick was there and we were able to replicate the base exactly as it was in the 19th century," Ruedrich said.

He goes to great lengths to preserve the stones so they look like the original markers. The first rule of cemetery restoration is do as little as possible to achieve the desired results. The second rule is to use the gentlest, least damaging techniques available when conserving gravestones. While erosion is the biggest problem to tackle, Ruedrich wants to spread the word that cleaning detergents are harmful to the stones.

"It is tempting to use commercial cleaning products, but these products can destroy the markers," he

said.

Ruedrich keeps the stone wet for several days, which softens the organic growth. Then, he uses a mild detergent solution and a soft bristle brush to scrub the stone, applying very little pressure.

And Ruedrich passes up quicker methods of restoring stones, such as sandblasting.

"One sandblasting is equivalent to taking off 100 years of weathering on a stone," Ruedrich admitted, "but you risk damaging the stone and you won't be able to see the fine details or read the epitaphs afterwards."

Ruedrich also takes care in rejoining two broken stone fragments by doweling the sections together, a common procedure. Holes are drilled in each of the stones for nylon rods that are glued into the holes of the uppermost piece of the stone. The holes are filled with epoxy, and the upper piece, with its nylon rods in place, is then carefully lowered onto the lower piece, then clamped until the epoxy metal rods were used.

"Metal rusts and expands, eventually breaking the stone," said Ruedrich.

Some stones prove to be more challenging to restore. Thomas Booth Sr.'s headstone was broken into at least six or seven pieces, and several pieces were missing.

"I put patching compound and composite to fill in for the missing pieces — I enjoyed reconstructing the stone," he said.

Vandalism is the largest contributor to the broken headstones.

"People think there are remains of the deceased right there in the rectangular portion of a box tomb," Ruedrich said. "They destroy the stone only to find out the remains are buried like any other body — underground." The box tombs, it turns out, are an example of a stylistic form for that time period.

Longtime resident and preservationist Rebecca Clark remembers when sections A and B — where African-Americans were buried — were used as a parking lot for football fans attending a game between UNC and Clemson several years ago.

"I knew some people called the police, but when they got there, there was nothing they could do. They didn't even get tickets for illegal parking," said Clark.

Several stones were destroyed by the cars, as well as the historic vegetation and markers that were more than likely those of slaves buried at those sites. Preservationists hope that by educating the community about the cemetery being such a valuable historic resource, they will see a decrease in the amount of vandalism.

Stoudemire and Kuwalec are pleased with Dean Ruedrich's work and progress on the project.

"Stone Faces", a consulting firm hired by the planning department, did a comprehensive assessment of the cemetery and made specific recommendations in order to preserve the history.

"Dean followed those recommendations to the letter," said Kuwalec. Recommendations included repairing the fencing, curbing, plantings and vegetation as well.

According to Stone Faces, cedar trees should be preserved because they are culturally significant. Cedars symbolically represent eternal life when used in burial grounds, and many are planted as memorials. Some graves are marked with clay pipes, symbolically serving as conduits to the other world, and not uncommon in some African cultures. All of

these kinds of details need to be taken into account when restoring such a historical site.

Preservationists are concerned about future funding that is needed to finish the work that needs immediate attention. Curtis Brooks, a landscape architect with the planning department, said the department requests an annual appropriation of \$25,000 for the cemetery restoration.

Over the past several years, the Town of Chapel Hill has given between \$50,000 and \$100,000 towards the restoration and maintenance of the cemetery. For the marker restoration project, the town gave \$10,000, the Chapel Hill Preservation Society donated \$10,000, and the North Carolina Division of Archives and History awarded a grant for \$5,000.

"We will continue to raise additional funds," said Stoudemire.

"The aging of stones will continue and no stone will last forever," Kuwalec said, "but we feel we've made an awfully good start."

Chapel Hill News 7/21/96

Scout project enlivens old cemetery

7/4/91 oc4c
BY SUSAN KAUFFMAN
 Staff writer NYD

CHAPEL HILL. — The rock wall of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery will not keep out vandals when Bob E. Champion finishes fortifying it, but it should help give the historic site a less neglected look.

"It will show, yes, people do care about the place," said Bob as he paused a moment from raking debris from the western wall last week.

Bob, 17, a member of Boy Scout Troop 39, has adopted the wall as his Eagle Scout community service project.

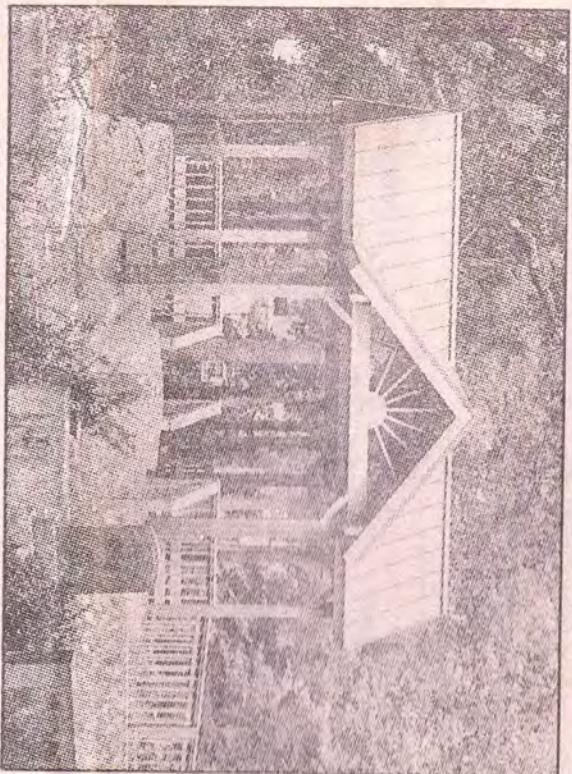
Town employees have piled rocks near the wall where Bob is working. He is organizing friends and family to stack the rocks. No mortar will be used. "The rest don't have it, and they don't want it to look too new," he said.

Bob's work will compliment other renovations being performed on the cemetery that dates back to 1798.

The cemetery, which the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill owned until 1988 when it gave the graveyard to the town, had fallen into disrepair. Crumbling walls, a rotted gazebo, unmarked graves and ground erosion contributed to a desolate appearance.

The town has plans to spend more than \$250,000 on improvements. About \$125,000 has already been spent, said Richard E. Terrell, Chapel Hill's general services superintendent.

Last fall, an irrigation system



The town of Chapel Hill built a new gazebo in the cemetery as part of a plan to make \$250,000 worth of improvements

was installed in anticipation of grass that will eventually cover the area. A new gazebo was erected in the middle of the 7-acre plot in January. Curbs, gutters and sidewalks have been repaired. A plaque near Raleigh Road identifies the cemetery, and a directory of graves has been ordered. The storage shed got a new roof, and a marker identification survey was conducted.

Rebecca Clark, a Chapel Hill resident whose concern about the dilapidated cemetery prompted town action, said she likes the gazebo. "It's pretty from the highway," she said.

But protecting those graves — which include those of playwright Paul Green and educator Frank Porter Graham as well as

slaves — and preventing erosion damage concerns her more. "I'm concerned about the whole cemetery, both white and black," she said.

The town plans to entirely rebuild some of the walls and patch others, Mr. Terrell said. Plans include adding grass, landscaping the area and purchasing pedestrian lighting as money becomes available. Originally, the town wanted to have most of the renovations completed this year. The final target date has been pushed back to 1998, the cemetery's bicentennial.

To save money on the gazebo, the town served as general contractor, Mr. Terrell said. About \$22,800 was spent. The lowest bid had been more than

\$40,000, he said.

Bob said he feels good about his contribution to the cemetery beautification. He said he grew interested in the graveyard after walking by it on the way to football games at Kenan Stadium. "I just wanted to do something new that had never been done, something historical that would help out the community appreciate Chapel Hill's past," he said.

The new gazebo does not seem out of place in the centuries-old cemetery, Bob said.

"It doesn't make a deep contrast. Look over here at the tennis courts," he said pointing to university-owned courts and dormitories that surround the cemetery. "There's a Dumpster over there, and if you want to be specific, there are plastic flowers on the graves. There is trash out there."

"Times have changed," he said.



2807/4/91



Bob E. Champion has adopted this wall of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery as his Eagle Scout project

Staff photos by Rob Cross

Special Quality Of Village

Life Read In Monuments

By MARGUERITE SCHUMANN

The special quality of life in Chapel Hill—described variously by her sons and lovers as “a kind of Athens,” “a holy hill,” “the capital of the Southern mind,” “an oasis,” “touched by a strange magic,” and “the Southern part of Heaven”—is deeply incised in the stones of the village cemetery.

Literate artists of the epitaph have left the monuments of Chapel Hill marked with beauty of rhetoric. A cemetery anywhere is a history book, a park, a testament to the Christian-Hebraic tradition, a sociological study of tastes, beliefs, emotions, and a part of life as it continues for the living. But the Chapel Hill cemetery has something beyond those things: it reflects the luminous life of the mind as it has been lived in this place for one and three-quarters centuries.

First, the life of the mind focuses on students, and there are the graves of students—poignant early deaths in an era when it was not possible to carry them home. Ornate iron fences and elaborately-wrought gates enclose the gates of student members of the two literary societies—the Didactic Society (1795), and the Philanthropic Society. Inside, the monuments are as tall and decorative as chess pieces: a broken classic column, an urn underlined by a swag, slender shapes topped by flames, artichokes, doves. The solemn refrain is chiseled again and again, “A member of the freshman class in this university,” or “a member of the senior class.” Supplementary inscriptions speak well for the literary level of the societies—“the modesty, industry and decorum of his youth gave promise of a useful and honorable manhood,” “a monument of brotherly love,” “a character in which the social companion and Christian went happily united,” and “Virtue! Liberty! Science!”

In the Philanthropic plot is an eloquent Latin inscription, “Apud Dominum misericordia et copiosa apud eum redemptio.” Epitaphs in other sections of the cemetery have stately cadence: “Integer vitae Sclerisque Purus,” (drawn from Horace) and “Todo o nada,”

and “Um Ende fliegt ein gottegebornes Greben.”

A cemetery is a history book. If one knows how to read the names, seventeen decades of Chapel Hill are spread before the eyes.

There lies Cornelia Phillips Spencer (1825-1908), “historian, writer, teacher, friend of the university, helper of the helpless, faithful unto death.” She was the gallant woman who mounted the tower of South Building to ring the bell, announcing that the university would reopen after the Reconstruction. The first woman’s dormitory was named for her, and she was the first woman to receive an honorary degree from the university in 1895. Among other eminent Phillipses who surround her—professors and editors—is James, a mathematician, who “died conducting college prayers.”

The first president of the University of North Carolina is buried in the center of the campus, but monuments to four others are found in the cemetery—one of them, happily, still among the quick. There are the graves of Francis Preston Venable, eighth from 1900-14; Edward Kidder Graham, ninth president from 1914-18, who died of the great killer of World War I—influenza; and his immediate successor, acting President Marvin H. Stacy, who died in the same epidemic four months later. The most singularly joyous sentence in the cemetery is “They had faith in youth and youth responded with its best.” It is the mutual headstone prepared after the death of his wife by Frank Porter Graham, head of the institution from 1930-49, initially as eleventh president of the University of North Carolina, then as first president of the Consolidated Universities of North Carolina, later a United States senator, still the First Citizen of Chapel Hill.

Three of these presidents are memorialized in buildings on the UNC campus. President Venable has the additionally unique distinction of having the railway terminal on the west edge of town named in his honor, for he was influential in having the spur line built.

There are dozens more whose names are written large in university annals. There is the resting place of William

Chamber Coker, head of the botany department for 36 years, whose name is given to a hall and to the arboretum of North Carolina plants which he created in midcampus from a swampy cowpasture. There is the professor of history who founded the Southern Historical Collection in the library, J. G. De Roulhac Hamilton. There is the grave of Frederick Koch, identified simply as "Founder of the Carolina Playmakers." A

under the greenwood tree in a new world forest of Arden, through love and admiration of thousands of students is dedicated to Frederick Henry Koch this open air palace of light and sound, haunt of birds and breezes and human voices, home of natural beauty, poetry and drama—set upon the warm earth in enduring stone to commemorate an ardent genius who inspired and fostered the American folk play and, like another Johnny Appleseed, sowed the creative seeds of communal authorship throughout the American continent." In the cemetery is the monument to Henry Van Peters Wilson, for 47 years a teacher, first professor of biology in UNC, one of the first group of Kenan professors, founder of a laboratory that has become the Fisheries Marine Biological Station at Beaufort, and president of the American Society of Zoologists. His name has been given to Wilson Hall, but a more accurate index of academic immortality is that he was given a nickname as well. He was called "Froggie."

"Froggie." In a plot of Princes is William Meade Prince, author of "The Southern Part of Heaven," and designer of the round-the-world circus parade wood carving that ornaments the pink-mirrored walls of a room in the faculty club. There are the tombs of Woollens, Carmichaels, Bynums, and Caldwells, whose surnames are in the permanent daily vocabulary of the university.

"The most famous man ever born in Chapel Hill," Dr. William de Berniere MacNider, who lies there too, created a legend. When he was offered the deanship of the Vanderbilt medical school, he said, "Well, my family has been buying milk from the Sparrows for three generations. It's too late to change my habits now." Not far away, there are a flock of Sparrows, as well.

The Chapel Hill cemetery is not all gown. There is the town—the people whose names are on the streets, on the shops, the men who died in four wars. There are the highly individualistic Klutzes, one of whom led his cow to pasture from the back seat of an automobile; another of whom ran a checker game in the back room of his haberdashery shop. When a customer came in, he was likely to whisper, "If we keep quiet, he will go away."

Across the road is a gray granite

WALKER'S FUNERAL HOME

The Home of Service
Wallace Womble, Manager

120 W. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill

Tele.

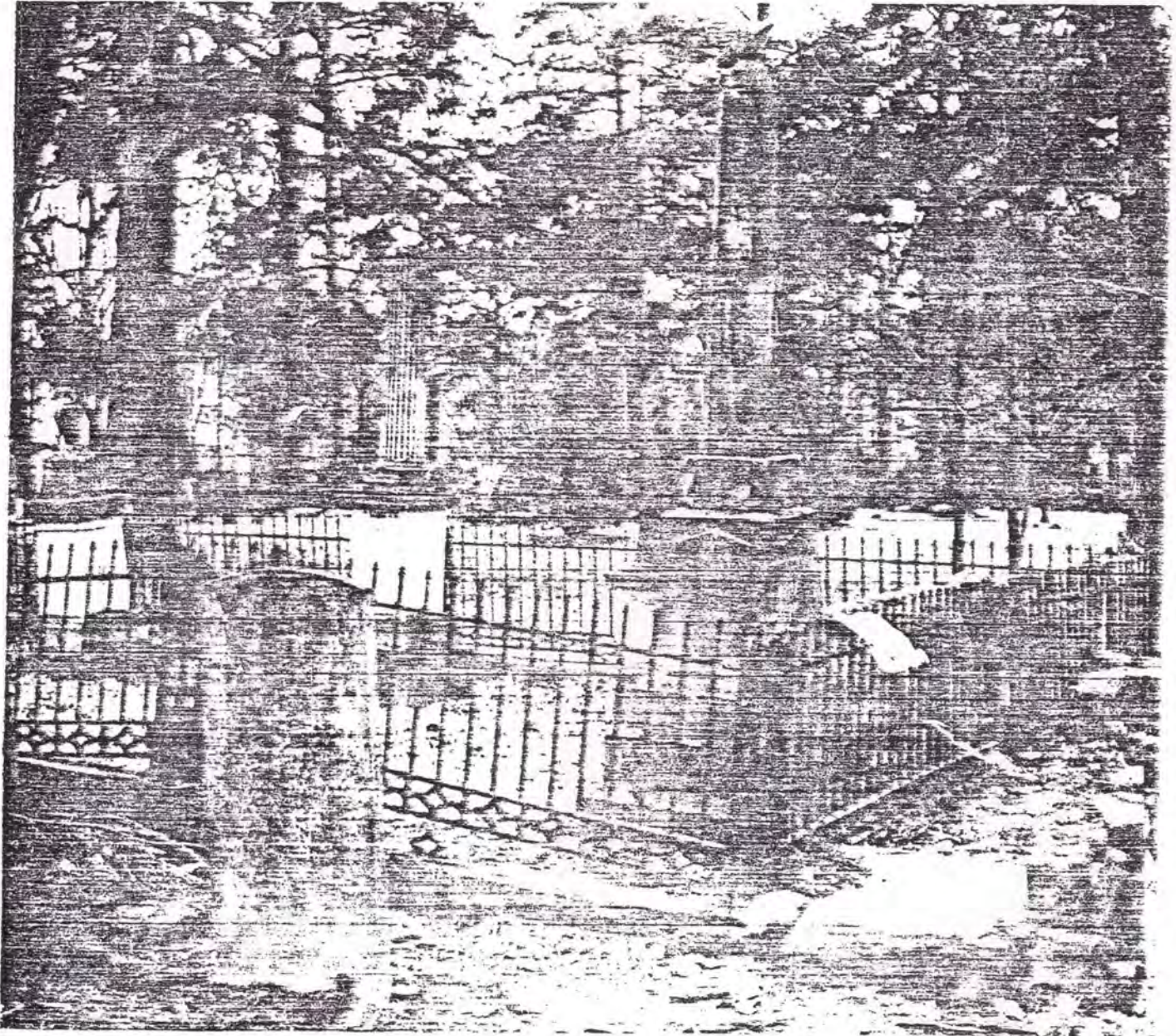
942-3861

marker to Dilsey Craig, 1802-1894. "60 years a slave, chiefly in the house of Dr. James Phillips, whose grand child erects this in grateful memory. Well done, good and faithful servant."

The most elaborate crypt is found in the fenced Guthrie family plot, where graves are separated by iron-tasseled chains. On the tomb of Col. Hugh Blair Guthrie, who died in 1881, is inscribed a U. S. flag and a clenched fist: "Patriotism was the dominant sentiment of his life. He was born a Whig and died a

Republican. He taught his children to revere the flag of our country, and the motto of the old Whig Party—the Union, the Constitution and the enforcement of the law." Chiseled below that is the military biography of his son, Walter Hugh Guthrie: "He fought Indians in the West, was with his Regiment throughout the Spanish-American War in Cuba, was at the capture of the Spanish fort at El Caney, Cuba; subsequently served with his Regiment in the Philippine Islands; and died at sea in November, 1900,

returning from Manila, P.I., and was buried in the National Cemetery of Presidio near San Francisco, Calif." The Guthrie tombs contain a number of poems, as well, one of which reads: "Guardian of my earliest years; Ah! Angel Mother patient, just; With filial love unchanged by cares; I place this tribute to thy dust. Thy perfect life did set too soon; When all its hopes were shining fair; That faded on the first of June; When civil conflict rent the air."



Old Chapel Hill Cemetery

State resolves question NYC 7/8/87

of cemetery ownership

By LIZ CLARKE
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Years of confusion over who owned a historic cemetery in the heart of the University of North Carolina campus ended Tuesday when the state deeded its rights to the grounds to the town of Chapel Hill.

Although the town and university had taken pride in the historical

significance of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery — which sits at Country Club and South roads and dates to the 1700s — neither had been able to produce a deed.

Custom, not law, dictated its upkeep.

Over the years, the town moved the grass and removed fallen tree limbs. But bigger projects, such as restoring vandalized markers

and repairing a stone wall that surrounds the facility, went untended.

By voting to relinquish its rights to the property at a regular meeting Tuesday, the Council of State put all those responsibilities squarely on the shoulders of the town.

In 1929, both sides settled on an agreement that the town would

maintain the cemetery, paying for upkeep by selling burial plots. But that plan didn't last, said Grace Wagoner, the university's property officer.

"Of course, all the lots were gone after a time, so there's been no money coming in," she said.

And as funding for routine maintenance has dropped, vandalism has risen.

No one knows exactly how many people are buried in the cemetery. Many of the graves are unmarked, while others are marked only by rocks. A section for blacks, where dozens of slaves were buried, is separated from the section for whites by a stone wall.

Today, the cemetery's walls are in ill repair. Tree roots have

lopped some cornerstones. Avid football fans sometimes park in the cemetery, and mischievous students have been known to decorate their dormitory rooms with tombstones.

But despite that ragged past, university and town officials are optimistic the historic grounds will receive better care now that

See COUNCIL, page 2C

Council of State resolves question of cemetery ownership

Continued from page 1C

ownership is clear.

"This will make it easier for the town to maintain the property and enforce police authority," Ms. Wagoner said. "And the university still will be able to review plans for restoration."

The town has hired a landscape architecture firm to come up with a plan for refurbishing the cemetery, including installing brick walkways, planting trees and repairing markers and fences, said Bruce Heflin, the town's public works director.

The impetus to unravel the

cemetery's tangled ownership came from a six-member task force appointed by the Chapel Hill Town Council in January to study how the property could be maintained better. The group decided that if the town owned the cemetery, it would get better care.

Rebecca S. Clark, vice chairman of the task force, said, "If you don't have an interest in something, you neglect it."

The Council of State is a 10-member body of top elected officials, including Gov. James G. Martin and Lt. Gov. Robert B. Jordan III, that approves state real estate transactions.



Staff photo by Jim Stratakis

Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, which has been deeded by state to town of Chapel Hill

Town cemetery has aura of history

by David Perry
Feature Writer

The Chapel Hill Cemetery is a quiet, interesting place to spend an autumn afternoon. You can read the tombstones and delve into the history of Chapel Hill, or you can find a secluded spot and mull over life's little mysteries. Or, if you're art-minded, you can make a novel poster by placing a sheet of paper against a tombstone and rubbing crayon or chalk across it.

The cemetery, located behind Henderson Residence College, is not a morbid or especially depressing place. Dotted with cedars, pines and maples, some of them covered with ivy, it has a relaxing and reassuring atmosphere.

Though the cemetery is generally unknown, a few students, especially those living nearby, occasionally wander through the serene maze of gravestones.

"It's really neat to look at the tombstones and read them," Martha Farlow, a junior who lives in Connor, said. "It's pretty out here in the spring."

"It's a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live here," said Tricia Reusing, who recently

discovered the cemetery for herself.

She said the cemetery seemed a lot older than most. "It's nice just to look around."

John Weinger, a Winston resident and frequent tombstone-watcher, enjoys its historical features. "I like this place for its history and cultural associations, its peace, quiet, privacy ... and its great potential for an exotic date," he said.

The oldest grave belongs to George Clarke, "who became a member of the Philanthropic Society in March 1796 ... and died September 28, 1798 ... in the 19th year of his age."

Clarke's tall, thin gravestone almost touches the rusted iron fence that encloses the nearby plot of the Dialectic Society, the group which vied with the Philanthropic Society for debating prominence during the early decades of UNC's history.

The ruins of the second oldest observatory in the nation, built in 1831 by UNC's first president, Joseph Caldwell, lie in the center of the graveyard amidst a cluster of cedars. Student arson destroyed the building a few years after it was finished. It was not rebuilt.

The Daily Tar Heel

12/5/45

Not far from the ruins stands a sandstone obelisk originally dedicated to Caldwell. When the monument began to deteriorate, it was replaced by a marble one. The original marker, then dedicated by the class of 1891 to the Negro servants that served the University, is believed to be the only memorial of its kind in the world, Dr. Phillips Russell said.

A number of famous faculty and administration members are buried in the cemetery, including Henry Van Peters Wilson (Wilson Hall), James Phillips (Phillips Hall) and Frances Preston Venable (Venable Hall).

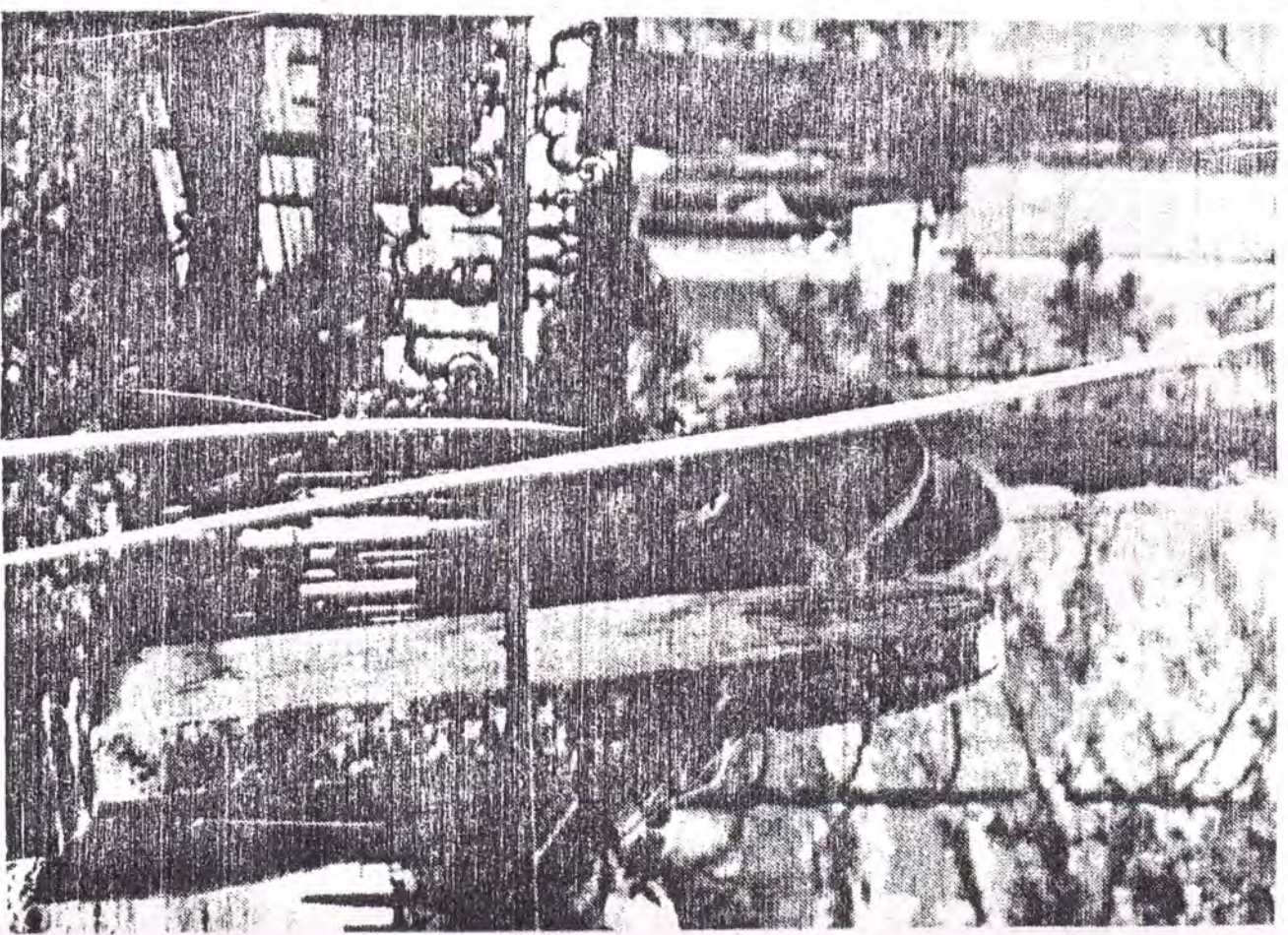
The grave of Collier Cobb, a UNC geography professor for 42 years, lies on a bank a few hundred yards from the dorm bearing his name.

There is no limit to the fascinating glimpses of the past you can discover if you browse through the forgotten, historic cemetery.

But you don't have to be a history buff to enjoy the place. Last year one of Martha Farlow's friends didn't have any place to stay. So he "used to come out here and sleep on Erma."

Here

Founded February 23, 1893



Staff photo by Allen E. Over

"...not a morbid or depressing place"

Town Plans Cemetery Renovation

By TOM MOORE
Staff Writer

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, which is badly in need of renovation, will cost \$290,000 to properly upgrade, according to a recently completed study.

The historic cemetery, located on Raleigh Road across from UNC's Carmichael Auditorium, has fallen into disrepair in recent years. Its rock walls have fallen apart and many gravestones have become cracked with age or damaged by vandals.

The renovation plan — compiled by the architectural firm of Hunter, Reynolds and Jewell — recommends that the Town of Chapel Hill spend \$107,000 to plant new trees and properly landscape the cemetery.

The plan also calls for spending \$38,500 to repair the cemetery's rock walls, \$22,000 to renovate cemetery plots, and \$20,000 to repair broken gravestones. And it says that \$47,500 should be spent to install new lighting in the cemetery and \$26,000 to upgrade the cemetery's roads and walkways.

The plan, which will be officially presented to the Chapel Hill Town Council Monday, does not say how long the Town of Chapel Hill should take to renovate the cemetery.

"What we'd like to do is increment the plan over a period of several years as the (town) budget allows," said Assistant Chapel Hill Town Manager Sonna Loewenthal.

Town officials also hope to get help in paying for the renovation

(See Cemetery, page 14A)

(Continued from page 1A)

work from organizations, as well as relatives of people buried in the cemetery, Loewenthal said in an interview. "Ideally, private money will be used to renovate privately owned property in the cemetery," she said.

The town will be spending as much as \$50,000 each year to maintain the cemetery. The renovation plan recommends hiring three new public works employees to oversee the cemetery.

The cemetery, which was given to the town by UNC earlier this

year, dates back to the late 18th century and a brick wall separates sections for whites and blacks. No one is certain how many bodies are buried there since many of the graves — especially those of black slaves — are unmarked.

The architectural study was undertaken at the request of a special six-member task force appointed by the town council last year. The task force was formed after several residents complained to the council about the condition of the cemetery. The town has been responsible for maintaining the cemetery since the 1920s.

date unknown
author works for
Charlotte Observer

UNC-CH cemetery to get renovations

Graveyard added to historic register

BY LAURIE WILLIS

STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — The historic Chapel Hill Cemetery, final resting place for many famous UNC-CH alumni, has survived 196 years of wear and tear, at least seven wars and pranks by rowdy students.

In one case about four years ago, police arrested a UNC-CH student for stealing part of a monument after they followed a trail of fragmented monument chips to his dorm. His punish-

ment: clean up the place.

These days, cleaning up the cemetery — and restoring it in the process — is back on the town agenda. But this time, town officials plan to do the work. They want to get the cemetery in a shape befitting its entrance to the National Register of Historic Places.

There are headstones and rock walls to be repaired, landscaping to be done, turf to be rebuilt.

"The headstones and markers need to be restored because a number of them are damaged," said Bruce Heflin, Chapel Hill's public works director. "It needs to be cleaned and put in good condi-

tion."

Built in 1798, the cemetery is the resting place for more than 2,000 people, including many famous alumni of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It is located on campus, behind Conner residence hall.

Frank Porter Graham, UNC-CH's 14th president, is buried there. So are playwright Paul Green, after whom a Chapel Hill repertory theater is named, and Adeline McCall, who helped organize the N.C. Symphony and brought music into the public schools.

The oldest known grave belongs

SEE CEMETERY, PAGE 5B



The headstone of UNC professor Adolphus Williamson Mangum, who worked at the university from 1875 to 1890, is one of about 2,000 grave sites in the cemetery.

STAFF PHOTO BY MEL NATANSON

CEMETERY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

to former university student George Clarke, who died while attending the university.

Heflin didn't have official cost estimates on what it will take to get the cemetery in good shape, but he estimated it will require "tens of thousands of dollars."

Its new ranking on the register, awarded this summer, should help with the fund raising.

"Now that we're on the national register, we are qualified to apply for grant monies from the state for the actual physical restoration," said Terri Swanson, hired

by the town to help with restorations. "The town also plans to do some fund raising from private sources and other groups who are interested in restoration."

Already, the Chapel Hill Preservation Society has raised about \$10,500 toward the restoration of badly damaged stones, said Mary Arthur Stoudermire, a member of the Chapel Hill Cemetery Committee.

"We're very excited about being on the national list," Stoudermire said. "It took a lot of work."

Getting the cemetery on the register was a big accomplishment, according to Linda Edmisten, national register coordinator with the State Historic Preserva-

tion Society. Only about 20 individual cemeteries statewide are on the list, she said, excluding cemeteries associated with farmsteads or churches.

The 7-acre Chapel Hill Cemetery received the distinction for several reasons, including its importance to the development of UNC-CH and its significance to the town, Edmisten said. It also was recognized for its funerary art, she added.

But the burial place is more than just a historic site in Chapel Hill. To many, its importance is hard to put into words.

"It has much of the history of Chapel Hill written right there," Stoudermire said.

780 4/26/85

Uncertainties about plot ownership hinder cleanup of neglected cemetery

By MIKE McQUEEN

Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Uncertainty about who owns the plots in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery is frustrating a Chapel Hill woman's attempt to get the town to mend the vandalized tombstones and landscape the burial ground's black section.

Rebecca Clark of 205 Crest Drive said she was "very disturbed" by the neglect of the graves of black slaves who served the university.

"There are slaves that built the university there," she said. Many of the gravestones in the black section are just scattered rocks with no inscriptions. "Nobody can remember who's there," she said. The town maintains the property, at least part of which is owned

by the University of North Carolina, and Mrs. Clark would like to see town workers repair walls, thin trees, replace eroded soil and fix broken gravestones.

But Harold Harris, town public works director, said the hazy legal status of the cemetery, including the question of plot ownership, makes dealing with Mrs. Clark's concerns difficult.

The cemetery, which dates to the 1700s, is across Raleigh Road from UNC's Carmichael Auditorium. The black section, which Mrs. Clark said was in worse shape than the white section, is at the western end, next to Connor Dormitory.

Under a 1928 agreement between UNC and the town, the town is charged with maintaining the cemetery. Town crews mow the

grass, rake the leaves and fill in sunken areas as needed, Harris said. The town spends more than \$10,000 a year maintaining the cemetery, according to a 1983 letter to the university property office.

"Our objective is to maintain this as best we can," he said. "We're custodians of the cemetery."

Yet Harris said the town's maintenance efforts have been limited to general upkeep because the town considers the families of the people buried in the plots to be the plots' owners. This differs from the policy at the town's newer cemetery, Chapel Hill Memorial Cemetery, where people purchase the right to bury some-

See UNCERTAINTIES, page 2D

Uncertainties hinder cleanup of cemetery

Continued from page 1D

one, and not the plot itself.

So if the town cut down trees or repaired gravestones at the old cemetery, it would be handling private property, he said.

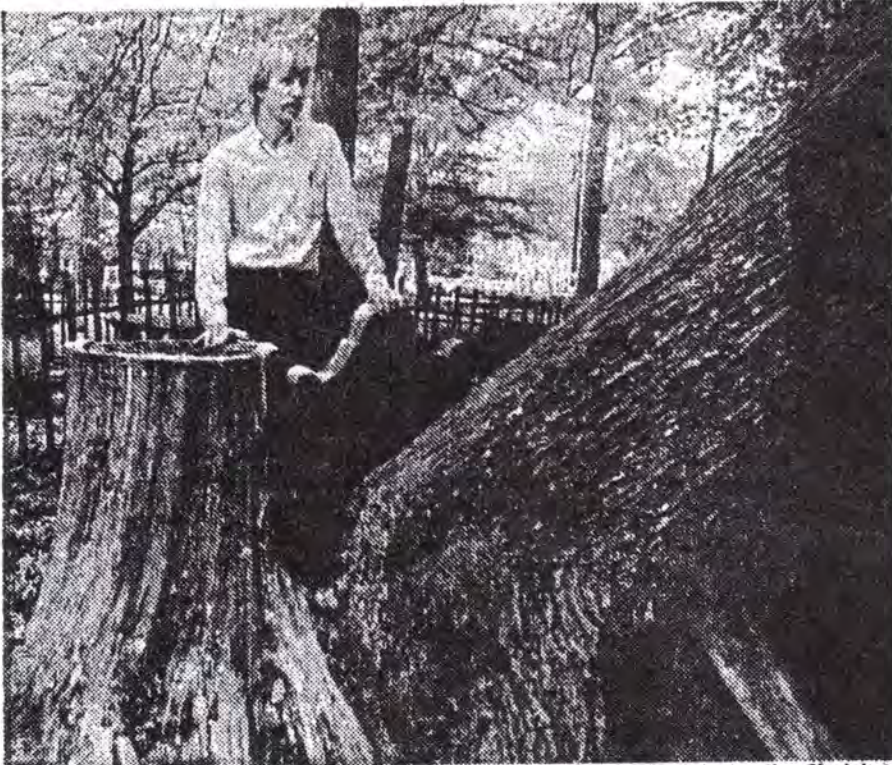
The town considers the university the owner of only the roads through the cemetery and the land surrounding the plots. But even that position is uncertain, Harris said, because the original agreement between the town and the university mentions both deeds and burial permits.

"It's very difficult in this area to find out who owns what," he said.

Wallace Womble of Walker's Funeral Home said Thursday that he has seen documents that show that a plot has been sold, indicating plot ownership. Because of their scarcity, they are becoming increasingly valuable, too. Some have sold for as much as \$3,000, Womble said.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Clark has taken her cause to the Town Council. At its Monday meeting, she passed around pictures showing the overturned and broken grave markers.

Harris said the town staff would examine the costs of acting on Mrs. Clark's requests and possible legal problems and report back to the council.



Staff photo by Jim Stratakos

Richard E. Terrell of the Chapel Hill public works department
... inspects damage to tombstones at cemetery

*April 26, 1985
News and Observer
Raleigh*

UNC Wants Town To Have Cemetery

By PAUL BROWN 3.5.87
Herald Chapel Hill bureau

CHAPEL HILL.—The University of North Carolina wants to have ownership of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery transferred to the town.

Eunice Brock, co-chairman of the town's four-month-old "Old Chapel Hill Cemetery Task Force" told the Town Council last week that UNC Vice Chancellor Farris Womack agreed to recommend that legal proceedings begin to transfer ownership of the pre-Civil War cemetery to the town. Womack, the vice chancellor for business and finance, predicted Tuesday that it would be another two to three months before a final decision is made.

The cemetery is on South Road near Country Club Road, on the east side of the UNC campus. It contains two sections, one for whites, the other for blacks: A number of former slaves are interred in the cemetery. Although nearly full, it is still an active burial place.

The new town cemetery is on Legion Road.
Since the late 1920s, Chapel

Hill has maintained the old cemetery, under the assumption that the university had deeded the land to it. Officials learned lately that the transfer was a gentleman's agreement rather than a formal signing of a deed.

Town officials began having problems with the land in 1985. A prominent black resident, Rebecca S. Clark, complained to the Town Council about broken headstone and the lack of maintenance in the black section of the cemetery. In 1986, Mrs. Clark was picked with Ms. Brock to share leadership of the cemetery task force.

Later in 1985, the president of The Chapel Hill Preservation Society wrote a letter to the council saying she watched as football fans ignored signs and chains to park in the cemetery, also in the black section.

"The black section was used as a parking lot with absolutely no regard for either graves or stones," said the letter. "After the game, we saw one Jeep drive over graves, stones, etc., to exit." Grace Wagoner, director of property and equipment control at UNC, said, said the cemetery "antedates the Civil War, and

many, many Di Phi alumni are buried there." Di Phi is the Dialectic and Philanthropic Literary Societies, the South's oldest student organizations.

She added, "There are several gravesites that are unoccupied at this point that are owned by living persons." The owners have purchased burial rights, she said.

Information about the intended transfer is murky, mainly because state law allows UNC to consider real estate matters in closed sessions. In describing the transfer of ownership, Ms. Wagoner explained that "the state can never divest itself of any interest in real property without going through a certain procedure."

First, the UNC administration must review the matter. It is at that step that Womack would make a recommendation to UNC Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham.

Then, the UNC Board of Trustees must approve the transfer (that might have been done Feb. 27), before the state property office makes a recommendation to the Council of State. The council is a group made up of the statewide elected officials.

Another step is added if the property is worth more than \$50,000, she said: It must be approved by the Board of Governors of the UNC system.

Said Womack: "We're probably at least two months away from that [a final decision], or maybe three."

Chapel Hill Assistant Town Manager Sonna Loewenthal said gaining ownership of the cemetery would be a relief. "We would feel more comfortable investing funds for capital improvements knowing that the land belongs to the town," she said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

After hearing the task force report last week, the Town Council approved the expenditure of \$15,000 to hire a landscape architect to write a master plan for repairing damage at the cemetery and for maintenance. The task force will pick the architect but will keep councilmen posted on the progress.

Save 50¢

Who's who of old cemetery

The history of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery goes back to the university's Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, which established burial plots beginning in 1798.

According to the town's Planning Department, George Clarke, a 19-year-old student, was the earliest recorded burial. There were no black church cemeteries in Chapel Hill in the 18th and 19th century, so slaves for the village were buried in segregated sections of the cemetery. In placing the cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places, the National Park Service said "the cemetery is also one of North Carolina's collective burial places of persons of significance in the state's social history and black ethnic heritage."

A complete map and list of those buried at the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery is available from the Town of Chapel Hill Planning Department. Contact Curtis Brooks at 968-2796, extension 122. To make a donation towards the restoration project, please contact the Chapel

Hill Preservation Society at 942-7818, or the Planning Department.

Those buried at the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery include:

Dr. Edwin Caldwell, 1867-1932, received medical degree at Shaw University and developed a cure for pellagra.

Collier Cobb Sr., 1862-1934, Professor of Geology for 42 years.

Robert Conner, 1878-1950, Kenan Professor of History and first U.S. Archivist.

Dilsey Craig, 1802-1894, a slave for over 60 years in the home of the Phillips family.

Louis Graves, 1883-1965, founder and publisher of the "Chapel Hill Weekly."

George Kirkland, 1899-1948, Chapel Hill's first African-American dentist.

Fanny McDade, 1861-1964, African-American laundress to students, who died at 103 and is believed to be the oldest person in the cemetery.

Phillips Family, prominent Chapel Hillians. Charles, 1882-

1889, was a UNC professor; his daughter Cornelia Phillips Spencer, 1825-1908, helped open the campus after reconstruction; his son Samuel, 1824-1903, was Professor of Law, and later U.S. Solicitor General under President Grant.

Frederick (1893-1973) and **Adeline McCall** (1900-1989), founders of the North Carolina Symphony.

Nellie Stroud Strayhorn, 1850-1950, who was reported to have been sitting on the porch of a cabin in 1865 when soldiers riding by told her that she was free.

Members of the **Tenney (Tenny) Family**, owners of Tenney Plantation off East Franklin Street in the 19th century.

John Umstead Jr., 1889-1968, state representative.

Horace Williams, 1858-1940, professor of philosophy whose 19th century home now houses the Chapel Hill Preservation Society.

Louis Round Wilson, 1876-1979, professor, librarian and historian; Wilson library named after him.

RESTING PLACES REDISCOVERED



Beth Compton, left, takes readings while Jonah Cumbee, center, and Beth Williamson prepare to shove charged electrodes into the grounds of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery. They were searching for underground anomalies that might indicate unknown graves.

STAFF PHOTO BY HARRY LYNCH

Preservation Society hopes to identify long-lost grave sites



Jay Thacker operates ground-penetrating radar.

STAFF PHOTO BY HARRY LYNCH

By DAVE HART
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — On a misty Wednesday morning last week, Jay Thacker slowly pushed a three-wheeled contraption across the uneven grass in the African-American section of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery on Raleigh Road.

On top of the device a small gray screen that looked something like an electronic fish finder showed a pattern of blurry, bumpy horizontal lines. As Thacker proceeded, the lines did too, slowly travers-

ing the screen. Suddenly he stopped.

"See that?" he said. The horizontal lines on the screen had grown ragged and in one area plunged in a steep dip.

"That shadow there, I don't think that's a grave shaft," Thacker said. "But this one ..."

He reached down and planted a small red flag in the ground at his feet.

All around him, red flags dotted the earth. Each one marked an underground anomaly that Thacker or his colleagues had detected;

each one, in other words, represented a possible grave.

The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, working with grants from the Kelly Webb Trust and the Strowd Roses Foundation, initiated the project to try to discover, map and, if possible, ultimately identify long-lost graves in the black sections, known as Sections A and B, of the cemetery. The society contracted with Environmental Services Inc., last week to use ground-pene-

SEE **RESTING**, PAGE 4A

RESTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

trating radar – the device Thacker was using – and electrical resistivity techniques to locate probable grave sites.

"We wanted to determine how many graves are in these sections," said Ernest Dollar, executive director of the Preservation Society. "By doing this we hope to give respect to their finally resting place and give the community back a piece of mind about their ancestors."

Black Chapel Hillians were buried there beginning more than 150 years ago – the oldest known grave in that section is that of a slave named Ellington Barnett, who died in 1853 – but very little remains to mark their resting places. Some of them may never have had headstones, and many of gravestones that were once there have been destroyed, moved or otherwise lost through vandalism or neglect; untold markers were broken or buried in a single day in 1985, when football fans attending a UNC-Clemson game at Kenan Stadium used sections A and B of the cemetery as a

makeshift parking lot.

Now, only a few rough fieldstones and even fewer formal markers remain, scattered across the patchy grass under the pines. The number of red flags in the ground last week indicated the likely presence of dozens of unmarked graves.

"This is the first step," Dollar said, watching Thacker maneuver the ground-penetrating radar device and team of three manipulating the resistivity apparatus. "Once the readings are done, we will generate a map plotting the probable graves and work with the community to try to identify as many as we can. Then, eventually, we'd like to mark the graves again, which raises a whole series of questions – what kind of markers, and who pays for them?"

"But those are all still to come. The first step is finding the graves."

Thacker and the resistivity crew moved methodically across the tract in a linear pattern, like a farmer mowing a field. After they finished plotting the sections, he said, another team would come in and probe the sites with long fiberglass probes.

"The probes will sink right in where grave shafts were dug," he said. "The surrounding soil will be much firmer; although the older the grave the more subtle the difference. That way they can

mark the four corners of each shaft."

Finding the graves is the easy part; identifying who is buried where will be more difficult.

"That's where we ask the public for help," said Steve Moore, chairman of the Cemetery Advisory Board. "The written historical records are very spotty. Once we know what we have here, we'll let the public know what we know. People might know they have ancestors buried in this cemetery, and they may have family histories, family Bibles, verbal histories or other information that could help us match up names with grave sites."

Chapel Hill has two other little-known, much smaller cemeteries with unmarked graves, Moore said – the Barbee-Hargraves Cemetery on Greenwood Road, and the West Chapel Hill Cemetery near the railroad tracks and Carrboro town line. The Preservation Society hopes to conduct similar studies at those sites.

"There are no records at all for those cemeteries," Moore said. "Hopefully, after this one, we'll be able to do the same thing there. This is the prototype, the first attempt to use these different methods – science, the historical record and family histories – to pull together all the information we can gather about these sites. This is just the beginning."

OFFER!



Study finds unmarked graves

More than 60
sites located

By DAVE HART
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — A study of a portion of the historically black section of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery has revealed more than 60 likely unmarked graves.

The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, which sponsored the investigation, will present the report's findings at a free public meeting Feb. 17 at the Horace Williams House.



Dollar

"This is what we'd hoped to find," said Ernest Dollar, executive director. "We knew there was a large population buried in that part of the cemetery. This gives us a much better sense of where those graves actually are."

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GRAVES

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The section of the cemetery examined — a one-third acre portion of what is known as Section B — was used in the late 18th and early 19th centuries as a burial place for slaves and freemen. Some of their graves may never have had headstones; most of the others were marked only with rough, uninscribed fieldstones that over the years have been moved, destroyed or otherwise lost. UNC football fans used that portion of the cemetery as an impromptu parking lot for a game in 1985, no doubt damaging or burying some stones, and maintenance workers, unaware that the stones marked graves, used some of them to rebuild stone walls.

Crews from a firm called Environmental Services, Inc., and its subcontractor, Thacker, Seramur and Associates, used ground-penetrating radar and other geophysical techniques to locate areas of disturbed subsurface soil that might indicate grave shafts.

The testing identified as many as 62 unmarked graves within the study area, according to the investigators' report. The study lists the sites as "potential" graves, because although the techniques can indicate underground disturbances typical of grave shafts, they "cannot fully confirm or refute the presence of a grave shaft."

"The only way to definitively confirm them is to dig them up," Dollar said. "I'm not sure anybody wants to do that. It's impossible to figure out who each individual grave belongs to. But a lot of people who think they have relatives buried there have called us since they heard about this project."

"So the question becomes, how do we mark the site? That's something the public will have to discuss."

One possibility might be a group marker.

"There's a slave cemetery in Hillsborough that does that," Dollar said. "There's a plaque that lists who is buried there, but not exactly where they are, because nobody knows."

The Preservation Society hopes to conduct similar investigations into several other smaller cemeteries known to contain unmarked graves.

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