



## FISKVILLE CEMETERY NEWS

### MARCH 2014 ISSUE

#### From the Board members

#### **WHEN THE BELLS TOLL**

*When GOD in his infinite wisdom has seen fit to call back to His fold a human soul, And when the earthly remains of one beloved must be laid to eternal sleep, Then it becomes our sacred duty to assist the bereaved living in this, the last task of their love for the departed.*

*In carrying out this sacred duty we will do our part;*

*With sympathy*

*With dignity*

*With reverence*

Bells Toll for 2013

Minnie Calhoun

Sammie Cordell

Julia LaGrone

Timothy Hutson

Tammy Sue Bradford

Zelma Lamb

Helen Louise King, Porsha Marie Peebles, Melva Inez Tullus...



#### Placement of Flags for Veterans

In traditional military honor, Flags are placed one foot in front of, and center of each headstone. Though we honor our veteran's, flags were not placed on veteran's graves this year. Most veterans have a military headstone, but not all. In order to honor all veterans, if you have a loved one that does not have a military headstone, and would like to have a flag placed, please let us know, so they can be recognized as well. We will resume this practice this year, time and weather permitting. We have identified many more veterans.

**THE FUNERAL: THE FUNERAL IS A DECLARATION THAT A LIFE HAS BEEN LIVED, AS WELL AS A SOCIOLOGICAL STATEMENT THAT A DEATH HAS OCCURRED.**

#### THE FUNERAL, ALSO

- ...Helps confirm the reality and finality of death...
- ...Provides a climate for mourning and the expression of grief...
- ...Allows the sorrows of one to become the sorrows of all...
- ...Is the only time when love is given and not expected in return...
- ...Is a vehicle for the community to pay its respects...
- ...and Encourages the affirmation of religious faith...

#### Maintenance of Cemetery Grounds

This has been a very busy year in regards to performing maintenance of the cemetery grounds. As a reminder to all, the picture above shows what the cemetery looked like in 2005, compared to what it looks like today. Several ongoing projects have made a big improvement. Projects include cutting the grass and weed eating around the headstones, adding dirt to areas of need, leveling, repairing broken headstones, and placing temporary markers on graves that have been identified.

During the year, we have been surveying the cemetery and taking pictures to make sure we preserve and identify as many graves as we can. But, we need your help. We have identified many people that are buried at Fiskville through social security records, death records, and newspaper obituaries, but do not

know where they are buried. So, now is the time to get members of the family out to the cemetery to show us where they are buried so we can place a temporary marker at the site. The gate to the cemetery has been bent in half and will be repaired or replaced in the near future. In the mean time, we are unable to close the gate.



### **Out with the old, In with the new**

With the holidays behind us, many of us are visiting our loved ones to pay our respect and to remember them with flowers. Don't forget to remove old faded flowers when placing new ones. Also, it is important to know that only one or two arrangements are permitted on each grave, and should be placed as close to the headstone as possible. This should be done in order to allow for mowing of the grass and to prevent damage to vases and arrangements. Where possible, vases will be left in place when faded flowers are removed in order to facilitate easy placement of news ones next time. Fiskville Cemetery reserves the right to remove old and faded flowers, as well as seasonal arrangements or decorations after the holidays. As a reminder, items placed on or around graves may become broken or damaged during routine maintenance and may be removed. It has been reported to us that items placed on or around graves have become missing in the past, so we encourage items that hold a great sentimental value to be removed and put in a safe place where you can protect them. In some areas, vases are not in the ground very far and tip over. We have placed some of these in PVC pipes to prevent this from happening again. If you need assistance placing flowers, please let us know and we will be glad to assist you.

### **A REMINDER OF BURIAL FEES**

Burial fees have stayed the same, with no increase:

Full burial with casket: \$650.00 (includes small headstone with name, date of birth and date of death only) Cremation burial with or without container: \$300.00 (includes small headstone)

Many folks have spent a lot of hours working at the cemetery cutting grass and cleaning the cemetery while they were able. While they are no longer able to help out at the cemetery, we know their thoughts and prayers are with the ones that are doing it now and we do not want to forget all they have done.

Burials are no longer permitted without a permanent headstone in place within 60 days of burial. Some families have purchased headstones and others have not.

So, to ensure each new grave is permanently marked, we have added the fee for the cost of a small headstone to be paid prior to burial. If the family wishes to purchase a more expensive headstone, the \$150.00 fee collected will be applied toward that purchase. All burial fees assessed are used for the care and maintenance of the cemetery grounds.

For those folks already buried at the cemetery, we have been working very hard to identify each and every grave. This has been very difficult and trying at times, as there are no permanent markers to indicate who is buried in a lot of graves. Over time, many of the metal or wooden markers have disappeared or become damaged and we are no longer able to read them and the information is lost. This is why we now require a permanent marker to be placed within 60 days of burial. We have walked the cemetery with many families and fortunately have been able to identify many many graves. We have added these names to the cemetery listing indicating the section and grave number, for future reference and placed a temporary marker at these sites. These are only temporary markers though and the information gained can be lost again if we do not get a permanent headstone in place. We are currently surveying the cemetery to determine how many headstones are needed and we will be asking for donations to, once again, purchase a permanent headstone for graves that need them. By doing so, this will ensure that generations to come will be able to locate their ancestors and pay their respects. We estimate there are about 150 to 200 graves that are unmarked at this time. Please let us know if you are aware of the location of any unmarked graves by taking a temporary marker from the information booth and placing it at the location. After placing the marker, please give us a call or email so we can update the cemetery listing. So far, we show there are at least 1,544 actual burials. An updated listing will be sent out when it is complete. For those that do not have email, we will be placing 5 copies of the listing in the information booth. We will try to keep these available and will replenish them monthly.



temporary marker



temporary marker

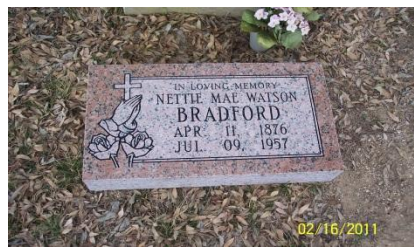


small headstone - \$150.00

a crescent can be added for an additional \$60.00 (a ceramic picture)



Temporary marker



upgrade \$275.00



We received a concern last year about the cost of burial at the cemetery, so we did some price checking at other cemeteries to compare and found burial fees range from \$2,500.00 to over \$7,000.00 per grave, depending on the location and size of the plot. The burial fees at Fiskville Cemetery are used for the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery and for the purchase of a headstone. By using volunteers to maintain the cemetery grounds, we have been able to keep the cost down. We have received requests from several funeral homes for a plot and have turned them down due to their client not having a relative already buried at the cemetery. This was done to ensure there will be room for future burials for folks that want to be close to their loved ones already buried here. We will continue to work hard to keep the costs down and the cemetery looking great. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to you in locating a grave and stay in touch.