

Central Cemetery News

June 2013

June 22, 2013

Work Day

Saturday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

June 23, 2013

Decoration

Sunday

Worship Service at
11:00 a.m.

August 10, 2013

**Anderson-
Cornett**

Reunion

Beginning at the
Central Cemetery



Decoration Day is almost here!

The 4th Sunday in June is here and that means the annual Central Cemetery Decoration is upon us. We will follow the same basic format as in the past: We will gather in the Cemetery beginning about 10:00 a.m. for some visiting and catching up with friends and relatives. At 11:00 we will have a worship service under the trees led by David Trent. David has done a great job for the last 3 years and we are looking forward to hearing his message again this year. We will sing some traditional hymns again, just like they did many years ago for Decoration. After the service we will have a brief “business” meeting to discuss the ongoing work, finances, and governance of your Cemetery.

Don't forget the work day and cook out! On Saturday (June 22) before Decoration Sunday (June 23) we will, once again, have a work day at the Cemetery. Cutting the grass and trimming around the head stones is only one small part of maintaining the Cemetery. We need to shoulder some responsibility of taking care of our loved ones graves. Markers need to be cleaned regularly to remove the moss and lichen that threaten to take over the stones. Work will begin around 9:00 AM and continued till around 5 PM. Of course you don't have to arrive at exactly 9 o'clock and you certainly don't have to stay all day. We would appreciate it if you would just come out sometime during the day and spend a little while to help maintain your family member's graves.

The Cookout

At noon on Saturday we will have ourselves a cookout on the Hill. Hotdogs and hamburgers and all the fixin's will be provided for folks who let me know they are coming ahead of time. We will provide soft drinks and chips. You are certainly welcome to bring anything else you'd like to share.

Lots of us come out on Saturday to decorate graves anyway so this could be another opportunity to visit and socialize a little bit. It's not all work. This should be a lot of fun, too! In fact, there has been some interest in having a picnic lunch again on Sunday afternoon. If enough folks are interested we will definitely make this happen. Bring a lawn chair and some sunscreen and we can spend the afternoon visiting with each other.

Finances

Our fund raising efforts have been pretty successful for the past couple of years. We received enough donations to allow us to perform some much needed maintenance (tombstone straightening project) and meet our usual mowing expenses for 2012. So for the first time in several years we are operating "in the black" so to speak. Thanks to YOUR generous support we have improved the physical appearance of the Cemetery and added a small amount to our perpetual care fund. We need to keep the momentum flowing so please continue your support of your cemetery! More financials follow later...

Maintenance

As I stated in previous newsletters, we have neglected some maintenance issues at the cemetery for a few years. Two years ago over 50 markers were leaning, several graves had sunken and needed to be filled in, and one large "double" marker had fallen over.

I am happy to report that the cemetery is in much better shape today! We hired a professional contractor for the past two years to straighten the worst stones and to pressure wash the moss from many. They did a remarkable job of bringing many of the head stones

back into "plumb." Originally, we anticipated it would take 3 years to reset all of the fallen stones, to repair all of the "leaners," and pressure wash the moss from all the stones at a total cost of about \$6000. Things have moved along much better than we had hoped with a lot of hard work by several folks. We have spent only \$4000 and are in pretty good shape. We will try to "stay on top of things" by doing a few minor repairs each year starting this year. We need help on Saturday (June 22nd) to straighten some of the smaller stones and give the cemetery a good general cleaning. Please come out for an hour or two and enjoy fellowship, food and fun!

More Finance

In the past we have kept track of our finances from one Decoration to the next (4th Sunday in June to the next 4th Sunday in June). This seems a little cumbersome and is difficult to manage. We are shifting to a calendar year accounting method which will help us keep track of donations more efficiently. On the next page you will find donors from 2012 along with the date written on their check. There will be some overlap as some of these folks were mentioned in last year's newsletter.

We had a good year last year with more donors than in recent memory. The total of donations received in 2012 was \$3720 including plot sales of \$150. Our expenses were mowing (\$1450) and the headstone straightening project (\$2000) for a total of \$3450 leaving us with a net profit of \$270! It may not sound like much, but we are thrilled to have met our expenses. The expense for copying and mailing the newsletter, food for the cook-out, materials for repairing the benches under the trees, and all of the labor provided by many volunteers to keep the cemetery looking good is not included.

We had two generous gifts in 2012 from the estate of Myrtle Kate "Katie" Scruggs and Virginia C. Farmer. Both of these kind ladies were faithful supporters of Central Cemetery during their lifetimes and continued to support our work after their deaths. Please consider remembering Central in your will as Mrs. Scruggs and Mrs. Smith did!

Donors in 2012 (next page)

Below is a list of the generous supporters of the Central Cemetery for calendar year 2012. These are folks who wrote checks to the Cemetery last year. The list does not include folks who gave cash or provided labor or materials for the upkeep of the Cemetery. Thank you!

First Name	Last Name	Date
Donald Ted & Sandra	Anderson	5/17/12
French & Darlene	Anderson	8/21/12
Judy & Frank	Alderman	6/23/12
Kenneth & Martha	Anderson	7/10/12
Georgia	Assaid	5/15/12
Donald & Linda	Bonham	5/21/12
Warren E.	Bonham	5/19/13
Billie C.	Cornette	5/30/12
Billy Gene	Cornett	6/24/12
Breece & Amelia	Cornett	5/18/12
Don & Jeanne	Cornett	5/29/12
Gearleen & Riley "Gray"	Cornett	6/6/12
Mary C.	Cornett	5/23/12
Roger & Deborah	Cornett	5/21/12
Jimmie & Kenneth	Cornett	5/18/12
Jackie & Vera	Dickens	8/7/12
Jerry G.	Duncan	6/9/12
Shirley Anderson	Duval	6/6/12
Esther	Ezell	5/21/12
Virginia C.	Farmer	3/19/12
Lois	Fisher	6/24/12
Bob & Paula	Green	6/18/12
Edna	Greer	6/24/12
Charles & Elizabeth	Gress	5/17/12
Dori	Hodgkinson	6/24/12
Priscilla Y.	Hubble	5/26/12
Winifred	Huddle	6/6/12
R.H.	Hutton	5/25/12
Brice & Joyce	Irwin	5/14/12
C. Blaine & Susan	Keitel	6/1/12
Jo Ann & Donald	Leifeste	5/31/12
Wilson & Paula	Leonard	6/18/12
Margaret A.	Morris	4/21/13
Orrin & Margaret	Morris	5/24/12
Juanita	Odum	6/25/12
Joyce & Talmage	Parks	6/23/12
Rebecca	Payne	5/29/12
Karen E.	Pennington	5/30/12
Robert & Janet	Plummer	5/23/12
Jeanette	Poole	6/24/12
C.G. & L.C.	Roberts	7/24/12
Rhonda Roberts	Roberts	6/24/12

First Name	Last Name	Date
Carolyn	Ross	5/15/12
Ronald & Iris	Russell	6/24/13
Estate of Myrtle Kate	Scruggs	6/29/12
Craylin & Anna	Shuler	6/4/12
Helen Virginia	Smith	5/28/12
Ernie	Sullins	6/28/12
Pamela & Timothy	Walters	6/24/12
Mildred	Ward	4/21/13
Jerry & Sandra	Wright	6/24/12
Dale	Yonce	5/29/12
Nannie Belle	Young	6/17/12

We hope to add more names to the list in 2013. Please send your donation to get the ball rolling! We are counting on YOU! If you made a donation last year, THANK YOU! We are counting on you to match last year's donation (or maybe even a little bit more if you can!). If you did not make a donation last year, PLEASE HELP! If everyone would give a little, it would sure help a lot. I feel like it is my duty to honor my ancestors by helping to maintain their final resting place. I hope you do to. Remember the 5th commandment "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you." (Exodus 20:12)

While we need your financial assistance, we would also like to see you out for the Cemetery clean-up day on Saturday, June 22nd. Again, if everyone gives a little, it can make a big difference. The Cemetery is looking great. Please help keep the momentum going!

Burials at the Cemetery

As of this writing, we have had no burials at the Cemetery since last Decoration. We did have a service on July 23, 2012 (the day before Decoration) for Mrs. Ruby Lucille Anderson Cornette, wife of Glenn David Cornette who died in 2002 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Ruby was born on August 7, 1927 at Flat Ridge. She was one of 15 children born to James and Clair Anderson Cornette. She was preceded in death by six sisters – Elna, Eula, Lorene, Pat, Jessie and Betty; four brothers – James, Marion, Paul and C. She is survived by her daughter Susie Walters and two sisters – Mary Hackler and Eva Phipps. She is also survived by four grandchildren. A photo of the service is provided below.



Ruby Lucille Anderson Cornette service



Winifred Anderson Huddle, age 91, with her family by her side, passed away at her Bellingham, WA home Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012. The oldest of four sisters, Winifred was born Oct. 8, 1921 in the rural family home of her father and mother, Garnet and Mamie Anderson, at

Flatridge in Grayson County, VA. She married Jerry Huddle in November of 1948 in Knoxville, TN while they both attended the University of Tennessee. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, one sister – Garnetta Coates, and her third son – Richard Edward Huddle. She is survived by her sons – Douglas Huddle and Jerry Huddle, Jr. and sisters - Mildred Ward and Margaret June Morris. She was a friend and faithful supporter of our cemetery and will be greatly missed.

As fewer and fewer of us remain, it would be wise to remember Central Cemetery in your will. Won't you consider bequeathing a portion of your estate to the continued upkeep of the Cemetery? Remember, the Cemetery will be here long after we are gone. Please help to preserve it for all time.

Other creative ways to support the Cemetery: Consider sending the Cemetery a portion of your tax refund. Make a donation in memory of a loved one. Give a donation in celebration of a birthday, anniversary or

other occasion. Thank you for supporting the Central Cemetery any way that you can!

Mowing

The single largest expense that we have in a typical year is mowing the grass. We are very fortunate to have a great "grounds crew" in Jason and Amanda Funk. Mr. & Mrs. Funk, along with their children, keep things very neat and tidy "up on the hill." Mowing a cemetery is not easy – certainly not like mowing your back yard. Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. Funk, for your hard work and dedication!

Anderson-Cornett Reunion

Since a lot of folks who are associated with both the Central Cemetery and the Anderson and the Cornett families (hey, we're all cousins) I thought it would be appropriate to mention the upcoming family reunion in

August. Mark this date – **AUGUST 10, 2013.**

This year we will follow the "new" format for our annual reunion. We had a very successful MOBILE REUNION beginning at the Central Church. From there we visited various sites of interest in the area. We saw the graves of Revolutionary War Soldier and early Grayson County settler Jacob Anderson and wife Susannah Buchanan. We proceeded to the grave of Jacob's son John Anderson and wife Feraby Cornett behind the old Garnett Anderson house. We walked to the site of the old Anderson Mill on Fox Creek, and got a tour of the old Garnett Anderson house thanks to the generosity of new owners Chris and Leslie Stevens. The house and grounds looked fantastic! We made our way to Elk Creek for lunch and finished the day at the Grayson County Virginia Heritage Foundation Office in Independence. Everyone had a great time so we will do it again this year. We hope to add the Clem's Branch School and another "surprise" grave site to the agenda this year. Dress for a little bit of walking and come as you are. We will visit with one another, maybe have a family tree/research workshop, play some games and have some fun catching up. Bring some old photos or other memorabilia to share and be prepared to have a good ol' time!

We will eat lunch at noon. We just want to share a meal and good fellowship with family and friends. Call, write, or email to let me know that you're coming!

NEW STUFF!

Some of you may remember the list of burials at Central Cemetery that Jeanne Cornett began back in the 1970's. I have taken Jeanne's work and updated it! I have included burials in the Cemetery through May of 2013 and added more "notes" about those buried here. The new Central Cemetery Census is available in printed form. A donation of \$25 or more will secure your copy of this historical document. All proceeds (less postage) will go toward the Central Cemetery perpetual fund.

Speaking of the perpetual fund, we have been working very hard to get a handle on our banking assets this year. We have a checking account where the bulk of our donations are deposited. We use this money to pay operating expenses. We also have two "managed" funds that we want to merge and administer more actively. We are working to move these two accounts into an instrument that we can control. This has been a lot more difficult than we imagined! Richard Hodgkinson (our treasurer) and I have met with our financial advisor at Wells Fargo and are in the process of moving our assets into an account that will give us more access and a higher return.

We are developing a mission statement and goals for the Central Cemetery as part of this banking effort. Yes, to open a business account we need to have these statements written, approved and voted on by the Board of Trustees. Banking has definitely changed since 9/11. We are also working on bylaws and other governance documents. We will post all of this on our new website: **www.CentralCemetery.org**

Yes, I said website. Central Cemetery now has a website where the latest news and information may be posted. We hope to have some interactive features on the site to allow the easy exchange of information.

We need your help!

It takes a lot of hard work to maintain a cemetery. We have relied on volunteer labor to keep up the appearance and physical integrity of our Cemetery for many years and I hope we can keep up this tradition. We need YOU to come out on Saturday, June 22nd to help us maintain the markers. If one or two family members from each family represented at Central Cemetery would come out on the Saturday before Decoration and donate just a couple of hours cleaning a few markers and "sprucing up" your family member's graves, Central Cemetery would really sparkle!

In addition to a huge volunteer effort, we need to step up and support our Cemetery financially. As I have alluded to earlier, it costs money to maintain a cemetery. Mowing and keeping up with the grass is the most obvious and time consuming (and expensive) activity associated with the day to day operation of the cemetery. Leveling markers and filling in sunken graves has increased our expenses over the past couple of years. Our next priority will be the fence around the Cemetery. It is okay for now, but we've got to plan ahead! We would, of course, like to make our Cemetery a pristine place of honor for our ancestors immediately. Unfortunately, our finances will not allow everything to be done at one time. Our goal is to have a "brand new" cemetery in 5 years – perfectly aligned stones, strong fencing, and just an all around great place.

We are very conservative with our financial resources and will not dip into our long term savings to meet these goals. Remember, our overall long term goal is to create a trust fund that will allow interest alone to maintain our Cemetery. We are well on the way to reaching this goal, but we will not take a step backward to meet current maintenance needs. With this in mind I am asking for your financial support to help us make Central shine. I have included a pre-addressed envelope that you can use to send a donation. 100% of your donations will be used to maintain the cemetery and support the trust fund.

Please feel free to call or write to talk about the Cemetery – or anything else. Hope to see you at Central soon!

Danny Trent

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