

About *Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery*

The Bryson City Cemetery is a hallowed ground in which the remains of area citizens and community leaders have been interred for at least 150 years.

For more than a decade before 2015, the cemetery had not been well cared for. Beginning in the summer of 2015, volunteers began to maintain the grounds at their own expense and labor by mowing, trimming, removing invasive weeds, limbs and leaves, cleaning and straightening grave markers.

In the fall of 2015, a small group joined to form an association and named it Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery (FBCC). FBCC, with a helping hand from individuals as well as school, civic, and church groups, completed leaf and limb removal during the fall. Pastor Al Alemany and the Hillside Baptist Church, located alongside the cemetery grounds, have provided significant support to the efforts to maintain and improve the grounds.

In calendar year 2016, FBCC incorporated as a North Carolina Non-profit corporation and acquired 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service. Donations to FBCC are tax-deductible.

FBCC has two basic purposes, as stated in the bylaws:

- 1) Provide assistance in the restoration, maintenance, and preservation of the historical Bryson City Cemetery, and
- 2) Foster knowledge of its importance to Bryson City, Swain County, and surrounding areas.

FBCC owns no cemetery property. Burial plots are owned by individuals or families in fee simple terms, with the exception of the driveway and walkways, which are owned by trustees of the First Baptist, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches of Bryson City. Since some family plots were acquired over a century ago, plot heirs now sometimes number in the dozens. In other cases, there are no known heirs. FBCC is thus caring for property owned by individuals and families, many of whom are not even aware that they are owners.

FBCC attempts to provide good faith efforts to maintain the grounds as best we can with limited resources. We are intent on honoring the memory of those buried here as well as their living family members. We invite you to join us in this cause. It is not necessary to have relatives buried here to be a member of FBCC. A membership application form can be found in the adjacent flier box.

We specifically request that any individual or family **which does not want family plots disturbed in any way** so notify FBCC at either of the addresses below. Thank you!

Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery
P.O. Box 2223
Bryson City, NC 28713

hallowed.ground@friendsofthebccemetery.org