

## Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery (FBCC)

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### Website weavings

With mapping of the cemetery completed and uploaded to the website, attention has been turned to identifying and tagging, for each person buried in the BC Cemetery, immediate family members who are also buried there. This effort relies upon a combination of known relationships and study of public records, including U.S. census records, obituaries, and death certificates. This will provide excellent resource material for genealogists and students of local history. To that end, we want to be sure it's right and reliable. FBCC members are encouraged to review the listings, using one of two approaches.

The first approach is to use the built-in "[Search by name](#)" link which appears on the [FBCC main web page](#). After clicking the "Search by name" link, enter any part of the person's name, such as the last name. A list of names which match the search request will appear. Click on any name in the list and a window for that individual will appear. If family members of the individual in the BC Cemetery have been identified, they will be listed. If you click on any listed name, you'll be taken to that individual's page.

The second, and perhaps easier, approach is to use a comprehensive listing of relations which is [available on-line](#). The table is in alphabetical order. For each individual, a listing of all immediate family relations in the BC Cemetery is provided.

Please send errors or omissions to:

[hallowed.ground@friendsofthebccemetery.org](mailto:hallowed.ground@friendsofthebccemetery.org)

### Grounds

The cemetery grounds have now been mown roughly seven times. For the first time, we enlisted the help of some young men. Kyle and Cameron Ponchot assisted in getting the cemetery grounds into excellent shape before Memorial Day weekend. Austin Shuler, a recent graduate of Swain High who was twice named JROTC Cadet of the Year has helped out since.

The iris, gladiolas, and other bulbs planted during the winter have bloomed and gone. Other bulbs, which

were planted in a couple of beds, continue to offer a bit of color. Transplanted marigolds are in bloom now, and if we're able to keep old blooms pinched off, they should remain so until October. They greatly enhance the appearance of the grounds, especially around the old oak stump near the entrance.

In late March, a tree from across the road encircling the cemetery was blown over in a windstorm earlier in the week, and there were also many limbs which had fallen from the trees in the cemetery. Swain High JROTC cadets came to the rescue, and provided us with not one, but two work days. In addition to removing the fallen tree, they transported – by tarp – a couple of huge piles of shredded leaf mulch. Photos of the Cadets at work are at the end of this newsletter. Let me encourage FBCC members to either directly speak with or send a note of thanks to Major Anthony Monnat (USAF, retired), Mark Sale (High School Principal) and Sam Pattillo (Swain Schools Superintendent). E-mail addresses are below.

Anthony Monnat [amonnat@swainmail.org](mailto:amonnat@swainmail.org)

Mark Sale [msale@swainmail.org](mailto:msale@swainmail.org)

Sam Pattillo [spattillo@swainmail.org](mailto:spattillo@swainmail.org)

Some most unwelcome visitors to the cemetery arrived beginning in July. As of August 18, [thirteen yellow jacket nests have been found](#) and eleven dealt with. The other two were found just before publication and will be dispatched to their final destination after sunset. Fortunately, after seven stings from the first two (they found us before we found them), the balance have been spotted before we were nailed. Part way through the back nine of hopefully less than 18 holes of yellow jacket golf, Austin Shuler has a one up lead on Don Casada in nest finding, but more significantly, he is seven ahead in sting avoidance.

### Information Board

One of the long-term goals of FBCC has been to erect an information board at the cemetery. The

purpose of the board is to assist visitors in locating graves using the maps we've created, promote the organization's goals by providing information about the history of the cemetery and those buried there, and offer information about FBCC.

Although some finishing touches are still needed, the information board has been erected, and the cemetery map and corresponding indexed list of those buried there have been posted. A flier box is posted with a brief history of the cemetery, the role of FBCC, and a membership form. More materials will be added, including periodically rotating brief biographical sketches and photos of folks buried in the cemetery.

### **Storage shed**

A small tool and equipment storage shed has been erected a little west of the top of the driveway. Prior to this, all work done at the cemetery required transporting mowing, trimming, and leaf-blowing equipment each workday. The effort associated with removal from (and return to) storage, loading and unloading added significantly to the labor and time needed to maintain the grounds. The storage shed allows workers – whether volunteer or hired – to access the equipment as their personal time permits. Like any other structure, this one could be broken into, but it is reasonably secure. Motion sensing lights are attached to the building, and area movement will be monitored.

### **Biographical sketches and other articles**

We strongly encourage members – and non-members – to submit biographical sketches of individuals or stories in which folks who take their rest on hallowed hill are a part of. If you would be willing to undertake this, please contact us at: [hallowed.ground@friendsofthebcccemetery.org](mailto:hallowed.ground@friendsofthebcccemetery.org).

For the last several months, members have provided presentations on individuals, families, and affiliated groups of folks at our monthly meetings. These have proven to be enjoyable and informative, and typically elicit some additional insights from those gathered. If you can, attend and join in the conversation; you'll not regret it.

Although much will be missed, pdf files of the presentations at our meetings have been created and uploaded to the FBCC web site (links follow).

[The Life and Death of Ben Enloe](#)

[Coburn overview](#)

[Myers family](#)

[Carolina Wood Turning-BC Cemetery connections](#)

[Cooper family](#)

[Mendenhall family](#)

[Cooper and Mendenhall land purchases, locations](#)

[Civil War Tidbits – Focus on MT Battle](#)

[Seay-Snelson family](#)

An invited [presentation](#) was given to the Bryson City Rotary Club in August. Nine of the seventeen founding members of the BC Rotary Club are buried in the BC Cemetery: Zenas Hyatt, Dr. K.E. Bennett, Stanley Black, Jack Coburn, Dr. D.R. Bryson, McKinley Edwards, John Orr, A.J. Franklin, Jr., and Dr. B.C. Thomasson.

### **Contemplative Benches**

FBCC member Susan Casada has donated two benches with a long history in her family, courtesy of her mother, for rest and contemplation at the cemetery. They've been placed back-to-back beneath the large oak which is just southeast of the Fannie Everett Clancy angel. It is a fine place to [watch the sun set](#) or rise – or a shady place to pause and reflect at any time of day.

### **Swain County Heritage Festival**

Christine and Rick Colcord led the effort for FBCC in setting up a booth at the Swain County Heritage festival, held the Saturday before Memorial Day. Two items were donated to be raffled as fund raisers. Tony Sutton provided a beautifully turned wood bowl which he had crafted from a section of the large oak which stood near the cemetery entrance. Charles Heath (Charles Heath Studio Gallery on Everett Street) donated a lovely print of a photograph he made at the cemetery in the gloaming. A total of \$260 was raised.



JROTC cadets and a volunteer helper removing tree from the road



JROTC cadets loading limbs to be moved offsite



JROTC cadets raking mulched leaves onto tarp for transport



New tool shed



Marigolds near the entrance (and information board at left)



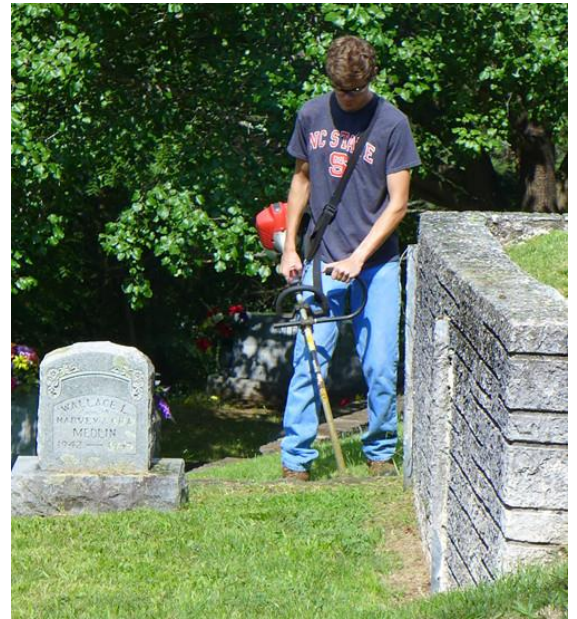
FBCC-planted jonquils at the Coffey and Welch family plots



Marigolds at the Orr family graves



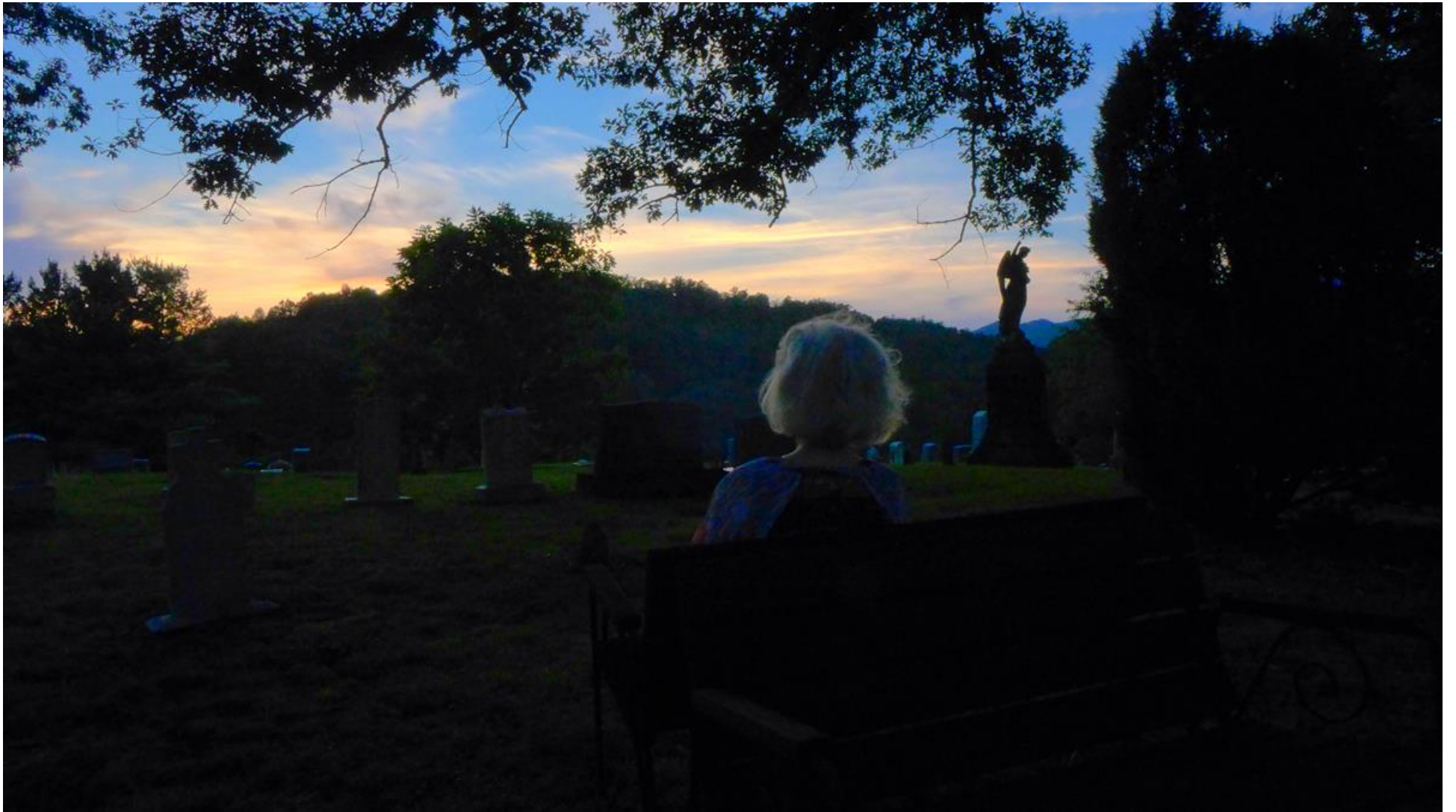
Information Board



Austin Shuler trimming (go Wolfpack!)



New benches (and tool shed with motion sensing light attached in background)



Beyond the sunset from the benches