

# NEWS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3 | SPRING 2018



Bound with duct tape, with pages separating from the binding, our burial books show their age. On a daily basis, these books are used to validate key burial information. Thanks to a grant from the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust these records will be digitized and the information made available on line through our website.

Once the project is completed, anyone visiting the website will be able to use the search tool to locate a friend or loved one. This is will be of tremendous help to those researching their ancestors.

In addition to searching burial records, directions to the gravesites will be available. Currently, it is very challenging to locate a grave in the cemetery if you are not familiar with the layout. After we've finished mapping all 17,000 plots visitors will be able to locate a grave instantly!

Volunteers are needed to help with this project. If you are interested in volunteering please email the cemetery at [pc1823@msn.com](mailto:pc1823@msn.com)



## Mowing Season is upon us!

Mowing the cemetery is a challenge. Much care is needed to navigate ancient gravestones. The task takes a full crew 12 to 14 hours, depending on the weather and "obstacles." The cemetery strives to balance families' desires to memorialize loved ones while preserving the aesthetics of the cemetery and facilitating the maintenance of the grounds in a safe and cost-effective manner. As a reminder to all, flowers must be in the proper metal or plastic container. Wreaths/flowers on stands are not allowed during mowing season. The display of banners, balloons, or other forms are memorabilia is not allowed. All of these items present operational hazards. Help us keep the cemetery safe for the workers and visitors.

Thank you.

Find us on the web at [www.presbyteriancemeteryva.com](http://www.presbyteriancemeteryva.com)  
Facebook at [presbyteriancemeteryva](https://www.facebook.com/presbyteriancemeteryva)  
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## Author Visits Cemetery!



Thomas Bogar, author of *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination*, visited the cemetery for a special Lunch and Learn program on March 14, 2018.

He shared information from his book about our very own, Edwin "Ned" Emerson. Ned was a friend of John Wilkes Booth and an actor who

witnessed the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Ned lived in Lynchburg in the decades after the Lincoln assassination and is buried in the cemetery.

While there are many books on Lincoln, Bogar's focuses on the lives of the actors who were performing in Ford's Theatre the night Lincoln was shot. Each actor's life was forever marked as "before" the Lincoln assassination and "after" the assassination. Lives and careers were forever altered.

With Ford's Theatre being viewed as a "hot bed of secessionist" resentment, thoughts and sympathies, everyone involved in the play came under suspicion. For Ned, who was a close personal friend of Booth's, the scrutiny



Edwin "Ned" Emerson, photo courtesy of Thomas Bogar

## Are you aware that you make a donation to the cemetery right from your smart phone?

PayPal offers a fee free donation option for approved non profits.

Simply download the PayPal app.

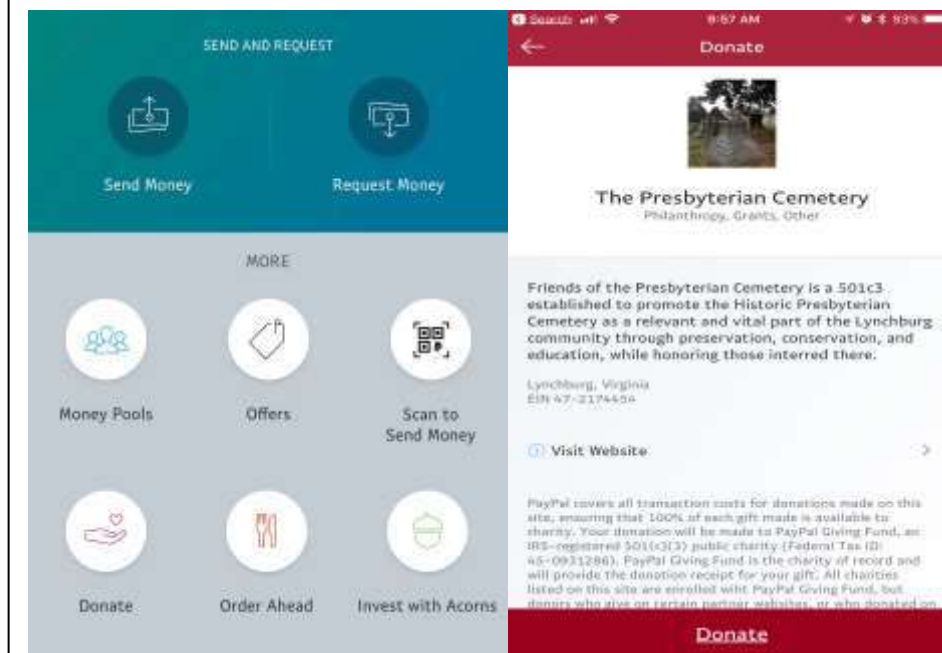
Click on the Donate icon.

Type Presbyterian Cemetery in Lynchburg, VA in the Search Box.

Information about our cemetery will appear. At this point you can chose the amount you wish to donate. After clicking the donate button, you will receive an email confirmation.

A formal acknowledgment letter will be sent from the cemetery once the donation has been received.

By choosing to donate using the app, the cemetery will avoid the fees associated with other credit card donations and will receive 100% of your contribution!



## Are you interested in joining the Good Cemeterians?

The Good Cemeterians are dedicated individuals and groups who give of their time to perform routine task around the cemetery.

Outdoor needs include: removing spent flowers, picking up trash/debris, and helping with landscape needs. Options are available to adopt a section of the cemetery.

Indoor volunteer opportunities include verifying burial information, researching internments, and basic data entry activities.

Volunteers are always needed to help with summer tours and other special events.

Please contact the office at [pc1823@msn.com](mailto:pc1823@msn.com) if you are interested or would like more information.

## Sunday Strolls Return

The cemetery is excited to announce the return of our summer tours. For less than the price of a movie ticket, you can tour the cemetery and glean insights into the lives and customs of our permanent residents.

Tours are offered the first Sunday of each month beginning May 7. The cost is \$5 per person. Tours begin at 2 pm and leave from the cemetery office, which is located by the flagpole.

Tour topics include:

May 6<sup>th</sup>- "Top of the Hill,"- a history of the cemetery

June 3<sup>rd</sup>- "Victorian Times" in the cemetery

July 1<sup>st</sup>- "The Men, Women, and Children of Lynchburg"

August 5<sup>th</sup>- "Architecture and Symbols"

September 2<sup>nd</sup>- "Lynchburg Fires and Firefighters" buried in the cemetery

October 7<sup>th</sup>- "From Main Street to Grace Street,"-stories of Lynchburg's earliest business and civic leaders.

Private tours are available and make an excellent outing for family and friends. Contact the cemetery office for more details.

Follow us on Facebook for up to date information tours and weather related changes!



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## Connect With Us

Presbyterian Cemetery  
2020 Grace Street  
Lynchburg, VA 24504  
Phone: (434) 845-0551

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was intense. Ned freely admitted that he knew Booth well and had performed with him on numerous occasions. Many people believed that because of their close friendship Booth must have shared details of his plan with Ned. Many thought Ned knew more about what happened on that fateful night than he cared to admit. Ned also closely resembled Booth, resulting in further suspicion.

Only 25 years old at the time of the assassination, Ned was viewed as a rising star in the theatre world. The night of the assassination was to be a big night in his career. He was excited and nervous for that evening's performance of *Our American Cousin*, in which he would play the role of Lord Dundreay. He was also nervous because he would be performing with the famous Laura Keene. Keene's guest performance would draw a large audience to the theatre and, in fact, was one of the reasons Lincoln was in attendance. Lincoln had seen Laura perform and was a fan. Little did Ned know, that the show would change his career, just not in the way he had hoped.

Life "after" the assassination-Because of his resemblance to Booth and their



Photo courtesy of the Lynchburg Museum

friendship, Ned's acting career floundered. After several failed attempts to relaunch his career, he moved to Lynchburg with his wife, Emma. Ned operated a stationary store on Main Street and managed the Bijoux Theatre.

After Emma's death, Ned moved to Alexandria, Virginia and remarried. He and his two sons opened a stained glass shop and were very successful. He remained in Alexandria until his death, which coincided with the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lincoln assassination. Ned is buried next to his first wife, Emma, in Section H, Lot 23.

The folk artist Queena Stovall, who rests in Section C at Presbyterian Cemetery, has been getting a lot of attention lately.



Lynchburg College's Daura Gallery recently hosted an exhibit of Stovall's paintings, "Inside Out: The Art of Queena Stovall." The popular exhibit ran from mid-January through mid-April and included 44 of the 49 known paintings by Stovall.

The paintings were gathered from personal collections and galleries from across the U.S., including the Fenimore Art Museum in New York, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, the Maier Museum of Art in Lynchburg, and the Museums of Oglebay Institute in Wheeling, W.Va.

An Amherst County, Virginia, native, she was born Emma Serena Dillard in 1887. It's said that she was nicknamed "Queena" because it was easier to say.

Stovall, who's been called the "Grandma Moses of Virginia," didn't start painting until she was 62 years old. She was largely self taught but took lessons, albeit briefly, from Catalan painter Pierre Daura, namesake of the Daura Gallery. Daura reportedly ended the lessons because he didn't want to do anything to change Stovall's distinctive painting style.

Stovall is known for painting country scenes from everyday life, including hog killings, farm auctions, berry picking, and funerals. She painted both her white and black neighbors in the Elon community, where she lived in a house called "The Wigwam."

In a 2009 newspaper article, Daura Gallery director Barbara Rothermel told the News & Advance, "Queena Stovall painted the life and people she knew. Her meticulously detailed paintings are perceptive documentations of the endless, life-sustaining chores of the country farm, the joys of family, and the events of her community."

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Daura Gallery published a book, also titled, "Inside Out: The Art of Queena Stovall." It includes pictures of all of Stovall's known paintings, along with essays by Rothermel and exhibit curator Ellen Agnew. For those who are interested, copies are available at the Daura Gallery.

Also, in late-March the Virginia Department of Historic Resources installed a highway marker in honor of Stovall on Elon Road in Madison Heights.

Stovall died in 1980 and is buried near her husband, Jonathan Breckenridge "Brack" Stovall, and other members of the Stovall family.



Photo courtesy of Lynchburg College 1

# Annual Fund

Donations received November 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018

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Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Joh C Echols Memorial Trust  
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