

# EXPLORING Old City Cemetery

Staff graphic by Jon Ness

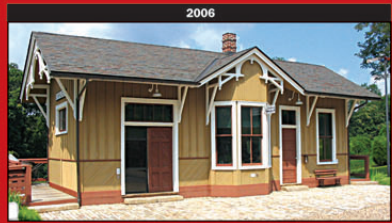
More than 20,000 people are buried in Old City Cemetery, from a great niece of George Washington to some of Lynchburg's most prominent families. Here's a look at its history as well as a tour of the cemetery's buildings, including museums and historical monuments.

## Station House

Trains used the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Railway Station in Stapleton (Amherst County) from 1898 to 1937.  
It was reconstructed at the cemetery between 1999 and 2001.  
Inside are recreations of a passenger room, a station agent office, and a baggage room that reflect the World War I era.  
During World War I, trains were a way for local residents to ship food and clothing to soldiers.



Trains brought thousands of Civil War soldiers home. In some cases, the remains of dead soldiers were sent home by train for burial.



## Cemetery chapel

The old Hermon Methodist Church was established in Appomattox County about 1870, torn down in 1900 and rebuilt east of Oakville in Appomattox County. It was torn down again in 2004 and used in the construction of the cemetery chapel. It was dedicated on April 23, 2006.  
The chapel was modeled after the Ivy Chapel Union Church in Bedford County.  
The chapel honors religious leaders buried in the cemetery from 1806 to the present.  
It also includes a columbarium, located on the lower level of the chapel. (See info on columbarium, bottom right corner of page)



## Pest House Medical Museum

The Pest House (House of Pestilence), Lynchburg's first hospital, was originally located near Third and Wise streets.  
It has been restored to its condition during the Civil War.  
Many Lynchburg residents who contracted diseases, such as smallpox or measles, were quarantined in the building.  
It was also the medical office of Dr. John Jay Terrell, who cared for many of the Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. (See info below on glanders research)



The 1840s-era building was moved to the cemetery from Terrell's land in Campbell County.

## Lotus Pond and Butterfly Garden

The goldfish pond includes lotus and other types of water plants. It was created, in part, to attract butterflies during the summer.



## Old Potter's Field

Memorial to Lynchburg residents buried in the area from 1960 to 1994. The area contains markers and tablets with names.



## Hearse House and Caretakers' Museum

The museum showcases a hearse owned by W.D. Diuguid Inc., the second-oldest funeral home in continuing service in the nation (founded in 1817). Hand tools used at the cemetery, gravemarkers and a Thornhill wagon are also in the museum.



## Original Potter's Field Monument

Monument honors residents buried at the cemetery during the 19th and 20th centuries. It was built in 1994.



## Earley Memorial Shrub Garden

More than 150 shrubs and trees are featured in this part of the cemetery as well as a daffodil collection. Lynchburg's architectural history is shown through a number of relics.



## New Potter's Field

This field is used as a burial ground for very poor Lynchburg residents.



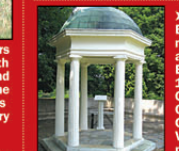
## Confederate soldier section



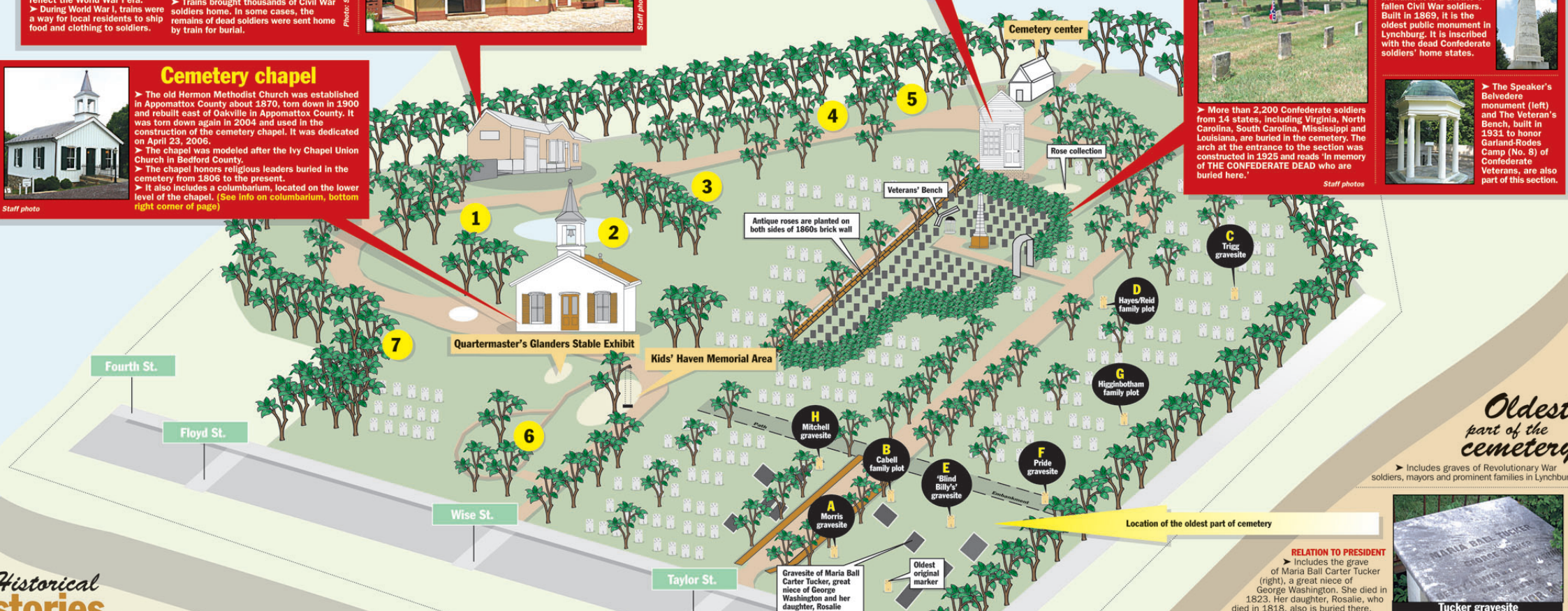
The Confederate Monument is a tribute to fallen Civil War soldiers. Built in 1869, it is the oldest public monument in Lynchburg. It is inscribed with the dead Confederate soldiers' home states.



More than 2,200 Confederate soldiers from 14 states, including Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi and Louisiana, are buried in the cemetery. The arch at the entrance to the section was constructed in 1925 and reads "In memory of THE CONFEDERATE DEAD who are buried here."



The Speaker's Belvedere monument (left) and the Veteran's Bench, built in 1931 to honor Garland-Rodes Camp (No. 8) of Confederate Veterans, are also part of this section.



Oldest part of the cemetery

Includes graves of Revolutionary War soldiers, mayors and prominent families in Lynchburg.



Tucker gravesite

RELATION TO PRESIDENT  
Includes the grave of Maria Ball Carter Tucker (right), a great niece of George Washington. She died in 1823. Her daughter, Rosalie, who died in 1818, is also buried there.

ONE OF THE EARLIEST MARKERS  
Jan 10th 1807 Terriza Wallace  
Apl 29 1808: The inscription is on the oldest original marker in the cemetery.

WORDS OF BEAUTY  
Lynchburg's first poet, Bransford Vawter, is buried in this area of the cemetery. He died in 1838.

## Columbarium

What is it? It provides niches that are used to store cremated remains. There are also crypts beneath the floor of the columbarium, where caskets and cremated remains can be buried.  
Where is it located? Below the chapel. (See info at left on chapel)  
What is a niche? A recess in a wall to hold a statue or urn. The niches inside the columbarium are 13 inches tall, 13 inches wide and 12 inches deep.  
What is a crypt? An underground vault or chamber, especially one beneath a church that is used as a burial place. The vaults in the columbarium are 86 inches long, 30 inches wide and 26 inches deep.

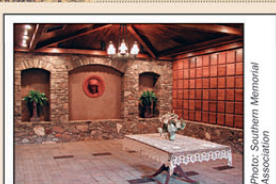


Photo: Southern Memorial Association

## Antique rose collection

Sixty varieties of roses, before 1581 through the 19th century, are featured near the Confederate section of the cemetery (near old wall), including:  
Rosa Mundi - introduced before 1581  
Chestnut Rose - introduced before 1814  
Baltimore Belle - introduced in 1843  
Cato collection (Near Pest House):  
R. moschata plena (The Musk Rose) - introduced before 1596  
Celsiana - introduced in 1750  
Mary Washington - introduced in 1891  
Hansa - introduced in 1905



Photo: Southern Memorial Association

## Historical stories about the cemetery

**Black history: Some of the people buried at the cemetery:**

- The Rev. Phillip Fisher Morris:** Buried in the oldest part of the cemetery, Morris (right) was the founder and president of Lynchburg Baptist Seminary from 1888 to 1891. He was pastor of Court Street Baptist Church for 17 years before establishing Eighth Street Baptist Church in 1898. His wife, Angie, (left) is also buried there. (Grave location: A)
- Harry Wilson Reid:** Among the prominent members of the "Miss Willie" Hayes family, Reid was Lynchburg's first black pharmacist. He worked at Bacchus & Reid Pharmacy. (Family plot location: D)
- 'Blind Billy':** A former slave, 'Blind Billy' was a fife player on the streets of Lynchburg. He led parades and played for private parties. (Grave location: E)
- Virginia Marie Cabell Randolph:** Also buried in the oldest part of the cemetery, Randolph was a teacher for more than 30 years. She started the Community House and her youth program eventually became the first Boys and Girls Scout program for black children in Lynchburg. (Family plot location: B)
- Frank Trigg Jr:** The first black male teacher and first black high school principal in Lynchburg public schools was born a slave in the Governor's Mansion. He later became president of Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C., from 1916 to 1926. (Grave location: C)
- Amelia Elizabeth Perry Pride:** One of the first black teachers in Lynchburg, Pride helped make cooking, sewing and other domestic courses part of the curriculum in black schools. A home economics building at Dunbar High School was named after her in 1949. (Grave location: F)
- McGustavus Higginbotham:** An undertaker who operated the first black funeral home in Lynchburg, Higginbotham, Squire, was the first black undertaker in Lynchburg. Their business was called Strange and Higginbotham. (Family plot location: G)
- 'Mammy' Anica Mitchell:** A servant of the Moore family in Lynchburg for more than 40 years, 'Mammy' was a cherished member of families in Lynchburg. Gravestones at the cemetery reflect that relationship. (Grave location: H)

**RESEARCHING THE 'GLANDERS' EPIDEMIC**

During the Civil War, thousands of horses and mules were used by the Confederates. During that time, an epidemic called glanders was causing the death of many of those animals.  
Dr. John Jay Terrell (see info above on Pest House) and Dr. John R. Page, who treated wounded soldiers in Lynchburg, studied infected horses and found that the disease was caused by a virus that led to respiratory distress and eventually death. They determined that there was no cure and the only way to prevent it was to quarantine the animals and provide them with a healthy diet and destroy infected animals.  
Dr. G. Terry Sharrer, curator of health services at The Smithsonian Institution, said: "Their work was the first important American contribution to veterinary medicine."