

Acknowledgements

Expertise critical to the success of the project:

Frank Knowles, Knowles Masonry
Rick Williams and Larry Glover, Williams Funeral Home
Matthew Williamson, Ph.D., Anthropologist
Stephen Hammack, Archaeologist
Eddie Eubanks, Ten Oaks Specialty
Scott Wood, Milledgeville City Manager
Jack Graham, Milledgeville City Marshal
Ezekiel Shinholster, Milledgeville Supervisor of Cemetery & Parks
Christine Neal, Archaeology Program Coordinator, HPD, Ga DNR

Funding

Friends of Baldwin County Cemeteries, Inc.
Watson-Brown Foundation Junior Board

Fish family donors:

Helen Stokes Landers	Leota Lewis Cooper
John L. Norman	Claire T. DuBose
James Hugh Norman	Henry B. & Mary Stokes
Charles W. Cooper, Jr.	Virginia Cooper Gursky

Significant Volunteer Effort

Susan Harrington, Chair, Friends of Baldwin Co. Cemeteries, Inc.	
Katherine Fuller	Hugh Harrington
Hunter McComb	Warren Layfield
Eileen Babb McAdams	Rev. Jerry Bradley

Consultants

Jerry Flemming, Head, Dept of Savannah City Cemeteries	Jonathan Appell, Gravestone conservator, Hartford, CT
Dr. Hugh (Matt) Matternes, Archaeologist, New South Associates, Stone Mountain, GA	National Center for Preservation Technology & Training, National Park Service Natchitoches, LA

Fish Vault Commemoration

Memory Hill Cemetery
2:00 pm November 8, 2008



Friends of Baldwin County Cemeteries, Inc.

3690 Sussex Dr. NE
Milledgeville, GA 31061-9337
E-mail: webmaster@friendsofcems.org
Web site: <http://friendsofcems.org/>

Wm. Fish Family Vault Restoration

The William Fish Family Vault is a partly subterranean, 1840's tomb made of hand-made bricks. Through the years it had suffered vandalism, which had caused the city to brick up the door. The deteriorating condition of the roof suggested that it was probably leaking. The front had been bumped by passing vehicles and had settled to the point where the front wall was separating from the rest of the vault. Without intervention, the front wall would have eventually fallen, exposing the interior of the vault.

The Friends of Baldwin County Cemeteries, Inc., a nonprofit public charity, decided to undertake the vault's repair. Approvals of descendants and the city were obtained. Frank Knowles was contracted to do the brick masonry, and work began Sept. 8, 2008. The next day the door was opened in the presence of archaeologist Stephen Hammack. Just inside, still on its hinges, was the original marble door. Taking two steps down, Hammack found himself surrounded on 3 sides of the vault by stone benches. On the benches to the left and forward were bones and crumbled casket material and on the right bench was a Fisk metallic burial case. These remains were carefully removed for safe-keeping and identification to Williams Funeral Home and then to the human osteology (bone) lab of Dr. Matthew Williamson at Georgia Southern University. Dr. Williamson identified the ages and genders (where possible) of the bones and separated the bones into individuals.

As the brickwork moved toward completion, the Fish family was brought back to Williams Funeral Home where each person was placed into an individual casket. Everything removed from the vault, with the exception of the marble door, was placed back into the vault. The re-interment took place on Oct. 1, and the door was immediately re-bricked. This commemoration is to celebrate the lives and re-interment of the Fish family, the repairing of past vandalism, and the restoration of the magnificent Wm. Fish Family Vault.

Fish Vault Commemoration

Commemorating:

William Fish, d. Jan 1, 1843 in his 43rd year
Sarah Harvard Fish, d. Sept 6, 1856 in her 52nd year
Horace Virgil Fish, d. Nov 21, 1845 aged about 5 years
Unknown male 40 to 55 years old
Unknown child 12 to 24 mos. old
Unknown child 3 to 9 mos. old

And the restoration of the Wm. Fish Family Vault

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| I. | The Greeting | Rev. Jerry Bradley |
| II. | Prayer | Rev. Jerry Bradley |
| III. | The Restoration | Susan Harrington |
| IV. | Remembering the Fish Family | Leota Lewis Cooper |
| V. | Our Heritage | Larry Glover |
| VI. | Pastoral statement | Rev. Jerry Bradley |
| VII. | Hymn: Amazing Grace | Warren Layfield |
| VIII. | Acknowledgements | Susan Harrington |
| IX. | Blessing | Rev. Jerry Bradley |
| X. | Dismissal | Rev. Jerry Bradley |