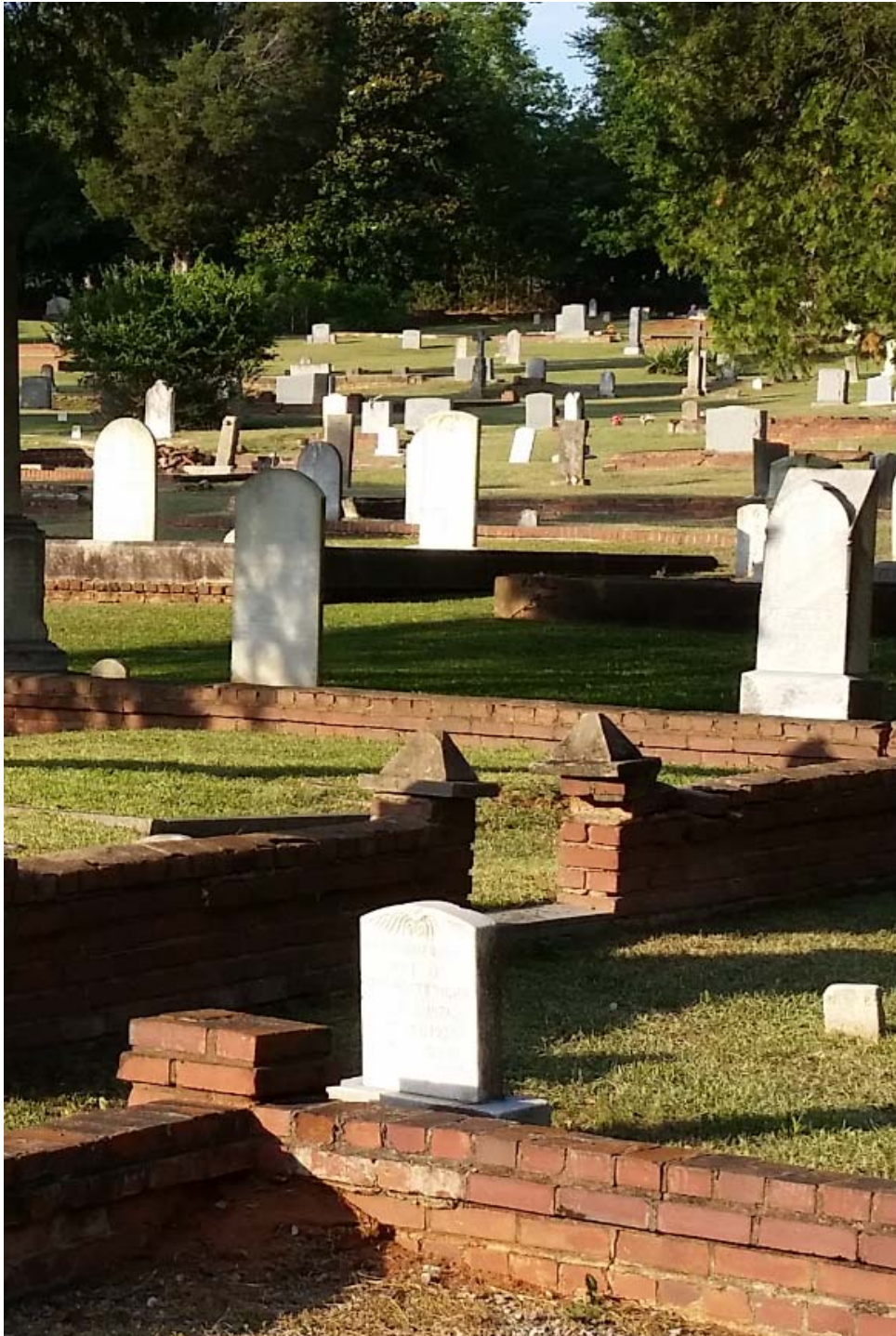


RESTORATION EFFORTS AT HISTORIC RANDOLPH CEMETERY

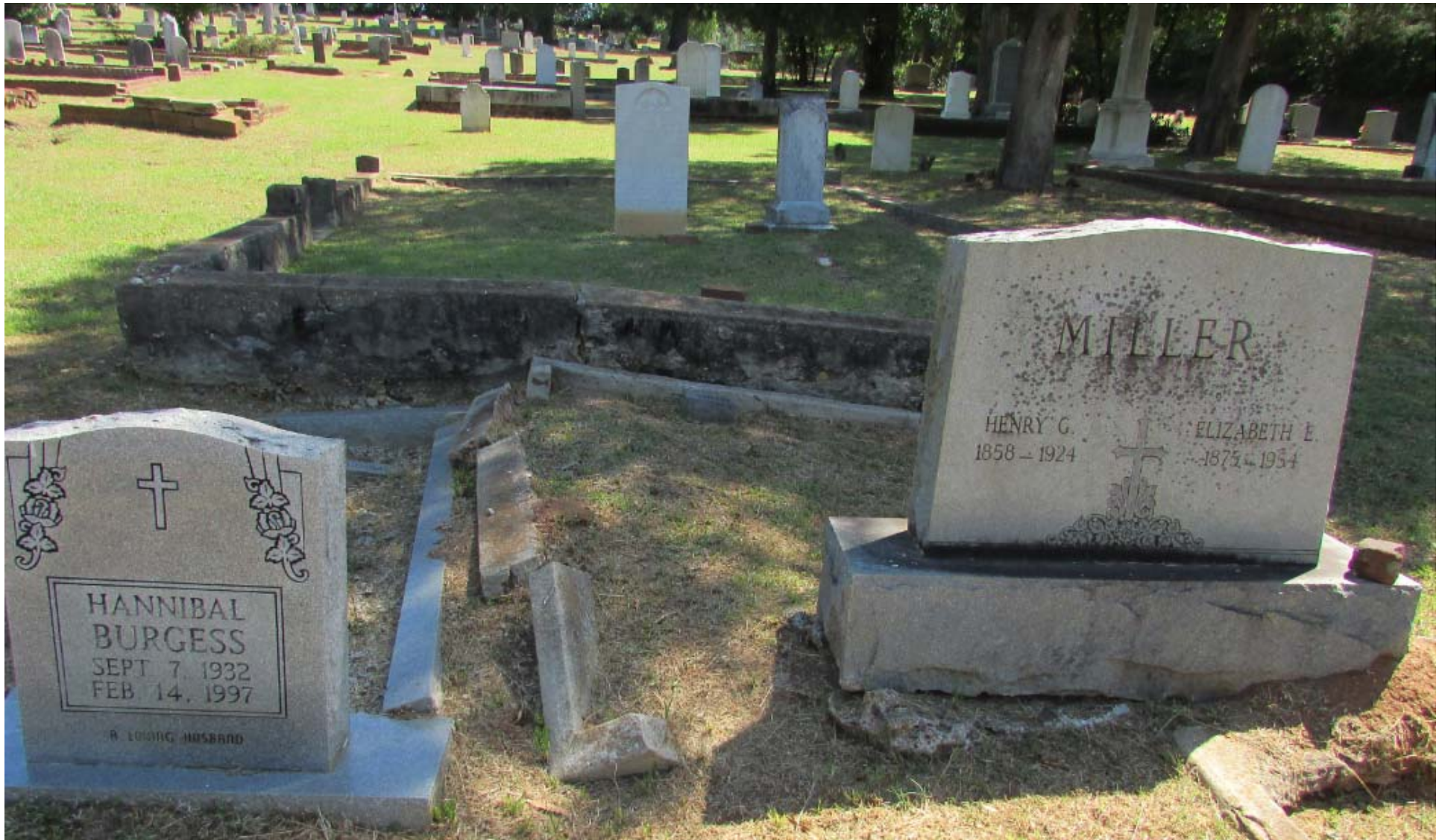
Staci Richey

Sept. 29, 2022

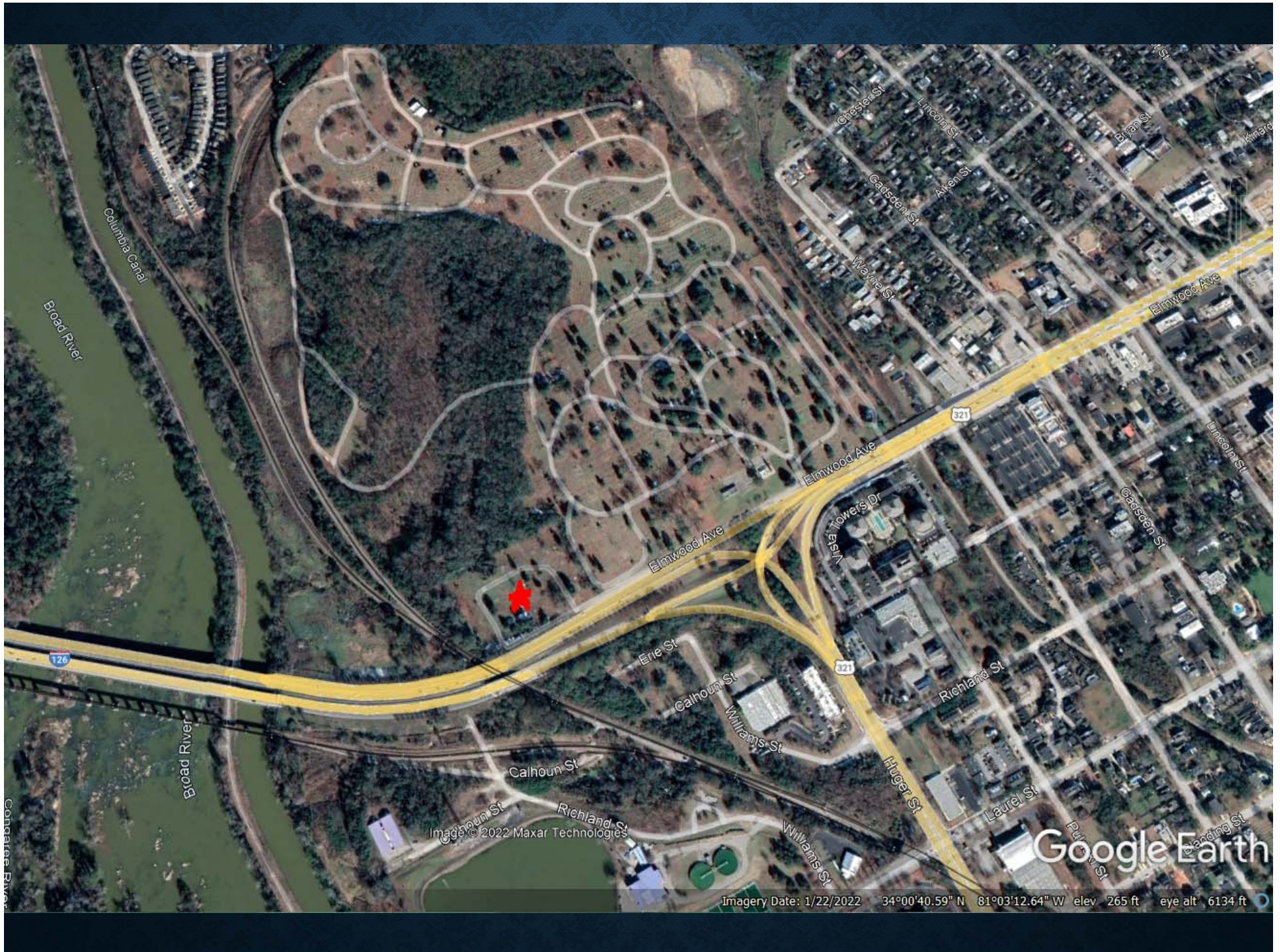


What is Randolph Cemetery?

- Created in 1872
- Named for slain state senator Benjamin F. Randolph (d. 1868)
- Created as the first formal, private Black cemetery in Columbia
- The final resting place for about a dozen Reconstruction-era state legislators
- Has about 5 acres
- Has at least 1,593 graves, many more are unmarked
- Listed on the National Register



Randolph Cemetery is also need of many repairs and has no income. It is a closed cemetery with no lots for sale. It receives very little in donations every year. This year it celebrates its 150th anniversary!



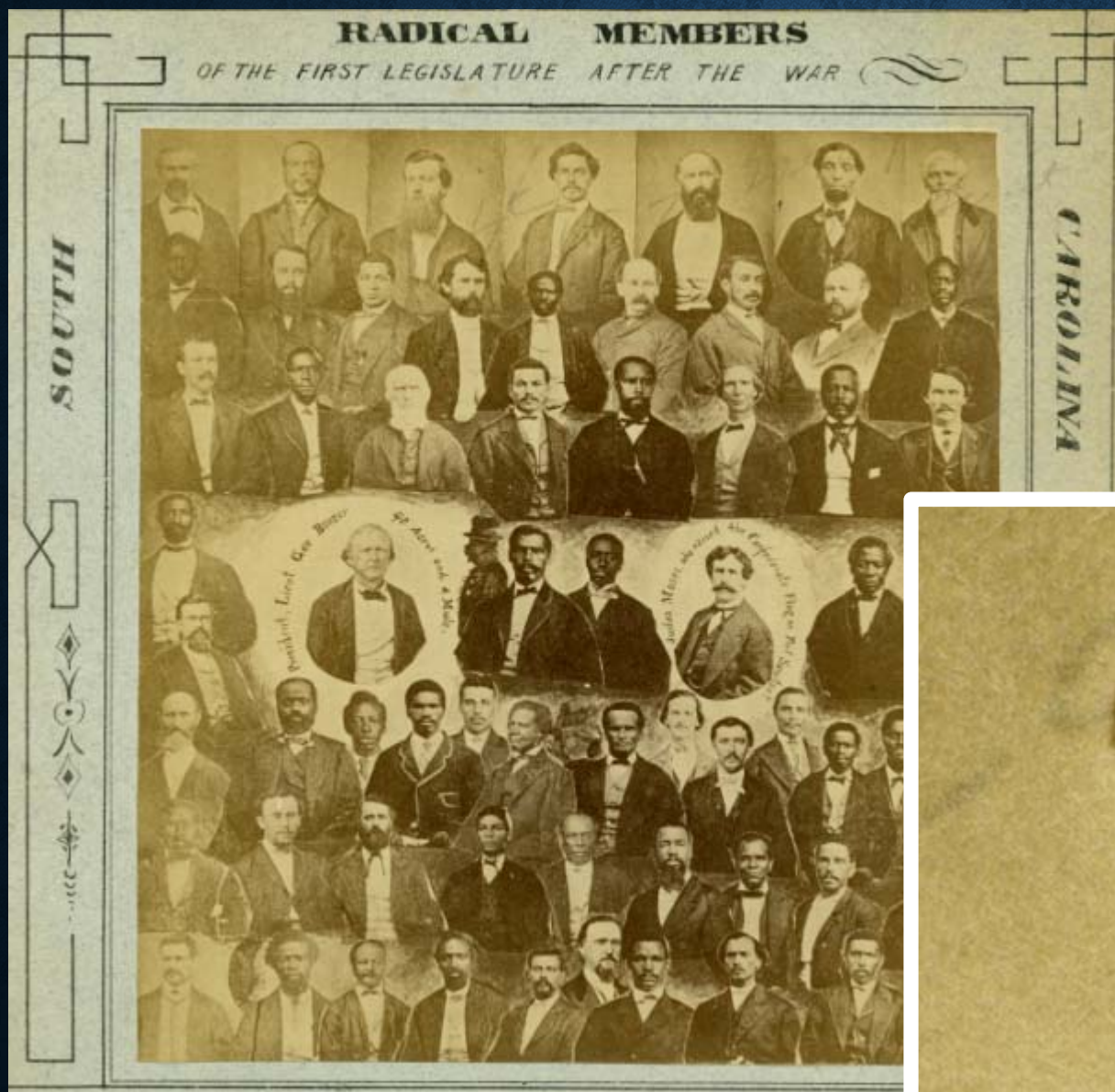
Imagery © 2022 Maxar Technologies

Google Earth

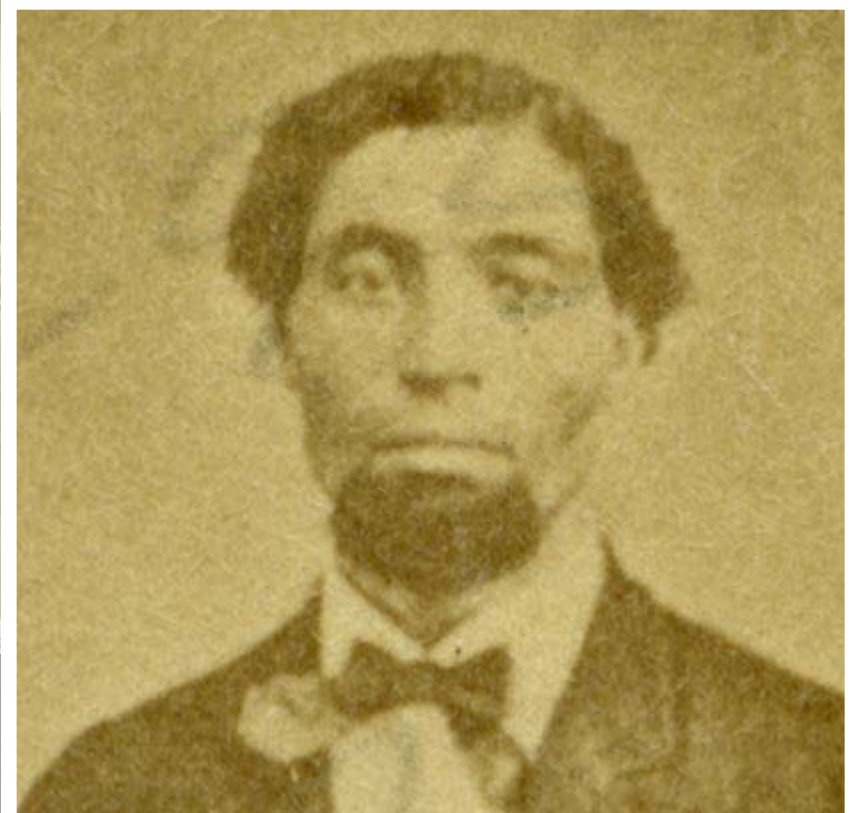
Imagery Date: 1/22/2022 34°00'40.59" N 81°03'12.64" W elev 265 ft eye alt 6134 ft

WHO OWNS RANDOLPH CEMETERY?

- A private, 501(c)3 non-profit called the Committee for the Beautification and Restoration of Randolph Cemetery (CBRRC), which gained ownership after a court decision in the 1980s. It did not become an official non-profit until 2009. The CBRRC has a small volunteer board. There is no paid staff.



Benjamin F. Randolph
Senator (Orangeburg)





A committee member's niece donated this c.1872 home to the CBRRC in the 1990s so that its rental income could go towards cutting the grass at the cemetery. It eventually became Section 8 housing and brought in very little money.



Photos from the National Register
nomination form, 1995

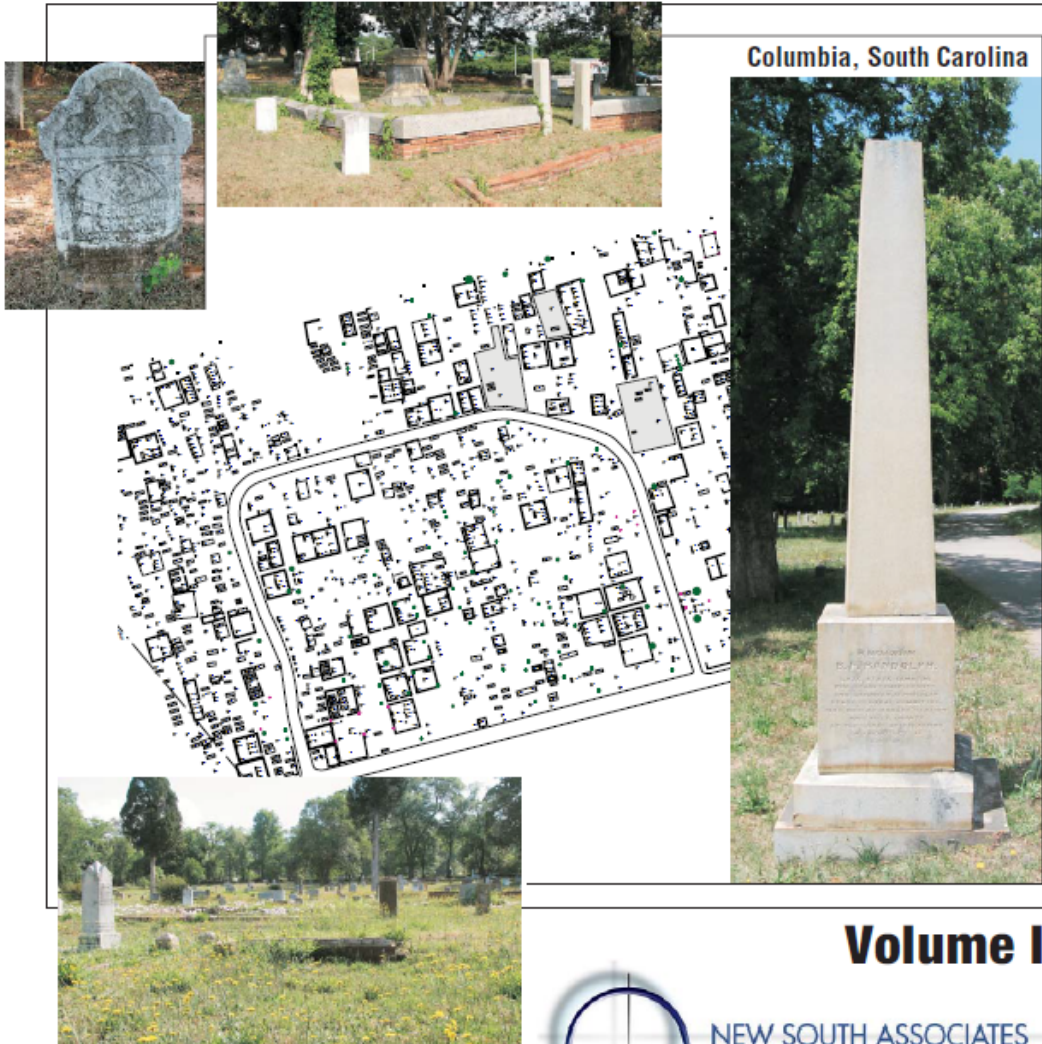
There were some efforts at mapping and transcription over the years, but the real start of the restoration efforts began around 2007.

This was the result of Elaine Nichols (former curator at the SC State Museum) creating the Downtown Columbia Cemetery Task Force. Through their efforts, they worked with Senator Kay Patterson for a large state appropriation.

The nearly half million dollars awarded to Randolph Cemetery funded a variety of projects for the next decade. Clearing some overgrowth and surveying the boundaries was among the first projects.



Randolph Cemetery: Mapping and Documentation of a Historic African-American Site



Columbia, South Carolina

Volume I





NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES
PROVIDING PERSPECTIVES ON THE PAST

The state appropriation paid for this mapping and survey project by New South Associates in 2007.

The cemetery was not regularly maintained at this time and the surveyors had to request that the grass be cut so that the photos could capture as much of the headstones as possible.

Randolph's obelisk is pictured at left. Its components were out of alignment, and it needed restoration.

RANDOLPH CEMETERY

Family Name: Miller	Name: Miller, Simon Maiden Name:	Type of Marker: Ledger	Marker Material: Marble
Provenience Number: 0001.01	Plot Type: Couple - Husband and Wife	Marker Shape:	Adornment Type:
Photograph(s):  		Notes: shared marker Conditions: Vegetation Condition: Marker Condition: Broken, weathered Grave Condition: Maintained Boundary Type: Boundary Material: shared marker Boundary Condition: Conditions Description: Biographical Notes:	
Deceased: Simon Miller Born: Died: Oct. 24 1875 Title/Nickname: Age: Gender: Male		Epitaph 1: Erected to the memory of the Rev. Simon Miller, Presiding Elder of the A.M.E. Church, Born August 9, --9, Converted in 1811, entered the ministry in 1862. Died Sunday evening Oct.24, 1875, He was Honest, True, Devoted (cont'd) Epitaph 2: Church to Children to Education to Humanity and to Jesus, died resting upon the promises of Christ Additional Information: His (illeg.) are forever her. He's landed on that happy shore where storms and tempests ne'er can go, gone to that eternal home.	
		Type of grave offering: Type of grave planting: Other Grave Planting Description:	
		Surveyor: S. Richey, New South Assoc. Date: 08-May-07	

New South Associates created a database to capture information about the burials, their plot boundaries, the epitaphs, and the condition of the headstones.

This allowed for restoration recommendations for the most damaged markers.

About 1,500 markers were identified, some were simple funeral home metal plaques. At least 100 markers had fallen over, or been pushed, more than 125 were broken, and hundreds of others showed wear.

Simon Miller's headstone, seen here, was broken and fallen over.



The state funding paid for a part-time staff person for 2 years and allowed the CBRRC to start a regular mowing program for the cemetery, which greatly improved the lawn.

Most importantly, it paid for four rounds of headstone restoration, which occurred between 2010 and 2013, and was done by Kreilick Conservation, LLC, Chicora Foundation, Inc., and Jonathan Appell.



Figure 3: 0001.01, before treatment



Figure 4: 0001.01, before treatment



Figure 5: 0001.01, original base excavated



Figure 6: 0001.01, cramping cracks on tablet



Figure 7: 0001.01, new foundation poured



Figure 8: 0001.01, constructing new wall



Figure 9: 0001.01, reinstalling tablet to base



Figure 10: 0001.01, applying Repair Mortar



Figure 11: 0001.01, after treatment



Figure 12: 0001.01, after treatment

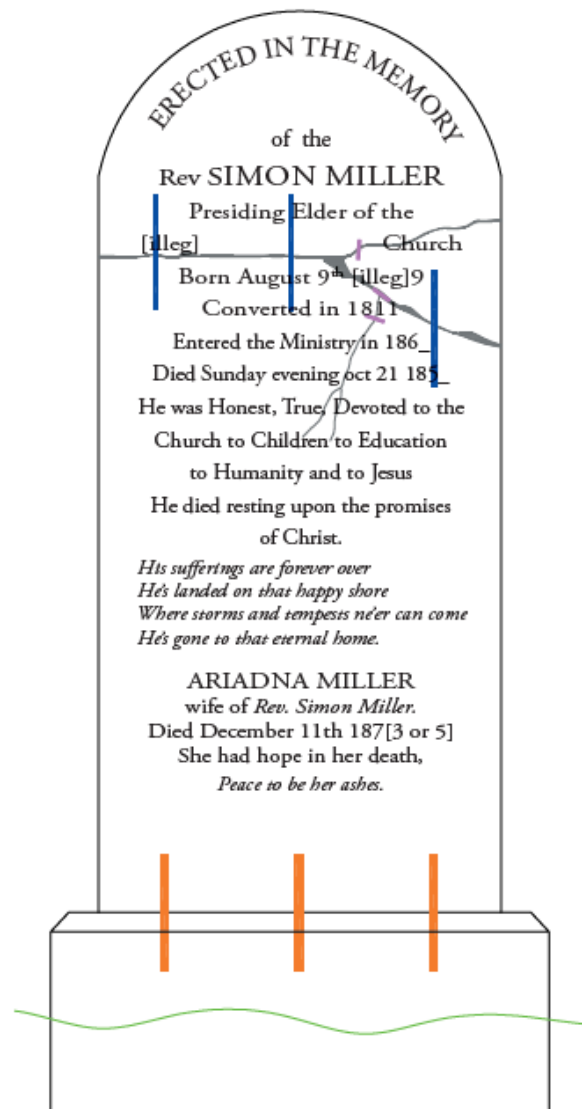


Diagram 1: 0001.01, Simon and Ariadna Miller

— 1/8-inch threaded rod — 1/4-inch threaded rod — 3/8-inch threaded rod

The restoration report provides a record of the cleaning and repair agents and methods.

All of the repairs have held up well over the past decade except for Miller. The curved marble headstone fell over years after its repair. Perhaps, in the future, if we have a curved stone marker we will let it lie with minimal repairs.





Figure 35: 0101, foundation discovered

Kreilick Conservation, LLC



Figure 36: 0101, reattaching the plinth



Figure 37: 0101, preparing to reattach the pillar



Figure 38: 0101, cleaning the marker

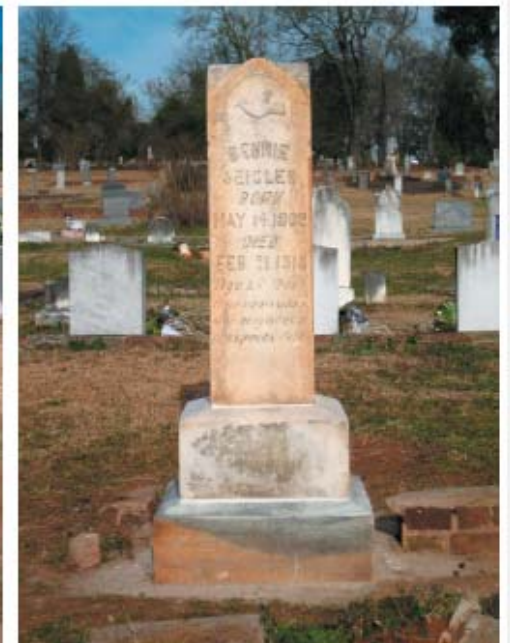


Figure 39: 0101, after treatment



Figure 53: 0110.05, Incardozo marker, before treatment

Kreilick Conservation, LLC



Figure 54: 0110.05, Incardozo marker, after treatment



Figure 69: 0112.06, tablet reinstalled



Figure 70: 0112.06, after treatment



Figure 145: 0551.01, drilling pin holes into the tablet



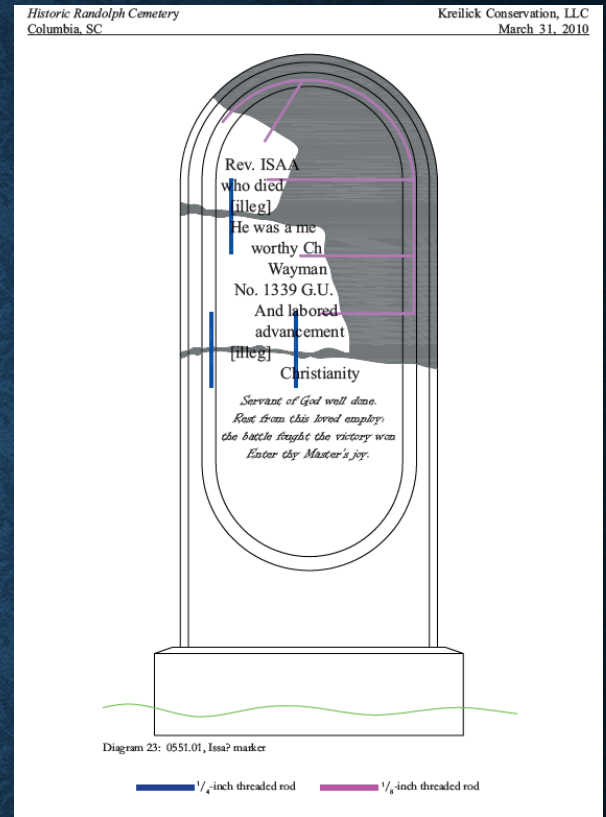
Figure 146: 0551.01, tablet reassembled



Figure 147: 0551.01, screeding repair mortar



Figure 148: 0551.01, after treatment



Even though a large section was missing, the conservators built a frame to hold the restoration mortar.

Kreilick Conservation, LLC



Figure 193: 0692, before treatment



Figure 194: 0692, before treatment



Figure 195: 0692, deinstalling the marker



Figure 196: 0692, time capsule and stone which had enclosed it

Hidden time
capsule in
Randolph's
monument!



Figure 199: 0692, coins found in time capsule



Figure 200: 0692, button found in time capsule



Figure 201: 0692, installer's shield found in time capsule



Figure 202: 0692, Lewis Pin holes in top of obelisk



CEMETERY RESTORATION WORKSHOP!

Historic Randolph Cemetery in Columbia, S.C. will host a cemetery restoration workshop led by Jonathan Appell. A nation-wide leader in cemetery restoration education, Mr. Appell teaches courses at the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies in Illinois and at individual cemeteries across the United States. Randolph Cemetery is home to at least a dozen African-American Reconstruction-era legislators; it is perhaps the only African-American cemetery in the country to hold that distinction. It was created in 1871 and is named in honor of Benjamin Franklin Randolph, a legislator who was assassinated in 1868. Over its 140+ year history, the cemetery has had some years of disrepair. Since 2009, the cemetery has been actively engaged in the restoration of its monuments. Come be a part of our rebirth and learn valuable skills to help your own cemetery!

- WHAT:** A hands-on and educational workshop about cleaning, repairing and resetting stones
- WHERE:** Randolph Cemetery, 301 Elmwood Avenue, Columbia, S.C. (West of Elmwood Cemetery)
- WHEN:** Saturday, April 13, 2013
Registration at 9:00, workshop from 9:30am to 4:00pm (with a 1hr. break for lunch on your own)
- COST:** Please bring 2 gallons of water for cleaning stones (there is no water at the site). DONATIONS* are accepted to help further the restoration efforts at the cemetery
- DETAILS:** This is an outdoor activity so please dress accordingly, with closed-toe shoes. You must be able to walk short distances over uneven terrain and stand for some time to engage in the hands-on activities. There is no shelter at the site, so please wear sunscreen, hats and/or bug spray for your protection.
- PARKING:** Please park your vehicle on Elmwood Avenue along the retaining wall
- Registration:** Pre-registration is encouraged so we will have enough equipment, but it is not required. Email randolphcemetery@gmail.com with your name and number of attendees

The cemetery is owned by a private, non-profit group, the Committee for the Restoration and Beautification of Randolph Cemetery (CRBRC), which is a 501(c)3 organization. *Donations may be tax deductible. *This workshop is funded in large part by a grant from the Richland County Conservation Commission, as part of the fourth phase of restoration at Randolph Cemetery.*



In 2011, we were awarded our first grant from the Richland County Conservation Commission (around \$15,000) to fund Phase III of the restoration efforts.

They funded us again in 2013 for Phase IV at \$20,000. We included a public education component, a hands-on workshop, to draw people to the site and to make our grant more competitive.





FREE HELP!

*Columbia Green helped us clear a border

*A hands-on workshop helped us get some headstones cleaned

*USC students volunteered one time a year for a few years to help tame shrubs and volunteer trees

*Free speakers for a wreath-laying ceremony

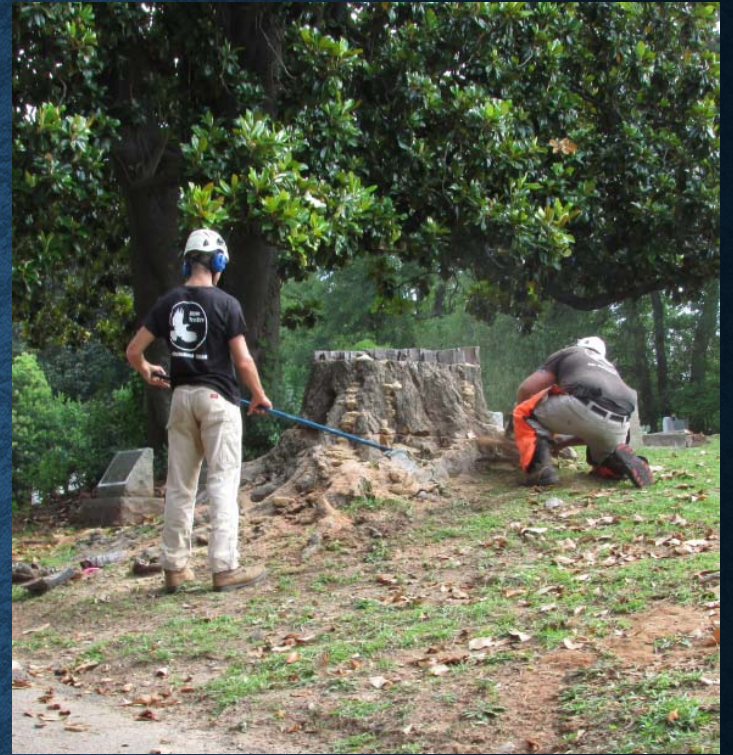
*Local visitor's bureau included our site in a list of Reconstruction sites to visit

*Some generous person cut the grass for FREE this year at the start of the season!

*Free media support when articles submitted by board member



This wreath-laying ceremony helped us get some local city and county council and staff to our site, as well as history professors from USC. Richland County has been a big support for Randolph and events like this may help you qualify for grants. Also, our council representative gave us a \$30,000 grant from the general fund to help with grass cutting, tree and road costs.



Dead trees and overgrown shrubs can and have damaged markers and borders at Randolph.



Richland County grants have also helped pay for road repairs and filling in many of the slumped gravesites with sand. This helps the lawn maintenance as some of the graves were sunken down a foot or so in depth.





Richland County Support:

- 1) Grants from the Richland County Conservation Commission
- 2) Council grant
- 3) Discretionary Grant (3 years) from County
- 4) Hospitality Tax Grant for 150th event and operational costs



Can You Use the Hospitality Tax?

*SC law provides for using part of this funding for operational expenses of historic and cultural sites, with the idea of supporting sites that help bring in tourism. So, you can have an event and use some funds for grass cutting, as an example. Check local ordinances.

MONEY

*Midlands Gives participation has resulted in around \$1,500 per year last few years

*All state funds are depleted

*Miracle donation a few years ago from New York Times article

*Solicited support from funeral homes for our 150th anniversary year and got a \$1,500 donation

*We put a sign at the cemetery to let people know how to donate safely online and to show the need for funds but we have gotten very little response in 1.5 yrs

*This year we had to cut the grass mowing season short due to lack of funds (\$1,145/cut for 5 acres), so it is overgrown





STRATEGY FOR FUNDING

- *Find money to complete the renovations of the Thompson Cottage (grant from Richland County Conservation Commission this year will help but need much more)

- *Seek out foundations and large donors

- *Use the 150th anniversary year to attract media and donations

- *Try to engage the public with a clean up day or tours

- *Keep the small volunteer board engaged and interested in pursuing donors and grants

- *Keep going even though it is tough!



Thank you to Richland
County Conservation
Commission!





SUMMARY

- *Create a small, dedicated team
- *Understand and explain to others why your cemetery is significant and worthy of help
- *Make the town and county officials aware of the site and its needs
- *Bring people to the site through tours and workshops, provide value to the public
- *Pursue grants repeatedly
- *Boldly ask for donations
- *Prioritize restoration projects
- *Think of creative solutions to earn money (youtube guy cleans headstones and earns money through the youtube channel!)



Randolphcemetery@gmail.com