

EXPERTISE FOR OAKLAND - STRANGSTAD & MOVSOVITZ

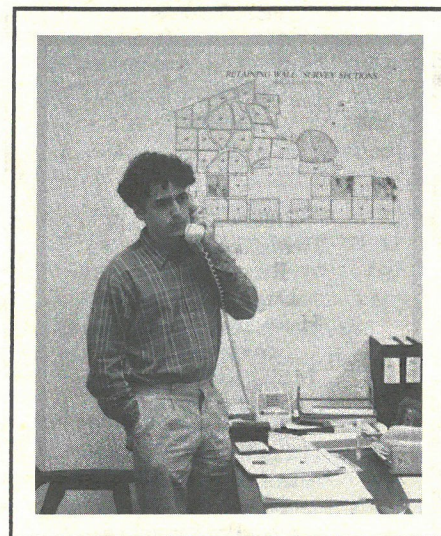
The City of Atlanta contracted with historic preservation expert Lynette Strangstad to conduct a week-long workshop at Oakland Cemetery October 29 through November 2.

She is known nationally for her participation in restoring the brownstone facade of the Theodore Roosevelt birthplace in Manhattan for the National Park Service and for work such as stabilization of a Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian house in Mt. Vernon, Virginia. She is the author of such books as "A Graveyard Preservation Primer," and her articles on marble cleaning, limestone patching and brownstone repair appear in leading preservation journals.

While at Oakland, Ms. Strangstad

worked with the City's departmental stone/brick masons to train them in historic methods of masonry procedure; i.e., correct mortar formulas, joint tooling details, and on proper work procedures and specifications for a historic site. She also met with Hilliard Lee, Director of Parks, and all departmental managers with responsibilities for Oakland but who are not at Oakland on a daily basis in order to review and recommend management considerations for the long-term preservation and restoration of Oakland Cemetery.

The City of Atlanta and the Department of Parks and Allen Myers, in particular, deserve special accolades for this latest important investment in the future of Oakland. ♦



MAX IS BACK!

Historic Resources Surveyor Max Movsovitz has once again "set up shop" within Oakland's historic gates. Movsovitz, as you may recall, developed and executed a survey of Oakland's historic ironwork, a survey which cemetery expert Lynette Strangstad called "outstanding," and which she also noted "should serve as a model" for future surveys.

Last Spring, Max began fieldwork on another survey, this time on Oakland's retaining walls which are in need of restoration. This fall he is fine-tuning his lauded survey skills as he and Oakland's ever-dedicated volunteer Paula Reith are developing a survey of the cemetery's original six acres. "Paula helps me move along twice as fast," Max noted. "She makes hanging out at a cemetery for eight hours a day a lot more lively than it might otherwise be." Those of you who may know Paula are aware of her infinite wit and wisdom about Oakland - traits which only our all-knowing volunteers could possess.

Max and Paula plan to complete the necessary materials in time to begin their fieldwork this coming January. Anyone interested in exploring some of Oakland's earliest treasures should call HOCI to join our "Super Six-Acres Survey Team." ♦



(L to R)—Lynette Strangstad, Allen Myers, and Hilliard Lee practice preservation.

Photo—Max Movsovitz

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COMMENTARY

TELL ME A STORY

Once upon a time in Atlanta, Ga. on a beautiful Sunday afternoon a family decided to go to the park for a picnic. But the park they went to was not like other parks. There were no swings and slides. There were no picnic tables either.

This was a very special park with paths to stroll and statues of angels to see. A quiet park on most days, but there was something special on this Sunday. There were stories being told.

You see the name of this park was Oakland. And within the gates of Oakland on this Sunday were the storytellers. You don't know what a storyteller is? Storytellers are the keepers of lore and legend. (I have heard it said, they possess a magic that can draw children away from electronic games.)

This particular Sunday at Oakland, as I said, the storytellers were there. There was Franklin Garrett (a keeper of chronicles) who told stories on Atlanta's history. There was Annette Chamberlin and William B. Williford, too.

And when the family got hungry there were shady spots and a picnic lunch to enjoy. Mixing with the sounds of the South Metro Concert Band, they were delighted to find Betty Ann Wylie and Mary Jean Hartel sharing childrens' stories. And under a very special tree Akbar Imhotep and Gil Watson told the Uncle Remus tales (familiar to most).

It was a day when sounds and storytellers were everywhere. Everyone who took a carriage ride with a guide heard Saul Sloman, Pat Washington Clement, Deborah James, and members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy keeping their traditions alive.

Everyone in the family had a perfectly splendid day. And best of all, I have heard it said, they each went home with a story to tell. ♦

Lillian Gantsoudes

"What better way to understand the present than by taking time to listen to the lives of the past?"

MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

"What is this for?" You probably asked yourself this question when you opened your newsletter and found the enclosed survey form.

The Board has been wondering who makes up our membership. Why are they members? Do they have children? Do they take our tours or come to any of the events we hold? How does Oakland rate among the other organizations they belong to?

So we decided to ask. The profile survey won't take but a couple of minutes to complete. It will probably take you longer to put it in the mailbox than to actually fill it out. If you want to take longer and tell us more - what we do well or what we could do better - we would love to hear from you.

In fact we want to hear from every member. Those of you who do not send in the form will be contacted by phone. If you do not wish to participate, please let us know by checking the box on the form and returning it with your name.

An optional question is the one asking for references. We at Oakland feel firmly that our best support is from families related to those buried at Oakland, and we have no way of knowing who or how many "heirs" there are without some assistance from the community. And surely there are "friends" out there who just think what we are doing to help preserve Atlanta's history is worth supporting. Please consider letting us know who these people are. Oakland needs them. ♦

SOME FACTS, SOME FANCIES IN OLD OAKLAND

It was 1838 in Pendleton, South Carolina. Elizabeth Grisham was 12 years old. She was a "young miss" entertaining friends at Keowee, her father's river plantation. At bedtime, the little girls solemnly tied their garters around the bedpost, repeating:

*"This knot I knit, this knot I tie,
To see my true love as he goes by.
Dressed in apparel and array,
Such as he goes in every day."*

No St. Agnes Eve could have been more romantic. A young man on a white horse rode through Elizabeth Grisham's dreams, a stranger asking for water. His shoulders were square, his hair dark, his forehead high. She accepted him as a revelation. Her children were to hear of his mystic coming, her grandchildren held enchanted captives by this family legend.

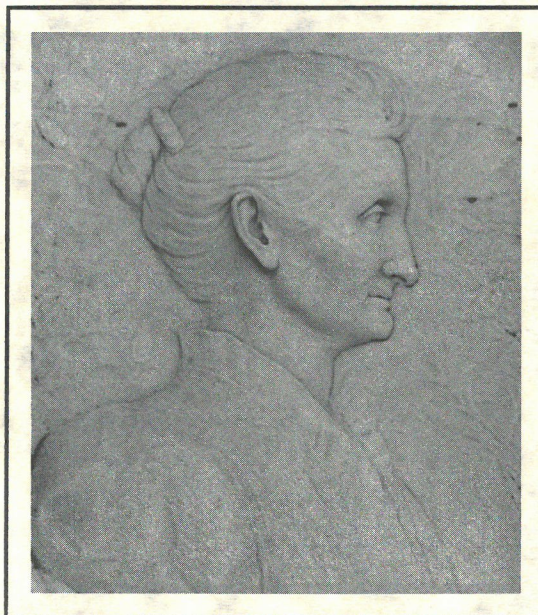
In 1846 Joseph Emerson Brown rode down a plantation lane to her father's door. "I know not his name," she told her Mother and sister, "but he is the man I am going to marry." They did marry, July 13, 1847, in West Union Baptist Church. It was a country wedding with chickens, hams, four fat shoats, marvels and ginger cakes, syllabub, matrimonial jellies, steeple cakes and candies. After the feasting, the young couple traveled by buggy to Canton, Georgia, which was to be their first home.

Brown was one of 11 children, born to a poor family from Union County, just north of the Blue Ridge in a valley known as Gaddistown. Poverty may have laid its hand on his family, but he was bright and ambitious. He studied law nights, taught school and borrowed money to go to Yale for a course in law. He demonstrated that he had not missed his calling. He was admitted to practice after a "very creditable examination;" on circuit his abilities were evident.

Elizabeth had been born to a wealthy family. Her father was a Baptist minister and never in her lifetime was she to approve of liquor or dancing. She

was educated in the arts and graces, however, that southern girls needed for marriage, motherhood, and dutiful attention to a husband's needs. Their marriage was said by many to be "close to perfection."

There is no indication that she ever wavered in her affection and loyal support for her husband. His accomplishments are facts; hers invite some conjecture. Apparently, her personality was always strong and evident. She was a woman with opinions, moral judge-



ments, a certainty of purpose. She had no repute, however, as "an advanced woman." This was a quality rarely seen in the 19th century.

Brown served the State of Georgia as a state senator, presidential elector, judge of the Cherokee Circuit, as Governor for four terms, a United States Senator and a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He was president of the Western and Atlantic Railroad, the first president of the Atlanta Board of Education and a Trustee of the University of Georgia.

Elizabeth sat on a lower story of the house on Washington Street, her pen ready. From upstairs, Joseph Brown tossed his numerous nearly illegible pa-

pers down to be copied in her fine delicate hand. It is said that what her husband undertook was reinforced by her, her personality a complement to his. Her "grace, kindliness, intelligence and presence of mind were ever present." She bore six sons and two daughters. It was a good Victorian family, moral, strong in tradition, closely knit. And its heart? Elizabeth.

The Civil War years were hard, bitter, dramatic. The years of Reconstruction were perhaps harder. Joseph Brown, the staunchest of Southerners, believed that the conquered must be governed at the discretion of the conquerors. He and many others determined that it was wise and healing to cooperate with the North and move with events that could

not be averted. He was praised, pardoned by Andrew Johnson; he was derided, called "Judas Escobes Brown," a traitor. He became a Republican. Still, within a few years, he was back in the good graces of his people and the Democrats. What Elizabeth said and did and felt during those turbulent times is not recorded. We might surmise that her moral strength and courage matched or perhaps surpassed his; that her perseverance, intuition, faith in Christian triumphs threaded the drama of the days with some color and liveliness.

Joseph Brown died in 1894.

Elizabeth Brown died two years later. She went after his death to Italy with her "beloved" Aunt Sally to have carved the impressive monuments that now grace Oakland. Her bas relief, rococo likeness is solemn, some say grimly determined.

How many tales of Victorian women are securely encircled in the cocoons of their husband's achievements! The monuments at Oakland speak sweetly to us, eloquently of this. We are caught up in the timeless witchery of a work, a phrase. But the mind is an explorer, a wandering dreamer, a surmiser. Surely, she was a subtle politician, a wielder of power, a gifted diplomat. And surely, she saw the family and home as a sustaining force of unity and strength, a depository for her attributes. Elizabeth Grisham Brown of the purposeful bas relief, of the small silk garter and the "Knight come riding," yours is a fine Victorian tale. ♦

Betty Sherwood

A SPECIAL SUNDAY IN THE PARK



Photo Credits - R.B. Coulter, Catherine Cates, Mary Yates



Thanks go to the following who donated their time and services to "Sunday in the Park"

Mary Jane Candler &
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Saul Sloman

Annette Chamberlin
Deborah James
Pat Washington Clement
Freshen's Yogurt
Tracey Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Clarke
Liz Wyman
Tom Campbell & Paula Reith
The Cottage Rose

Dedications

It began with HOCI Vice Chairman Reid Benson wondering if there were any Real Daughters of the Confederacy buried at Oakland. It continued with a 60-year-old list of charter members furnished by Mrs. John Dunaway, then President of the Alfred Holt Colquitt Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC). A record search by Sexton Allen Myers and Assistant Sexton Jane Hameister revealed only one name - Mrs. George P. Howard, Jr. That particular Real Daughter, however, was further identified by Mrs. Dunaway as Laura Colquitt Howard, daughter of General Alfred Holt Colquitt!

On Sunday, November 4th, ceremonies were held at the gravesite to dedicate a special marker and pay tribute to Mrs. Howard, who died in 1951. Representing Oakland, the Sexton was in attendance with officers and members of the chapter. Because it was a ceremony of the UDC, Myers wore the Jefferson Davis Medal presented to him last April for his help through the years with special events held at Oakland Cemetery.



The dedication of the Chamberlin Quilt was held in the Bell Tower on Friday, September 28th, at 4 p.m.

The Chamberlin Quilt is a very delicate and unique wall hanging designed and handcrafted by Annette Chamberlin. If you haven't already seen this wonderful artifact which depicts the symbolism found at Oakland, you will want to stop by the Visitor's Center where it is beautifully framed and hanging above the fireplace.



UPGRADED MEMBERSHIPS

Historic Oakland wishes to thank the following members for increasing their level of membership:

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Mr. Ron Nichols
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(as of November 9, 1990)

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Rev. & Mrs. Samuel R. Matthews

Family

Mr. William Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Cody Laird III
Jill Osbron
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Towers



Annual membership dues are the lifeblood of Historic Oakland and are gratefully acknowledged at all levels. We would like to express special appreciation to those members who so generously support Historic Oakland through annual memberships of \$100 and above by listing them in four consecutive newsletters.

ARCHANGEL GIFTS

The Estate of Mr. David M. Deakins
Mrs. Richard D. Sawtell

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Historic Oakland News is a quarterly newsletter published by Historic Oakland Cemetery, Inc. (HOCI), a non-profit membership organization working to restore and promote Oakland Cemetery, a division of the Atlanta Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs.

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If you are already a member, please pass this on to a friend!

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Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Membership Categories (check one)

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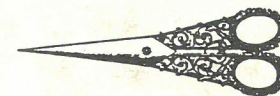
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☐ Organization \$40

☐ Sr. Citizen/Student \$15

All contributions are tax deductible as allowable by law. Please make checks payable to Historic Oakland Cemetery, Inc., and mail to: 248 Oakland Avenue S.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30312. All memberships gratefully acknowledged.



Buy A Bow... Save A Stone

BOW MEMORIAL

Please make checks payable to Historic Oakland Cemetery, Inc. and mail to 248 Oakland Avenue, S.W. Atlanta, Ga. 30312 before December 14th. Remember your gift is tax deductible as allowable by law.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ for _____ Holiday Memorial bow(s). (\$10.00 each)

Please place bows:

☐ Block No. _____ Lot location/name _____

☐ In my favorite spot: _____

☐ Please select an appropriate site for me.

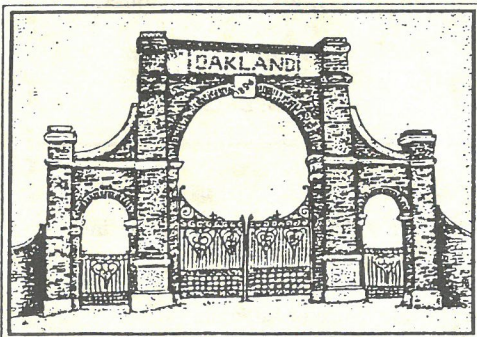
Historic Oakland is again offering beautiful red bows as holiday memorials that can be placed on graves of loved ones. The money raised directly benefits the Historic Oakland Restoration Fund.

The bows will be appropriately placed upon the specified lot and marker for \$10 per bow. Historic Oakland also invites those who support our restoration efforts but without loved ones who rest here to participate. For a gift of \$10, you may choose to mark a favorite spot, or have the office select one of the many childrens' graves that have been forgotten.

Please mail the attached coupon along with a check made payable to Historic Oakland Cemetery, Inc., 248 Oakland Avenue, S.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30312 before December 14th. Remember your gift is tax deductible as allowable by law. If you participated in the bow memorials in previous years you have received a letter asking if you wish to repeat your order.

If you have any questions, the office will be happy to help at 688-2107. Payment must be made in full before a bow can be placed.

Thank you for your continued support.



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HISTORIC OAKLAND SURVEY - MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

NAME _____ ZIP CODE _____

AGE: ☐ 18 - 35 ☐ 35 - 45 ☐ 45 - 60 ☐ over 60 SEX _____

If you have a FAMILY MEMBERSHIP, what is the make-up of the rest of your family?

☐ SPOUSE NUMBER OF CHILDREN: _____ AGES OF CHILDREN: ☐ 0 - 5 ☐ 6 - 12 ☐ 13 - 18

How long have you been a member? ☐ 1 - 3 years ☐ 4 - 5 years ☐ 6 years or more

Your personal interest in Oakland _____

Do you have relatives buried at Oakland? ☐ yes ☐ no

If so, who? _____

Do you have friends or know of other families that have relatives buried at Oakland and that would like to be included in our mailings?

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

To what other historical non-profit organizations do you belong?

How often do you come to Oakland? ☐ never ☐ once/twice a year ☐ frequently

Have you ever attended the "SUNDAY IN THE PARK" ANNIVERSARY PARTY held at Oakland in October? ☐ yes ☐ no

Have you ever attended the ANNUAL MEETING in May? ☐ yes ☐ no

Do you participate in the BOW MEMORIALS during the holiday season? ☐ yes ☐ no

Have you ever taken a guided walking tour of Oakland? ☐ yes ☐ no

What programs/special events would you like to see Oakland sponsor?

Comments/Suggestions: _____

In support of Oakland, please share with us the names/addresses of two people to send information to about Oakland.

If we do not receive a response from you, our phone committee will contact you.

☐ Check here if you prefer not to participate in this survey.

Thanks!