

Greenwood cemetery

ESTABLISHED 1823

February 2022

Rose Planting

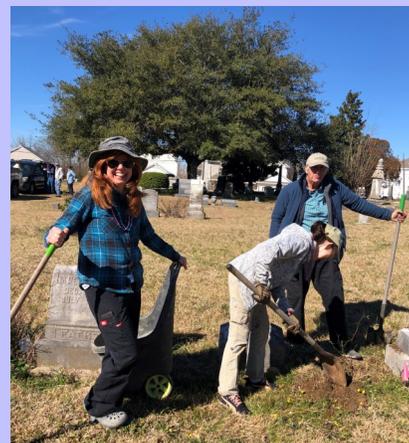
Saturday, February 19 dawned clear and beautiful as more than fifty enthusiastic volunteers gathered in the cemetery to plant roses propagated from the prior year's cuttings. Live music from the Blues Marathon staging area, one block away, added to the ambience. Members of the Old Garden Rose Society provided refreshments including hot coffee and tea prepared on a camp stove in the Summer House. Gardeners enjoyed visiting and sharing gardening tips before dispersing throughout the cemetery to put one hundred and eighty plants in the ground. Locations for the plants had been marked with pink flags and the first volunteers to arrive dispersed the plants, one pot to each flag, so the planting was completed in short time. Late arrivers, including a mother and daughter from Mathiston, found the work complete, but availed themselves of the opportunity to take cuttings from established plants to root and grow in their own gardens. At least one volunteer had visited the cemetery last summer and taken pictures of the roses he wanted to snip and propagate.



Tom and Joe waiting for the Water to boil.

Stakes and mulch will be applied to insure the plants' survival and, hopefully, protect them from mowers. By summer's end there will be nearly four hundred rose bushes blooming in Greenwood. A beautiful sight to brighten a hot summer's day!

The association is very grateful for the ongoing leadership provided by the Old Garden Rose Society in planting and maintaining the roses. Felder Rushing began the rose collection twenty years ago and continues to support our efforts. Volunteers included Master Gardeners from Metro Jackson, Rankin County, and members of the Garden Club of Jackson. Thank you to all involved!



Members of the Old Garden Rose Society love digging!



Smiles and shovels from Master Gardeners Pam, Kathy and Glenda.



Cory Johnson planted a Madame Hardy rose which he propagated from his grandmother's plant.



Jeff and Kim Chaney-Bay traveled from east Tennessee. Jeff ran the marathon while Kim planted roses.

Black Educators in Greenwood

Among the hundreds of Blacks buried in Greenwood Cemetery are several who are known to have been educators. The oldest in this group is **William Henry Lanier**, born into slavery in 1855 in Alabama. He received his B.A. from Roger Williams University and also studied at Tougaloo, Oberlin and Fisk. He was the first Superintendent of Colored Schools in Jackson, president of Alcorn College for six years and then was principal of Robertson School from 1912 until his death in 1929. Lanier High School honors his memory. His monument is near the center of Old Cemetery Section 4, in front of three cedar trees.

Professor **Samuel Manuel Brinkley's** birthdate is unknown but his teaching career in Mississippi began in 1897. He taught in the Jackson public schools from 1912 to 1941 and served as principal at Jim Hill, the first junior high school for Black students in Jackson. From his obituary, "He was considered among the foremost teachers of his day, efficient, patient and thorough." He died in 1946 and Brinkley Middle School honors his memory. His grave is south of the Summer House, near the creek.

The matriarch of the Dawson family was **Sallie Campbell Dawson**, who was born in Missouri in 1846 and died in Jackson in 1911. She is reputed to have been the first Black teacher at Smith Robertson School. She is buried by her granddaughters who were also teachers. **Georgia Dawson** (1902-1962) began her education at Smith Robertson School and graduated from Tougaloo Academy in 1924. Her teaching career started at the Canton Public Schools, and in 1928 she began teaching at Lanier High School. She continued her education through a teacher training program at Jackson College in 1940 and received a B.A. from Tougaloo College in 1954. Most of her teaching career was at Smith Robertson where she taught from 1934 until her retirement in 1961. The Georgia B. Dawson School on Sunset Drive in Jackson is named for her. Georgia's sister **Ruby Dawson** (1904-1993) was also a teacher. She taught at Smith Robertson, Mary Jones and Sally Reynolds schools in Jackson.

Archie Beatrice Reid Hopkins (1891-1955) was the wife of Professor J.H. Hopkins and taught with him in the public schools in Goodman and Charleston and at the Tallahatchie County Training School. After her move to Jackson, she was a substitute teacher in the Jackson Public Schools. Her daughters also became teachers. **Lula Mae Hopkins Patton** was born in 1909 and taught at Smith Robertson School. Her husband Lucius was also a school teacher but we have no record of his burial. Lula Mae died in 1969. Her sister, **Albertine Hopkins Mason** was born in 1910. Albertine received a B.A. from Tougaloo College and a master's degree from the University of Cincinnati. She taught at Lanier and Murrah High Schools. She died in 1992 and her son, former sheriff Victor Mason, routinely placed flowers on her grave.

Bettie Marino (1869-1953) was also a teacher at Smith Robertson School.

Ironically Mr. Smith Robertson, the man for whom the school, and now the museum is named, was not a teacher. He was a barber, a successful businessman and the only Black member of Jackson's Board of Aldermen from 1891 until his death in 1899 at age 59. The mayor and other aldermen served as pall bearers for his funeral in Greenwood, but the location of the grave is unmarked and unknown.



Annual Meeting Scheduled

The Greenwood Cemetery Association will return to a former practice and hold the annual meeting at the Summer House in the cemetery on Sunday, May 15 at 3:00. The meeting is open to all who have contributed \$25 or more to the association in the past year. Dues may be paid at the meeting.

There will be a short business meeting followed by refreshments and informal tours of the cemetery. Members are urged to ask questions, express their opinions and share recommendations with members of the board. Some seating will be provided, but attendees are welcome to bring their own chairs.

Major Projects Planned for 2022

Proceeds from bond money awarded to the Greenwood Cemetery Association in 2021 will fund several large projects to preserve, beautify and increase security in the cemetery. In passing the legislation for this grant, the legislature acknowledged Greenwood Cemetery's importance in preserving Mississippi history and providing a beautiful and informative destination for visitors.



Stephen Dicke, Certified Arborist and owner of Shady Arbor, PLLC, will conduct a complete survey of every tree within the cemetery, identify each by both common and scientific names, evaluate each for its health and risk of failure, and prepare a detailed report on Tree Plotter software which can be shared as needed. Informed decisions can be made as to needed pruning or removal of each tree. Many of Greenwood's trees are near or past life expectancy. Falling limbs have necessitated the replacement of two sections of the West Street fence in the past six months and we are very aware of the possibility of damage to monuments or injury to persons. Following the recommendations in Mr. Dicke's report should greatly minimize such occurrences in the future. The report will also lay the groundwork to pursue the goal of having Greenwood declared an arboretum. Look for more details of that project in future newsletters.

A second major project to be undertaken this year is the restoration of all monuments and arboretum, whether stone or brick. Michael Drummond Davidson, a master mason who has repaired some of the oldest and most iconic monuments in Greenwood in the past, will be the consultant for this project. Mr. Davidson will help to identify qualified restorers and oversee their progress. This project is expected to take more than a year to complete. Volunteers will be needed to assist in this project. The restored monuments will be more valuable to genealogists and historians as well as add to the beauty of the cemetery.

Arborist Stephen Dicke has begun his survey of the trees.

Because the cemetery is a designated Mississippi Landmark, projects of this magnitude require prior approval from the MS Department of Archives and History. The association has submitted Notices of Intent for both projects and awaits their confirmation.

Road Construction Update

The association board is in discussion with the contractor, PaveCon, over the condition of Central Avenue following its repaving in December. The contractor agrees that the work is not up to standard, and possible solutions are being considered. Payment has been withheld pending resolution of the problems.

Greenwood Cemetery Association

PO Box 55783
Jackson, MS 39296-5783

**NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 670
JACKSON MS**

A contribution to Greenwood Cemetery Association is the perfect way to honor or memorialize a friend or family member. Use the donation form to let us know your intention. An acknowledgment will be sent to the person you indicate. Contributions in any amount are appreciated. A donation of \$25 qualifies you as a member of the association. Donations of \$50 or more are acknowledged by mail.

Name _____ Is your gift in honor or memory of a person or event? If yes:
Address _____ Honoree: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Send notification to: _____
Email _____ Address _____
Donate with PayPal at www.greenwoodcemeteryjackson.org. City _____ Zip _____