



MAY 2022

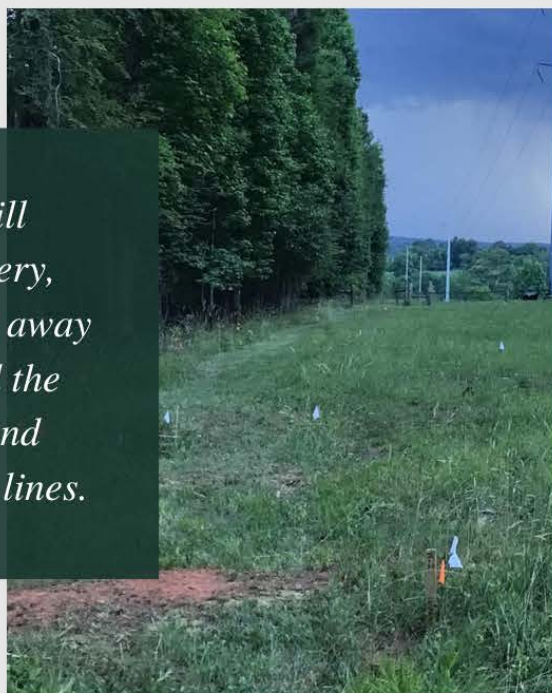
SURVEY

State Properties License 605-466

“For the survey, education of the public, identification, and categorization of grave sites”

The survey efforts of adjoining properties will continue during the summer, however, we are concentrating on finishing the Eastside graves. The westside will be surveyed with metal detection and we plan with additional labor to complete both the Eastside and Westside grave markers by November.

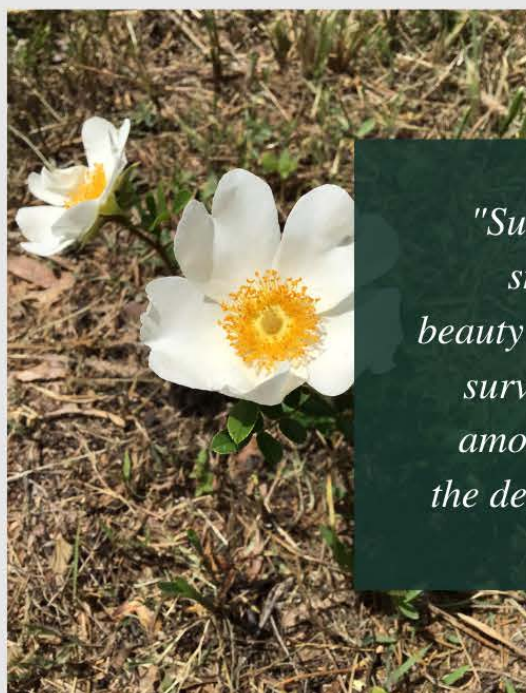
Red Hill Cemetery, tucked away behind the trees and power lines.



EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC

The **Georgia Trust For Historic Preservation** has continued to include our efforts in their newsletters. We will be represented at their zoom conference on June 16th from 2:00-3:00 pm titled “Preserving Georgia’s African American Resources.”

Social media comments on our Facebook group continue with news clippings posted by Michelle Wright Weaver. From May 7 to June 4, 8125 people viewed our group, and 180 commented.



"Such a small beauty still survives amongst the dead."



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RESEARCH

GEORGIA ARCHIVES: We have been approved to view the William Crump files. The 185 boxes of prison history are stored in the Georgia Archives. I have researched only about 30 boxes, but did find the following:

Prison Commission Report 1900

An interpretation of the language “properly prepared for burial” is used in Section 1515 Vol 1 of the Code. Due to its broad interpretation, the anatomical board has refused to furnish coffins to convicts.

Prison Commission Annual Report 26

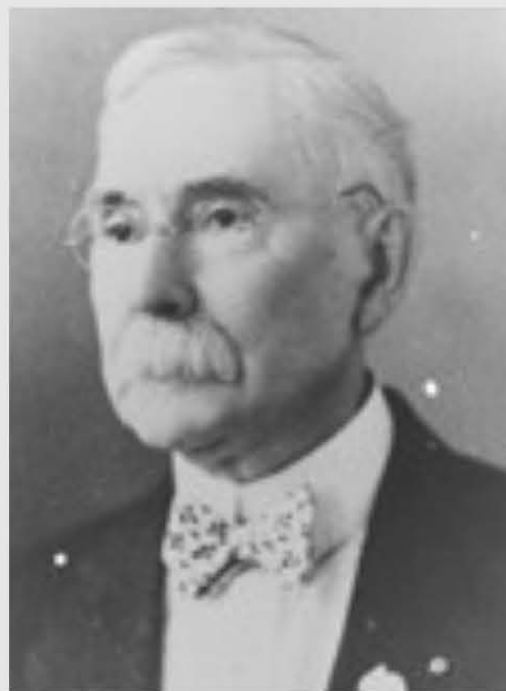
Jan 1, 1922 - Dec 31, 1922

Hiring of Chaplain: Dr. E.C. Atkins

Salary: 1200 per year

Savannah Man Appointed Chaplain State

Prison (Atlanta, Dec. 12, 1922)



The State Prison Commission announced today the employment of Dr. E. C. Atkins, assistant pastor of J. Asbury Methodist Church (Savannah) as chaplain of the State Penitentiary at Milledgeville. Dr. and Mrs. Atkins will move from Savannah to Milledgeville on Jan. 1. He will devote himself entirely to his office as the prison chaplain and will be aided in the work by Mrs. Atkins. Heretofore the religious side of the prison at Milledgeville has been taken care of by a minister employed to preach at the prison twice a month, and such voluntary religious work as was done by church organizations. For some time, the commission has had under advisement the notion of a regularly employed chaplain and has reached the conclusion that the morale of the camp and the general atmosphere will be improved by a permanently located chaplain. Discussing the situation today, Judge I. E. Patterson, of the commission, expressed the opinion that the greater need of the prisoners is to have a man of religion there with whom



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they can talk, to whom they can take their moral and religious troubles at all times, and in whom they can build that kind of confidence that is inspired by an earnest man of the cloth.

Crump Memorandum
(Oct. 26, 1989)

To: William E. Baughman,
Deputy Commissioner
Fr: William Crump
RE: Cemetery for the Prison
Farm near Milledgeville, GA



Overhead view of cemetery land.

"This memo will confirm the location of the referenced cemetery three miles north of the Prison Farm institution for male inmates. Mr. Daniel and I visited this cemetery yesterday and found it to be in need of restoration. I understand that the renewal of a ten-year lease on 133 acres of land which includes this cemetery is on the commissioner's desk at this time. Insofar as I have been able to determine, we have no consolidated record of who or how many inmates are buried in this cemetery."

Since this information could become vital not only for the Records of Corrections but also for Public Relations. I would like to request an additional staff member or two additional intern slots to help research the inmate portion of the who's who in corrections.



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Chaplain Report to the Commission (Jan. 1, 1935); Report for the Year 1934

There are 710 personal letters to the new men in the camps, in addition to many letters for the men to their loved ones. [I] give a New Testament to each new man with notes and the following: "This book will keep you from sin, or Sin will keep you from this book."

After 246 religious services, 678 have joined the Testament League, and 3946 total in the past 12 years. All have joined the SFRA (State Farm Religious Association), which is the only semblance of a church we have to offer the 3572 have joined in the past 12 years.



*A friendly cow in the cemetery,
wanting to get home.*

Our request to visit Reidsville to search the cemetery records has not been approved as yet, but we have received the following (via Rob Thrower):

We actually did look to see how far our records go back. There were some records of offenders that go back to 1940 on microfilm. We are currently in the process of scanning historical documents at GSP and would be happy to let you know once that process has been completed.



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TEAM UPDATES

Our Newsletter will have a new feature and include a report from team members.

Edwin Atkins

My report for May creates a question that we have never considered: when were the license plates put on the graves and is there a list?

1930: Prison to make auto tags.

Dec. 28, 1933: Rollie Lawrence, deputy sheriff of Baldwin County, will replace Judge BH Dunaway.

During this period from Dec. 1933 until June 1935, he is preparing the State Farm for the 1936 move to Reidsville.

June 25, 1935: Supt. Lawrence reports to the Associated Press that the State Prison Cemetery contains about 1500 graves, most of them unmarked. He is to have (meaning the future) a definite system of identification worked out by the superintendent, Rollie H. Lawrence. A number will be placed on the grave and will correspond with a number in the prison records.

QUESTIONS. Since the graves are unmarked, how did he know who was buried in each grave in order to place the number and have it correspond with a list? Since we are finding bent nails in the early graves, and in the last graves on the westside, is it possible that all graves had wooden crosses prior to 1933? Perhaps the crosses were pulled and replaced with a metal post and license plate by Supt. Lawrence?



A nail from the cemetery grounds.



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Mary Esther Smith

Our search for metal posts is still underway, however, we have slowed down our search due to hot weather and rain. We have been fooled on many occasions. We have found rocks that might have been placed to mark the grave. On one occasion we believed a large rock was a grave marker. Upon careful observation, we found it was concrete, but had a metal detection alert. We continue to find rebar inserted in the concrete and a section of barbed wire. This was an old fence post.

The most confusing discovery was an old grave in row one which I found no post but two pieces of a tag with two nails with it. Could this mean the grave had a wooden post holding the tag. In another grave, I found a post and fragments of a plate, and a bent nail. I am using a magnet that picks up the fragments or a nail.

Could it be that before the metal plates were put in by Supt. Lawrence in the 1930s, all the graves were marked by a wooden cross held together with a nail? The present work continues on the east side with 173 posts found. We are now returning to the graves 1 - 10 looking for the license plates or cross nails. Westside will be next, however, we have 19 posts found in that section.

Diana Boland

A new list of executions was found in the Archives, which is being checked for additional names on our "Death Registry" Diana has researched and included the names from the following resources: death certificated, Friends of Baldwin Cemetery, a book entitled Legal Execution in Georgia, Chaplain Atkins notes, and Archives list. Her research has been extensive and greatly appreciated.

Carley Reeves continues to assist with technology and media.



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VISITORS TO THE CEMETERY

Thanks to **Jessica Whitehead** and **Nehemiah Ingram**, the Department of Community Supervision is in consideration for providing labor to help with the ground maintenance of the cemetery.

Congratulations to **Rick Williams** on his Senate victory in the District 25 election!

ITEMS TO ADDRESS IN JUNE

ITAG SALE in Macon for the benefit of Red Hill Cemetery

BEAUTIFICATION

WEBSITE DESIGN

VIDEO PRODUCTION for YouTube and social media

CROWDFUNDING

Address **DONATIONS** to:

Magnolia State Bank

P.O. Box 1989

Gray, Georgia 31032

Attention - Terry Ramsey

Find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/239348086615923>