

The Innkeeper



FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER

SPECIAL EDITION WINTER 2023

Historic Ivey-Ellington Has a New Home

PLUS

Behind the Peeling Paint

The Origins of Hillcrest Cemetery

Digging Up the Past





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KERRY MEAD

In our last newsletter, we looked back at 2022 and appreciated the ability to gather in person once more for Friends' activities and events. In this newsletter, you will learn about what has been accomplished so far in 2023 and what is yet to come. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

2023 has already started with a bang

The Ivey-Ellington House was moved from its original location to the old library site on Academy Street.

We had a partial return of concert performances this winter, and the Town has joined with the Friends to provide additional events at the Page-Walker called Performances at the Page.

Historic Preservation

May is Historic Preservation month, and both the Friends and the Town's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) have already started planning some fun events — stay tuned for more details!

Once the Ivey-Ellington is in its new location and construction has finished, we hope to have a joint celebration with the HPC.

History Shared with You

Keep an eye open for the first of hopefully many historic markers the Friends are designing, to be installed around town at historic sites.

Our oral history specialist, Peggy Van Scoyoc, has several oral interviews planned for this year that will uncover what it was like integrating Cary's schools.

And Looking Forward

12 Months of Cary History

Watch the Friends' social media and blog posts to learn more about Cary's history. Our Outreach Committee will be focusing on a different history topic unique to Cary each month. You'll find links to our Instagram and Facebook as well as our website on page 17.

- **January:** The Page-Walker Hotel
- **February:** Cary's Black History
- **March:** The Page Family and how they influenced Cary
- **April:** Founder's Day — Cary was founded April 3, 1871
- **May:** Historic Preservation and Cary's many historic buildings
- **June:** Cary's Farming and Agricultural Roots
- **July:** Cary's Education Focus
- **August:** Cary's Festivals and Parades
- **September:** Railroads and Trains — why Cary is here
- **October:** Cary Band Day — the Southeast's oldest band competition
- **November:** Cary, the Gourd Capital of the World
- **December:** Luminaries and other Cary holiday celebrations

As always, many thanks to our board, members, volunteers and everyone who continues to make the Friends such a success.

The Innkeeper is the newsletter of the Friends of the Page-Walker. First published in 1985, and restarted in 2003 after a hiatus, the newsletter offers member and community outreach communication. The Innkeeper is a team effort of the Friends. Brent Miller edits and Leesa Brinkley designs the newsletter. We welcome your contributions to The Innkeeper. If you have articles, suggestions or ideas to share, please send them to Brent at brent@posmoroda.com.



New site

History on the Move

Historic Ivey-Ellington House has a New Home

For more than 150 years, the little Gothic Revival cottage, often confused for a church, stood on its spot in central Cary on West Chatham Street. Its construction coincided with the incorporation of Cary as a town in the 1870s. And it has seen the development of Cary unfold before it, from a town with fewer than 300 people when it was first built to a town that is now home to more than 180,000 people.

Over the years, it has seen wagons built across the street at Harrison Wagon Works and cattle drovers driving their herds from Chatham County to Raleigh, offering them overnight camping on its lawn and water for their animals. It has seen citizens buying merchandise at Scott's Dry Goods next door and Everybody's Store across the street. It has seen the horses and carriages that rode by its door replaced by automobiles; and the dirt road on which it stood turned into the paved National Capitol Highway and later U.S. 1, now Chatham Street. It has seen Hurricane Hazel in 1954 smash trees onto its front porch and the room above it, causing both to be removed; and its Gothic-style front door replaced with a door from the 1950s. In recent years, it has seen the Cary Farmers Market take place on its lawn. Over the years, it has seen multiple families reside within its walls, including Thaddeus Ivey and J. Harrison Ellington, from whom the house gets its name; and H.H. Waddell, the first Fire Chief and former mayor of Cary. Its most recent and current owner is the Town of Cary.

On February 20, the historic Ivey-Ellington House was moved to its new spot on Academy Street where the former Cary Library once stood.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS
BARB WETMORE AND MARLA DORREL



Original site



On the move



New site



Original site



New site

Ironically, the house was moved to make room for future development — ironic because houses built during that period in that style, often found in small rural towns along railroads, were indicative of a movement rejecting the industrialization of the time. The house clearly displays the elements of a rural variation of Gothic Revival architecture, such as its steeply pitched roof, pointed arched windows, and vertical board-and-batten siding.

In its new spot, the Ivey-Ellington house will continue to be a witness to the ongoing development of Cary, with a front-row view of the new Downtown Park where it's sure to take in the sights and sounds of fun events, with their music and laughter. Perhaps some of the many visitors to the park will be drawn across the street to take a closer look at this rare architectural treasure and to learn its history and the history of Cary it can tell.

What has been done to ensure preservation of the Ivey-Ellington House?

Over the years, the Friends of the Page-Walker have advocated for the preservation of the Ivey-Ellington House -- one of four structures in Cary listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places -- via written communications, meetings with key Town staff, and speaking before the Town Council. In November 2011, the Town of Cary recognized the importance of preserving this property and acquired it, an important step toward securing its future.

In the late 1990s, a private development was envisioned for the corner of Harrison Avenue and West Chatham St. that would ultimately affect the Ivey-Ellington House. The Friends of the Page-Walker worked diligently to encourage the developer to lessen the impact and retain the Ivey-Ellington House on its original site. Unfortunately, these efforts were unsuccessful. The development plan, approved by the Cary Town Council in December 2019, provided for relocating the Ivey-Ellington pursuant to a relocation contract to be negotiated between the Town and the developer. Although details on the relocation contract were not included in the development agreement, the Friends successfully worked with Town staff to draft a resolution stating the Town's commitment to preserving the Ivey-Ellington House and its National Register status; the resolution was unanimously approved by the Town Council on December 12, 2019.

What's next for the Ivey-Ellington House?

Mayor Harold Weinbrecht's blog of April 23, 2022, included the following status report from the Town Manager:

In early 2023, the Ivey-Ellington House will be relocated from its current location on Chatham Street, consistent with the Council approved resolution on December 12, 2019. Given several factors, including the desired setting, historic context, and existing infrastructure, the southern portion of the former library site on



Did you know that Cary has been home to two residential Gothic Revival structures that sport the vertical board-and-batten siding, a rarity in Wake County? One is the Ivey-Ellington House. Although it is undergoing renovations, the other is the historic Waldo House, also moved from its original location on Waldo Street, and now located on the Mayton Inn property on East Park Street.



Academy Street has been identified as the new location. The relocation will not interfere with existing infrastructure, including Charlie Gaddy Lane, parking, and utilities. Consistent with the adjacent structure, the Ivey-Ellington will be set back from the street and existing mature trees will remain. The remainder of the former library site will continue to be programmed with art and other activities until the Downtown Park is completed.

Although Cary will forego individual National Register designation, the new site is located in the Downtown National Register District. Public investment will continue to preserve and rehabilitate the house using the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The Ivey-Ellington House is a valuable part of Cary's history and can be further honored through designation as a Local Historic Landmark.

On its website, the Town states, "In December 2022, after conducting a spatial analysis, it was determined that once the house is rehabilitated it will initially serve as temporary office space for Downtown Park staff. Future use possibilities include a welcome and/or history center." The Friends of the

Page-Walker advocate for future use as a welcome/history center. We think in its new location and with its history dating back to the incorporation of Cary as a town in the 1870s, it will be ideally situated as a place for folks to learn what is going on in present-day Cary as well as what has been going on in Cary for the past 150+ years.

The Friends of the Page-Walker support the town's decision to relocate the Ivey-Ellington House to the former library site and will continue to monitor the status of the rehabilitation of the structure for future public use.

What will happen to the National Register Status of the Ivey-Ellington House?

Unfortunately, the town has been informed that the Ivey-Ellington House will lose its National Register status as a result of its relocation to its new site. However, its place in Cary's history can be honored through designation as a Local Historic Landmark. The local landmarking process has been initiated by the Cary Historic Preservation and eventually will be presented to the Town Council for final approval.

Questions?

Additional information and updates on the rehabilitation can be found at townofcary.org by searching "Ivey-Ellington Relocation". For general information, dial 311 anywhere within town limits (or 919-469-4000 outside Cary). For specific questions about this project, please contact Gillian White, Historic Preservation Manager, at 919-380-4264 or gillian.white@townofcary.org.

What do you love about the Ivey-Ellington House?
Share your thoughts with us at info@friendsofpagewalker.org.

Behind the Peeling Paint

CARY HISTORY UNCOVERED

[Ed. Note: Researcher and historian extraordinaire Carla Michaels offers “Treasures from the Vault” on a recurring basis as a way to share interesting historical stories and artifacts that she has gathered during her research]

Cary is growing and fortunately, some old businesses are being repurposed in keeping with the times. Such is the “Walk Up” at 126 West Chatham Street in downtown Cary.

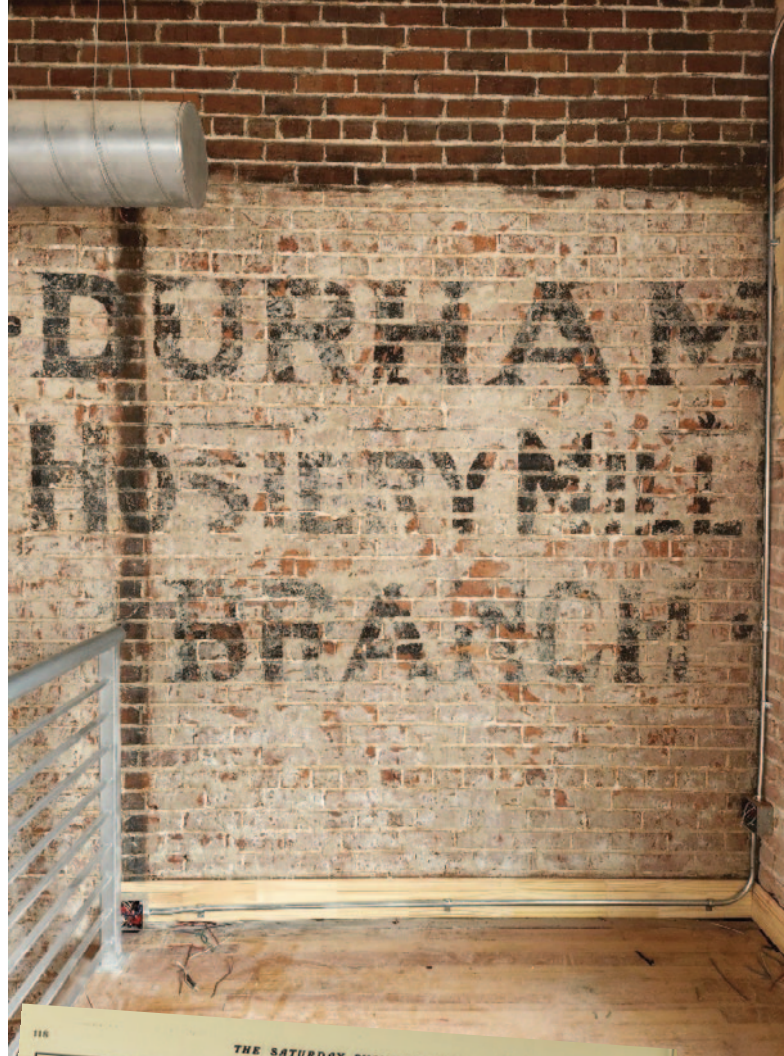
The Walk Up, an “inverse speakeasy” (upstairs, not in a secret basement), has been developed by Richard Ladd. During the renovation and repurposing, Mr. Ladd uncovered some intriguing history behind walls and peeling paint.

First, a peek behind the walls. During interior renovations, sheetrock and studs were removed and this image appeared.

This image top right may have first appeared on the outside of the adjacent property, painted on the side of the Bryant Building before 126 West Chatham was built. There is little information about an association between the Durham Hosiery Mill and Cary. What we do know is that the Mill advertised far and wide and had an excellent reputation for producing long-wearing socks.

Once the interior renovations were underway, attention was given to the outside of the building. The large wall on the west side needed a good cleaning and removal of peeling paint.

continued



During the cleaning process, these images were uncovered:

Mural

The mural consists of several parts, including popular and local advertising: Coca Cola, Barber, and what appeared to be a milk advertisement of some sort, based on remaining letters under the old paint. (photo right)

Coca Cola

The Coca-Cola image is one of many logos that the company has used through the years. The profile of the woman enjoying Coca-Cola does not appear in silhouette form in my research, however, the pose and hairstyle seem similar to this Coca-Cola poster and easier to enlarge and paint! See photos on the following page.

Barber Shop

The Barber Shop wording gives no clues to the identity of the barber. Checking newspapers from the era, I found that there were mentions of barber shops in Cary. This establishes that there was at least one barber shop in Cary during the known life of the Ladd building.

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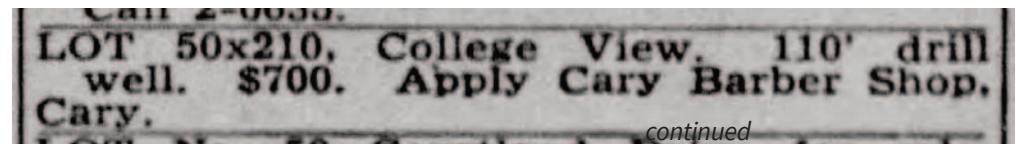
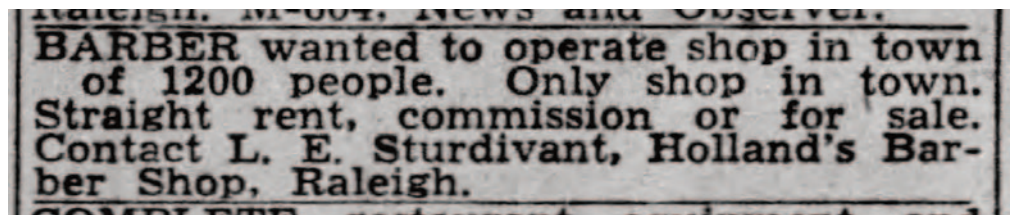
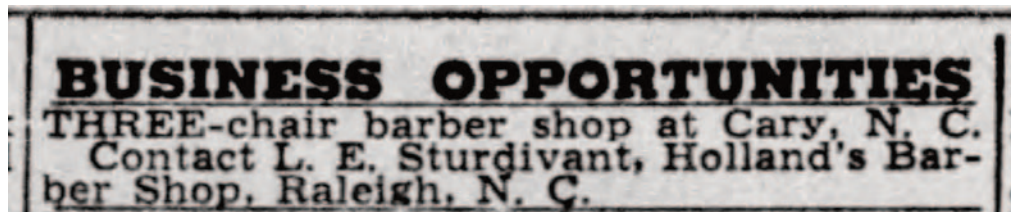


Although there is no documentation in newspapers about barbers that might have done business specifically in the Ladd building, barbers were here in town and keeping the men of Cary looking sharp.

Pine State Creamery

It appears that the milk advertisement refers in whole or part to Pine State Creamery, a local company based in Raleigh. The person most closely identified with the origins and early history of the Pine State Creamery was Dr. Benjamin Wesley Kilgore (1867-1943), who was born in Mississippi. Professionally, he was an agriculturist who came to Raleigh in 1889 as assistant chemist of the North Carolina Agriculture Experiment Station. He eventually served as the first dean of agriculture at State College (now NCSU) from 1923 to 1925. He was the owner of the 930-acre Kildaire Farm in Cary, which was reported to have 550 cows and 10,000 chickens. It would have been natural for Pine State Milk to be advertised in the town nearest Kildaire Farm.

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TOP: This ad is from August 27, 1945, News & Observer.

MIDDLE: This ad is from September 29, 1945.

ABOVE: This ad is from 1947. Perhaps land (probably in Raleigh - with "College View"?) was for sale with inquiries to someone at the Cary Barber Shop.

Note the similarities on the right-hand side of the wall painting that seems to capture most clearly the “P” in the word Pine.

Although much paint has been lost, the image below right appears to be a milk carton with the words “homogenized”, “Vitamin D” and “MILK” on the front. Barely visible is the image of what appears to be a pine cone and needles in green.

It is less clear whether the milk carton image on the left side of the wall painting belongs to Pine State, although the greenery that appears on the carton could be construed to be pine needles, which were featured in some Pine State logos.

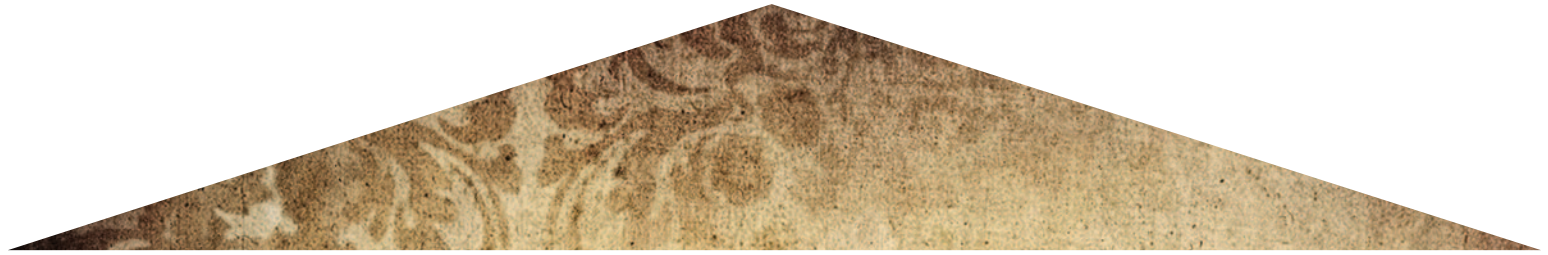
The green shapes also appear to be similar to the pine needles and pine cones on the milk lid below.

Because the two images are side-by-side on the wall, it would be reasonable to suspect that both images pertain to Pine State Creamery & Dairy, which made a number of dairy-based products.

With this bit of Cary history uncovered, drop “up” to the Walk Up and view these images for yourself, drink of choice in hand!

A special thank you to **Richard Ladd** for permission to feature this building and its murals in *The Innkeeper*.





Cary's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) continues its important work landmarking local properties and educating the public about historic preservation. At a public hearing in November, the HPC recommended that the Nancy Jones House become a local historic landmark. The town council is set to conduct the final vote on this recommendation on March 9. Further, the HPC plans to move forward with the landmarking process for the Ivey-Ellington house, after its move to its new location (described elsewhere in this newsletter). Designating local landmarks is one of the main functions of the HPC. For more information about how properties can be designated local landmarks, visit the Town of Cary Historic Preservation Commission website at <https://www.townofcary.org/mayor-council/boards-commissions-committees/citizen-advisory-boards-and-commissions/historic-preservation-commission>.

This year, one of the HPC's goals is to increase its public outreach. At our February meeting, a committee of the HPC presented a new Community Engagement Plan that will guide the HPC in years to come in its mission to increase historic preservation appreciation and understanding in the community. The HPC is also planning several events to celebrate National Preservation Month in May, including a workshop on historic brick masonry (May 13), a display about the history of transportation in Cary at Wheels on Academy (May 20), and a special screening of the Cary 150 film and new historical footage (dates to be announced). Be on the lookout for these events this spring.

Herb**fest**

FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER

Sunday, May 7 • 12 to 4 pm

**Page-Walker Arts & History Center
119 Ambassador Loop, Downtown Cary**

Buy herbs and plants, visit our craft booths, stroll the beautiful grounds of the Page-Walker, and tour the Page Educational Garden, including a close-up look at the historic 1850's Page smokehouse. Enjoy a butterfly release at 2:30 pm. A fun craft activity for kids and our popular bake sale. FREE, and will be held rain or shine.

SHOW YOUR CARY PRIDE!

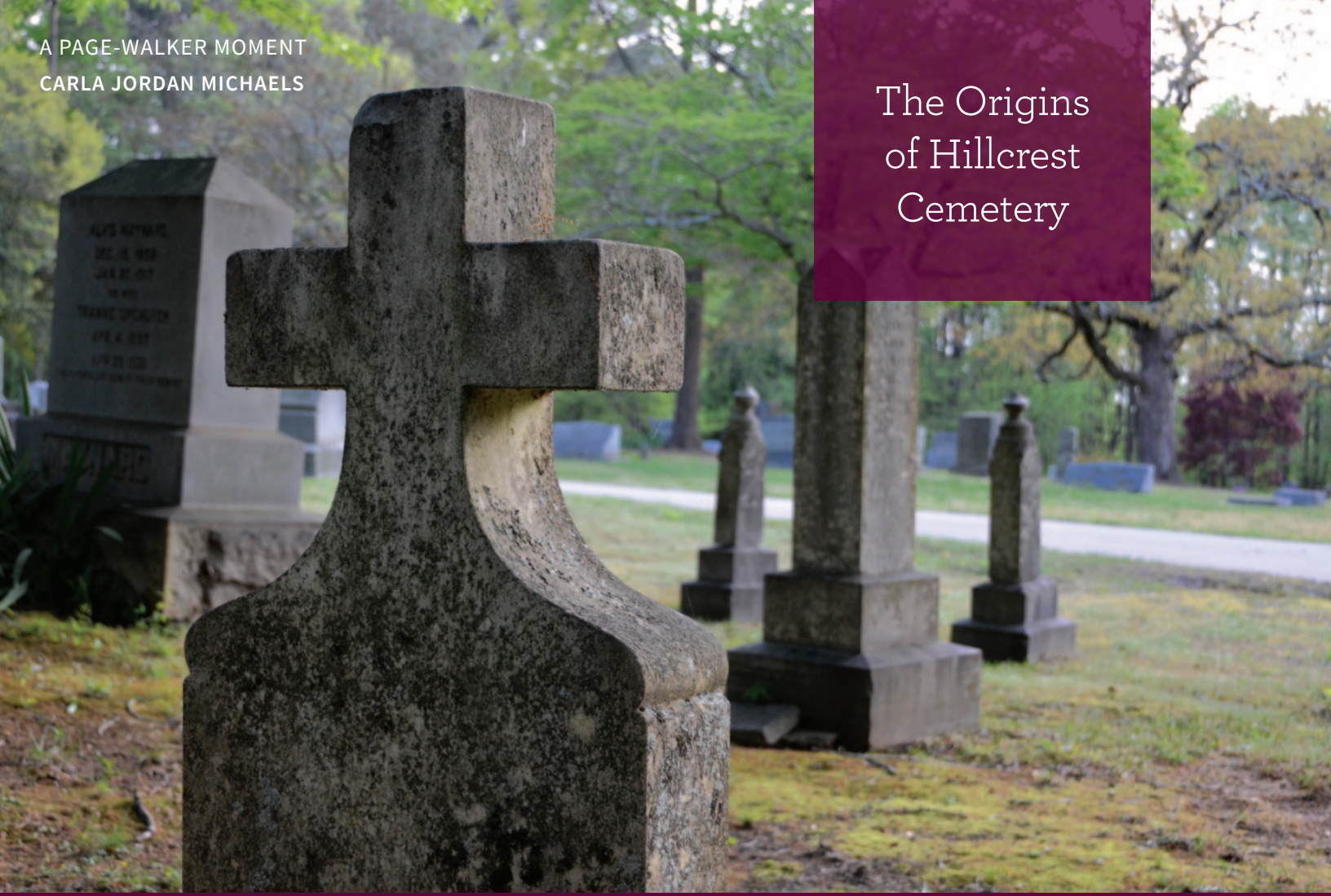
Get your own iconic Cary photos

Visit the Friends' [online store](#) to purchase some special Cary photography.

Once purchased, you'll get information and links to photo finishing partners who can produce and deliver various kinds of prints, greeting cards, puzzles, blankets and holiday ornaments.



The Origins of Hillcrest Cemetery



The history and origins of Hillcrest Cemetery are somewhat shrouded in mystery. The first mention of a public cemetery is in a deed from Rufus and Sarah Jones to Cary Town Commissioners. The deed was for one acre of land for use as a public cemetery. The Town paid \$1 for the acre. The land adjoined A F Page and Rufus H Jones land and is dated 12 Feb 1887, thus giving an official starting date to the public cemetery. However, there are grave markers containing dates of death prior to 1887, most notably of Henry Jones, husband of Nancy Ann Jones, and their son Nathaniel Jones, both of whom died in 1840. The question arises: why were there burials on this piece of land prior to 1887?

One of the many deeds listing R H Jones or Rufus H Jones as grantee (purchaser) is Wake County Deed Book 68, page 617, on December 4, 1869, from W M Sorrell (seller) for 35 ¼ acres. This land adjoined land owned by A H Dowell, J J Hines and A F Page. Previous research for Cary First Christian Church Cemetery uncovered deeds naming the same people. Out of all the deeds reviewed, this particular deed seems to be the piece of land where Hillcrest Cemetery now stands, as it appears to be the only Rufus H Jones tract in the vicinity of the Cary First Christian Church cemetery.

The earliest dates of death in the cemetery belong to many members of the Jones family, with the majority being infant deaths. These deaths occurred between 1840 and 1871. The first recorded non-Jones family member to be buried at Hillcrest is Susan Raven, wife of the

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Methodist minister Rev. A. R. Raven. Mrs. Raven, who died April 11, 1873 at the age of about 34, is buried near the Jones Family in what is now the Jordan family plot. Rufus Jones was a member of the local Methodist church and it would be understandable for him to offer land for the burial of the young wife of his church's minister. Perhaps her death was the beginning of the idea of a cemetery adjacent to the town. Until 1878, the year of the sale of the Nancy Jones property to someone outside of the family, the Joneses appear to have maintained private burial grounds on the Nancy Jones property. It seems unlikely that the Jones deaths after 1869, the date of the purchase of the land noted above, would have been placed at Hillcrest while the Nancy Jones Homestead was still in family hands.

This theory is borne out through comments in a personal letter from Rufus H Jones to his half-sister Eliza Jones Young, the only child of Henry Jones and his first wife. Nancy Ann Jones, the mother of Rufus Jones, was Henry's second marriage. Rufus wrote to confirm the dates of death of his father and brother Nathaniel, as the graves had been moved to the Cary cemetery from the burial grounds on the homeplace. Rufus writes in 1878:

"I ought to have mentioned that Ma died 3rd March 1876 and just here while I think of it Sister, I wish to make a request of you which is this, that you furnish me, if in your power, with the date and year of Pa and bro Nat's deaths, we have removed their remains to the Cemetery in our little village Cary, and wish to mark their graves with suitable slabs."

Henry and son Nathaniel Jones had previously been buried on the grounds of the original location of what is now known as the Nancy Jones House on Chapel Hill Road. Nancy Ann Jones lived with her daughter Amelia Ann Jones Whitaker south of Raleigh at the very end of Nancy's life. A reasonable guess would be that Nancy Ann Jones was buried in 1876 on the family land that became Hillcrest, and the bodies of her husband and child Nathaniel were moved to join her when the homestead was sold out of the family.

Other burials at Hillcrest soon followed. Cary was a growing town, and the small town lots did not allow for burials that larger homesteads outside of town could accommodate. Members of the Page, Walker, Crocker, Adams and Jordan families soon buried their deceased alongside the Jones family, and Hillcrest Cemetery became the official burial grounds for white Cary families.

For information about the burial grounds of Cary's African American families, visit the Friends extensive [blogpost](#) about Cary First Christian Church Cemetery and the Friends' work to help the church document and create a walking tour brochure for this historic site:

Cary First Christian Church was also featured [here](#).



PERFORMANCES AT THE PAGE
JENNIFER HOCKEN AND TRISH KIRKPATRICK

Friends, Town Partner for Entertainment

The Town of Cary and Friends of Page-Walker announce the return of winter concert series favorites, along with a new storytelling event in 2023. Refreshments are served at all shows. Tickets for all shows are \$20 and available at The Cary Theater box office and online through [eTix](#).



Bill Leslie: Celtic Carolina Sunday, March 12 at 4 pm

Original music and storytelling from Celtic composer and winner of The North Carolina Award for Performing arts, Bill Leslie.



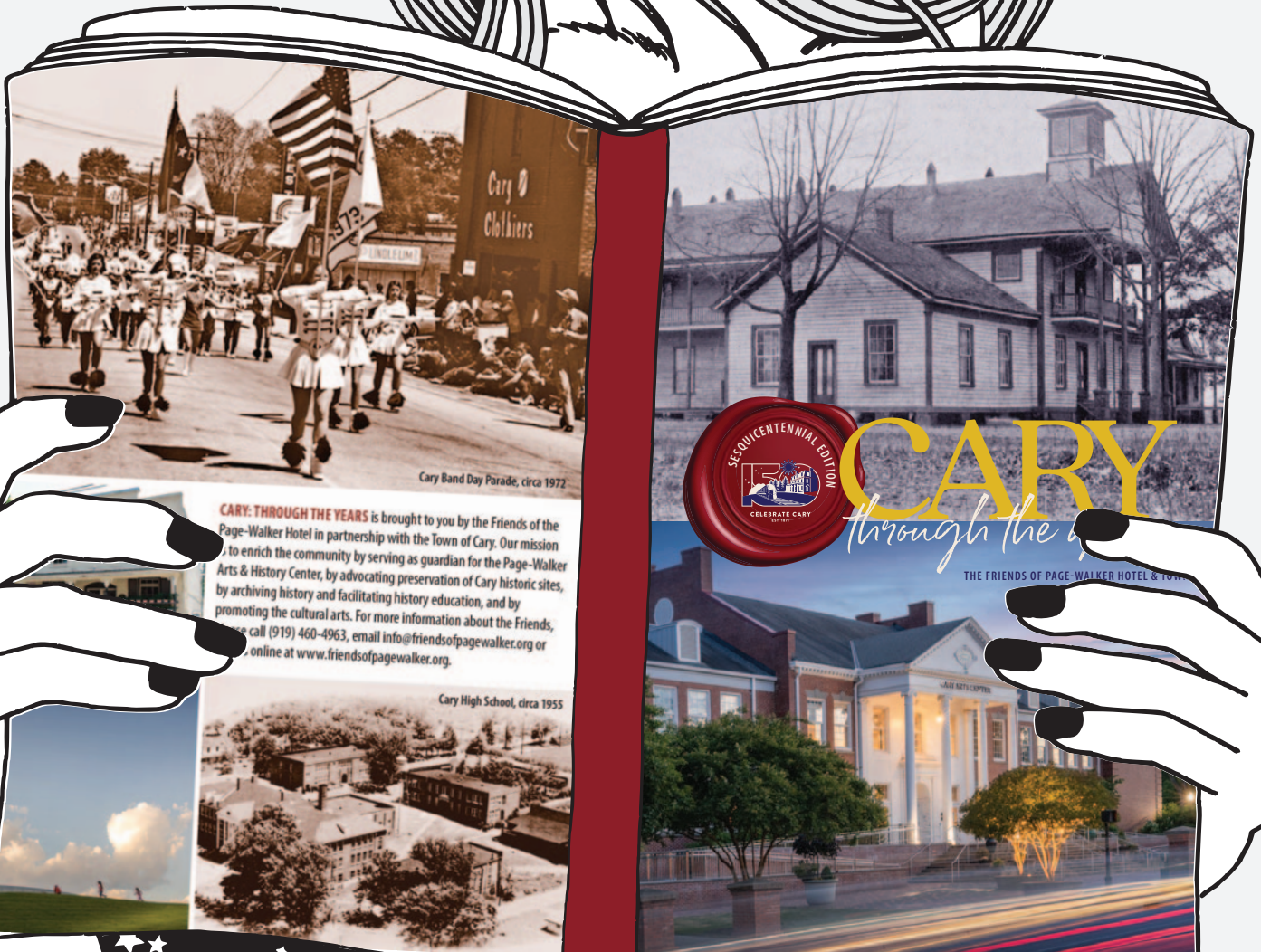
Roadhouse Storytellers Saturday, April 1 at 7 pm

Join the Roadhouse Storytellers as they bring local storytellers for an evening of stories in the intimate space of the Page-Walker.

Cary Through the Years Update Now Available!

In April 2020, the Friends formed a committee to update a timeline booklet called Cary Through the Years, first published in 2013. The updated edition honors the 150th sesquicentennial anniversary of Cary for 2021, adds many new milestones that have occurred in the past 8 years and refreshes other content.

Click [here](#) to purchase this and other Cary history books.



LET'S BE Friends!

Being a member has its benefits! The Friends accomplish our mission of preserving the Page-Walker Arts & History Center and other Cary historic sites, history archival and education and promoting cultural arts through member participation.

Thank you for your continued support, and please begin or renew your membership. If you haven't renewed for 2021, please do so today. And please ask a friend to join!

We have migrated our membership management to our web site. You will receive an email notification when your membership is due for renewal. You can check, begin and renew your membership online through our [website](#). Our new membership management system now sends annual renewal reminders.

Alternatively, you can renew by mail. A membership form (for new memberships and renewals) appears at the end of this newsletter. Please print, complete and return it today!



**FRIENDS OF THE
PAGE-WALKER HOTEL**

CONTACT THE FRIENDS

Friends of the Page-Walker
Box 4234, Cary, NC 27519
(919) 460-4963 program information
email: info@friendsofpagewalker.org
www.friendsofpagewalker.org

President Kerry Mead

BOARD MEMBERS

Your Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel board members are these volunteers: **Lisa Banks, Courtney Bonvillain, Marilyn Carney, Michael Edwards, Pat Fish** (treasurer, lifetime member), **Kirk Fuller, Jimmy Gibbs, Andy Kirk, Trish Kirkpatrick, Anne Kratzer** (lifetime member), **Katherine Loflin, John Loyack** (immediate past president), **Kerry Mead** (president), **Carla Jordan Michaels, Brent Miller, Bob Myers, Cathy Richmond, Judi Rourke, Michael Rubes** (secretary), **Arwa Sattar** (Teen Council Representative), **Kay Struffolino, Peggy Van Scoyoc** (vice president), **Barbara Wetmore** and **Ed Yerha**.

The board is also fortunate to have the participation of Town of Cary staff members **Robbie Stone, William Lewis, Kris Carmichael, Jennifer Hocken** and **Matthew Champagne**.

If you are interested in serving on the Friends board in the future (or if you have served in the past and would like to contribute again), please contact any board member or see the "Contact the Friends" information in this issue.

Community Partners

The Friends are pleased to collaborate with our partner organizations, the Cary Chamber of Commerce and Heart of Cary Association. You can find out more about these organizations and the local events they sponsor, respectively at www.carychamber.com and www.heartofcary.org.



www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel



www.instagram.com/friendsofpagewalker/



www.youtube.com/user/CaryHistory



www.linkedin.com/in/friends-of-the-page-walker-5488a0161/

Plan a Visit The Page-Walker Arts & History Center is located at 119 Ambassador Loop.

Directions: Located on Ambassador Loop on Town Hall Campus. The campus is off North Academy Street, between Chapel Hill Road and Chatham Street in downtown Cary. More information can be found [here](#).

Begin or Renew Your Membership Today!

To join the Friends, or renew your existing membership, visit www.friendsofpagewalker.org or fill out the form below and bring it to the Page-Walker or mail it with your contribution to:

Friends of the Page-Walker
Box 4234
Cary, NC 27519

All members receive a complimentary copy of *The Innkeeper* newsletter and discounts for many Town-sponsored Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department programs held at the Page-Walker. Non-business donations of \$100 or more and business donations of \$500 or more will be recognized in the newsletter.

Individual, family, and civic group memberships:

- Individual \$30
- Family \$50
- Community Partner \$100
- Sustaining Member \$150 (Includes your choice of *Around and About Cary* or *Just a Horse-Stopping Place* book)
- Silver Sustaining Member \$250 or more (Includes 2 winter concert series season tickets)
- My employer, _____ has a matching gift program.

Business memberships:

- Business Member \$250 (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)
- Business Partner \$500 or more (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)

NAME/ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK ORDER FORM

Be A Part Of History And Make Your Mark

You have the opportunity to leave your mark on history by having your name inscribed on a brick that will be placed in the courtyard or walkway at the Page-Walker Arts and History Center. You may also choose to honor a family member, friend or a business. Not only will you be making a mark on history, you will also contribute to the future of your community by playing an important role in the preservation of the Page-Walker Arts and History Center.

Please make checks payable to the Friends of the Page-Walker and mail along with this form to:

Friends of the Page-Walker

Box 4234

Cary, NC 27519

- I wish to order (___) (Quantity) of Bricks at \$50 per brick. Enclosed is the total of \$ _____
- I do not wish to have a brick inscribed but enclose \$ _____ to help in your effort.

Please print the name or message to be inscribed with a limit of 2 lines and 15 spaces per line.

Brick 1:

Brick 2:

Please call Pat Fish at 919-467-5696 if you have any questions.
Please note that brick orders are placed when a cumulative total of 10 brick orders have been received.



YOUR NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS