

# The Innkeeper



FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER

SUMMER 2021

Celebrating  
Cary at 150

Updated Cary  
History Book

Nancy Jones  
House Moves

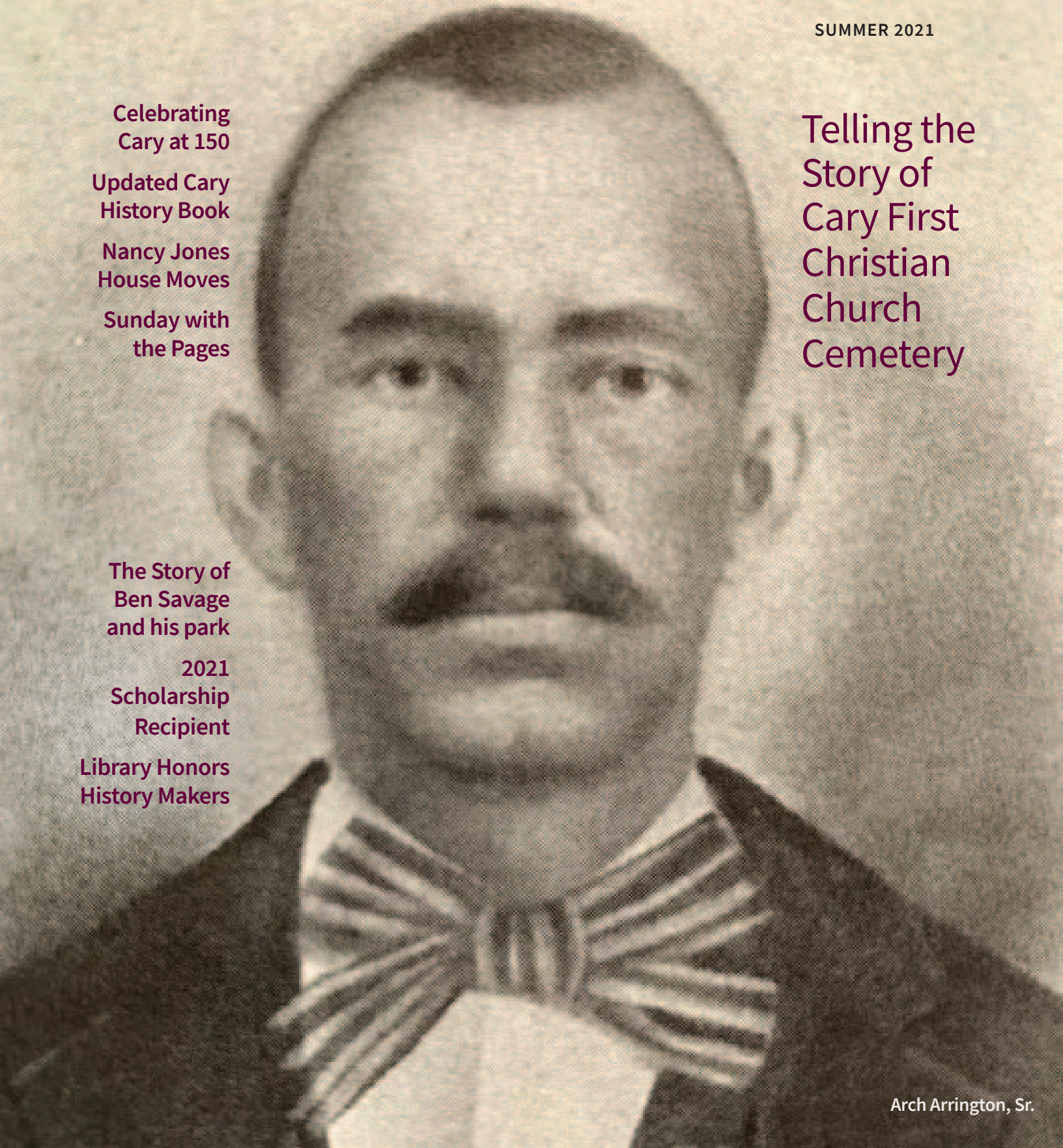
Sunday with  
the Pages

Telling the  
Story of  
Cary First  
Christian  
Church  
Cemetery

The Story of  
Ben Savage  
and his park

2021  
Scholarship  
Recipient

Library Honors  
History Makers



Arch Arrington, Sr.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JOHN LOYACK



## Friends Join Cary's 150th Celebration

Dear Members and Friends,

It's taken some time, but I'm happy to say that many of the events planned by the Friends of the Page-Walker are back. The Page-Walker Hotel is open again, the trolley is running and so many of the other things we have come to know and love in Cary seem to be coming back.



In addition, the Cary150 celebration is underway and all it takes is a walk around downtown to see that history is truly coming alive in Cary. Cary's sesquicentennial celebration is very different than originally planned because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but there are still plenty of opportunities to celebrate the sesquicentennial throughout the year. There are even ways to celebrate without leaving your home, as the Cary150 website includes a virtual scrapbook full of moments in Cary's history as told by its citizens, visitors, and friends. I encourage everyone to participate however you can. Finally, if these experiences with Cary's history lead you to looking for

something special for your home, please visit the recently updated Friends of the Page-Walker [online store](#) to buy a photo of your favorite historic building.

As always, I'll ask that if you enjoy your experience with the Friends of the Page-Walker, please consider becoming a supporting member and join us in our important work for you and our town.

Wishing you the best,

John

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](mailto:brent@posmoroda.com).



## Significant, Sacred, Historic



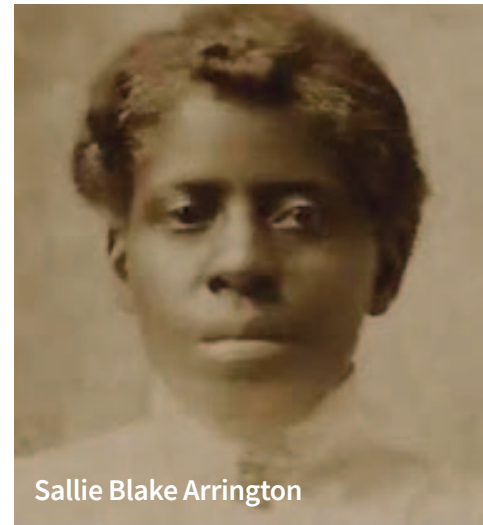
### Cary First Christian Church Cemetery tells the story of Cary’s early African American families

BY BARBARA WETMORE

Cornwall Road, south of downtown Cary, holds a special place in Cary’s African American history. From the mid-1800s and into the 1900s, it was home to many African Americans, some whose families settled on and began farming the land just after the Civil War. It also was the place where African Americans began worshipping under a brush arbor in 1868 on a site where they had begun to bury their loved ones. Now surrounded by newer homes and the Glenaire retirement community, a significant remnant of Cary’s African American past still remains at 300 West Cornwall Road. The sacred land where families began burying their loved ones as early as 1866 is now a 1.39-acre cemetery owned and maintained by Cary First Christian Church. And it has some stories to tell...

#### Stories of leadership, service to country, enslavement, education, and more

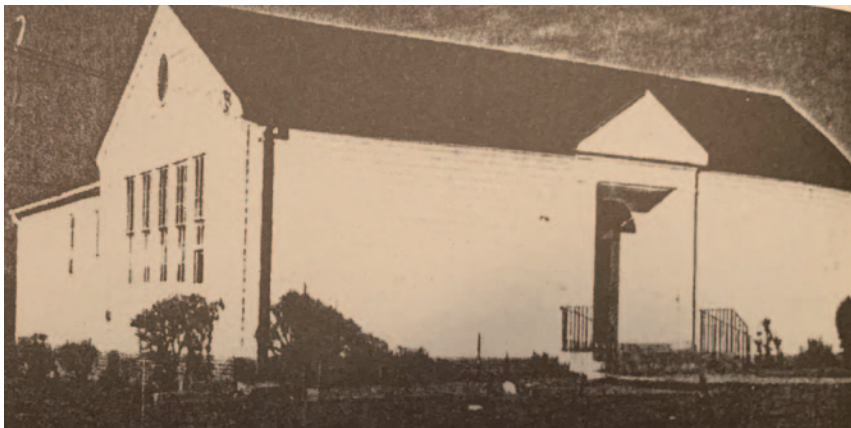
When you step through the cemetery gate into Cary’s African American past, you will find the resting places of the first African American businessman and community leader in Cary; founders of the new Cary Elementary School (for Colored Children); businessmen, farmers, and laborers; church founders, leaders, and supporters; community organizers; large land owners; educators; WWI, WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans; and free and formerly enslaved African



Sallie Blake Arrington



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**Cary Elementary School (for Colored Children) ca. 1937**

Americans and people of a multiracial background. You will see grave sites of prominent families and unknown persons. And you will walk upon ground where known and unknown persons are laid to rest with no grave marker to indicate where.

Seven members of the Committee for a New Elementary School in the Colored Community who were instrumental in establishing a school for African American children in 1937, after the Cary Colored School near the present day Cary Elementary School burned, are buried at Cary First Christian Church Cemetery (CFCCC): Arch Arrington, Jr., Willis Cotton, Mae Hopson, Effie Turner Jones, Emily Arrington Jones, and Connie and Lillian Turner Reaves. That new Cary Elementary School (for Colored Children) went on to become present-day Kingswood Elementary School.

One of the most prominent families buried at CFCCC is the Arrington family. Patriarch Alfred Arrington has the earliest marked birth date in the cemetery: 1829. He was the son of an enslaver

on a plantation in Warren County, North Carolina where he learned many trades. Alfred was freed before the Civil War came to Cary during the late 1860s. Both he and his son, Arch Arrington, Sr., were craftsmen and became large landowners in north central Cary. Arch, Sr. was one of the first African American businessmen and community leaders in Cary. He married Sallie Blake, sister of John Addison Blake, the founder of the Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church on North Academy Street in Cary. Arch and Sallie's son, Arch Arrington, Jr., organized the African American community to build a new school for African American children in 1937 after the Cary Colored School near the present day Cary Elementary School burned. Arch, Jr.'s brother Goelet Arrington and sister Emily donated the land to the Wake County School System for the school, which went on to become Kingswood Elementary School, located today at 200 East Johnson Street.



**Eliza Blake Nichols**

Library of Congress, Manuscript Division

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**Bruce Jones, WWII Veteran**

2300 formerly enslaved persons were interviewed and their memories recorded as part of the Federal Writers Project that produced U.S., Interviews with Former Slaves, 1936-1938. Three of them are buried in Cary at CFCCC: Eliza Blake Nichols, Martha Jones Organ (unmarked grave), and Chaney Utley Hews (unmarked grave).

One of the earliest marked graves in the cemetery is that of Jennie Beckwith, who died in 1896 at the age of 31. She was the first wife of John Beckwith, who was born into enslavement in Cary and was 9 years old when the Civil War ended. His memories were also recorded in U.S., Interviews with Former Slaves, 1936-1938. John was a farmer and later a beloved custodian at Cary High School when it was located on Academy Street. He was remembered for ringing the bell, signaling to students

that they should all be in their seats in their classrooms. John is buried in an unmarked grave at Wake County Home Cemetery, off Noble Road near Five Points in Raleigh. Several other Beckwith family members are buried at CFCCC in unmarked graves.

One-fourth of the 86,000 troops from North Carolina in WWI were African American. Seven WWI and three WWII veterans are buried at CFCCC, along with one Korean War veteran and two Vietnam War veterans. WWI veterans: Exum Arrington, William Boyd (unmarked grave), Clarence Cotton, James A. Cotton, Harry Jones, Herman Lee, Arthur Moore. WWII Veterans: Clyde Louis Arrington, Fletcher Beckwith, Bruce Jones. Korean War Veteran: Emerson "Dick" Arrington. Vietnam War Veterans: Archie Wayne Jones, Edgar B. Jones.

The earliest marked grave in the cemetery is that of little Hattie Turner, who died as an infant in 1891. She was the daughter of Bob and Lucy Turner. Sadly, 10 infants are buried at CFCCC. (pictured right)



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## Caring for the cemetery

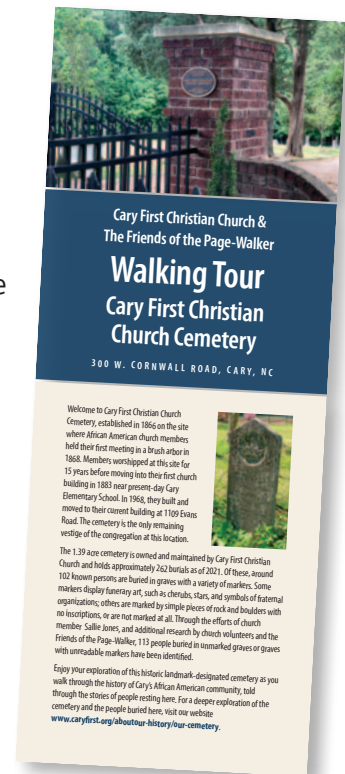
This past year, members of Cary First Christian Church partnered with the Town of Cary and the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel to take steps to make the public aware of the significance of this historic place, the first cemetery to be designated as a landmark in Cary and in all of Wake County. The Town planted new trees and helped clean up the cemetery and enlisted Verville Interiors & Preservation to repair some of the damaged headstones. Volunteers from the church worked with volunteers from the Friends of the Page-Walker to research the history of the cemetery and the people who are buried there and to produce a walking tour brochure, which will be available outside the gate of the cemetery.

## Not the first time the cemetery received some love and attention



Sallie Jones

into disrepair through overgrowth of vegetation and some vandalism. Desiring to honor those unknown persons buried in unmarked graves, Sallie worked with NC experts to identify some of the unknown names, spending many hours going through archived records. In a critical step, she registered the cemetery with the state, protecting it from ever being sold. Sallie Jones, today at age 96, was a key contributor to the development of the newly released walking tour brochure through her knowledge and remarkable memory of the people buried at the cemetery.



It's possible the cemetery would not be standing in its original location today if not for the efforts of church member Sallie Jones. Sallie, a descendant of historic Cary African American families including the Arringtons and the Blakes, made it her personal project in the 1980s to preserve the Cary First Christian Church Cemetery to save it from being lost. She hired archeologists to survey the cemetery and produce a map of marked and unmarked graves and she enlisted the help of the community to clean up and restore the cemetery, which had fallen

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## Formerly unknown people buried in the cemetery now identified



The cemetery holds approximately 262 burials as of 2021. Of these, around 102 known persons are buried in graves with markers that display names and dates. About 160 persons are buried in graves either unmarked or marked with boulders, piles of stones, quartz, and uninscribed or unreadable stone, concrete, marble, and granite. Some are buried in graves marked with uninscribed concrete slabs placed by the church after the archeological survey revealed that 139 of the 160

unmarked graves had been unknown until 2002. The vinyl stickers seen on these grave markers correspond to locations on a map produced by the archeological survey. Through the tireless efforts of church member Sallie Jones and additional research by church volunteers and the Friends of the Page-Walker, 113 of the people buried in unmarked graves or graves with unreadable markers have been identified. 47 unknown persons still remain to be identified.

## A look at the land in the 1860s and its subsequent history

Stories passed down tell that African Americans began burying their loved ones on the land on which the cemetery is located as early as 1866. Research revealed that the land originally belonged to James Allen, a white man living in Wake County, who then sold it to Mariah Seagroves Horton and her husband William, also both white and of Wake County. Interestingly, the Hortons sold the land to James Joseph (J. J.) Hines of Craven County in 1869. J. J. Hines was a white traveling minister who sometimes preached in Asbury to the east of Cary. Ownership of the land stayed among white people of Craven County until 1879, but statements in deeds reveal that sometime between 1869 and 1877, J. J. Hines conveyed one acre of the 35+ acres he had purchased from the Hortons to a religious congregation, presumably the early members of Cary First Christian Church. In 1879, when Tranquilla and George Dowell of Wake County purchased the land, the deed contained this statement: “(excepting) nevertheless one acre of said tract at its north west corner on which a church has been built by certain colored (people) containing 34 1/2 acres more or less, after deducting said acre excepted.” The church structure to which this deed is referring might have been the brush arbor under which the early members of the Cary First Christian Church congregation worshipped from 1868 to 1883, when they moved into their church building on Holleman Street near present day Cary Elementary School. In 1909, George and Tranquilla, also white, conveyed a piece of land to “Trustees for Colored Cary Christian Church”: John Beckwith, Handy Jones, and Dennis Jones. The land in this deed increased the

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cemetery size to its current size of approximately 1.377 acres. Handy Jones and Dennis Jones are buried at CFCCC. In 1968, the church moved to its current location at 1109 Evans Road. Today, the cemetery is the only vestige of the congregation at its original location.

### Unique grave markers

The most unusual and historically significant grave marker in the cemetery is a rare segmental-arched wooden headstone, dating back possibly to the mid-1800s (pictured bottom right, page 3). There are no markings or engravings on this wooden marker to enable us to know who is buried here.



Many grave sites in the cemetery are marked by simple pieces of rock or boulders with no inscriptions, or are not marked at all. Though researchers have been able to identify 113 of the 160 people who are buried in unmarked or unreadable graves, it's likely that people who were buried before the late 1800s might never be identified because of the lack of records dating to that period and because enslaved persons were often not accounted for by name but simply by the number of them that were enslaved by a land or property owner.

Many of the readable grave markers in the cemetery display funerary art, including cherubs and crowns, stars, clasping and praying hands, laurel branches, ivy vines, and engraved interlocking chains and letters such as "FLT" (for Friendship, Love, and Trust) that denote the deceased's affiliation with the Grand United

Order of Odd Fellows (not to be confused with the International Order of Odd Fellows, whose constitution included a "whites only" clause until 1971).

Some of the grave markers are made of concrete. Ruth Little, a founder of Friends of Oberlin Village and author of *Sticks & Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Grave Markers*, visited CFCCC cemetery and confirmed that the concrete grave markers at CFCCC are examples of handmade grave markers, often made in the backyards of African Americans, especially those who had masonry or carpentry skills. Family stories tell us that the Hawkins family made gravestones, along with the Satterfield family. Both families were African American families whose homes were on West Cornwall Road, very near the cemetery. It's quite possible that the Hawkins and Satterfield families made some of the gravestones here.

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A few of the gravestones are marked with hand-scratched inscriptions, including the gravestones of Nazareth Jones, Mattie Norris, and Rev. Boyd, one of the early ministers of Cary First Christian Church. One unusual set of stones represents not a grave marker, but rather a memorial marker. No bodies are buried with the stones, but one them contains a hand-scratched inscription: "In memory of Geo. W. Day and family." A second engraved stone with the names of all the family members accompanies the hand-scratched stone.

### Not the only African American cemetery in town

Many African Americans from the Cary community are buried in the private Turner-Evans Family Cemetery at 800 Old Apex Road in Cary. The Turner and Evans families owned large tracts of land in that area in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The Evans family owned and still owns a large amount of land to the west on Evans Road -- which is named for them -- and donated the land on which the Cary First Christian Church is currently located on Evans Road. Some members of the Turner and Evans families are buried at CFCCC and some members of the families buried at CFCCC are buried at the Turner-Evans Family Cemetery, as a result of marriages between the two families.



### Explore Cary's rich African American history

Take a walking tour of the Cary First Christian Church Cemetery with our new brochure (available at cemetery

entrance). Trace Cary's African American history on a [self-guided driving tour](#) developed for Cary's sesquicentennial or follow along with a guide on one of the Friends' African American history [trolley tours](#).

Stop by the front desk of the Page-Walker Arts & History Center to purchase a copy of Peggy Van Scoyoc's book *Desegregating Cary*. Visit the Cary First Christian Church [website](#) to learn more about the church's history.

### Help build a memorial to those buried in unmarked graves

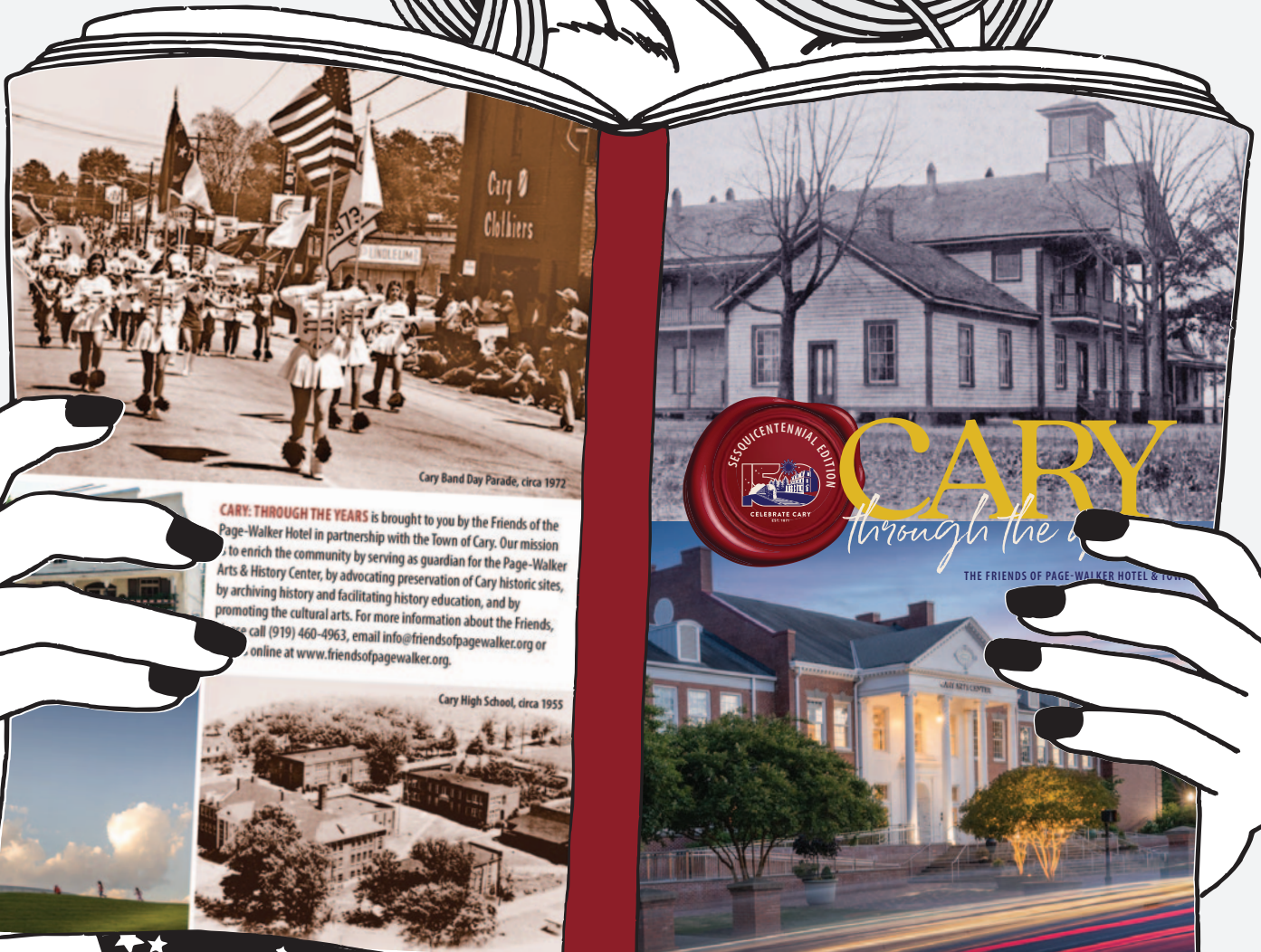
Contribute to a fund to erect a simple memorial to known and unknown persons who are buried at Cary First Christian Church Cemetery in graves that are unmarked or graves that are marked with undreadable markers. Contact [admin@caryfirst.org](mailto:admin@caryfirst.org) or call 919-467-1053 to learn how.



# 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.





## Celebrate Cary!

CARY'S 150TH BIRTHDAY PARTY CONTINUES ALL YEAR

Founded on April 3, 1871, Cary celebrates its sesquicentennial this year, with events throughout the year and special merchandise and activities. This year's celebration has been different than planned because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but many things, such as a series of historic tours and a virtual scrapbook from Cary citizens, visitors, and friends, are going strong.

### Events and Activities

Celebrate Cary was held downtown on July 24 and 31. Food, beverages, games, photo ops, music and merchandise were enjoyed by thousands of visitors. After dark, a spectacular light show was projected onto the Cary Arts Center.

Cary at 150, a documentary from local Emmy award-winning filmmaker Hal Goodtree, is available for online viewing [here](#). The documentary features several Friends and Page-Walker Staff members.

Upcoming events include a Gala Masquerade on November 13 and an original play, Cary the Stories, by local playwright Dr. Katherine Loflin (performance dates to be announced).

Seven history moments from Cary Town Council member Ed Yerha are now published and five print-at-home self-guided walking and driving tours, including the latest tour of Cary's historic landmarks, are available.

Visit [cary150.org](http://cary150.org) to learn about all of these, and more.



PHOTOS BY LAURIE MILLER



### Share Your Story

The town is compiling a virtual scrapbook of "Cary stories". Everyone is encouraged to share their Cary memories and experiences to add to our town's collective narrative. Share your story [here](#).

[cary150.org](http://cary150.org)

# Picture This!

The Friends are working to partner with a photo finishing company to produce prints, greeting cards, puzzles, blankets and holiday ornaments featuring some of these beautiful photos taken by our members. Once purchased, we will provide a link to our photo finishing partner, who can produce and deliver.

Please keep an eye out at [friendsofpagewalker.org](http://friendsofpagewalker.org) for upcoming details.



CAC and Ashworth photos by Heather Leah



Hillcrest Cemetery and Page-Walker photos by Carla Michaels



"Horse Drawn Memories" Laurie Miller



### Nancy Jones Takes a Short Trip

We are delighted to report that the Nancy Jones house is now safe and sound at its new location, just a short distance from the spot where it stood for more than 200 years. The Town of Cary purchased the house from the Sree Venkateswara Temple, owners of the original site of the house. On March 20 of this year, the house was moved to a nearby site on Chapel Hill Road, where its historic context is maintained, and hence its status on the National Register of Historic Places is also maintained.



Other house moves that have occurred in Cary typically involved a semi-tractor cab pulling the house that was mounted on a frame with wheels. This move, performed by Wolfe House and Building Movers from Pennsylvania, was different. Each of the wheeled frames on which the house rested has its own motor and is independently controllable and steerable. One of the movers uses a tablet computer to remotely control the movement. To complete the move, the Nancy Jones house was backed onto its new site, just like you would back a car into a parking space!

The ultimate use of the Nancy Jones house is yet to be determined, but the Friends are delighted that plans are in place to preserve this oldest

remaining home in Cary. We express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the many parties who, along with the Friends, have collaborated for years to reach this milestone for Cary's most important historic property, including the Town of Cary, Cary Historic Preservation Commission, State Historic Preservation office, Capital Area Preservation and Sri Venkateswara Temple.

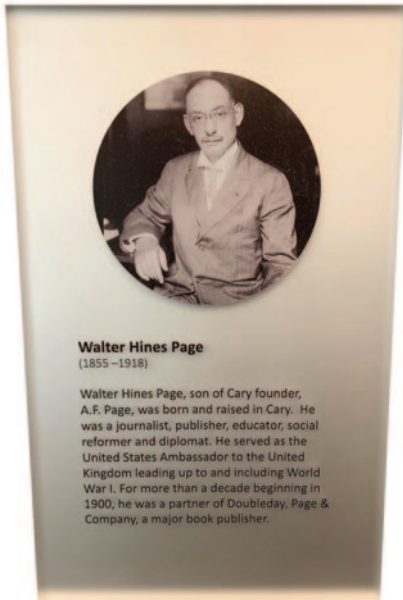
### Ivey-Ellington Makes Reservations

The Friends continue our years-long effort to advocate for preservation of the Ivey-Ellington house in downtown Cary. A new development is planned for the house's current site on Chatham Street, and we are pleased to report that the Town of Cary, the owner of the structure, plans to move the house to preserve it.

We recently learned that the State Historic Preservation Office has recommended two town-owned sites for the new location of the Ivey-Ellington house. Both are on the old downtown library site; one would face Academy Street and the other would face Harrison Avenue. The choice of a new site involves many considerations, including the building's use, compatibility with its surroundings and implications for maintaining the house's National Register of Historic Places designation and perhaps for Cary's Downtown Historic District. The Town is weighing options



and will continue to partner with the Friends to ensure the best outcome for this important historic resource.



Cary Regional Library

# What's in a Name?

## Cary Library Rooms Named for People Who Made History

**T**hanks to a collaborative effort between Cary and Wake County, three rooms in the Cary Regional Library have been named after individuals from Cary's history: Ruth Cathey Fox, John William Meadows and Walter Hines Page.

These individuals were selected to correspond with each room in a meaningful way: the Children's Programming Room is named after Fox, who served as the first female principal of Briarcliff Elementary School during desegregation; the Quiet Study is named after Meadows, a leader in Cary's African American community who served as an educator and circuit preacher; Page's name is associated with the Adult Programming Room, as he is known for serving as the United States ambassador to the United Kingdom and being a partner in the major book publisher Doubleday, Page & Company.

Library visitors will find brief biographies of these honorees on plaques outside of each room. Cary appreciates Wake County's partnership and support in recognizing these individuals for their contributions to Cary's history.

We are so grateful for the Friends' committee, led by Peggy Van Scoyoc, who offered guidance in selecting the individuals who are honored in this way.

## Anthony Tutwiler 2021 Recipient

The Friends are pleased to announce that Anthony Tutwiler, a recent graduate of Green Hope High School, is the recipient of our 2021 Friends of the Page-Walker Scholarship. Applicants for the \$1,000 award must be graduating high school seniors residing in Cary who have been accepted into and plan to attend a college our university. Each applicant competing for the scholarship must have a letter of recommendation from their high school faculty member or counselor, must demonstrate community involvement through active volunteer service, and submit a thought-provoking essay discussing a topic assigned by the Friends' Scholarship committee.

Anthony, our current recipient, is the son of Suzanne and Anthony Tutwiler. He will attend the University of North Carolina-Charlotte in the Fall and plans to major in Criminal Justice and Psychology. He plans to eventually become an FBI Special Agent in psychology and counseling. Tina D. Robinette, a member of the Science Department at Green Hope High School, writes that Anthony "is a bright honors student with a very promising future. His perseverance when challenged in the classroom is worthy of great respect and his level of honesty and integrity is quite commendable." Anthony's impressive list of activities exemplifies the fact that he is a strong and motivated leader. Ms. Robinette, in her recommendation letter, goes on to say "it is with great honor and respect that I recommend Mr. Anthony Tutwiler for your educational scholarship."

Also contributing to Anthony's award selection was the submission of his insightful essay addressing the topic, "The Impact of Growth in the Culture of the Cary Community". Anthony was born in Cary and has experienced its growth firsthand. He applauds the fact that the growth in Cary had created "an ethnically diverse community" that the Town embraces with opportunities and programs to promote and educate the community about our various ethnic cultures.

John Loyack, President of the Friends, presented Anthony with the award on the grounds of the Page-Walker Arts & History Center on the evening of June 9, 2021. Anthony's parents and his sister, along with some Friends' board members, also attended the celebration. Anthony's name will be added to the permanent plaque that is displayed at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center to honor all scholarship recipients.



## Blannie Harrington, Rebecca Sauls Share Stories



In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, two oral history interviews were successfully conducted remotely. The first, conducted on April 5, 2021, was with Blannie Harrington, a Cary native who was born in 1918. Her great-granddaughters filmed her in her home while she answered a list of questions that had been sent to her by the Friends. Still very sharp, she answered every one of them. She described several houses where her family lived in downtown Cary when she was a child. She told us that she had two uncles, her mother's brothers, who fought in the Civil War. And she remembered quite a few early stores in downtown Cary.

The second oral history interview was conducted and audio-recorded over the phone with Rebecca Sauls on April 28, 2021. Ms. Sauls was also born in Cary, in 1930, during the beginning of the Depression. For a time, her family moved into her step-grandfather's farm across the street from her family's homeplace on High House Road. The farm provided food for them during those hard times. When things improved, they moved back to their own home. She is the youngest of eight children. Two of her brothers fought in World War II. She graduated from Cary High School and still remembers most of her teachers. She also remembers many early stores along Chatham Street in downtown Cary from when she was a child. She still lives in her family's homeplace on High House Road today.



*For more than 20 years, Cary's oral historian Peggy Van Scoyoc has been compiling oral histories of prominent people in Cary's history. This collection is part of the Southern Oral History Program at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Some oral history selections are included in Peggy's books, *Just A Horse-Stopping Place* and *Desegregating Cary*. More information about the Friends' oral history program is available [here](#).*



## Sunday with the Pages

Our trolley tours have returned! After a nearly year-and-a-half pause, the Friends and some special guests welcomed passengers back aboard for a tour of Cary's history on July 25. In honor of the town's 150th anniversary, volunteers in costume played the roles of Cary founders and builders of the Page-Walker Hotel, Frank and Catherine Page, and some of their hotel guests from the late 1800s/early 1900s. Frank and Catherine and their guests greeted passengers and visitors as they arrived and showed them around the historic railroad hotel, sharing snippets of what Cary and the hotel would have been like in the early 1870s.



Visitors were treated to lemonade and a special cake, baked and donated by Ann Driscoll to celebrate the 150-year anniversary of the town and the hotel. Ann also made a cake for Cary's 100-year anniversary back in 1971!

The Friends conduct public and private group history tours to serve their mission of educating the public about Cary's history. We strive to offer public tours in the spring and fall with the goal of offering more frequent tours in the coming year. Just before the pandemic shut things down in the early spring of 2020, the Friends launched a new tour tracing Cary's



African American history, and we were fortunate to conduct that tour's inaugural run during Black History Month in February. We are working to offer that tour again and are looking for African American volunteers to serve as guides. If you're interested in learning more about being a guide, please email us at [info@friendsofpagewalker.org](mailto:info@friendsofpagewalker.org).

General history tours last about an hour and travel down familiar and not-so-familiar roads in the downtown area. Did you know that Cedar Street, running along the south side of the railroad tracks in downtown Cary, was originally called Railroad Street and was once the main route into Cary from Raleigh? The railroad tracks in Cary have seen history dating back to 1854 and were the reason Cary founder Frank Page settled here and built our town. The

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Above: Ann Driscoll and her 150th anniversary cake with Mayor Harold Weinbrecht, in 2021. Right: Ann Driscoll with Mayor Fred Bond and the cake she baked for Cary's 100th anniversary in 1971. Mayor Weinbrecht is Mayor Bond's nephew.

trolley also ventures past historic homes lining Academy Street that used to house teachers and students who attended Cary Academy (now the Cary Arts Center). The trolley travels west down Chapel Hill Road, once the main stagecoach road between Raleigh and Chapel Hill, and the site of the very historic Nancy Jones House built in 1803, where travelers, including governors and a United States President, would stop for rest and refreshment,.

The new African American history tours also last about an hour and travel through historic African American neighborhoods, cemeteries, and church sites; past schools that were built on land donated by African American families

for African American children; and past sites where “juke joints” used to entertain young and old alike. The tours share information about Cary’s African American Heritage families whose ancestors and descendants have been living in Cary for 100 years or more. Did you know that African Americans made up nearly one third of the population in Cary toward the end of the 1800s? And that they owned a considerable amount of land near the current Downtown Park and around what was then the outskirts of Cary in the Kingswood area, the Cornwall Road Area, and Evans Road, which is named for an early African American family whose descendants still live in and have developed land in Cary?



Riders come away from all history tours with an awareness of how Cary developed through the years, the role that its geographic location played in its founding, and the influence of the people who settled and were raised here throughout various eras.

Editor’s note: Due to the increase in COVID cases related to the Delta variant, our trolley tours are pausing once again. Join our email list to be notified when tours resume, send an email to [info@friendsofpagewalker.org](mailto:info@friendsofpagewalker.org). If you’re interested in booking a private group tour, send an email to [carytrolley@gmail.com](mailto:carytrolley@gmail.com).

## Cary Me Back

To advance our mission of historic preservation and history education during these times when regular programming isn't possible, the Friends formed a COVID-19 Response Committee and one of their activities has been to share stories from Cary's past on our "Cary Me Back" blog on our website.

To advance our mission of historic preservation and history education during these times when regular programming wasn't possible, the Friends formed a COVID-19 Response Committee and one of their activities has been to share stories from Cary's past on our "[Cary Me Back](#)" blog.

The Friends are transitioning this committee to become a Community Outreach committee. We will continue to provide historic content through our social media platforms and our blog. Following are some highlights:

### Ashworth's Origins

Did you know that the location where Ashworth's Drugstore currently sits started out as "Uncle Bob's Corner"? Who was Uncle Bob and what was his corner? Carla Michaels tells the story; here are some excerpts:

In 1879, Frank Page sold a prime corner lot at the intersection of Academy and Chatham Streets to a lady named Alice G Harrison, the wife of Robert J Harrison, owner of Harrison Wagon Company, inventor and future mayor of the town of Cary. The southwest corner of the intersection became the home of the Harrison family and was conveniently located close to the wagon works.



Mr. Harrison, pictured, ran a café and store on this corner in a two-story wood sided building that was built on the property that Alice Harrison had bought many years before. "Uncle Bob", as he was known to students from Cary High School, was a popular figure at the school and in town.

### Grocery Stores Galore

[In 1855], when there were only little more than 200 people living in the area, Frank [Page] built and opened the first general store, probably on Railroad Street, now called Cedar Street.



Around the turn of the 20th century, John Wesley Booth Jr. opened a general store on his farmland on Reedy Creek at Harrison Avenue, north of the Cary town limits. He and his family ran it for decades.

By 1900, when Cary's population had grown to 316, another general store owned by Wiley Jones opened on Railroad Street. And soon after, Captain Guess and Mr. Cole opened their grocery store on the corner of Academy and Jones Streets.



The Scott brothers opened a grocery store in a wooden building at 123 West Chatham Street in the early 1900s...

By 1930, there were seven grocery stores open and operating on Chatham Street. Why so many grocery stores? Because, beginning with the Highway Act of 1921, U.S. 1 and 64, and later U.S. 70 and 54 as well fed into and down Chatham Street, right through Cary. Businesses sprung up all long Chatham Street for the motorists passing through, as well as gas stations and places to eat and spend the night. Remnants of those businesses still exist today.



Eleven years ago in 2010, the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel's Special Events committee worked on a plan to develop an event, featuring herbs, that would celebrate and promote the beautiful herb gardens located on the grounds of the Page-Walker Arts & History Center. The Board members readily supported the idea and Herbifest was born! The annual event is co-sponsored by the Friends and the Town of Cary and is held in early May.

Our first Herbifest was hosted on May 15, 2010. We welcomed 10 vendors who sold herbs and a variety of garden-related crafts. Three other vendors offered herb-

related demos, such as cooking with herbs and natural health & beauty aids.

Over the next nine years, Herbifest has been celebrated each May. The beautiful grounds of the Page-Walker Arts & History Center in downtown Cary are covered with white tents where vendors sell items related to gardening, herbs, native plants, perennials, nature and cooking. Guests can stroll through these craft and herb booths and enjoy learning about herbs in the beautiful Anne Kratzer Educational Gardens. In addition to visits to the Gardens, over the years the Friends have added



other key events at the festival. ...

We are excited and hopeful at the prospect of hosting our 11th annual Herbifest in May, 2022. We look forward to welcoming back our vendors and sponsors and all of you, our community supporters. Please watch our website and follow our social media next spring for news about the festival.



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If you're interested in the complete stories about Uncle Bob's Corner, Cary's groceries, Herbifest and other memories of Cary's past — along with lots of images and pictures — we invite you to read our [blog](#).



A garden is a delight to the eye and a solace for the soul. – Saadi

**T**he Persian poet Saadi wrote this in the 1200s, but it could easily have been written today about the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Gardens at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center. From the time we gathered in April to welcome spring, through the heat of summer, the gardens have continued to delight the many visitors who pass through and linger for a moment of peace.

May and June brought bursts of growth and vibrant colors to our gardens, where peonies sported vivid pink blooms, while valerian, betony, and yarrows added white, pale pink, and red to the lush greens of tansy, winter tarragon, and horseradish, just to name a few. As the early flowers fade, clumps of black-eyed Susan are ready to explode with summer's golden yellow and black – striking! Hyacinth beans that struggled in the spring are now reaching for the skies as they climb the poles of their bamboo teepee. Beauty, wherever you look, and we do hope you'll come for a visit soon.

We continue to honor the educational aspect of our gardens, with garden committee chair Marla Dorrel presenting a Facebook livestream tour in May. The tour included a rare peek inside the ca. 1840 Page smokehouse, the historic focal point of the gardens. Early in July, Marla led an in-person tour for a group from Cambridge Village, who withstood summer sun and hot temperatures to learn many of the historical uses of the gardens' plants.

Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace. – May Sarton

None of this would be possible without the work of our dedicated corps of volunteers, who take on maintenance duties in two-week assignments, April through early November. Our volunteers have varying degrees of expertise, but all are willing to do the work it takes to keep our gardens looking their best. New gardeners are always welcome! To join our gardening team, contact us at [info@friendsofpagewalker.org](mailto:info@friendsofpagewalker.org).

## Cary's Green Thumb

### THE STORY OF BEN SAVAGE AND HIS PARK

[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]

Construction on the new Downtown Cary Park is underway, but secrets of the land are just being uncovered. How fitting that an early owner of at least part of the property, Benjamin Oliver Savage, originally from Scotland Neck, NC, loved plants and getting his hands in the dirt.

Ben Savage was born in 1845 in Halifax County, NC. By 1870, he had land and was married with two young daughters. But in 1871, sorrow struck with the loss of his beloved wife Anna. He published a tribute to her shortly after her death, which read in part, "Oh! Wretched me, my Annie has flown with the angels to heaven, and has left me.... Oh, how I loved my Annie..." It was signed "By her Bennie".



During this time, he worked on inventions for his farming operation. He developed a pea and bean harvester, a rice harvester, and a labor-saving machine that picked and sacked cotton along the rows. The pea and rice pickers were exhibited at the Goldsboro NC fair and won first prize. He also applied for patents for his machines and went on to produce and sell them.

Also during this time, a new family moved to the area. Dr. E. W. Owen of Oxford moved with his family to Scotland Neck and set up his practice. His older daughter, Alice Owen, had married Dr. Samuel P. Waldo in 1869, while Dr. Waldo began his medical practice in Oxford after graduating

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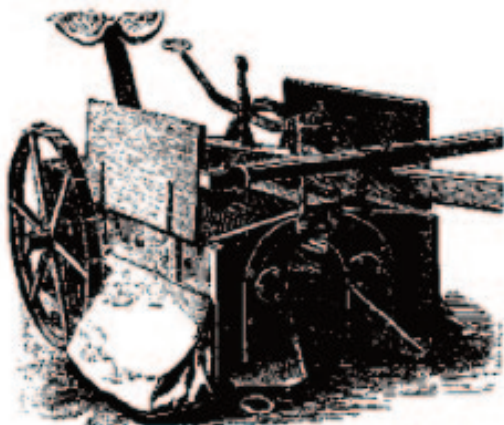


FIG. 56.—Pea and bean harvester.

ing delivered on the wagon in two bents, one behind the other. The wagon-rack is necessarily low on the side next the harvester. To unload quickly, the right-hand wagon-wheels are lowered by running them in a trench prepared at the place of unloading, and the corn is rolled off at the side.

*Pea and Bean Harvester.*—B. O. Savage's pea and bean harvester (Fig. 56) straddles the row and brings the peas or beans in contact with two revolving cylinders supplied with picker-teeth to comb the pods from the vines, shell the seeds, and deposit them in sacks. Five acres per day are claimed as its duty.

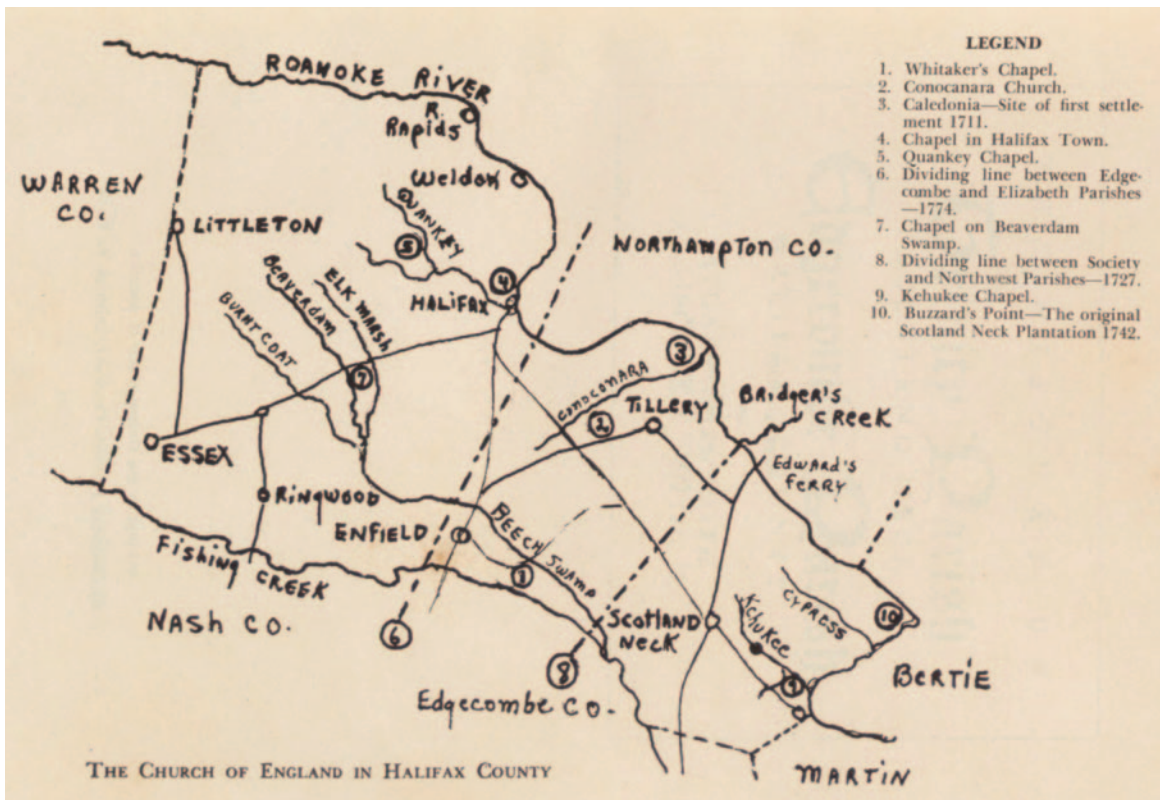
The "Moline" bean-harvester (Fig. 55) unearths the vines and lays the complete growth of two rows loosely in a windrow, ready to be loaded, midway between their original place, without shelling by any violent agitation.

from medical school. The Waldo family moved to Cary around 1874. It was at the time of this move that Dr. Owen moved to Scotland Neck with his wife and younger daughter Lillian. Lillian Owen married Ben Savage in 1875.

It's unclear what precipitated Ben Savage's move to Cary, but his father died in 1891, as did his brother-in-law, Dr. S. P. Waldo of Cary. Based on a newspaper account in 1897, the Savage family had moved to Cary some 3 or 4 years earlier, but sorrow followed them to Cary. Ben's wife Lillian died in 1897 following the death of a daughter by his first marriage, Julia, in 1896.

The personal challenges he faced didn't stop him from pursuing his passion for all things green. He bought land in downtown Cary from the heirs of Rufus Jones and heirs of Josephine Edwards on the east side of Academy Street. He used this land to establish Valley Nook Decorative Landscape Nursery and Rose Farm, part of which is on the site of the Downtown Cary Park. The entrance to the Nursery was on Academy Street, where the home of Dr. John P. Hunter sits now. Ben had been known as a "great fruit and nut man" and built on that reputation in Cary by growing strawberries and raspberries, among other fruits, and planting trees, especially nut trees, which he recommended as a source of income. He even sold raspberry vines to the State Prison in Raleigh and made a contribution of grapevines to an orphanage in the Charlotte area. His wisdom about horticultural subjects was sought after. When asked why, at the age of 73 (in 1918) he continued to plant pecan trees, he replied, "I plant some fruit or pecan trees every year... I shall plant trees every year as long as I live. I am never happier than when I am planting

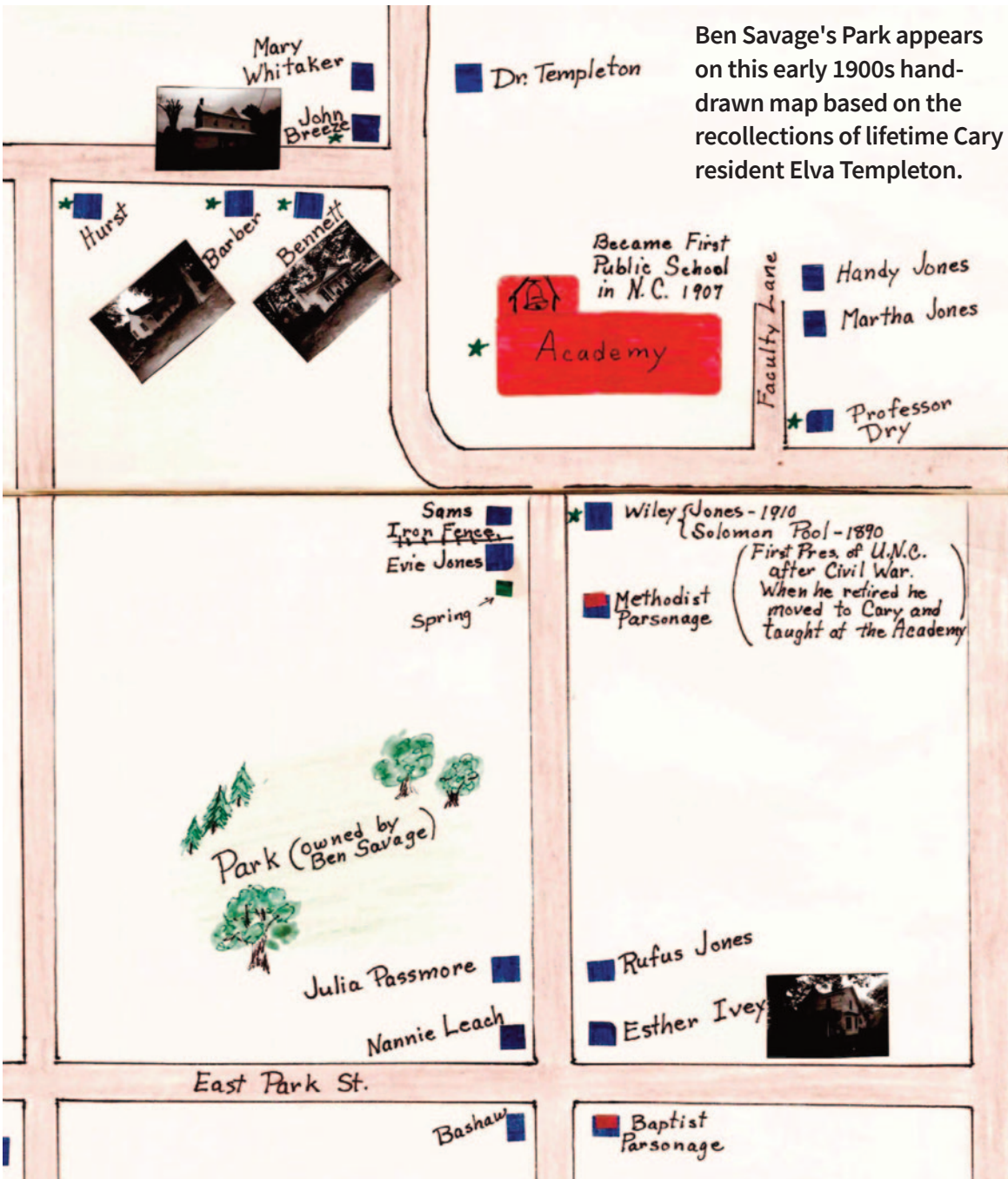
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something.” Some of the pecan trees dotted around the new park might even have been planted by Ben!

Benjamin Savage continued to live in Cary as a widower until his death at the age of 83 in 1928. He is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery along with his wife Lillian.

When the new park is complete and the trees growing and plants blooming, I hope you will think of Ben Savage, his green thumb, and the beauty and joy so important to Ben Savage that is being created once again in this corner of Cary.



Ben Savage's Park appears on this early 1900s hand-drawn map based on the recollections of lifetime Cary resident Elva Templeton.



## One in a “Mullein”

Mullein [pronounced MUH-luhn] is a biennial herbal plant that has been around since ancient times and grows all over the country. This herb historically has been used as a remedy for coughs, congestion and other respiratory problems (but of course, as with all herbal treatments, always check with a medical practitioner before using). Mullein tea was also popular to help with digestive issues in olden days.

This has been a banner growth year in the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Gardens for this plant. Stop by to see it and many other herbs at the gardens located next to the Page-Walker Arts & History Center. The gardens are maintained by volunteers; visitors are asked to avoid picking any part of the plants so that everyone may enjoy them.



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# A BIG THANK YOU!

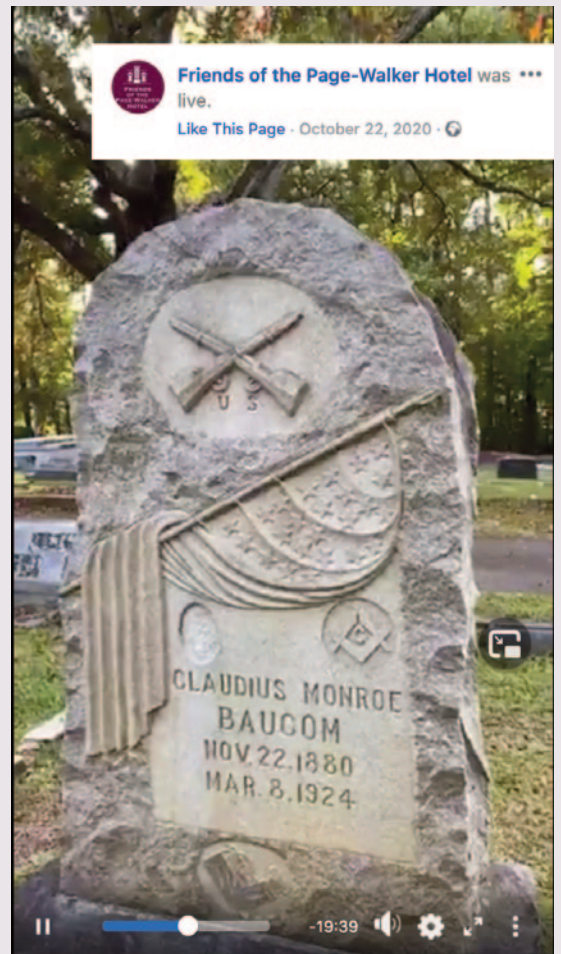
**Kris Carmichael, Jennifer Hocken and Matthew Champagne** for all of their work at the Page-Walker, including the new look of the Cary Heritage Museum, updating the exhibits, taking care of the building, overseeing the installation of the new porch and countless hours of research to update the history of this special place.



Volunteers from Cary First Christian Church and the Friends of the Page-Walker who researched and compiled the content for the cemetery project: **George Bailey, Pastor Mycal Brickhouse, Marilyn Carney, Barbara Engram, Pat Fish, Jimmy Gibbs, Carla Michaels, Brent Miller, Susan Reaves, Peggy Van Scoyok and Barbara Wetmore.**

The team that updated the Friends' history publication *Cary Through the Years*. Led by **Peggy Van Scoyoc**, other contributors were **Carla Michaels, Kay Struffolino, Barbara Wetmore, Brent Miller, Leesa Brinkley, Kris Carmichael and Jennifer Hocken.**

**Trish Kirkpatrick and Bob Myers**, who have worked tirelessly to develop a platform for the Friends Photo Partners Project.

**Kerry Mead** for an exceptional job as the Friends' board secretary for the past several years, and **Michael Rubes** for offering to take on this role going forward.



-  [www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel](https://www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel)
-  [www.instagram.com/friendsofpagewalker/](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofpagewalker/)
-  [www.youtube.com/user/CaryHistory](https://www.youtube.com/user/CaryHistory)
-  [www.linkedin.com/in/friends-of-the-page-walker-5488a0161/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/friends-of-the-page-walker-5488a0161/)

## Socially Distant

### FRIENDS KICK IT UP SEVERAL NOTCHES

Have you visited the Friends' social media pages recently? If not, you might be surprised to see how far we've advanced.

During this time when we can't get together in person, the Friends have revamped and reenergized our social media presence, and it has paid off – we've been breaking records for likes, followers and views!

Our Facebook livestreams have garnered thousands of viewers, we're now on Instagram and our YouTube channel is getting more views (we're even on LinkedIn if you want to connect with us there).

Big thanks to Heather Leah and Kerry Mead for their tremendous efforts to ensure that the Friends are so social! Check back frequently, as we're always adding new content!

You also can always virtually visit us at [friendsofpagewalker.org](https://friendsofpagewalker.org)

# LET'S BE Friends!

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.

It's easy to become a member! You can join or renew your membership [here](#). You will receive an email notification when your membership is due for renewal. If you haven't renewed for 2021, please do so today. You can also become a member using the form on page 28.

## THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS

Hal Bowman &	Jewell Field	Bob Myers
Mercedes Auger	Pat Fish	Sheila Ogle
Cynthia Baker	Charlene Jones	Sandy Pearce
Susan Joan	Maggie Kehoe	Anne Pelham
Smiley Baker	Anne Kratzer	Cathy Richmond
Frances	Trish Kirkpatrick	Judi Rourke &
Blanchard	Jack & Nancy	Michael Rubes
Cortney	Leavell	Nancy Ryan
Bonvillain	John Loyack	Jennifer Shorter
Jim Bustrack	John Lytvinenko	Kay Struffolino
Leesa Brinkley	Kerry Mead	Peggy Van Scoyoc
Lisa Dove	Lynn McKenzie	Paul Wasylkevych
Marla Dorrel	Carla Michaels	Barbara Wetmore
J. Michael	Jennifer Midthun	Chip Wooten
Edwards	Brent Miller	Ed Yerha

## BOARD MEMBERS

Your Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel board members are these volunteers: Lisa Banks, Mina Bayraktar (Teen Council representative), Marilyn Carney, Bryan Craddock, Michael Edwards, Pat Fish (treasurer, lifetime member), Kirk Fuller, Jimmy Gibbs, Andy Kirk, Trish Kirkpatrick, Anne Kratzer (lifetime member), Katherine Loflin, John Loyack (president), Kerry Mead, Carla Michaels, Brent Miller, Bob Myers, Cathy Richmond, Judi Rourke, Michael Rubes (secretary), Kay Struffolino, Pat Sweeney, Chinmay Talikoti, Peggy Van Scoyoc (vice president), Barbara Wetmore and Ed Yerha (Cary Town Council liaison).

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; and alternate Town Council liaison and Cary co-founder Jack Smith.

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](http://www.carychamber.com) and [www.heartofcary.org](http://www.heartofcary.org).



## 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](mailto:info@friendsofpagewalker.org)  
[www.friendsofpagewalker.org](http://www.friendsofpagewalker.org)

Information about the Friends  
President John Loyack 919-703-5359



[www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel](https://www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel)



[www.instagram.com/  
friendsofpagewalker/](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofpagewalker/)



[www.youtube.com/user/CaryHistory](https://www.youtube.com/user/CaryHistory)



[www.linkedin.com/in/  
friends-of-the-page-walker-5488a0161/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/friends-of-the-page-walker-5488a0161/)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Page-Walker Arts & History Center currently is closed because of COVID-19 restrictions. You can check on the status of the Page-Walker [here](#).

In the meantime, why not visit the Page-Walker and the Friends online? You can even take a virtual tour of the building and the grounds [here](#).

# Begin or Renew Your Membership Today!

To join the Friends, or renew your existing membership, visit [www.friendsofpagewalker.org](http://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:

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### Brick 2:

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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