

CORBETT CEMETERY MEMORANDUM

14 June 2008

THIS WAS THE DAY!!!! Dr Rhett Herman of Radford University, based on a county contract, led a volunteer team in a successful search in Douglas Park for the graves of Sewell B Corbett and his wife Jane Watrous Corbett. Two previous attempts had achieved less than desired results. On this sunny day, new equipment, skilled technical leadership and good weather enabled the team to positively detect two graves at the site previously identified by eye witnesses (Brenda and Robyn Carter) who had lived on So Randolph Street. Many photos were taken and the sites of the two graves are temporarily marked with blue flags. A GPS reading will be next. Eyewitnesses remembered a third grave but none was detected. (Brenda Carter noted that as soon as she heard the first name of Sewell B Corbett, she remembered the name on a broken stone as “Sewell” and had thought that to be the family name.)

Volunteers assisting Dr
Herman were:

Brenda and Robyn Carter
Larry Dellinger
Andy Johnson
Marianne Petrino-Shaad
Buddy and Mrs Riggles
Ed Roberts
Tom Shaad
Lee D Stone
Lisa Twedt
Dan, Dillon and Evan
Voldol



Special thanks to Kurt Louis, Parks Service Area Manager, who responded to our request to remove steel sign posts to facilitate survey accuracy and to that department for temporarily closing the parking lot so we could scan a part of it.

Volunteer Larry Dellinger is a native of Arlington and lived on South 18th Street since 1958. He remembers 3 or 4 other grave stones in a hollow

behind the Skelton house (now occupied by John Lewis and probably 4109) on that street. Robyn Carter, who lived on So Randolph as a child, also remembered those stones across the valley from her house on So Randolph. Larry remembers them as thin stones with inscriptions no longer readable in 1962. He does not remember if they were down or standing. So far as we know, these stones are in no way associated with the Corbett family. Larry recommends we speak with Bruce “Rahml” or “Rahmlow” living in the vicinity of 1804-08 So Pollard Street. Bruce had lived on South Quincy and knows much about the neighborhood. He also recommends contacting Russell B Anderson whose father ran a paving construction company by that name.

Also joining us were Buddy and Mrs. Riggles who live on that part of So Randolph St. north of 16th Street. He is a long time resident and testifies that the Dotson family graveyard lies across So Randolph Street from his house. A daughter of the Dotson family, Ella, lives on So Quincy near the park (in the house with asbestos shingles) and can tell more about her family and their graveyard. Again, we know of no connection between the Corbett family and the Dotson family graveyard.

Marianne continues her most laudable research into the Corbett family and has donated to the Virginia Room of the Arlington Library, a copy of the book, “*Descendants of Robert Corbett, Thirteen Generations.*” 1995, by Gordon L and James L Corbett. This genealogy traces the Corbett family for many generations but is silent on burial locations in the Douglas Park neighborhood.

Dr Herman will make his report to Arlington County and will provide electronic access to the survey results for our volunteers and to the civic association. The History Committee of DPCA plans to summarize available information on the Corbett family as it relates to the burials in the Douglas Park and the role of the family in the history of South Arlington. Contributions of information and expressions of interest are most welcome.

Andy Johnson

Chairman, History Committee
Douglas Park Civic Association

amjohnson@juno.com

(703) 892-4247