A photograph of a cemetery path at sunrise or sunset. The path is paved and runs down the center of the frame. On either side of the path are numerous tombstones of various shapes and sizes, some with flowers. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a cooler season. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and long shadows. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and historical.

Parsons Cemetery's Historic Walking Tour
Part Two (1914-2022)

TOUR OVERVIEW

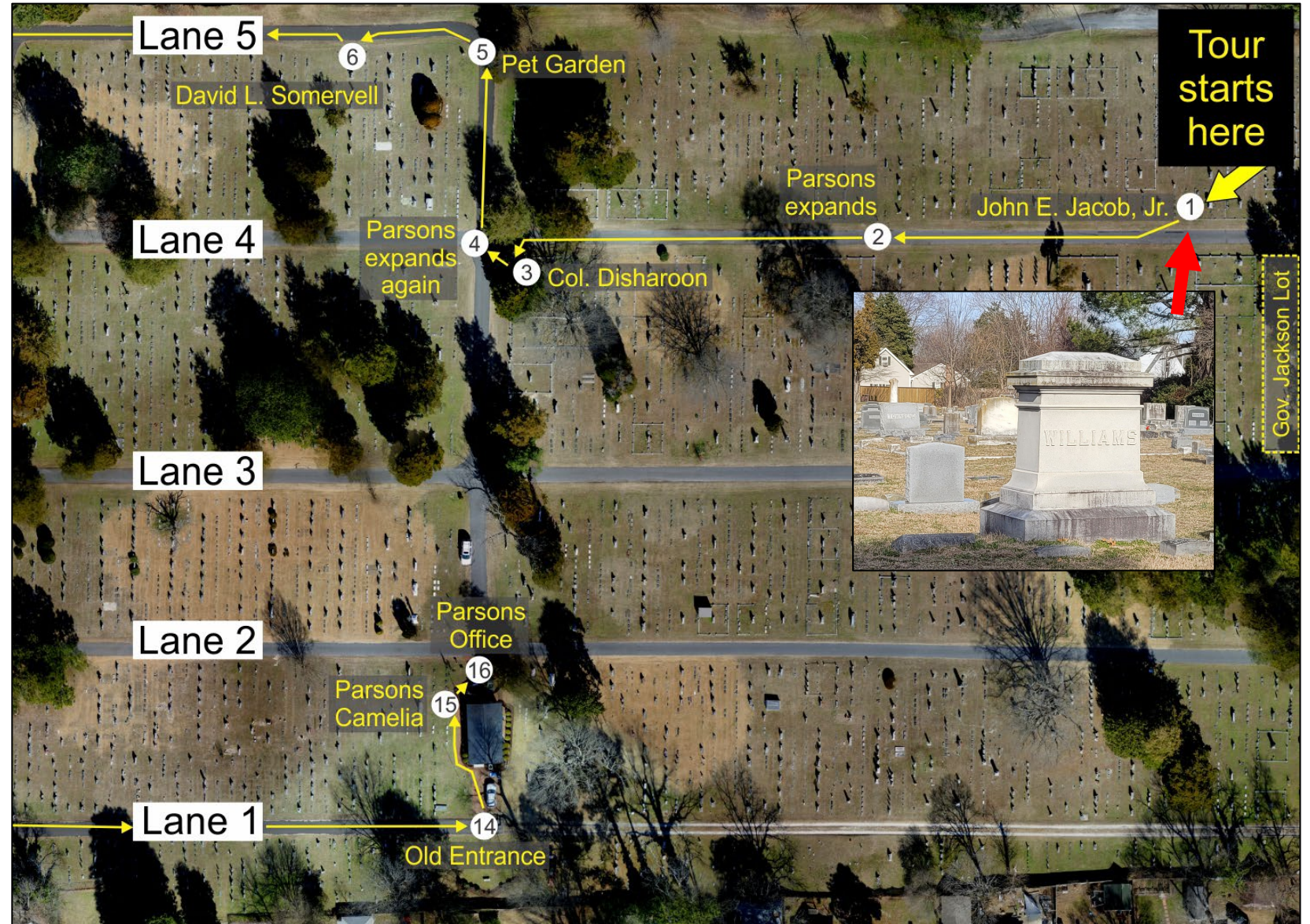
This tour provides a general overview of Parsons Cemetery's later history (1914-2022). It focuses primarily on the western half of Parsons and includes information about some of the more notable persons interred within. The total walking distance is ½ mile and it should take approximately 1 hour to complete. This tour is designed to be viewed on a standard-sized cell phone held in landscape view.

The tour starts on Lane 4 and ends at the cemetery office on Lane 2. *It is recommended that you complete Historic Tour #1 first.*



Stop 1 – John E. Jacob, Jr. (1915-2013)

This tour starts at the Williams family lot which is just north of the Governor Jackson family lot along Lane 4. Stop 1 is approximately 500 feet from the main gate on Lane 4. Once you have reached the tour's starting point, please proceed to the next slide.

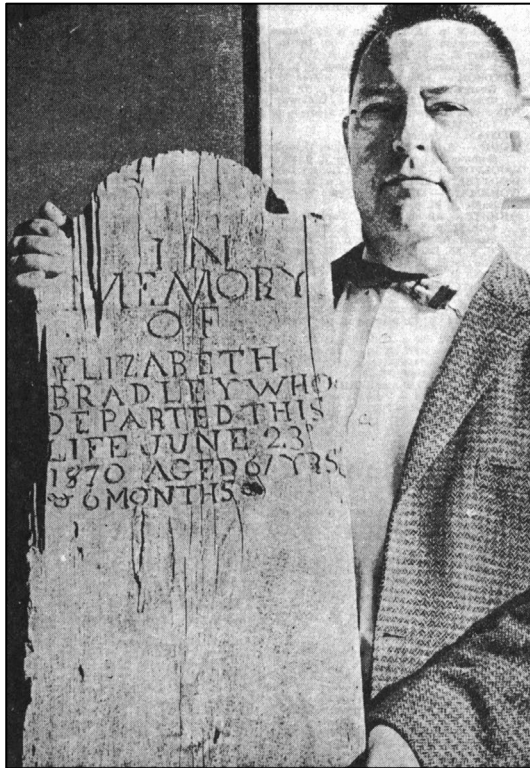


Stop 1 – John E. Jacob, Jr. (1915-2013)

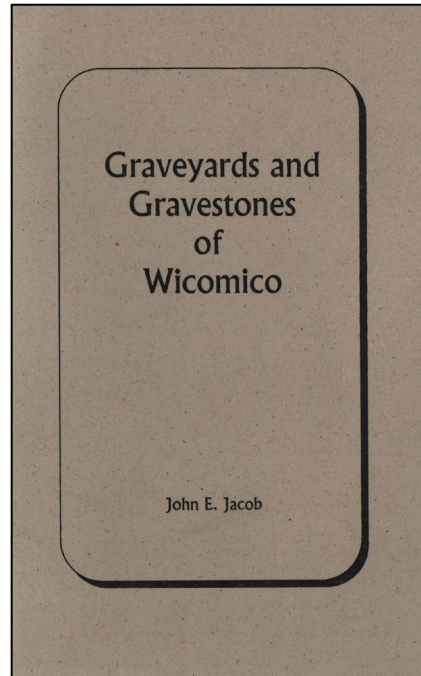
“John E. Jacob is considered among the founders of many Salisbury organizations including Salisbury Exchange Club, the Lower Eastern Shore Genealogical Society, and the Salisbury Zoo. He also served as the President of the Wicomico Historical Society and the Wicomico County Bicentennial Commission.”

“Jacob also kept a history research office and researched Maryland history for many years. Jacob was the author of Graveyards and Gravestones of Wicomico, the History of Wicomico Presbyterian Church, and five postcard history books of the lower eastern shore published by Arcadia Publishers, in addition to three other books that he co-authored.”

From the [John Jacob collection](#), Nabb Center, Salisbury University



From *Graveyards and Gravestones of Wicomico*



This book has been crucial for the recent mapping of Parsons Cemetery. Markers that can't be read now were thankfully transcribed by John Jacob in the 1970s.



Left Jesse Townsend b. Dec. 27, 1767, converted Aug., 1800, d. Aug. 31, 1816



Right Susan U. W. Dashiell b. July 12, 1811 d. Jan. 27, 1867

Next Stop: 2

Continue west along Lane 4 until you reach the boundary marker between Section OP and Section A, which will be on your right (see below). Then proceed to the next slide.



Stop 2 – Parsons Expands - Section A

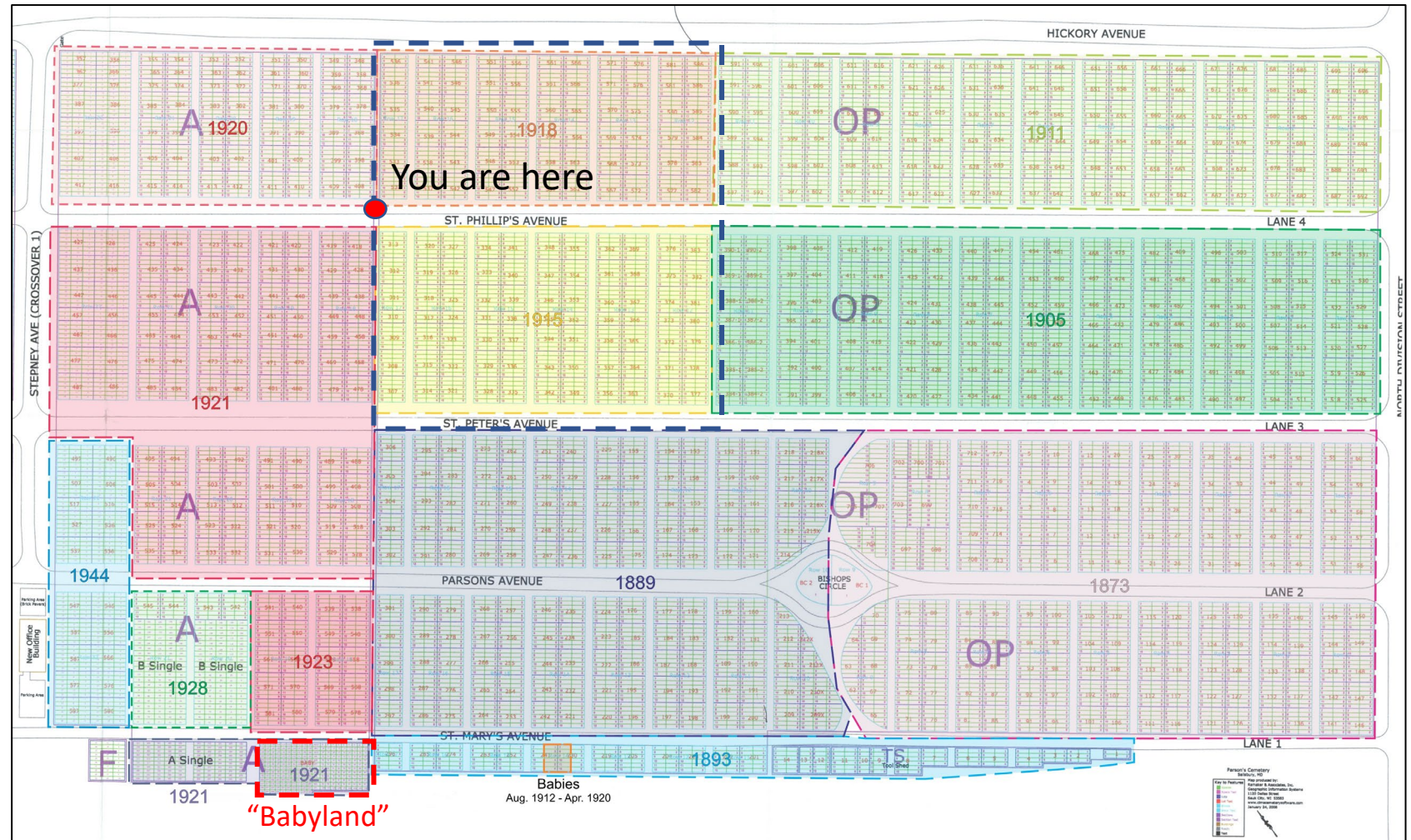
In 1914 Parsons opened the last section of OP (Old Part) for sale (dashed area). Little did they know that the flu epidemic of 1918 (Tour #1, Stop 15) would quickly fill this section up. A new section, Section A, was quickly developed in the early 1920s, including an area for singles and a new section for babies.

Wicomico News, Dec. 3, 1914

New Section Cemetery Opened.

Director Wm. E. Dorman, who has the management of Parsons Cemetery has thrown open the last section of ground remaining unsold in the cemetery. This section is the Northwest end of the property and it has been put in proper shape to lay off in lots. There are about 135 lots for sale in this new part and several applications are already in for some of the lots. When these lots are all taken there will remain but a few half lots scattered over the cemetery for sale. Mr. Dorman estimates that he has enough lots to supply the demand for at least two and a half years at the rate lots have been selling for the past three years.

Heads of families should take time by the forelock and secure a plot in this new section before it has been sold. Under Mr. Dorman's management the cemetery is being improved all the time and the grounds kept



Next Stop: 3

Continue west along Lane 4 until you reach the crossover. To your left is the Disharoon family lot and Stop 3. Please proceed to the next slide.



Stop 3 - Colonel Charles Robbins Disharoon (1858-1930)

As you can see in his obituary (right), Col. Disharoon had a long and accomplished career as a businessman and a political leader. Col. Disharoon is one of many former Salisbury mayors interred in Parsons Cemetery. He also served on the Salisbury City Council, in the Maryland House of Delegates and in the State Senate. He was instrumental in the foundation of Salisbury University.



Learn more about the important political figures interred in Parsons on our Community Leaders walking tour!



Photo downloaded from Find-a-Grave – submitted by “2patriots”

STROKE FATAL EX-SENATOR DISHAROON

Ill For Nearly Three Years,
Death Occurs After Paralytic
Stroke This Morning

WAS LONG ACTIVE IN
INDUSTRY AND FINANCE

Funeral Services Will Be Con-
ducted From Late Home
Wednesday

Former State Senator Charles R. Disharoon died at his home on N. Division street at 12:15 o'clock this afternoon following a paralytic stroke.

For nearly three years he had been in ill health and under constant medical care. Much of that time he was confined to his bed or home. At 9 o'clock this morning he suffered a slight paralytic stroke while in bed and did not regain consciousness before his death.

Funeral services will be held from the late home at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, Rev. Robert A. Boyle officiating. Interment will be in Parsons Cemetery.

Until incapacitated by declining health Senator Disharoon was an outstanding figure in industrial and political realms of city and state and influential in banking circles.

The son of William A. and Hattie Ann Disharoon, he was born near Powellville, in Worcester county, January 21, 1858, one of seven children.

Educated in the Worcester public schools, he later graduated from Snow Hill high school and afterwards taught at Willards. Afterwards he entered the mercantile business at Powellville.

There he met and married Miss Cornelia Burbage who died in April 1919. Two children, Walter B. and Dora, were born to this union. The former survives and has been closely associated with his father in business here.

In 1893 he came to Salisbury and engaged in the lumber manufacturing business with the late E. S. Adkins. Five years later he was associated with John William Gordy in the same business under the firm name of Gordy-Disharoon Company. Three years later he organized the Salisbury Crate and Barrel Company and finally in 1907, he formed the C. R. Disharoon Company on Brown street which was the beginning of the present corporation bearing that name. He remained its president until his death.

Always a factor in county politics, he held several elective offices. After serving two terms in the City Council, he was elected Mayor in 1900 and re-elected two years later.

In 1906, 1912 and 1916 he was elected to the House of Delegates and in 1920 became Senator. After a defeat by a narrow margin for re-election in 1924 he retired from public office.

The outstanding accomplishment of his career was his advocacy of an Eastern Shore State Normal School. An Act creating such an institution was passed in 1922. Senator Disharoon was named chairman of the commission to select a site and initiate the building program. The site chosen was on Camden avenue, then on the outskirts of the city but which has later been taken into the corporate limits. One of his expressed desires was to donate an athletic field to the institution, but death has intervened.

In 1923 he was elected president of the Peoples National Bank, then located in Masonic Temple, North Division street, succeeding Vandalia Perry. When that bank merged with the Central Bank and became a branch of the Eastern Shore Trust Company, he continued as president. This position, however, he resigned in January 1928 when the condition of his health would not permit his active interest in the bank.

He remarried in 1922, choosing as his wife, Miss Mary Donoghay, of Bridgeton, N. J., who also survives him.

The prefix “Colonel” by which he is known familiarly among friends was given him by appointment to the gubernatorial staff during the administration of Emerson C. Harrington.

He was a member and former president of the Rotary Club and was affiliated with the Masonic, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Red Men and Elks fraternities.

The Daily Times Feb. 17, 1930



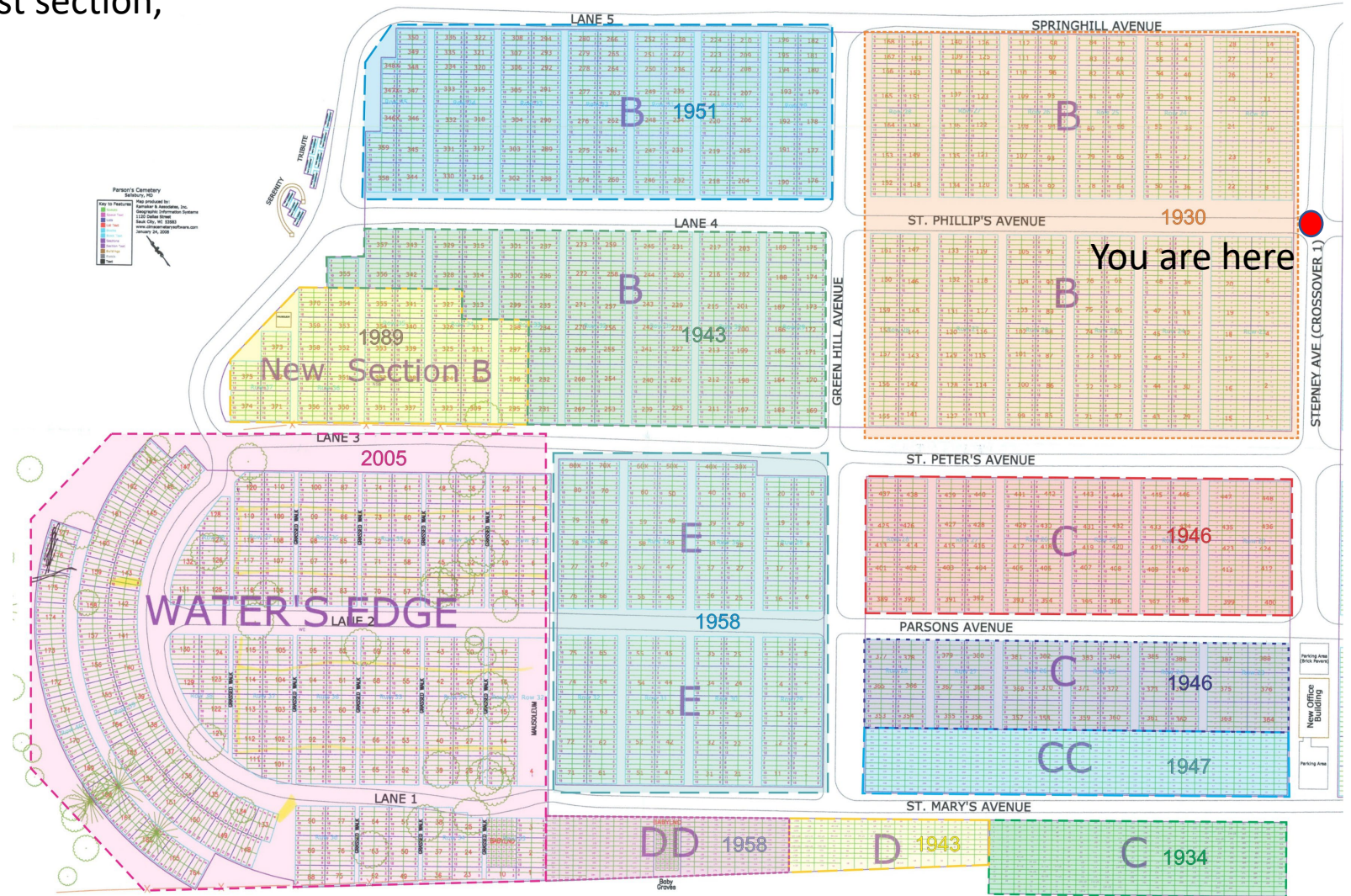
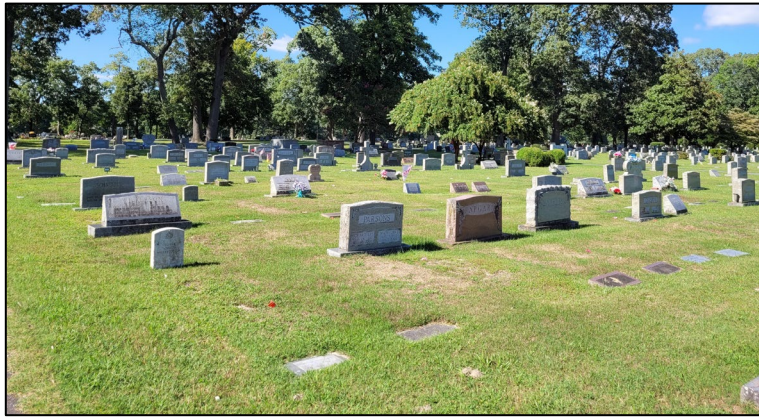
Next Stop: 4

You only need travel a few steps back into the center of the crossover to reach Stop 4. Please proceed to the next slide.



Stop 4 – Parsons' Growth Continues

By 1930, Parsons was once again running out of room. Section B, a large section which eventually grew all the way to the banks of Johnson Pond, was opened at this time. Expansion continued southward and westward leading to the creation of sections C, CC, D, DD and E until the last section, Water's Edge, was opened in 2005.



Next Stop: 5

Now proceed north on the crossover until you reach the bend in the road at Lane 5.

Stop 5 is on the right.
Proceed to the next slide.



Stop 5 – Delmarva Pet Garden

The newest addition to Parsons Cemetery, the [Delmarva Pet Garden](#) was developed in 2022 using funds from a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

The Pet Garden sits on the base of an old road that used to connect Hickory Ave. with Lane 5.



Next Stop: 6

Now proceed west on Lane 5 for about 90 feet. Stop 6 is on your left. Proceed to the next slide.



Stop 6 – David Lynn Somervell

Our next stop is the marker for David Lynn Somervell, a WWII Air Corps veteran who went missing in January 1944 after his plane went down over the South Pacific. David's body was never recovered.

The marker you see in front of you is an example of a **cenotaph** – “a monument to someone buried elsewhere, especially one commemorating people who died in a war.” *Oxford Dictionary*



Lt. David Somervell Missing After Mission Over Rabaul

Bombardier David L. Somervell of Salisbury, notified of his promotion to 1st lieutenant Jan. 1, has been reported missing in action in the South Pacific since Jan. 14, according to information received here by his sister, Mrs. Alexine S. Lowe, and brother, G. S. Somervell, Russell Ave.

The message stated he was miss-

The Daily Times, Jan. 21, 1944

Learn more about the WWII veterans in Parsons on our 20th Century Veterans Tour

ing after a mission over Rabaul, which was in addition to the 35 missions he had completed over enemy territory. For these he recently was given recognition.

He was awarded the Air Medal and was a recipient of three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Lt. Somervell, graduate of Wicomico High School, attended the State Teachers College here. He was inducted in the Army May 16, 1941, transferring to the Air Corps in July of 1942.

He earned his wings at Big Spring Bombardier Training School, Big Spring, Tex., in February, 1943.

He went overseas last July. In one of his most recent letters to relatives here, he told them of his promotion.

Next Stop: 7

Continue west on Lane 5 for about 500 feet. Stop 7 is on your left as shown below and on the next slide.



Stop 7 – George W. Parsons (1915-2000)

George W. Parsons bequeathed substantial funding to the Parsons Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund, managed by the [Community Foundation of Eastern Shore](#). This perpetual care fund will be used to care for the cemetery in perpetuity. But we are still a long ways from our final goal....



You can help us! Please consider a [donation](#) to the Parsons Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund – your money will help keep Historic Parsons Cemetery properly maintained for decades to come!



Next Stop: 8

Continue west on Lane 5 until you reach Johnson's Pond, then continue south on the crossover road. Stop 8 is at the columbaria on your right.



Stop 8 – The Columbaria

Parsons installed these columbaria so our patrons could permanently inter their loved ones' ashes in a beautiful, serene setting.

A recently discovered newspaper advertisement shows that in the early 1930s, the Parsons Advisory Committee was considering building a large mausoleum "Stonehaven" in Parsons Cemetery. It's not clear where this mausoleum would have been built. We can only assume it was never built because of a lack of interest.



The Daily Times (Salisbury, Maryland) · 10 Oct 1931, Sat · Page 8



"STONEHAVEN" A Community Mausoleum

The Committee in charge of
PARSONS CEMETERY FOR SALISBURY PARISH CHOOSE
"STONEHAVEN"

as an appropriate name to give to the
BEAUTIFUL MAUSOLEUM
to be erected by the
ATLANTIC MAUSOLEUM CO.
of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

We take pleasure in presenting the Artist conception of this stately structure

Complete plans may be viewed at the Business Office of the Parish—215 North
Division Street or a phone call to 418 will bring an accredited representative to
further advise with you.

Signed: THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF SALISBURY PARISH
F. W. C. Webb, Chairman
Dr. Riall White
David Dallas, Treasurer

Next Stop: 9

Stop 9 is only 50 feet away. If you turn and face south, you should see an unusual family headstone built out of stones (Cooper). This is Stop 9. Please proceed to the next slide.



Stop 9 – Richard Waller Cooper, Sr. (1913-2003)

Beloved Salisbury Historian

Richard Waller Cooper Sr., (1913-2003) was born in Salisbury. He graduated from Wicomico High School in 1931 and the University of Maryland in 1935. Cooper was a surveyor for fifty years after starting his own business Richard W. Cooper Engineering Surveys in 1945 (he received MD State's Surveyor of the Year Award in 1980).

Cooper later became a well-known author and columnist for the Daily Times and an avid historian of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He was also important in the continued development and expansion of Parsons Cemetery in the 1980s (next slide).

Richard Waller Cooper

SALISBURY — Richard Waller Cooper, 89, Salisbury historian, surveyor, developer and author, died peacefully at his home in Tony Tank on Saturday, July 26, 2003.



Richard Waller Cooper

Born in Salisbury on Nov. 16, 1913, he was the youngest of two sons of the late Franklin Kent and Lucy Virginia Waller Cooper.

Mr. Cooper was a lifelong member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He received his primary and secondary education in Salisbury. He attended Washington College and was a 1934 graduate of the University of Maryland College Park, where he was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity. An accomplished pianist, he formed his own dance band in college, The Dick Cooper Combo, which performed for several years on the Eastern Shore.

After college, he returned to Salisbury and worked for the city as a surveyor, then for Martin/Schwartz during World War II. He established his own highly successful land surveying firm from 1946 to 1986 and was one of the developers of Pinehurst Manor, Timberlake, Colony East and Tony Tank. He served on the Maryland Geological Survey Commission for 36 years and was named Maryland Surveyor of the Year in 1980. He was an honorary member of the Eastern Shore Society of Surveyors and a member of the Maryland Association of Surveyors.

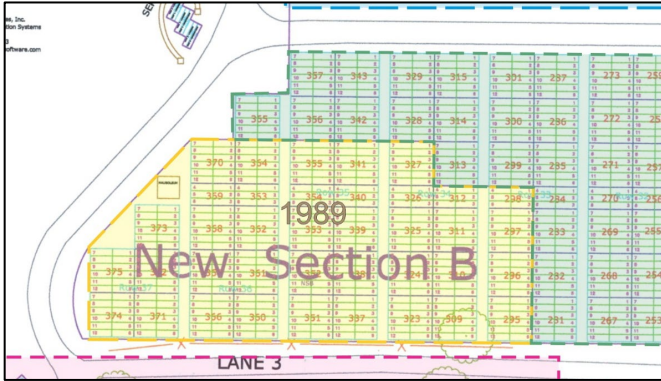
In 1987, he published his first book, "Profile of a Colonial Community." He was a co-recipient of the Maryland Historical Trust Award in 1989. In 1991, he published his second book, "Salisbury in Times Gone By." In 1992, he received the Polly White Burnett Historical Preservation Award, and in 1993 was appointed the official historian of Salisbury. In 1994, he received the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce Award. Also in 1994, he published his third book, "Portrait of Salisbury, Maryland." In 1999, he was co-recipient with longtime colleague Richard "Dick Moore" of the coveted Salisbury Award.

He is most remembered for his regular columns in The Daily Times, where he mixed his Eastern Shore wit with historical wisdom that spanned Salisbury's early beginnings to present day.

The Daily Times
Tue, Jul 29, 2003 · Page 4



As mentioned in article to the right, in 1989 a wooded section was cleared, and "New Section B" (NSB) was created.



The Daily Times (Salisbury, Maryland) 11 May 1989, Thu - Page 15

Parsons Cemetery Reflects Rich History

Help From Community Needed For Cemetery Improvements

By SUSAN CANFORA
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — There's a gentle breeze on this sunny spring afternoon and it stirs a sprawling pink dogwood tree, now in full bloom at Parsons Cemetery.

It is peaceful here, the perfect final resting place.

Names on the monuments are familiar ones — Oliphant, Mumford, Toadvine, Parsons, Jackson — ancestors of Salisbury residents. It doesn't take long to get a feeling for the rich history here.

Time has taken its toll on the Parsons Cemetery, which, according to local historian and surveyor Richard W. Cooper, was opened around 1878. Improvements are needed and plans must be made for the remaining unused land, to extend the existence of the cemetery for as long as possible.

Realizing the needs, Parsons Cemetery Committee of St. Peter's Episcopal Church have hired Springhill Management Co. to make improvements.

Floyd Temonia, executive vice president and general manager of the project, has taken the challenge, with great concern for maintaining the history and culture of the community. He was named by James T. Wolfe, president of Springhill Management Co.

"Whatever we do, we'll blend in with the community to preserve the culture and its heritage," Temonia said, as he walked the grounds. "We're here to preserve, not to change. We want to improve and maintain the cemetery. This is a community project. There has to be community involvement and participation," Temonia said.

"I have to be clever enough to extend the life of this cemetery to pacify everyone. This is a challenge for me."

He stopped to look up at a 12-foot marble monument, on the grave of former Maryland Gov. Elihu Emory Jackson, engraved with the date of his birth and death, Nov. 5, 1837, to Dec. 27, 1907, and the Bible verse from Revelations 14:13: "And I heard a voice from heaven

saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

"Show me a community that doesn't have respect for its dead and I'll show you a community that's not going anywhere," Temonia said. "You know, the pyramids are a tomb. The Taj Mahal is a tomb. We haven't found a culture yet that doesn't have a ceremony around its dead."

Parsons Cemetery, owned by St. Peter's Episcopal Church, has more than 30,000 graves, with about 2,400 more lots still available. Bordering on Johnson Lake, there are four remaining wooded acres, which will be cleared. Depending on the wishes of the community, the land will be used strictly for ground burials, for a one-story, six-tier mausoleum, or for a combination of both.

A mausoleum could contain a minimum of 250 crypts and extend the existence of the cemetery by five to 10 years, Temonia said. If there is only ground burial, with double depth burials in a special vault for two coffins, there could be about 8,000 more interments, extending the life of the cemetery by about 20 years, he said.

The ideal solution would be to combine ground burial with a mausoleum, he said. That way, the cemetery could be used another 30 years, he said.

Some improvements have already begun, such as cutting the grass and uprighting monuments that have fallen over or been knocked down. "We'll do anything that needs to be done, from improving roads to working on shrubs and putting footstones flush with the ground to make it easier to cut the grass," Temonia said.

Ten percent of the money generated by the sale of lots, memorials and vaults will be used for future improvements and upkeep.

Repairing monuments will be the responsibility of the family of the deceased. Relatives were noti-



Richard W. Cooper

PLANNING IMPROVEMENTS. Floyd Temonia, left, executive vice president and general manager of Springhill Management Co., overlooks a section of Parsons Cemetery with Michael K. Bloxham, center, senior warden of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and Richard W. Cooper, local historian.

fied a few years ago that the footstones will be lowered and no one objected, Temonia said.

One of the biggest jobs is to reconstruct cemetery records. Everyone affiliated with the cemetery must be contacted. "We want to reconstruct maps and records, find out who owns what. We

want to be sure there are no overlaps, like having two owners on one lot," he said.

Cooper's historical expertise will be called upon to help reconstruct cemetery maps.

Parsons Cemetery will now be a full-service cemetery, selling lots, vaults, monuments and cemetery-

related items. Proceeds from purchases will be used to continue improvements.

If the cemetery was not improved, "Sooner or later it would become a community problem and require taxpayer's money to improve it. It would have to come out of the tax base," he said.

He looked around and, said, partly to himself, "Unless they would just let all this go."

Then he shook his head and continued in a lowered, thoughtful voice. "You can't let a historical cemetery like this go. It's an important part of the community. It's as integral as any historical house."

Times Photo by Karen Sweeney

Next Stop: 10

Follow the crossover south along Johnson's Pond until you reach the parking area. Continue left and up Lane 3 about 50 feet. Stop 10 is on your left off Lane 3.



Stop 10 – Sister Mary Elizabeth Gintling (1914-2004)

Founder of the Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary and the Salisbury Joseph House

In 1960s Baltimore, Mae Gintling, as she was then known, founded the Joseph House as an outreach to the poor. A 1972 conversation with Mother Teresa of Calcutta convinced her that she should gather a religious community to give stability to her outreach, so she and a companion, Sister Pat Guidera, founded the Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary in 1974. In 1978 the two-sister community came to the Eastern Shore because they had reached the conclusion that there were others to care for the poor of Baltimore, while virtually no one was doing so here at that time.

Within two years the Little Sisters opened the local [Joseph House](#), which has only increased and multiplied since, and has involved hundreds of volunteers. Sister Mary Elizabeth died on October 27, 2004. The entire city took note of her passing, even getting the Route 50 drawbridge raised to assure safe passage of her funeral cortege from St Francis de Sales Catholic Church to Parsons Cemetery.



Source: [The Joseph House](#)



Source: [The Joseph House](#)



Next Stop: 11

Return to Lane 3 and head west back to the crossover. Continue to follow the road around the bend until you reach a brick walkway on your right, about 150 feet. Follow the brick walkway to the top of the stairs. Then proceed to the next slide.



Stop 11 - Millstone Circle & Memorial Walkway

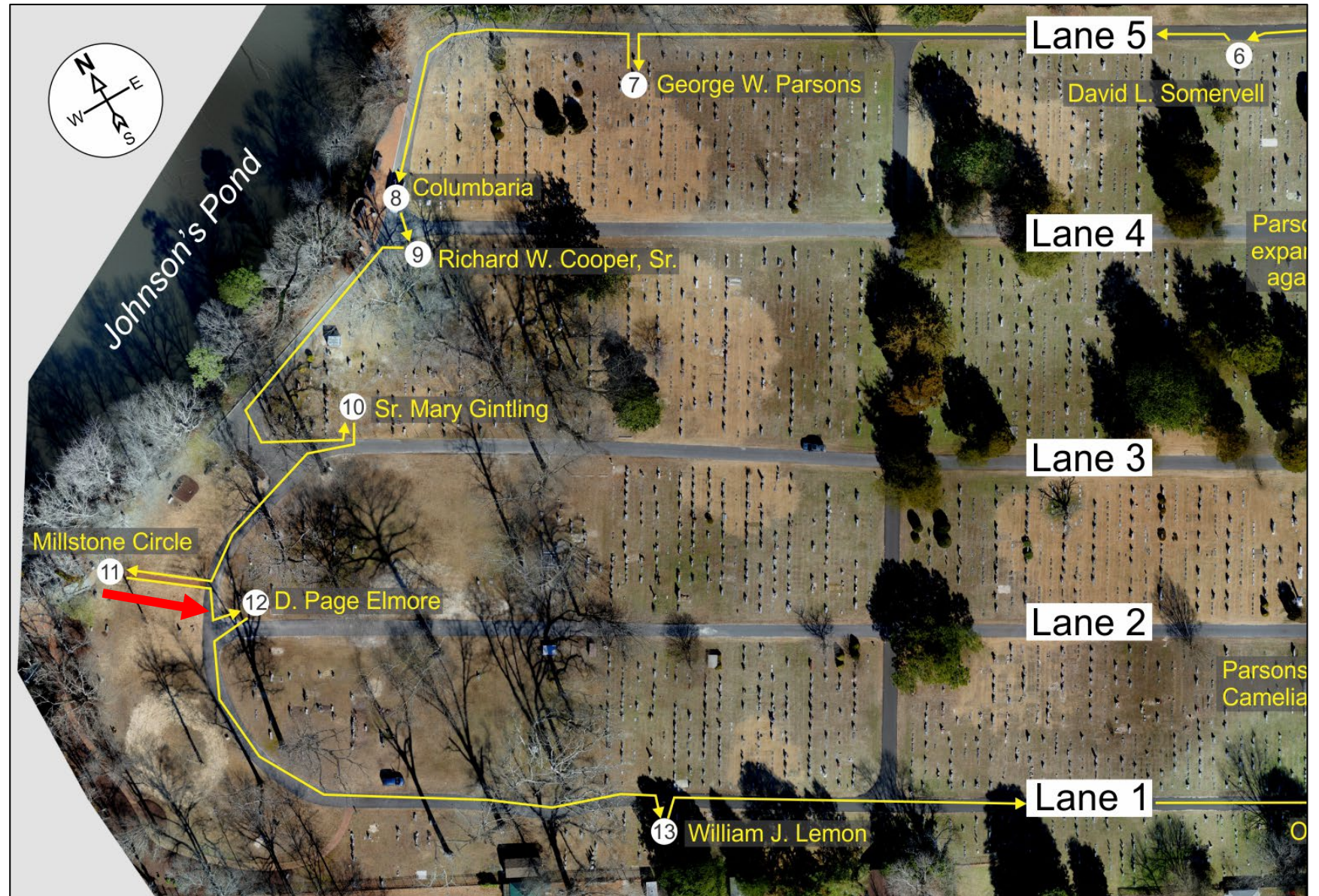
Developed in 2014-15, Millstone Circle and the adjoining Memorial Walkway are recent additions to Parsons Cemetery. The millstone comes from Talbot County and was incorporated into the circle as a conversation piece, hence its name. Many people don't know it, but the Millstone Circle can be reserved for events, like the harp recital shown below.

The Memorial Walkway is another place in Parsons where patrons can secure their loved ones' ashes in a beautiful setting.



Next Stop: 12

Follow the brick walkway back to the crossover and walk south to the end of Lane 2. Stop 12 is about 20 up Lane 2 on the left. Proceed to the next slide.

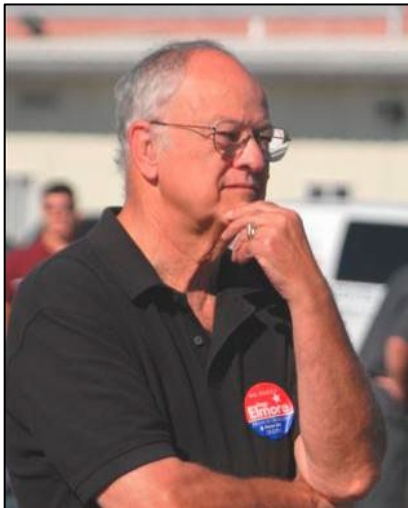


Stop 12 – Delegate Douglas Page Elmore (1939-2010)

“[D. Page Elmore] graduated from Fork Union Military Academy in Fork Union, Va. in 1958, [and then] he attended the University of Richmond, interning for two Virginia Governors....Elmore built Shore Disposal Inc. from a one truck local operation....to more than 40 trucks encompassing three states. He also owned Hartman Trucking in Pocomoke and Shore Freight Line in Painter. He was honored in 1995 by the Board of Governors of NSWF [National Solid Waste Association] for his special contributions to the solid waste industry.”

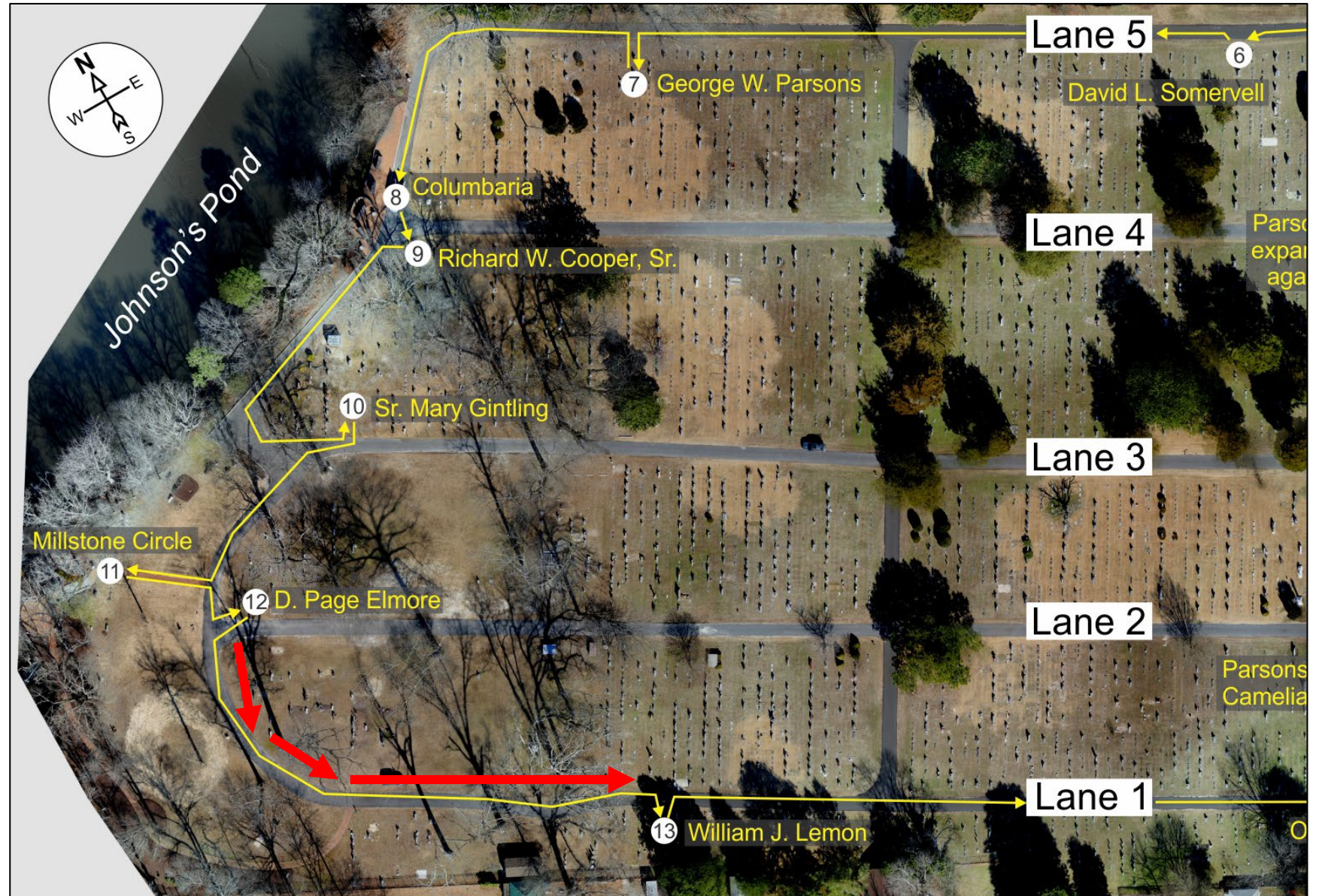
“Elected in 2002, Elmore served as a Delegate in the Maryland General Assembly (38A-Somerset/Wicomico) from 2003 until his death. He was a strong voice for watermen, farmers, firefighters, educators and health care personnel. He is well remembered for his successful legislation to make the Smith Island Cake the Maryland State Dessert. In 2006, he received the Legislative Award for leadership on behalf of Senior Citizens from the Maryland Association on Aging.”

Source: [Find-a-Grave](#)



Next Stop: 13

Now you are going head back west to the crossover. Then, walk south along the crossover to the end of Lane 1. Continue east along Lane 1 about 200 feet (you will pass a shed on your right). Stop 13 will be on your right after you pass a distinct bend in the road. Look for the white, upright marker shown on the next slide



Stop 13 – William James Lemon’s Missing Marker

William James Lemon is a Civil War veteran, and the only one buried in this half of Parsons Cemetery. But the marker is new. So, what happened to his original marker? The answer is no one knows. Marker thefts are extremely rare; Parsons made the national news in 1938 when some marble markers went missing.

TOMBSTONE THIEVES.
Salisbury, Md. — Burglars have made away with several marble monuments from Parsons cemetery. Authorities wonder what they do with 'em.

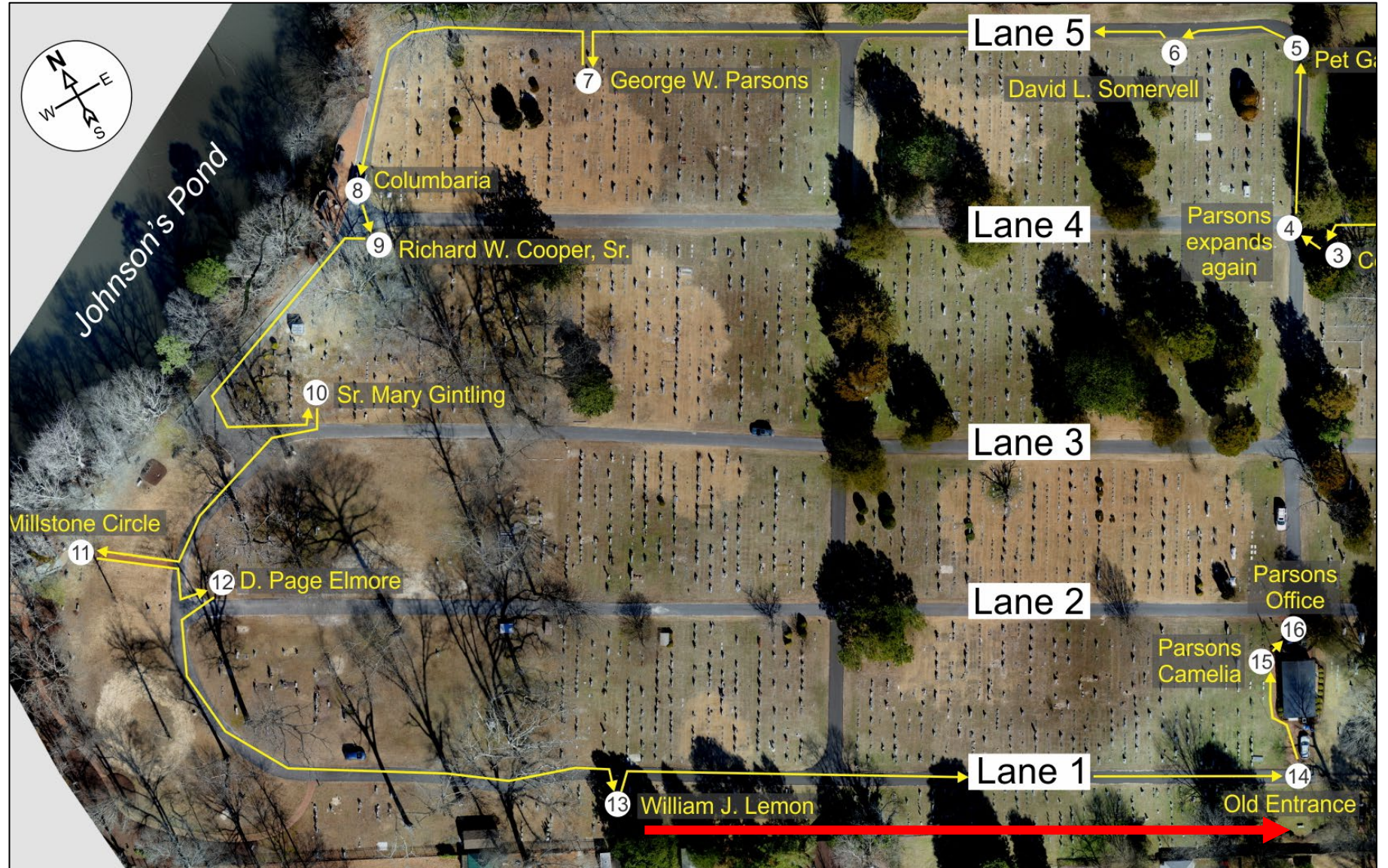
New Britain Herald Mar. 31, 1938

More commonly, markers can sink over time (especially with our sandy soils) and become covered with dirt and debris, particularly under tree cover. Or the grass can grow over them. As discussed at Stop 1, the John Jacobs' book and careful probing has helped us located most of these “missing” markers.



Next Stop: 14

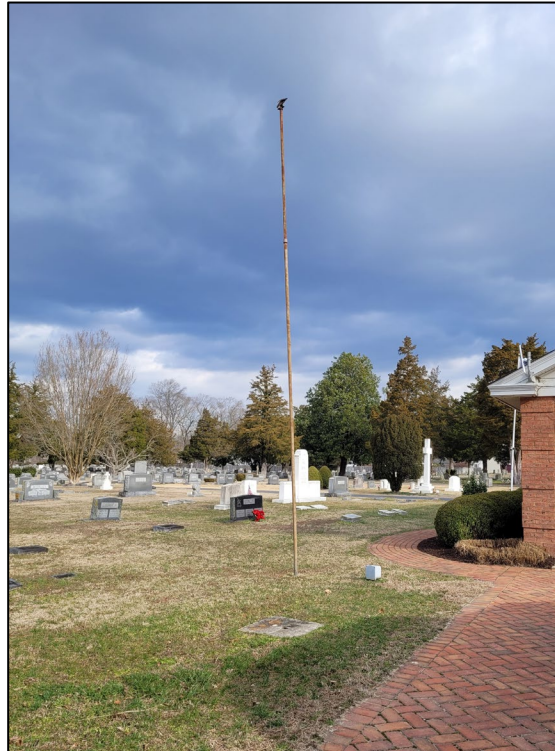
Continue east on Lane 1 until you are behind the cemetery office (about 500 feet). Then proceed to the next slide.



Stop 14 – The Old Cemetery Entrance

Many people don't know this, but the original main entrance to Parsons Cemetery was on New York Ave. Memorial Day parades used to march down New York Ave. and into the cemetery at the spot where you are now standing. The old flagpole behind the office is where the ceremonies used to be held. The first mention of Memorial Day events in Parsons Cemetery in the local papers was in 1924. The last official ceremony in Parsons was in 1955. In 1956, the VFW started holding its ceremonies at the [Wicomico County War Memorial](#) on North Salisbury Blvd.

Around 1970 the cemetery closed off the old entrance and sold the property to a developer, who built the tan house you see to the south.



PLANES AID IN SERVICES HERE

Drop Flowers On Graves At Parsons Cemetery

Low-flying Navy planes the color of the sky interrupted the Memorial Day message of Brig.-Gen. Francis Petrott yesterday morning in Parsons Cemetery and as they climbed away out of hearing, Petrott asked the crowd:

"What would you do if these were enemy planes and if there were a thousand at once over your heads?"

"That's what death and destruction from an enemy in the air can mean."

The blue-grey squadron returned several times to skim the trees shading the graves where flowers from the air were dropped. Service men and civilians applauded and speakers paused as the close roar seemed to vibrate the tree tops over the speakers stand.

Sent By Navy

The squadron was sent by the Navy Department as thanks to the community of Salisbury for its help to men in the armed service.

Gen. Petrott said no air is safe and only the strong nation is the safe nation, and he urged a democracy which has been "neglected" to "ungear itself from a peaceful way of life" and take on strong military preparedness.



The Daily Times, Jun. 1, 1943

The acting adjutant-general of the State of Maryland recalled the warnings of the American Legion for 20 years of the need for such preparedness.

He said the war of today and its future will prove 80 percent engineering and 20 percent military. Victory will depend, he said, on weapons that conquer, not the numbers of men.

S. Denmead Kolb, chairman of the American Legion sponsored services, introduced Petrott.

Units in the parade were: Red Cross and Civilian Defense units, VFW Drum and Bugle Corps, Salisbury and Maryland State Police, Boys' Band, 111th Infantry Band, U. S. Coast Guard from the Ocean City base, Girl, Boy and Cub Scouts, Maryland State Guard, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars and their auxiliaries, Spanish American War veterans.

A Battalion dinner at Bill's Seafood Inn in honor of Brig.-Gen. Petrott was held following the services at Parsons Cemetery and at Potter's Field. Lieut.-Col. Royden S. Meise, commanding officer of the Fourth Battalion and Lt.-Col. Arthur D. Kemp, commanding officer at Camp Somerset, were among officials at the dinner which was attended by visiting State Guard officers and representatives from the Legion and VFW.

Stop 14 – The Old Cemetery Entrance

CITY, COUNTY PAYS HOMAGE TO WAR DEAD

The Daily Times, May 31, 1947

Chill Winds Add Note Of Gloom To Annual Observance

Chill winds and gray sky lent a note of gloom to Salisbury's observance of Memorial Day yesterday, as the city paid homage to its dead of all wars.

Several hundred spectators sat in parked cars or stood on street corners along the line of march to watch a traditional Memorial Day parade down North Division St. to Parsons cemetery.

Hundreds more attended services at the cemetery, where Brig. Gen. William C. Purnell, wartime leader of the 175th Infantry Regiment in Europe and present assistant commander of the 29th Division, delivered a forceful address on this 80th Memorial Day.



WAR DEAD HONORED: Behind Auxiliary Air Station, Lt.-Comdr. color guard from Chinco



The Daily Times, Jun. 1, 1953

Chinco, delivers principal Memorial Day address in Parsons Cemetery here Saturday. Seated is E. Dale Adkins Jr., Salisbury, commander Maryland Department of War Dead Honored; Stewart P. Robinson, chaplain at judge First Judicial District, Salisbury, who was master of ceremonies. At right, Gold Star mothers Mrs. Marsh Gollner, Hugh Correy, Mrs. Grafton Mills, H T. Chatham, Mrs. Mattie Massey, F. M. Chatham, and Comdr. Robinson. From left: Comdr. Fields, Mrs. Marsh Gollner, Hugh Correy, and veterans of Spanish-American wars chat with Joseph W. Fields, commander Maryland Department of War Dead Honored; Stewart P. Robinson, chaplain at judge First Judicial District, Salisbury, who was master of ceremonies. At right, Gold Star mothers Mrs. Marsh Gollner, Hugh Correy, Mrs. Grafton Mills, H T. Chatham, Mrs. Mattie Massey, F. M. Chatham, and Comdr. Robinson.



The Daily Times, Jun. 1, 1954

MEMORIAL DAY. Salisbury honored its war dead yesterday with traditional Memorial Day services, beginning with a parade and culminating with services at various cemeteries. Above, men of Salisbury's National Guard unit swing around Main St. into Division for march to Parsons Cemetery. Below, James M. Mitchell, Washington, deputy assistant secretary of defense (before microphone) gives principal address at Parsons Cemetery.

The Daily Times May 27, 1950

For them, the last, long note of taps has sounded but their battle cry of freedom rings throughout eternity. Their unquenchable spirit marches on; and time cannot erase the glory of their struggle or their cause. May we preserve the principles for which they gave their youth . . . their lives . . . that they may rest in peace, forever more.

Memorial Day Exercises

TUESDAY, MAY 30th, 1950

PROGRAM AT PARSONS CEMETERY 11:00 A.M.

To the Colors VFW Bugles
Passing in Review All Units
Welcome and Introduction of Gen. A. W. W. Woodcock, Master of Ceremonies, by Captain Victor W. Bahr, USNR, Chairman
Invocation Father Eugene T. Stout
STC Mixed Chorus "This Is My Country"
Singing—"Star Spangled Banner" led by Mrs. Fleming and Wisconsin High School Band.
All stand facing the East, uncovered and bowed heads, in silent reverence for thirty seconds.
STC Mixed Chorus "There Is No Death"
Recitation—"Flanders Field" Mrs. Carroll Lee Eadie
STC Mixed Chorus "One World"
Answer to "Flanders Field" by Mrs. Joseph P. Wright
Memorial Day Address Capt. G. K. Fraser, U.S.N., Com. Officer U.S. Naval Air Station, Chincoteague, Va.
Singing—"America", led by Mrs. Fleming and American Legion Band.
Placing flowers on Soldiers Graves.
Aerial Floral Salute Fred E. Ennis
Valley Firing Company I-113 Inf. M.N.G.
Taps V.F.W. Drum Corps
Singing—"Maryland, My Maryland", led by Mrs. Fleming and American Legion Band.
Benediction Dr. J. N. Stewart

PARADE

9:00 A.M. Parade Forms
ON SOUTH PARK DRIVE
10:00 A.M. Parade Moves

FROM SOUTH PARK DRIVE TO MAIN STREET, TO NORTH DIVISION, TO NEW YORK AVE., TO POSITION AT PARSONS CEMETERY

11:00 A.M. Memorial Day Services
PARSONS CEMETERY

12:00 Noon Services
SALISBURY CEMETERY (Putter's Field)

Services Continued At Salisbury Cemetery (POTTER'S FIELD)

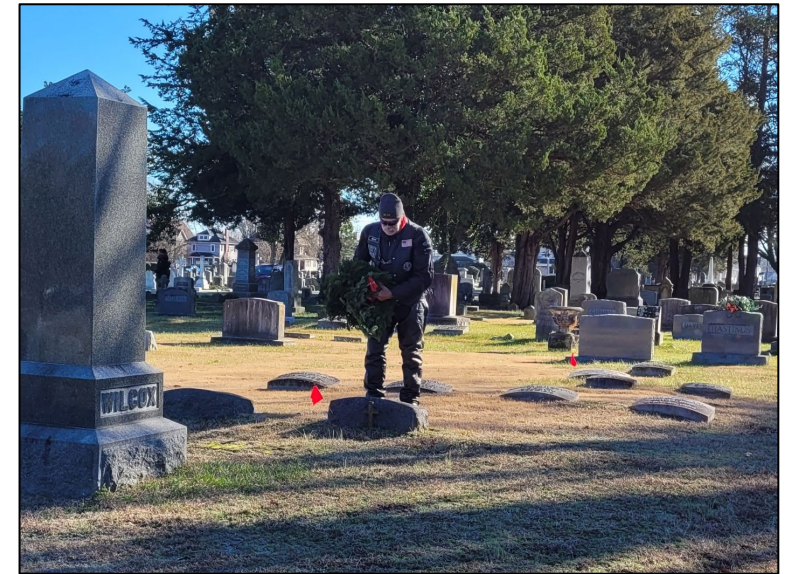
Silent Prayer.
Musical Selection Mixed Chorus
Address Gen. A. W. W. Woodcock
Valley Firing Detail, Company I-113 Inf. M.N.G.
Taps American Legion Bugles
Benediction Dr. J. N. Stewart

wear a
BUDDY POPPY

Stop 14 – The Old Cemetery Entrance

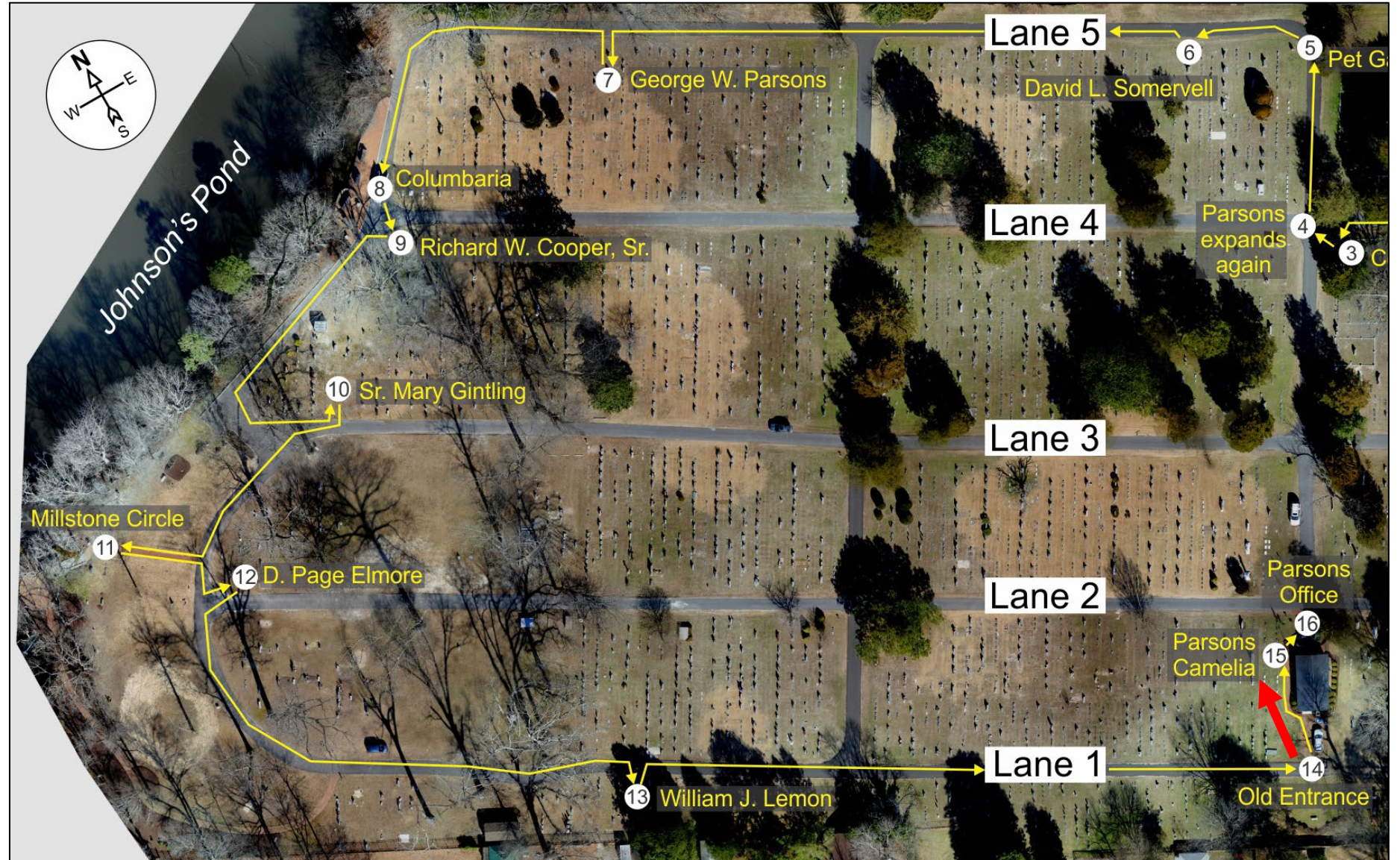


Although Memorial Day parades are now a distant memory, Parsons Cemetery has started a new tradition. Each December Parsons participates in [Wreaths Across America](#), a national program where volunteers place wreaths on the graves of the veterans interred in Parsons Cemetery. Please consider joining us next year!



Next Stop: 15

Follow the brick sidewalk around the left side of the office and stop at the flower garden on your left. Then proceed to the next slide.



Stop 15 - Ella Ward Parsons Camelias

Alison J. Parsons, one of the main benefactors of Parsons Cemetery (Tour #1, Stop 4), and his wife Ella Ward Parsons were avid enthusiasts of camelias. Alison was president of the [American Camelia Society](#) from 1967-1968. The *Ella Ward Parsons Camelia* (*C. japonica*) was first developed by Dr. J.M. Habel, Jr. of Suffolk Virginia and the species was subsequently named in honor of Alison's wife. The camelias you see throughout the cemetery were gifted to Parsons Cemetery as part of the Ella W. and Alison C. Parsons Fund of [Hampton Roads Community Foundation](#).



Source: [American Camelia Society](#)

Stop 15 - Ella Ward Parsons Camelias

Dedication

THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA YEARBOOK for 1968 is dedicated beyond doubt to one who is himself dedicated to the American Camellia Society, and to every facet of its achievements of the past and its aims for the future. All camellia enthusiasts know the ACS retiring president, Alison J. (Preacher) Parsons of Flicker Point, Norfolk, Virginia.

In 1941 when Mr. Parsons acquired his home in Flicker Point on the Lafayette River there were few camellia growers in Virginia and there were few varieties of the Flower owned among them. One of the most ardent of this handful of growers was the late Mike Hartigan who was the pioneer camellia collector of the Norfolk area with less than twenty-five varieties of which to boast. Mr. Hartigan, while visiting the Parsons in their new home, casually advanced the idea that its sheltered waterfront location offered an ideal place for growing camellias. And so, twenty-seven years ago, Preacher Parsons bought and planted a 'DONCKELARIJ', an 'IMURA', a 'LOTUS', a 'LADY CLARE' and a 'PINK PERFECTION'. He still has them and they constitute the nucleus of one of the finest collections of camellias on the East coast.

He presently resides in the same home, surrounded by the same garden, with his charming wife, Ella, who shares his interest in camellias in particular and horticulture in general.

Preacher Parsons was among the organizers of the Virginia Camellia Society, has continuously served as one of its directors, and was its president in 1954 and 1955. He was state director from Virginia of the American Camellia Society from 1955 to 1963 and was unanimously elected President of the American Camellia Society for 1967 and 1968, the duties of which office he has performed with efficiency and dignity.

In 1966 when the ACS Endowment Fund was created, Mr. Parsons was named to its Board of Trustees. No one has contributed more than he to the transition of the ACS headquarters from Tifton to Masee Lane, unless it is Dave Strother himself. Mr. Parsons has solicited gifts for the Endowment Fund on a national scale, has been indefatigable in his efforts, generous in the donations of

his time and funds, and successful in spearheading the drive. He has inculcated in all those working with him a spirit and an enthusiasm that have been contagious. When the new headquarters is dedicated this Fall, it will be a great tribute to the quality of Mr. Parson's fine leadership. He has been at the helm of the ACS during two of its most critical years and his executive talents in its behalf have been no less than inspiring.

And so, in humility, we figuratively doff our hats to a plain, unassuming, and unpretentious gentlemen who is certainly to be classed among the all-time leaders of the American Camellia Society—a man whose energy and drive carried the Society successfully through the trying period of surrendering its homeplace to find a new and richer environment in the fertile acres of Mr. Strother's Masee Lane. His task was not easy; his trials were great. He searched out and found untapped strength in order finally to achieve his objectives.

It is altogether fitting and right that we dedicate this, the 1969 ACS Yearbook to the Society's gallant transitional leader, Alison J. (Preacher) Parsons.

—ALAN J. HOFHEIMER.

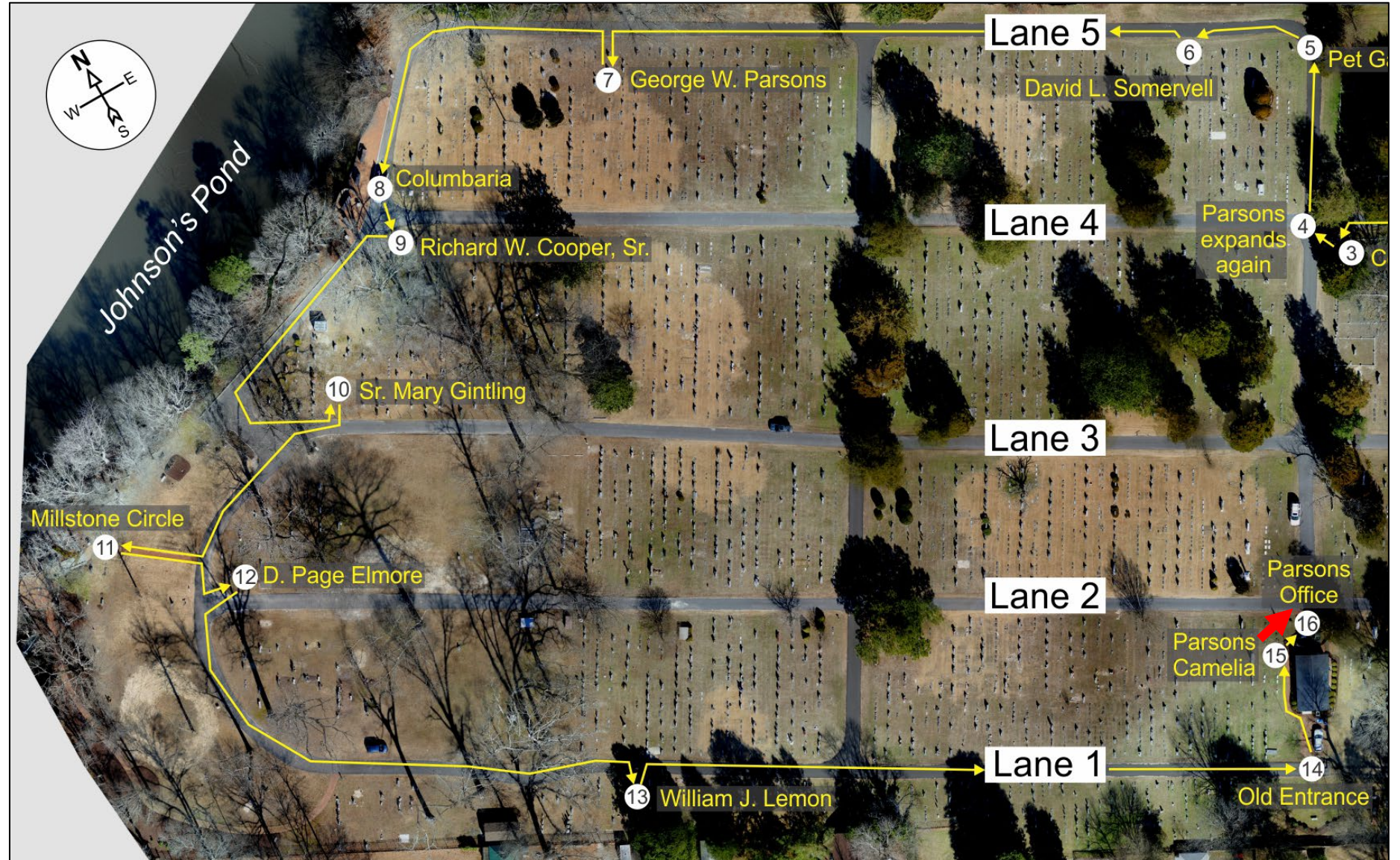
Source: [1969 American Camellia Yearbook](#)



Ella Ward Parsons	
Species:	Japonica
Color:	White shaded orchid pink
Form:	Formal double to rose form double
Size:	Medium
Bloom Season:	
Originator:	J. M. Habel, Jr.
Place of Origin:	U.S. - Suffolk, Virginia
Year of Origination / Registration:	1968
Other Information:	Named for the wife of the President of the ACS
Photographer:	Bob Marcy
ICR Link:	https://internationalcamellia.org/international-camellia-register?camelliaId=5851&state#

Next Stop: 16

Follow the brick sidewalk to the front of the office – This is stop 16. Please proceed to the next slide.



Stop 16 – Parsons Cemetery Office

This fine brick building is the current office for Parsons Cemetery. Built in 2007, it replaced the old office which for decades was located on London Ave. This also marks the end of our tour. We hope you have enjoyed your stroll through the cemetery, and we encourage you to explore our other walking tours as they become available.



RETURNING TO THE BEGINNING

The easiest way to return to the start of the tour is to walk north from the cemetery office on the crossover until you reach Lane 4. Then walk east on Lane 4 to reach the main gates.

