

CCHA's Cemetery Project Needs Volunteers

Looking for a way to help preserve Chatham history? Help us photograph Chatham County gravemarkers.



In 1989, the Chatham County Historical Association (CCHA) responded to a request by the state to locate and record cemetery data. That ongoing project has produced records used by the county and the state, as well as by private citizens interested in preserving cemeteries and the information they contain.

CCHA's efforts, carried out entirely by volunteers, have resulted in the identification of 600 cemeteries in Chatham County. Many of those have been inventoried, though some not recently, to record all of the information from each gravemarker. Only a few have been photographed to provide a lasting record of each marker for future generations. All of this information is made available, at no cost, to anyone interested via the CemeteryCensus.com website, which makes Chatham's cemetery data available even to those who cannot visit the county. It is used frequently by people researching family histories.

How can you help? Volunteer to photograph the markers in a church or family cemetery. Well-maintained cemeteries can be photographed at any time of year. Overgrown cemeteries are often best tackled in the winter when vegetation has died back. Gather a few friends and form a team to make quick work of a cemetery. Or work on your own and tackle the job as you have time. We're happy to identify sites that have not been photographed and to provide tips and information about what we need from you. If you wish, we'll meet you on-site to get you started.

If you think you might be able to help, contact us at CemeterySurvey@chathamhistory.org

Thanks to these volunteers for recent additions to our cemetery project: Julie King-McDaniel for four small family cemeteries in Bear Creek--Boroughs, Hiram Phillips, James Welch, and one unknown; Alexandra Millholland for James O'Kelly; Ted Shear for Gorgas Mill; Delphine Womack and crew for Roberts Chapel; and Gary Simpson and Connie McAdams for Alston Chapel. Photos are available on CemeteryCensus.com.