



# Monumental Issues

## Potter's Monument in Beaufort, SC

An unassuming brick box tomb at the Beaufort National Cemetery is a monument erected by Mrs. L.T. Potter. On the marble slab are four columns listing the names of Union dead in Charleston.

Mrs. L.T. Potter (Eliza Potter) was an active Union sympathizer during the Civil War, providing aid and comfort to Union prisoners and wounded in the Charleston, S.C. Hospital. She was also active in the 1869 National Memorial Day,



The hard mortar was cut out in preparation of repointing using a soft lime putty mortar.

years of mower hits. These bricks were removed, cleaned, and then reset using the soft lime putty mortar.

With the tomb cleaned, repointed, and loose bricks replaced, work on the monument was almost completed.

The final component was preparing a maintenance

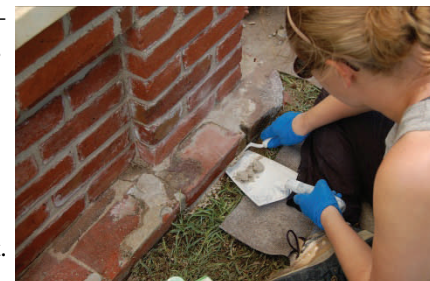
Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct conservation treatments of the Potter Monument. This work was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The first step in the treatment was cleaning, using D/2, an excellent biocide.

The monument was also in bad need of repointing. The existing mortar was too hard and was damaging the softer brick. Some of the mortar had fallen out.

Some of the brick along the base had also come loose, probably from

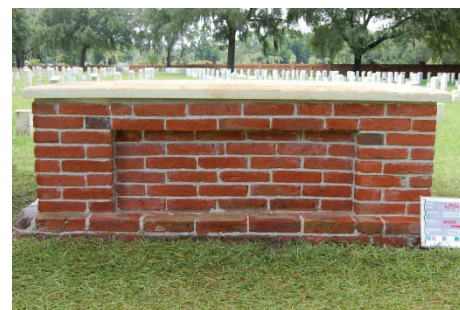
East face of the box tomb after repointing and cleaning.



Lime putty being placed in the cleaned joints.

plan, so the VA could ensure long-term care for this piece of SC history.

Chicora was selected the National Cemetery Administra-



East face of the box tomb after repointing and cleaning.

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### Upcoming Talks & Workshops

- March 26, 2011— Cemetery Preservation for Churches. A 1-day workshop. For information contact Mr. Brian McKown, bryan@scdah.state.sc.us.
- April 12-14, 2011— Cemetery Preservation: Making Good Choices (3 day workshop) in Columbia, SC. Contact NPI at info@npi.org for more information.

### Washing the ledger

decorating the graves of Union dead in Charleston, South Carolina.

This is surprising since her husband, Leon T. Potter, was a Charleston Commission Merchant who bought and sold African slaves. Clearly the divisions ran deep during the Civil War.

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## Chicora Attends NCPTT Tree Workshop



**This is an example of poor tree maintenance — dead and falling on monuments.**

Can you image America's most beautiful historic cemeteries without trees? We can't. Fortunately, NCPTT is offering a workshop on how to effectively maintain and preserve historic trees.

The three-day workshop was taught at Kenmore Plantation in Fredericksburg, Virginia by instructors from NPS, Virginia Tech, the Forest Service, the Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation, and private tree companies.

Topics included tree biology, tree documentation, how to

date the age of a tree, how trees fail, doing a competent tree inspection, methods to sustain tree health and stability, caring for trees from youth to old age, how to remove trees if they pose a hazard, and how to select tree replacements.

Chicora staff member Debi Hacker, who herself is a member of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) attended the workshop. Continuing education training is a critical component of Chicora's ability to provide our clients with the best new infor-

mation.

The NCPTT workshop offered exceptional information and should be a must-attend for any cemetery with a large silvi-



**Beautiful, well-maintained Weeping Willow in Woodlawn Cemetery, New York.**

cultural component.

## Eastern Cemetery in Portland, Maine



**Eastern Cemetery is a Colonial burial ground with a host of problems — and an exceptionally caring and dedicated volunteer program**

Chicora Foundation was chosen by Spirits Alive to prepare a detailed preservation assessment of the Portland, Maine Eastern Cemetery. Chicora's Director, Michael Trinkley, and Conservator Debi Hacker, visited the cemetery the week of November 14 to explore the cemetery and develop a preservation plan.

Sadly, the cemetery has faced years of vandalism and neglect. Many stones are damaged, many others have simply disappeared. Yet the cemetery is still extraordinary, providing an alley of below ground tombs, as well as a city receiving vault.

Without question the greatest asset to the cemetery are the

committed members of Spirits Alive. The organization is fighting for the preservation of the cemetery and is a model for other groups working to save their community cemetery.

Chicora expects to complete the preservation plan in the next several months and it will be made available on our web site.

## Portsmouth Cemetery Assessment Conducted

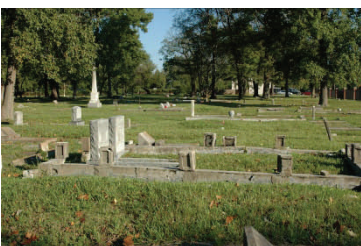
The African American Historical Society of Portsmouth obtained a grant to allow Chicora Foundation to visit the Mount Calvary, Mount Olive, Fisher's and potter field cemeteries in October.

The City of Portsmouth owns several of these burial grounds and is trying to acquire the rest. Unfortunately the city doesn't seem to have the funds

or commitment to provide appropriate care. Many of the graves are open and collecting water. Landscape maintenance is minimal. Many of the stones are suffering extensive damage.

The plan recommends an immediate stone-by-stone assessment, the creation of a volunteer group to lobby the city for better care, and provides a range of additional recommen-

dations. The report is available on-line at <http://www.chicora.org/pdfs/RC533%20-%20Portsmouth%20%20Part%201.pdf>.



**Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portsmouth, Virginia is one of four African American burial grounds that form nearly 11 acres.**

