



CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

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Who?

Chicora Foundation is a non-endowed non-profit foundation with a 23 year history of cemetery preservation not only in Richland County, but throughout the Southeastern United States. In fact, Chicora Foundation has conducted cemetery projects from Maine to Mississippi and as far west as Montana. Our cemetery preservation funds have come from private donors, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Park Service, and various state and municipal organizations.

Chicora's Director is Dr. Michael Trinkley (trinkley@chicora.org) who received his doctorate in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in 1980. The project is being spearheaded by Ms. Debi Hacker (hacker@chicora.org) who holds a B.A. from Tulane University.

What?

Chicora Foundation has been awarded a \$38,927 grant from the Richland County Conservation Commission as the first phase of a project to identify and record cemeteries in Richland County. Chicora Foundation is providing a 20% match to the Richland County funds, for a minimum project cost of \$46,712.

This phase of the work will compile all of the known information, solicit and research additional information, and prepare a list of both known and suspected cemeteries in the County. While the current work stops short of actually visiting cemeteries, verifying locational information, or collecting additional on-the-ground information, it lays the ground work for the second phase. Moreover, even if the second phase funding is delayed, this first phase will provide a viable product with clear benefits to the citizens of Richland County.

When?

The project runs from July 30, 2012 through May 30, 2013. We have begun the task of compiling all of the various on-line and published cemetery surveys, with assistance of Richland County GIS Manager Brenda Carter, GISP.

Where?

The project covers all of Richland County, including the City of Columbia.

Why?

There are many sources of cemetery information on-line and published, none however are complete and many fail to provide useful directions to the cemeteries. Often the same cemetery is known by different names on the various lists. Some directions are even incorrect.

This work will combine all of the various data sources. Where possible we will be including tax map numbers for each cemetery, as well as a locational system known as Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) which was adopted originally by the US Army for military maps.

In the past many cemeteries have been found only when development projects have begun. This can cause unintentional damage to burial grounds, as well as increased development costs and significant time delays. This project will help alert developers to potential burial grounds before land modifying actions begin – allowing plenty of time to determine how to revise plans to ensure the cemetery is preserved or appropriately moved.

How Can Citizens Help?

We know that many people, such as genealogists, property owners, hunters, and land managers, are aware of lost, forgotten, and overgrown cemeteries across Richland County. We are asking for their assistance. Please contact us with any information you may have. You can phone us (803-787-6910), email us (hacker@chicora.org or trinkley@chicora.org or info@chicora.org), or mail us (PO Box 8664, Columbia, SC 29202).