



The Grove

Thank you for reading this issue of "The Grove"!

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Special Announcement!!

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU
TO CELEBRATE THE INAUGURAL
FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER
COMMEMORATING THE
160TH ANNIVERSARY
OF
OAK GROVE CEMETERY
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020
FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING
TOMASELLO WINERY
225 WHITE HORSE PIKE ~ HAMMONTON, NJ 08037
TICKETS: \$85.00 PER PERSON
~ CASH BAR ~
PLEASE RSVP WITH PAYMENT BY
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST, 2020
TICKETS ARE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE
BUSINESS ATTIRE

Things to know in the Grove

- * As stated in our fundraising campaign, we are looking to complete capital improvement projects at Oak Grove Cemetery. The first task to be completed a new roof on the office/workshop. The building was erected in 1971, and after inspection, it's believed to have been the original roof! The Board has approved JFA Construction in Hammonton to replace the roof. There is not yet a projected completion date.
- * November 7th at 8pm, there will be a presentation on *The History of Oak Grove Cemetery*. Current Administrator, Robyn Berenato, will be presenting. This event is hosted by the Hammonton Historical Society and will be at the Canoe Club. The community is welcome to join us!
- * Leaves and wet ground can be a dangerous mix. We're asking that you stay mindful of your speed and be extra cautious in the cemetery. It can be very difficult to determine if you've left the roadway when driving through.
- * Tickets for the Founder's Day Dinner are first come, first serve; so don't wait! Please reach out to the office or any Board Member for more information!

Community Q & A

Q. I have been wanting to purchase a plot in the older sections under the trees, but I have been shown about the plots up front? Why is that? There seems to be plenty of space back there.

A. It's understandable why that seems frustrating. However, there was a time when many families actively pre-planned their burials. As such, many of the spaces you see that seem open, have already been sold. However, there is a process in place to reclaim spaces after a certain window of time has passed, and there is a reasonable expectation that the plot will not be used. Below are excerpts from the New Jersey Cemetery Board website that addresses this question. For the full text, please see the sourced website below.

45:27-33. Reclamation of grave, crypt.

- a. A cemetery company may reclaim a grave or crypt if:
- (1) the cemetery company sold the grave or crypt before December 1, 1971;
 - (2) no provision has been made for the adequate maintenance of the grave or crypt;
 - (3) no burial has been made in the grave or crypt; and
 - (4) no burial has been made for 30 years in the plot that includes the grave or crypt.
- b. To reclaim a grave or crypt, a cemetery company shall:
- (1) make a diligent effort to locate the owners and notify them that they may prevent the cemetery from reclaiming the grave or crypt by sending a written objection to the cemetery company within 30 days;
 - (2) if the cemetery company cannot locate the owners, publish a notice in a newspaper circulating in the county in which the grave or crypt is located, directed to the owners as registered in the cemetery company's records, containing the names of each deceased person buried in the plot that includes the grave or crypt and date of each burial, where such information is ascertainable. The notice shall advise that if the owners do not send a written objection within 30 days the grave or crypt will be subject to resale.

(Source: <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/Statutes/cemeterylaw.pdf>, pg 23)

Meet our Residents - Richard and Mary Ann Clarke

I never cease to be amazed at the information I find when I'm actually looking for something else. I was reading the *Courier-Post* from 1929, when I learned about Mr. Richard Clarke.

Born in Ireland around 1864, Mr. Clarke made his way to America in 1883. He was married to Mary Ann Farry (A Pennsylvania girl born to Irish parents) in Hammonton in 1891. The following year he became a United States citizen through the Naturalization process.

He was a farmer during his married life, residing with his wife and mother-in-law, Catherine Farry, after her husband Andrew passed away in 1896.

Although there is no burial record, Mary Ann died in 1917. Mr. Clarke was now alone, as he and Mary Ann had no children.

Sometime after 1920, Mr. Clarke came to live as a boarder in the home of John Jenison, who lived on the White Horse Pike, directly across from Oak Grove Cemetery.

Mr. Clarke became the groundskeeper (the census record says "gardener and grave digger" at Oak Grove. One August night, he was crossing the White Horse Pike to go home at 9:30pm, and was struck by a car.

Mr. Clarke was transferred to the West Jersey Homeopathic Hospital in Camden. The driver of the car, Mr. James Morrow of Philadelphia, was held on bail by Justice of the Peace, Nicholas Cashan.

Suffering from fractures of his left arm and skull, crushing of his chest, internal injuries and shock, Mr. Clarke was not expected to survive...and he didn't. By the next day, August 6th, Mr. Clarke was pronounced dead.

In the wake of his passing, Mr. Morrow's bail was revoked. He was then charged with manslaughter and transferred to the county jail in Mays Landing.

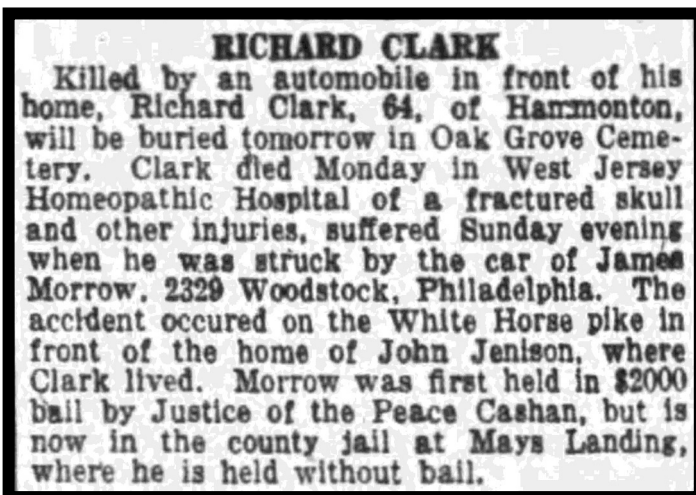
On August 8, 1929, in Section A near the corner of Old Forks Road and the White Horse Pike, Richard Clarke was buried. He rests with his wife, Mary, in the plot next to her parents, Andrew and Catherine Farry.



Above:
Richard & Mary
Clarke



Left:
Andrew & Catherine
Farry



Courier-Post (Camden, NJ)
Wed, Aug 7, 1929, pg 2