



Letters to the editor, Huntsville Times, Sunday Jan. 24

By John S. Peck

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Bryce cemetery

My great-grandmother, Julia Frances Weatherly Wood, from Marion County, was a patient when Bryce Hospital was the Alabama Insane Institute, from 1885-1895, and was buried there.

In 2003 there was a Bryce's Cemetery Restoration Project to restore and identify the graves with the patients' names from their records.

I am our family historian, so my family and I were very excited about finding the exact grave and having a permanent headstone placed at Julia's grave. I was interviewed and quoted in the newspaper about the restoration project in 2003.

As far as I know, the project/grant to identify the patients buried in the graves did not happen. I never heard anything else.

From Julia Wood's hospital records we know her grave was #2824. It was marked with an iron marker which was readable up into the 1940s but when we visited in 1988 the markers were so rusted that we were not able to read them.

Now that the hospital has been sold to UA, I am concerned that the cemetery will be further demolished and forgotten, just as much of it was, in the name of progress, when the road was built that connects the northern side of the university campus with the bridge and U.S. 82 to the east.

What can I do to make my voice heard and to whom do I express this concern?

There must be others who are concerned about their loved ones buried in the consecrated, hallowed ground of Bryce Cemetery.

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