

# Cemetery has untold tales to tell

## Forlorn Riverview finds a chronicler

By DANIELLE McNAMARA  
Staff reporter

With the fate of Riverview Cemetery still uncertain, an area psychologist has received more than 300 entries for her book about people buried in the dilapidated 87-acre property.

Lee Anderson said she hopes to complete "Stories From the Grave: Who's Who in Riverview Cemetery" by the end of the year and is still accepting submissions.

Anderson, who lives in Chadds Ford, Pa., said she became involved with Riverview when her father used to cut the grass around his parents' graves. When he died from a stroke in 1998, she took over the job.

"I would be weed-whacking a grave and a name would appear. These people all have a story," she said.

In a July 2001 hearing in Chancery Court, some people with relatives buried in Riverview complained of overgrown weeds, toppled tombstones, lost and misplaced bodies, mounds of fresh dirt on decades-old graves and piles of trash dumped atop the graves of babies.

Owners of the nonprofit cemetery, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodges 1 and 34 and the Knights of Pythias Grand Lodge, filed for bankruptcy last June. A federal bankruptcy judge declared the uninsured property abandoned in February.

Anderson said a meeting she attended about the future of the cemetery inspired her to write the book. She is still searching for a publisher.

She said most of the stories are about average people of different ages and backgrounds.

Sandy Brittingham, who said she has at least a dozen relatives buried in Riverview, submitted information about



Photo courtesy of Sandy Brittingham  
Harry C. Pierce became Delaware's first highway patrolman in 1919 and was named Policeman of the Century by the Wilmington Kiwanis club in 1980. Pierce was buried in Riverview in 1981.



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Dr. Lee Anderson at her home office in Chadds Ford, Pa. Inspired by her grandparents, Anderson is writing a book about the people who are buried in Riverview Cemetery.

her grandfather. She said she hopes Anderson's book will help bring the problems of the cemetery to light.

Her grandfather, Harry C. Pierce, was the oldest police officer in Delaware when he died in 1981. He became the state's first highway patrolman in 1919 and was named the Wilmington Kiwanis Club's "Policeman of the Century" in 1980.

Brittingham said her grandfather wanted his grave unmarked for 10 years, but when she went to mark it in 1991, his records were unavailable.



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Shiloh Baptist Church on Washington Street for 32 years, DuPree said.

"When I heard what Dr. Anderson was doing, I was interested that someone else took interest in the cemetery," she said.

She said Manley became an important person in her life in 1977, when her grandfather died.

"I was 17 when my grandpop died," she said. "Rev. Manley picked me up. It's inspiring early in life to find someone who cares."

Anyone interested in submitting information can contact Anderson at (610) 388-1920 or drleeanderson@aol.com.

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Previous articles.

Phyllis Wynn, who has a number of relatives buried in Riverview, submitted a profile of her grandfather, Richard Cann McMullen, who was governor of Delaware from 1937 to 1941.

Berlinda DuPree said she had concerns about how rundown Riverview was when her pastor and mentor, the Rev. William E. Manley, was buried there.

Manley was pastor of