

**Boone Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2018**

Historic Preservation Commission Members in Attendance: Eric Plaag-Chairperson, Teresa Pearman-Vice Chairperson, Loretta Clawson, Bettie Bond and Bill Dixon

Town Staff in Attendance: Christy Turner-Senior Planner, and Marlene Crosby-Board Secretary

Call to Order

Chairperson Plaag called the meeting of the Boone Historic Preservation Commission, held in the Planning & Inspections upstairs conference room located at 680 West King Street, to order at 3:03 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Member Bond made a motion, seconded by Member Clawson to accept the agenda as written.

VOTE:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Election of Officers

Chairperson Plaag explained the situation with Member Bill Dixon and himself continuing to serve on the HPC even though their terms expired on June 30, 2017. Chairperson Plaag said that he is waiting until July of 2018, when he is eligible to apply to the HPC and be considered by Council to be re-appointed to the HPC. Chairperson Plaag noted that currently there are three open positions on the HPC.

Member Bond asked if Chairperson Plaag and Vice-Chairperson Pearman are eligible to continue to serve in their respective positions in 2018. Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner said yes.

Chairperson Plaag opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the year 2018.

Member Bond made a motion, seconded by Member Clawson to nominate Chairperson Plaag to continue to serve as Chairperson and for Vice-Chairperson Pearman to continue to serve as Vice-Chairperson of this Commission.

There were no other nominations for these positions.

VOTE:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Discussion of Union Soldier Marker Dedication

Chairperson Plaag began discussion on the rededication of the union graves. He handed out four documents (email regarding the Rededication of Union Graves dated January 11, 2018, four-page document on the process of the Headstone Rededication and Memorial services, email regarding the proposed Press Release for the Union Soldier Marker Rededication dated January 15, 2018 and three-page document on the proposed Press Release (permanently attached). Chairperson Plaag noted that he has emailed all of the documents listed above to Mayor Brantz, Mr. John Ward, Town Manager and Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner and Staff person for the Historic Preservation Commission.

Chairperson Plaag explained that there is a standard protocol for this type of rededication. He noted that this involves a camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He said in researching this type of rededication, he learned that about a dozen of them with the exception of one done at the National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia that was performed by the National Park Service. He said all of the other were conducted by Sons of the Union Veterans camps often on behalf of Towns.

Chairperson Plaag noted that there could be issues with inviting a Sons of Union Veterans camp to the Town of Boone because of for example long running disputes between families. He said it is possible to have some confederate sympathizing people show up and protest.

Chairperson Plaag said that he found out there is a camp of the Sons of Union Veterans located in Lexington, North Carolina. He said the name of this camp is Major General George Stoneman Camp and it has about eight members. He noted they have their own bugle player.

Chairperson Plaag suggested inviting Mayor Brantz and Mr. Ward to have a part in the conducting of the ceremony.

Chairperson Plaag asked the HPC members to review the four-page ceremony document to make sure they approved the content in the document.

Member Bond confirmed the date of the ceremony to be on Sunday, April 8, 2018.

Discussion ensued on inviting members of the Junaluska Heritage Association to the rededication ceremony. Ms. Turner said the Town Attorney suggested that they definitely be invited, if there are going to be members of the clergy there. It was noted that it should be the JHA's option to attend the ceremony.

Chairperson Plaag said there is a camp chaplain that conducts the more sacred elements of the service. He said if the JHA members were at the ceremony, they would be there in a more of a support role.

Discussion ensued on Town of Boone covering the expenses of the members of the camp of the Sons of the Union Veterans from Lexington, North Carolina to Boone, North Carolina. Member Bond suggested paying for their gas and lunch expenses.

Chairperson Plaag said since at this time, he has not had a response from Mayor Brantz or Mr. John Ward that the HPC should make a motion to Council regarding the proposed rededication ceremony. He suggested he felt the motion should include expenses and the proposed ceremony. Member Dixon noted that it would be helpful to know what the Sons of the Union Veterans charge to providing this service.

Discussion ensued on who will call the Sons of the Union Veterans regarding their fee for the proposed Union Soldier Marker Rededication ceremony. Member Dixon suggested that Chairperson Plaag call them to get the information and see if they are still doing this type of service.

Discussion ensued on the information to include in the motion to Council for the proposed ceremony. Chairperson Plaag suggested including the expenditure for the possible fee that may be charged and a welcoming lunch. It was decided to include in the motion for Council to ask for the funding outside of the HPC's already approved amount. It was decided to have the proposed ceremony at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 8, 2018.

Discussion ensued on the proposed press release. Chairperson Plaag said he did send a copy of the proposed press release to Mayor Brantz, Mr. John Ward and Ms. Christy Turner. He said at this time, he has not heard back from them. Chairperson Plaag asked the HPC members to review the proposed press release during the meeting. It was the consensus of the HPC members that the proposed press release was well written.

Motion and Vote:

Member Bond made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Pearman that the Historic Preservation Commission requests the Council to schedule a Headstone Rededication ceremony on April 8, 2018 at 2 p.m. in honor of the three union soldiers buried in Boone. And to cover reasonable costs for the participation, transportation and lunch prior to the ceremony for the Major General George Stoneman Camp of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War members. And the draft press release be released to local media at a reasonable date in advance of the ceremony once the particulars are confirmed.

Chairperson Plaag made the following amendment to the motion to include in the ceremony remarks from appropriate speakers such as a representative from the HPC, Mayor Brantz and Mr. John Ward, Town Manager.

VOTE:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Other Matters by Commission Members or Staff

Chairperson Plaag gave a brief survey update. He said he has to complete entries on about six or seven more properties. He said he has been working on the Watauga County bank building, a block of buildings for the Farmers Hardware building, Franklin E. and Jones building which is half of the Mast General Store building.

Chairperson Plaag shared some new information he had learned regarding Downtown Boone.

Chairperson Plaag said while working on the Jones House, he learned that in 1930 at the location of the Jones House there was a Tom Thumb mini-golf course with electric lights located in the parking lot behind the Jones House.

Chairperson Plaag said in the mid-1920's there was very clearly active substantial participation and support for "The Clan at Boone". He said in the 1875 courthouse upper floor, that hall was named Ku Klux Klan Hall.

Discussion ensued on race relations in the 1920's in the Town of Boone. It was noted that no stories were handed-down on this topic from that time period. It was noted that the parents of children would not answer questions of difficult times. Chairperson Plaag said there was one incident that was discussed in the Junaluska community which was the Horton incident in 1931. It is recorded in archival history that there was a posse of about 100 people that broke down the doors of the Junaluska community looking for the Horton brothers.

Chairperson Plaag said in some of the interviews that have been done for the theatre. There was an interview with Mr. David Horton sometimes known as Strawberry Horton. Mr. Horton is believed to be still alive and in his mid-nineties. It was noted that Mr. Horton did not like either one of the theatres because of experiences he had in both theatres.

Chairperson Plaag asked the HPC members to think on how they would like to handle this type of history while commemorating history in the Town of Boone.

Discussion ensued on the agenda items for the next HPC meeting. Chairperson Plaag reviewed the draft agenda and made the following comments:

Chairperson Plaag said for the Phase I Survey, he would like to begin discussion on the proposed changes that the HPC members may have found while reading the proposed documents. He said that he will be sending additional information on this topic to the HPC in the next few days once it is completed for their review.

Chairperson Plaag said that at the next meeting, he will let the HPC members know what he has found out regarding the camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Chairperson Plaag suggested for the discussion of Downtown Design Guidelines Workshop to begin discussion on the list of materials and type of architecture. He requested that Staff print out the guidelines from June 2014 for each HPC member. It was decided that Staff would print out the guidelines and leave them with the receptionist at Town Hall.

Chairperson Plaag suggested moving the Discussion of the "Boone History" Webpage to the top of the agenda and inviting Ms. Pilar Fotta, Director of Cultural Resources. He said he would like to ask Ms. Fotta to attend this meeting because the Cultural Resources Department is already maintaining a history page on the Town website. It was suggested to invite Ms. Britany Clark, Downtown Coordinator to attend this meeting as a result of the historical event called "This Place Matters" that will be occurring in May of 2018 in Downtown Boone.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 3 p.m.

Set agenda for next meeting

- Discussion of the "Boone History" Webpage
- Phase I Survey Report Possible Changes and Recommendations
- Planning for the Dedication of the Union Soldier Markers
- Discussion of Downtown Design Guidelines Workshop

Member Bond said that she and Chairperson Plaag and Mr. Roberta Jackson have been working on the Armfield Coffey Collection as a part of digital Watauga. She said on March 2, 2018 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. will be the opening for this collection and it will be on exhibit at the Jones House for the month of March of 2018.

Adjournment

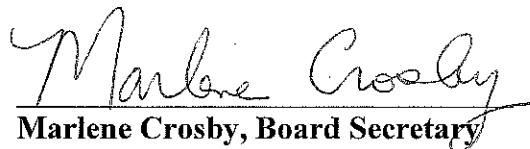
Member Clawson made a motion, seconded by Member Dixon to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

VOTE:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.


Eric Plaag, Chairperson


Marlene Crosby, Board Secretary

01-30-2018
HPC Mtg.

Eric Plaag <ericplaag@gmail.com>

Rededication of Union Graves

1 message

Eric Plaag <ericplaag@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 11, 2018 at 7:33 PM

To: Rennie Brantz <Rennie.Brantz@townofboone.net>, John Ward <john.ward@townofboone.net>, Christy Turner <Christy.Turner@townofboone.net>

Hello all,

At our last meeting of the HPC, we discussed the proposed ceremony for the rededication of the three Union graves at Boone Cemetery. It turns out that there is a standard protocol for rededication of Union graves (attached). This involves a camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War conducting the attached ceremony script. I've looked up news accounts about a dozen rededications for Union burials in the past few years; all but one of them (at the National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, which was conducted by the NPS) utilized the SUVCW or a sister organization (Daughters of Union Veterans).

As we discussed at our meeting, there are some potential problems with using a SUVCW camp. Put bluntly, Boone ain't located in Michigan or Maine. The Union presence in Boone was devastating for local citizens, and neither Stoneman nor Kirk was particularly kind to the citizenry during their time here. In addition, the fact that many of their troops were recruits from North Carolina and Tennessee only amplified various tensions within the community, many of which are still present even today. That said, several of the recent rededications I read about involved southern cemeteries, and they went off without incident.

Believe it or not, there is a Major General George Stoneman Camp of the SUVCW located in Lexington, NC. This would appear to be the nearest camp to Boone. (More here: <http://suvow-northcarolina.blogspot.com/p/new-camp-forming-major-general-george.html>). My gut tells me that the RIGHT thing to do is to invite this group to be part of our ceremony. Their portion lasts about 20 minutes, and we can make it clear that the Town has invited them to conduct the standard ceremony used since 1917 for rededication of Union graves. We can precede this service with remarks by the Mayor, me (as requested by the HPC on Tuesday), and the Town Manager. This would also eliminate the possibility of hurt feelings by not asking only one of several local groups and historians who might want/expect to be involved; in other words, we'd be following the usual protocol instead of trying to recreate the wheel with a local version. Instead, we would just inform these groups and individuals as a courtesy that the event is taking place.

The alternative is simply to ask the local ROTC chapter at ASU to provide an honor guard and someone to play taps. Not very interesting by comparison.

Please let me know how you'd like this to proceed. HPC is meeting on January 30 to review the proposed press release (which I am presently drafting at the HPC's request), and it would be helpful to have a decision on this by that date or at that meeting.

Thanks,

Eric

Eric Plaag, PhD
703 Junaluska Rd.

HEADSTONE REDEDICATION SERVICE

The following service is adapted from the 1917 Service for the Use of the Grand Army of the Republic. It was used to dedicate a headstone for a Civil War veteran. It is offered here as a basis for similar ceremonies in which a Camp may be involved. The ceremony involves the following: Camp Commander, Camp Chaplain, 3 additional Brothers to place items at the grave, an Officer of the Day (could be the Camp Guard Commanding Officer), a honor guard to fire a salute (could be the members of the Camp Guard or a reenacting unit) and a Bugler to play "Taps." Items laid on the grave are: a small American flag, a wreath of evergreen, a single rose, and a wreath of laurel. The service takes about 20 minutes to conduct.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Arriving at the grave the Camp will be arranged in such manner as may be most appropriate to the occasion and nature of the ground. The Commander will take his position at the head of the grave, Chaplain at the foot, music in rear of Chaplain, Colors in the line, Firing Squad to right or left of the grave as directed; friends opposite or in rear of the Commander. The Commander will give the command,

COMMANDER:

"Camp, attention."

"Parade, rest!"

The Commander will then say:

COMMANDER:

"Brothers, we have met here as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to consign to that house prepared for all the living, the memory of a soldier of this country, (name of veteran here). The march of this soldier is over. Let us remember Comrade (last name here) here at rest under the blue skies of Heaven, guarded by the silent stars that in life watched over him when he bivouacked on the battlefields or lay down weary and foot-sore on the soil of the Southland. May we, as we stand here by this grave remember that it is our duty, as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to honor the memory of the men who stood shoulder to shoulder on the bloody fields of battle, who guarded so faithfully, so honestly and so well the sacred bonds of Statehood and who fought for liberty and the dear old Flag. They have passed away to

their final review and upon us has devolved by sacred right of heritage the duty of perpetuating the principles for which they fought."

"May we not forget as the years roll on that we too shall have battles to fight, that in time we too shall be carried to the silent city of the dead and that our lives here should but fit us for the great bivouac of Eternity."

"The Chaplain will invoke the Divine Blessing."

"Uncover."

CHAPLAIN:

"God of battles and peace. Ruler of the destinies of countries and of men. In this silent camping ground of the dead we come before Thee asking Thy blessing as we honor the memory of this defender of our country's honor, (veteran's full name here). Wilt Thou in Thy infinite tenderness comfort those who mourn him. Wilt thou speak words of comfort and consolation to their sorrowing hearts. Look in mercy, we pray Thee, upon the widows and orphans of deceased veterans everywhere. Bless and save from every evil the country for which this soldier and our fathers fought. Preserve it in purity and integrity. Bless the members of this Order as they have gathered here in response to the call of love and duty, to perform these rites of remembrance over one of our Nation's preservers, and at last grant that we may all meet before Thy throne and to Thy name shall we ascribe praise both now and forever. Amen."

ALL RESPOND: "Amen."

COMMANDER:

"As we remember (veteran's name here), let us cherish his example as a patriot and defender of those principles he believed to be right. Let us forget his failings, for he was human, remembering only his virtues. Let us so live that when that time shall come those we may leave behind may say above our graves, 'Here lies the body of a true hearted, brave and earnest defender of the Republic!'"

"Officer of the Day, let the guard of honor set up the symbol of the army, and let a soldier be detailed to guard it."

[A musket with fixed bayonet, canteen and haversack hanging from it, knapsack leaning against the stock, is set up against the monument. A soldier in full uniform, armed with a musket with fixed bayonet, stands guard.]

FIRST BROTHER: (laying a wreath of evergreen upon the grave)

"In behalf of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I give this tribute, a symbol of an undying love for the comrades of the war."

[The Brother should take one step back and render a salute before returning to the line.]

SECOND BROTHER: (laying a single rose upon the grave)

"Symbol of purity, we offer at this lowly grave a rose. May future generations emulate the unselfish devotion of even the lowliest of our heroes."

[The Brother should take one step back and render a salute before returning to the line.]

THIRD BROTHER: (laying a laurel wreath upon the grave)

"Last token of affection from the Sons of Comrades in arms, we crown these remains with the symbol of victory!"

[The Brother should take one step back and render a salute before returning to the line.]

COMMANDER: (stepping forward and laying a small American flag upon the grave)

"In behalf of the Grand Republic for whose integrity and unity our late Comrade (veteran's name here) offered his services during the War of the Rebellion, I deposit this flag."

[The Commander should take one step back and render a salute before returning to his position.]

CHAPLAIN'S ADDRESS:

"It seems well we should leave Comrade (veteran's last name here) to rest in honor where over him will bend the arching sky, as it did in great love when he pitched his tent, or lay down, weary and footsore, by the way or on the battlefield for an hour's sleep. As he was then so he is still – in the hands of the Heavenly Father. Let us also then remember those honored dead who did not return to hearth and home, but lie in resting places known but to God:

The Unknown Dead

Above their rest there is no sound of weeping,
Only the voice of song-birds thrills the air;
Unknown their graves, yet they are in God's keeping,
There are none 'missing' from His tender care.

He knows each hallowed mound, and at His pleasure
Marshalls the sentinels of earth and sky;
O'er their repose kind Nature heaps her treasure,
Fanned by soft winds which 'round them gently sigh.

Bravely they laid their all upon the altar,
Counting as naught the sacrifice and pain,
Theirs but to do and die without a falter ---
Ours to enjoy the victory and the gain.

They are not lost; that only which was mortal
Lies 'neath the turf o'erarched by Southern skies;
Deathless they wait beyond the heavenly portal,
In that fair land where valor never dies.

In the great heart of coming generations
Their fame shall live, their glory never cease;
Even when comes to all earth's troubled nations
God's perfect gift of universal peace.

"He that loses his life for My sake shall find it."

SALUTE: Three volleys by firing squad.

[All Brothers should go to "Present Arms", either rendering honors through a hand salute or by placing the right hand over the heart. Remain at "Present Arms" until "Taps" has finished.]

TAPS: By Trumpeter.

CHAPLAIN:

"May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Ghost and the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, rest upon and abide with us forever. Amen."

COMMANDER:

"Our service of dedication is ended. In the name of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War I thank you, for your courtesy in permitting us, who are bound by special ties to them, to honor our dead."

"Taps are sounded – Lights are out – the Soldier sleeps."

Dismiss the Camp.

01-30-2018
HPC Mtg.

Eric Plaag <ericplaag@gmail.com>

Proposed Press Release, Union Soldier Marker Rededication1 message

Eric Plaag <ericplaag@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 15, 2018 at 5:25 PM

To: John Ward <john.ward@townofboone.net>, Christy Turner <Christy.Turner@townofboone.net>, Jane Shook <jane.shook@townofboone.net>, Rennie Brantz <Rennie.Brantz@townofboone.net>

Hello all,

Attached please find the proposed press release for the Union Soldier Headstone Rededication, which the HPC voted to request for Sunday, April 8. I have tentatively included the information about the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War in anticipation that this may be the route we take for this ceremony (see previous emails from last week).

We have scheduled a special meeting of the HPC to discuss and vote on this publicity statement on January 30, before everything about the event goes to Council for consideration, so it would be very helpful if we could resolve questions about the ceremony before then. The main reason for reviewing the publicity so early is that this topic--Stoneman's Raid--remains a source of contention among some in our community, and we wanted to craft a historical statement that is balanced in its handling of the difficult aspects of the backstory.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Eric

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www.carolinahistorical.com

**Proposed Press Release.pdf**

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**Proposed Press Release
Dedication of Union Graves
Boone Cemetery**

The Boone Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is pleased to announce that a Headstone Rededication Service will be held on Sunday, April 8, at X:XXpm in the Boone Cemetery. The service will include the unveiling of three replica stones provided by the Veterans Administration to replace the Union grave markers that stood for many years in the Boone Cemetery. Representatives from the George Stoneman Camp of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War will be on hand to perform the historic rededication memorial service, the program for which dates back to 1917.

All three Union soldiers served in the 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry, which was organized in Knoxville, Tennessee, in October 1863 and saw action in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina throughout the latter half of the American Civil War. Beginning on March 21, 1865, the regiment, temporarily under the command of Major Andrew J. Bahney, participated in a support role in Stoneman's Raid, an expedition into Western North Carolina designed to cut off Confederate escape routes into the mountains and coordinated by Major General George Stoneman. Activity at Boone was concentrated into two waves.

The first wave arrived on March 28, when a detachment of the 12th Kentucky Cavalry marched on Boone, killing at least three local residents, wounding several others, and capturing as many as 68 Watauga men, some of them members of the Confederate Home Guard. Among the dead was Jacob Mast Council, who was killed in a field near his home on the east side of Boone, despite being unarmed and pleading for his life. The home of James W. Council, which had been the defensive position of the Home Guard and the focus of much of the initial fight, was located on the present site of the downtown Boone Post Office and served as a field hospital for wounded Union soldiers and residents alike. Stoneman spent the night in the Jordan Council home, located where the Daniel Boone Condominiums presently stand on West King Street, before moving on with most of his forces the following day.

The second wave came on April 5, when two regiments under the command of Colonel George W. Kirk—Bahney's 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry and Kirk's 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry—arrived. While most of the men continued on two days later toward Deep Gap and Blowing Rock, Kirk remained at Boone with about 400 men, occupying the Jordan Council house, fortifying the courthouse (located where the Linney House presently stands), and sending men out into the county to forage from civilian homes. Kirk also established at least two field hospitals in the county, one of them almost certainly a continuation of the hospital established at the James W. Council home in March. The stop at Boone likely provided the opportunity to leave the three men from Bahney's regiment in hospital at Boone.

All three of the Union soldiers buried at Boone died from disease, and regimental records provide some information about their lives. Private William T. Bradley enrolled with Company B of the 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry on September 25, 1863, and mustered in at Knoxville on October 6, 1863. Born in Rutherford County, North Carolina, about 1847, Bradley may have been the youngest of eight children of William and Elisabeth Bradley of the Cathey's Creek vicinity, as listed in the 1860 Census. He was a farmer who stood 5 feet, 8 inches tall with blue eyes and dark hair at the time of his enlistment. He was transferred to Company H on January 1, 1864. Bradley died from typhoid pneumonia at Boone on April 10, 1865. His tombstone order, placed in 1879, incorrectly rendered his name as "William F. Bradley."

Private Henry P. Evans enrolled with Company F of the 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry on October 1, 1863, and mustered in on December 9, 1863, at Walker's Ford, Tennessee. Born in Buncombe County, North Carolina, about 1832, Evans was a farmer who stood 5 feet 10 inches tall, with blue eyes and black hair. He deserted his regiment in April 1864 but returned in June. He died of "fever" at Boone on April 16, 1865. His tombstone order, placed in 1879, misspelled his name as "H. P. Ewins."

Private John E. Maricle enrolled with Company H of the 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry on October 10, 1864, and mustered in on January 21, 1865, at Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. Born in Harlan County, Kentucky, about 1836, Maricle may have been the eldest son of Frederick and Mary Maricle, as listed in the 1850 Census. He was a farmer who stood 5 feet, 10 inches tall with blue eyes and dark hair at the time of his enlistment. He died from a relapse of measles at Boone on April 15, 1865.

Two other men from the 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry—James M. Pain and Robert Foster—also died during their regiment's occupation of Watauga County. Pain died from typhoid fever "in Watauga County, NC, on the march" on April 11, although some records suggest rheumatism as a cause of death. His place of burial is not known but likely occurred somewhere in Watauga County. Robert Foster appears to have died in Watauga County on April 22 from unidentified causes, although he was listed as ill in company records earlier in the month. A tombstone was ordered for him in 1901, to be placed at the "Madison County Cemetery near Marshall, NC," but it is more likely that he was buried in Watauga County at an unknown location.

All three of the men who died at Boone were interred in what was described on their tombstone applications as the "Councill Cemetery," in a part of the cemetery later known as the "black" section of the Boone Cemetery. Their grave locations were well-documented in cemetery surveys by John Heaton during the 1970s and early 2000s and confirmed by a recent ground-penetrating radar survey of the black section. The gravestones remained at this location until the late 1990s, when they were placed on their backs along the fence dividing the white and black sections, slightly to the south of the original burial location. They remained there until about

2010, when the stones disappeared entirely. Two of the stones returned to the Boone Cemetery in 2014, when they were found stacked in the northwest corner of the white section of the cemetery. One of these disappeared again before 2016, when the Town of Boone, which had recently acquired the cemetery, removed the last remaining stone for safekeeping. Unfortunately, this stone had badly eroded over the years and become illegible, necessitating its replacement.

This rededication ceremony is the latest in a series of efforts by the Town of Boone and the HPC to preserve and protect the cemetery while also celebrating its history. Last October, with assistance from the Town and the HPC, the Junaluska Heritage Association unveiled a marker it had designed and purchased to acknowledge the burials of 165 African Americans in the historic black section of the cemetery, many of which are otherwise unmarked. The Town also recently completed work on a wall protecting the east end of the black section from erosion and installed a new fence around the entire cemetery to replace the battered chain link fence erected in the 1970s. The HPC is also engaged in an extensive survey and GIS data collection of the surviving grave markers in the entire cemetery.

DRAFT ONLY