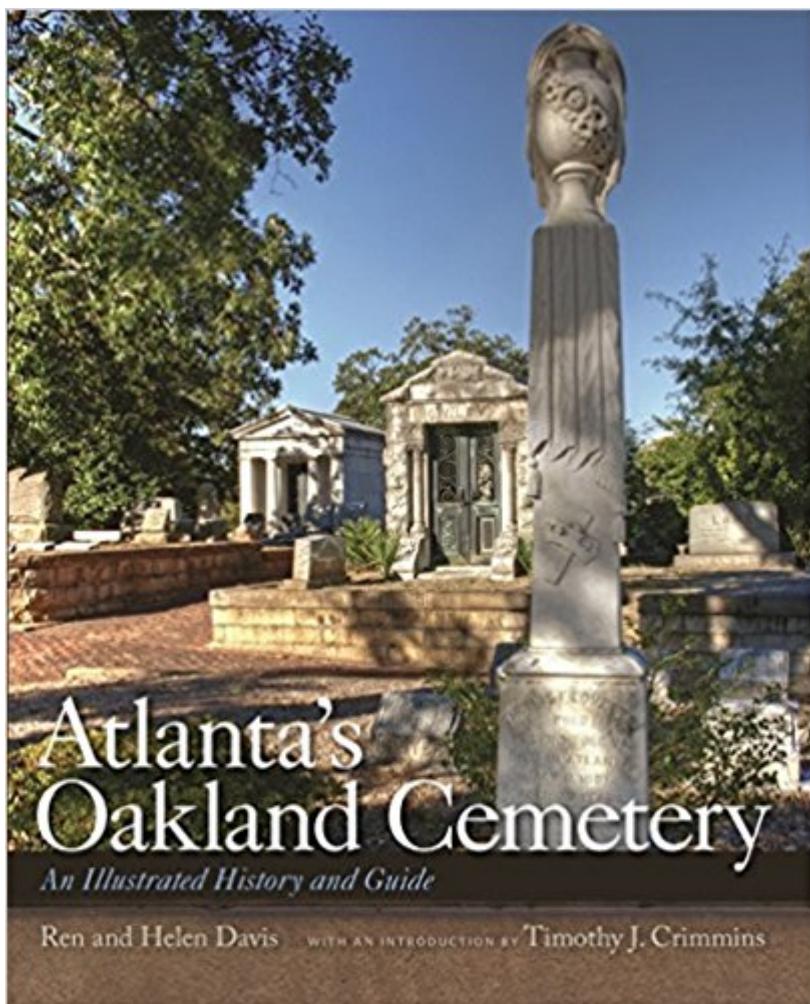


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# Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery: An Illustrated History And Guide



## Synopsis

In Atlanta and Environs, historian Franklin M. Garrett wrote that Oakland Cemetery is “Atlanta’s most tangible link between the past and the present.” Within its forty-eight acres are more than seventy thousand personal stories of settlers and immigrants who forged a city from a rowdy railroad camp, former slaves who carved out lives in a segregated world, soldiers in blue and gray who were cut down in a brutal civil war, and civic and business visionaries who rebuilt the Phoenix City from the ashes of war and carried it to prominence on the international stage. Today, Atlanta’s oldest public cemetery remains a must-see destination for anyone interested in the city’s colorful story. Past the grieving mien of the Lion of Atlanta, which guards nearly three thousand unknown Confederate soldiers, visitors can pay respect to those who made Atlanta history—former slave Carrie Steele Logan, who founded the first orphanage for African American children; Joseph Jacobs, owner of the pharmacy where Coca-Cola was first served as a fountain drink; Morris and Emanuel Rich, founders of the storied Rich’s Department Stores; golfing Grand Slam legend Bobby Jones; Gone With the Wind author Margaret Mitchell; Maynard Jackson, the city’s first African American mayor, and many others. Aside from its importance as a historic site, Oakland is among the nation’s finest examples of a rural garden cemetery, characteristic of the nineteenth-century movement to transform stark burial grounds into pastoral landscapes for both the repose of the dead and the enjoyment of the living. With Ren and Helen Davis’s engaging narrative, rich photography, archival images, and detailed maps, Atlanta’s Oakland Cemetery is a versatile guide for touring the cemetery’s landscape of remembrance, as well as a unique way to explore Atlanta’s history. A Friends Fund Publication. Published in association with the Historic Oakland Foundation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ren and Helen Davis have produced a clear and concise guide to Atlanta's historic Oakland Cemetery. Well-researched and beautifully illustrated with historic images, Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery provides an insightful look at the many unique areas that characterize this iconic burial space as it has been shaped, over time, by various social, cultural, and religious traditions. (James R. Cothran author of Gardens and Historic Plants of the Antebellum South) Ren and Helen Davis have provided a valuable guide to Oakland Cemetery, one of Atlanta's true jewels. Their richly illustrated work explores Oakland's evolution, a wide range of characters both prominent and little-known, the cemetery's natural landscapes, and its rich symbolism and iconography. Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery will be of interest to both students and scholars of the city's past and the general public alike. (Clifford M. Kuhn coauthor of *Living Atlanta: An Oral History of the City, 1914-1948*) In this guide to Oakland Cemetery, Ren and Helen Davis bring to life Atlanta's first landscape of remembrance, pointing out that Oakland Cemetery is a miniature version of the city of which it is a part. (Tim Crimmins author of *Democracy Restored: A History of the Georgia State Capitol*)

Ren Davis is a native Atlantan whose travel writing and photography have appeared in such places as the "Atlanta Journal-Constitution," "Georgia Magazine," and "Atlanta Magazine." Helen Davis taught for nearly thirty years in Atlanta public and private schools. The Davises are coauthors of several books including "Georgia Walks" and "Atlanta Walks."

My favorite part about Oakland is that it's a Victorian, rural garden. That's what initially got me to visit, but now I love everything about it, especially that the Historic Oakland Foundation has brought back to the city the original use of the cemetery as a park, not just a burial ground. It's hard to explain how they can hold road races, historical Halloween tours, and music festivals there without feeling like you're in a cemetery, but they do. This book has great pictures and a lot of great information. It would be great to read before you visit, or to have as a souvenir.

I volunteered at Oakland Cemetery and this book brought to life everything that I share with our

visitors. It's helped me to remember all of the cemetery "residents" and puts a face to a name. It also provides a great historical overview of the founding fathers of Atlanta.

Incredible book. Very precise as a tour guide as well as the Stories..

Oakland Cemetery is a true piece of Atlanta's history and this is a wonderful guidebook that gives you a fascinating background to the city's founding fathers

Great book, but some issues...The book is getting 5 stars because of the content. Living in Atlanta, I have heard all about Oakland Cemetery and wanted to know more about it. This book was full of color pictures and a very good history of the cemetery and who is buried there and what kind of memorial or monument is at their grave site. My only issue is the size and color of the type font for the description that is along side the photos. It is very very small, maybe size 8 or 9 and a very light beige like color and unless you have great eyes and in a very bright area, it might be difficult to read. There was more then enough room to increase the font size as well as make it a darker for easier readability. Still I am giving it 5 stars because of the content.

Cemeteries have long been the province of genealogists and mourners, but the reality is that cemeteries have a great deal they can tell us about our community and our evolution as a society. Case and point in Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery, which had its origins with the beginning of the city prior to the Civil War. In an era divided by class and race Oakland reflects those divisions reflected by how the races were divided even in death but in the markers that commemorate their lives. The authors vividly capture that here and the evolution of Atlanta from Antebellum society into the genesis of the "New South". Here the men in both Blue and Gray lie in close proximity to each other. The rich and famous lie in close proximity to the average souls who worked to shape and create the resurgence of Atlanta in the Victorian era, making for a richly varied tableau about the shaping and growth of Atlanta into the city it is today. Indeed, Oakland is a metaphor for the many changes that have swept Atlanta and the South, going from the division and horrors of chattel slavery, to Reconstruction and Jim Crow, to the breaking down of society's divisions in the Civil Rights era and beyond. In many respects this book is a great resource for those wishing to visit Oakland with a greater respect and understanding but it also is as essential for understanding Atlanta as great books such as *Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn: A Saga of Race and Family*.

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