

were trimmed on one side of the Cemetery.

When rejecting Minnie's request for additional trimming, which she mistakenly informed Pierce would be done, the Vestry in June 1916 told Pierce that no one on the Vestry was "aware of the fact that these trees were to be trimmed before the completion of your contract," and that no changes would be allowed to the contract. The Vestry expected Pierce "to complete this work at once in accordance with this contract and your failure to do so will necessitate the members of this Vestry making other arrangements for the erection of the fence. . . ."

The issue somehow resolved, at the meeting of September 22, 1916, the Vestry approved the report of Howell and accepted the iron fence around St. John's Cemetery. Constructing the iron fence had taken nine years. By that time, nine members of Minnie's family occupied the Williams family tomb in the Cemetery.

A bit of additional family history is needed: Dora Louise Williams, b. 1867, one of Minnie's older sisters, married Henry G. Bush, who died 1911, and then remarried Charles Janvier, prominent in New Orleans and its postmaster from 1916 to 1925. Janvier died in 1927 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, New Orleans, presumably also the burial spot for Dora, who died in 1934. Daisy Williams, b. 1875, married Dr. Beverly Smith of Franklin, LA, who died in 1925; and Dr. Smith and Daisy, who passed away in 1952, both are buried in Franklin.

Soon after the fence saga, Minnie, her mother Eudora, and younger sister Ruby moved to New Orleans, where during the influenza epidemic in 1918 the latter two died, their bodies returned to St. John's Cemetery for burial. Minnie remained in the City, where she was listed residing in October 1923 after her brother William died. A person of wealth, Minnie invested in property, acquiring a lovely house at 3437 St. Charles Avenue in late 1924, for \$24,500—a handsome sum, 20 times or so that in today's dollars. She lived next door, at 3439 St. Charles, a block above Louisiana Avenue, and in 1925 her garden was shown in a city-wide garden contest. Society articles in the Times-Picayune on occasion find Minnie Williams in company with the Episcopal minister at Trinity Church on Jackson Avenue, where she then attended. She was busy, prosperous, and happy, by all accounts.

Time and the Roaring Twenties passed, followed by the Great Depression. In 1933, in a final, if subdued, spot of publicity, the Times-Picayune advertised that furniture belonging to Minnie Williams was seized and would be sold to pay a furniture dealer's bill. No further information has surfaced on Minnie, and Census records for 1940 only recently have been made available. No record exists of her burial at St. John's. What happened to Minnie R. Williams? If any of you readers know, please send us the information.

(Sources consulted: Vestry Minutes, Ewing and Ewing, The Ewing Genealogy with Cognate Branches . . . [1919]; New Orleans Times-Picayune; U. S. Census 1930)

FACEBOOK ACCOUNT AND TREE ADOPTIONS

In the last issue of the Newsletter, we wrote of plans to get a Facebook account and to institute an "Adopt-A-Tree" effort. We are still "planning." It may be more worthwhile to have only a web site, and the Tree Hugger Committee is still trying to get its hands around details of any Adoption project. More, later.

Please mail donations to St. John's Historic Cemetery Association, 718 Jackson Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301. The Association is a 501 (c) (3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code, and donations are tax deductible to the limits provided by law.

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