

Record Series #: 6124-018
Name: City of Savannah, Cemeteries Department - Artifacts
Dates: after 1876, no date
Extent/Size: 7 items [1 records carton (1 cubic foot)]
Language: English

Scope and Content:

Record Series 6124-018, City of Savannah, Cemeteries Department - Artifacts (after 1876, no date), includes five ceramic border tiles of different colors and different designs, one Buffalo Lithia Water glass bottle, and one ceramic bottle recovered from Laurel Grove North Cemetery at various times. The ceramic tiles served as borders around grave plots. The stoneware bottle likely served as a grave marker, commonly buried upside down in groups of three in a triangle pattern. The Buffalo Lithia bottle was recovered in 2016 while crews were repairing a storm line at the northeast end of aisle A, near the infant section, behind the Porter's Lodge.

System of Arrangement and Ordering:

See attached inventory.

Conditions Governing Access:

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Access Points:

Laurel Grove Cemetery (Savannah, Ga.)
Buffalo Lithia Water
Grave markers

Preferred Citation:

Record Series 6124-018, Cemeteries Department - Artifacts. City of Savannah, Research Library and Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

Transferred from:

City of Savannah Cemeteries Department, November 14, 2016.

Processed by:

K. Zacovic, November 2016.

Inventory:

Box 6124-018-01

Item # 6124-018-01_0001



Description: Ceramic border tile; red and beige colored
Date: no date
Markings: none
Dimensions: 8.5" H x 9.5" W x 1.5" D
Condition: some chips and scratches, dirt

Item # 6124-018-01_0002



Description: Ceramic border tile, black
Date: no date
Markings: none
Dimensions: 9" H x 10" W x 1.5" D
Condition: fully intact, some dirt

Item # 6124-018-01_0003



Description: Ceramic border tile, pound sign motif
Date: no date
Markings: none
Dimensions: 8.5" H x 9" W x 1.5" D
Condition: some chips and scratches, dirt

Item # 6124-018-01_0004



Description: Ceramic border tile; arched bottom, coffered pattern
Date: no date
Markings: none
Dimensions: 8" H x 10" W x 1.5" D
Condition: some chips and scratches, dirt

Item # 6124-018-01_0005



Description: Ceramic border tile; arched bottom, circle motif
Date: no date
Markings: none
Dimensions: 8"H x 9.5" W x 1.5" D
Condition: some chips and scratches, dirt

Item # 6124-018-01_0006



Description: Buffalo Lithia Water glass bottle; aqua clear colored mold blown glass; seated female figure.

Date: after 1876

Markings: "Buffalo Lithia Water / Nature's Materia Medica / Trade Mark"

Dimensions: 10.5" H x 4.75" diameter

Condition: fully intact, excellent

Note: Buffalo Lithia Water comes from springs in Mecklenburg County, Virginia. In 1872, Col. Thomas Francis Goode purchased a plot of land from a former slave, who claimed the property had a spring, later named Buffalo Spring, the water from which cured her rheumatism. After having the water tested and finding that it contained high volumes of lithia, Goode began bottling the water and selling it to drug stores across the Roanoke River region, then across the United States. Bottles such as this one are highly collectable, as the design of the seated female figure can vary drastically between editions.*

* J. Wilberger, *The Buffalo Girls of Mecklenburg County*, from *Bottles and Extras Magazine*, November/December, 2011.

Item # 6124-018-01_0007



Description: Small ceramic bottle; two-toned with golden brown glaze at top

Date: no date

Markings: none

Dimensions: 8" H x 3" diameter

Condition: small chip on inner lip

Note: Bottles such as this were often used to mark graves, arranged in groups of three into triangles, upside down in the ground. *

* According to Sam Beetler, City of Savannah Cemeteries Department Conservator, as told to him by Savannah local historian Hugh Golson