The Oaklawn Cemetery Ramble - 1995

Arsenio M. Sanchez
THE OAKLAWN CEMETARY RAMBLE – 1995

By ARSENIO M. SANCHEZ

The Tampa Historical Society held its annual Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemetery Ramble on April 30, 1995, on the corner of Harrison and Morgan Streets.

The theme for this year’s event was "commemorating the veterans" who are buried at the two cemeteries. The registers indicate that more than 100 veterans, including five from the Spanish American War are buried there.

The program began at 2:00 PM. with remarks and introduction of guests by Kyle S. VanLandingham, vice president of the Tampa Historical Society. The guest speakers were Hampton Dunn, Hillsborough County Historian and George Howell, III, Hillsborough County Bar Association.

Wreaths were presented by veteran groups. The veterans of War with Mexico wreath was presented by Chris Hart, Board of County Commissioners.

The roll call of all veterans was made by George Howell. The veterans of Seminole Indian Wars wreath was presented by Chief
Bennie Holder, Tampa Police Department. Honor Guards accompanied all wreath presentations. For the veterans of the Civil War the Confederate wreath presentation was made by James Hayward, Commander, Sons of Confederate Veterans and Mrs. James Oliver of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The Union Veterans wreath was presented by Mrs. Beverly Goodenough, National Chaplain, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Norman A. Palumba Jr., president of the Rough Riders made the presentation for veterans of the Spanish American War. Presentation for the veterans of World Wars I and II was made by Mr. Hilton, Commander, Disabled American Veterans No. 110.

There was a break in the program when Rev. Fr. Robert Gibbons offered a dedication prayer.

Joseph Sultenfuss of the Knights of Columbus presented a wreath for Catholic veterans. Masonic veterans were honored by representatives of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, F.&A.M. The final tribute to all veterans was a 21 gun salute, by MacDill field taps.

A Benediction by Chaplain Samuel Rorer, MacDill AFB, completed the program.

Julius J. Gordon coordinated the program, assisted by Arsenio Sanchez, Ramble Chairman.