



Point Clear Cemetery



Point Clear Cemetery is owned and maintained by the Point Clear Cemetery Association. Prior to 2007, the American Legion Post #199 of Fairhope, Alabama was the owner. It is located across Scenic 98 from the Grand Hotel. The date of origin of the cemetery is unknown, but the Civil War section began during the War. The north side of the Point Clear Cemetery is bordered by the Lakewood Golf Course, owned by the Grand Hotel.

During the Civil War, the hotel was used as a hospital and at that time was briefly known as the “Quarles Hospital,” named for Brigadier General William Andrew Quarles. The hospital received many wounded and sick from the Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1863. Many of those who died here are buried in Point Clear Cemetery. The hospital was damaged following the Battle of Mobile Bay in August, 1864. Although patient records were kept, a fire in 1869 destroyed most of the hotel including the hospital’s records. The hotel was rebuilt in the 1870’s and has continued to expand and flourish to this day.

With many of the graves unmarked, Past Commander Alex Smith and members of the SCV Admiral Franklin Buchanan #1574 along with Compatriots John Ellis and John Rather of Admiral Raphael Semmes Camp #11 made arrangements in 1999 for a ground scan radar survey of Point Clear Cemetery to locate unmarked graves. During their search, three previously unknown parallel burial trenches, two (6 feet by 50 feet) and one (12 feet by 50 feet), were discovered. These burial trenches are believed to hold 138-263 Civil War soldiers. Forty-six soldiers have been identified through arduous research and appropriate markers have been placed and dedicated. Point Clear Cemetery, its total restoration and identifying all veterans who are buried there, were the projects of the Admiral Buchanan Camp. They added decorative cannons, placed headstones, and replaced the chain around the perimeter of the grounds.

