



LWREA recognizes LCHS students

Ninth-graders recognized were (front row, l-r) Darby Blanton, Jason Bramlett, Piper Buller, Mykia Crawford, Annalise Leclerc, Dallas Marlow, Katherine McNeese, (back) Riana Wertz, Dakoda Woods, Melanie Urbina-Ramos, Landon Padgett, and Dr. Samuel Light.



Tenth-graders recognized were (front row, l-r) Elle McNeese, Savannah Jones, Alyssa Huffman, Aubrey Gruber, Grace Deal, (back) Dr. Samuel Light, and (not pictured) Jack Antonakos.



Eleventh-graders recognized were (front row, l-r) Aaron Clegg, Charlotte Hodnett, Gavin Heitmann, (back) Dr. Samuel Light.



Twelfth-graders recognized were (front row, l-r) Anna Cox, Jenna Kinzle, Aubree Comtois, Rachel Jordan, Beatrice Jackson, Ethan Leclerc, (back) Dr. Samuel Light. Not pictured Jordyn Deason, Alexandria Gilpin, and Madison Welch.

**Across The Savannah
A Seashell Tradition**

By TOM POLAND
tompol@earthlink.net



There it was. A grave covered in seashells. It's as close to a burial at sea as an inland dweller will get. My sister, Deb, told me about a small cemetery deep in woods. "You've got to see it," she said. I did and its beauty and strangeness struck me.

Now I've seen shells placed upon tombstones. The last shell I saw atop a headstone was James Dickey's stone in All Saints Episcopal Church Cemetery at Pawleys Island. I've seen rocks, coins, and mushrooms even on gravesites. Now one stone or more on a tombstone is not what I saw in my back-road journey with my sister. I saw two graves whose mounds were encased in shells cemented into place. The shells provide a protective cover, and it's more common than you might believe.

I looked into this custom and learned it was a common practice in the Victorian South. African Americans placed clamshells on graves and a few theories attend this tradition. One thought was that the sea brought them to America and the sea would return them to Africa when they died. You'll find such graves in white cemeteries too giving rise to the belief that whites took up the tradition as well.

The shells, too, symbolize "crossing over" a body of water like the Styx to the afterlife. Another belief speaks to a practical purpose. The mounds of fresh dirt across African American graves easily washed away when a deluge struck. Well, a perfectly cemented "roof" of clamshells, like shingles on a house, shunted away the water.

How did the shells get to inland reaches hundreds of miles from the sea? Read on for there's a good story that explains how the shells ended up in cemeteries far from the coast. During the hard, lean times of Reconstruction salt was hard to come by. Thus did some communities form salt-making crews. These salt-seeking parties would make an annual trip to the coast. There they boiled seawater till salt remained and took it back to their communities. They'd do some fishing too and pack their catch in salt. They'd gather up shells too for covering graves.

Protection from the elements, a symbol of crossing over as spirits go, and a by-product of gathering salt all came together to give us beautiful graves covered in seashells. I find the shells with their shape and symmetry beautiful, and I wouldn't mind having them on my grave when my time arrives.

Shell-covered graves are out



The shells, too, symbolize "crossing over" a body of water like the Styx to the afterlife. (Photo by Tom Poland).

Legals continued

P.O. Box 1150
Thomson, Georgia 30824
3 11 4c

**STATE OF GEORGIA
LINCOLN COUNTY
NOTICE TO DEBTORS
AND CREDITORS**

All persons having claims against MARSHA MICHELLE NORMAN and her estate are required to present the same to the undersigned, properly itemized and proven, within the time required by law. Any and all persons indebted to said deceased, or his estate, are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 10th day of March 2021,
MALITA ANESIA JONES Executor
Chadwick D. Medlin
P.O. Box 3225
Evans, GA 30809
Estate of: MARSHA MICHELLE NORMAN
3 18 4c

there. You won't find them in a bland corporate "memory garden," and you won't find them alongside an interstate. You'll find them in a place called obscurity somewhere down a dirt road, a patch of woods, and a small plot hidden away from the hustle and bustle of contemporary life.

The old ways were beautiful and they didn't depend on electricity, plastic, or some other artificial product for their existence. In this

case black men made a pilgrimage for brilliant white salt and white clamshells. The shells have aged and turned gray but their beauty and significance remain.

Mail in tithes

Price Grove Baptist Church members are reminded that they are able to mail in their tithes to Price Grove Baptist Church, P.O. Box 916, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

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