

The Pinewood Cemetery

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The Pinewood Cemetery is the oldest cemetery south of the Miami River, and the final resting place of many of Dade County's pioneer settlers. It is one of the oldest historical sites in Coral Gables.

1896 Adam Richards deeds one acre of land on the corner of Sunset (Larkin's Rd.) and Erwin for a schoolhouse.

1897 Adam Richards deeds 1 acre of land south of the school for the cemetery,

Wilson A. Larkins, Arthur F. Lang and Arthur E. Kingsley were named as trustees of the cemetery

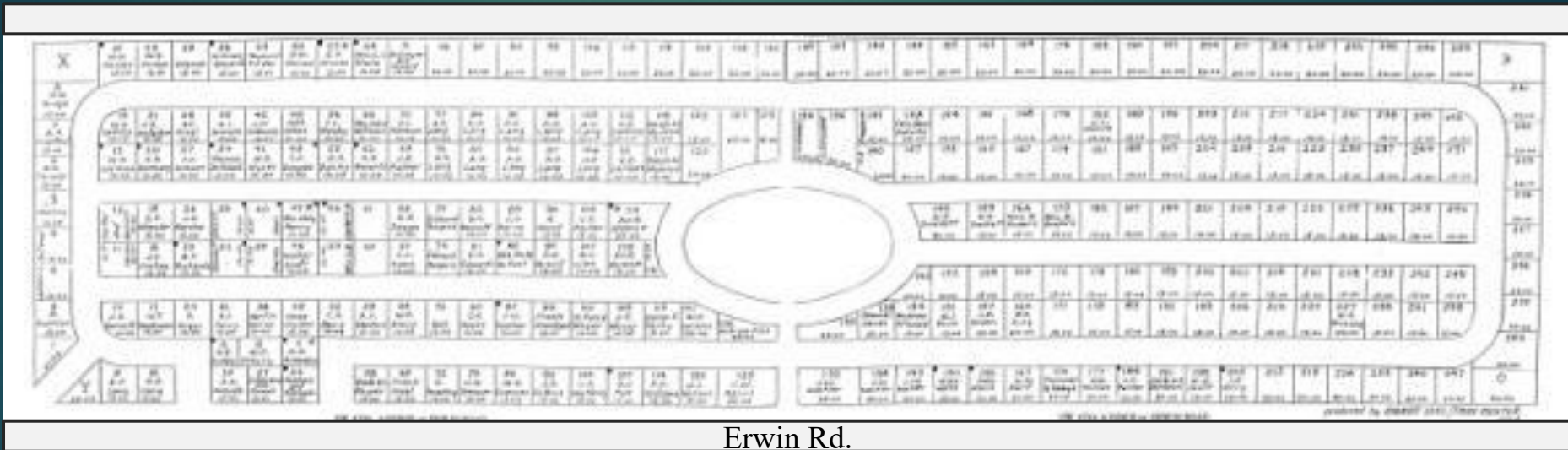
1906 Harley Staudt (Adam's nephew) deeds 3 more acres for the cemetery which is what we have now

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Official Cemetery Layout

Four Acres



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Early History

- There is an estimated two hundred burials in the Pinewood Cemetery. Many were babies and children, and many are unknown.
- Many of the original pioneers from Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, Larkin's, (South Miami), Cutler and the Redlands are buried in the Pinewood cemetery.
- By the late 1920's sales started to slow down.
- There were only a handful of burials after the 1920's with the last official burial in 1944.

By then the cemetery was essentially abandoned.

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Two important events have shaped the cemetery to what we have today.

- The cemetery was not a managed cemetery; you bought your plot and did what you wanted. Most people cleared their plots of the native trees. This opened the door for invasive trees to take over.
- Vandals stole or destroyed many of the original headstones.

These two events shaped the cemetery to what we have today. Massive invasive trees and many burial sites with broken or missing headstones.

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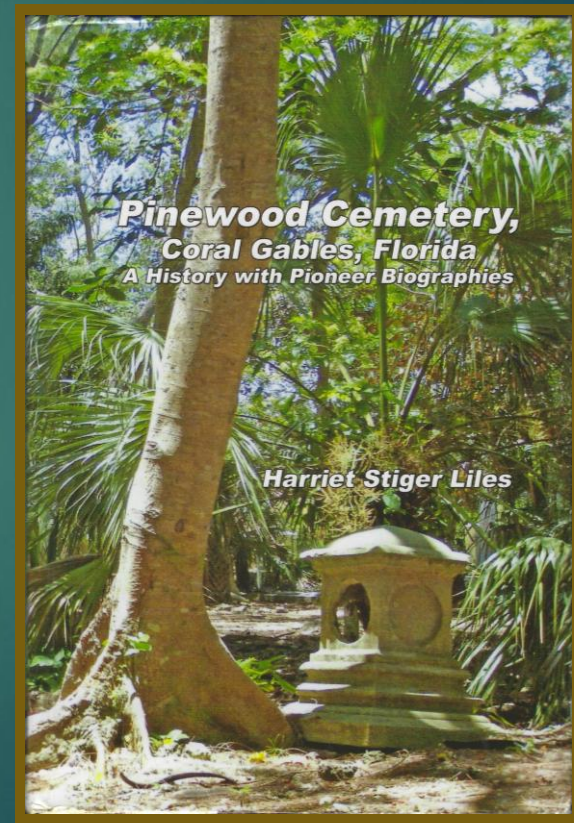
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In 1983, Former Mayor Dorothy Thomson asked Harriet Liles, an experienced genealogist and historian, if she would be interested in putting together a group of citizens interested in the preservation of the cemetery. Harriet had never seen the cemetery before. She wound up working for over 15 years to compile the history of the people buried there.

In 2008 Harriet published her book;

Pinewood Cemetery,
Coral Gables, Florida
A History With Pioneer Biographies



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Current Events

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To date there has been six volunteer cleanup events removing over 22,000 pounds of invasive plants, mostly snake plants and oyster plants.

Before cleanup



After cleanup



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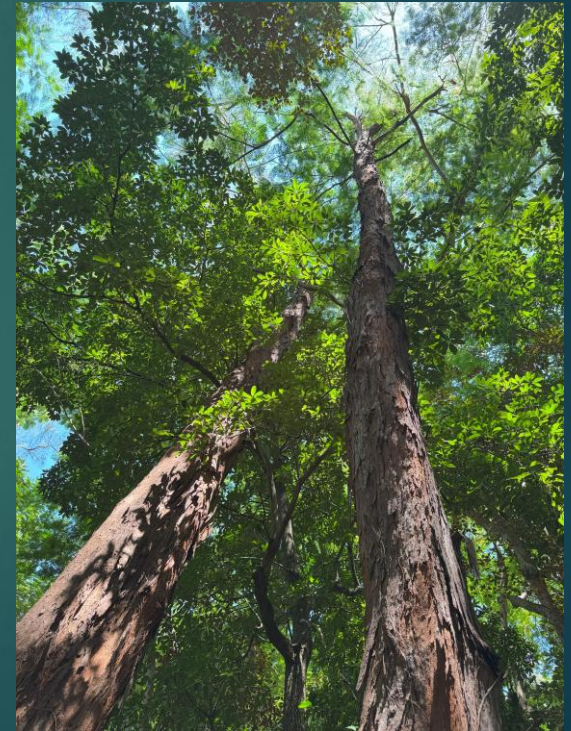
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Current Events

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A tree survey was done identifying over 770 trees, many of them are invasive.

Most notably, 70 large invasive Australian Pines



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Current Events

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FIU Landscape and Architecture school used the cemetery as a class project in 2024. We gave Prof. Linda Chamorro and her class a tour of the cemetery in Sept, and they presented their ideas to us at our Dec 2024 board meeting



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Current Events

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On April 25th we held Pioneer Day at the cemetery. The first Pioneer Day event since 2019.

- Over thirty people attend the event.
- Former Mayor Dorothy Thomson spoke about her connection to the cemetery.
- Several descendants of the early pioneers buried there attended the event.
- We will continue hold Pioneer Day annually .



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Next Steps

Our goal: To create a comprehensive restoration plan and to restore the cemetery as much as possible to its original state.

- 1) The Pinewood Cemetery Advisory Board is creating a detailed list of what we recommend to be accomplished in the restoration.
- 2) The Board will turn its list over to the project development team.*
- 3) They will develop a plan, timeline and budget based on our recommendations.
- 4) The Board will review the plan and make any adjustments, if necessary.
- 5) Work will begin on the restoration.

* Anna Pernas, Historic Preservation; Deena Bell Llewellyn, Public Works; Lis Ferrer; Public Works.

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Thank You