Georgia Municipal Cemetery Committee Visits WaCo

Dennis Stroud watches as Bob Perry uses his ground Penetrating Radar to locate unmarked graves.

By Elizabeth Jordan
Staff Reporter

With members coming from around the state, the Georgia Municipal Cemetery Association (GMCA) held their region 4 organizational meeting in Sandersville on Sep. 17.

According to Susan Lewis, region 4 representative, the GMCA was formed because there was a need to preserve cemeteries because of their historical value.

While visiting, Ed Jackson, Senior Public Service Associate at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, recognized Sandersville as a wonderful city, adding, "It just hasn't been promoted well enough."

Ways that Jackson discussed promoting Sandersville is through cemeteries as a form of tourism because people are always interested in their roots.

Not only did the group discuss ways to preserve cemeteries, and the benefits of restoring cemeteries for respective communities, but Bob Perry of Topographix spoke about cemetery mapping and ground penetrating radar.

During a field exercise, Perry used ground penetrating radar, Topographix to investigate and map sub-surface areas for vault and foundation locations.

The mapping service allows the finding of grave locations, positions, and depths – the finished product being a computerized drafting of old cemetery maps.

Finishing the day with a tour of the Sandersville Old City Cemetery, GMCA was able to see the vast amount of work that the Old City Cemetery Committee of the Washington County Historical Society has done to preserve the heritage of Washington County.

For more information about Sandersville Old City Cemetery visit their website at www.sandersvilleoldcitycemetery.com or to learn about the Georgia Municipal Cemetery Association, visit their website at www.gmcaweb.org.

The Old City Cemetery will hold their next fundraiser for restoration projects and to raise money for the historically inspired brick and iron fence on Oct. 29