

LANDMARKS AND WILSON-PARKER CEMETERY

Back in the 1970s the heir to the Wilson-Parker property -- long a family cemetery and long emptied (?) of it's contents -- approached the Irvington Community Council asking that the local organization take charge of the property and be responsible for it. The Property is parallel to Washington Street and to the rear of the area near the Butler Inn. The property even then was in need of care. After a good deal of deliberation the Council decided that it was not in a position to take the property. The matter was dropped. It is not clear what happened to it in the years since but in 2005 when Landmarks was in the midst of securing funding for a new slate roof and gutters for Benton House, a group from the Garden Club approached with a request to help care for the property. The matter could not be handled at the time. But, when Ann Shaver took over as President it became an item of interest and then more interest and then investigation and then confusion. It seems that the property is now owned by the City even though one of the jobs of the Township Trustee is to care for historic and/or abandoned cemeteries. Since finding that out Ann has schlogged through local bureauacracy in an attempt to clarify and perhaps take over the property. Finally a memorandum of understanding was presented to Landmarks by a representative of the city which would allow us to be responsible for a number of actions regarding the property. Landmarks declined saying it did not want responsibility for something it did not own. The Foundation would like to take possession of the property and make a serene park like area of it. Negotiations continue. We'll keep you posted.

events and host gatherings throughout the year. I have used the Benton House on more than one occasion and have found the house to be very versatile no matter what my event is. A great plus of the home is that you can bring your own food and drink in and you do not need an expensive caterer. This saves trememdously on the cost of an event. I have not done a wedding here, but feel that a wedding at the Benton House would be charming and different from the normal places most people host their wedding at."

"We used the Benton House for our New Year's Day wedding. It is such a gorgeous yet cozy venue. We had a small intimate wedding with around 50 guests. The Christmas decorations were still up and it was absolutely beautiful. It was really the perfect day and I am glad we chose Benton House for just a fraction of the price of similar venues."

"Linda, On behalf of the Tennessee State University, Indianapolis Chapter, we held our annual Round-up at the Benton House. The facility was clean, spacious, beautifully landscaped and it was inexpensive to rent the house for a day. We also had a lot of parking space which was important and the House was fully equipped with all the necessities to have a gathering for our organization. Yes! I would rent Benton House again.... in the near future. Best regards."

"The Benton House offered unique spaces with a cozy atmosphere for my sister's bridal shower. Thank you to Linda Hudson for showing us the house not only once but twice so that the bride-to-be could see it for herself on our second visit. We wanted a setting that was beautiful, comfortable, and affordable for over 35 ladies and the Benton House was perfect."

COMPLIMENTS

We receive many compliments from those who use the Benton House throughout the year .Here are some Linda Hudson passed along to us .

"The Benton House is one of the most beautiful homes I have seen. It is kept in clean and pristine condition. I produce numerous special

Call Linda Hudson, 353-1210.



MEMBERSHIP FOR 2012

Beginning in 2010 the Association reset membership terms to coincide with the Calendar year. So memberships are due to expire at the end of December. Why not renew now. Or if you are reading this and you are not already a member why not become one. Members get a 10% reduction on all rentals of the House and can expect at least 3-4 newsletters

and a chance to volunteer and perhaps become a member of the governing board. Individual memberships are \$15., Family \$25. Simply fill in the information and include your e-mail as we may soon be sending our newsletter that way. It is a great deal less expensive to do it that way.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-Mail _____ NEW MEMBERSHIP? _____ RENEWING _____

Amount \$ _____

Mail this form with a check to Linda Hudson, The Benton House, 312 South Downey Ave. Indpls, 46219