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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN'S BURIAL RECORDS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

WAKE FOREST, NC – November 14, 2011 – Family members, friends, and others with an interest in researching family histories can now access and view the Town of Wake Forest's more than 2,100 burial records online from any computer connected to the Internet by visiting the Town's new online burial record search service located at www.wakeforestnc.gov/residents/publicworks_cemetery.aspx.

According to Public Works & Utilities Director Mike Barton, this new, free, public service is a byproduct of Wake Forest's recent efforts to digitize its cemetery and burial records – a project that a growing number of public and privately-owned cemeteries across the country are undertaking in an effort to preserve precious vital records and serve the general public's growing interest in genealogy research.

In the past, the Town's cemetery records were available for review at Town Hall and the Public Works Operations Center only. Now, the burial information can be located with the click of a mouse.

"It's a tremendous time-saving resource not to mention it ensures our cemetery records will be preserved for generations to come," said Barton.

The self-service nature of Wake Forest's online burial search also reduces the staff time spent on fielding inquiries from the general public. In addition, genealogists and others with an interest in tracing family histories can now research burial and grave information any time of the day or night without leaving the comfort of their homes.

In addition to providing information about grave occupants, the service also has the ability to display family history information if it is known.

"In some cases we're already aware of the names of an occupant's family members, but if not, we hope the public will help us gather this information," said Barton.

Site visitors can contribute additional family details via a special online submission form that displays on each grave record's page he explained.

“Given the ever-increasing public interest in discovering and tracing family histories we believe our new online burial search service will be a highly valuable and valued resource for amateur and professional genealogists alike,” said Barton.

The Town of Wake Forest’s new online burial search service is powered by Pontem Software, a leading national provider of cemetery record management software which has been serving the cemetery industry with flexible, affordable, easy to use software solutions since 1979.

For more information about Wake Forest’s new online burial search service, contact Public Works & Utilities Director Mike Barton at (919) 435-9571 or mbarton@wakeforestnc.gov.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.