



For the past fifteen years, Patrick Kavanagh, as researcher, archivist, and historian for Forest Lawn Cemetery,

has been integral to discovery of the many stories told at the cemetery's programs, tours, and lectures.

He has spent countless hours in a herculean effort to organize and preserve volumes of records dating to the cemetery's 1849 founding. In addition to his scholarship, Patrick is an outstanding presenter who combines knowledge with genuine enthusiasm.

In 2010 alone, Pat assisted in researching the story of thirteen Forest Lawn Civil War veterans who never had a gravestone. The applica-

tion to the federal government that he helped write resulted in thirteen new gravestones, which were dedicated during the 2010 Muster in the Meadow, the cemetery's annual day-long, family-oriented Civil War experience. Incredibly, he has researched the more than two thousand Civil War veterans buried at Forest Lawn, including ten generals and seven Medal of Honor heroes.

Again, after much research, Pat found the first named African American buried at Forest Lawn: nine-year-old Elmira Brockenborough—other African Americans buried there were referred to only by race or gender. A plaque telling the story of Elmira was also dedicated at the 2010 Muster in the Meadow.

## Category: Education and Outreach

### *Patrick Kavanagh*

#### Forest Lawn Cemetery Historian

In the same year, Pat wrote a military tour; an itinerary for Forest Lawn's new Saturday docent-led walking tour, and also served the program as a major docent trainer; a tour for the Association for the Buffalo Presidential Center; a War of 1812 tour that will be featured during that war's coming three-year commemoration; and co-wrote with Chris Brown the official field guide for the war.

In addition, over the years, Pat has assisted hundreds of people seeking to document their genealogy and has conducted research for other institutions and individuals too expansive to list here.

For his remarkable service to Education and Outreach, PBN is proud to honor Patrick Kavanagh.