

FRIENDS *of the* DOBY CEMETERY

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Dear Members,

Buried at this old cemetery are Indians, Civil War soldiers, documented slaves, and family ancestors. This site is incredibly rich in history, but the most amazing find so far is an outstanding descendant, Jack DuPont. Without Jack, this overgrown patch of ground would still be just that. What better way to honor our legacy than to support everything this young man has done.



Diane Doby Merrill
President

FINANCIALS

AS OF 6/29/24

REVENUE: \$ 1,584

EXPENSES: \$ 1,165.85

TOTAL: \$ 418.15

**For a more detailed report of expenses, it is available upon request to the Secretary/Treasurer.*

BOARD *of* DIRECTORS

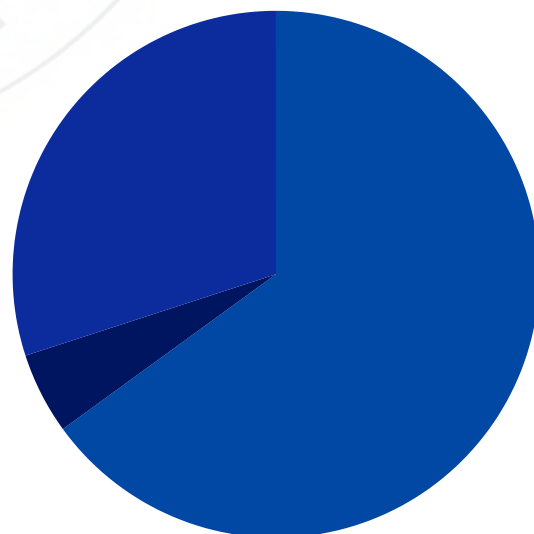
Diane Doby Merrill
President

Chris Bennett
Vice President

Jack DuPont
Secretary/Treasurer

Expenses Breakdown:

-  HISTORIC PRESERVATION
-  ADMINISTRATIVE
-  CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION



1. **Ground Penetrating Radar Scan:** Partnered with the University of Southern Mississippi for a comprehensive ground penetrating radar scan, enhancing our understanding and preservation efforts of Doby Cemetery.
2. **Successful Fundraising:** Raised over \$1,000 through community support, enabling us to fund various restoration and improvement projects within the cemetery grounds.
3. **Restoration Projects:**
 - Erected a replica headstone in honor of a distinguished individual buried in Doby Cemetery.
 - Meticulously restored another significant headstone, ensuring its longevity and historical integrity.
4. **Infrastructure Enhancements:**
 - Stabilized the Netto Pot fence, securing the cemetery's perimeter and preserving its boundaries.
 - Installed a prominent sign, improving visibility and accessibility for visitors.
5. **Cultural and Religious Installations:**
 - Erected a Blessed Mother statue, providing a place for spiritual reflection and reverence within the cemetery.
6. **Collaborative Efforts:**
 - Partnered with the Hancock County NAACP for a collaborative effort to memorialize the enslaved individuals who worked on the Doby plantation. This ongoing initiative underscores our commitment to honoring all facets of Doby Cemetery's history.
7. **Upcoming Blessing Ceremony:**
 - The priest will soon visit to bless the newly erected Mary statue, symbolizing our commitment to spiritual respect and unity within the cemetery.