As I sit here thinking about what I might want to write about this time I remembered that I had mentioned that I would continue writing about the many individuals that were laid to rest over the years.

What is interesting to me since I wrote that very first article was I have had a number of individuals stop me and mention a name of someone that has been part of the community and that I might find interesting to write about, so I look forward to the adventure of finding more out about these folks.

But I thought that I might take a moment to share some thoughts and write about some things that are special to us here at the cemetery.

I have a friend who recently lost his mother tell me that “Each time we bury someone a library burns down”; well not in the literal sense but in the sense that we lost another chapter in history. Every book tells a story, when we lose a family member or friend we lose a book full of memoirs and love that can never be replaced. Thank you my friend for that thought.

When I came to Forest Hill Cemetery in April of 2007 I wasn’t sure what to expect but was sure looking forward to the new adventure. I will forever be thankful to Frank Patrizio, Harlen Smoot, and Jim Hiegle for taking a chance on me and hiring me to take on the leadership role. As I look back over the years I have enjoyed it and look forward to work each day as well as many years to come. The cemetery is a very important part of the community and that’s important to me.

Where else can you go to work see deer standing near you, fox in the summer months with their pups playing, geese and ducks swimming and every other animal in the wild. Along with the animals we meet a lot of great people from all over America and Canada.

So first I would like to mention the new Labyrinth – Columbarium garden area that is situated just to the south of the main hill leading to the top. This has been a project that was started several years ago. The labyrinth is finished and is opened seven days a week during daylight hours. Please feel free to come out and take a walk inside the labyrinth and enjoy.

While the garden area is nearly finished there is one crowning jewel that is to come, the Christmas Angel of Hope. A $30,000 project it will consist of a black granite base in which the angel will rise over seven feet tall with her arms spread out. It is a beautiful angel and can be seen by visiting our web site at [www.foresthillpiqua.com](http://www.foresthillpiqua.com).

I forst read about the angel in a book some four years ago and have always wanted the angel part of the cemetery. There are currently 117 of the angels in the world and having one in Forest Hill Cemetery will be a real plus for all of us.

The granite base has been ordered and the only thing left to do is to reach our goal, we are still looking for donations to get it ordered. We are hoping to get it ordered soon for a spring time dedication as it can take up to three months from order to delivery. Then we have to have it placed which will take several additional weeks.

The cemetery is always improving on its flower gardens and this year the hope is to put in a large butterfly garden located on top in the open field southwest area. We are looking forward to this. And as always we will continue to replace and add new trees, please remember that we have a tree adoption program. Call the cemetery office for this and any other questions about our programs.

Speaking of trees each April we hold an Arbor Day celebration with the students from Wilder Intermediate School taking part in the planting. Wilder and Forest Hill Cemetery have become partners in education and can see that partnership for many years to come.

I can go on with many more great things at the cemetery but then I would run out of ideas and thoughts for the next time. So I will close with a few names that will be a part of the next article. Alfred Willard French Sr, James Harvey Hart, and John Franklin McKinney.