



THINGS TO DO IN HISTORIC SAVANNAH

Suggestions and Directions From the Innkeeper & Staff at The Eliza Thompson House

If You Have Any Questions While Visiting Savannah, You Can Always Call Us at 912-236-3620

Bonaventure Cemetery

330 Bonaventure Road, Thunderbolt, GA 31404

Admission: Free | Cemetery Open: Mon-Sun, 8am-5pm:

DIRECTIONS TO BONAVENTURE CEMETERY

- Leaving the Eliza Thompson House, you'll want to be facing east.
- Turn right onto Abercorn Street.
- Continue on Abercorn Street until you get to Victory Drive.
- Turn left onto Victory Drive.
- Continue on Victory Drive for approximately 2 miles.
- Turn left onto Skidaway Road.
- Turn right onto 36th Street, which will merge with Bonaventure Road.
- When Bonaventure Road ends you are at the Cemetery.

This cemetery is a beautiful final resting place for both the famous and not so famous of Georgia's historically important founders and governors. Bonaventure Cemetery makes an excellent stop on any tour of Savannah. In 1994 interest in the cemetery peaked with the publication of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, a quirky murder mystery partly set in the historic cemetery. The 1997 Clint Eastwood film of the same title featured scenes filmed in the cemetery.

About Bonaventure Cemetery

It means "good fortune" in French, and it was the good fortune of John Mulryne and Josiah Tattnall that created this cemetery. Both were large landholders in Georgia, but they have much more in common than owning the land that became the cemetery. Mulryne, who built the third Tybee Lighthouse in 1773, was Tattnall's father-in-law and owner of Bonaventure, his plantation home. It was a family cemetery on the plantation that formed the nucleus of the present-day Bonaventure Cemetery.

During the American Revolution both Mulryne and Tattnall declared themselves as Loyalists (loyal to the King of England). A short time later, Royal Governor James Wright spent the night at Mulryne's home while on the way to meet the British fleet at Tybee Roads. He was afraid to stay at his own estate not far from Bonaventure because the Patriots might find him. In 1777 the state "nationalized" all Tory holdings in Georgia, giving them to Patriots like John Habersham, who received Mulryne's Bonaventure. During the Siege of Savannah the estate was used by the French Admiral Valerie D'Estaing as a hospital. Josiah Tattnall Jr., son of Josiah Tattnall returned home and purchased the land from Habersham. Tattnall continued to use the family burial ground established by Mulryne, and was buried next to his wife when he died at the age of 38. When his son Commander Josiah Tattnall III sold the property in 1848 roughly 70 acres were set aside as a cemetery.

Eliza Thompson House

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