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Bryce to honor those buried in hospital cemeteries

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In its nearly 150-year history Bryce Hospital, has buried 5,000 patients in the four cemeteries bordering its campus.

All four cemeteries sit just inside the treeline along Jack Warner Parkway, and its 5,000 residents lie beneath ever-shrinking soil, nameless, out of sight and mind.

On Sunday, the Bryce Hospital Historic Preservation Committee along with the Alabama Department of Mental Health will hold an event to honor the lives and memories of those patients whose final resting place has fallen victim to years of neglect and vandalism.

During that event the committee will unveil four markers to be placed at the entrance of each cemetery that will indicate that each are historical cemeteries registered with the Alabama Historical Commission and will detail the years of burial at that site.

A larger memorial marker will also be unveiled that will sit between cemeteries two and three and will be visible from Jack Warner Parkway. The memorial will be carved in the shape of a Pythagorean triangle and will feature a transcription written by a Bryce patient.

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Steve Davis, Historian for the Alabama Department of Mental Health, talks about the history of the Bryce cemeteries and property on Thursday.

