

Georgia Humanities
and
The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry
Emory University

2015-2016 Georgia Great Works Seminar



Avenue in Bonaventure Cemetery ca. 1865

*Taken from a stereograph by J. N. Wilson (Robert N. Dennis collection of stereoscopic views)

John Muir and Wilderness in Modern Georgia
(begins October 7, 2015)

John Muir is best known for his efforts to protect the nation's most iconic Western landscapes, but his first prolonged encounter with wilderness was in the Reconstruction-era South. We will use Muir's diary of this trip—later published as *A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf*—to consider how the Southern wilds shaped Muir's environmental vision, while also exploring what his account can tell us about people and nature in Georgia in the years after the Civil War. Muir's ideas about nature resonated with many Georgians, and we will ultimately trace how his preservationist ethos shaped modern Georgia, from Helen Longstreet's 1911 campaign to save Tallulah Falls to the emergence of an environmental movement in the mid-twentieth century.

The seminar will be moderated by **Dr. William D. Bryan**, a 2014-2015 Fox Center Postdoctoral Fellow. The seminar will meet from **7pm-9pm for four consecutive Wednesday evening sessions during the fall semester: October 7, 14, 21 & 28**. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar. For further information and to reserve seating on a "first-come basis," email the Fox Center at foxcenter@emory.edu, or call 404.727.6424.

We are grateful to Georgia Humanities for its support of this program. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in these seminars do not necessarily reflect those of Georgia Humanities.