



# Prospect Hill Cemetery

*Our Nation's Capital's German-American Cemetery*

2201 North Capitol Street, NE,  
Washington, DC 20002-1103  
[www.prospecthillcemetery.org](http://www.prospecthillcemetery.org)  
Telephone: (202) 667-0676

**HOLIDAY ISSUE**

**NEWSLETTER**

**2014**

## **NO INCENTIVE GIFTS GIVEN! YOUR YEAR-END MEMORIAL DONATIONS HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES AND HELP PRESERVE OUR CEMETERY**

Times are tough, we know. The financial situation nationwide has been unstable for several years. All of us have been cautious about how we spend and donate our money.

Mail boxes get stuffed with pleas and holiday incentive gifts (address labels, calendars, wrapping paper, cards, note pads, etc.) from charities of all kinds seeking donations of all amounts. You wonder where they received your name and where the money really goes. Some charities repeat their pleas week after week.

But here at Prospect Hill the formula is different. We give no incentive holiday gifts and know exactly how and where our donations are spent.

As we have mentioned many times before, all contributions to our Year-End Holiday Memorial Fundraising Campaign go entirely toward the upkeep, expenses and beautification of our historic cemetery and the old stone house residence of Superintendent Joe Connell.

So we are appealing to you on a more personal basis. Let's not forget our own departed loved ones during this joyous holiday season when memories of happier days gone by keep filling our hearts and minds. Your donation to Prospect Hill is actually like a personal holiday present to your departed loved one.

Contributions have fallen in recent years partly because the list of faithful contributors continues to shrink. We continue to operate under financial pressure. Let's not let that continue!

If you wish to honor your departed loved one with a Year-End memorial donation, which we hope you do, please indicate it on the Order Form on page 7. A complete list of contributors and departed loved one(s) they are honoring will be printed in the Spring 2015 Newsletter. (The amount contributed will not be mentioned.)

If you do not wish to contribute a memorial donation please help us with an End-of-Year financial support donation, also indicated on the Order Form.

Thanks to all for your continued support of Prospect Hill.

## OTHER WAYS TO HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Another opportunity for you to honor your deceased loved ones and contribute to the upkeep of the cemetery is to transfer appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, etc.). You'll receive a federal tax deduction for the value of the security, and not have to pay a capital gains tax calculated on the original value of the security.

Still another way you can help ensure the future of our cemetery is to include it in your will (called a bequest). We have received several such bequests in the past and would welcome any in the future. It is best that a bequest is "unrestricted" so the cemetery can use the funds to fulfill any of its needs. Several bequests enabled replacement of the Gatehouse roof.

Consult your attorney for more information on how you can transfer your securities or honor our cemetery with a bequest. Your Board of Trustees appreciates any such contributions that will help secure the future of our historic Prospect Hill Cemetery.

## CEMETERY PUBLICATIONS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Prospect Hill publications provide interesting and valuable information about people buried at the cemetery as well as historical information about how they contributed to the growth of Washington, DC, especially during its formative years. It is important for the future preservation of Prospect Hill that we inform our children and grandchildren about the cemetery so that they may support it after we have departed.

*Prospect Hill Cemetery Adult Burial List*, compiled by president Carol Holler and our former cemetery historian the late Jean Crabill, may rouse your curiosity and make you want to know more. Nearly 300 pages, the book lists all burials of persons 14 years of age or older through year 2003. It has been a "best seller," having already been reprinted once, and is available for \$35 (plus \$5 postage).

*Prospect Hill Cemetery Children's Burial List*, a companion to the Adult Burial List, records all burials of persons younger than 14 years of age, and is available for \$20 plus \$5.

And if you'd like to read many interesting mini-biographies of persons interred in Prospect Hill, another book, *The Families of Prospect Hill*, is also available. Written in collaboration with about 160 lot owners and descendants, the book contains 496 pages with many photographs, and is priced at \$20 plus \$5.

Perhaps the most historic of Crabill's books about our cemetery is her first one, *The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill*. This book contains the original history written around 1949 by Catholic University German Professor Dr. Paul Gleis (who worked from the original cemetery's Board minutes, written in German until about 1920), then from 1950 to the present time, and tells about the early German-American immigrant history in Washington, DC. It contains 194 pages and costs \$30 plus \$5.

All books may be purchased by using the Order Form on page 7.

## FAMILIES OF PROSPECT HILL

Beginning in 1996, Mrs. Crabill, former historian of Prospect Hill, researched and assembled the stories of 133 families buried at Prospect Hill. It was a monumental task to gather information about the families, but she was ably assisted by Mrs. Holler, several members of Mrs. Crabill's family, and others. The result was a 496 page book, published by Prospect Hill in August 1997.

At the suggestion of our Editor Emeritus Henry Fankhauser, we will feature selected excerpts from the book in this and future newsletter editions.

The first story is that of the Edward Abner family.

**Edward Abner**  
**Louise Mueden Abner**  
**Helene Engels Abner**



*Edward Abner*

Edward Abner was born in Weisbaden, Germany, on January 14, 1834. Nothing is known of his parents other than that they were both born in Germany also. In 1855, at age 21, he immigrated to the United States, ultimately becoming a naturalized citizen.

Louise Mueden, the daughter of Karl and Karoline Mueden, was born in Prussia on September 29, 1834. It is not known how or when she met Edward, but by the early years of the Civil War they were married and living in Virginia, most likely in Alexandria. It was in Virginia that their first son, Oscar, was born in 1862.

In August 1868 Louise and Edward lost their 17-month-old daughter, Louise. A month later they buried a son, Herman, who was four years of age. A third child, Eddie, seven months old, died in March 1872.

By 1866 Edward and his family were living in Washington, DC; Edward was proprietor of the Washington City Garden on New York Avenue, between 1st and 2nd Streets, NW. After a few years he moved his establishment to 9th Street.

On July 5, 1869 a son, Theodore, was born.

Edward's restaurant at 421-423 9th Street, NW, quickly grew into the popular Abner's Winter and Summer Gardens. Around 1880 Edward moved his enterprise to the 700 block of E Street, NW, where within a few years it encompassed numbers 708 to 712 of that block.

Louise died on October 28, 1877; she was 43 years old. The cause of her death is not known; however it was this year that she gave birth to a son, Louis. The following year, in September, infant Louis, 11 months of age, died.

Edward eventually remarried; his second wife was Helene Engels, a native of Bavaria who immigrated to the United States in 1860. The date of her birth was October 1844. By 1880 the family was living at 413 and 415 9th Street, NW. A daughter, Helen, was two months old when the 1880 census was taken. Living with the family at that time were a nephew, Christian, 23, who was from Cologne, and Edward's stepson, Charles S. Engels, 14, who was born in Virginia.

By the late 1880s, Edward developed health problems which increasingly restricted his mobility. He closed his famous gardens and moved to 415 East Capitol Street, where he opened a saloon on a much smaller scale next door to his home.

Edward was very active in the Washington Sangerbund. He had been King of the Schutzenverein and was a member of the Elks. A very well-liked person, at times those from far away made special attempts to visit with him while in the Washington area. According to family tradition, a German submarine periodically came to the Washington Navy Yard. If Capt. Ulfis was aboard, he always found his way to Edward's garden. Once he presented Edward with his own silver cup from the submarine. This cup is still in the family, passed on now to Edward's great-grandson, also named Edward Abner.

On his 75th birthday (in 1909), Edward was honored by his many Washington friends and relatives. A newspaper article of an unknown source tells of the day's events:



*Louise Mueden Abner*

## Honor Aged Pioneer

### Friends Observe Edward Abner's Birthday

#### *Passes the 75th Milestone*

*Came to Washington at Beginning of the Civil War as Caterer for  
Gen. Franklin's Headquarters  
Tells of Lincoln's, Grant's, Sherman's, Sheridan's, and McClellan's  
Gastronomic Proclivities*

*Edward Abner, one of Washington's oldest resident German-American citizens, quietly celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of his birth Thursday last, at his home, 413 East Capitol street. He spent the morning receiving many of his friends who called to extend congratulations. In the afternoon he received his sons, daughter, son-in-law, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren.*

*During the day a large number of floral tributes of affection from relatives and close personal friends were received, among them a massive basket filled with 75 Killarney rosebuds from Edward Abner, a nephew, and another large basket from Simon Wolf; lilies and American Beauty roses from George W. Spier, roses from Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Slee, and azaleas from Charles Graff, Theo. Abner, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Engles. Letters of congratulation were received from G. W. Spier, Henry Xander, and Hugo Schulze. Wines, domestic and imported, cigars, and other presents came during the day.*

*Late in the afternoon a champagne lunch was served, only the members of the family being present. Rudolph Saur, an old friend of the septuagenarian, was present all day, and received the calling friends and gifts. Mr. Abner has been an invalid for the past fourteen years, suffering from rheumatism of the lower limbs. Otherwise, mentally and physically, he is in robust condition for one of his age.*

#### **Caterer for Union Army**

*"At the opening of the civil war," said Mr. Abner, "I left New York and came to Washington under a contract to take charge of the catering for Gen. Franklin's headquarters, then located on Suters Hill, south of Alexandria, from which point the army of the Potomac was operating against the Confederates. It was there that I saw President Lincoln, Gen. Grant, Gen. McClellan, Gen. Sheridan, and Gen. Sherman, and other Union officers and the members of the President's cabinet. I remember well that 'Old Abe,' as he was affectionately called by the rank and file, had the plainest of tastes. He preferred plain pork and beans, boiled cabbage garnished with fat bacon, and potatoes, to the fancy dishes offered. Gen. Grant was a good eater, and like his great commander-in-chief of the army and navy, seldom, if ever, ate anything like lobster salad, pate de fois gras, and kindred dishes.*

*"Gen. McClellan, while not particularly fond of specially prepared menus, would eat any and everything placed before him and enjoy all of it. Gen. Sheridan's favorite was black coffee, strong as lye, without either sugar or cream. Gen. Sherman drank tea and chocolate and ate sparingly.*

*"Near the close of the war I saw the advantages of the establishment in Alexandria of a brewery and suggested the plan to Robert Portner. He and I put all the spare money we could raise into the business and established a small brewery on King street. I remained with Mr. Portner in that business for several years after the war, and then sold him my half interest and came to Washington. There is where I made a mistake. Had I remained with Mr. Portner I would today be a millionaire. But you know our 'hindsight' are better than our foresights."*

#### **First Venture in Washington**

*"The first business venture I made in this city was as the proprietor of the Washington City Garden, then known as Loeffler's Garden, on New York avenue between First and Second streets northwest. Some years later I was proprietor of the Washington Schützen Park, at Seventh and U streets, now the ball park."*

*Mr. Abner is a man of means and retired from active business when afflicted fourteen years ago. He is a relative of Mr. Abner, the well-known brewer of this city. By reason of his physical afflictions Mr. Abner had to decline a public celebration of his birthday, tendered him by the Washington Saengerbunde of which he has been a member.*

On November 14, 1913, Edward, 79, died of chronic nephritis. Helene, 78, died of pneumonia on December 31, 1922.



**EDWARD ABNER'S WINTER GARDEN,**  
413 and 415 Ninth Street Northwest,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

IMPORTER  
OF  
WINE.

SOLE AGENT  
FOR  
GEO. ERST'S  
NEW YORK  
LAGER.

## **UNITED CHURCH HOLDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

**This year the Annual Christmas Service at The United Church/Die Vereinigte Kirche will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 3:00 PM. As in years past, the Washington Saengerbund German choral group will perform during the service.**

**After the service, refreshments will be served in the church social hall downstairs.**

**The Saengerbund has performed at many special events at the cemetery.**

**For information about the Saengerbund, visit their website: <http://www.saengerbund.org>**

**For information about the United Church, visit their website: <http://www.theunitedchurch.org/>**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND MANY THANKS FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT CONNELL**

As we approach the upcoming holidays our thoughts naturally turn to memories of the good times spent with loved ones who have passed on. We'll also be thinking about the good times we anticipate celebrating with our current loved ones, families and friends

Let the good times roll, but let's not forget the true meaning of these joyous times: to be thankful to our Creator who gave us our life to live.

If you're thinking of something different to give as a gift, I have a suggestion. For folks who may not be familiar with our historic cemetery, or those who'd like to find out more about it, the four books about Prospect Hill mentioned on page 2 are available to purchase.

But what might be your most significant gift of all, one that honors your loved one(s) interred in our cemetery, is a contribution to our Year-End Holiday Memorial Fundraising Campaign. These contributions are like a personal gift to your deceased loved ones to keep their final resting place beautiful and preserved.

Your Board of Trustees and Superintendent Connell extend their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all donors and volunteers who have given their time and generosity during the year to help in the upkeep and preservation of our beloved cemetery.

All of us wish all of you a prayerful Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Carol Holler, President  
Board of Trustees

#### **PLEASE CALL FIRST AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

At times, folks have entered the cemetery unannounced seeking help or direction from Superintendent Connell and found no one at home. Since he is our only employee, his duties sometimes take him away from the cemetery. He suggests you call first and make an appointment. This way he can prepare for your visit and give you his undivided attention. He will be glad to help you in any way. The office number is 202-667-0676.

*The Newsletter is produced by the Board of Trustees of Prospect Hill Cemetery, 2201 North Capitol St., NE, Washington, DC 20002*

*Rudolph Becker, Editor*

*Henry Fankhauser, Editor Emeritus*

# Prospect Hill Cemetery

## Order Form

Your gifts are very important to the operation of the cemetery. Each donation, no matter how large or small, makes a difference. We will work to keep expenses down, and with your help we'll continue to have a beautiful historic cemetery. One of the nicest things you can give to your ancestors is a donation to Prospect Hill Cemetery for the maintenance and upkeep of their final resting place. Thank you for your love and concern.

I wish to give a Year-End Memorial donation in memory of or in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make an end-of-year financial support donation of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Books for sale

#### # Of books:

\_\_\_\_\_ *The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill* (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
93 pages 1858 – 1949 with some photographs

\_\_\_\_\_ *Families of Prospect Hill* (\$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
496 pages 1858 – 1997 contains many photographs

\_\_\_\_\_ *Prospect Hill Cemetery Adult Burial List – 1858 thru 2003* (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Prospect Hill Cemetery Children's Burial List – 1858 thru 2003* (\$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of books \_\_\_\_\_

\$5 postage for each book purchased \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount of book order, postage, and/or donations** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

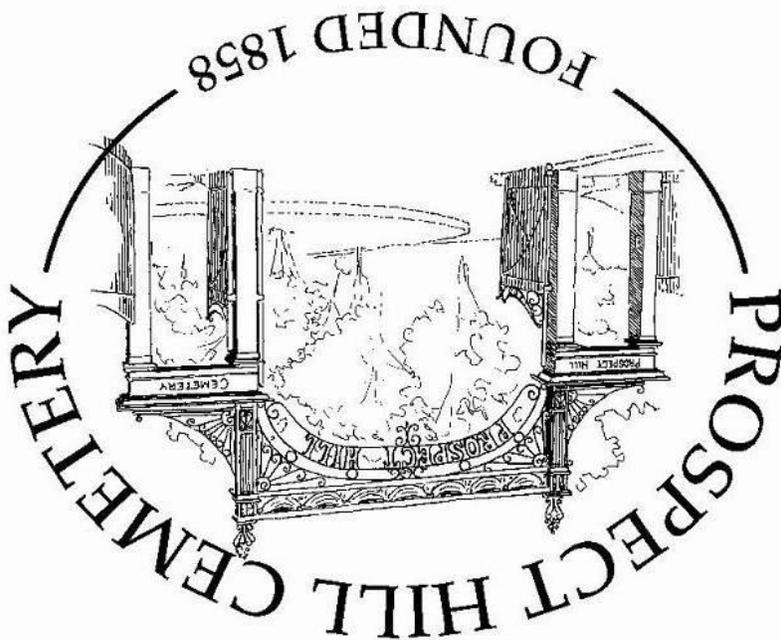
Make checks payable to **Prospect Hill Cemetery**, and mail this **full sheet** with your donation and book order to:

Prospect Hill Cemetery  
c/o Rudolph Becker, Treasurer  
2608 Lakeview Parkway  
Locust Grove, VA 22508

All correspondence should be sent to the address above. Thank you for your support of Prospect Hill.

Phone: 202-667-0676

Website: [www.prospecthillcemetery.org](http://www.prospecthillcemetery.org)



**PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY**

C/o Rudolph H Becker  
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Locust Grove, VA 22508