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Prospect Hill Cemetery

Our Nation's Capital's German-American Cemetery

Summer-Fall Newsletter 2014

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

May 26, 2014 was a glorious, sunny, warm day. A perfect day to celebrate Memorial Day at Prospect Hill Cemetery.



Carol Holler

Many lot owners and friends of PHC were in attendance, as Pastor Tabea Muenz of The United Church reminded us of why we honor the fallen soldiers buried at PHC and the Washington Saengerbund's music spread throughout the cemetery grounds and surrounding environs. PHC president Carol Holler opened the service by welcoming all in attendance.

The Saengerbund sang the prelude: a setting of Psalm 23 by Johann Sebastian Bach – "Gutes und die Barmherzigkeit" from Cantata BWV 112, "Der Herr is mein getreuer Hirt."



The Washington Saengerbund

Pastor Muenz led the opening prayer.

The Saengerbund sang a traditional folk song: "Gruess Gott, du schoener Maien," arranged by Otto Roy.

Rudy Becker presented the life of "*Move up Joe*" - *John Joseph Gerhardt*.". See Page 4 for the story about Joe.

The Saengerbund followed with "Auf meinen lieben Gott" by Jakob Regnart.

Pastor Muenz gave the homily. She had found a poem entitled "The Soldier's Funeral" and included it as a fitting tribute.



Pastor Tabea Muenz

The Soldier's Funeral

By Emelia Cook

*With muffled drums and measured tread
And arms reversed, they bore the dead
From battle's din and a world of pain
When the thread of his life had been snapped in
twain*

*His cap, sash, belt, and trusty sword,
(The best beloved of his simple hoard of relics)
Now his coffin crowned: --*

They could only be part of the charnel ground.

*Though his funeral notes are passing sweet,
From him they will no rapture meet;
The martial strains may fill the air,
But not disturb the slumberer there.*

Play on, play on – he sleeps too well

To hear the music's melodious swell

Or the trampling of feet upon the ground;

He'll not wake till the last trumpet's sound.

When the prayer was said, and requiem played;

In the bosom of earth the warrior laid,

About the spot the soldier pressed,

Where the bones of their comrade were put to rest,

And eyes grew dim, and tongues were mute,

As they fired their thrice farewell salute,

That meed was his due and they paid the "brave,"

And then left him alone in his soldier grave



Attendees at the service

The Saengerbund sang the beloved hymn "So nimm denn meine Haende" by Friedrich Silcher.

Pastor Muenz gave the blessing.

The Saengerbund ended the service with the Postlude: a setting of Psalm 23 by Johann Sebastian Bach – "Gutes und die Barmherzigkeit" from Cantata BWV 112, "Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt."

LOT OWNERS MEETING

The 2014 lot owners meeting preceded the Memorial Day Service. As was the case at last year's meeting, a quorum of lot owners in attendance was not achieved and no official business could be transacted. The trustees each presented reports, however.

Treasurer Rudy Becker reported on financial activities in 2013. Donations totaled \$ 53,578, including \$ 20,000 from the Phase Foundation. Investment income totaled \$ 25,199, and other income totaled \$ 30,375. Expenses were \$ 88,628 and net proceeds for the year were \$ 20,524.

Major expenditures during 2013 included renovation of the main bathroom in the gatehouse, repair of sidewalks to eliminate unsafe conditions, and cleanup of trees and branches damaged during storms. Future projects include repair of roadways and continued repair of sidewalks.

Board members are: Carol Holler, President; Edith Gill, Secretary; Rudolph Becker, Treasurer; Eva Brandt, Gerd Halusa, Gerhard Meinzer and Albert Rietz, Trustees.

CLEAN UP DAY AT PROSPECT HILL

Nearly a dozen lot owners, children, and friends of Prospect Hill met at the cemetery on Saturday, May10, 2014 to spruce up the place for the upcoming lot owners meeting and Memorial Day service. It was truly a family affair.

As in past years, the volunteers raked leaves along the walkway running from the house to the Memorial Grove, trimmed tree branches overhanging walkways in the cemetery, and weeded gardens and gravesites near the circle at the top of the hill. The men's restroom was given a thorough cleaning.

Refreshments and snacks were provided for all to enjoy. The weather was perfect for working at the cemetery.



Clearing poison ivy



Really getting into the work

Historical Perspective

Today we honor a person who made significant contributions during the formative years of an American institution – baseball. This is an excerpt from an article recently added to the Biographies section of the PHC website: www.prospecthillcemetery.org. It was written by the historian of German-Americans in the DC area, Gary Grassl.

“Move up Joe” John Joseph Gerhardt

Born February 14, 1855, in the District of Columbia, John Joseph Gerhardt was the eldest son of Civil War General Joseph Peter Gerhardt and of Dorothea Wolff, both immigrants from Germany. As Captain Gerhardt, he, Joseph Peter, commanded German-American troops in the defense of the Nation's Capital at the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion in 1861. After the District of Columbia was secured, he helped organize the 46th Regiment of New York Volunteer Infantry.

His son John Joseph was born in the family home on Maryland Avenue, SW, practically in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol. The Gerhardt home stood opposite the U.S. Botanic Garden where Maryland Avenue stops on the west side of the Capitol grounds. At that time dwellings crowded close to the Capitol building. This area is today part of the National Mall.

John Joseph, who went by the name of Joe, was about 6 years old when his father went to war. Did Joe know German besides English? Since his parents were native German



speakers, this was undoubtedly the language of the home; therefore, Joe understood German. He learned the rudiments of the national pastime in the backyard of the White House known today as the Ellipse. He was nicknamed "Move Up Joe" for his habit of urging base runners to advance to scoring positions.

The development and growth of our national pastime is closely intertwined with the Civil War. Soldiers played the game in their camps and spread it around the nation. That the eldest son became a professional baseball player speaks to the Americanization of the Gerhardt family. Immigrants generally find the game boring, because they do not understand the intricacies and the strategies involved. Big league baseball requires as much calculation as chess; it is a thinking person's game. Unfortunately it is no longer the nation's primary pastime; less demanding sports have taken its place.

"Move Up Joe" was almost 6 feet tall, weighed 160 pounds, batted and threw right handed. He played as a major league infielder from age 18 to 36 during the last quarter of the 19th century, the beginning of professional baseball. From 1873 to 1891 Gerhardt played for 13 different major league teams during 16 seasons. On three occasions he was player manager of major league teams. He also guided minor league outfits to three championships. He played for the *Nationals of Washington* when they won the playoff series between the two major baseball leagues.

Concluding his baseball career in New York State, "Move Up Joe" decided to settle there. He worked as a hotelman at Liberty House in Liberty, NY, and at the Palm Hotel in Montecello, NY. During the last three years of his life, he was employed at the N. D. Mills

Cigar Store in Middletown, New York. Middletown is west of West Point.

"On March 3, 1922, while returning from lunch at his residence at 23 Mulberry Street, he was stricken by a fatal heart attack. Newspaper obituaries reported that Joe was well-known and had thrilled many residents and fans with stories of his experiences during his baseball career. Following a memorial service in Middletown, his funeral took place in Washington, DC, with interment in the family plot at Prospect Hill Cemetery."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank everyone for attending this year's Annual Meeting. It was another beautiful day and it was great to catch up with everyone.

The Memorial Day service presented by the Saengerbund singers and the United Church was awe inspiring with the pastor's message and beautiful voices.

Kudos also to our superintendent-caretaker Joe Connell. He outdid himself in getting the cemetery looking in tip-top shape for the annual meeting. Many thanks to the faithful board of trustees who are always ready to tackle any problems that come our way.

The cemetery always looks wonderful so come and visit anytime when the cemetery is open: Thursdays thru Mondays, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Old and new friends are always welcome.

Carol Holler, President
Board of Trustees



A man is walking in a graveyard when he hears the Third Symphony played backward. When it's over, the Second Symphony starts playing, also backward, and then the First.

"What's going on?" he asks the superintendent.

"It's Beethoven," say the super. "He's decomposing."

CORRECTIONS AND AMPLIFICATIONS

In the Spring 2014 Newsletter, the memorial notation for a donation by David & Suzanne Francis was incorrect. The correct notation is: The Weber and Mills families: Robert Mills. We apologize for the error.

ARTICLES NEEDED FOR NEWSLETTER

Your editor is always in search of articles to include in the newsletter. If you have a story to tell about a loved one buried at Prospect Hill, please let us know. We can even help you compose it. And we always welcome "Letters to the Editor" pertaining to anything related to the cemetery. Photos are also welcome.

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

Photography: Memorial Day Service - Jean Endrikat; Cleanup Day – Rudy Becker

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.

My donation for the maintenance and operation of the cemetery \$ _____

Books for sale

of books:

_____ *The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill* (\$35) \$ _____

_____ *Families of Prospect Hill* (\$20) \$ _____

_____ *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 and/or donation \$ _____

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

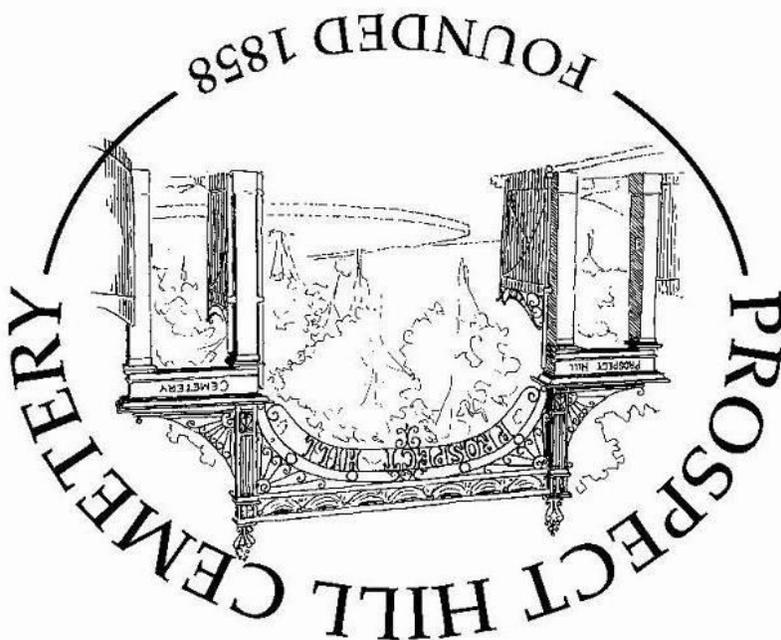
All correspondence should be sent to the address above. Thank you for your support of Prospect Hill.

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.

Phone: 202-667-0676

Website: www.prospecthillcemetery.org



PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY

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