

# Prospect Hill Cemetery

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

## HOLIDAY ISSUE NEWSLETTER – 2025

### LET'S NOT FORGET OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Since 1858 Prospect Hill Cemetery, the final resting place of our family members and other loved ones, has remained practically untouched in a serenely beautiful setting high on a hill just a few blocks from the U. S. Capitol building.

Surely, all of us want this beautiful legacy to continue for years to come. That is why this annual appeal goes out to you today. As you know, our Prospect Hill Cemetery is privately owned by its lot owners, and heirs of those buried here.

Much needed voluntary donations, in any form, ensure the continuing existence of our cemetery by helping finance its daily upkeep and growing operating expenses.

It is nearing that time again, the holiday season, when fond memories of our departed loved ones are felt the most. When memories of joyful days gone by keep filling our hearts and minds.

And once again your Board of Trustees invites you to contribute to our annual Year-End Memorial Fundraising Campaign this holiday season. Let us not forget our own departed loved ones during this time. In good times and bad, we are still counting on you to find it in your hearts to continue to support the historic final resting place of our departed loved ones.

All contributions received from your holiday season memorial donations go entirely toward the upkeep, expenses and beautification of our historic cemetery and its old stone house residence.

If you wish to honor your departed loved one(s) with a holiday season memorial donation, and we hope you do, please indicate it on the Order Form in the back of this newsletter. A complete list of contributors and the departed loved one(s) they are honoring will be included in the Spring 2026 issue. (The amount contributed will not be published.)

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.

# SUPPORT PROSPECT HILL WITH A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION

You can gift up to a maximum of \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Prospect Hill Cemetery without having to pay income taxes on the funds.

Gifts of any value of \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and you can feel good knowing that you are supporting and making a difference. This popular gift option is commonly called an IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short. Charitable gifts can be made year-round from your IRA account. To proceed, contact your IRA administrator (Fidelity, Schwab, Vanguard, Morgan Stanley, TD Ameritrade, etc.) to help get you started.

Please have the check made out to “Prospect Hill Cemetery” and have it mailed to Prospect Hill Cemetery, c/o Rudolph Becker, 12751 Sudley Manor Drive, Apt 243, Bristow, VA 20136. Ask your IRA administrator to include your name and address for acknowledgment purposes.

Alternatively, you can have your IRA administrator transfer the funds and/or stock directly to Prospect Hill’s Wells Fargo Advisors account. Just contact our treasurer, Rudy Becker at 540-308-5965 or email [rbecker2004@yahoo.com](mailto:rbecker2004@yahoo.com).

Please note, we must receive your gift by December 31<sup>st</sup> for your donation to qualify for the 2025 calendar year.

In advance, we greatly appreciate your support!

YEAR-TO-DATE INTERMENTS FOR 2025		
March 22	Gerhard Meinzer	88
May18	Dagmar Georgiev	82

## UPDATE ON THE WATER BILL ISSUE aka CRIAC Continued Good News – CRIAC relief program renewed for FY 2025



DC Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA) renewed the amendment to its Customer Assistance Program. The program provides a significant one-year discount on the CRIAC fee for FY 2024 (October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024) to cemeteries and other non-profits. Organizations must provide proof of nonprofit status and demonstrate the need by proving that the CRIAC fee is at least 1% of revenue after expenses. In addition, organizations would be required to install and maintain stormwater mitigation onsite or implement an alternative stormwater mitigation measure in the district, or in lieu, accept a reduction in the discount if onsite mitigation is not possible. PHC applied and was approved for the program. It received credit to its account of **\$9,173 for FY 2025, or 57.15%** of its total CRIAC obligation. We expect the program for non-profits will continue to be renewed in future years.

## **UPDATE – Newsletter publication going wireless**

The Board of Trustees is proposing a new distribution for the newsletters starting in 2026. This will consist of sending the newsletters via email to recipients.

The decision was made due to various factors, publication costs, mailing costs and the time it takes to put each newsletter together.

We will continue to mail a printed newsletter for recipients who do not have an email address.

Please indicate your newsletter preference on the order page (Page 7) under **Newsletter Delivery Preferences**.

Again, our objective is to reduce the amount of printed newsletters and the cost involved. The Board of Trustees appreciates your understanding.

## **NEW ONSITE CEMETERY POLICIES**

### **Hours**

The cemetery will be open on Thursdays through Mondays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Entrance gates will be locked at all other times. When visiting the cemetery, make sure you exit before 4:00 PM to avoid being locked inside the cemetery.

### **Restroom use**

The newly refurbished public restrooms will be open on days the cemetery is normally open (Thursdays through Mondays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm) **and** Superintendent Connell is working in the cemetery. The restrooms will be closed at all other times. This is to protect them from damage by vagrants who may try to use and damage them.

## **VISITATIONS TO THE CEMETERY**

Visitors to the cemetery seeking assistance or guidance from Superintendent Connell should call first and make an appointment. As he is our sole employee, his responsibilities may require him to be away from the cemetery at times. To ensure you receive his full attention, it is recommended that you call ahead and schedule an appointment. You can reach the office at 202-667-0676.

### **Working on cemetery plots**

Superintendent Connell takes great pride in keeping the cemetery grounds in pristine condition. Visitors planning to clean up and/or install new plantings on cemetery lots should adopt the same attitude. They must remove all resulting debris from around the lots. Debris should be placed in trash bags and removed from the cemetery or placed in the trash dumpster located on the left side of the Memorial Garden (where the angel statue is located.) No debris should be left on or near the lot being worked on or anywhere else in the cemetery. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Excerpt from **The families of Prospect Hill** by Jean Bishof Crabill

# August Gottlieb Schoenborn

Nearly sixty years ago it was written, "The drawings which Walter made in compliance with [the] order are quite extraordinary examples of draftsmanship and show engineering ability of a high order. Much of the credit for them should go...to August Schoenborn, who was Walter's chief architectural draftsman."

The order referred to was the 1855 decision of Congress to replace the old, low, copper-sheathed wooden dome of our nation's Capitol with one of much greater size made of cast iron. During 1860 and 1861 a Brooklyn foundry sent to Washington 1.3 million pounds of painted cast iron parts "to be bolted together for a double dome held together by an extraordinary system of 36 continuous trussed ribs, apparently devised by Walter's chief draftsman, August G. Schoenborn."<sup>2</sup> Including the statue of *Freedom* on top of the dome, the structure weighs almost 4,500 tons, "the only dome of this size to be erected on an existing building."

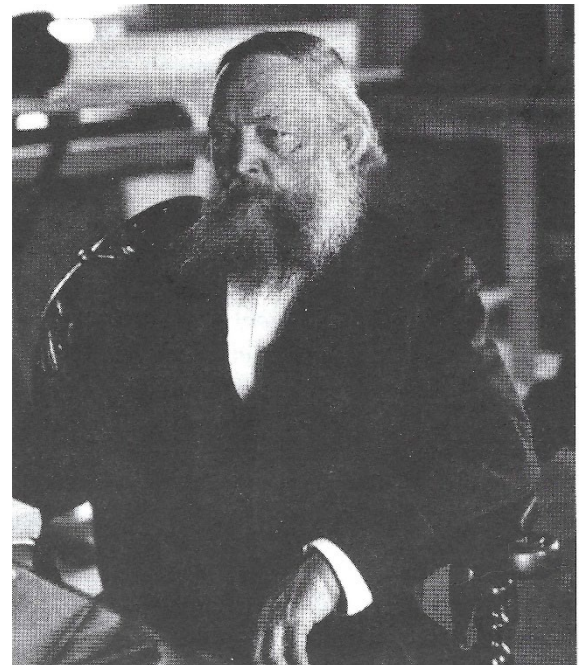
When the dome was completed, a service of dedication was held. Mr. Walter, as Chief Architect, was asked to place a wreath at the foot of *Freedom* that day. A man of advancing years, Walter passed the honor on to August. Thus it was August and his brother who climbed to the top of the dome and laid the wreath at *Freedom's* feet. They passed on to their descendents the memory of hearing cannons from neighboring forts being fired in unison. It is also believed that Abraham Lincoln participated in the ceremony.

In one way, political Washington, as elsewhere, has not changed. Work done is usually credited to the worker's chief executive. In August's case, this would be Montgomery Meigs or Thomas Walter. The fact that August is remembered in written history today tells us that his ability was exceptional. His work is seen in the two wings of the Capitol, the gate at Arlington Cemetery, the Pension Building, Cabin John Bridge and the restoration of the Library of Congress after the fire. According to his great-granddaughter, "General Meigs is credited with much of the design work, as he the Army Corps of Engineers' officer in charge of construction, but great-grandfather and Mr. Walter were the designers. In fact, August Schoenborn designed Gen. Meigs' residence."

August remained with the Capitol architect's office more than a half century, from 1850 to the time of his death in 1902.

A native of Suhl, Prussia, August was born on October 20, 1827. After completing his public schooling in his home town, he worked as a mechanic for three years. In 1843 he began his study of architecture.

It was 1849 when he immigrated to the United States and settled in Wisconsin. After two years there, he decided to come to Washington, DC. He traveled by canal and stagecoach as far as Cumberland, Maryland, where he was able to take a train for the remainder of his journey.



August married his wife, Helene, on December 10, 1851. His bride was from Heubach, Hesse, Germany, born there March 9, 1828. During their earlier years in Washington August and Helene resided on C street north between 2nd and 3rd east and then at 562 D street north. By 1870 they had settled at 133 D Street, NE, which would remain the family homestead for the rest of August's and Helene's lives. By that time August had become a citizen of the United States, and was able to declare holdings of \$20,000 in real estate and \$800 in personal property. They had nine children-Louisa (July 20, 1853), Ellen (February 4, 1855), William (December 28, 1856),

Robert (December 30, 1858), Emilie (March 11, 1863), Martha(October 31, 1863), Carl Friedrich (December 15, 1865) and Hermann Albert (August 18, 1868).

By September 6, 1874, August's and Helene's last child, Julia, had been born. Carl Friedrich had died on November 13, 1873; he was nearly 12 years of age. Hermann Albert, 10, died on February 14, 1879. In 1894 daughter Emilie, who had married Edward Tiede, died in her parents' home on May 6. Only 33 years old, she had no children.

In addition to his position at the Capitol, August did architectural work on his own. It was he who designed the first gate for Prospect Hill Cemetery. He also designed houses. Two of his homes still exist today at 325 and 327 East Capitol Street. These two three-story, bay-fronted Italianate houses are described by Scott and Lee as having well-balanced, attenuated proportions with restrained use of high quality cast-iron ornamentation and attention to decorative details which distinguish them from other houses of the same style.<sup>4</sup> For some years the members of the Friedrich family made these houses their home.

August died of heart disease at age 75; his date of death was January 24, 1902. The following day, the Washington Times noted his passing on its front page:

## **Man Who Planned Capitol Dome Dead**

Architect Schoenborn Passes Away at His Home Here.

### **Sketch of Interesting Career**

*Mr. August G. Schoenborn, who designed the dome of the Capitol, died last night at his home, 133 D Street, northeast, in the seventy-fifth year of his age....*

*On his arrival [in Washington] he secured employment with Thomas M. Walter, the architect who had charge of the plans for the extension of the Capitol building.*

*Mr. Schoenborn began work on the plans and elevations for the proposed extensions on a small scale at first and subsequently he worked on the plans for the present dome, which were accepted by Mr. Walter.*

*President Filmore took deep interest in Mr. Schoenborn's plans for the dome and visited him frequently at the architect's office in connection with the matter.*

*When the old Library of Congress was burned, in December 1851, Mr. Schoenborn made the drawings for the new building.<sup>5</sup>*

The Washington Post reported August's death in their Sunday paper of January 26.

## Designed Capitol Dome.

Death of Mr. August Schoenborn, a Well-known Architect.

*Mr. August Schoenborn, one of the oldest and best-known architects in the District, died at his residence, 133 D street northeast, Friday night, seventy-four years of age. Mr. Schoenborn was best known as the architect of the dome of the Capitol. The drawings were finished in June 1851. When they were shown to Architect Thomas M. Walter, he was so surprised at the excellence of the plans that he doubted that Schoenborn had made them, but he was soon satisfied, and the plans were adopted.*

*During the civil war Mr. Schoenborn accompanied gen. McDowell, of the Union army, into Virginia and made topographical maps.*

*Funeral services will be held at the late residence of the deceased tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Mr. Schoenborn is survived by a widow and five children, Mrs. Adolph Eccard, Mrs. Julian Rettig, Mrs. Charles Klee, Mrs. Carl Burgdorf and Robert Schoenborn.*

*Helene died of a stroke two years later, on January 30, 1904. She too was 75 years old. A beautiful sculpted angel, designed by August Schoenborn, marks the family plot in Prospect Hill.*

### UPCOMING CONCERT AT THE UNITED CHURCH

**Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 PM**

The Washington Saengerbund, our sister society that originated from the United Church, will perform the traditional annual German Christmas Concert at the United Church/Vereinigte Kirche, 1920 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. See [www.saengerbund.org](http://www.saengerbund.org) for more information.



**Your Board of Trustees wishes you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!**

### PLEASE CALL FIRST AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Sometimes, people visit the cemetery without notice, hoping to seek assistance or guidance from. To ensure you receive his full attention, he recommends that you call ahead and schedule an appointment. You can reach the office at 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*

# Prospect Hill Cemetery

## Order Form

Please fill out the form below completely so we can accurately account for your donation and purchases in the cemetery's financial records. Use return address label for your convenience. Separate checks for donations and purchases are NOT required.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

1. I wish to give a Year-End Memorial donation in memory of or in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. I wish to make an end-of-year financial support donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. I would like to order the following books:

\_\_\_\_\_ copies, The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ copies, Families of Prospect Hill (\$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ copies, Prospect Hill Cemetery Adult Burial List (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ copies, Prospect Hill Cemetery Children's Burial List (\$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of books \_\_\_\_\_ times \$5 each for postage \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Plot Markers for sale** – indicate the name as it is to appear on the marker – one name per marker. See the photo sample at our website: <http://www.prospecthillcemetery.org>.

_____	_____	_____	_____	@ \$35 ea.	\$ _____
# of markers	Name	Name	Name		=====

**The total amount of book order, plot markers, and donation** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletter delivery preferences:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Emailed - \_\_\_\_\_ email address

\_\_\_\_\_ Printed & Mailed

Make checks payable to Prospect Hill Cemetery, and mail **this FULL SHEET ( Do not cut down)** with your donation, book, and plot marker order to:

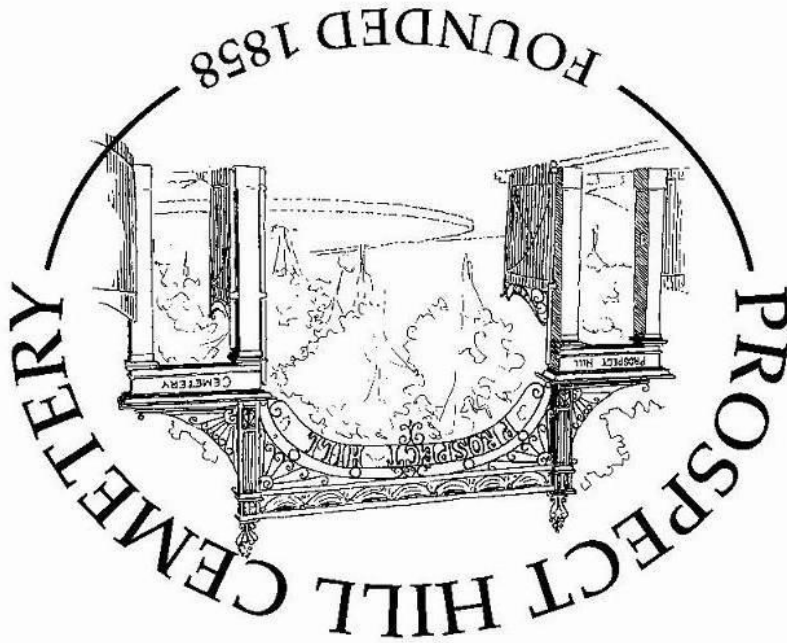
Prospect Hill Cemetery  
 c/o Rudolph Becker, Treasurer  
 12751 Sudley Manor Drive **Apt 243**  
 Bristow, VA 20136



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)



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