

Rockville Cemetery Association

DECEMBER 2015



2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Annual Meeting

& Election:... Tuesday, April 12,
Rockville City Hall

Dedication:.. Spring, Saturday
(date TBD),
War of 1812 veteran
Thomas A. Brooke

Flags out: • Memorial Day
• Independence Day
.....
• Veterans Day

Cemetery

Tours:..... Available to schedule
301-468-7331

Clean Up

Days: Call to volunteer:
301-309-0191

Volunteer at Rockville Cemetery!

We need You!

Call to Volunteer:

301-309-0191

Pruning • Cleaning Stones • Placing Flags
• Research • More



**Visit our
NEW website:
www.
rockvillecemeterymd
.org**

President's Message

On behalf of the Rockville Cemetery Association Board of Directors, I am pleased to report another successful year in 2015. Thanks to the hard work of our Board members and volunteers, we have many accomplishments of which to be proud. The Cemetery grounds are in good shape; another major phase of gravestone conservation was completed; sales of graves and columbarium niches were at their highest level since the association took over in 2001; the caretaker's house was renovated as we welcome a new tenant beginning December 1.

We invite you to visit our new and greatly improved website!

www.rockvillecemeterymd.org

The site now provides complete and comprehensive information on all aspects of the Cemetery: detailed maps, visitation and decorating policies, fees for services, historical information, and the opportunity to make on-line donations. Special thanks to the excellent work of our Board members, and to volunteer extraordinaire Glenn Wallace for shepherding us through this multi-year process.

Thanks to the diligent ongoing work of new Board members Anne Allnutt and Michael Grant, great progress has been made on another high- priority project, the conversion

of all Cemetery records to digital format. One hundred percent of the information in the five written ledgers is now recorded in a database, ensuring preservation of this information in perpetuity. Just as important, new computer-generated maps of all Cemetery sections have been created. The process of painstaking field checks continues, to ensure all map information is correct.

A third new member, Stephen Edwards, joined the Board this past April, bringing our number to ten. Steve is already lending his capable assistance to multiple projects.

Big thanks again this year to the Rockville Rotary Foundation for another generous grant of \$5,000, to be used for interior road repairs in the Upper Cemetery.

With sadness I report the passing of our long-time President and friend Stephen C. Cromwell, Jr. Dr. Cromwell was interred in June, along with his wife Bentley, in the family plot in the Lower Cemetery. Thanks to the many RCA supporters – more than 50 – who sent donations in honor of Dr. Cromwell.

Please contact me with questions, suggestions, concerns, or to volunteer to help. I can be reached at 301-294-6396.

Burt Hall, President,
Rockville Cemetery Association

A NEWSLETTER OF ROCKVILLE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4318, ROCKVILLE, MD 20849 • WWW.ROCKVILLECEMETERYMD.ORG • RCA@ROCKVILLECEMETERYMD.ORG • 301-309-0191

Rockville Cemetery Formally Enters The Digital Era

Information Now More Accessible

by Michael Grant, RCA Board Member

Today, the chances are excellent that you, or someone close to you, has access to the Internet and uses it regularly to conveniently gather and exchange information. For the past three years, the Rockville Cemetery Association has been actively converting a mountain of traditional paper records, photographs, handwritten ledger pages, etc. into digital format, in order to take advantage of this “information superhighway.” Proudly, during 2015, the Association was able to successfully apply its results one step further by improving its Internet presence to increase public awareness, enhancing communications with interested parties, and broadening its overall outreach to the community it serves.

New Cemetery Maps: Through the dedicated and tireless efforts of RCA board member volunteers, 2015 witnessed the creation of our first digital maps displaying the thousands of burial sites within cemetery borders. Available via the RCA website, individuals can now more easily navigate cemetery grounds to locate the grave sites of family members or specific areas and features.

Updating the Cemetery Burial Database: One of the RCA’s primary goals has been the establishment of a definitive database which provides a comprehensive and accurate accounting of the 4,600+ individuals interred in Rockville Cemetery. This information is being compiled by RCA board member volunteers. The process has been tedious, as it involves the inspection of antiquated, handwritten artifacts as well as on-site verification.

New and Improved Website: Go to www.rockvillecemeterymd.org Those familiar with the previous website will not recognize this transformation, as the new site offers an expanded array of topics pertaining to cemetery description, history, operations, and the capacity to communicate with cemetery board members. Most of all, it further promotes public understanding and encourages involvement to foster the preservation of this historic cemetery. You can read the full Visitation Policy on line.

We are Now on Facebook: This social networking site has become a worldwide location for informal outreach and exchange with interested individuals, specifically with regards to the cemetery’s mission and operations, and the announcement and promotion of public activities. Please “Like” us at <https://www.facebook.com/rockvillecemeterymd>, and



feel free to share your comments or observations regarding Rockville Cemetery!

Records Conversion Continues: While the vast majority of paper records have been digitally photographed or scanned electronically, the Board of Directors continually seeks out additional information which can be added to enhance its ongoing burial record files and operational history. Current RCA board member Michael Grant continues to take the lead on maintaining the entire RCA digital records collection.

As one can understand, the records pertaining to a working cemetery is a dynamic collection which continues to grow steadily through ongoing correspondences, daily operations, and continued research efforts. To continue its goal of achieving a comprehensive compilation and representation, the Board of Directors invites any individuals and family members to share relevant documents, evidence, and information pertaining to the cemetery’s history or interments.

WANTED: Donated Brush Cutter for trimming medium brush from the cemetery’s periphery.
Call RCA board member Tim Mertz 301-758-1601.



Henry Hilleary

1738—1792 • Upper Cemetery, Section C-1, Lot 11



Members of Chevy Chase Chapter DAR on September 26

Henry Hilleary is one of two known Revolutionary War patriots buried at Rockville Cemetery. Born in the Maryland frontier and deceased before Rockville was named, Hilleary was a planter and carpenter residing near Seneca Creek near what is now called Darnestown. He and wife Elizabeth Magruder had no children.

At the start of the conflict in 1776, the United Colonies were asked to form militia companies. Henry Hilleary enlisted as a private in the newly formed 1st Company, Montgomery County Militia, Middle Battalion in 1777 and in the 5th Company in 1780. On March 2, 1778, he took the Oath of Allegiance. These patriots were trained for duty and stood ready and alert if they were needed.

Maryland was spared serious conflict on the home front, but earned the name “The Old Line State” from Gen. George Washington in praise of the Maryland 400 who served so bravely at the battle of Long Island.



Gravestone of Henry Hilleary, cleaned by Fred Bird and marked by Chevy Chase NSDAR

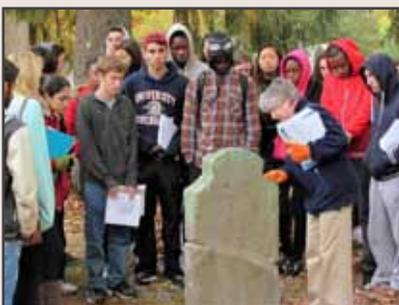
Hilleary lived to see the village of Montgomery Court House, the ports of Baltimore and George Town, and the new nation start to grow and thrive. In the first U.S. Census of 1790 he owned tracts of land and 15 slaves. He died testate in Montgomery County at the age of 54.

On a breezy September day, the Chase Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution marked Hilleary’s grave with a well-attended

ceremony and a handsome plaque. Also participating were the Sons of the American Revolution color guard and Bugles Across America, with event support from Rockville Cemetery Association. Stated Dorothy Brault, DAR History Committee Chairman, “We are grateful for the service of Henry Hilleary and all the soldiers and patriots in Maryland and throughout the United Colonies, and all those who have served and continue to serve this great country.”

Class Assignment

On October 27, RCA welcomed 40 students from nearby Richard Montgomery High School, who conducted a field study project as part of the Human Geography class led by Andrea Lyons. The morning’s activities included an interpretive tour. RCA extends its compliments to Ms. Lyons and her students for their interest in the cemetery, respect for its grounds, and the generosity expressed for ongoing efforts to maintain the cemetery’s mission.



RCA Board member Eileen McGuckian leads students from Richard Montgomery High School on a personal tour of Rockville Cemetery

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Honoring our Veterans

On Veterans Day, the Board of Directors of Rockville Cemetery Association expressed gratitude to all men and women - and their families - who have sacrificed to protect our country. Other occasions for recognition here are Memorial Day and July Fourth. We thank Fred Bird, who shares his time and energies to identify all veterans buried at Rockville Cemetery. Please send information about veterans to rca@rockvillecemeterymd.org



RCA board member Fred Bird places over 300 flags on our veterans graves for Federal holidays each year



Rockville Cemetery Association
P.O. Box 4318, Rockville, Maryland 20849

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**ROCKVILLE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Historic Rockville Cemetery

Grave Sites and Burial Niches
For Sale — Reasonable Rates



Lots, Single Sites and Columbarium Burial Niches Available

Additional information including prices
at www.rockvillecemeterymd.org

**Please include
Rockville
Cemetery
Association
when making
your end-of-year
gifts. *Thanks!***



Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$500
- Other \$_____
- I'd like to help out. Please contact me.

- To be used for:
- Road Repair
 - Gravestone Conservation
 - However funds are needed

IN MEMORY OF: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
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 Email: _____

Please make checks payable to
Rockville Cemetery Association. Thank you!