

# Rockville Cemetery Association

DECEMBER 2016



## President's Message

Thanks to the steady diligent work of our Board members and many other volunteers, I am pleased to report another successful year for Rockville Cemetery Association in 2016. The cemetery grounds are in fine shape. Our upgraded website and Facebook page appear to be doing the job we anticipated — providing information to families, generating interest, and enabling more contacts with inquiries about the cemetery. Sales of grave sites and columbarium niches are at record levels this year. Burials and inurnments were steady, month-by-month. Many fallen and leaning grave stones were repaired; many others have been lovingly cleaned and restored. Regrettably, it was necessary again this year to remove several more of our oldest standing trees. Our tenant begins her second year in the caretaker's house.



2016 Board of Directors (left to right): Tim Mertz, Ellen Buckingham, Frank Teti, Steve Edwards, Hannelore Quigley, Burt Hall, Anne Allnutt, Tom Claxton, Eileen McGuckian, Fred Bird.

A great deal of effort has been put forth to improve the grounds by Board member Anne Allnutt, along with super-volunteers Linda Lawton and Michael Grant. This trio has trimmed every boxwood on the grounds – 130+! They've spent countless hours pulling vines out of trees, trimming other shrubs and tree limbs, and clearing invasives and other brush. In 2016, RCA spent more than \$10,000 on tree work, nearly one fifth of the annual operating budget. Many large unsightly stumps were also removed and the ground restored, setting the stage for replanting some new trees, hopefully in the near future.

The Board of Directors developed and approved a long-range Capital Improvements plan this year. It includes providing City water service to the house, enhancements to the areas surrounding both columbaria, completion of the renovation of the Upper Cemetery roads, a new pedestrian bridge over the creek in the lower cemetery (to replace the vehicle bridge that will soon be removed), and several other projects. All of these improvements will be costly, and are dependent on availability of funds, partially through gifts and grants. Please be generous

with your gifts to Rockville Cemetery. They will be put to great use!

Another exciting project this year was a survey of multiple areas around the cemetery using Ground Penetrating Radar. The primary goal was to identify areas that could be made available for new grave sites, as well as to verify existing burials in several locations where our records were not crystal clear. More than 100 new grave sites were identified in both the Upper and Lower sections. Several dozen Upper Cemetery graves are now being offered for sale.

Rockville Cemetery Association is blessed with a group of dedicated, hard working Board members and volunteers. Check the list of well-deserved thank yous on page 2. A special welcome to our newest Board member, Hannelore Quigley. Ms. Quigley has generations of ancestors buried at Rockville Cemetery and brings much energy and talent to the Board.

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

**Burt Hall, President,**  
*Rockville Cemetery Association*

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Annual Meeting &

**Election:**..... Tuesday, April 18,  
Rockville City Hall

**Flags Out:** ..... • Memorial Day  
• Independence Day  
• Veterans Day

### Tour of Rockville

**Cemetery** ..... Contact  
Eileen McGuckian  
301-468-7331

### To Schedule a

**Work Day** ..... Contact Margy Hall  
301-294-6396

### Baltimore Road

**Construction** ..... Summer 2017

A NEWSLETTER OF ROCKVILLE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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

## Rockville Cemetery Volunteers Are Terrific



Above: SSL and Volunteer Day, November 4 brought out wonderful help from the community.



Left: Fred Bird and Steve Edwards place flags on gravesites of our veterans on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.



Vines, trash trees, rusted metal tomato cages (50 of them!), old metal fence are some of the debris waiting for pick up along Bouic Ave. Linda Lawton, Mike Grant and Anne Allnutt have been busy clearing, trimming and pruning around the cemetery.

Below is a photo of part of a ledger page. Interpreting and logging the data from our handwritten ledgers and creating an easily accessible database is under way. Want to help?

93		NAME	Hideck, Frank N.	RESIDENCE	Kennington
SECTION NO.		2	LOT NO.	241	CERTIFICATE NO.
DATE		Jan. 15, 1940		102	AMOUNT PAID
TRANSFERRED TO					
BURIAL NUMBER	GRAVE NUMBER	NAME OF INTERRED	DIAGRAM OF LOT		
17	2	Catherine Hideck			
156	1	Catherine Street Portland			

## Special Thanks in 2016

- Anne Allnutt** ..... maps, database, FindAGrave
- Bill Bird, Jr. & Henderson-Smith-Edmonds Post 86, American Legion** .....donated American flags for veteran graves
- Fred Bird** ..... veteran identification and research, veteran flags
- Ellen Buckingham**..... maps and TLC
- Wayne Noll & Elise Polydorff, City of Rockville Forester's Office** ..... tree identification and consultation
- Tom Claxton** ..... liaison with funeral homes
- Scotty Combs** ..... grave-digger, "Mr. Reliable"
- Steve Edwards** ..... GPR research, flags, maps
- Mike Grant** ..... web communications, landscaping maintenance, digital records management, Facebook
- Margy Hall** ..... volunteer and student service days (SSL)
- Burt Hall** ..... all matters cemetery, sales, maps and more
- Linda Lawton** ..... landscape maintenance
- Eileen McGuckian** ..... tours and newsletter
- Lough Memorials** ..... special services
- Tim Mertz**..... finances, sales, maps, billing
- Pogo Sherwood & Staff of Pogo Tree Experts** tree ID and maintenance
- Hannelore Quigley** ..... publicity and technology
- Solar Gardens**..... grounds and tree maintenance, landscape improvements
- Frank Teti**..... sales, landscaping assistance
- Eleanor Teti** ..... plant identification referral
- Glenn Wallace** ..... website updates and advice

### Major capital improvements list for 2017:

- Tree and Landscape plan
- Road work in upper cemetery
- Water connection for caretaker's cottage
- Continue stone conservation
- Plan and erect flag pole with assembly area

**Rockville Cemetery is an all-volunteer association.**

We welcome all volunteers to help make our cemetery even more beautiful.



## Dr. Richard G. Buckingham, Veterinarian

1914 -1992 • Lower Cemetery Section 1, Lot 182, Site 6

Dr. Richard Gilpin Buckingham, VMD, contributed to his community through his veterinary practice, membership in the Rockville Rotary Club, and as a vestryman for Christ Episcopal Church.

Son of veterinarian David E. Buckingham, whose clients included the White House and National Zoo, Dr. "Dick" Buckingham took over the practice and property of Dr. Chauncy Grubb next door to Chestnut Lodge in Rockville, in 1938. At that time, the western boundary of the town was between his property and Chestnut Lodge.

For the next 53 years, "Doc" Buckingham treated the horses, cattle, chicken flocks, and dogs and cats of Montgomery County. At what was named Rockville Hospital For Animals, he held office hours Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 and on Saturday mornings between 10 and 12:30, or by appointment. Often he rose at 5 a.m. to test cattle herds for the many farms he served. He boarded cats and dogs as well.

During Dr. Buckingham's years there, a sign with his initials and name followed by the letters VMD hung over a privet hedge along West Montgomery Avenue and had to be replaced several times. The University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School (from which he graduated cum laude) is the only vet school in the country to award a VMD (Latin) degree rather than a DVM degree. Doc would want that noted.

Dr. Buckingham participated in rabies clinics during summers of the 1940s and 1950s, ultimately eradicating the disease from Montgomery County. With population expansion, most of the farms he served were sold to developers and Dr. Buckingham relied on his boarding kennels and small animal practice for his livelihood. In his later years, Doc enjoyed talking about his experiences, one describing his worming ostriches by pulling the medicine down their long necks hand over hand when a train carrying them stopped in Rockville. Another time, as he transported vials of chicken blood to the University of Maryland for testing, his station wagon was hit by another car. Many rescue vehicles arrived thinking that the splattered chicken blood was his.

Montgomery County farms that Doc Buckingham served in his day included Dosh farm and livery stable in Gaithersburg, Drew Pearson's farm, and those of Guy Carter, T. Magruder Veirs, Clifton Veirs, and Dexter Bullard. Other farms he served were owned by Eugene Casey, Helen Thomas, Basil Mobley, Otis Beall Kent,



*Dr. R.B. Buckingham, Veterinarian "shingle" over the privet in the yard of "Doc" Buckingham, on West Montgomery Avenue.*

Elizabeth Banks, the Sisters of Mercy, and others operated by area notables.

Buckingham married Rose Williams in 1945. Rose grew up at 222 West Montgomery Avenue, a large property the Williams family owned for more than a century. The family raised chickens and gradually sold off land for new homes along West Montgomery Avenue, Williams Street, and beyond.

Rose Williams Buckingham was secretary to Mr. Green, president of Farmers Banking and Trust, in Courthouse Square. Rose assisted in her husband's business and was active at Christ Church and the Inner Wheel, an organization for wives of Rotarians. When Rose moved to what her mother called "the country," she resided only three blocks from her family home for the rest of her life. There Doc and Rose Buckingham raised Ellen, Richard, and Jane. The couple was proud to have sent all three children to college even though the practice was not producing the income it once did due to losing farm clients and new veterinarians coming into the County.

Dr. Richard G. Buckingham passed away at his home on March 14, 1992. His grave site is marked by a flat stone memorial in Section 1, Lot 182 Site 6 beside his wife, Rose, who died in November 1980, and son, Richard Jr., who passed away in January 2009.

Other Buckingham family members buried at Rockville Cemetery are Doc's brother David Randall Buckingham and wife Dorothy. Relatives of Rose Williams Buckingham are buried in the Williams plot; they include her sister Martha, her father Walter, her mother Emma Barry, and Walter's parents. Other more distant relatives there include Stonestreeets, Andersons, and Aberts.

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



**Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution:**

Please make checks payable to Rockville Cemetery Association.

OR

**Donate online using PayPal!** Go to [www.rockvillecemetery.md.org](http://www.rockvillecemetery.md.org) at the bottom right of each page hit the **DONATE** button. **Quick & Easy!**

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

To be used for:

Road Repair

Tree Work (pruning old,  
planting new)

Gravestone Conservation

However funds are needed

\$25

\$50

\$100

\$500

Other

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



Learning about local history at Rockville Cemetery. Mrs. Lyons class from Richard Montgomery High School listens to volunteer Mike Grant regale the stories and history whose reminders abound at the cemetery. This is the monument to Upton Beall.

**Monument Cleaning**



Original state - July 2016



After washing with water and applying D2 - August 2016

Over the years grave stones may become discolored, broken and even fall over. Part of our annual budget is set aside for stone conservation. We hire professionals to repair, straighten and upright fallen or broken stones. Volunteers, with a bit of training, can help stretch our budget with cleaning and some minor straightening of stones. To volunteer click "Contact" at top right of our website to leave your contact information and interests.

**Historic  
Rockville  
Cemetery**

**Grave Sites and Burial Niches  
For Sale — Reasonable Rates**



**Lots, Single Sites and  
Columbarium Burial Niches  
Available**

Additional Information  
Including Prices for  
Niches and Grave Sites at  
[www.rockvillecemeterymd.org](http://www.rockvillecemeterymd.org).

**ROCKVILLE CEMETERY  
ASSOCIATION**

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