

Rockville Cemetery Association

DECEMBER 2018



President's Message

I am pleased to report 2018 as another successful year for Rockville Cemetery Association. As the year comes to a close the Cemetery is in very good condition. Rockville Cemetery continues to reap valuable short- and long-term benefits thanks to our diligent volunteers and to ongoing contributions from our outstanding contractors.

RCA continues to be blessed with a group of dedicated and industrious board members and other volunteers, who each month give their time and talents to a variety of efforts, all with the goal of sustaining and improving Rockville Cemetery. I extend a special welcome to our newest board member, Michael Doran.

Work continues on full conversion of the Cemetery's records to digital format, through the assiduous review of the burial records of 5,000 individuals to ensure they are accurate and complete. As the individual records are double-checked and additional information is verified, our detailed new

section maps are updated as well. Many thanks in particular to board members Anne Allnutt and Michael Grant for their continued work on Rockville Cemetery's records.

I encourage you to visit the Cemetery if you haven't done so lately. You will see that 28 trees were recently planted in the Upper and Lower Cemeteries. Earlier this year, RCA worked with volunteer professional arborist Elise Polydoroff to identify standing trees on Cemetery property that had reached the end of their useful life. Removals became the first major step in our landscape and tree plan. Once the removals were complete Ms. Polydoroff helped us to design a re-planting plan, choose appropriate species, and bid the project. The trees were planted in early October, with immediately notable improvement of our visual environment. We hope to continue in 2019 with another round of plantings.

Another effort making a real difference in the look of the Cemetery is grave stone cleaning. Markers are being gently washed and brushed by careful volunteers. The markers that have been completed are eye popping.

I hope each of you will consider making a financial contribution – large or small – to Rockville Cemetery. Donations will be used to continue the tree planting project in 2019.

Check out the full list of 2018 Accomplishments in this newsletter. It's impressive!

Please contact Rockville Cemetery Association if you have any questions or concerns, or if you wish to assist with our efforts. The easiest way to get in touch is to use the contact form found on our website, www.rockvillecemeterymd.org.

Sincerely,

Burt Hall, President,
Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc.

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RCA Board of Directors

Meetings Second Tuesday of every month, 7 pm at Rockville City Hall (no August meeting)

Review of Design Guidelines..... Winter 2018-19

Conservator Robert Mosko returns for priority gravestone repairs Spring 2019

Annual Meeting, Elections, and Program April 9, 2019

Phase Two of Tree Planting..... Spring 2019

Baltimore Road construction begins Summer 2019

A NEWSLETTER OF ROCKVILLE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc. — 2018 Accomplishments

Operations:

- During 2018, the Board of Directors met 11 times, including the Annual Public Meeting in April.
- In March, and through the assistance of Dick Stoner, the Cemetery Association welcomed three new tenants into the Caretaker's Cottage. Between tenants, RCA up-graded the kitchen with new cabinets and appliances. The bathroom was completely rebuilt, and the entire house interior was painted.
- Michael Doran was welcomed as the newest volunteer Director.
- 36 burials were conducted in Rockville Cemetery this year.



Fallen and failing trees were taken down this year..

Grounds & Services:

- During 2018, 40-50 trees were removed, either due to storm impacts, or determined to be invasive, dying, or potentially hazardous. A few large specimens were found to have reached 150-175 years of age.



In October, with guidance of volunteer forester Elise Polydoroff, 28 new trees were planted by Ashton Manor Environmental.

- In October, Ashton Manor planted 16 new trees in the upper and 12 in the lower cemetery areas, as the next phase of the cemetery's adopted Landscaping Plan, to maintain and perpetuate the natural scenery of the cemetery grounds.
- The Cemetery Association interred its first four cremains burials in the newly-established Simple Tributes site, between Sections 1 and 2 adjacent to Baltimore Road, which serves needy community members.
- Lough Memorials reset ten large grave monuments, mostly in the upper cemetery, that were leaning in potentially hazardous positions.
- Conservator Robert Mosko assessed more than 230 grave monuments and prepared to address those leaning

If you own an extra cemetery lot that you don't anticipate being used by your family, please consider donating it to RCA. The value of your charitable contribution is deductible to the full extent of the law.

precarioously and requiring either repair or resetting at their bases. Several stones were repaired, with plans to continue work in 2019.



The simple, gentle technique to clean grave markers as demonstrated by conservator Robert Mosko.

Outreach:

- An article in *The Washington Post* Home section in January featured the Caretaker's Cottage and the search for our next tenants.
- On April 10, the Board of Directors hosted RCA's Annual Public Meeting at Rockville City Hall.
- On April 17, board member Mike Grant presented a program on Cemetery Symbolism entitled "Etched In Stone" at the Rockville Senior Center.
- Once again, board member Fred Bird directed the placement of flags on the graves of all known interred veterans as part of our Memorial Day observance. A contact station facilitated conversations with visitors during this weekend.
- In June, a marketing letter with brochures was distributed to 14 local funeral homes to help boost lot sales.
- RCA representatives continued to coordinate with City of Rockville staff concerning the city's planned Baltimore Road upgrade and stream restoration project adjacent to the lower cemetery.
- This year, RCA applied for financial grants from several sources, receiving funds from Rockville Rotary Club Foundation in support of the tree planting project.



Board member Fred Bird posts flags on Memorial Day.

Vashti Rebecca Bartlett — A Maryland Nurse on a Global Mission

1873-1969 • Upper Cemetery, Section M, Lot 7, Site 5

Born in Baltimore and raised during the post-Civil War years when the American Association of the Red Cross was formed, Vashti Rebecca Bartlett likely was inspired by Clara Barton. She graduated from the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing in 1906 - educated in the latest scientific advances, rigorously trained in nursing methodologies, and committed to assuming a leadership role through a long and distinguished career.

Vashti's first foreign adventure came in 1908, when she joined Dr. Wilfred Grenfell's Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen and traveled to Newfoundland to help staff the mission's hospital in St. Anthony. They cared for the native population and the fishermen and their families who lived in this remote coastal area. Grenfell aimed to halt the rise of alcoholism, provide primary health care, and to teach hygiene and prevention of illness to the semi-literate people of Newfoundland and Labrador. When she returned to the United States, Vashti worked as Superintendent of Nurses at Watts Hospital in Durham, NC, and at Church Home and Infirmary in Baltimore, MD.

In March 1915, shortly after the outbreak of World War I, Bartlett sailed to France with the American Red Cross "Mercy Ship" Expedition. The unit set up at Pau at the foot of the Pyrenees to care for mounting casualties and later near the front at La Panne, Belgium, where she served as director of nursing services.

When the Red Cross nursing units left, Bartlett was assigned to national headquarters in Washington, DC from May 1917 to August 1918. She then returned to France with the Army Nursing Corps to serve as chief nurse at Base Hospital Unit 71 for the following year.

Assigned to the American Red Cross Siberian Commission in 1919, Miss Bartlett arrived in Vladivostok to assist in the care of thousands of refugees who had fled the fierce fighting of the Russian Revolution. Just as she began her assignment, Vashti was transferred to Manchuria where a cholera epidemic was raging; placed in charge, Bartlett deployed her skills to quell the contagion and direct nursing for hundreds who had contracted the disease. Upon returning to Vladivostok, chaos erupted when the Bolsheviks advanced upon the city, closing the Red Cross mission and forcing Bartlett and her colleagues into a hasty departure in February 1920.

Vashti Bartlett's last mission for the American Red Cross was to Haiti. In July 1920 she moved to Port-au-Prince to direct a nursing school that the US Navy Nurse Corps had

initiated and to train local women for nursing. Shortly after classes began, a smallpox epidemic pressed Bartlett and her students into emergency service. Once again Bartlett took charge of infection control and served hundreds who had contracted the disease. Afterward, Bartlett devoted herself to improving the school, which including publishing a French language Dietetic Handbook for distribution to Haitian nurses.

Miss Bartlett returned to the United States, continuing her career as director of a nursing school at Chilocco Indian School in Oklahoma 1928-29. Retiring from active nursing, for her last 40 years she lived with family in Gaithersburg and Laytonsville, MD, and Pass-a-Grille, Florida.



Vashti Bartlett 1906

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Her peers described Vashti as "bright, energetic, and full of enthusiasm. Firm of character and physically strong, she had the moral fiber to confront and deal with hardship and the stamina to carry out arduous assignments. An abiding commitment to help the ill, injured, and dispossessed inspired her long and distinguished career."

Miss Bartlett died at the age of 95 on July 7, 1969, in Laytonsville and was buried three days later in the plot near her parents George Washington Bartlett and Amanda Sally Griffith Bartlett. RCA posts an American flag at her grave on Memorial Day every year.

In 2003, an on-line exhibit opened at the Hopkins School of Nursing in Baltimore, featuring Vashti and other SON alumna who traveled to distant corners of the world in periods of crisis during the first quarter of the 20th century. The exhibit highlights Vashti Bartlett's personal papers and photographs. It was created by members of The Johns Hopkins Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions and made possible by the support of the Johns Hopkins Nurses' Alumni Association.

See www.medicalarchives.jhmi.edu/vbartlett/hopkins.htm



Bartlett in American Red Cross uniform. We had [a] large number of orderlies that were French soldiers not wanted at the front. —V.B.



2018-19 RCA Board of Directors:

(l-r) back row: Anne Allnutt, Michael Doran, Fred Bird, *Historian*, Steve Edwards, *Treasurer*, Tom Claxton, Mike Grant;
 front row: Eileen McGuckian *Secretary*, Burt Hall, *President*, Hannelore Quigley, *Vice President*



**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 at the bottom right of each page hit the ***DONATE*** button. ***Quick & Easy!***

To be used for:

- Tree Work (planting new, pruning old) \$25
- Road Repair \$50
- Gravestone Conservation \$100
- However funds are needed \$500
- Other \$ _____



IN MEMORY OF: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

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Thank you for supporting Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc.

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- On October 6, the Cemetery Association and Peerless Rockville co-hosted a Gravestone Care & Conservation Workshop in the upper cemetery, presented by conservator Robert Mosko. Participants, some from Indiana and Texas, appreciated instruction regarding primary concerns and proper techniques for monument cleaning, resetting, and general maintenance.



Robert Mosko explains techniques to workshop attendees.

- On October 20, board members Hannelore Quigley and Tom Claxton promoted Rockville Cemetery at an information table at the Rockville Antique & Classic Car Show next door. Face-to-face outreach was supported with the presence of a 2019 Cadillac hearse provided by Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Homes.



Rockville Cemetery Association at the Rockville Car Show.

- In late summer, the Cemetery Association's Facebook site marked its 100th viewer who regularly follows postings on this social media site. Website inquiries continued to spark conversations with the public.
- This year, board member Eileen McGuckian led several interpretive tours of the cemetery, including those for Atlas Obscura and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference.

Volunteering:

During the year volunteers provided a wide range of services and completed a variety of tasks to enhance cemetery grounds, including:



Eileen McGuckian shares a bit of Rockville Cemetery history during the stone conservation workshop.

- Invaluable efforts of Assistant City Forester Elise Polydoroff to create RCA's new Landscaping Plan and guide the first phase to improve the scenic quality and continuity of the cemetery grounds.
- Ongoing work to manage RCA digital records and update maps by board members and other volunteers continued to be key to serving current lot owners and the public.
- Throughout 2018, board members Anne Allnutt and Mike Grant, with volunteer Linda Lawton, trimmed numerous trees and shrubbery and removed invasive species.
- Cleaning grave monuments to enhance the overall cemetery appearance, as most notably performed by board members Anne Allnutt, Fred Bird and volunteer Linda Lawton.
- On multiple occasions, board members removed and disposed of trash, deposited debris, and old decorations in order to maintain acceptable appearances.



Volunteers continue to enhance the look of the cemetery grounds. In this example, removing invasive plants around markers.

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After this latest illegal dumping event, Rockville Code Enforcement helped to find the perpetrator, who reimbursed RCA \$750 for clean-up costs.



Kelley Culley, visiting from Ohio in October, posed behind the 1752 grave marker of his 8th great-grandfather, John Harding.



The Caretaker's Cottage underwent renovations before new tenants moved in.



(Right) A newly planted Oak tree.



(Below) Newly planted London Plane tree gets watered.



Leaning markers were supported with boards before being re-set by Lough Memorials.

