



President's Message

Will Success Change Rockville Cemetery?

Who among us wants to be part of history - while we still can?

In 1880, prominent citizens of the Town of Rockville created the Rockville Cemetery Association of Montgomery County, MD, to revitalize the century-old graveyard of their ancestors. Their efforts resurrected a neglected landscape and renewed community interest. The addition of the lower cemetery acreage in the 1930s might have been considered sufficient to provide grave sites for centuries, except for the post-World War II baby boom and urbanization that resulted in many more interments than anticipated. By the end of the 20th century the governing body had dwindled to one remaining member. Once again, waning support inspired a new generation to incorporate the current Rockville Cemetery Association and restore this Perpetual Care cemetery's condition and service to the community. Today, increasing demand and ongoing operational needs may soon impact RCA's ability to support future burials without a further infusion of interested, energetic, and qualified volunteers.

Rockville Cemetery Association continues to protect and provide this historic burial site only because its nine-member volunteer Board of Directors continually perform those functions required to both maintain cemetery grounds and respond to burial needs of families. Soon, our greatest task will likely be to develop the remaining portion of the property in response to increasing demand for interment space. This may require price increases to fund such an extensive project. Simultaneously, our greatest ongoing challenge continues to be attracting and sustaining those volunteer directors necessary to provide such critical functions as site sales, burial activity support, and fiscal management. As a result, community-based control of Rockville Cemetery may be endangered.



Serving as a director of Rockville Cemetery Association offers regular opportunities to help preserve this unique cultural resource and provide an essential public service. In particular, the ongoing expressions of appreciation by families and visitors are most rewarding. Required activities are most conducive to experienced or retired professionals who desire a productive outlet to apply their knowledge, skills and abilities. Even in the current Coronavirus pandemic, the essential role of the cemetery continues to provide us with constructive activities as we immerse in local history, are exposed to its natural tranquility, and interact safely with visitors. Such involvement provides physical activity and fuels emotional well-being, especially when so many of us are feeling constrained and isolated.

We ask our neighbors and supporters to seriously consider taking an active role in operating Rockville Cemetery. If our tradition of citizen stewardship cannot be sustained, this non-profit cemetery may be transformed from its totally volunteer management to a more commercial enterprise, and forever lose the intimate community relationship that has directed its operation for generations. Take your turn - and help ensure that Rockville's oldest burial ground remains guided by those it represents as a treasured asset of our region's ongoing history. Please contact us through our website (<https://www.rockvillecemeterymd.org/contact/>) and I will be happy to discuss your interest in the future of Rockville Cemetery.

Sincerely,
Michael E. Grant, President
Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc.

2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RCA on Rockville Channel 11..... Winter 2021

RCA Board of Directors Meetings Second Tuesday of every month, 7 pm, currently via Zoom. Contact RCA if you are interested in attending.

Annual Meeting and Election April 13, 2021

Flags posted on Veteran Graves May 27-31, 2021

Restoration of a Cemetery Treasure



Before restoration began

This project was made possible by available RCA funding and generous donations. Contractor Peter Allen of Allen Construction & Restoration in Towson, MD, applied his carpentry skills, resourcefulness, and creativity to address multiple concerns: stabilizing foundation piers, reinforcing timber framing, fabricating new doors, providing a new floor, and fully restoring the German lap siding facade.

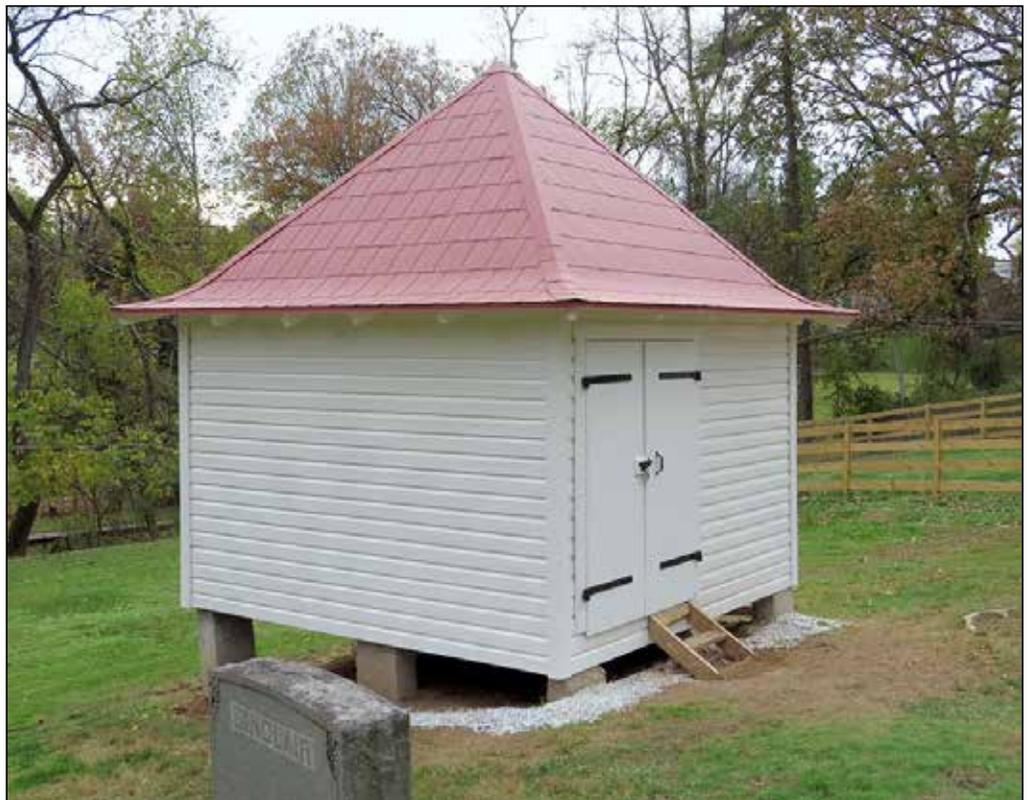
Among these treatments, however, the most challenging involved replacement of the distinctive metal shingles covering the unique pyramid hip roof from its peak to gently-curved eaves. Soon, an impressive piece of quarried stone, donated by Lough Memorials, will provide an enduring entrance step.

Rockville Cemetery Association appreciates the quality, dedication, and professional efforts provided by Peter to revitalize this endangered cemetery feature. It is now a functional storage and work space that maintains its original character, preserves a vital feature of the historic landscape, and provides continued use for another century to come.

One of RCA's most visible accomplishments during 2020 was restoration of the historic outbuilding next to the caretaker's house. Little is known about its history, but clues remain within this tattered, yet resilient structure that has overlooked Baltimore Road for 100+ years. It likely began as a corn crib and possibly chicken coop for early resident caretakers who farmed a portion of the property, survived several modifications, and was being used as a workshop and storage area for maintenance equipment. Following decades of weather extremes and neglect, in 2020 the Board chose extensive repair over demolition.



Peter Allen on his scaffold during the hot, pandemic summer of 2020



Restored garden shed, November 2020

Schott Family

Upper Cemetery, Section O, sites 1-5 in family vault

Tucked into the hilly terrain of the upper cemetery is a handful of family mausoleums, above-ground tombs that contribute to visual appreciation of the landscape. The smallest of these was erected by L. Fletcher and Dorothy Schott in 1934 as they mourned the death of their young son. The family had come to Rockville only eight years before, but already had made a positive impression on the small town.

Between the two World Wars, the Montgomery County seat changed little while down-County areas were booming. Rockville's population grew from 1,145 in 1920 to 2,047 two decades later. During that time, automobiles became more commonplace, buses replaced trolleys, and trains kept running. Despite the Great Depression, small businesses, construction, farming, civic institutions, religion, and athletic competitions continued. Although one resident described Rockville as a "sleepy, charming, Southern community... a happy place with lots of characters... where... the status quo didn't bother them too much," Rockville took its local government role seriously and provided solid public services.

L. Fletcher Schott arrived in 1926 to become principal of Rockville High School, one of seven high schools in Montgomery County. Schott walked one block from his home to the school, both located on Monroe Street. During Schott's tenure, a high school for black students opened, his school's name changed to Richard Montgomery, and the number of all County graduates increased multi-fold.



Born in Washington, DC in 1901, Loren Fletcher Schott held a reserve commission as first lieutenant in the infantry, married Dorothy Stewart, and earned BA and MA degrees from the University of Maryland. Schott worked in Rockville for 15 years, during which time the town grew, educational opportunities expanded, and he suffered family and workplace tragedies.

On December 23, 1933, the Schotts' 9-year-old-son was accidentally killed while he and a friend were handling a loaded revolver. Loren Jr. was struck in the chest by the accidental discharge and died soon after at Montgomery General Hospital. The Schotts ordered a family burial vault to

1931 yearbook and class bequest: "We will to Mr. Schott, our beloved Principal, all our devotion as a whole, because we know that through his pretentious sternness only, we have been able to accomplish the impossible."

be constructed in Section O. Four years later, the boy's maternal grandmother, Alice Evelyn Stewart, was also interred there.

Schott returned to civic affairs, including being a Rockville Rotarian. Dorothy Schott was well known as "Aunt Sue" on Metropolitan Washington radio WRC 950AM. The program featured Aunt Sue telling stories to a young girl named Polly, then Polly singing. Fans wrote thousands of letters to "Aunt Sue and Polly," whose show was commercially sponsored.

Tragedy struck again on March 7, 1940, when an exploding boiler destroyed Richard Montgomery High School. Students were disbursed elsewhere for 18 months while the new school was being built at the former fairgrounds site on the Rockville Pike. Unfortunately, Principal Schott did not live to see the new school open. After a one-week illness, he died on May 24, 1941, and was interred in the family mausoleum. He was only 39 years old, leaving not only his wife Dorothy and 9-year-old daughter Dawn, but also his parents and two sisters living locally.

Dorothy and Dawn Schott moved to Santa Barbara, California, for the remainder of their lives. Dawn married U.S. Navy Ensign Robert Dunlap Pace, Jr. in 1947, and Dorothy died in 1994. Dorothy, Dawn, and Robert are all buried in Santa Barbara Cemetery.

Today none of the Schotts would recognize the high school, nor Rockville for that matter. Richard Montgomery is a large school, known nationally for its diverse student population, creative Robotics Club, winning teams, and International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement options. Rockville is known nationally as a small city that treasures its open space, public services, history, senior center, bike trails, and more.

Photos courtesy of Peerless Rockville, from collections of Charles Brewer, Malcolm Walter, and RMHS yearbooks.



Photo of Rockville High School (1910)



Schott and students on school steps

For Appearances' Sake

During a year that saw the Coronavirus pandemic disrupt so many aspects of our lives, Rockville Cemetery Association was grateful that several significant projects could be completed to enhance the property's landscape. Most noticeable among these were the **new fence** behind the caretaker's house, the **repair of dozens of monuments and resetting of 200 smaller grave stones** throughout the oldest sections, significant **removal of brush and undergrowth** along Baltimore Road, **creation of Section E-3** to provide new burial space in the upper area, and **restoration of the historic outbuilding** to provide storage space.



We welcomed new tenants to the caretaker's cottage and appreciate the activity this family brings to make this house their private home.

These achievements have collectively enhanced visual appeal, improved visitor safety, maintained our preservation efforts, and supported our ongoing mission to preserve, protect and provide access to Rockville's most historic active burial ground.



South view of cottage, fence, shed, and cleared Section E, Autumn, 2020

IN MEMORIAM: Individuals buried at Rockville Cemetery in 2020 (as of November 30)

Sara Elsa Aliaga	Anthony Michael Davis	John Clarence Mohler	James Mitchell Render
Constantia Bache Williams Allnutt	Frazier Peter Dawson	Charles Dennis Moneymaker	Maria Del Carmen Rivera Santos
José Leonel Aparico	Jerome Ordway Doye	Anthony C. Morella	Dora Virginia Nicholson See
Cecilia Agness Semancik Baker	Phyllis Renner Finkelmeier Head	Brian Ngugi Muturi	José Fermin Guitan Segovia
Pauline Helen Parsons Bell	Hamideh Hamdieh Hodjatzadeh	Rick Allen's Narcisse	Sergei Pavlovich Seleznev
Purnell Garriss Bell	Yu Qing Jin	Michael Kwaku Owusu	Joseph Aldo Spuria, Sr.
Alissa Grigoryevna Boukrinskaia	Sandra Lee Baker Jordan	Stephanie Jo Davis Papadopoulos	Carol Powell Smith Tello
Jonathan Charkas	Irene Marcus Kuff	George John Pappafotis	Lev Tsoy
Hon Kit Chiu	Elwood Roy Lester	Donald Howard Payne	Hilda Mieko Goto Voight
Joong Sup Choi	Portia Amelia Lewis	Shirley Ann Thomas Phillips	Harold Lemoin Will
Jack Eldred Cole	Francis Denis Light	Dorothy Viola Hall Prather	Zerihoun Woldeselassie
Margaritha Barbara Ritschard Cole	Leandro Gutierrez Mamani	Stephen Prather	
Ricardo Cleophus Cosbert	Maria Martinez	Daniel Quintero	
Alvin Ignatius Davis	Ayoub D. Mehdizadeh	Rosalind Sitsofe Quist-Haynes	

Acknowledgments

While Rockville Cemetery serves those deceased, it only survives through the efforts of the living. RCA acknowledges the support of so many who have contributed time and services to maintain and perpetuate our historic community burial ground during 2020.

RCA appreciates the professionalism displayed by our contractors, **Solar Gardens, Combs Backhoe Service, POGO Tree Experts, Lough Memorials, and Womack Pest Control**, to maintain the beautiful natural appearance of our grounds, support burial services, and ensure visitor safety. We are indebted to property agent **Dick Stoner** and jack-of-all-trades **Joe Deniker** for noteworthy efforts to maintain and enhance the caretaker's house for our new tenants. We benefited from **conservators Robert Mosko, Howard Wellman, and Devlin McDonald**, who directly applied their expertise to repair grave monuments. We applaud **Allen Construction and Restoration** for rescuing our historic outbuilding from the brink of demolition. To the **City of Rockville** we are grateful for ongoing response to operational needs. To cooperating organizations, especially **Peerless Rockville and Montgomery History**, we reinforce our shared endeavor to preserve this cultural asset. To **local civic, educational, and special interest groups**, we welcome your expressed regards for this valuable community resource.

To our **volunteer groups and individuals**, we sincerely thank you for your efforts and priceless gift of time shared to make Rockville Cemetery more appealing to all. To former RCA director and perpetual supporter **Fred Bird**, we praise your continuing our Memorial Day tradition of decorating the graves of hundreds of U.S. military veterans. To outgoing charter RCA director and former president **Burt Hall**, we offer admiration and appreciation for your dedication and guidance. Current RCA **Board of Directors** continue to define the concept of "citizen stewards" and ensure that we remain an active cemetery, with special thanks extended to volunteer-extraordinaire **Linda Lawton** for her persistent attention to invigorating environmental health and visual appearance in so many ways. To our **visitors**, we appreciate your respectful enjoyment of the grounds, photos and experiences shared on social media. RCA

holds in esteem the interest of the many **families** represented across our landscape and reaffirms our commitment to maintaining and providing Rockville's most historic cemetery in service to our community.

Finally, especially during this catastrophic pandemic year, RCA is grateful to **donors** for valuable financial contributions in support of Rockville Cemetery Association's mission and goals:

Michael Grant • Eileen McGuckian • Joseph Scinto
Betsy Mohler, *in memory of John Mohler*
Glenn & Maria Rahmoeller,
in memory of Hamideh Hodjatzadeh
Roxanne Hughes, *in memory of the Dawson family*
John and Mary Louise Pojeta • Margaret Blair Hayes
Mosaic Community Fellowship

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Good men and women to support historic



Rockville Cemetery Association is seeking individuals to
serve on its Board of Directors:

- ★ Attend monthly Board Meetings
- ★ Provide input regarding cemetery operation
- ★ Help preserve and protect local history

For More Information & Nomination Form Contact Us at:
WWW.ROCKVILLECEMETERYMD.ORG



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

Quick & Easy! Donate online at www.rockvillecemeterymd.org

At the bottom right of any page hit the **DONATE** button.

To be used for:

- Tree Work (planting new, pruning old)
- Road Repair
- Gravestone Conservation
- However funds are needed

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$500
- Other \$ _____

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF: _____

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____



BEFORE VOLUNTEERS

SECTION E - LOOKING WEST (2015)



AFTER VOLUNTEERS

SECTION E - LOOKING WEST (2020)

Ever wonder what volunteers do? We trim boxwoods, straighten small gravestones and clean if needed, lead tours of the cemetery, pick up old grave decorations and trash, and look for other ways to improve Rockville Cemetery. In 2015 we cleared the old fence line and removed the wire, trees and vines. Now the shed in the lower photo is restored. Volunteers make a difference!