



# Prospect Hill Cemetery

*Our Nation's Capital's German-American Cemetery*

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

**HOLIDAY ISSUE**

**NEWSLETTER**

**2015**

## IT'S DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN

Looking over past holiday newsletters, it is noteworthy that most of them begin the same way: times are tough we know, but we ask you to be as generous as possible with your year-end memorial donation.

When the cemetery land was obtained back in the mid-1850s, it was likely barren farmland. In order to beautify the grounds, many trees were planted. One particular type of tree was very dear to the German immigrants. They call it Der Lindenbaum – The Linden Tree. It was so loved that they even have a song about it, with music by Franz Schubert and lyrics by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

### *Der Lindenbaum*

*Am Brunnen vor dem Tore  
Da steht ein Lindenbaum;  
Ich träumt' in seinem Schatten  
So manchen süßen Traum.  
Ich schnitt in seine Rinde  
So manches liebe Wort;  
Es zog in Freud' und Leide  
Zu ihm mich immer fort.*

*Ich mußst' auch heute wandern  
Vorbei in tiefer Nacht,  
Da hab' ich noch im Dunkeln  
Die Augen zugemacht.  
Und seine Zweige rauschten,  
Als riefen sie mir zu:  
Komm her zu mir, Geselle,  
Hier find'st du deine Ruh'!*

*Die kalten Winde bliesen  
Mir grad' ins Angesicht;  
Der Hut flog mir vom Kopfe,  
Ich wendete mich nicht.  
Nun bin ich manche Stunde  
Entfernt von jenem Ort,  
Und immer hör' ich's rauschen:  
Du fändest Ruhe dort!*

### *The Linden Tree*

*At the well by the gate  
There stands a linden tree;  
I dreamed in its shadow  
Many a sweet dream.  
I carved in its bark  
Many a word of love;  
In joy and in sorrow  
I was always drawn to it.*

*Again today I had to travel  
Past it in the depths of night.  
There even in the darkness  
I closed my eyes.  
And its branches rustled,  
As if they called to me:  
Come here to me, friend,  
Here you'll find peace!*

*The cold winds blew  
Right into my face;  
The hat flew off my head,  
I didn't turn around.  
Now I am many hours  
Distant from that place,  
And I still hear it whispering:  
You'd find peace here!*

These words about the linden tree lead one to understand why the trees were planted at Prospect Hill: "You'd find peace here!"

Those linden trees are now nearly 150 years old and many of them are showing their age. During storms they lose branches, many of which are quite large. So far this year, we've spent \$1,800 on storm damage cleanup; last year it was \$4,700. For the coming year, we've budgeted \$3,500 for preventive tree trimming in an effort to minimize storm damage.

This is just one of many similar costs the cemetery incurs each year in its effort to keep the grounds in tip top shape. Your generosity makes that possible.

## **CEMETERY PUBLICATIONS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS**

Prospect Hill publications provide interesting and valuable information about people buried at the cemetery as well as historical information about how they contributed to the growth of Washington, DC, especially during its formative years. It is important for the future preservation of Prospect Hill that we inform our children and grandchildren about the cemetery so that they may support it after we have departed.

*Prospect Hill Cemetery Adult Burial List*, compiled by president Carol Holler and our former cemetery historian the late Jean Crabill, may rouse your curiosity and make you want to know more. Nearly 300 pages, the book lists all burials of persons 14 years of age or older through year 2003. It has been a "best seller," having already been reprinted once, and is available for \$35 (plus \$5 postage).

*Prospect Hill Cemetery Children's Burial List*, a companion to the Adult Burial List, records all burials of persons younger than 14 years of age, and is available for \$20 plus \$5.

And if you'd like to read many interesting mini-biographies of persons interred in Prospect Hill, another book,

*The Families of Prospect Hill*, is also available. Written in collaboration with about 160 lot owners and descendants, the book contains 496 pages with many photographs, and is priced at \$20 plus \$5.

Perhaps the most historic of Crabill's books about our cemetery is her first one, *The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill*. This book contains the original history written around 1949 by Catholic University German Professor Dr. Paul Gleis (who worked from the original cemetery's Board minutes, written in German until about 1920), then from 1950 to the present time, and tells about the early German-American immigrant history in Washington, DC. It contains 194 pages and costs \$30 plus \$5.

All books may be purchased by using the Order Form on page 7.

## **FAMILIES OF PROSPECT HILL**

Beginning in 1996, Mrs. Crabill, former historian of Prospect Hill, researched and assembled the stories of 133 families buried at Prospect Hill. It was a monumental task to gather information about the families, but she was ably assisted by Mrs. Holler, several members of Mrs. Crabill's family, and others. The result was a 496 page book, "The Families of Prospect Hill" published by Prospect Hill in August 1997.

At the suggestion of our former Editor Emeritus Henry Fankhauser, we will feature selected excerpts from the book in this and future newsletter editions.

In this issue, we feature four people from among the four generations of the Barthel-Dieterich families buried at Prospect Hill.

## **John George Barthel Katharine Gotthiede Dieterich Barthel**

The son of Johann Andreas and Margarethe Ernst Barthel, John George Barthel was born in Weissensee, Saxony, Germany, on June 3, 1821. Emigrating from Germany on the Andalusia, he docked in Baltimore, Maryland, on August 21, 1848. Shortly thereafter he settled in Washington, DC, where by 1851 he had established his own cleaner and dyer business at 35 4 1/2 Street, in the northwestern sector of the city.

On March 4, 1855, he became a naturalized citizen. Two years later, on May 26, 1857, he married Margaret Pohlman. Margaret, too, had emigrated from Germany, having been born in Bavaria around 1834. The ceremony took place in Washington, DC.

Margaret and John had one daughter, Margaret Elizabeth, born February 24, 1858, and possibly a second child who did not survive infancy and was buried on August 20, 1862. Margaret died around this time, perhaps in childbirth with her second child.

John took a second wife on June 24, 1863, in Concordia Church. His bride was Katharine Gotthiede Dieterich.

Gotthiede was from Lich, Hessen, Germany, born there September 25, 1841, to Conrad and Anna Catharina Fischer Dieterich. Her paternal grandparents were Frederich and Magdalena von Quandt Dieterich. All that is known about her maternal grandparents is that they were from Hesse-Darmstadt.

Traveling with her father and her brothers Gustav and Henry, Gotthiede had immigrated on the Albert, docking in Baltimore on June 6, 1853. Two other brothers, Louis and Christian, had come to the United States earlier.

With his new wife, John returned to his home above his business on 4 1/2 Street. Here they lived together until he retired in 1887. At that time they moved to 221 4 1/2 Street, NW (later renamed John Marshall Place).

The couple had four children. George died at birth on July 27, 1865. John Andrew was born on December 15, 1866, followed by George Frederick Gustav on June 4, 1869, and Jeannette Catherine (Johannette Katherina) on September 23, 1875.

Throughout her life, Gotthiede ("Tillie") was a very active woman. She almost certainly helped John manage his business. During the Civil War she actively supported the District of Columbia's 8th Battalion, in which her brothers Louis and Christian served. In 1879 she was one of the founders of the German Orphan Asylum. For many years she was a member of its Ladies Aid Society, serving as the organization's vice president from 1879 to 1897, and its president from 1909 to 1914. She also belonged to the Ladies Auxiliary of the German-American War Relief from 1914 to 1916, and the Pocahontas Memorial Association, which raised money for a statue in Jamestown, Virginia.

Gotthielde had been baptized in Lich's Santa Maria Kirche. In Washington, she and John were members of Concordia Church. Gotthielde participated in the building committee for a new church around 1890 and 1891, and served as Vice-president of the Concordia Frauen Verein in 1897.

John was a founding member of the Washington Saengerbund in 1851 and also belonged to the Bund der Alten. Gotthielde belonged to the Saengerbund's Ladies Club, where she was vice president in 1902 and president in 1905, 1912 and 1913.

In quiet moments, John took particular pleasure from his books, especially the German classics.

At age 84, on December 13, 1905, John died in his home. Gotthielde died at home of heart failure ten years later, on January 23, 1916. She was 74 years of age.

## **Conrad Dieterich Anna Catharina Fischer Dieterich**

Born in Ettingshausen, Baden-Württemberg, on February 22, 1802, Conrad Dieterich was the son of Frederich Dieterich (born in 1764) and Magdalena von Quandt Dieterich. His paternal grandparents were Christian and Marie Katharine Dieterich.

Anna Catharina Fischer was born on April 9, 1810, in Lich, Hessen. Nothing is known about her parents other than that they were from Hesse-Darmstadt.

On November 1, 1830, Conrad and Anna Catharina were married in Lich. They had ten children: Louis (May 1, 1831), Christian P. (April 15, 1833), Henry (June 16, 1835), Marie Philippina Ludmilda (November 23, 1837), Marie Elise (May 17, 1839), Katherine Gotthielde (September 25, 1841), G. F. Gustave (December 22, 1843), Karoline Wilhelmine (September 29, 1846), Rebecca (October 23, 1848) and Philip Christian (August 13, 1852). Two of these children died as infants-Marie Philippina Ludmilda on June 12, 1838, at six months of age; and Marie Elsie on May 6, 1840, who had lived nearly one year.

In 1851 the two oldest sons, Louis and Christian, immigrated to the United States. Two years later, Conrad followed them. Traveling with sons Henry and Gustave and daughter K. Gotthielde, he left his homeland on the Albert, docking in Baltimore on June 6. Anna Catharina came with her three youngest children a year or so later to join the rest of her family in Washington, DC.

From 1858 to 1860 Conrad and Anna Catharina lived on Marble Alley, near 6th street west. During the Civil War their home was at 293 B street north. At the war's end they relocated to the southwestern sector of the city, living first at 247 C street south (1866), and then at 486 and 437 C Street, SW (1871 and 1873).

Throughout his life Conrad worked as a master tailor.

Conrad was a member of the Columbia Turnverein and Oriental Lodge #19. Anna Catharina attended Concordia Church and belonged to Germania Rebecca Lodge No. 2.

On July 23, 1873, at age 71, Conrad died. After his death Anna Catharina lived with her daughter, Rebecca. She died eight years later, at age 70, on March 13, 1881.

## **UNITED CHURCH HOLDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

This year the Annual Christmas Service at The United Church/Die Vereinigte Kirche will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 3:00 PM. As in years past, the Washington Saengerbund German choral group will perform during the service.

After the service, refreshments will be served in the church social hall downstairs.

The Saengerbund has performed at many special events at the cemetery.

For information about the Saengerbund, visit their website: <http://www.saengerbund.org>

For information about the United Church, visit their website: <http://www.theunitedchurch.org/>

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND MANY THANKS FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT CONNELL**

As we approach the upcoming holidays our thoughts naturally turn to memories of the good times spent with loved ones who have passed on. We'll also be thinking about the good times we anticipate celebrating with our current loved ones, families and friends.

If you're thinking of something different to give as a gift, I have a suggestion. For folks who may not be familiar with our historic cemetery, or those who'd like to find out more about it, the four books about Prospect Hill mentioned on page 2 are available to purchase.

But what might be your most significant gift of all, one that honors your loved one(s) interred in our cemetery, is a contribution to our Year-End Holiday Memorial Fundraising Campaign. These contributions are like a personal gift to your deceased loved ones to keep their final resting place beautiful and preserved.

Your Board of Trustees and Superintendent Connell extend their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all donors and volunteers who have given their time and generosity during the year to help in the upkeep and preservation of our beloved cemetery.

All of us wish all of you a prayerful Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Carol Holler, President  
Board of Trustees

## **PLEASE CALL FIRST AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

At times, folks have entered the cemetery unannounced seeking help or direction from Superintendent Connell and found no one at home. Since he is our only employee, his duties sometimes take him away from the cemetery. He suggests you call first and make an appointment. This way he can prepare for your visit and give you his undivided attention. He will be glad to help you in any way. The office number is 202-667-0676.



Late Autumn at Prospect Hill

*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

Your gifts are very important to the operation of the cemetery. Each donation, no matter how large or small, makes a difference. We will work to keep expenses down, and with your help we'll continue to have a beautiful historic cemetery. One of the nicest things you can give to your ancestors is a donation to Prospect Hill Cemetery for the maintenance and upkeep of their final resting place. Thank you for your love and concern.

I wish to give a Year-End Memorial donation in memory of or in honor of:

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

I wish to make an end-of-year financial support donation of:

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

### Books for sale

#### # Of books:

\_\_\_\_\_ *The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill* (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
93 pages 1858 – 1949 with some photographs

\_\_\_\_\_ *Families of Prospect Hill* (\$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
496 pages 1858 – 1997 contains many photographs

\_\_\_\_\_ *Prospect Hill Cemetery Adult Burial List – 1858 thru 2003* (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Prospect Hill Cemetery Children's Burial List – 1858 thru 2003* (\$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of books \_\_\_\_\_

\$5 postage for each book purchased \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount of book order, postage, and/or donations** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Make checks payable to **Prospect Hill Cemetery**, and mail this **full sheet** with your donation and book order to:

Prospect Hill Cemetery  
c/o Rudolph Becker, Treasurer  
2608 Lakeview Parkway  
Locust Grove, VA 22508

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)



**PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY**

C/o Rudolph H Becker  
2608 Lakeview Parkway  
Locust Grove, VA 22508