

## *Methodist Cemetery Association*

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A tax-exempt, non-profit organization

## *Winter, 2022 Newsletter*

President:

Diane Tamayo

Vice President:

Steve Davis

Webmaster:

Steve Shoemaker



Corresponding

Secretary:

Patricia "Pat" Ryan

Recording Secretary:

Nancy Werner

Treasurer:

Kathy Hardy

### Overview of Annual Meeting:

On September 11<sup>th</sup> we had another successful virtual Annual Meeting with nine (9) Association Members in attendance and nine (9) proxies. At this meeting, it was reported that we had one new Member to join this year: Robert Thomas "Tom" Clift. In addition, we unfortunately lost two (2) Members when John Schwartz passed away in April and Roger Pridham passed away in May. We now have thirty-six (36) Association Members, thirteen (13) of whom are Life-Time Members.

Only routine Association business was conducted at this meeting since Officer elections took place last year and there were no Bylaw amendments. You should have received the Annual meeting minutes which outlines the business discussed.



### The "Box" from Previous Cemetery Superintendent, Donald Barnes:

As reported previously, Mr. Barnes had forwarded a box which contained original file cards of Cemetery records from the 1940's, plat map (copies), ledger books (receipts/income, expenses, and disbursements), Board meeting minutes, correspondence, etc. The review is not yet complete but one significant document found in the box was dated May, 19, 1926. This letter was from J. W. Chappell announcing a meeting to be held for the purpose of establishing a permanent organization to preserve the Cemetery, which is now known as The Methodist Cemetery Association. Mr. Chappell had the foresight to spearhead an attempt to preserve this historic Cemetery. Please see attached his two (2) page letter outlining his proposal. The Association is approaching the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in just three (3) years. Even more of a reason to start seriously considering the professional archiving of its records.



## **More News & Notes:**

### **Introduction to Archaeology Class from American University:**

Professor Zev A. Cossin, Ph.D., Professional Lecturer of Anthropology at American University, brought two (2) more classes on a field trip to the Cemetery in April and October of this year. These students are taking *Introduction to Archaeology* at the University and really love the Cemetery project. While these classes are not collecting new data per se, they are getting hands on experience with data collection and interpretation. See the class pictures below.



**American University Archaeology Class Visit April, 2022**



**American University Archaeology Class Visit October, 2022**

### **Federico Tamayo**

Our President, Diane Tamayo, had a very challenging year with the illness of her husband, Federico, and his subsequent surgery. He is doing well now, but his illness involved two (2) visits to the ER, several days in ICU, followed by seven (7) hours of major surgery which required eleven (11) days in the hospital and prolonged recovery at home. Best wishes for Federico's continued good health.

Welcome New Association  
Member



Robert Thomas "Tom" Cliff

Tom is a descendant of the Grigsby, Harry, Queen, and Paxton families. Included in this picture is his wife, Jennifer. He also wanted our Members to meet his son, Blake and family Charlotte and Brooke, as well as his dog Darla.



*We would like to express our sorrow on the passing of two (2) of our Members:*

**John P. Schwartz:** John died April 19, 2022. John was the husband of Audrey Bates Schwartz, the previous President of our Association. Many of Audrey's ancestors and relatives are buried at the Cemetery including her parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and great-great-grandparents. Although John, himself, had none of his own relatives buried here, he faithfully cut the grass for us from 2002 through 2009 – even after the death of his wife in 2007! He was an Honorary Life Member and truly a wonderful person.

**Roger G. Pridham:** Roger died unexpectedly on May 13, 2022 in Edgewood, Florida. He was a relatively new member of the Cemetery Association after having discovered that his Aunt, Helen Burke, was buried here. Helen died at the age of five (5) but the later generations did not know where she was buried. In his research, he was able to locate her. Roger is the cousin of Pat Ryan, the Association's Corresponding Secretary.

*Our heartfelt condolences go out to both of their families.*

**Thank You Volunteers!!!**

Thanks again to Bart Robey for another clean-up session in November.  
Your help is greatly appreciated .

The Members of the *Methodist Cemetery Association* are comprised solely of descendants and family members of the deceased buried in the Cemetery. In that regard, we are an *exclusive group*. It is our responsibility to take care of our ancestors and to hopefully tell their stories for future generations. As Association Members, we work together in this endeavor to continue to protect this lovely resting place, and to increase the knowledge of our, often mutual, family histories.



**Christmas at  
the Tamayo's**



***Fellow Methodist Cemetery Association Members:***

***It has been fifteen (15) years since I became President of this Association....upon the death of Audrey Bates Schwartz. Audrey was only President for five (5) years, but she accomplished so much! It is thanks to her that the Cemetery was restored as a place of beauty. I have made it my job to try to maintain that beauty, while also trying to make our records more available. To that end, Steve Shoemaker has been wonderful in setting up our website (see the web address in our letterhead), and posting all the information I have been able to locate. I am always looking for new information to post. After this is done, the Association will be moving ahead to archive our physical records at a repository such as the American University Archives. In the future, I will be asking for your help in furnishing whatever family documents you may have to help preserve these family stories. I hope you will find inspiration in the attached letter by my great-grand uncle to become more involved with our historic Cemetery and work with me to keep it properly maintained.***

***In the meantime, from my family to yours, may your Christmas season be full of peace, joy, and happiness, and may your New Year bring health, wealth, and new blessings.***

***Diane Tamayo  
President***

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**Winter 2022 Newsletter – Historical Document**

Tennallytown, D. C., May 19th, 1926.

Dear Friend:

There will be a meeting at the Old Baptist Church, Wisconsin Ave., Tennallytown, Friday, May 28th, 1926, at eight o'clock p.m., for the purpose of perfecting a permanent organization to put into operation a plan to preserve the Methodist Cemetery as a lasting memorial to our departed loved ones,—the old original owners of the cemetery and other old and worthy citizens of the community,—as well as to preserve the cemetery for future burial purposes.

This can only be done by the earnest and whole-hearted cooperation of all parties concerned, viz: the heirs of the twelve original owners of the cemetery, lot owners or heirs of lot owners and others having family relatives buried in the cemetery.

This communication is addressed to you because you are regarded as one of us and as seriously and earnestly interested as we are in the efforts we have determined to make to preserve the cemetery as provided for in the deed to our fathers dated Oct. 11, 1855 and recorded Nov. 1, 1855. By the terms of this deed (which is in my possession) William D. C. Murdock conveyed to twelve individuals one half acre of ground to be held in trust by them and their heirs as a perpetual cemetery or burial place and for no other purpose whatever. The twelve owners or a majority of them, or through a Board appointed by them, were authorized by a provision of the deed to make rules and provisions for the upkeep and management of the cemetery. For many years this provision was more or less faithfully carried out. But all of the original owners are long since dead. Their remains, together with the remains of many of their contemporaries and others who died before them and since, lie buried in this hallowed spot, and for a number of years the cemetery has been sadly and woefully neglected and no effort, practically, has been made to carry out the provisions of the deed, and unless something is done in the near future to redeem it from the present discreditable and unsightly condition into which it has been allowed to lapse from wanton and sad neglect, there is reason to fear that the cemetery will be condemned.

But is it not our bounden duty to keep this spot as decreed by our forefathers as a sacred burial place for those who lived and loved in this community and learned of life all that was best for them to know, and whose faith in us to do so was born of their faith in God their eternal Father.

Lots and graves should be marked, walks graveled or concreted, all rubbish, undergrowth and weeds removed; but the most urgent and essential need, indeed imperative need, is a creditable and permanent fence. All this will cost money, but nothing in comparison to the cost of removing the remains of our dead should the cemetery be condemned. Moreover, there is now considerable space for burial purposes, and in time there will be more, for other bodies may be buried in the OLD graves, or as is done in other cemeteries one grave may be made available for two or even three bodies. Hence, for many of us who own lots in this cemetery it will be wise and most economical to help preserve it rather than to seek to purchase lots elsewhere in the District where prices are almost prohibitive, ranging for small lots, we are informed, from \$200 to \$1000 and for single graves, from \$100 to \$150.

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Taking this fact into consideration and the value of the ground yet available for burial purposes, our cemetery is worth to the present lot holders, at a very modest estimate, at least \$30,000 or \$40,000.

Besides, can there be found elsewhere a spot more sacredly beautiful or holier befitting for burial ground than this lofty eminence upon which the setting sun but seldom fails to smile; where the revered oaks with awe-inspiring grandeur lift their towering heads, ever nearer and nearer the blue vaulted dome of the heavens; and where within the peaceful shadows of the two watchful and time-enduring temples of the everlasting God, the all enfolding mother earth need never fear or dread unholy or unsanctimonious tread, to disturb those who now, and those who yet must come to sleep upon her bosom until the dawn of the Resurrection morn.

A preliminary meeting was held at my home, April 5, 1926, at which were present Messrs. Albert E. Shoemaker, R. L. Shoemaker, P. M. Walker, E. C. Walker, Robert Burrows, H. L. Walther, Curtis M. Smith, George Paxton, Benj. Paxton, and A. P. Seiler. At this meeting a plan of organization previously worked out was endorsed unanimously and I was requested to call a meeting of all persons interested in this most worthy and laudable object as soon as their names and addresses could be ascertained.

This I am now doing and you are earnestly requested to be present to help in every way to further the consummation of this most laudable object, indeed a sacred trust.

The preparation and mailing of this communication has entailed much labor and difficulty and no doubt many names have been unavoidably omitted, and the names of some included who are not directly interested in the upkeep of the cemetery. So that should anyone receiving this communication fail to respond it will be assumed that he or she is not interested, and that there will be no claim hereafter for burial privileges.

Attend this meeting and become a member of the Methodist Cemetery Association of Tennallytown. We propose to organize and learn of the plans and features whereby the interests of all will be conserved, and the organization will be made perpetual.

I am very truly your friend,

J. W. CHAPPELL