



THE VIEW

FALL 2016

*Located in the heart of Towson at York Road & Washington Avenue
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AN ANGEL WATCHES OVER BABYLAND

Thanks to the generosity of Director Emeritus Catherine R. Soares, an elegant angel now stands guard over the graves of infants buried in the Babyland section of Prospect Hill Cemetery. Mrs. Soares, who visited the cemetery often as a child growing up in Towson, had heard that Babyland once included a statue. Although the cemetery's records offer no proof of it, the existence of a solid base at the top of the hill suggested that a statue had indeed once watched over these graves (this was confirmed by a recent visitor who remembered an angel statue).

Our generous donor not only contributed the entire funds for purchasing and installing the 400-pound granite angel but also underwrote the beautification of Babyland, including trimming of the trees that border each side of the section, installation of signage on the retaining wall at the foot of the hill, and refreshed plantings.



A granite angel now stands over Babyland.



Workmen from Merkle Monument Co. installed the statue in early July.

On a humid July 5th morning, workmen from Merkle Monument Co. gingerly wrestled the angel up the rain-slippery grass to the base at the crest of the hill. It took two hours to safely install the angel and repair the surrounding ground. "The Babyland statue is a beautiful addition to this most poignant section of the cemetery," says Board President Carolyn Parker Knott. "We so appreciate Cathy's generosity. She and her late husband Silvio both worked tirelessly to protect and maintain Prospect Hill during their tenures on the board, and we appreciate her continuing interest."

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS

Thanks to the Boy Scouts of Troop 828 who once again undertook the project of placing American flags on the graves of veterans in May. American Legion Towson Post #22 supplied the flags and Board member Vince Nesline produced maps/lists of the over 400 veterans buried in the cemetery and helped direct the Scouts. If you have a loved one who served in the military and they did not receive a flag, please let us know so we can correct our records for the future.



The Boy Scouts and their adult leaders of Troop 828, led by Scoutmaster Tom O'Dwyer.



PHC Board member Vince Nesline handed out maps to guide the Scouts to veterans' graves.

A special thanks to our next-door neighbor, Kay Kazinski, who works in Towson City Center. Kay noticed that a large spruce tree visible from her office looked damaged. Her quick call to the cemetery's office brought the matter to our attention. Sure enough, tree experts A-1 Tree Service analyzed the situation and took down the 75-year old tree without damage to any graves or visitors.



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Your support is always welcomed! Please look for the Annual Giving letter coming in November. Your generous response is greatly appreciated!



This summer, a Sons of the American Revolution Patriot marker was installed on the grave of John Hillen (in the section with the oldest graves in the cemetery). The marker recognizes Mr. Hillen's active support of the revolution for America's independence from Great Britain. The marker was sponsored by the Colonel Nicholas Ruxton Moore Chapter of the SAR. Previously, John Hillen and his brother Solomon Hillen both had War of 1812 Veteran medallions installed on their grave sites. The medallions commemorate the Hillens' service in the defense of Baltimore and the District of Columbia from British attacks during the war. The medallions were given by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland.

Finally, a giant thank you to Linda Rowe, *left, with Carolyn Parker Knott*, who retired this summer as Office Administrator at Stoy Malone after 43 years with the firm. Stoy Malone is located on the northwest corner of the PHC property and Linda has been a true friend, walking the grounds regularly to make sure nothing is out of place and watering new plantings. We thank her for her gracious support and wish her much happiness in her retirement!



UPDATE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

It has been a busy year for Prospect Hill Cemetery. Lot sales are up (happily, as they are a key source of support) and we have received many, many inquiries from families, both locally and across the country, seeking to purchase a lot or to discover information about relatives buried in the cemetery. Our website is definitely raising interest in Prospect Hill Cemetery!

These calls and emails often produce a wonderful exchange as we share information and discuss Towson history. Many callers express appreciation for the care given to their questions, and we appreciate the chance to learn more about the families with connections to PHC. When ownership passed to the current nonprofit entity in the mid-1980s, we were literally handed a shoe box of file cards as the records. For the past 30 years, we've been slowly filling in the gaps so we truly understand the connections. All information that families share with us is duly recorded to enhance the historical records of the cemetery. We welcome you to share your family's story too!

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, we are extremely pleased to see the completion of the Babyland upgrades, culminated by the installation of an elegant granite statue of an angel. How appropriate for this section, and we are so grateful for the support of our donor, Catherine Soares.

Your visits (hours are dawn to dusk) are welcome, as are your questions. We are so appreciative of the support which families give us as we work to protect and maintain "the green heart of Towson."

-- Carolyn Parker Knott

CARING FOR FAMILY MONUMENTS

Families occasionally ask for guidance in caring for markers, so we turned to an expert: Jack Tyrie of John Tyrie & Son monument makers. Mr. Tyrie's company has been in its original location in Cockeysville, MD since 1900. His advice:

- Stone markers are affected by leaves and sap from trees, dust and bird droppings. A gentle cleaning every year is worth considering, but the key word is gentle.
- Omit trying to clean marble markers; they are too fragile and require professional cleaning.
- For granite markers, thoroughly wet the stone, then gently scrub with water mixed with Ajax cleanser. Start at the back and work to the front. Rinse thoroughly and scrub again, if needed. Rinse very thoroughly with clean water to remove all cleanser.
- Do not try to clean a marker in hot weather; the water evaporates too quickly and the residue from the cleanser might harm the stone. Cool weather is recommended.
- Use a plastic or whisk brush to clean the stone -- never a wire brush.
- Bird droppings can stain a marker. In this case, remove with the brush, then very gently rub with finest grade of steel wool to remove the stain.
- It is not recommended to apply a polish to a marker, as it wears off quickly.
- The key concept is to use plenty of water and a gentle touch.

WHO IS BURIED AT PROSPECT HILL

This feature profiles one of the many notable persons whose memory is cherished at Prospect Hill Cemetery

Captain Tyler Campbell

March 31, 1922 – September 21, 1944

A bronze marker in the Campbell Family plot at the top of the hill commemorates the life and cherished memory of Marion Tyler Campbell of Towson. A young man of tremendous promise, Tyler died heroically at age 22 while serving in World War II as a company commander in the Seventh Infantry Regiment.

The second son of Bruce S. Campbell and Virginia M.T. Campbell, Tyler was an outstanding student at the Gilman School and Princeton University. A top athlete in three sports and natural leader, he served on several student boards at Princeton and led the freshman lacrosse team to an undefeated season. He was named first-team All-American as a goalie in 1941 and 1942.

As a member of the Princeton Class of 1943, Tyler studied chemical engineering but elected after his junior year to leave Princeton and enlist in the Army (two other brothers, Bruce Jr. and McLean, or Mac, also served in the war). In June 1942, Tyler entered the Army as a private in the mountain troops but was recommended for officer training shortly after completing basic training.

He went overseas in April 1943. Assigned a staff position, he requested reassignment to the frontline. Over the next 17 months, he served in North Africa and took part in four amphibious landings: Sicily, Salerno, Anzio and southern France. He was twice wounded in action and twice promoted in the field, to First Lieutenant and then Captain. He was awarded several medals of commendation.

On September 21, 1944, while leading his men up a heavily wooded hill, he made the ultimate sacrifice. Tyler Campbell, age 22, was killed by German fire near Le Marchessant, France.

Samuel Cook, a classmate at both Gilman and Princeton, has said “I’ve never known a finer person than Ty Campbell. He was my close friend. He had just a fine, wonderful sense of humor. He was modest. Sharp. Never had a nasty word for anyone...He was everything wonderful you could think of.”

