Pleasant Hill and Flanders-Hillside Cemeteries Spring 2023 Newsletter

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This newsletter is intended to keep you posted about our activities. Plot holder questions, comments, suggestions and kudos are always invited and should be addressed to the Superintendent at the above contacts.

SUPERINTENDENT

The first full-time Superintendent at Pleasant Hill/Flanders-Hillside Cemeteries, Earl G. Barnes III, was hired September 1, 2021 to replace William Wineburgh who has retired after serving 20 years as Superintendent.

Mr. Barnes grew up and resides in the area. He brings to the position his extensive background in Horticulture. He has a Landscape Design/Horticulture degree with 45 years of hands-on Horticulture experience, including owning his own business. In addition to this position, he serves on the Chester Fire Department.

We welcome Earl and look forward to him using his extensive background to beautify our cemeteries and we wish Bill a long and happy retirement.

TRUSTEES

At the November 9, 2022 Annual Plot Holders and Quarterly Trustees Meeting the following were elected for a three-year term:

> Larry Ashley - 2026 Greg Bressler - 2026 David Conover – 2025

Other Trustees:

Kurt Alstede – 2025 Leslie Cooper – 2025 Edward Harrington – 2025 Karen Dilley - 2025 Holly Taguinto – 2024 Mike Wade – 2024 Paula Hays - 2024

yearly meeting - for 2023 it will be held on Hill & Flanders-Hillside Cemeteries. Wednesday, November 8 at 5:30 pm.

2022 CEMETERY STATISTICS

Last year saw 79 burials and 42 cremations for a total of 121. New plot sales totaled 123 with 54 deeds issued.

Plots are currently available in Area 15 for single graves and Area 4 for multiple graves.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are continuously updating our website and hope that you can find answers to your questions there. Should you have any suggestions as to how we can make it even more user-friendly, please let us know.

All Plot Holders are encouraged to attend the We can also be found on Facebook at Pleasant

DATES TO REMEMBER AUXILIARY MEETINGS – 1:00 P.M. Saturday, June 10 - Wednesday, September 6 - Saturday, December 2 ANNUAL PLOT HOLDERS MEETING - 5:30 P.M. Wednesday, November 8, 2023 All meetings will be held in the Smith Memorial Building

VETERANS

Pleasant Hill Cemetery has a great number of Veterans (find list of names on our website in the "About Us" tab). Branches of Service and conflicts represented – Air Force (WW II, Korea, Vietnam); Army (Spanish American War, WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam); Marines (WW II, Korea); Navy (WW II, Korea); Coast Guard (Vietnam). Continental Army, War of 1812, Civil War; Army/Air Force/Air Corps (WW II); Army/Navy Reserve, Merchant Marines, Air Force/Army Reserve, New Jersey Infantry, New York Infantry. Others are the Continental Army, War of 1812 and the Civil War.

AUXILIARY

The recently re-activated Auxiliary is committed to carrying on the goal of beautifying and improving the Cemetery grounds, the Chapel and the Smith Memorial Building in memory of our loved ones.

Many long-time members have moved on, and in an effort to increase active membership, it was decided to drop "*Women's*" from our organization's title, simply identifying as The Auxiliary of Pleasant Hill Cemetery. We welcome all plot holders to join us at one of our meetings (dates noted on the front page). Our goal is to contribute to the beautification and improvement of our cemeteries. We ask that at least one representative from the family of every plot holder be a member of our Auxiliary.

On average the Auxiliary collects \$3,500 a year in dues and donations; and have donated over \$60,000 over the years we have been active. A recent donation by the Auxiliary was made to the Cemetery for the planting of trees in Section 4, just one of the beautification projects planned for 2022/2023. Since no request was sent during the Covid period, we are below our goals but hope you will consider assisting us. We anticipate spending more this year (2023) to make up for the Covid void.

For all of those who have already donated the 2022 dues and for your additional contributions, we thank you for your great generosity.

Please make your check payable to: Pleasant Hill Cemetery Auxiliary P.O. Box 78 Chester, NJ 07930-0078

Cut here & return with your donation			
Suggested Annual Dues:	\$ 15.00		
Additional Contribution:	\$		
Total Enclosed:	\$		

Please include your information below:

NAME		
ADDRESS:		
PHONE:	EMAIL:	

HISTORY OF PLEASANT HILL/FLANDERS HILLSIDE CEMETERY

Pleasant Hill Cemetery has a long and interesting history dating back to 1750 when William Larrason donated land for a Presbyterian Church and burying ground in an area known as Pleasant Hill. The church was, at that time, named the First Presbyterian Church of Roxbury but was referred to and called the Hill Church and Hill Graveyard in deeds and records; it was also called The Meeting House. A simple log church was the first building and was replaced in 1756 by a second structure that served the congregation until 1851. The church name changed in 1799 to the First Presbyterian Church of Chester. At this time the Township of Chester was also established.

The members of the church were from many of the early families who settled in the area as well as families from several surrounding areas. In 1850 the church membership changed drastically as 48 members from Mt Olive withdrew and built the Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church along with 26 members from Flanders who withdrew and built the Flanders Presbyterian Church. The remaining members (about 50 in number and all from Chester) decided to build on Main Street, in the village of Chester, a new church which was erected in 1851.

In 1856 the church family members and descendants of many original settlers of the area, about twenty men and women, are recorded as having come to take part in the proceedings to have the Old Hill Graveyard be incorporated as an association. On September 13, 1856, it became The Pleasant Hill Cemetery Association -166 years ago (September 2022). There is no record of why they chose the name Pleasant Hill, however, that area was also named Pleasant Hill. The Association is governed by a Board of Trustees that serve without remuneration. The cemetery is maintained as non-denominational and non-sectarian and plot purchases include perpetual care.

Over the years additional land was purchased, paths and driveways were opened and trees were set out. The stone chapel was erected in 1903 at a cost of about \$1,200.

A Woman's Auxiliary was formed in October 1953, seventy years making Pleasant Hill Cemetery beautiful.

In 1964 the Biblical Seminary of New York allowed us to purchase 81/100th of an acre to adjust and straighten our boundary. In May, 1989, the Association purchased 80 adjoining acres from Mr. Kennedy, originally slated for a housing development. That purchase brought the cemetery to a total of almost 100 acres and assures our continued operation for many years to come. Development plans were created, and portions of the additional property have been cleared, laid out, and used for burials. Additional sections will be planned and created as needed.

In July of 1989, the Cemetery Association purchased the Flanders Methodist Church burying ground on Hillside Avenue in Succasunna. This cemetery has a history as old as Pleasant Hill in that it was originally created by Mr. Miller in 1850 to be an additional burying ground for the Flanders Methodist Church, as their churchyard had reached full capacity. The cemetery that has been serving the community for over 250 years is one of quiet and permanent beauty that will endure through the ages.

A new Administration Building was erected and dedicated in 1999. This building is the result of a gift from Bernice Smith, wife of Roswell Smith, who left money in trust to the cemetery, specifically for a building that would have inside toilets with running water. In 2005, the building on the south side of the cemetery that had long served as the administrative office and maintenance building was replaced by a larger and more modern pole barn with office space and toilet facilities for the Grounds Crew, and storage space for all the machines and tools required in the operation of the cemetery. The anticipated growth of the cemetery was a major factor in the decision to build this new building. The old building was razed, and the area was graded and seeded to provide a more tranquil setting on that side of the cemetery.

Submitted by Thea Dunkle, Pleasant Hill Cemetery Auxiliary

PLEASANT HILL CEMETERY PO BOX 78 CHESTER, NJ 07930

INFORMATION UPDATES

It is important that we have a current contact name and address for all plots at Pleasant Hill. Please send any changes via email or snail mail to the Superintendent at Pleasant Hill.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Please visit the Pleasant Hill Cemetery website <u>http://pleasanthillcemetery.org</u> to review pertinent information regarding permitted decorations, vigil lights, floral tributes. Holiday wreaths and grave blankets may be placed after December 1 and will be removed by cemetery staff after February 1.