

GATE HOURS

APRIL 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
MAY 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
JUNE - AUGUST 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
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SUNDAY GATES OPEN AT 10:00 AM

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8:15 AM - 5:00 PM  
SATURDAY  
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FAX: (412) 622-0655  
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ALLEGHENY CEMETERY  
*Heritage*



A PUBLICATION OF THE ALLEGHENY CEMETERY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XXVIII

2019

HERITAGE FEST

*Celebrating 175 Years of History at Allegheny Cemetery 1844-2019*

By: Nancy E. Foley

**A** LLEGHENY Cemetery was established April 24, 1844 in what was then rural farmland outside of the City of Pittsburgh. Since that time, it has been encompassed by the bustling urban neighborhoods of Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, Garfield and Stanton Heights and now serves not only as a place of burial but also as an outdoor living history museum in a 300 acre urban forest. The Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association aims to preserve and share the historical and cultural heritage represented at Allegheny Cemetery, where, today, over 134,000 people are at rest who have each contributed to the rich history of Pittsburgh its progress.

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Guests enjoyed live musical performances including an Irish trio playing traditional instruments, a 16 piece jazz ensemble, Medieval English choir and WWII U.S.O. Show. Educational programming included free walking tours by Civil War Pittsburgh and living history demonstrations displaying real artifacts and depicting daily life for pre-colonial pioneers, local Native American tribes, 19th Century blacksmiths and American soldiers during WWII. A Medieval encampment allowed guests to participate in traditional European crafts like tapestry



Supt. Roger Galbraith at the WWII Camp

A.C.H.A. is to preserve nearly two centuries of archival documents containing information and detail that is often not found elsewhere. All of our educational programming is aimed at celebrating our rich heritage and sharing the stories of those who have come before us with as wide an audience as possible. For this reason, we plan to make Heritage Fest an annual event, so that our story continues to be told and our heritage is preserved!



Civil War artifacts on display

Native American, Pioneer and Colonial Reenactors



weaving and calligraphy. Because this was also a birthday celebration, children enjoyed free face painting and a "barnyard" petting zoo.

The A.C.H.A. endeavors to preserve the historical integrity of Allegheny Cemetery's buildings and grounds which is visible in the many repair and maintenance projects it supports year-round to keep the property in the best possible condition for its age. A second, and vitally important, function of the

To celebrate 175 years of our history, the Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association hosted its first ever "Heritage Fest" on Saturday,

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**ALLEGHENY CEMETERY HERITAGE**

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The Association is based on a concept set forth by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Established March 17, 1980, the Association is a non-profit educational and charitable organization which can accept foundation and other grants and provides tax exempt status for gifts and bequests from organizations and individuals.

Through the PH&LF's efforts, the entire Allegheny Cemetery and its buildings were given Landmark status and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Individuals or organizations wishing information on funding or supporting specific restoration projects are invited to contact the Office of the President at Allegheny Cemetery.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania: 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association  
412-682-1624

Fax: 412-622-0655

[www.alleghenycemetery.com](http://www.alleghenycemetery.com)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**DEAR FRIENDS,** *I am overjoyed to share with you that the Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association's ongoing Capital Campaign has had another successful year made possible through the support of local foundations and friends like you!*

*One such project involved crucial infrastructure repairs and improvements at a highly visited and historically significant location. The National Civil War Cemetery in Section 33 lies on the cemetery's main road, which is used to provide access to countless guests every day of the year. This area is also the setting of our annual Memorial Day Service, where thousands of guests have gathered for 150 years (since 1869) to remember and honor the sacrifice of those who were killed in conflict. Unfortunately, this section is in a low-lying valley on our grounds and is likewise susceptible to flooding during hard downpours. The aging storm water catchments in this section were badly deteriorated and required removal and installation of new storm drainage systems as a flood prevention measure. Once these storm drains were installed, 7,000 square feet of roadway was repaved to best protect the new pipe system and offer safe passage for guests in the immediate area as well as other key historic locations in the park.*



*Several trees in this area were toppled in a series of strong storms over the last year which required immediate and precise tree removal work so as not to damage nearby monuments. Because tree root systems play an important role in mitigating groundwater, several healthy young trees were planted to replace them as a supplement to our ongoing flood prevention efforts. These endeavors will greatly aid in preventing landscape loss from mudslides or flooding, while preserving the integrity of the memorials in this section which are of such personal meaning to us all.*

*Please know that when you give financially to the Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association, you are directly supporting vitally important preservation projects like these, "so that our heritage is preserved!"*

*Sincerely,*

*Harmar D. Denny, IV  
October 2019*



# ALLEGHENY'S FAMED FULTON BELL

*By: Nancy Foley & Lisa Speranza*

**S**EVERAL years ago, a wonderfully kind and genteel man named William N. Crawford, III had been researching his family legacy. *Cemeteries are a good place for that, finding stories and getting to know a bit more about yourself in the process.* As it turns out, Mr. Crawford is descended from a very distinct lineage with ties to some of the most notable families in Pittsburgh. In particular, a gentleman named Andrew Fulton (Section 8, Lot 3) who, in 1832, established the Fulton Bell and Brass Foundry, known for casting "the finest chime of bells." The generations would continue to bestow success upon the family, and a half-century later, in 1884, his grandson (also named Andrew Fulton) took time away from managing the family business to serve as the 33<sup>rd</sup> Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh until 1887.



*The Great Fire of Pittsburgh, 1845*

founders in the United States at the time. In the decade that followed, Pittsburgh would re-build, as would the Fulton Bell Company. After the Civil War, two enormous, solid bronze Fulton bells were cast that would come to have a significant place in the heart of Pittsburghers.

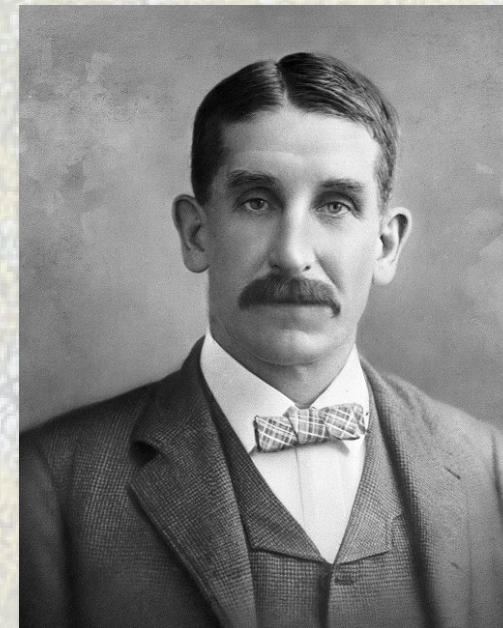
*In 1866, the largest bell ever yet cast in the United States (weighing approximately 4,000 pounds) was "made in Pittsburgh, by Pittsburgh men, for Pittsburgh."* Originally, the "Big Bell" as it was called, hung at the old Pittsburgh City Courthouse, acting as a public fire alarm. For years, this bell struck "1-8-4-5" on April 10th to commemorate the anniversary, and today it can be seen hanging on the first floor of the Heinz History Center.

The second historically significant Fulton Bell was commissioned for the newly constructed Allegheny Cemetery office complex in 1870, and was housed in the now iconic 80 foot tall clock tower above Butler Street. This bell is slightly smaller than the first, weighing roughly 3,000 pounds, though bigger than the Liberty Bell. The hand-hewn nails holding the bell cradle in place were wrought by skilled craftsman lifetimes ago, yet today, nearly 150 years later, it still stands, ever vigilant, embracing the bell as a mother might cradle a child - both strong and yet gentle in its hold.

There is a surprising delicateness about the chamber. Light filters through the louvres where tiny dust particles stand like silent sentinels, attesting to both the bell's age and all that it has seen. It continues to toll the daily time, originally by manually pulling of a length of rope, and now through a computerized mechanism. For preservation reasons, the clapper in the middle of the bell no longer provides the alarm. Rather, a small hammer strikes at the side of it, where it has worn in a small groove in recent years.

*Since 1870, the bell has tolled for funerals, marked the passing of President Garfield's body through the City in 1881, General Sherman in 1891, the end of WWI on November 11, 1918 and again on November 11, 2018 for the 100th Anniversary.* Allegheny Cemetery's Butler Street Bell has borne witness to the funerals of those both known and unknown, marked the time for military services, and chimed just the same for the humblest of souls.

Generations of families, including the family of Mr. William N. Crawford III, have grown up surrounded by the melodious harmony of Allegheny Cemetery's historic Fulton Bell. Businesses have come and gone from Butler Street below, houses built and dismantled, filled with families and children and laborers. Running through each and all of these lifetimes stood one constant, the same in 2019 as it was in 1870; the ever graceful, ever watchful, and reassuring presence of the Butler Street Fulton Bell.



*Mayor Andrew Fulton (Sec. 3, Lot 8)*

Fulton bells were highly prized and selected for important historical structures throughout the nation. Two, however, have a meaningful place in Pittsburgh's own history. On April 10, 1845, a great conflagration decimated about one-third of the City in a single day, including the downtown office of Hon. Richard Biddle, a founder of Allegheny Cemetery who crafted its charter. Another loss was the firm of A. Fulton & Co., the pre-eminent bell



*Allegheny's Fulton Bell*

# RETURNING FULL CIRCLE

By: James M. Edwards

**D**AVID Michener started it. I forget why we were up in Section 16, on the so-called “Millionaire’s Row,” standing in the Fitzsimons/Morrison Family Circle. David said, with awe, looking up at the top of its immense polished granite obelisk, “Who were these people? These monuments must have come at great expense.” Indeed.

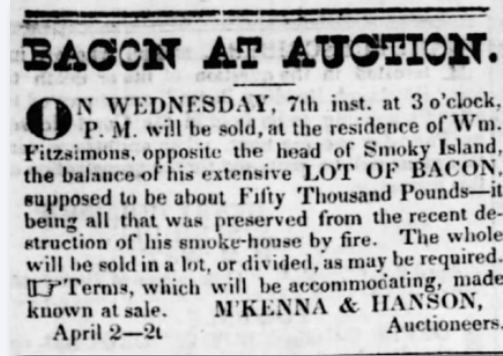
About ten above-ground grave-length carved and polished gray granite grave markers, with decorative inscriptions, long ones, are there, including Bible verses and testimonials, and are topped with urns draped with cloth so realistic you might mistake it for velvet or wool, rather than the granite that it is. Yes, the “design and build” of this Fitzsimons/Morrison had been a costly project.



*Fitzsimons Family Memorials*

I take a challenge like David’s (“Who were these people!?”) with acute curiosity, and start searching. It’s not difficult, but it’s quite involving, using Ancestry.com, a service called Find-a-Grave, the Post-Gazette Archives, and other internet-available historical collections in addition to the cemetery’s own archival resources.

William Fitzsimons came to Pittsburgh with his wife and 13 year-old son, David, in 1805



*Fitzsimons Wholesale Bacon Advertisement, 1830*

from Ireland, probably because his sister was here already with her husband and brother-in-law building houses. William was a trader, and by 1830 we know he had an extensive “commission/forwarding” business selling all manner of goods and foodstuffs up and down the rivers long distances. First they lived in Pittsburgh; later they lived in Allegheny City. By 1850, William’s son David Fitzsimons, along with his sons, had developed it into one of the largest such businesses of its kind, with a large warehouse next to the Market, about where Weldin’s store is today. Then, the railroad came. It is believed he sold his commission/forwarding business, the nature of which was by then its customers and contacts with manufacturers and merchants throughout the country, to the interests of Clarke & Thaw (these families occupy neighboring family circles to that of Fitzsimons).

When this background was learned about the family (a daughter of Fitzsimons married a Morrison, bringing their name to the circle), and that, sadly, the Pittsburgh branch came quietly to an end with two burials in the summer of 1894, the last task was to find a living Fitzsimons heir from the branch who’d moved to Philadelphia. Through an obituary found in a Jacksonville, FL newspaper, we found a living descendant of Dr. David Fitzsimons Bew (1916 - 2007), himself David F. Bew, who is raising his young family in Orlando, Florida!

Nancy Foley, Allegheny Cemetery Communications Director, wrote a letter to David telling him what we’d learned about his ancestors in Pittsburgh. We hit him “right at the right time,” he replied, which meant he had just then been refreshing what he knew about his ancestry together with an aged aunt. We’d revealed the family tree above where his knowledge extended. He told Nancy he would visit Pittsburgh in July.

He and his young family did! On July 20, David Bew met with Roger Galbraith and Nancy Foley. Together, they rode up to the Fitzsimons Family Circle (Section 16, Lot 122) and saw the stunning memorial stones and site for the first time. Roger reports that David Bew was visibly moved by the quality of the appearance of the stone, polished and engraved so many, many decades ago, and most of it recently cleaned and lightly restored.



*David Fitzsimons Bew visits the family circle*

It was a rewarding day in the life of the Fitzsimons family, and it was also rewarding for the Allegheny Cemetery officials involved to see appreciation for their care of the impressive circle.

# THE SYLVAN FUND

**I**N CONJUNCTION with our ongoing Capital Campaign, an anonymous local foundation has pledged to match, dollar-for-dollar, donations made to the **ACHA’s SYLVAN FUND** over the next two years, up to \$250,000. This is in addition to a \$500,000 donation made in September. Full achievement of this goal would create an endowment fund valued at \$1,000,000 by the close of 2021 if we can raise an additional \$250,000 with the help of the public!

**syl·van**  
*/ˈsɪlvən/* adjective  
 associated with woods; wooded.  
 “trees and contours all add to a sylvan setting”  
 pleasantly rural or pastoral;  
 a place of vibrant natural beauty.  
 “blanketed in sylvan splendor”  
**See also: VERDANT**



those conducting genealogical research or visiting for a school field trip, guided group tour, bird-watching, or simply to learn more about the history of Pittsburgh and the progress of her people.

*Please be as generous as possible so we can achieve our goal to realize an additional \$250,000.*

This incredible opportunity will only be possible with the support of dedicated friends like you! Your gift *today* will improve the quality of restoration, conservation and educational programming for the benefit of the public for *many generations* to come.

Large gifts may be pledged and contributions made over the next two years in a timeline that is financially convenient for you. Return your personal contribution to the **Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association with a designation to the SYLVAN FUND** so that your contribution is doubled. Use the enclosed envelope and be among the first to aid us in this historic initiative!

Once established, the **SYLVAN FUND** would function as a restricted endowment which would permit distribution of 5% of the market value of the fund based over a three-year period. Over time, the **SYLVAN FUND** endowment would provide the ACHA with an annual distribution in the tens of thousands, which would directly support structural repairs and preservation efforts to our several historically significant buildings, including the 1870 Administration Complex (Butler Street Entranceway), 1889 Penn Avenue Complex and Bell Tower, 1900 Maintenance Yard Complex, Victorian Fountain, Gardeners Cottage and Mid-Century Greenhouse.

The **SYLVAN FUND** would also aid in care and conservation of Allegheny’s 300 acre historically rural landscape, which is now a nationally accredited Arboretum. This urban forest provides vital ecological and recreational value to the public in terms of groundwater mitigation during storms, air quality and absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> as well as providing a beautiful urban green-space for quiet reflection and safe recreation to thousands of people throughout the year. Historic Allegheny Cemetery also serves as a vibrant cultural resource for



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