



THE HOMewood



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A Chronicle of the Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund

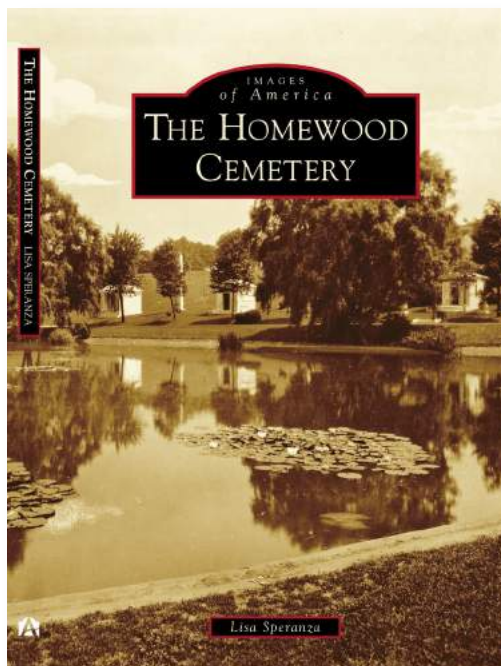
“Images of America: The Homewood Cemetery”

By Lisa Speranza

Now Available!

The Homewood Cemetery is pleased to present our new publication, encapsulating nearly 150 years of the cemetery's history. Initially released on December 9th, 2019 by Arcadia Publishing and the History Press, “**Images of America: The Homewood Cemetery**” walks the reader through our grounds, our stories, and time itself. This journey is presented through the generous assistance and cooperation of family members, local historical organizations, and diligent research by **Lisa Speranza**, Director of Development for The Homewood Cemetery.

Vignettes included in this publication allow an intimate glimpse into the lives of individuals and events which are both well-known, and some of which are sadly not often remembered. Divided into six chapters, the book begins with “**A Stroll Through the Stones**,” detailing the story of how the cemetery grounds came to be, and the initial leadership that helped to ensure its perpetual care. “**Titans of Their Time**” visits those names which resound throughout the streets of Pittsburgh – names like Heinz, Frick, Mellon, Benedum, and more. The poignant “**Service and Sacrifice**” chapter pays tribute to those men and women who have bravely served our country, both abroad and at home; some of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice for their valor. In “**Daring Dames**,” we meet women who challenged the cultural norms of their day to become philanthropists, entertainers, and even the first female electrical engineer in the United States. The chapter on “**Talent and Tenacity**”



further engages the reader with tales of Pittsburgh's own sports stars, musical, artistic, and creative phenoms. Lastly, the closing chapter entitled “**Humbled Hearts and Storied Souls**” presents names of those who are little known, but whose lives are equally worthy of remembrance. Many of the stories presented pertain to those buried at The Homewood Cemetery, and the book is full of unique images cultivated from the cemetery's own archives.

Copies of “**Images of America: The Homewood Cemetery**” are now available through the cemetery's administration office. **To request a copy, please contact the office at 412-421-1822.** Copies can also be

requested by mail by sending a check totaling \$27.99 (which includes shipping) made payable to “THCHF” (The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund) with “BOOK ORDER” written in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to The Homewood Cemetery at 1599 S. Dallas Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. **Please be certain to include your return address!** Proceeds from these sales will go directly to ensuring our historic preservation efforts through The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

A signed book copy, along with our special note of thanks from the author, will be our gift to donors at the \$250 level and above. For more details on some of the stories included in our new publication, please see inside this year's newsletter!

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DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Lisa Speranza
Erica Wrhen
David J. Michener

CONTRIBUTORS

Lisa Speranza
Jennie Benford

THE HOMEWOOD CEMETERY HISTORICAL FUND

The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund is a Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization established July 11, 1989 promoting the appreciation and preservation of the cultural, historical and natural resources of The Homewood Cemetery. Contributions made by individuals, corporations, or foundations to the Fund are tax deductible according to law.

**The Homewood Cemetery
Historical Fund**

Phone: 412-421-1822
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A Message From Our President

Dear Friends,

With the holiday season upon us, we are given cause to pause and reflect on our many reasons for gratitude throughout this year. Although these past few months have presented a myriad of challenges, we have been fortunate to flourish through the generosity of our friends, neighbors, and the dedicated efforts of several local philanthropic organizations.

The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund is a 501(c)(3) certified organization, specifically developed for historic preservation, conservation of our landscape, repairs and restoration to our historic buildings, grounds, monuments and architectural structures as well as educational programming, archival preservation and public engagement initiatives.

It is through the generous support of friends like you that we were able to accomplish several critical repairs and improvements throughout the last year. Our vast grounds require a constant dedication to our infrastructure, tree canopy, roadways, signage, and storm drainage systems. Additionally, we are honored to be entrusted with the care of tangible links to our past in the form of our historic monuments and several outstanding examples of early 20th century architecture and iron work from Samuel Yellin, world renowned artisan and American master blacksmith. Within the last year, we were able to achieve the following goals, in addition to the general care of our grounds:

- removal of dying or diseased trees
- planting of new trees, in order to maintain the vitality of our tree canopy
- treatment of 31 individual trees to prevent disease
- installation of 29 tree identification signs, enhancing our status as a certified arboretum
- repair of 3 stained glass windows
- replacement of 180 feet of storm water drain line
- resetting of 155 historic monuments
- repointing of 1,000 linear feet of historic masonry

At The Homewood Cemetery, we are honored to serve as the guardians for generations of Pittsburgh families, including their legacies, stories, and the ever-important sanctity of their memories. When you contribute to The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund, you enable us to continue these crucial preservation efforts, for which we are ever grateful.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Unkovic
November 2020

THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF *Bertha Lamme Feicht*

By Lisa Speranza

She rests under a simple stone which belies the nature of the monumental achievements she accomplished in her lifetime. Born December 16, 1869 on her family's farm on the outskirts of Springfield, Ohio, Bertha Lamme Feicht would see a lifetime that stretched from her humble beginnings to the pages of a little-known piece of our nation's history. She attended Olive Branch High School, and upon graduating, followed the path her brother Benjamin had taken by enrolling at Ohio State University. Her curious mind and head-strong nature encouraged her to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering, while specializing in Electrical Engineering. When she graduated in 1893, the school's yearbook included this notation under her name:

"The most peerless piece of earth, I think, that e'er the sun shone bright on". Others in her class described her as having "a compendium of universal knowledge." In June 1893, Ohio State student newspaper "The Lantern" reported that "when among those who stepped forth to receive the degree of Mechanical Engineer in electrical engineering was a 'sweet girl graduate,' Miss Bertha Lamme, a spontaneous ripple of applause broke over the crowd." She was clearly



appreciated by her classmates, but her graduation held an even greater distinction. In receiving her diploma that year, Bertha Lamme became the first woman to receive a degree in any engineering discipline (other than civil engineering) in the entire United States. In effect, and with this achievement, she became the first accredited female electrical engineer in the country, only seven years after Westinghouse had formed the Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1886.

The first chief engineer for the Westinghouse Electric Corporation was Albert Schmid. He was already well acquainted with the talents of the Lamme family, as Bertha's brother Benjamin had been hired by the company in 1889. Schmid had previously read Bertha's thesis paper, "An Analysis of Tests of a Westinghouse Railway Generator," and was incredibly impressed with her capabilities, aptitude, and acumen. Although

the move was sometimes attributed to her brother's respected position within the company, Bertha Lamme's achievements and credentials stood on their own merit, and she was hired as the first female engineer at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in 1898.

While her overall focus was electrical engineering, Bertha was an excellent mathematician. Just a few years prior, people had been stunned by the appearance of electricity on the world stage at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois. The nascent discipline was still little understood – but she was already considered an expert in the field.



With Westinghouse's designation as the manufacturer of the first major alternating-current power plant at Niagara Falls in 1897, the company firmly took its place among the defining names in the industry. Bertha was a crucial part of that success, and her pioneering efforts played no small part in furthering the Westinghouse name at the time.

It was through her work with Westinghouse that she became further acquainted with one of their brightest up-and-coming minds – Russell Feicht. He was likewise a graduate of Ohio State University (Class of 1890), and like Bertha, dedicated his efforts and diligence to the study of electrical engineering. His skill and ability were such that he was chosen to help display the abilities of Westinghouse's 2000-horsepower motor during the 1904 World's Fair, which was held in St. Louis.

It was just a year later when Bertha Lamme would marry Russell Feicht, and in doing so, she pursued another great adventure in her lifetime – that of becoming a wife and mother. They were married at the Lamme family's farm which stood on the corner of Friendship and Stratford Avenues near New Carlisle, Ohio. As was customary at the time, this necessitated the end of her professional career. While her achievements as an electrical engineer technically ended with her separation of employment from Westinghouse, it is known that she went on to advise both her brother and husband as they pursued their efforts in the field.

Her contributions to science were far from over.

On August 19, 1910, Bertha gave birth to a daughter, Florence Lamme Feicht, in the home she shared with her husband Russell at 1115 Portland Street in what is now Pittsburgh's Highland Park neighborhood. Bertha died in November 1943, survived by her daughter, Florence.

Perhaps Bertha's greatest contribution was instilling a sense of pride, technical ability, and encouragement in the mind of her young daughter

and only child. In a time when women were told they could not, Bertha refused to accept the dictation of social mores, and instead rose above expectations to become a radiant force in what was at the time (and continues to be) the male-dominated field of electrical engineering.

Bertha's daughter was watching, and listening. Florence Lamme Feicht shone bright in her own right, eventually becoming a physicist while finding employment through the U.S. Bureau of Mines. Mother and daughter now rest eternally together, within a small circle of family graves, surrounded by a shaded thicket of trees in Section 24, Lot 90 of The Homewood Cemetery.

CALM AMIDST THE CHAOS

By Lisa Speranza

Perhaps as the trees got closer, he thought of home. The skies far above France were a world away from the rolling hills of Pennsylvania, and yet somehow they felt very much the same. It was the air that was different. While living just outside of Pittsburgh as a boy, **William Flinn II** would have enjoyed the fresh cool air that enveloped the Western Pennsylvania countryside in the fall, the crispness that gathered in the dew on the leaves, and the sense of home one always felt, no matter how far away the journey might take them. But **on this day, the air was thick and smoked with the remnants of the German flak artillery which would forever alter the course of their lives.**

William now found himself piloting his plane high above the small town of Rethondes, France. Alongside him that day, fellow compatriots: **2nd Lieutenant Everett G. Johnson, 2nd Lieutenant Wayne D. Hicks, Staff Sergeant Daniel J. Graff, and Staff Sergeants R. Naylor and Robert Johnson.** They were each from towns a world away, but **found themselves united in a single purpose - to protect the innocents who had fallen victim to the slaughter seeping across the borders of Europe during World War II.**

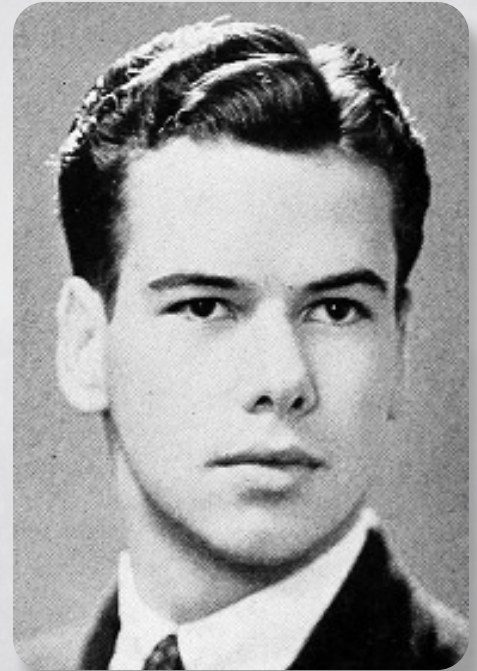
And so on this day, **October 5, 1944,** First Lieutenant William Flinn II, a pilot with the **United States Army Air Forces 386th Bomb Group, 555th Bomb Squadron,** along with his crew, departed for a covert mission attacking a German military installation. Their plane - a twin-engine medium bomber **Martin B-26 Marauder** called the "**Yankee Guerilla**" - fought valiantly but sustained heavy mechanical damage, and it was becoming increasingly evident that neither the plane nor its occupants were likely to survive.

Perhaps then, each of the men in turn took a moment to find a sense of calm amidst the chaos; to think of sweethearts they'd left behind at home, whose portraits they now carried on their pistols. Perhaps they thought of their children, who might only know of their fathers through stories handed down by their grieving widowed mothers. In many cases, we can only speculate as to what these men may have considered in the moments that the awful truth became evident - they were not going to survive this fight.

In the case of William Flinn II, however, we know very well what some of his last thoughts were. As his plane, riddled with damage, fell closer and closer to the treetops, William recognized the shapes of the small buildings dotting the ever approaching ground beneath them. Thatched cottages stood out against the French landscape, and just beyond them, a schoolhouse filled with children who had no idea the crippled American B-26 was fast approaching.

William's next and very last heroic effort was cloaked in his consideration for the lives of those school children directly in his path. Seeing an abandoned farmstead lying just before the school, he deliberately and intentionally grounded the plane, resulting in the loss of his own life, and that of several of his crew. In the process, however, **he saved the lives and futures of every single small child tucked within the tiny schoolhouse.** Generations of families survived that day, all due to the courage and sacrifice of the brave Americans who acted without consideration for their own consequences.

Within the picturesque towns painted across the French countryside like wildflowers, **the valor of these men and the significance of this moment would never be forgotten.**



William Flinn II, Killed In Action, 1944

The children there still sing a song, dedicated to the memory of those who selflessly gave their own lives in order to protect others.

While Flinn's body was ultimately recovered and buried in the American Cemetery (**Plot B, Row 3, Grave 67**) located in Epinal, France, a cenotaph (memorial marker) was placed outside of the Flinn family mausoleum in Section 14 of The Homewood Cemetery commemorating his legacy. The memorial stands in silent testament, bearing witness to his sacrifice, there among the crisp fall breezes and beautifully colorful leaves of the Western Pennsylvania trees he once called home.

BACKGROUND: This image depicts the *Yankee Guerilla* in flight, piloted by William Flinn, II during WWII

Originally printed in the Fall 1993 copy of The Homewood Newsletter, we are pleased to present this article on Daisy Lampkin, outstanding advocate for the rights of women and minorities. She was both political activist, pioneer, and a civil rights reformer, and now rests in Section 12-2, Lot 26, Part 6 of The Homewood Cemetery.

Daisy Elizabeth Adams Lampkin

(C. 1883 - 1965)

On August 9, 1983, a ceremony for the dedication of a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker to honor **Daisy E. Lampkin** was held at the Robert L. Vann Elementary School. Mrs. Lampkin, who would have been 100 years old that day, was the first black woman in Pennsylvania to be commemorated in such a way. The historical marker, unveiled at her home, 2519 Webster Avenue, was appropriately within view of the school.

For 36 years, Daisy Lampkin was vice president of the once powerful and widely circulated **Pittsburgh Courier** which was founded by black attorney Robert L. Vann. In 1912, after winning a cash award for selling the most new subscriptions, **she became a stockholder when the young publishing company could not pay its promised award.** She continued to augment her investment and was willing to provide considerable assistance from her personal savings when Vann needed capital.

Daisy Lampkin was born in Washington, DC, but spent most of her childhood in Reading, **Berks County, Pennsylvania.** She moved to Pittsburgh in 1909 and married restaurateur **William Lampkin.** Working her way to national prominence, Mrs. Lampkin served in numerous social, civic, and church-affiliated organizations such as the Pittsburgh Courier, the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**, the **National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)**, the **National Association of Colored Women (NACW)**, the **National Republican Party**, the **Urban League**, and the **National Council of Churches.**



At the time of her death on March 10, 1965, the New York Times called attention to her significant contributions to civil rights. **She is best known for her work as national field secretary for the NAACP in the 1930s and 1940s;** however, current biographer Edna McKenzie asserts that she had gained national recognition long before Walter White recruited her for the civil rights association. She was a leader in Liberty Bond Drives during World War I when the Allegheny County black community raised \$2,000,000. **She was affiliated with the National Suffrage League** and promoted a successful women's suffrage event in 1912 before it was a popular cause. When African-

American leaders were organized by James Weldon Johnson to meet with President Coolidge at the White House in 1924 to obtain justice for black soldiers accused in the 1917 Houston riot, **Lampkin was the only woman summoned to join this group.** Before she joined the NAACP staff, Mrs. Lampkin **served as national organizer and chair of the executive board of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW).**

Although previously active in the Republican Party, supporting Herbert Hoover, she moved to the Democratic camp with Robert L. Vann during the New Deal era of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She then switched back to the Republican Party in 1952 when the Democrats ran segregationist John J. Sparkman of Alabama for vice president.

In October 1964, still campaigning for the NAACP, Lampkin suffered a stroke and collapsed on stage after delivering a stirring appeal. In December she was still too feeble to attend the ceremony in New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel when the NCNW was to present her with the first Eleanor Roosevelt-Mary McLeod Bethune Award. It was

accepted for her by Lena Home, who, as a young singer living in the same Pittsburgh neighborhood, had formed a close friendship with Mrs. Lampkin.

Daisy Lampkin's influence on social developments of 20th-century American society and her exceptional leadership and fund-raising ability are well documented. She remained committed to the causes of blacks and women throughout her life.

Robert L. Vann, attorney, politician, activist, and publisher of the Pittsburgh Courier, is entombed in a private mausoleum nearby.

Homewood Cemetery's *Women of Temperance*

By Jennie Benford

Many women who were Suffragists – and whose work culminated in the passage of the **19th Amendment in 1920** – are at rest within The Homewood Cemetery. The seeds of their success were planted, in part, by the earlier Temperance movement that sought to ban production and sale of intoxicating spirits. **Women in 19th century America had few property or paternal rights, thus families faced negative consequences if the man who headed the household drank to excess.** Temperance supporters believed eradicating liquor would protect families from destitution. Abuse of alcohol was considered a threat to home and family, leading women of the Temperance movement to advocate against consumption of alcohol in general. It was during the Temperance Movement when many women learned to lobby government officials, stage public protests, and deliver a speech--skills they and their descendants would also use to fight for the ballot.

Rebecca Marchand was a leading figure in Pittsburgh's Temperance Movement. An 1888 book, *The Social Mirror* by Adelaide Nevin, described her as, “**one of the crusaders...**

remarkably intelligent...a fine speaker, her argument being clear, concise, and convincing. Mrs. Marchand is a woman suffragist and is an ornament to the party.” The term “**crusader**” indicates **Marchand participated in the Women's Crusades of 1873-1874.** “Crusaders” nationwide blocked access to bars and taverns, showing up in large numbers to pray, sing hymns, and otherwise urge men away from liquor. When Mrs. Marchand died in 1907 she was laid to rest in lot **92 of Section 7 in The Homewood Cemetery** next to her husband, Dr. John Marchand, who was the Cemetery's first burial in 1878.

Another Temperance supporter, **Ellen Murdoch Watson**, was born in 1831 to a wealthy Pittsburgh family. She left the comfort and safety of her home to serve as a Union Army nurse during the Civil War. Her post-war marriage to glass manufacturer William R. Watson ended with his early death, leaving her a young, wealthy widow. Mrs. Watson **gained international acclaim publishing anti-liquor tracts, and shipping them to likeminded groups for worldwide distribution.** She was a founding member of the **Anti-Saloon League**, a meeting

of which she addressed two weeks before her death in 1913 at age 81. That she needed no introduction is implied by her large grave marker in lot 107 of Section 7. It features only her name, with no mention of her Temperance work, or of her identity as a wife or mother.

The **Women's Christian Temperance Union was the largest women's organization in the United States by the late 1800s.** It was the first national women's reform organization to accept middle class African American women as members, including a woman named **Jemima Woodson**. Two Woman's Suffrage groups (**The Anna Howard Shaw League** and **The Lucy Stone Woman's Suffrage League**) both included and promoted the concerns of African American women of the time. Much work on the issue was done as a part of larger social agenda by African American women's church and social societies. Jemima Woodson was a daughter of Rev. Lewis Woodson and, with her sister, Caroline, ran a millinery shop in Downtown Pittsburgh. She is at rest with her sister's family, the Googins, in **Section 8 of The Homewood Cemetery.**

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Exerpt From "Images of America: The Homewood Cemetery"

By Lisa Speranza



*The following excerpt is taken directly from our new publication "Images of America: The Homewood Cemetery". The book is now available to purchase by contacting the office directly at **412.421.1822**. It contains lots of wonderful historical photographs taken from the cemetery's own archives, many of which are being published for the first time.*

SECTION 20 POND. The Homewood Cemetery was initially designed as a lawn park cemetery by landscape architect Hamilton Shepherd. The pond shown here was artificially incorporated into the landscape of Section 20, in order to provide a peaceful place of respite for both the living and the dead. This pond no longer remains, however, it was located very near to where the artificially created pond of the Posner Family monument sits in present day.