

THE HOMEWOOD

The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund

1599 South Dallas Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15217-1499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

HOURS OF OPERATION

Office
Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday Closed

Gates
May-October 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
November-April 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Public Mausoleums
Open Daily 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
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THE HOMEWOOD

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A chronicle of the Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund

Fall 2024

PRIME STAGE BRINGS THE HOMEWOOD CEMETERY TO LIFE



Rebecca Godlove as Emilie Daub



Jeff Boles as Sylvester Stephen "S.S." Marvin

"permanent residents" of the Cemetery, including Frick Pittsburgh Museums & Gardens founder, Helen Clay Frick; Union Army hero and founder of the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad, Col. James Martinus Schoonmaker; and a palmist and pioneer in criminal psychology, Countess Blanca DeOvies. The tour sold out quickly and received, in Zorrato's words, "only rave reviews!"

Prime Stage presented an entirely new slate of historic figures for their 2024 tour. Women's Suffrage supporter and early automobile enthusiast, Elizabeth Pitcairn, and the first president of the Carnegie Hero Fund, Charles Taylor, were among the Cemetery's residents on hand to meet and greet this year's tour-takers. Lawrence McCullough, Ph.D., educational playwright and Prime Stage's Public Relations Director, wrote entertaining, historically accurate scripts for each character on both tours. McCullough "[was], thrilled... to [use] live theatre to convey history in a public space," seeing the Cemetery tours as "a perfect extension of [Prime Stage's educational] programming and mission."

continued on page 2



John Dolphin as Charles Arbuthnot



Suzanne Ward as Elizabeth Pitcairn

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Yesterday's News will be an occasional feature where we share, word for word, historic newspaper articles pertaining to The Homewood Cemetery or the people therein.

From The Pittsburgh Daily Post, November 3, 1896

LAID TO REST AT HOMEWOOD

Miss Gallaher Buried on the Spot She Had Selected.



Marion Gallaher monument
(Section 3, Lot 372)

Funeral services over the remains of Miss Marion Isabel Crawford Gallaher were held yesterday at her mother's home...The house was crowded with friends, and the service was simple, opening with the hymn, "Asleep in Jesus." The Rev. S.B. Linhart, of the Forty-third street Presbyterian church, read appropriate scriptural quotations and made a short address, the service closing with another favorite hymn of the dead writer.

Only the immediate relatives followed her to the grave, the interment being private. What a strange thing for one in life to choose a place to lie when dead. But she did, years ago selecting a spot in Homewood cemetery,

where she said she wished to rest when she grew old and died. It was on the hill above the fountain, sloping gently to the right, where the sun first rests at morning and lingers last at night. And there they buried her yesterday, and the clay that covered her was hidden by the floral tributes of fond friends.

Marion Crawford Gallaher was a well-respected Pittsburgh journalist who worked for several of the city's papers, covering everything from local theatre to mining disasters and floods. At the time of her death, she was 25 years old.



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The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund
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www.thehomewoodcemetery.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

With the closing of another year just around the corner, we take this time to express our deepest gratitude to you for your generous and essential support of The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund. Although the past few years have presented a multitude of challenges for all, we have been able to prosper through the generosity of our friends, neighbors, and several local foundations.

From your generous support we are able to accomplish necessary repairs and improvements throughout the year, including the replacement of our administration building windows and necessary, preventative tree removals. The cemetery's grounds, established in 1878, require a consistent and dedicated preservation effort to maintain the historic buildings, monuments and roadways for future generations.

Our mission at The Homewood Cemetery is to provide a beautiful, respectful resting place for those entrusted to our care, while serving as a living tribute and outdoor museum of generations past. The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund is a 501 (c)(3) certified organization that was specifically developed to support the preservation, conservation and restoration of our historical buildings, grounds and monuments. We kindly thank you for your enduring commitment and generosity that enables us to continue these vital preservation efforts.

Sincerely,

Mary M Unkovic

Mary M. Unkovic
November 2024



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Prime Stage...continued from page 1



Rebecca Godlove as Emilie Daub

For those who missed the Prime Stage tours, or those who did attend and would like to revisit the

performances, this year's tour was filmed and will soon be available for purchase on Prime Stage's website, <https://primestage.com>.



Mark Boles as Carl H. Borntraeger



Erica Fox Zabusky as Alice Hemphill Baum

The Lives They Lived...continued from page 3

speeches, sprawling parades, and state-wide speaking tours. Brown follows Smith and Miller's lives post-19th Amendment, showing how both sisters worked as good-government advocates — hard work in a town largely run by corrupt mayors, and police. Special emphasis is rightly given to Smith's forty years as a fiscal watchdog for the city of Pittsburgh.

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN
THE BOOK WHO ARE AT
REST AT THE HOMEWOOD
CEMETERY

Eliza Kennedy Smith (1889-1964),
R. Templeton Smith (d. 1967),
Jennie E. Kennedy (1852-1930),
Julian Kennedy (1852-1932),
Section 11, Lot 19.

Mary Flinn Lawrence (1877-1974),
Private Mausoleum, Section 14,
Lot 100.

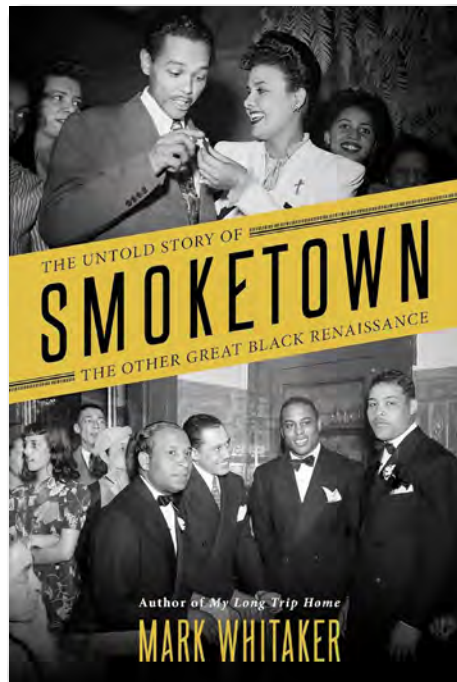
Elizabeth Pitcairn (1840-1917),
Private Mausoleum, Section 14,
Lot 96.

Mayor Edward Vose Babcock
(1864-1948), West Unit Mausoleum,
Room 4, Crypt 3.

Anne X. Alpern (1903-1981),
Section 22-2, Garden of Rest,
Division 16, Grave 105.

***Smoketown: The Untold Story
of the Other Great Black
Renaissance***, Mark Whitaker,
Simon & Schuster, 2018

Smoketown author Mark Whitaker concentrates his homage to 20th Century Black Pittsburgh on four distinct but interconnected topics, referred to within as: The Paper; Sports; Music; and The City. "The Paper," of course, is *The Pittsburgh Courier*, one of 20th Century America's most influential newspapers and a product of multiple generations



of excellent Black editors and journalists. These journalists provided many eyewitness accounts which Whitaker uses to describe everything from the machinations behind the scenes when Jackie Robinson integrated Big League baseball, to *Courier* editor Robert L. Vann's role in the election of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.



Gravesite of Charles "Teenie" Harris,
Section 12-2, Lot 89B U 1/2

Smoketown shines light on national-level legends such as playwright August Wilson, and Jazz greats Erroll Garner and Lena Horne; he also cites the importance of lesser-known Pittsburghers such as Garner and Horne's friend and teacher, Charlotte Enty Catlin, and former local boxing champ and Pittsburgh sanitation worker Charlie Burley, an inspiration for Wilson's play, *Fences*.

Between its preface and the bulk of its text, ***Smoketown*** features a five-page "Cast of Characters." Of the 116 names on those five pages, fifty-three are members of 20th Century Pittsburgh's Black community. Of those fifty-three people, twelve are at rest in The Homewood Cemetery.

PEOPLE MENTIONED
IN THE BOOK WHO ARE AT
REST AT THE HOMEWOOD
CEMETERY

Robert L. and Jesse Vann,
Private Mausoleum, Section 21, Lot 16

Ira Lewis, Section 12-2,
Lot 26, PT 4

Bill Nunn, Section 12-2,
Lot 26, PT 8

P.L. Prattis, Section 12-12,
Lot 26, PT 5

Julia Bumry Jones, Section 26,
Division 1, Row 2

Daisy Lampkin, Section 112-2,
Lot 26, PT 6.

Charles "Teenie" Harris,
Section 12-2, Lot 89B U 1/2

Charlotte Enty Catlin, Section 127,
Lot 405 E 1/2

Erroll Garner, Section 12-2,
Lot 19E

Lewis Woodson, Section 9-2,
Lot 135

Virginia Proctor, Section 8, Lot 109



THE LIVES THEY LIVED NEW BIOGRAPHIES OF HOMEWOOD CEMETERY RESIDENTS

Two recently published books, as well as one coming out in 2025, deliver fascinating, well-researched biographies of significant people at rest within The Homewood Cemetery.

The Woman Who Knew Everyone: The Power of Perle Mesta, Washington's Most Famous Hostess, Meryl Gordon, Grand Central Publishing, due for release January 7, 2025



For 50 of her 92 years, Perle Mesta was "The Hostess with the Mostess." During her party-giving heyday — the 1940s through the mid-1960s — Mesta influenced United States domestic and

foreign policies with strategic guestlists, tactical seating charts, and the societal introduction of political unknowns who are now historic figures. Her friends included Lyndon B. Johnson, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Harry Truman, who famously appointed her to serve as the American Ambassador to Luxembourg.

The money with which Perle entertained the elite of Washington DC came from the estate of her Pittsburgh husband, George Mesta and his successful machine works in Homestead. Pittsburgh and Homestead are quickly dispensed within Meryl Gordon's 400+ page book—by page 46, newly widowed, 42-year-old Pearl has divested her shares of the Mesta Machine Company and relocated to Washington, D.C. After taking the nation's capital by storm, Perle's star dimmed only when the young, elegant Kennedys moved into the White House. She remained interested in politics and was a vocal advocate of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Gordon's fondness for the vibrant, matronly hostess is evident even while she acknowledges how Perle's privilege blinded her to the social upheaval of the 1960s, especially as she grew older. ***The Woman Who Knew Everyone***, tells Perle's story with the vivacity and

candor of the woman herself, and it's good to see *The Hostess* back in the public eye.

PEOPLE MENTIONED
IN THE BOOK WHO
ARE AT REST AT THE
HOMEWOOD CEMETERY

Perle Mesta (1889-1975) and
George Mesta (1862-1925),
Private Mausoleum,
Section 21, Lot 21.

Frederick Mesta (1876-1929),
Private Mausoleum,
Section 12-2, Lot 5.

She Devils at the Door, Eliza Smith Brown, Carnegie Mellon University Press, Pittsburgh, 2023



Eliza Smith Brown has written a loving, enjoyable biography of her grandmother, Eliza Kennedy Smith, and great aunt, Lucy Kennedy Miller. Focusing first on their work as co-founders of the influential woman suffrage group, the Pittsburgh Equal Franchise Federation, Smith captures the excitement generated by these young women as they demand "Votes for Women!" via street-corner

continued on page 6



Mesta family mausoleum (Section 21, Lot 21)

BASKETBALL, BROOMS, AND THE A.D.A: THREE STORIES ABOUT DISABILITY RIGHTS

“The struggle by and for people with disabilities to attain human and civil rights has only recently been recognized as part of American history. In many locations — including Western Pennsylvania — the dramatic changes that have occurred have not been sufficiently documented, preserved or shared. Attention to do so is growing, along with the understanding that history can be an effective tool to create more inclusive communities.”

-- “*Western Pennsylvania Disability History & Action Consortium: About,*”
<https://pdhac.org/about-the-consortium>

The Homewood Cemetery was founded in 1878, nine years before Pittsburgh journalist Nellie Bly [AKA Elizabeth Jane Cochran] had herself committed to a New York “insane asylum” for women to investigate the institution’s neglect and abuse of its inmates. Generations of people who worked to advance disability rights are at rest within The Homewood Cemetery. Two of the three stories that follow show Pittsburghers with disabilities challenging what society thought they could and should do. The third focuses on a legislative ally who helped enact national protections for the rights of disabled Americans.

FRANK BLACKHALL

(1892-1923, Section 23, Lot 38)

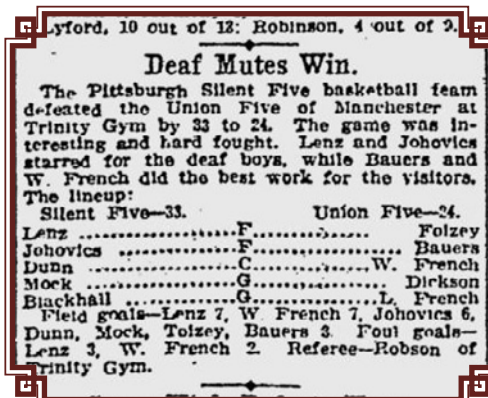
When the first International Silent Games for deaf athletes were held in Paris in 1924, “deaf mute” basketball teams had been competing in America for 25 years. These teams, known as Silent Fives, were established in Pensacola, Hoboken, Pittsburgh, and other cities that contained or were adjacent to schools for the deaf. Silent Fives did not compete only amongst themselves; newspaper coverage at the time suggests games with hearing teams were much more common.



Frank Blackhall (1892-1923,
Section 23, Lot 38)

Pittsburgh’s Silent Five was active by 1910 and Frank Blackhall appears to have been a founding player. The federal census from that year shows his family living in Edgewood, where both Frank and his brother, George, attended the Edgewood Park School for the Deaf (now the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf). The census lists 18-year-old Frank as a linotype operator; he would later join his father and brothers in the family roofing business. Frank kept his day job although the Pittsburgh Silents were in great demand. The “novelty” of a non-hearing team might have sold tickets but, in the case of the Pittsburgh Silents, the team built a fan base with fast games and winning seasons.

The most information we have about Blackhall’s time with the Pittsburgh Silents is found in a tribute written following his death after a fall from a roof in 1923:



Another Silent Win! *Gazette Times*,
December 15, 1912

“Frank, guard, showed good floorwork and featured for our team in Maryland and West Virginia ... He was a remarkable basketball and baseball player in many ways....[he] was actively connected for six years with the Pittsburgh Silent Five... We, the members of the Pittsburgh Silent Five, do acknowledge our loss of a valued friend in all that tended to the benefit of the deaf.” [*Deaf and Mute Journal*, March 29, 1923.] Silent Fives were a long-running and national phenomenon yet, to date, no overview of these pioneering teams has been found.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTHEW A. DUNN

(1886-1941, Section 2, Lot 183)



Rep. Matthew A. Dunn, c1935,
<https://archives.house.state.pa.us>

On March 1, 1937, broom makers at the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind voted to strike for a raise in pay and improved working conditions. Over 100 of the shop’s visually impaired workers occupied their factory, having food brought to them by supporters and sleeping in the broom corn with which they would normally be working. Commenting on the strike in her journal, Helen Keller wrote, “I am glad that Matthew Dunn, the blind representative from Pennsylvania, is

in sympathy with the blind strikers” (*Helen Keller’s Journal*, 1936-1937, <https://internetarchive.org>).



Representative Matthew A. Dunn
(1886-1941, Section 2, Lot 183)

Born in Braddock in 1886, Matthew Dunn was blind by the age of twenty. He sold newspapers to pay for his education at The Pittsburgh School for the Blind and the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia. He later worked as an insurance agent but left that position in 1926 to run for a seat in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives, an office he held until winning a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1932. A progressive and an idealist, Representative Dunn became known for introducing bills — pensions for visually impaired citizens, increased opportunities for women in the workforce, abolition of chain gangs — that never made it out of committee. Fortunately, Dunn’s commitment to improving people’s lives seemed impervious to such disinterest.

The first day of the broom makers’ strike, Dunn was on hand to rally the workers for what would become a month-long stand-off. He stood on a table in the workroom to speak, stating his full support of the strike with the exception of the workers’ demands, which he felt were too modest. By April, both sides compromised: the workers accepted improved work conditions, vacation pay, and an audit of their employer’s financial records, but did not receive raises. Dunn called the

strike a “declaration of independence” (*Whereas: Stories from the People’s House: The Mediator*, <https://history.house.gov/Blog/2017/December/12-11-Photo-Mediator>).

Dunn retained his seat in the House and continued advocating for progressive causes. Poor health forced him to retire in 1940 and he died on February 14, 1941, of complications from high blood pressure.

RICHARD THORNBURGH

(1932-2020, Section 25, Lot 10)



The Honorable Richard Thornburgh
c1988, photo courtesy of the United States
Department of Justice.

In his autobiography, *Where the Evidence Leads*, Dick Thornburgh referred to himself as the “[G.H.W. Bush] administration’s point man” for The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This downplays his role supporting the bill as it made its way through Congress. The ADA provides federal protection against discrimination based on disability in such areas as employment, public transit, state and local government services, and businesses that are open to the public. Thornburgh worked as a liaison between supporters of the bill and those wary of the government oversight that the bill would bring to private businesses. He presented the ADA as “a different kind of civil rights bill—not based on quotas, preferences

or set-asides, but designed to empower those with disabilities to enter the mainstream of American life” [*Where the Evidence Leads*, p262.]

Passage of the ADA in 1990 was the result of decades of activism by disabled Americans and allies. Thornburgh, himself the parent of a child with intellectual disabilities, knew what this work entailed. His wife, Ginny, was one of a group of “mother advocates,” of children with disabilities who, in 1973, visited state-run institutions for the intellectually disabled to investigate claims of mistreatment and neglect. Their anger at the scale of abuse they found and their advocacy for inmates of these institutions resulted in both immediate and continued improvements. The closure of Polk State Center in 2023 is a direct result of those investigations.



Richard Thornburgh (1932-2020,
Section 25, Lot 10)

Thornburgh’s career included terms as Governor of Pennsylvania, Attorney General of the United States, and Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, yet his role in passage of the ADA was the focus of obituaries that appeared after his death in 2020. Ginny Thornburgh continued her advocacy work as Director of Interfaith Initiatives for the American Association of People with Disabilities.

