

# Mount Bethel Reflections

*A Publication of the Mount Bethel Cemetery Company - A Non-Profit Cemetery*

Summer 2021

## ***President's Appeal***

As I sit down to write this annual appeal for your support, I am reminded of the words of Kathy Calvin, CEO and President of the United Nations Foundation. Her words are shown below.

*"Giving is not just about making a donation.  
It is about making a difference."*

The Board of Mount Bethel Cemetery is charged with maintaining these historic grounds. Your donation as a patron supports us as we tackle this goal.

Caring for the cemetery's physical appearance allows us to honor all who have been interred here. Whether we care for the graves of our veterans or for burial sites of historic figures such as Susanna Wright, we are paying tribute to the impact their lives have had. Your donation helps us make a difference by providing for the perpetual care and visual appeal of this graveyard.

Your financial support would be greatly appreciated as we continue working to improve and maintain the grounds of Mount Bethel Cemetery. A patron card and envelope have been included for your convenience. Please consider making a difference. Become a patron of the cemetery today.

Sincerely,

*Jane Moore*

President, Mount Bethel Board of Directors

## ***Honoring Lloyd Mifflin***

2021 marks the one-hundredth anniversary of Lloyd Mifflin's death. Known as "America's Greatest Sonneteer" he was born September 15, 1846, the son of Elizabeth Ann Bethel (Heise) and John Houston Mifflin. He and his siblings, Bethel, Martha Elizabeth, Houston, James Deveau and Charles West lived in the home at Second and Walnut Streets. Lloyd attended local schools and later, to develop his artistic skills, taught to him by his father, went on to attend the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. Rather than art, Lloyd is most remembered for his poetry, writing over 14 books of poetry.

In his will he bequeathed land to the Columbia School District on which Taylor Building is situated. A stipulation in the will was that the land not be built on, except for the school, and that on the anniversary of his birth, September 15, a flower be placed at his gravesite by a child of the school and his "A Picture of My Mother" poem be read by an honor student of the high school. This custom continues this year on September 15 for the one-hundredth time.

Lloyd is buried in Mt. Bethel Cemetery along with his father, mother and other members of his family. His brother, Houston, served for fifty years as president of the Mount Bethel Cemetery Company.

The Columbia Historic Preservation Society museum is paying tribute to the Mifflin family for their philanthropy in the development of Columbia. Some of Lloyd's paintings that have not been publically displayed are part of the exhibit. CHiPS, located at 19-21 North Second Street, Columbia, is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00PM until 4:00PM.

## Fete en Noir Held

Excessive heat and rain threatened to cancel the “**Fete en Noir**” on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. The rain stopped, the air cooled, and the event went on as planned. Some brought their umbrellas, others brought canopies but as the evening of fun and music progressed they weren’t needed. Music was provided by DJ Steve Murray while guests socialized, dined and danced. Some took walking tours of the cemetery following paths outlined in a brochure and others participated in a scavenger hunt. Photos from this year’s event, shown on this page, capture the festive mood of the evening.

Next year the highly successful event is scheduled for **Friday, September 9, 2022**. Mark your calendars. You won’t want to miss it!



*Photos taken by Todd Smith.*



## Wreaths Across America

Join Mt. Bethel Cemetery by sponsoring a veterans' wreath to honor those who have served in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Merchant Marines. A wreath-laying ceremony will be held at Mt. Bethel at noon on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Over 600 veterans from the Revolutionary War to the Viet Nam War are interred in these sacred grounds. We take this time to observe their service and sacrifice, regardless of the weather.

Each December the National Wreaths Across America Day is held to remember, honor, and teach by coordinating a wreath-laying ceremony at **Arlington National Cemetery**. **Mt. Bethel is one of the more than 2,000 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states that participate.** Sponsorship forms can be found on our website [www.mtbethelcemetery.org](http://www.mtbethelcemetery.org). Your wreath sponsorship allows us to honor veterans interred at Mount Bethel Cemetery while also providing funds to help support the cemetery. You can also purchase a wreath to be placed on a grave at another local cemetery. It will be shipped to Mt. Bethel where you can pick it up. Please be sure to advise Jane Moore if you are planning on securing a wreath for another cemetery by calling (717) 575-9760.



*Photos from previous years' Wreaths Across America event at Mount Bethel Cemetery show that our veteran graves are honored no matter the weather.*

## Mount Bethel to Participate in Halloween House Tour

This past year has been a challenge for everyone. Non-profit organizations such as Mt. Bethel Cemetery had to cancel all fundraising events due to the pandemic. We are hopeful that we can hold our remaining events planned for 2021 with modifications if necessary.

Plans are being formulated for Mt. Bethel to participate in **COLUMBIA'S HALLOWEEN HOUSE TOUR** scheduled for Sunday, October 31. "**Dia de Muertos**," the day of the dead celebration typically celebrated on All Soul's Day is our theme. Although marked throughout Latin America, Dia de Muertos is most strongly associated with Mexico, where the tradition originated.

Assured that the dead would be insulted by mourning or sadness, Dia de Muertos celebrates the lives of the deceased with food, drink, parties, and activities the dead enjoyed in life. Dia de Muertos recognizes death as a natural part of the human experience, a continuum with birth, childhood, and growing up to become a contributing member of the community. On Dia de Muertos, the dead are also a part of the community, awakened from their eternal sleep to share celebrations with their loved ones.

Visit the cottage at Mt. Bethel, 700 Locust Street to view Harry, a real human skeleton and visit with Clarence his non-human skeleton friend. While here, dedicate a jardinière in memory of a loved one and place it on the outdoor altar – the ofrenda – then take a short tour to learn the history of some deceased souls interred at Mount Bethel Cemetery. The tour runs from 3:00 to 8:00PM.

### ***Superintendent's Corner***

A group of volunteers meet twice a month to repair and erect fallen monuments in the cemetery. They are Jeff Groff, Greg Smith, Wayne Kauffman, Jim Anspach, Jim Walk, George Kernisky, Mark Seibert, Paul Wittensolder, Dave Rupp and Ron Mable. Recently they worked on raising the government markers of Civil War veterans in Section B. The markers were placed 75 to 150 years ago and were placed without foundations, thus had sunk into the ground with less than a foot of the marker still visible. The markers were all raised and loose stone placed under them. In the future, the plan is to raise veterans' markers along Bethel Street that the County Commissioners purchased for the burial of veterans from the Spanish American War, World War I and II. Currently there are 682 veterans interred at Mount Bethel Cemetery representing every US conflict from the Revolutionary War up to and including Vietnam.

### ***2021 Remaining Events***

For more details on these upcoming events, please see the articles included in this newsletter.

#### **October 31 – Columbia's Halloween House Tour**

Mount Bethel Cemetery will be a stop on this tour and will use Dia de Muertos as a theme.

#### **December 18 – Wreaths Across America**

Help us honor veterans whose final stop is Mount Bethel Cemetery.

### ***Did You Know?***

Along with 100 years of honoring the bequest of Lloyd Mifflin to the Columbia Borough School District, 2021 also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these products: Band Aids, Cheez-It snacks, Chanel No. 5, and Wonder Bread.

### ***Mount Bethel Officers and Board Members***

At its annual business meeting, Mount Bethel Board of Directors elected members to serve a one-year term and officers for the next year. The Board Members and officers duly elected are shown below.

President – Jane Moore

Secretary – Claire Storm

Treasurer – Kevin Kraft

John Hinkle

Kathy Hohenadel

Kathleen Lutz

Ron Mable

Dave Mountz

Dave Rupp

### ***2021 Project List***

Listed below is a sampling of the projects undertaken and completed by the Superintendent and his helpers and the Board of Directors.

- Contract to edge the sidewalk between Bethel and Laurel Streets
- Remove diseased trees and replace with new trees
- Reinstall and maintain headstones
- Contract to edge and reseal all roadways within Mount Bethel Cemetery
- Order a monument to recognize those who donate a substantial amount to Mount Bethel Cemetery
- Complete the fence painting project
- Mulch common areas
- Repaint the cottage trim as needed
- Renew contracts for mowing and for snow removal
- Update the Mount Bethel website with a new address
- Continue work on the memorial bricks for the brick graveyard portion of the cemetery
- Complete masonry work on lawn crypts

Our web address has changed. Visit our new website by using ***mtbethelcemetery.org***.