

PENNSYLVANIA HALLOWED GROUNDS



PRESERVING PENNSYLVANIA'S
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORIC CEMETERIES

We are the leading voice for historic African American burial grounds and cemeteries in Pennsylvania and those that have interred American Civil War soldiers and sailors. As volunteers we inform the public through our website, Facebook page, YouTube channel, links to other resources, events, as presenters, workshops, our Cemetery Stewards Roundtable discussions and annual meetings & conferences.

MISSION:

The mission of the Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds (PAHG) is to honor, interpret, and preserve African American cemeteries and the burial sites of Civil War African American Sailors and United States Colored Troops in Pennsylvania. PAHG connects and builds the capacity of stewards of these cemeteries and burial sites, and supports conservation, documentation, education, and training. Working collaboratively with other groups and organizations, PAHG provides tangible encounters with memory and enriches the public understanding of history.

HISTORY:

In 2013, two visionary leaders sparked a movement. The first, Lenwood Sloan, was hired by the state tourism office to help commemorate Pennsylvania's role in the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The second was Barbara Barksdale, who had led an over 20-year effort to save and restore the Midland Cemetery outside of Steelton, Pa., in Dauphin County. Twelve years ago, a small conference was held to announce the formation of Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds. The gathering included caretakers of African American cemeteries from around the Commonwealth. Attendees shared their experiences and challenges, and in doing so, discovered they had much in common. The organization began with a focus on the protection of the burial sites of United States Colored Troops from the Civil War. It expanded to include the Civil War African American Sailors and the preservation, documentation, and interpretation of African American cemeteries.

WHAT WE OFFER:

We have collected links to resources that will help you to better understand the threats facing African American cemeteries in Pennsylvania and around the nation, and the work of Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds to preserve our African American burial grounds.

PAHG partnered with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to create the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), African American Cemeteries and Churches in Pennsylvania, c.1644 – 1970, which was approved by the National Park Service in 2021. It provides an overview of Pennsylvania's African American history, and the important role that historic churches and cemeteries play in telling that story. By approving this document, the National Park Service recognized that African American churches and cemeteries are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

- Get Educated @ PAHG
- Preservation Toolkit
- PA African American Cemeteries Listed on the National Register
- National Register MPDF
- Grants & Funding Sources
- Meetings, Conferences & Consultation

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- African American Burial Sites Documentation Project
- Partnered with the PA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to create a process for listing African American cemeteries on the National Register
- Collaboration with Preservation Pennsylvania on a National Trust for Historic Preservation African American Cultural Heritage Fund grant that supported preservation efforts at 13 cemeteries across Pennsylvania
- Annual Meeting & Conference
- Pennsylvania Cemetery Stewards Roundtable

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VOLUNTEER BOARD:

- **Barbara Barksdale**, Chair, Friends of Midland Cemetery (Steelton), Dauphin County
- **Crystal Crampton**, Vice Chair, Historical New Garden Memorial U.A.M.E. Church, Bucktoe Cemetery (Kennett Square), Chester County
- **Steven Burg**, Secretary, Locust Grove Cemetery (Shippensburg), Cumberland County
- **Brenda Barrett**, Treasurer, *Living Landscape Observer* newsletter (Harrisburg), Dauphin County
- **Joe Becton**, Member, Becton Tours and Historical Services (Philadelphia), Philadelphia County
- **Jeanie Glaser**, Member, Genealogist and Place Historian (Harrisburg), Dauphin County
- **Bertha Jackson**, Member, Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church & Cemetery (Devon), Chester County
- **Sheila Jones**, Member, Eden Cemetery (Collingdale), Delaware County
- **Renea Nichols**, Member, Pennsylvania State University (University Park), Centre County

STATS/FACTS:



160+

African American
Cemeteries In PA
Listed With PAHG



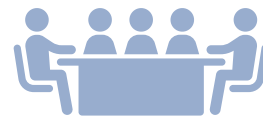
200K

African American
Men Served In United
States Colored Troops
And Navy In Civil War,
8600+ From PA



111+

PA Cemeteries
Listed With PAHG
Where USCT Are
Buried



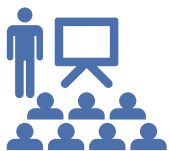
9

PAHG Volunteer
Board Members



10

Cemetery Stewards
Roundtables



11

PAHG Annual
Meeting &
Conferences Held



13

PAHG Awarded
\$3k-\$7K Grants To
PA Cemetery
Stewards



3600+

Number Of People
PAHG Reached
Through Its Efforts
To Date



5

There Are Five
Levels To Consider
To Make Yearly
Donations



October 18

Join Us For The Next
2025 PAHG Meeting
& Conference

Follow Us • Attend Conferences & Roundtables • Donate

Visit Our Website:

P.O. Box 7474 • Steelton, PA 17113 • PAHG@pahallowedgrounds.org
www.pahallowedgrounds.org

