



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

Prospect Hill Cemetery

Last month, I took a two-hour tour of Prospect Hill Cemetery with NeyChip (a local historical group which I founded). It was one of the most interesting tours I have ever been on. They take you around in this special built tram and gave information about the cemetery, their memorials, and stories about those who will never leave there.

This was no ordinary cemetery. It was chartered in 1849, as part of the [Victorian Rural Cemetery Movement](#), to provide inspirational greenspace outside the cities of industrial America. Soon burials from small family lots began to be reinterred at Prospect Hill. This included the remains of [Philip Livingston](#), a signer of the Declaration of Independence (see bottom left picture). In the years following the Civil War, [Martin Milmore](#) created a monument for the soldiers' lot. Erected in 1874, the 15-foot bronze figure of a soldier honors Union troops who died in the York area. It is surrounded by four captured cannons.

Prospect Hill Cemetery is composed of 175 acres with about 100,000 interments and 60 acres more still to be developed. They hire about 24 groundskeepers during the growing season. They have about four miles of paved road and average 250 burials a year. The cemetery has 26 family crypts and three mausoleums. The largest mausoleum built in 1914 has 210 spaces. The cost of the most expensive personal crypt was \$500,000, for a man who made a fortune selling French fries from mobile trailers. Several ground monuments, designed by artists, have exceeded \$15,000. People do this because they want to be remembered.

Prospect Hill Cemetery also has a [War Flag Memorial](#), [Fallen Heroes Memorial](#), [Court of Valor](#), [Safekeepers Shrine](#), [Fallen Heroes Banners](#), [Fireman Monument](#), [Notable Burials](#), and [Cemetery Art & Architecture](#). They not only mark veterans' graves with flags but also do so for firefighters. Their Iraq and Afghanistan War Flag Memorial had up to 6,000 flags honoring those who gave their lives during the conflicts.

However, just a block away from Prospect Hill Cemetery is another cemetery called Lebanon Cemetery. It was the only cemetery where nonwhites in the area could be buried, in the past. The five-acre cemetery was neglected for decades. Vegetation, weather, ground hogs and vandals made the cemetery a great disgrace and dishonor. Most of the markers were sunk three to four feet in the ground. On July 20, 2019, fourteen volunteers came to find, clear and upright 240 overgrown markers and to restore its dignity. Read about ["Restoring York's First Black Cemetery"](#).

Many local historical groups spend their efforts on preserving buildings and places. Our top priority at NEYCHIP (North Eastern York County History In Preservation), is to preserve the history of people. We believe that who they were, what they did, how they lived, and their memories are more important than what they built. Our motto has been "Share your memories before they become the forgotten past." This is a reason why NeyChip is growing so quickly. [Neychip.com](#) has over 70 pages with 2,000 memories.

At that final judgement day, God will not review what we built, our position in life, the color of our skin, where we lived, nor our professions. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Rev 20:12 This judgement will not be for our entrance to Heaven. No one can ever do enough to go to Heaven. (Rom 3:23, 24) This entrance is only by our acceptance of Christ as our Savior (John 3:16). For those in Heaven, this judgement will be an acknowledgment for their good works. For those who rejected Christ, God will also not forget their past but will punish them for their evil. Rev 20:13,14. After you are buried it is too late, to change your history.

Charles L Stambaugh

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die,
but after this the judgment." Heb 9:27

What kind of memories will God have of you?



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