

# THE GREENWOOD CEMETERY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR CORPORATE BOARD MEMBERS

## Consistency Improves Appearance in the Garden of Peace

The Greenwood Cemetery Board of Managers recently agreed to have the Shoemaker Monument Company of Indiana to provide the engraving on the columbarium door panels for the next three years. The board also voted to keep the format of each door panel the same. Each door will include the person's last name in a larger font, then first name, optional middle initial, birth and death year in a slightly smaller font.

Niches are now sold as part of a package that includes the niche, interment of the cremains, and the engraving on the door panel in the price. Once a niche is sold, the purchaser will complete a form with the information for their panel. Shoemaker Monument Company will take the information and develop a proof of the door panel. Once approved, the Greenwood grounds crew will

remove the door panel, Shoemaker will engrave it with the personal information, then the grounds crew will return the panel to the front of the niche.

For veterans laid to rest in the columbarium niche, a government-issued bronze niche marker will be placed on the side of the columbarium rather than the flat ground markers used in the rest of the cemetery. In doing so, the memorial will be near the veteran and more easily seen by visitors. For further information on the types of veteran's markers, visit the National Cemetery Administration's website: <https://www.cem.va.gov/hmm/types.asp>



Image courtesy of cem.va.gov

The Greenwood Cemetery's Board of Managers hope these new policies will ensure the Garden of Peace has consistent and aesthetically pleasing appearance.

If you have ideas for content, interesting history about the cemetery or family members interred, news, photos, etc., please reach out to Jan Foister at [office.gwcemetery@gmail.com](mailto:office.gwcemetery@gmail.com).

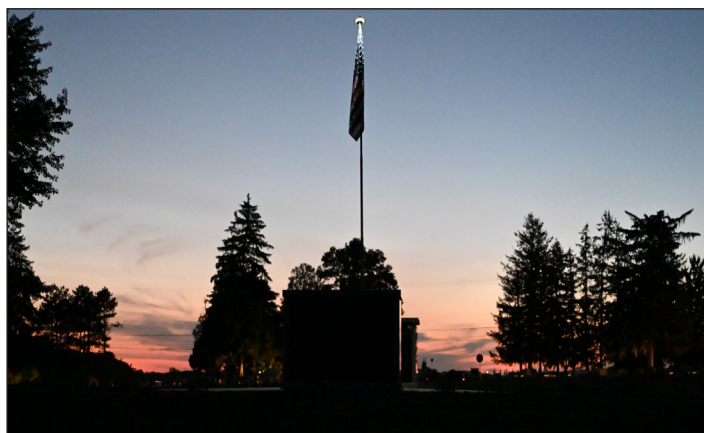
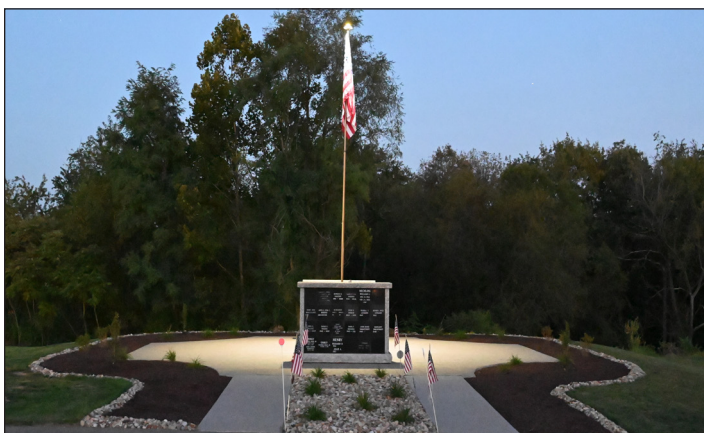


# Garden of Peace Project Continues

The Garden of Peace columbarium area is a few steps closer to project completion with some summer additions to the area. A landscaped border around the entire garden was created then mulch, decorative rock, and some plants and shrubs were added.

In the center of the garden, an illuminated flagpole was installed and a large American flag now flies proudly over the Garden of Peace. The flagpole was given in memory of Harry (Bo) Wood and fellow Korean War Marines, from his daughters Julie (Wood) Kim and Gretchen Wood Johnson, grandson Taylor Johnson, and granddaughter Töve Johnson. The flag was given in memory of Barb and Bernie McQuown by their daughter Kathy, husband Greg and grandchildren Adam, Amanda, and Matthew.

Adding beautiful benches for visitors and an entrance sign are planned for the near future.



Top right photo by J. Foister. All other photos by Ron Fairman.



# Greenwood's Office Building Gets a Green Makeover

The all-white building near the gardens that houses the office and the main garage is getting a much-needed new look and the project is almost complete. The building was recently painted a two-toned green with matching shutters on the office windows. A special thanks to the cemetery staff, board member Ron Fairman for all their hard work, as well as the Sherwin Williams staff for the guidance in selecting a paint that will hold up over time. *All photos by J. Foister.*



**Left:** The front of the office before the painting project started.

**Right:** Working at the back garage door are Michael Lentz, Ron Fairman and Roger Ringler.

**Bottom:** Once the area above the garage door receives its new coat of paint, the makeover will be complete. What a difference!





# Explore Greenwood

## Dr. Robert Mitchell: The Second Physician in Indiana County (and So Much More)

*Many thanks to board member Dr. John Neale who provided the initial information, as well as the source for the following information cited at the bottom of the article.*

Dr. Robert Mitchell was the second physician in Indiana County's history and is interred in Section E (one of the circles just off Hospital Drive on the monument side of the cemetery). He lived from 1786-1862/1863, depending on the source. After graduating from Jefferson College, Philadelphia, he set out to find a location to practice medicine in 1815. Upon coming to Indiana, he met a Dr. French, the only practicing physician in Indiana County. Being in poor health, Dr. French invited Dr. Mitchell to stay and assist with his practice. Back then, most "roads" consisted of no more than a path; this forced Dr. Mitchell to brave rough terrain on horseback to care for his patients, no matter the distance. In fact, it wasn't unusual for him to be away a week or more at a time. When Dr. French passed away, Dr. Mitchell assumed ownership of the office and home, then started a drugstore associated with the practice.

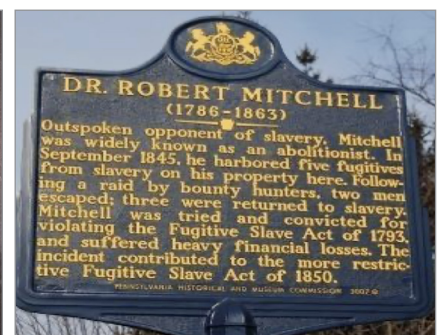
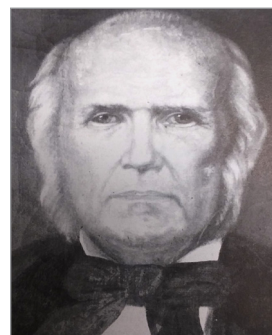
While Dr. Mitchell was a successful and much-admired physician, he also served five years as a district representative in the State Legislature and was appointed an associate judge. After purchasing over 1500 acres of land in Cherryhill Township, Mitchell laid out a village he named Diamondville where he built saw and flour mills.

Dr. Mitchell was best known as a passionate abolitionist, and had a strong faith in God. After observing the cruel treatment of slaves earlier in life, his deeply held moral and religious beliefs led him to actively participate in activities that assisted slaves in attempting to gain their freedom. His work was eventually uncovered and after three trials, Dr. Robert Mitchell became the only man in Pennsylvania history ever prosecuted under the federal Fugitive Slave Law. To satisfy the fines and court costs levied against him, much of his land was sold.

While he continued to support the abolitionist movement for the rest of his life, he sadly passed away around the time of Abraham Lincoln's writing of the Emancipation Proclamation. At the time of his death, Dr. Robert Mitchell was survived by 6 of his 11 children and Jane (1804-1890), his devoted wife of many years. According to Dr. John Neale, Mitchell was originally buried elsewhere, then was re-interred at Greenwood Cemetery after it was established in 1879, with Jane eventually at his side.

Dr. Robert Mitchell helped others in many ways and has a notable place in Greenwood Cemetery's long history.

*Source: Stewart, Joshua Thomas. Indiana County Pennsylvania, Vol. 1 of 2: Her People, Past and Present. London, Forgotten Books, 2018.*



Photos courtesy of Dr. John Neale and findagrave.com



# Missing Vase Mystery: Solved!

The cemetery receives a number of phone calls each month to report the vase from their loved one's bronze memorial is missing on the gardens side of the cemetery. It's been several years since any vases have actually gone missing. Many people aren't aware that an upright vase, when given a quarter turn can be lifted out of its holder, turned over and stored upside down. The bottom of the vase becomes a decorative plate with a small knob in the center. Doing this prevents water from filling then freezing in the vase and possibly cracking it. As fall gets underway, you may find many "missing" vases are just hibernating until spring, as the cemetery staff prepares for cold weather.



## SEEN AT THE CEMETERY



Photo by Tracey Ryan