



**127**  
YEARS  
1894

**Rededication  
October 9, 2021**

**Dedicated to Preserving  
History for the Generations.**

**THE MONONGAHELA CEMETERY**  
INCORPORATED 1863

### **Mission Statement**

The Monongahela Cemetery is a nonsectarian and nonprofit cemetery committed to interment and to memorialize the dead. It is intended that our cemetery devote areas of quiet beauty and serenity to beckon the living as well as to provide repose for the dead. It is our goal as part of the remembrance of the deceased to maintain permanent records of those whose earthly remains have been entrusted to us.

### **Monongahela Cemetery Superintendents**

John Nelson	1863-1865
Adam Aughendoubler	1865-1895
William H. Isaac	1895-1945
A. Reese Isaac Sr.	1945-1965
Charles Williams	1965-1973
Kenneth Seal	1973-1988
Mike Berdar	1988-1990
Mark A. Affinito, Sr.	1990-present

### **Presidents of the Board of Directors Monongahela Cemetery**

James Williams	1863-1870
James Stockdale	1870-1892
John Long	1892-1903
Joseph A. Herron	1903-1932
Frank Bebout	1932-1940
William K. Vance	1940-1955
J. A. Nutt	1955-1962
C. S. Patterson	1962-1967
George C. Wickerham	1967-1979
Joseph U. Frye	1979-2011
James McCune	2011-2020
Richard Bucchianeri	2020-present

MONONGAHELA CEMETERY CHAPEL  
RE-DEDICATION PROGRAM

Saturday, October 9, 2021  
10:00 a.m.

Welcome by Richard Bucchianeri — Cemetery Board President

Invocation: Reverend Jude Urso

Pledge of Allegiance: James P. McCune past Cemetery Board President

Chapel Blessing: Reverend Jude Urso

Review of the Chapel restoration: Richard Bucchianeri

Presentation of plaques: Roger D’Emidio: Cemetery Board Vice President

Closing remarks: John Cattaneo: Cemetery Board Secretary

Benediction: Reverend Jude Urso

Reception to follow.

# History

*Written by Charles Talbert*

In May 1894 the Monongahela Cemetery Board announced that they had consulted with Architect Frank P. Keller concerning plans to build a Mortuary Chapel. Frank Perry Keller (1868 - 1941) was a 1888 graduate of Cornell. He was the son of a Monongahela dry goods merchant and Civil War veteran, Samuel Perry Keller. His mother, Mary Letitia Hodgson, was a former schoolteacher and was the daughter of the local Methodist minister, Rev. Christopher Hodgson.

In 1907, Frank married Maud Hannah Watson, the English-born daughter of Alfred Watson, a Monongahela jeweler. Frank and Maud Hannah eventually had 3 children — 2 sons and a daughter. In the early 1920s the Keller family relocated to Los Angeles, California where the two sons made remarkable careers in the motion picture industry, working with Frank Capra; The younger brother, Frank P. Keller, Jr. received an Academy Award for Motion Picture Film Editing in 1968.

The Monongahela Cemetery mortuary chapel was completed on March 18, 1895 at a cost of \$3,525.98. The chapel was designed in a severe early Gothic-style. The building is 23 by 41 feet at the floor line and was situated to orientate the axis to the center of the fountain formerly located in The Circle and where the current (2021) office is now. The exterior walls of the chapel were constructed of local white sandstone, the joints were pointed with grey mortar, with overhanging eaves and a dark slate roof.

The basement of the chapel had a receiving vault and storage cellars. The vault was 9 by 19 feet and was 9 feet high with stone walls and ceiling and a brick floor. There were stone benches in the vault for caskets and ventilating flues to the outside above the roof. The main floor of the chapel is entered through a recessed porch that had wood paneled walls and ceiling and a tile floor. On the left a door opened into a large closet and storage room. On the right was the superintendent's office. Both of those rooms were wainscoted and had hardwood floors. The office also was fitted with a desk and a stove. Directly in front of the recessed porch were large sliding entrance doors into the service room. That room was 20 by 30 feet with walls of selected red face bricks, an oak floor and a raised and paneled ceiling with woodwork supported by ornamented trusses which divided the room into three bays. Each bay in the ceiling had a traceried ventilating panel. Light in the service room came from eight single lancet windows and from one large, mullioned window — the later was filled with a stained glass mosaic erected by the managers in memory of William Jones Alexander (April 16, 1820 - June 28, 1894) who served for 30 years as the treasurer of the cemetery corporation.

The remaining windows and ample wall space furnished additional places for glass works, brasses, or marble wall tablets as memorials. One side of the western wall is occupied by the fireplace of paneled and molded brick work and arranged with handsome wrought iron andirons for a wood fire. The color treatment of this room was a harmony of reds, yellows and green in subdued tones. The original mortuary chapel contractors were Yohe Brothers. The stonework was done by William Nelson, Jr., and the tin work was by Atkins Brothers.



On March 31, 2016, Terry A. Necciai, RA, Historic Preservation Consulting prepared a Condition Assessment Report of the chapel. Around May 2017, the Monongahela Cemetery Board launched a fundraising effort for the restoration of the chapel.

The fund-raising efforts of \$156,962.67 made it possible to begin restoration of the chapel. On July 16, 2018, the Board of Directors hired Yohe Brothers to restore the chapel roof with slate and copper. On September 16, 2019, Terry Necciai was hired as the architect to oversee the restoration of the chapel.

Contractor Joel Weygandt was hired to complete the interior restoration of the chapel, with other additional restoration work being done by Edmund Gessel, Rick Opferman, and JED Heating and Cooling.

The fund-raising was comprised of 293 donors in the amount of \$95,519.67 and in December of 2018 the Monongahela Cemetery received an LSA grant in the amount of \$61,443.

The total cost of restoration work to date is \$161,583.



Frank P. Keller, Sr. circa 1900  
Architect of Chapel

# Board of Directors / Superintendent



## Top Row (Left to Right)

Mark Affinito  
*Superintendent*

Alan Veliky

Scott Frederick

James P. McCune

## Bottom Row (Left to Right)

John Cattaneo  
*Secretary*

Richard Bucchianeri  
*President*

Roger D'Emidio  
*Vice-President*

## (Missing From Photo)

Will Maurer, Treasurer

# Board of Members



## Top Row (Left to Right)

Mark Affinito   Scott Frederick   Geroge Eckert   Alan Veliky   Tom Graney   Jeff Vitale  
*Superintendent*

## Bottom Row (Left to Right)

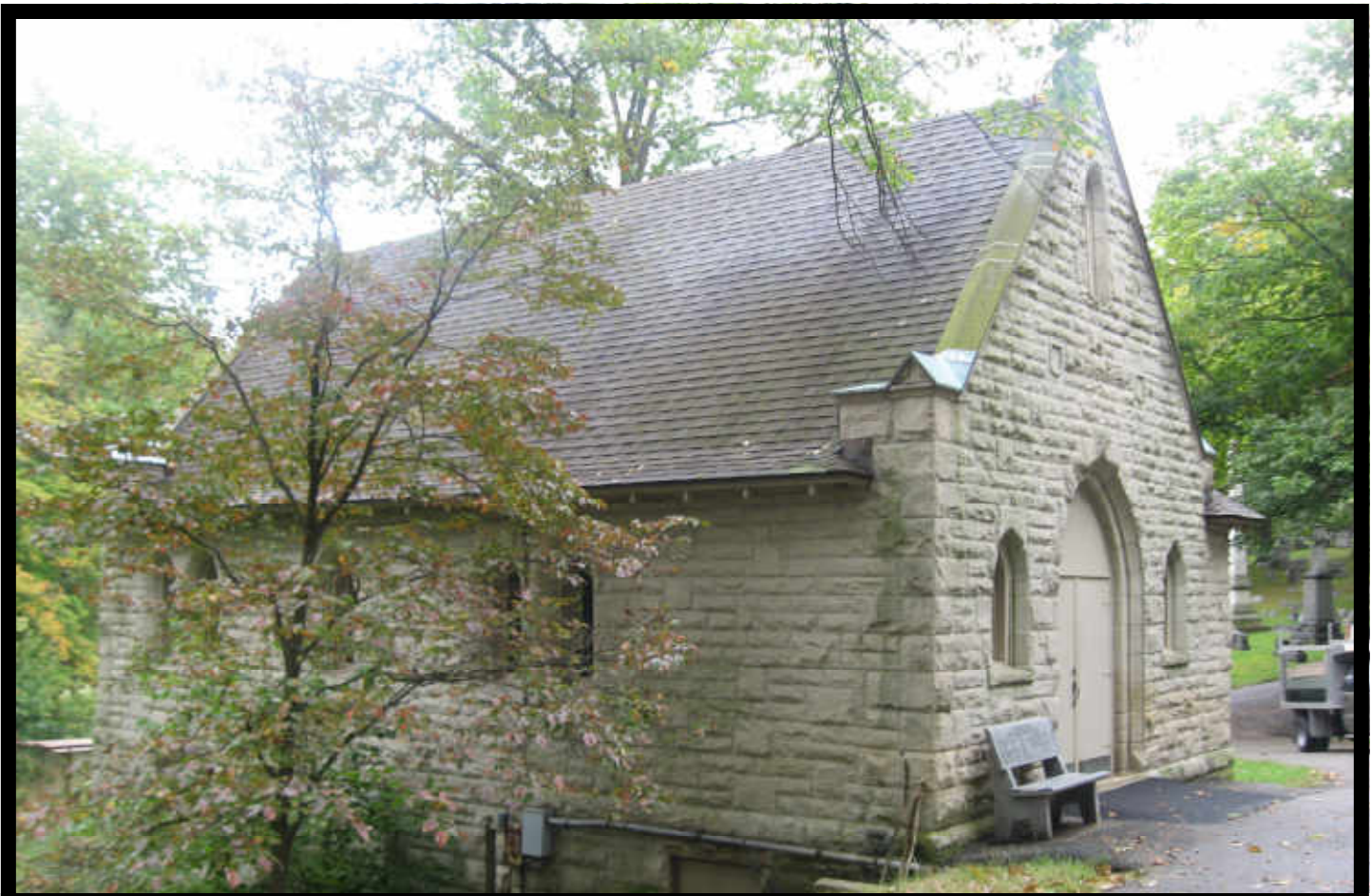
John Cattaneo   Richard Bucchianeri   Roger D'Emidio   James P. McCune

## (Missing From Photo)

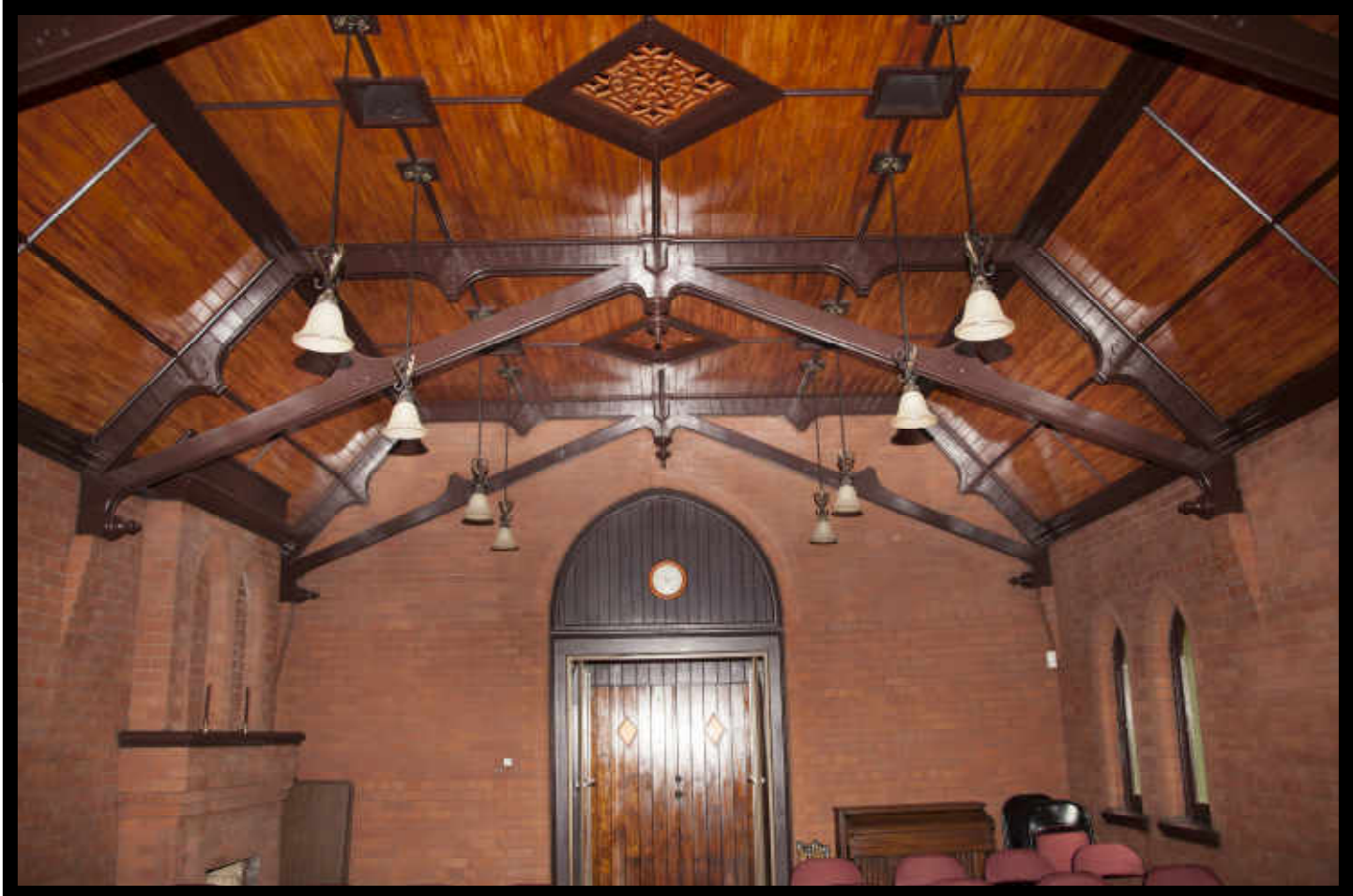
Will Maurer   Charles Talbert   Boyd Morris   Faye Ireys

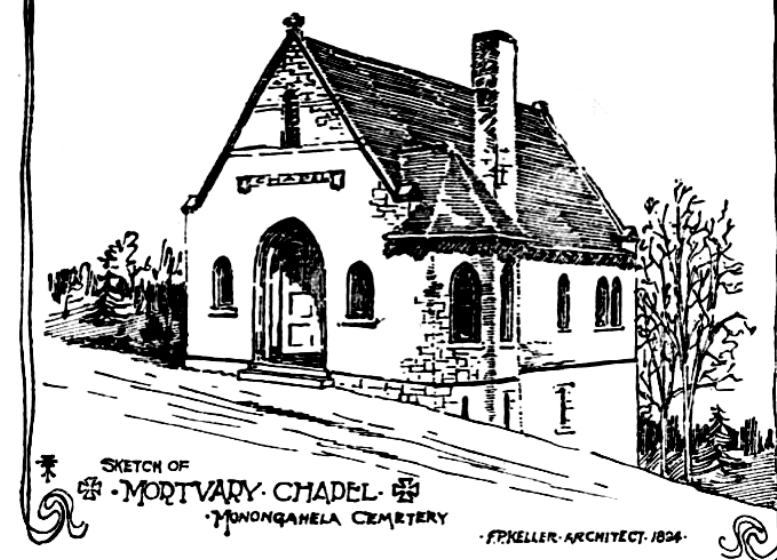
George Eckert, Jr.   Jay Carson   Gwendolyn Simmons   John Cupper  
*Honorary Member*   *Honorary Member*











The above is an illustration of the Mortuary Chapel just completed in the Monongahela cemetery, which is a creditable structure, and is at the disposal of the public for funeral purposes whenever desired. Funerals in this kind of weather, or those coming in from the country, will find it especially suitable for obsequies, and for shelter to friends attendant.

The Mortuary Chapel is designed in severe early English gothic, and in its design no attempt was made by the architect, MR. FRANK P. KELLER, to introduce ornamentation not consistent with the chosen style.

The building is twenty-three by forty-one feet at the floor line, and does very nearly orientate the axis if produced passing through the center of the fountain thus grouping the interest about this locality, ordinarily called The Circle.

The exterior walls are constructed of local white sand stone, the joints being pointed with gray mortar, which with the overhanging eaves and dark slate roof make a very durable looking structure. The basement is occupied

#### BY THE RECEIVING VAULT

and storage cellars. The vault being nine by nineteen feet in area and nine feet high, with stone walls and ceiling and brick floor, and provided with stone benches for caskets and ventilating flues to the outside above the roof.

The main floor is entered through a recessed porch having wood panelled walls and ceiling, and a tile floor. From this porch, access is had to all the divisions of the floor area, viz:—On the left the door opens into a commodious closet and storage room, on the right into the superintendent's office; both of these rooms are wainscoted and have hardwood floors, the latter one being provided with desk, stove, etc., as required. Directly to the front is the large sliding entrance door to the service room. This room is twenty by thirty feet; the walls are of selected red face bricks; the floor of oak and the ceiling raised and panelled, wood work supported by ornamented trusses, dividing the room into three bays, each bay in ceiling having a traceried ventilating panel. Light is furnished by eight single lancet windows and one large mullioned window, the latter now filled with a

#### STAINED GLASS MOSAIC MEMORIAL

with the following inscription in two panels, in the one on the left

#### IN MEMORIAM:

WILLIAM JONES ALEXANDER.

BORN APRIL 16, 1830.

DIED JUNE 28, 1894.

FOR THIRTY YEARS TREASURER  
OF THIS CORPORATION,

and in the one on the right

#### ERECTED BY THE MANAGERS

AS A TESTIMONIAL TO HIS ZEALOUS  
AND EFFICIENT LABORS IN BEHALF OF THE  
MONONGAHELA CEMETERY.

The remaining windows and ample wall spaces furnish additional places for glass work, brasses, or marble wall tablets as memorials. One side of the western bay is occupied by the fireplace of panelled and moulded brick work, and arranged with handsome wrought iron andirons for a wood fire. The color treatment of this room is quite successful, it being a harmony of reds, yellows and greens in subdued tones.

This edifice is an ornament to the cemetery; it does credit to the taste and public spirit of the managers, and affords to the public the convenience of a handsome little chapel for funeral exercises when desired. A matter for congratulation is that it was designed by a home artist, F. P. Keller, who is a graduate of Cornell, and whose rise in the profession is already assured. The contractors, Messrs. Yohe Brothers, have brought the resources of their well equipped establishment to its proper finish; the stone work was done by Wm. Nelson, Jr., and the tin work by Atkins Brothers.

And in nothing will the public be more in accord than in the honor done the memory of our late respected townsman, Wm. J. Alexander, to whom the public is so much indebted for financial direction given for many years to the cemetery and its management.

All in all it is another evidence of the growing public spirit of the town, and adds the charm of a fine bit of architecture to the accumulating interest which clusters about our city of the dead, where sleep so many beloved and to memory dear.

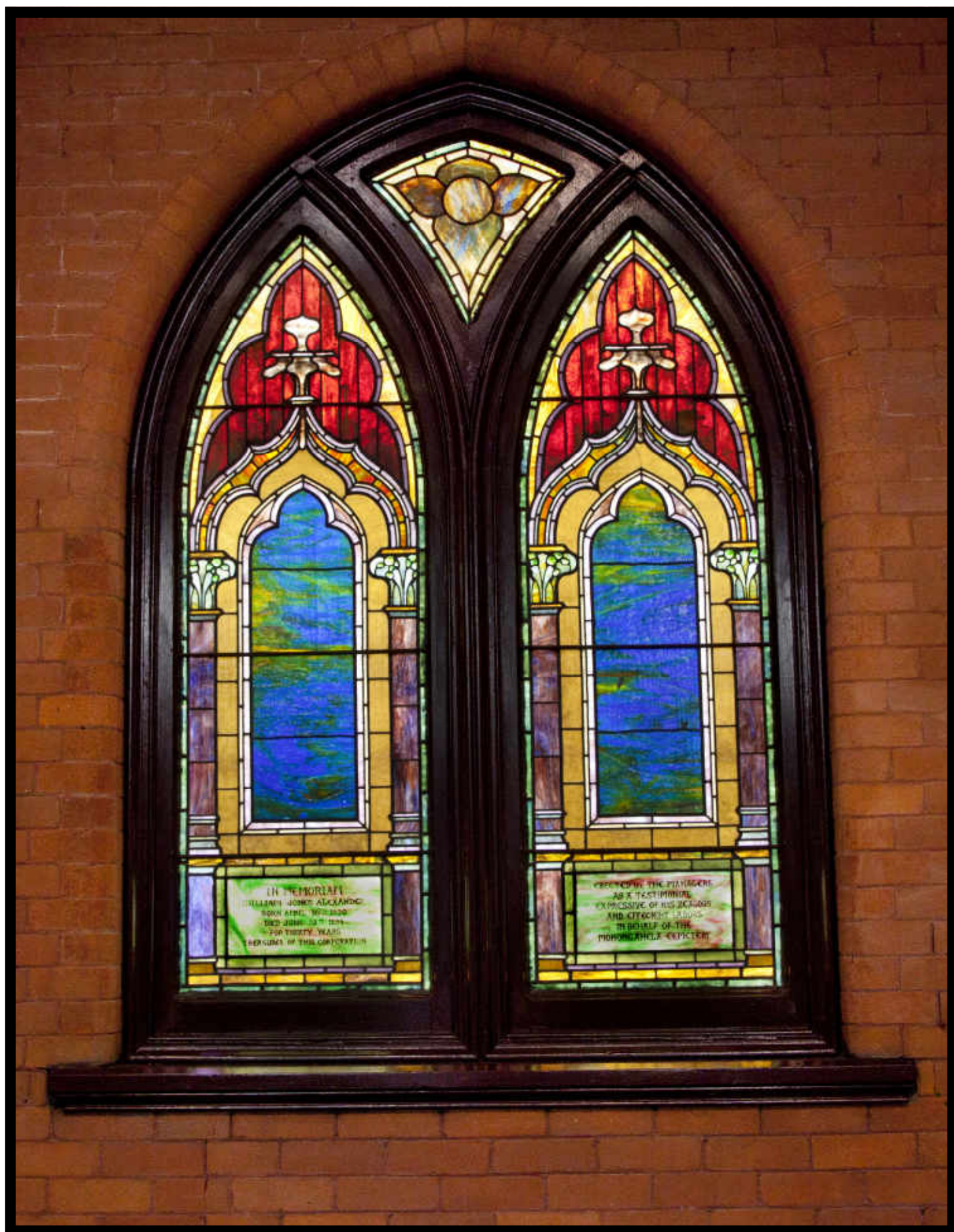
It adds another touch of art to Beautiful Monongahela.











# MONONGAHELA CEMETERY CHAPEL RESTORATION 2021

## SUPERINTENDENT

MARK A. AFFINITO

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

RICHARD BUCCHIANERI – PRESIDENT

ROGER D'EMIDIO – VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN CATTANEO – SECRETARY

WILL MAURER – TREASURER

JAMES MCCUNE – PAST PRESIDENT

ALAN VELIKY

SCOTT FREDERICK

## BOARD

FAYE IREY

CHARLES TALBERT

JOHN CUPPER

GEORGE ECKERT, JR.

GEORGE I. ECKERT

BOYD MORRIS

JEFF VITALE

THOMAS GRANEY

## ARCHITECT

TERRY NECCIAI

## CONTRACTORS

JOEL WEYGANDT

YOHE ROOFING, INC.

EDMUND GESSEL

RICK OPFERMAN

JED HEATING AND COOLING

## MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS

ARTHUR STRONG





Between 1895-1905



1919



Circa 1916





June 1916: Reese Isaac, Superintendent, wearing white hat. Standing beside horse.



Pictures of  
Cemetery Groundskeepers  
1915







**Monongahela Cemetery**  
**(724) 258-8750**  
**www.monongahelacemetery.com**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Interments              | 5. Monument / Marker Engraving & Cleaning |
| 2. Lot Sales               | 6. Pre-Need Services                      |
| 3. Columbarium             | 7. Perpetual Grave Adornment              |
| 4. Monument & Marker Sales | 8. Chapel and Grave Side Services         |

Info@monongahelacemetery.com

**THE MONONGAHELA CEMETERY.**

At a meeting of the citizens of Monongahela and vicinity held at the public house of Caleb Harvey, on Friday, the 3rd day of April, A. D. 1863, for the purpose of purchasing ground and locating a public cemetery, T. R. Hazzard was called to the chair and Joseph Wilson was secretary.

On motion it was resolved that the following officers be appointed until the company was organized. James Williams, President; Joseph Wilson, Secretary; William J. Alexander, Treasurer; for managers T. R. Hazzard, Richard C. King, A. C. Sampson, Richard Stockdale and Joseph Warne. On motion it was resolved that T. R. Hazzard, Joseph Wilson, Chas. Beach, and Cyrus Underwood be appointed a committee to "procure a Charter for said association from the court, if it can be done by the Court exempting the ground for the cemetery from taxation."

On April 10th, another meeting was held "at the public house of Caleb Harvey" and the managers reported that they went upon a tract of land in Carroll Township, owned by William McClure and partly staked off sixteen acres which at \$50.00 per acre would be \$800.00. Mr. McClure then offered the whole tract of thirty-two acres for \$1,040, providing the association would give him a burying lot and a small fragment cut off from the rest of the road, which is about an acre. The managers at once thought it best to purchase the whole, as it would cost but \$240.00 more than they were to pay for a little over the half and agreed with Mr. McClure to that effect. The managers further report that there is subscribed to the stock of the association \$850.00 and by the agreement of the managers the whole amount is due to Wm. McClure to-day and that immediate arrangements should be made to meet the payment.

On behalf of the managers.

T. R. HAZZARD, Chairman."





Photographs by Savarino Studios  
Dave Savarino, Photographer