



ArchivesSpace

# **Columbian Harmony and Payne Cemetery Ledgers Collection**

## **An inventory of Columbian Harmony and Payne Cemetery Ledgers at DC Public Library**

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on September 01, 2021.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

[peoples.archive@dc.gov](mailto:peoples.archive@dc.gov)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	People's Archive, MLK Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Harmony Cemetery (Washington, D.C.)
<b>Creator:</b>	Payne's Cemetery (Washington, D.C.)
<b>Title:</b>	Columbian Harmony and Payne's Cemetery Ledgers Collection
<b>ID:</b>	066
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1901-1959
<b>Physical Description:</b>	16 Linear feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 Boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

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## Biographical / Historical

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The Columbian Harmony Cemetery was established as a resting ground for free blacks in Washington, D.C. Established by the Columbian Harmony Society in 1829, the cemetery was situated between Boundary Street (present-day Florida Avenue), S Street, and 6th Street NW. In 1848, the City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting new burial grounds in the city limits. Since the cemetery continued to expand, it was relocated to land on Rhode Island Avenue and 9th Street, NE in 1858, which was outside the city limits. In 1960, due to a lack of space and neglected care, the Harmony Cemetery (including the remains) was moved to Hyattsville, Maryland and renamed the "National Harmony Memorial Park." Payne's Cemetery was established prior to 1880 in Washington, D.C. The land was located at 4724 Benning Road SE and was used primarily as a burial place for African Americans in the District. In 1961, Louis H. Bell purchased the property and attempted to disinter the remains from the cemetery. However, due to continuous neglect, many of the grave markers had been moved or destroyed. In 1969, Mr. Bell had the remains moved to the National Harmony Memorial Park in Maryland. The land that was once Payne's Cemetery is now the Fletcher-Johnson Elementary School.

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## Scope and Contents

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The ten ledgers were organized in chronological order based on the first entry in each book. Information found in the ledgers includes: name of deceased, plot location, and date of burial.

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## Arrangement

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Processed without series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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Washington, DC

[peoples.archive@dc.gov](mailto:peoples.archive@dc.gov)

### Revision Description

Finding aid revised to be more evergreen. 2020-07-16

### Custodial History

Paul E. Sluby, Sr. donated this collection to the Library in May 2006.

### Processing Information

Basic archival processing procedures were applied to the collection when it was processed.

## Conditions Governing Use

No known restrictions.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- African Americans
- Cemeteries
- Burial records
- Black persons

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## Collection Inventory

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Series 1		
Title/Description	Instances	
Columbian Harmony Ledger, July 6 1901-April 17 1903	Box 1	Folder 1
Columbian Harmony Ledger, April 16 1903-December 31 1904	Box 2	Folder 1
Columbian Harmony Ledger, December 30 1904-July 8 1906	Box 3	Folder 1
Columbian Harmony Ledger, July 10 1906-September 30 1912	Box 4	Folder 1
Columbian Harmony Ledger, July 1 1910-September 30 1914	Box 4	Folder 2
Columbian Harmony Ledger, October 1 1912-March 4 1931	Box 5	Folder 1
Columbian Harmony Ledger, March 25 1931-October 31 1941	Box 6	Folder 1
Columbian Harmony Ledger, November 3 1941-July 30 1953	Box 6	Folder 2
Columbian Harmony Ledger, August 25 1953-December 21 1959	Box 7	Folder 1
Payne Cemetery Ledger, July 20 1932-February 20 1952	Box 8	Folder 1

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