

# **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 27, 2018.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Stage

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## Summary Information

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| <b>Repository:</b>               | Stage   |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | Columbian Harmony and Payne Cemetery Ledgers Collection |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | 066   |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>         | 1901-1959   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 16 linear feet; 8 boxes                                 |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English   |
| <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 (Florida Avenue), S Street, and 6th Street Northwest. 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 Northeast in 1858 (at the time this was outside the city limits). In 1960, because of 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" (Sluby, Records of the Columbian..., v-vi).

Payne's Cemetery was established prior to 1880 in Washington, D.C. The land was located at 4724 Benning Road Southeast 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, because of 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 in the use of Fletcher-Johnson Elementary School (Sluby, Records of Payne's Cemetery, v-viii).

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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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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Stage

### Custodial History

Paul E. Sluby, Sr donated this collection to the D.C. Community Archives in May 2006.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- African Americans

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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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