

*“Cemeteries &  
Burial Grounds”*

*Peters Township sites*

**Monday, May 6, 2024  
6:30 p.m.  
Peters Township Library**

Presented by  
Washington County History  
& Landmarks Foundation

As an ongoing project for 2024, Washington County History & Landmarks Foundation, is exploring cemeteries and burial grounds in our county. Our goal is to locate as many as we are able, especially those partially hidden – family plots, Black burials, the unclaimed, and other unusual interments.

Our initial endeavor was held April 14 at the **First Lutheran Church** and its crypt and the **Hoge Memorial**, both located in Washington City. These grounds were the site of Washington's first cemetery, where most remains were removed to other facilities. WCH&LF will meet at **Payne AME Chapel** in Canonsburg to celebrate renewal of their cemetery. Additional sites to explore include the **Potter's Field** in Chartiers, and **Washington Cemetery** and the **Washington Crematory** (Dr. Francis LeMoynes).

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Today's program features those sites we found in Peters Township and its surrounds. Some are in other municipalities as boundaries shifted beginning 1786.

While the two largest cemeteries within Peters boundaries – Forest Lawn Gardens (5,000+) and **Queen of Heaven** (31,000+) – do not share the deep history of others, they are significant as being the most active in present-day burials.

Historic cemeteries and burial grounds in Peters include:

- Birkhamer
- Blackmore
- Brush Run
- Center (Centre)
- Fairview - ?
- Finleyville
- James Chapel
- Mingo Creek
- Peters Creek/Campbellite
- St. Francis of Assisi
- Wrights

Each of these has a deep and/or unusual history. Two are private family plots; most are church-related; and all are a part of evolving township heritage.

WCH&LF is constantly studying and learning about this topic; and we are hopeful that you might add to our collection.

What do you know about state rules and regulations, cremation, crypts and mausoleums, tombstone symbols? Please do not hesitate to ask questions and fill in the answers to our inquiries. THANK YOU!!

*We give special thanks to Len Marracini, Finleyville resident, township historian, and part Indian-scout, who led the trek in discovering our finds.*

*His presentation at Wrights United Methodist Church on the Cincinnati Mine Disaster and those burials in Finleyville Cemetery, was mind-expanding.*

*WCH&LF is grateful to Peters Township Library and Sydney Krawiec for the invitation to give this talk.*

*Also thanks to township officials who provided maps and clarification on some confusing directions.*

Washington County History & Landmarks Foundation is a 501(c)3 educational non-profit, with a profile page on Washington County Community Foundation website.

We maintained records & photos of county sites listed on our L-plaque properties, including many in Peters Township.

Peters' one-room schoolhouses are featured in H&L's Schoolhouse brochure, one publication of several on county historic structures.

WCH&LF

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