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**26th ANNIVERSARY**

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**FREDERICK DOUGLASS  
MEMORIAL PARK, INC.**



**UNVEILING  
OF**

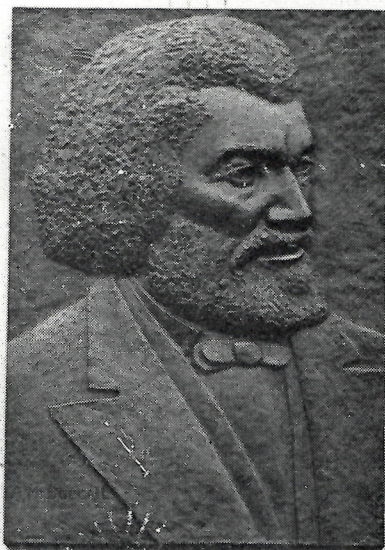
**FREDERICK DOUGLASS MONUMENT**



**MAY 28, 1961**

**Frederick Douglass Memorial Park**

**OAKWOOD HEIGHTS, STATEN ISLAND**



FREDERICK DOUGLASS

1817 . . . 1895

EDITOR ORATOR

ABOLITIONIST

STATESMAN

# OUR HISTORY

**F**REDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL PARK was conceived during the depression years of the early 30's and founded as a protest against the evil custom of segregating the dead on a basis of race and color.

Rodney Dade, a leader in his community and a well-known and respected funeral director of one of the oldest undertaking establishments had long dreamed of a burial park where "my people will enjoy the dignity they deserve".

In 1934, Mr. Dade refused to be humiliated any longer. He was adamant about his dream. He wanted a modern park-like burial place, quiet and peaceful, conceived in beauty, with care and maintenance endowed for all eternity, a monument to progress in human relations.

Here was a man with pride, seeking recognition and equality for his people and dignity even in death. He was tired of making side gate entrances into cemeteries, and being shunted aside into the least desired sections.

He secured all the information he could about cemeteries and found that not only a large amount of capital was needed, but that success demanded the services of one experienced in the cemetery field, a cemetarian.

And so, twenty-six years ago, Rodney Dade reduced his dream to specifics. He went to other funeral directors, ministers and leaders in the community and they too saw the urgent need of such a cemetery, but financing was a problem.



RODNEY DADE

TREASURER

1935 - 1956

BENJAMIN DIAMOND, an administrator and sales executive who had achieved city-wide fame as a business consultant, had been Mr. Dade's friend for many years. So it was natural that Mr. Diamond would make himself available.

Mr. Diamond, a living symbol of resourcefulness, energy and perserverance, had been among the founders of Harlem's first daily newspaper, The Daily Citizen, and had long been associated with interracial efforts to improve the community's civic and business atmosphere.

Soon the team of Dade and Diamond was on the move and the financing of the project was accomplished through the formation of a stock corporation known as Fre-Dou Corporation.

Benjamin Diamond had found the third important member, Frederick A. Bunn, a cemetaryian. Mr. Bunn was a lawyer with thirty-seven years of experience in the cemetery field. He had developed the beautiful Ocean View Cemetery in Staten Island.

Land was strictly limited in New York City for cemetery purposes, but fortunately, acreage was found and secured in Staten Island.

When the land was first viewed, Rodney Dade, then and there, selected the name of our burial park and the spot where he wanted a monument to the memory of the "greatest man of my race, Frederick Douglass". The monument stands on that spot, at the top of a beautiful rolling hill just inside the entrance gates.



BENJAMIN DIAMOND

PRESIDENT

1942 - 1957

**T**HE CEMETERY itself was incorporated as a non-profit membership corporation under the laws of the State of New York.

Those were difficult days, but the Dade-Diamond-Bunn team's drive, knowledge, devotion and ideals made Frederick Douglass Memorial Park, Inc., a unique experience in human relations.

On June 10, 1935, the burial park opened its gates for interments. Funeral directors Claudius P. Sterrett and A. J. Hylton were the first to use the park's facilities that day. Hundreds of persons showed up to inspect the beautifully landscaped area with its underground drainage and wide macadam roads.

A Perpetual Care Fund was established in the very beginning, long before the State law required it of all the Cemeteries.

Rodney Dade's dream became a reality, but without the support and cooperation furnished by the funeral directors and ministers, the efforts would have been in vain. Our history would be incomplete and futile, if we failed to note the countless contributions made by all.

When Dade, Diamond and Bunn passed on, after full and well-spent lives, Frederick Douglass Memorial Park, Inc. was most fortunate in having associates who were well-trained for the tasks ahead to carry on in the splendid tradition established by them.





FREDERICK A. BUNN

PRESIDENT

1935 - 1942





JOHN E. STOTT  
Vice-President — Treasurer

Mr. Stott has actively engaged in the supervision of the burial park and held offices in the corporation since its inception. He has had wide experience in the field of monuments having served Staten Island for many years.

Dr. Isaacs, C. P. A., Ph. D. has been connected with cemeteries since 1927 and has earned for himself an enviable reputation. He is now associated with several well-known cemeteries. Our cemetery has benefitted greatly from his association with us since it started.



MERVIN ISAACS  
Secretary



HARRY LIEBERMAN  
Attorney

Attorney Lieberman has represented our cemetery for many years and has successfully guided and counselled the officers. His thirty years of legal experience and his deep interest has been a tremendous help in our advancement.

# ELGIN

*Supply Co., Inc.*

STEEL FENCE

FIREPROOF DOORS

FIRE ESCAPES

OVERHEAD DOORS

WAREHOUSE DOORS

METAL WINDOWS

DESIGNED—ERECTED—REPAIRED



TATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

GI 7-7800

# NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF CEMETERIES, INC.

Serving the Community since 1928



. . . To promote the advancement of practical knowledge in the operation and maintenance of cemeteries;

. . . To create and maintain high ethical standards in the conduct of cemetery administration.



Speakers are available for service club, women's club and religious group meetings.

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. . . Information regarding speakers can be secured through Frederick Douglass Memorial Park, Inc., UNiversity 4-0344, (Member NYSAC).

# Staff



MALINDA RYANS

MANHATTAN  
OFFICE



LOUISE B. COLE



STATEN ISLAND

MAINTENANCE



RAYMOND DONEGAN (l. to r.), DOUGLASS MURPHY, LUTHER DONEGAN (Foreman), ROBERT THOMAS. Not Shown: MARVIN COLE,

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL PARK, INC.**

**TWENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY**

**UNVEILING**

of

**Frederick Douglass Monument**

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1961

*...Program...*

INVOCATION.....WILLIAM A. EPPS, JR.  
Pastor, St. Phillips Baptist Church, Staten Island

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

CHAIRMAN.....MERVIN ISAACS, Ph.D.  
Secretary

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC.....CHORAL GROUP  
Abyssinian Baptist Church      Director, UDELL TAYLOR

GREETINGS:

STATEN ISLAND TERCENTENARY COMM.....VERNON B. HAMPTON,  
Chairman      Ph.D., Litt. D.



## ...Program...

INTRODUCTION..... HARRY LIEBERMAN  
Legal Counsel

ORATION ON FREDERICK DOUGLASS..... RICHARD B. MOORE  
Editor of the "Life and Times of Frederick Douglass"

HOW GREAT THOU ART..... CHORAL GROUP

INTRODUCTION..... MRS. HORTENSE JONES  
President

BEHOLD DOUGLASS, THE MAN..... MRS. RUTH W. WHALEY  
Secretary to the Board of Estimate

### THE UNVEILING

BENEDICTION..... WILLIAM A. EPPS, JR.

## Thanks...

Mr. Frank C. Carney, Mr. Harold Wegenaar, Mr. Carl Dunbar Lawrence,  
"M" Associates, the Choral Group, the Girls' Guard and the advertisers.

# **SPRINGSTEAD COAL CO., INC.**



LUMBER, MILLWORK & MASON'S MATERIALS

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HARDWARE

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55 AMBOY ROAD

GREAT KILLS, S. I.

YUkon 4-0300

OMPLIMENTS OF...



MEDO SUPPLY CO.







OFFICE BUILDING  
STATEN ISLAND

Inset: DANIEL CORBIN, Caretaker

GREETINGS TO THE MANAGEMENT OF

FREDERICK DOUGLASS  
MEMORIAL PARK, INC.



**James Whitford**  
ARCHITECT

# STARK EQUIPMENT CO., INC.

- TRACTORS—Ferguson—Simplicity—Power King

- LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT

- LAWN SEED—FERTILIZERS—INSECTICIDES



578 COMMERCE STREET

ROSELAND, N. Y.

ROgers 9-4400

# The Monument

## SCULPTOR

Mr. McDougall, born in Oxford, England, began sculpture studies in Boston, Mass., in 1924. Later studied in Italy under G. Passaglia and at the Royal College of Art. Returned to England where he studied drawing and architecture before entering the Sculpture School at RCA; served as an apprentice to stone carver, Eric Gill. He came to the U.S.A. in 1938 and was a designer for Steuben Glass, Inc., and advertising manager at Creative Age Press. For the past twelve years, has taught sculpture in Durham, N. C. where he has made portrait heads on commission.



ANGUS McDOUGALL

## DESIGNER



J. HAROLD WEGENAAR

Mr. Wegenaar is the third generation in the monument business. He studied architecture at Pratt Institute and had private tutoring in sculpturing and modeling under Meserindino in New York. He worked in the Barre district with the old Pelaggi & Co., as granite draftsman and designer. Successfully engaged in the monument design business in Brooklyn and Staten Island.

**M. RICHARD HESELTON**

**CEMETERY EQUIPMENT  
AND SUPPLIES**



**1145 WOOLEY AVENUE  
UNION, NEW JERSEY**

**MURdock 7-0642**

# OAKWOOD HEIGHTS SERVICE STATION, INC.



3168 AMBOY ROAD

STATEN ISLAND 6, N. Y.



THE ENTRANCE is beautifully landscaped with a wrought iron fence along the front and chain link fence on the side of the property.

Frederick Douglass Memorial Park affords a very striking and pleasing appearance; its high undulating landscape in beauty and topography especially adapted for a burial park has had the applied skill of specialized civil and landscape engineers. A water system is in operation throughout the park.

The office building on the property has just recently been renovated and enlarged to include more office and garage space and a caretaker's apartment upstairs.



"SINCE 1872"

# THE J. L. WEGENAAR CO., INC.

DESIGNERS - BUILDERS

of

MARKERS - MONUMENTS - MAUSOLEUMS



BROOKLYN STUDIO

755 Fifth Avenue — Brooklyn 32, N. Y.

(Opposite Green-Wood Cemetery)

SO 8-4500



STATEN ISLAND STUDIO

3334 Amboy Road — Oakwood Heights

(Opposite Ocean View Cemetery)

EL 1-1420



*Designers of* ... **THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS MONUMENT**

and

Many other Attractive Markers and Monuments in

Frederick Douglass Memorial Park

Consult us without obligation regardless as to how small or large are your needs.



MEETINGS from...

EMPIRE STATE  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.



JOHN H. MILES

President

6 DECATUR STREET

BROOKLYN 16, NEW YORK

# . . *Looking Ahead* . .

*"Life! I know not what thou art,  
But know that thou and I must part;  
And when, or how, or where we met  
I own to me is quite a secret yet."*

—A. L. BARBAULD

One of the most important responsibilities of the head of every household—a responsibility sacred in itself and yet so often neglected or avoided—is provision for burial space for oneself and loved ones. Either you must do it yourself, or someone must do it for you. The thoughtful one acts for himself before actual need arises, and greatly lightens the burden of bereavement. It is better to have a burial place and not need it than need it and not have it.

Why leave this responsibility to be borne by those who at the time of actual need are in no mental or perhaps financial condition to make a selection that could and should be made now.

Our prices at the present time are the lowest in the Metropolitan area. Special sized lots or graves may be had to suit all requirements. Terms are cash or partial payment plan if desired.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE:**

39 West 125th Street  
New York 27, New York

UNiversity 4-0344

**CEMETERY OFFICE:**

Amboy Road  
Oakwood Heights  
Staten Island 6, N. Y.

ELgin 1-0764

# NEW DORP HARDWARE COMPANY



HARDWARE

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HOUSE FURNISHINGS

146 NEW DORP LANE

NEW DORP, S. I. 6, N. Y.

ELgin 1-1381