MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

1872

2614 Annapolis Road

Mt. Auburn Cemetery is the oldest Black cemetery in Baltimore City. The 112 year old cemetery was originally known as the "City of the Dead for Colored People." Former slaves who had found freedom through the Underground Railroad were among those buried there by Baltimore's Black families. For years it was the only burial ground for Baltimore Blacks.

Founded in 1872 by Rev. James Pack and the Memorial United Methodist Church (Sharp Street Church), Mt. Auburn was a protest to the segregation in white Methodist churches at the time. In addition to the runaway slaves, the cemetery contains one of the first Black bishops in the African Methodist Church, William Ashbie Hawkins; the first Black man to run for the U.S. Senate; the first ship chandler; Joseph Ganns, the first Black lighweight boxing champion of the world from 1901-1908; and civil rights activists, lawyers, doctors, teachers, and the loved ones of thousands of Black families.

Although, the Cemetery has gone through a period of neglect, it is now under new management. A non-profit foundation called The Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery is raising funds for a program of restoration and future maintenance of this, still active, cemetery.