

250 AMERICA PA

BELLS ACROSS PA





Jefferson Memorial Cemetery & Funeral Home is honored to host one of the Liberty Bells from Bells Across PA to celebrate America's 250th birthday with replica bells on display in each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties through 2026.

The Jefferson bell, "Windows into History," represents our historic cemetery in the South Hills of Pittsburgh.

Designed by local artist Scott Saloney, the bell pays homage to the historical statuary, architecture and site's rich history, with imagery that mirrors the vibrant glass and bronze artwork found throughout our scenic grounds.

In this program, you will find information on the bell's design features, and learn a bit more Jefferson Memorial - a different kind of cemetery right in your backyard.

THOMAS JEFFERSON GARDEN MAUSOLEUM

and the First Bank of Pittsburgh Columns

The cemetery's first mausoleum features columns from the facade of the bank of Pittsburgh that originally stood on fourth avenue. The bank was founded in 1810 during the life of Thomas Jefferson. It was the oldest bank in the united states west of the Allegheny mountains. These 30-foot, 30-ton columns graced a building, erected 1895, and often called "Pittsburgh's outstanding example of Grecian revival-architecture in its finest form." The building stood until about 1940 when it was demolished.

Harry C. Neel, founder and president of Jefferson Memorial Park, had a long-held vision for the park in the 1930s to create a circular memorial to Thomas Jefferson. The structure as it stands today was developed in the 1960s by founder Harry C. Neel, his son John D. Neel, and architect Edward Griffith. This central design element surrounds a 10-foot bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson, sculpted by the renowned Pittsburgh artist Frank Vittor.

1800S LOG CABIN

Beam's Log Cabin, built circa 1780, is typical of the log cabins built by the first settlers to the area and is one of the very few original log cabins remaining in Allegheny County.

In colonial times, this was known as Beam Hill as part of the Snee Family Farm.

This cabin has been rebuilt to the exact original size, using eight of the original logs and the original rafters. It has the appearance of the original cabin which stood on the same location, but twelve feet lower. When the property was acquired by Jefferson Memorial Park in 1929 the cabin was then in a deep gully, near a beautiful, never-failing spring located a few feet away.

Jacob Beam, who built the original cabin, had another tract of land a few miles away and in the 1800s he sold this tract of land to Aaron Work, whose descendants held the property until it was acquired in 1929 by Harry C. Neel, a great-great-grandson of Aaron, and the Founder of Jefferson Memorial Park.

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

est. 1993

As one of the oldest and most recognizable landmarks in the area, Jefferson Memorial Cemetery & Funeral Home is a stately ode to Pittsburgh history. Established in 1929 by Harry C. Neel, it was his son John D. Neel and grandson Harry C. Neel, who established the funeral home in 1993 which has grown to be one of the largest funeral homes in Pennsylvania.

The funeral home was designed in Williamsburg decor to align with the stately and historic nature of Jefferson Memorial.

There is a unique story behind the naming of our funeral home. When purchasing our corporate funeral license from Philadelphia, the company was stone-walled by an antiquated Pennsylvania law that stated a funeral home, once established, can only change its name to that of a licensed funeral director who is also a stockholder. Knowing that public acceptance was paramount, our funeral home supervisor legally changed her last name to “Jefferson” and as Paul Harvey would say, “that’s the rest of the story.”

DRUMMER BOY

The Drummer Boy statue is a full-sized, cast bronze replica to memorialize young musicians, often children, who signaled commands during the Civil War. The only other cast statue resides in Gettysburg.

GARDEN OF THE TEMPLE

This garden pays homage to classical Greek and Roman columns like you see on so many museums and classical buildings of the 19th and 20th centuries. Designed in the 1950s, each column holds niches that are some of the earliest adoptions of niche architecture in the park.

LAST SUPPER POND

Most of Jefferson Memorial's gardens feature historic, natural or religious themes. As such, the pond and water feature at the Garden of Last Supper is one of our most popular areas. Originating from the pool at the Garden of the Well, the clear spring water flows 10, stepped reflecting pools suggestive of the Brook of Cedron in Jerusalem, into a final enclosed pond which today features many coy fish. It is surrounded by equally impressive native trees and shrubs, including distinctive Cypress Knees.

OTHER NOTABLES NOT ON THE BELL

- Signing of the Constitution Stained-Glass
- Statue of George Washington
- Presidential Court Limestone Staircase
- Serpentine Walls
- Pompeiian Urns
- Civil War Veteran Morgan Cross Memorial
- Medal of Honor Recipient John D. Kelly Memorial
- Hall of Fame Baseball Player
Honus Wagner Memorial



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2025 Bells Across PA Unveiling Ceremony
December 11, 2025

