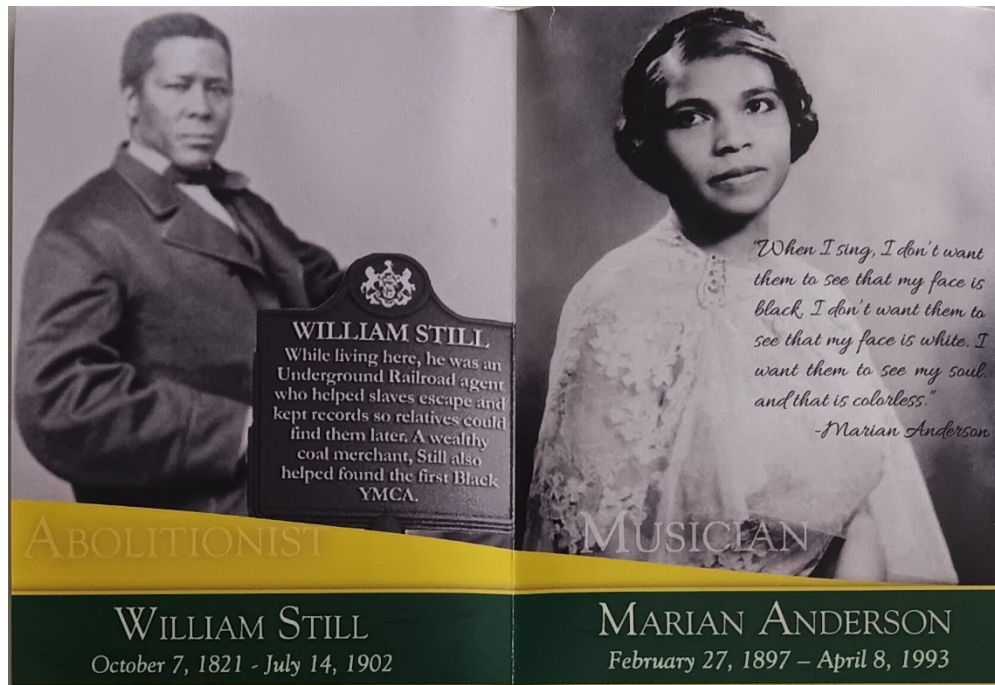


# Sharing history with stamps

By Jim Joppy



Historic Eden Cemetery Notables Brochure

If someone told me that one day I would display my stamp collection in a cemetery, I would have questioned the person's sanity. But that's exactly what I did at Eden Cemetery, Collingdale, PA, on May 4, 2024. Eden Cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site. In 1998, legislation titled the [National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998](#) was passed, creating the Network to Freedom program. This program honors, preserves and promotes the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight, which continues to inspire people worldwide. Eden is also part of the Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds, whose mission is to honor, interpret, and preserve African American cemeteries and the burial sites of Civil War African American Sailors and United States Colored Troops in Pennsylvania.

So how did I end up at Eden Cemetery with a display table? Well, my sister sent me an invitation for the National Youth Foundation's Youth Beautification Project at the Eden Cemetery (invitation illustrated below). When I researched the Eden Cemetery, I discovered that two individuals buried in the cemetery are on U.S. stamps. Marian Anderson, Black Heritage stamp, Scott #3896, issued 1/27/2005; and William Still, The Underground Railroad, Scott #5836, issued 3/29/2024. The Underground Railroad sheet is a recent issue honoring 10 courageous men and women who helped guide enslaved people to freedom via the Underground Railroad, a network of secret routes and safe houses. At this writing, these stamps are available in the [USPS online stamp store](#), and at many post offices.

When I shared this information with my sister, she asked me to display the two stamp sheets and general information regarding African Americans on stamps. It was great to see so many children and youth involved in a community project and learning about American history through postage stamps. A special moment for me during the event was meeting Emile Henwood,

author of *Remembering a Great American Hero: Marian Anderson, "The Lady from Philadelphia"*, who provided me with a signed copy of his book. Overall, it was a great experience that I was proud to be a part of.

References:

Historic Eden Cemetery Notables Brochure

National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1205/index.htm>

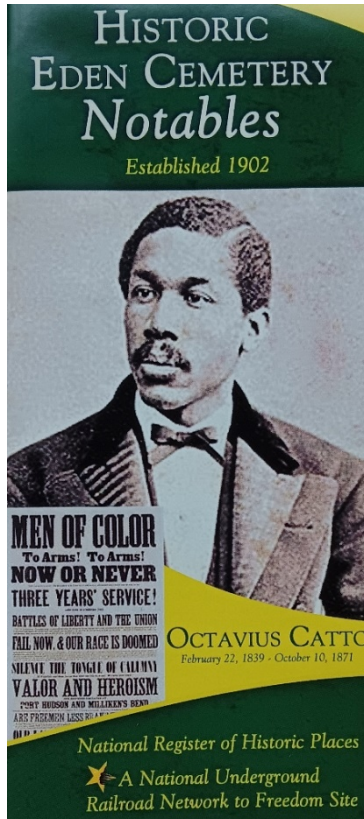
Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds: <https://pahallowedgrounds.org/>

United States Postal Service: <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2024/0209ma-usps-remembers-shining-beacons-of-the-underground-railroad.htm>



Jim Joppy talks with Emile Henwood, author of *Remembering a Great American Hero: Marian Anderson, "The Lady from Philadelphia"*





A notable African American buried in Eden Cemetery who has not appeared on a stamp is Octavius Catto; hopefully he'll make a future appearance in the US Mails.

Reprinted from the May 2024 edition of The Patent, monthly newsletter of the Lebanon (PA) Stamp Collector's Club

[Lebanon-Stamp-Club-The-Patent-Overprint-2024-05.pdf \(lcp-stamps.org\)](https://www.lcps-stamps.org/Lebanon-Stamp-Club-The-Patent-Overprint-2024-05.pdf).



SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024  
11-1 P.M.

**YOUTH BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT  
ON SACRED LAND  
TO HONOR OUR TRAILBLAZERS**

HISTORIC EDEN CEMETERY  
1434 SPRINGFIELD ROAD  
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