

# Robert Ball, Sr. Family Burial Ground

*The nineteenth century Robert Ball, Sr. Family Burial Ground held the graves of at least six members of the Ball family, interred between 1854 to 1881. The burial ground serves as a reminder of the Ball family, namesake of Ballston, and Arlington County's rural past.*



A 1923 time capsule was recovered during demolition of the Central United Methodist Church and is now part of its collection.



Burial Ground conditions in 2021 prior to the demolition of the 1923 church building. (Courtesy of KCM Group)



Sunday School class in front of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church South, ca. 1911. Note headstones in the lower right corner. (Courtesy of the Center for Local History)

## People known to have been Interred in the Burial Ground:

**Alice Ball** (1853-1854),  
daughter of Robert Ball, Jr. &  
Elizabeth Ann (nee McElwee) Ball

**James Thrift Ball** (1806-1867),  
son of Robert & Ann Ball

**Mary (nee Sewell) Ball** (1800-1870),  
wife of James T. Ball

**Robert Ball, Sr.** (1776-1861)

**Ann (nee Thrift) Ball** (1781-1864),  
Robert Ball, Sr.'s wife

**Frances E. Dyer** (1843-1881),  
grandson of Robert Sr. & Ann Ball,  
son of William B. Dyer & Ellen (nee Ball) Dyer

**During construction of a new church in 1923, and possibly before, markers may have moved and the actual location of the burials, if they remain, is unknown.**

**1854**

Robert Ball, Sr. set aside a ¼-acre plot north of his house as a burial ground when his 1-year-old granddaughter, Alice Ball, died in 1854.

**1881**

Grandson of Robert Sr. and Ann Ball passes away making Frances the last known person to be buried in the burial ground.

**1923**

The 1923 church replaced the 1906 building, and by the early twentieth century, grave markers were clustered to the east.

**2024**

Ballston Station was completed as a mixed-use project with 144 affordable apartments co-located with a church and community service center.

**1861**

Robert Ball, Sr. died and was buried in the family burial ground.

**1906**

The Ball family conveyed the burial plot to the Methodist Episcopal Church South for establishment of a church.

**2017**

Arlington County designated the Robert Ball, Sr. Family Burial Ground as a Local Historic District.