

## Cemetery Note:

**Pastor Richardson's Children:** Lying flat on the ground in the back of the cemetery is a number of grave markers that have wandered from their original location. One of these is one for Virginia C. Richardson (the 12-year old daughter of Rev. Xenophon Richardson and Mary Richardson), who died of diphtheria in 1863. During our History Minutes last year, we discussed the hardships of the Civil War period, and how Pastor Richardson held this congregation together during those turbulent times.

Pastor and Mrs. Richardson also suffered personal tragedies during the war years, as we can see from the cemetery. Not only did they lose their daughter Virginia, but an infant son died in early 1865. H.M.M. Richardson was born on Dec. 19, 1864. He was baptized on Jan. 2, 1865, and died of spasms on Jan. 4, and was buried on Jan. 5. In the records, and on his headstone, he is identified as "H.M.M." Those initials would have been well known to 19th century Lutherans: they were homage to Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America.

According to a 1949 survey, Virginia's marker was originally next to her brother H.M.M., in Row S.



Virginia C. Richardson (1850-1863)



H.M.M. Richardson (Dec. 1864 - Jan. 1865)