

BLOSSOM HILL and CONCORD CALVARY CEMETERIES

General and Historical Information

Blossom Hill Cemetery and Calvary Cemetery began as separate entities, Blossom Hill being established in 1860 and Calvary in 1875. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, NH legally turned over Calvary Cemetery to the City of Concord in 1996, and Calvary Cemetery was appended to Blossom Hill.

Laid out one hundred and thirty years after the Old North Cemetery (1730), Concord's first burying ground, Blossom Hill Cemetery was actually only the second cemetery established close to the downtown. The City purchased the land for the cemetery from Francis N. Fiske, near Wood's Brook for \$4,500 on November 26, 1859. The consecration of Blossom Hill Cemetery on July 13, 1860, signaled an immense change in the City of Concord's cemetery planning; the design of the now 60.92 acre cemetery (as of 2010) was firmly in the new "rural" cemetery movement, within an urban environment, which had begun with the founding of Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1831. An excerpt of the Consecration ceremony on July 13, 1860 taken from the original address of William L. Foster, Esq., an eminent lawyer of Concord, is attached.

In 1949 a half-acre section was developed for the Jewish community and named Beth Jacob after the local temple. More recently, within the last 50 years, a 1.32-acre area at the western edge of Blossom Hill was developed for current and future needs. A Scattering Garden in an area of rocky granite outcroppings is included in this expansion. Blossom Hill Cemetery now occupies an area of approximately 67 acres and includes about 22,000 burials.

Visitors may enter Blossom Hill Cemetery at one of two locations off North State Street. The Main Gateway Entrance, located near the southern end provides access to the Cemetery Office, the receiving tomb and the Clara B. Perkins Chapel (1904), all located within close proximity. A second entrance, known as the Original North Entrance to Blossom Hill, lies approximately 1,100 feet to the north of the Main Gateway Entrance. The original entrance to the Calvary Cemetery is just north of the Original North Entrance to Blossom Hill and is landmarked by a large gothic entrance arch (1893).

Prominent citizens and notable individuals buried in Blossom Hill Cemetery include: **U.S. Senators:** William Eaton Chandler (d. 1917, Sec. H-3 #39) was Secretary of the Navy from 1882 to 1885, U.S. Senator from 1887 to 1901; Isaac Hill (d. 1851, Sec. H-61 #42) U.S. Senator from 1831 to 1836, NH Governor 1836 to 1839, and Assistant U.S. Treasurer from 1840 to 1841; George Gilman Fogg (d. 1881, Sec. R-36 #49) was Minister to Switzerland from 1861 to 1865, U.S. Senator from 1886 to 1887; Edward Rollins (d. 1889, Sec. H-2 #37) U.S. Senator 1877-1883; Jacob Harold Gallinger (d. 1918, Sec. F-15 #33) U.S. Senator 1891-1918; Henry French Hollis (d. 1949, Sec. L-32-40 #47) U.S. Senator during the years of World War I, 1913-1919; **New Hampshire Governors:** Onslow Stearns (d. 1878, Sec. No. Add.-68 #57) NH Governor 1869-1870; Benjamin F. Prescott (d. 1895, Sec. U-10 #51) NH Governor 1877-1879; Frank West Rollins (d. 1915, Sec. H-2 #51) NH Governor 1899-1901; **Concord Mayors:** Hon. John Kimball (d. 1913, Sec. J-36 #43) Mayor 1872-1875; Hon. George A. Cummings (d. 1905, Sec. K-87 #46) Mayor 1880-1882; **Religious Leaders:** Rev. Osmon C. Baker, D. D. (d. 1871, Sec. K-87 #46) one of the incorporators of the Methodist General Biblical Institute in 1847, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1852 and President of the Institute 1854-1868; Edward Melville Parker (d. 1925, Sec. AA-10 #56) Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire; Rev. Nathaniel Bouton (Yale Graduate) (d. 1878, Sec. F-18 #34) Pastor of First Congregational Church of Concord for 42 years becoming one of Concord's most prominent and influential citizens, gave the Prayer of Consecration at Blossom Hill Cemetery on July 13, 1860, and was State Historian 1867-1878; Rev. Lyman Rollins (d. 1930, Sec. FF-1 #59)

Beloved Chaplain of the NH 101st Regiment; **Powerful Industrialists and Manufacturers:** Nathaniel White (d. 1880, Sec. L-32 #40) converted his Stage Coach Express business from the stage to the train-this transformation eventually evolved into the American Express Company and he became a prominent railroad contractor; George Clough (d. 1895, Sec. E-52 #32) a stagecoach company owner made a similar transition to White's; Jonathan Adams (d. 1872, Sec. m-179-181 #25) a trusted railroad surveyor; John C. Briggs (d. 1865, Sec. E-40 #31) well-known surveyor and civil engineer and creator of the original plan for Blossom Hill Cemetery; James R. Hill (d. 1884, Sec. K-72 #27) made his fortune manufacturing the "Concord Harness" which was sold in both national and international markets, and at his death was the largest real estate owner in Concord; **Other manufacturers are:** Rufus Morgan (d. 1892, Sec. T-11 #26) carriage maker; William P. Ford (d. 1901, Sec. No. Add.-18 #29) and T. H. Ford (d. 1892, Sec. J-38 #44) both iron foundry owners; John Boylston Abbott (d. 1946, Sec. F-30 #35) silverware manufacturer; George A. Cummings (d. 1918, Memorial Statute at Main Entrance) partner in Cummings Bros. Monumental Works founded in 1853; **Other Prominent Citizens:** Lewis John Rundlett (d. 1934, Sec. AA-10 #55) school superintendent; James O. Lyford (d. 1924, Sec. U-58 #52) politician, journalist and historian; Benjamin B. Davis (d. 1900, Sec. H-18 ½ #36) band and chorus leader; **Celebrated Women:** Harriet Patience Dame (d. 1900, Sec. G-8 #36) famous Civil War Nurse and prisoner in the second battle of Bull Run; Armenia S. White (d. 1916, Sec. L-32-40 #13) wife of prominent railroad contractor, Nathaniel White, championed women's suffrage and the abolitionist and temperance movements, created Concord's first park, White Park, in 1884; Lillian Carpenter Streeter (d. 1935, Sec. U-3 #50) founded the Concord Women's Club and the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs; Laura Garland Carr (d. 1925, Sec. H-38 #41) renowned NH Poet published her visits to Blossom Hill Cemetery in "The Granite Monthly" (1926, p. 29-30); Sharon Christa McAuliffe (d. 1986, Calvary Sec. M-51L #2) killed in the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion on January 28, 1986, part of the 1st Teacher in Space Program and lost her life with 6 other astronauts.

This just a brief summary of the general and historical information concerning Blossom Hill Cemetery and Concord Calvary Cemetery. For more information please contact Jill McDaniel, Cemetery Administrator at the address below:

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