

Tour de Grave Historical Notes 2012

There are about 125 cemeteries in Boston, including ones owned by private for-profits, nonprofit and religious groups, and the city. There are 19 municipal cemeteries, the largest number of any city in the United States of which 16 are considered historic. Only 3 of the municipal sites still accept new burials. (The Historic Burying Grounds Initiative – for municipal sites established between 1630 and 1841 – was created in 1986 as a public-private effort to upgrade and maintain these properties.)

Since the 1800s, Massachusetts state law requires that “each town shall provide one or more suitable places for the internment of persons dying within its limits,” which has been typically interpreted as requiring services for the indigent. Boston uses Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park for this purpose, with unmarked numbered graves. (The regular cost of a double vault is \$2,588.)

There are more than 42,000 sites at Fairview and more than 195,000 in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Roslindale, the city’s largest. With the potential for another 2,000 sites in Fairview, and the redesign of some cemeteries to downsize roads and other unused space, the city hopes to meet the demand into the 2020s.

EVOVLING AESTHETICS AND PRACTICES

In medieval Europe, people were buried as close to the Church as possible, often in the ground immediately surrounding the building on which congregants walked, held markets, and celebrated festivals in what can be seen as a kind of public square. The rich and powerful were buried inside the Church, as close as possible to the alter. There were few if any markers and the graves were often dug up or rearranged as new deaths required.

In Colonial America, the Puritans did not celebrate death as a glorified state as part of their general de-emphasis of salvation in favor of pre-determination. The purpose of a gravestone was primarily to remind the living of the shortness of life. Graveyards were placed at a distance from the Meeting House/church. As part of their reaction against the “idolatry” of Catholicism, the early Puritans put only non-religious death-heads, hourglasses, and solemn epitaphs on their stones, which were haphazardly placed in the burying ground. Although the local minister usually attended, funerals were not religious affairs – the first known instance of prayer at a burial didn’t occur until 1685.

However, as the community became more settled, Puritanism evolved into Congregationalism, and settlements spread, the graveyards became closer to the living spaces and churches. In addition, the wealthy began displaying their status by paying carvers to include increasingly ornate side panels with floral and other designs including (after 1690) the “winged cherub” or “soul effigy.” The most common material used for the stones was local slate and sandstone. As at all public occasions, wine, food, and

tobacco circulated freely at funerals, eventually getting so much out of control that the Legislature prohibited the use of wine at funerals in 1742.

In the late 1700s concern about the potential health hazards of decomposing bodies led congregations to again set up new cemeteries farther away from the village center.

For several centuries graveyards were called “Burying Grounds.” The word “cemetery,” derived from a Greek work for “sleeping place” (expressing a much more benign view of death than the Puritan’s emphasis on final judgment) was not used until the early-1800s with the rise of Neo-Classical philosophies and culture. Willows, urns, and “harvest bouquets” began appearing on gravestones, which were carved out of more durable marble using the Industrial age’s new stone-shaping technologies. In addition, old burying grounds were “rearranged” into straight rows to conform with ideas about orderly open space and to better accommodate the lawn mower (invented in 1860). By the end of the nineteenth century, they were often rearranged again to incorporate features of the “rural” or “garden cemetery” vision pioneered by Cambridge’s Mt. Auburn in 1831.

Graveyard design in the 1800s reflected the influence of the “cult of melancholy” and the romantic image of nature as a reaction to the industrial-era cities that spread from Britain to the US. The impulse to meditate upon the serenity of eternal nature as compared to the shortness of human life was reflected in the rise of landscape painting, poetry, and landscape design based on the English gardens of the UK aristocracy. Garden cemeteries were carefully landscaped and filled with sculpture. As part of the effort to make these life-lessons widely available and to “refine” public taste, the public was invited to visit many of the garden cemeteries, which served as the forerunners of later art museums and public parks. In their prime they were often major tourist attractions.

By the end of the Civil War, however, rural cemeteries were seen as old fashioned and quaint as the country’s mood shifted to industrial optimism and the embracing of the machine age.

PLACES ON OUR TOUR

Tollgate Cemetery

After years (generations?) of neglect, the Tollgate cemetery in Forest Hills has finally had some attention paid to it. An Irish-American war veteran memorial now stands in the grounds, and flags can be seen each Memorial Day. The land was bought to serve as a Catholic cemetery in the mid-19th century, and seems to have been forgotten by the Archdiocese soon after it was filled up. Apparently, many graves are now unmarked, and the headstones that remain are either damaged or worn to the point of near-illegibility.

The marker shown above was chosen to point out that not all Boston Catholics during the 1850s were Irish. There are several headstones carved in German. Both northern

Protestant and southern Catholic Germans came to Boston, and some of the latter found their final resting place along the railroad tracks in this small plot of land. When it was opened, the area was quiet, but for the trains passing by. Years later, it sat ignored in the midst of a busy traffic hub. Not all Forest Hills cemeteries are created equal. (from Remember Jamaica Plain? 2007)

Have you ever wondered about the abandoned cemetery on Hyde Park Avenue near Walk Hill Road? Few documents record its history, and the cemetery is not claimed by any church. Toll Gate Cemetery has stood witness to many changes in the Forest Hills neighborhood over the past 150 years, but the cemetery itself remains unchanged, a testament to bygone attitudes and forgotten prejudice.

The railroad tracks that mark the terrain around Toll Gate Cemetery are the legacy of a privately owned turnpike, originally gated by a tolling station that charged carts passing into Boston. The area around the toll gate became settled as former land estates were carved up in the early 1800s, initially for philanthropic reasons. However, houses that were meant for destitute workers and poor immigrants were snatched up by eager commuters intent on settling the area made newly accessible due to improved rail transportation.

Forest Hills Cemetery was founded in 1848 to serve the Protestant elite of Boston, as a country park and arboretum cemetery. Meant to emulate country estates that were rapidly being replaced as Boston expanded, Forest Hills dominated the local area, even inspiring a name change of the Toll Gate Station to Forest Hills Station in the 1850s. While Forest Hills Cemetery served the rich and Protestant, Toll Gate Cemetery was founded around 1850 to serve an unwelcome Catholic community.

Of course, times have changed. Today Forest Hills Cemetery welcomes burials from anyone.

"Catholics weren't allowed in city cemeteries back then," remembers local resident Paul Davis, "so the Catholic church purchased land to bury their dead."

Davis' grandfather founded nearby Davis Monuments in 1862 to supply headstones for Forest Hills and surrounding cemeteries. Davis grew up in the 1930s in a house built on Walk Hill Street in 1901. He recalls hearing about the first Catholic church in the region, St. Joseph's Church in Roxbury. The parish mostly consisted of refugees from Ireland, immigrants who came to Boston in droves between 1845 and 1852 to escape the devastating potato famine. Some of these immigrants served in the Civil War, to be later interred in Toll Gate Cemetery. The tiny parcel of land filled up quickly, and was used only from 1850 to 1897, then apparently abandoned.

Details on some graves still document the history of these immigrants, recording county names and Irish roots. Other graves are written in German, testament to the diversity of the Catholic parish. Most are now illegible, the marble worn down by time and the elements. The descendants moved on, some returning to tend graves a century later. Toll

Gate has been cleaned up in recent memory, and a civil war memorial was erected in 2000 by the Irish-American Veteran's Association. A semicircle of civil war era graves surround the memorial, and nearby are graves marked "unknown."

The area around Toll Gate has changed dramatically over the years. The Boston Elevated Railway has come and gone, the threat of a proposed I-95 extension was defeated, and Toll Gate Cemetery remains. A significant immigrant population has shaped Jamaica Plain since 1900: after the Irish came Italians, and since the 1960s Latin Americans, all united by their Catholicism and a shared sense of community. Discriminatory attitudes toward Catholics have certainly changed radically in the face of assimilation.

The lack of historical record about Toll Gate Cemetery reveals the exclusionary attitudes of the time, and what little support there was for those of the Catholic faith in mid 19th century Boston. Documentation on the cemetery is sketchy at best, although local historians have published some of their research on-line. It is anyone's guess what will happen to the little cemetery in the future, but for now it lays abandoned, awaiting a future caretaker. (from JP Patch, 2010)

From the few gravestones found, it seems that most came from County Donegal in Ireland.

Walter Street Burying Ground (Arnold Arboretum)

Walter Street Burying Ground, known as "Peter's Hill" Burying Ground, was established in 1711 and was associated with the Second Church of Christian Roxbury until 1773. The earliest existing grave marker is dated 1722. Although many of the gravesites were moved in the early 1900's to make way for a widened Walter Street, there are still several fine examples of stonecutting by members of the well-known Foster family from Dorchester. The burying ground is now part of the Arnold Arboretum.

1711- When the town of Roxbury was first settled in 1630, the First Church of Christ was established and the Eustis Street Burying Ground was used for burials. As Roxbury grew, it became difficult for church members in the outlying areas of town to get to church, so in 1711 these people received permission to establish a Second Church of Christ in their area. This church stood on Peter's Hill, and behind it to the south, the church burying ground was created. By 1733 the use of the church was discontinued and a new Second Church was built in West Roxbury. Although the burying ground still remains, the church and parsonage have long been demolished. Now called the Walter Street Burying Ground, this site is located on what is today known as Peter's Hill, within the Arnold Arboretum. This 0.81-acre burying ground contains the graves of early settlers and a single large tomb for Revolutionary soldiers. These soldiers were stationed at the nearby Loring-Greenough House, which was later converted into a hospital when many of the men became ill from smallpox. The soldiers were buried in the house's garden. In 1867 their remains were moved to Walter Street Burying Ground for a proper burial. During the widening of Walter Street in 1902, the remains of 28 bodies were discovered and subsequently transferred to Mount Hope Cemetery.

St. Joseph's Cemetery

Holyhood Cemetery was already outgrowing its space by the late 19th century, and in 1888 the Directors purchased additional land nearby in West Roxbury to develop St. Joseph Cemetery. At about 200 acres, St. Joseph is one of the largest cemeteries in New England. Extensive landscape improvements have been carried out over the last ten years, and the main cemetery is almost fully developed.

In a very foresighted move, the Directors in 1950 opened a new section on VFW Parkway called St. James the Apostle. At a time when many Greater Boston cemeteries are at or near full capacity, St James provides enough burial space for 30 more years.

Collins, John F. d. November 23, 1995

Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, 1960-1968. (Bio by: Paul Casano)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

Plot: Chapel Hill 1Dever, Paul A. b. January 15, 1903 d. April 11, 1958

Governor of Massachusetts (1949-1953). Presidential candidate, 1948, ran in the democratic primaries against Truman.

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USADouglass, John Joseph b. 1873 d. 1939

US Congressman. Elected to represent Massachusetts' 10th and 11th Districts in the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1925 to 1935. Also served as a Member of the Massachusetts State Legislature.

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USAEgan, Pat b. April 25, 1918 d. June 3, 2008

Professional Hockey Player. He was born Martin Egan in Blackie, Alberta, Canada. He played at the defense position for eleven seasons (1939 to 1942, 1943 to 1951) in the National Hockey League with the New York/Brooklyn Americans, Detroit Red Wings, Boston Bruins and New York Rangers. His career highlights include two-time selection to the NHL All Star Team (1942, 1949). Egan appeared in 554 career regular season NHL games and scored 77 goals. (Bio by: C.S.)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USAFiedler, Arthur b. December 17, 1894 d. July 10, 1979

Orchestra Conductor. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, the son Emanuel Fiedler, an Austrian-born violinist, and a pianist mother. In 1909, his father took him to Berlin to study violin with Willy Hess. Fiedler also studied chamber music with Ernst von Dohnányi at the Royal Academy in Berlin. He returned to the United States in 1915 and joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra as second violin under conductor Karl Muck. In 1924, he formed the Boston Sinfonietta, a chamber music orchestra. He later...[Read More] (Bio by: Iola)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

Plot: Field of St. Anthony, Sec. 1

GPS coordinates: 42.2926483, -71.1745071 (hddd.dddd)Fitzgerald, John Francis b. February 11, 1863 d. October 3, 1950

Controversial Boston politician, known as "Fitzie" in his youth and "Honey Fitz" in later years, best known as the maternal grandfather of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States. He was born John Francis Fitzgerald in Boston, Massachusetts on February 11, 1863. He grew up in Boston's North End, attending Eliot Grammar School and Boston Latin School, and finally Harvard Medical School, although he left the latter to take care of his family after the death of his father...[Read More] (Bio by: Edward Parsons)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

Plot: St. Anthony, Sec. 1-near the top of the hill Guerra, Frederick G b. August 13, 1923 d. May 17, 2003

Musician. He was the saxophonist for the Glenn Miller Band during World War II. (Bio by: Erik Lander)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA Hicks, Louise Day b. October 16, 1923 d. October 21, 2003

US Congresswoman. Elected to represent the 9th district of Massachusetts in the US House of Representatives, she served from 1971 to 1973. She was defeated for re-election in 1972. (Bio by: Erik Lander)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA Higgins, John Patrick b. February 19, 1893 d. August 2, 1955

US Congressman. Served in the United States Navy during World War I. Elected to represent Massachusetts' 11th District in the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1935 to 1937. Also served as a Member of the Massachusetts State House of Representatives from 1929 to 1934, and State Court Judge from 1937 until his death in 1955. (Bio by: K)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA Hynes, John B. b. 1897 d. 1970

Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, 1950-1960. (Bio by: Paul Casano)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA Kelley, Gregory Eric b. 1944 d. February 15, 1961

1961 US Men's Silver medalist and North American Bronze Medalist. He was a former US Junior men's champion. He was a member of the Broadmoor Skating Club and was traveling with his US Figure Skating teammates to the World Figure Skating Championships in Prague when the plane crashed killing all on board. (Bio by: Stephanie)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

Plot: St. Anthony Field 2 Kelley, Nathalie Frances b. 1938 d. February 15, 1961

Figure Skater. She died, along with all of her United States Figure Skating teammates, in an airplane crash outside Brussels, Belgium in 1961.

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts,

USAMcCormack, John b. December 21, 1891 d. November 22, 1980

US Speaker of the House from Massachusetts. (His date of birth is usually listed as 1891, despite the fact that his tombstone reads 1892.)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USAMcNary, William Sarsfield b. March 29, 1863 d. 1930

US Congressman. Elected to represent Massachusetts' 10th District in the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1903 to 1907. Also served as a Delegate to the

Democratic National Convention from Massachusetts in 1892 as Alternate, and Delegate in 1900, Member of the Massachusetts State House of Representatives, Member of the Massachusetts State Senate, Secretary of the Massachusetts Democratic Party from 1898 to 1900, and Massachusetts Democratic State Chair from 1901 to 1903. (Bio by: K)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA O'Connell, Joseph Francis b. December 7, 1872 d. December 10, 1942

US Congressman. Elected to represent Massachusetts' 11th District in the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1907 to 1911. Also served as a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention from Massachusetts in 1912 as Alternate, and in 1920 as Delegate, Delegate to the Massachusetts State Constitutional Convention from 1918 to 1920, Candidate in Democratic Primary for United States Senator from Massachusetts in 1930, and Democratic Candidate for Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts in...[Read More] (Bio by: K)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA Pender, Paul b. June 20, 1930 d. January 12, 2003

Former middleweight boxing champion. A veteran of the Korean War, he twice defeated Sugar Ray Robinson during a five month span. He made two other successful defenses of his title before losing to Terry Downes. After battling with promoters to gain a greater say over opponents, he never boxed again. (Bio by: Ron Moody)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA Sweeney, Bill (William) b. March 6, 1886 d. May 26, 1948

Major League Baseball Player. The jack-of-all-trades broke in with the Chicago Cubs in 1907, but after appearing in only three games, he was traded along with outfielder Newt Randall to Boston on June 24 for outfielder-first baseman Del Howard. He played for Boston, known as the Doves, Rustlers and Braves, through the 1913 season. After switching to a heavier bat, he became more productive at the plate. In 1911, he batted .314 with 33 doubles and 63 runs batted in. He hit safely in 31...[Read More] (Bio by: Ron Coons)

Saint Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA White, Kevin Hagan b. September 25, 1929 d. January 27, 2012

Boston Mayor. For over a decade, he was one of the most profiled leaders from a major American city. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as the mayor of Boston, Massachusetts from 1968 to 1984. The son of Irish-Catholic parents, he was born into a politically-versed family as both of his grandfathers were presidents of Boston's City Council. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Williams College and earned his law degree from the Boston College Law School. White was successful in...[Read More] (Bio by: C.S.)

Saint Joseph Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

Jewish Cemeteries

The first Jewish cemetery in the Boston area was that of Temple Ohabei Shalom in East Boston, founded in 1844. The cemetery complexes on Grove and Centre Streets in West Roxbury date from the mid-1880s. The Woburn cemeteries opened in the late 1890s. The cemeteries on Baker Street in West Roxbury and those in Everett opened in the 1920s. All the other cemetery complexes were developed in the early twentieth century. Diverse

groups founded the early cemeteries. Some were congregational cemeteries, but other types of organizations started many others: landsmanshaftn (associations of people from the same European ancestral town), labor unions, fraternal, and charitable organizations.

JEWISH CEMETERY SYMBOLS AND THEIR MEANINGS

Gravestone in the shape of a tree trunk often for someone who dies young.



Frequently appears at the bottom of Jewish gravestones. Each letter stands for a word.

תנצבה

"T'Hay Nafsh(o)(ah)
Tz'ror B'tzror Hakhayim"
"May (his) (her) soul be bound up with the bond of life."

Frequently appears at the top of Jewish gravestones.



The 2 letters stand for "Po Nikbar" which is Hebrew for "Here is buried."

Grave of a Levi



The Levi would assist the Cohayn in his holy tasks by washing his hands

Grave of a Cohayn



The priest (Cohayn) holds his hands this way when blessing Israel.

ACORN
"From little acorns giant oaks grow"
Symbol of greater life after burial.



BALL
Cycle of life - also symbol of eternity.



VESSEL
The body is considered the vessel that holds the soul.



189 Wells Avenue
Newton, MA 02459
www.jcam.org



Tel: 617-244-6609
Toll Free: 800-752-JCAM
Fac: 617-928-1926

Baker Street Jewish Cemeteries

The Baker Street Jewish Cemeteries are a group of 42[2] Jewish cemeteries in use since the 1920s on Baker Street in the West Roxbury section of Boston. The cemeteries are located on land that once formed part of Brook Farm, a 19th-century communal-living experiment.

The series of small cemeteries are strung along both sides of a narrow access road at 776 Baker Street[3] that leads only to the last of the small cemeteries. Each was owned and managed by an individual Boston-area congregation or Jewish organization. [1]

According to The Boston Globe, “the Baker Street cemeteries are home to some of the city's most striking, albeit endangered, examples of historic religious architecture. Dotted the road are 10 chapel buildings about the size of one-room schoolhouses, perfectly rendered synagogues in miniature, with glorious stained glass, vaulted ceilings, ornate chandeliers, oak pulpits, and other vestiges of the final destination for members of a once-thriving immigrant community.” [2]

Over the years, many of the small congregations that supported several sections of the cemeteries have dissolved as the leadership passed on and there were no young members to take their places. In the late 1980's, after several years of neglect, the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts, JCAM (jcam.org) was granted the rights to the abandoned cemeteries so that they could be restored, maintained and make plots available for new interments.

In March, 2010 the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts experienced the worst flooding in over 100 years on the Baker Street Memorial Park Cemetery in West Roxbury. Nearly half of the 50-cemetery complex was underwater and impassable by funeral processions since the roadway was under 20” of water for 4 weeks. And in the cemetery profession, 4 weeks is an eternity! In Judaism, interments can't wait for the floodwaters to recede. The decedent must be interred by the next day if possible. So JCAM made sites available at our cemeteries on Baker Street unaffected by the flood at no cost to the families. JCAM arranged for Charter Buses (38 seaters) to transport people attending funerals to these cemeteries. We also arranged for a handicap bus to transport the casket separately. JCAM paid for all the re-interments of these families resting at temporary sites on Baker Street.

Temple Emeth Memorial Park cemetery, established in 1957, is actively maintained by its Memorial Park Committee. It is located two miles from Temple Emeth, within the Baker Street Jewish Cemeteries at 776 Baker Street, West Roxbury/Boston. Our new cemetery, Or Emet, was dedicated in June 2012 and grave sites are now available to the community.

Notable burials

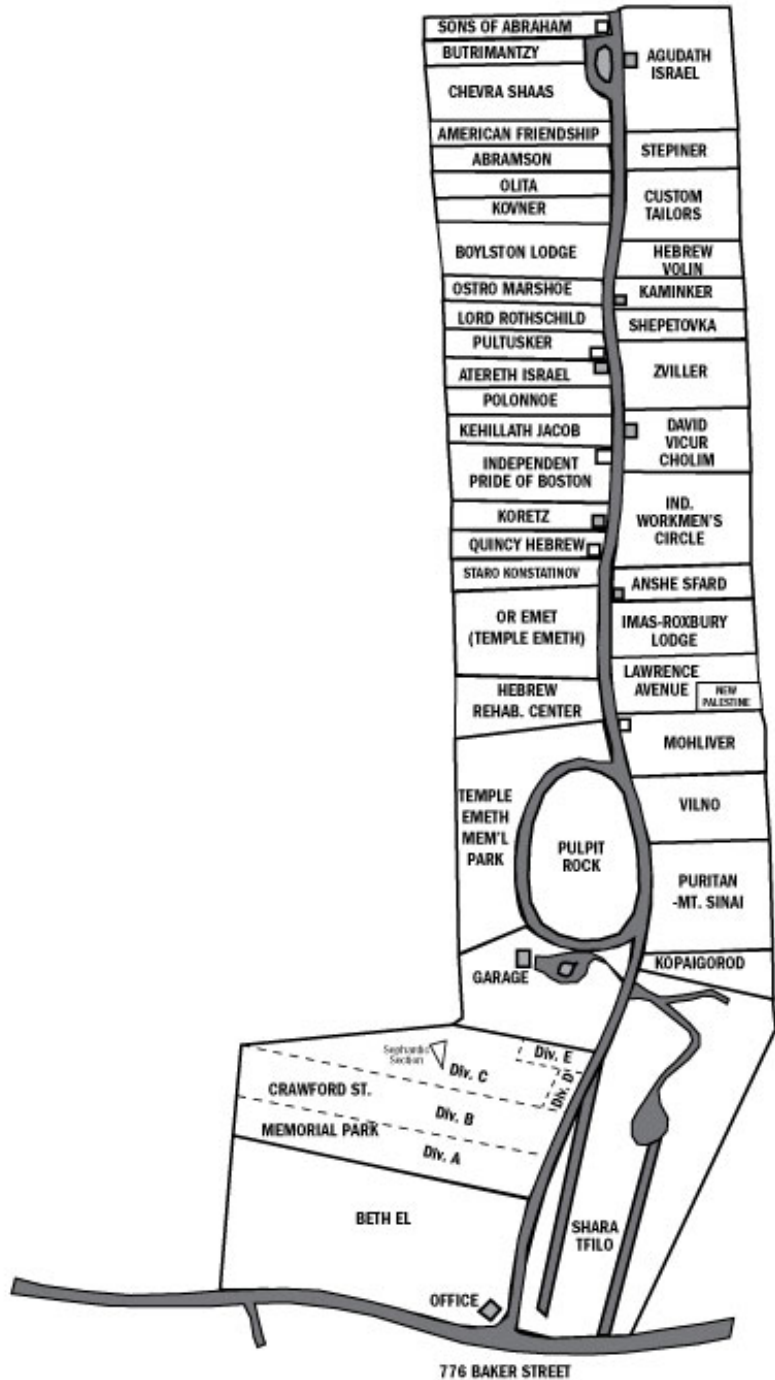
Johnny Most
Nahum M. Sarna
Joseph B. Soloveitchik[3]
Michael Hammer
Rabbi Richard J. Israel
Ernest Rabinowicz [4]

Cemeteries of Baker Street Jewish Cemeteries

42 Cemeteries:

Abramson Agudath Israel American Friendship Anshe Sfard Atereth Israel Beth El
 Boylston Lodge Butrimantzy Chevra Shaas Crawford Street Memorial Park Custom
 Tailors David Vicur Cholim Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Hebrew Volin Imas-Roxbury
 Lodge Independent Pride of Boston Independent Workmen's Circle Kaminker Kehillath
 Jacob Kopaigorod Koretzer Kovner Lawrence Avenue Lord Rothschild Mohliver New
 Palestine Olita Ostro Marshoe Polonnoe Pulpit Rock Pultusker Puritan Quincy Hebrew
 Shara Tfilo Shepetovka Sons of Abraham Staro Konstatinov Stepiner Temple Emeth
 (two separated parcels) Vilno Zviller

Abramson (Contact: JCAM)
 Agudath Israel
 American Friendship
 Anshei Sfard: Congregation
 Anshei Sfard, 168 Adams
 Street Newton, MA 617 630-
 0226
 Atereth Israel: Congregation
 Beth El/Atereth Israel, 561
 Ward St, Newton, MA
 02459-1109, (617) 244-7233
 Beth El: Congregation Beth
 El/Atereth Israel, 561 Ward
 St, Newton, MA 02459-1109,
 (617) 244-7233
 Boylston Lodge Memorial
 Park
 Butrimantzy (Contact:
 JCAM)
 Chevra Shaas (Contact:
 JCAM)
 Crawford Street Memorial
 Park
 Custom Tailors
 David Vicur Cholim
 (Contact: Shirley Kramer)
 Hebrew Rehabilitation Center
 Hebrew Volin
 IMAS - Roxbury Lodge
 Independent Pride of Boston
 Independent Workmen's
 Circle
 Kaminker (Contact: Irving
 Koss)
 Kehillath Jacob
 Kopiaigorod



Koretzer
Kovner
Lawrence Avenue
Lord Rothschild
New Palestine
Mohliner
Olita Relief Society
Ostro Hebrew Marshoe
Polonnoe
Pultusker
Puritan
Quincy Hebrew Society
Sarah Tfilo
Shepetovka (Contact: David A. Mikelson)
Sons of Abraham
Staro Konstantinov (Contact: Joseph Furman)
Stepiner (Contact: Geralf Milden)
Temple Emeth Memorial Park (Contact: Samuel Manski)
Vilno
Zviller

Gardens at Gethsemane

Listing Manager: Alan J MacKinnon

Founded in 1871, The Gardens at Gethsemane, on the site of historic Brook Farm and the Civil War's Camp Andrew, is a community serving cemetery, located off the VFW Parkway at 670 Baker Street in West Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Orthodox Burial Garden & Chapel (COMING SOON!) - Located at the highest elevation in The Gardens at Gethsemane, our newest burial garden is currently in development (please click section name above for more information!).

Mt of Olives (New Higher Garden! Feng Shui Approved!!)

- Located at a high elevation and facing east, this garden is highlighted by scenic views of surrounding treetops as well as Bellevue Hill, and state protected woodlands.

Apostles Beech Grove - Nestled within our original Garden of the Apostles and adjacent to our bird feeding and viewing area, this newly designed garden is abutted by state protected woodland, is situated on all level ground, and faces south.

East Garden - Conveniently located on a gentle slope and facing east, this garden is punctuated by a landscape consisting of thundercloud plum trees, rhododendrons, lush azaleas, and overlooks 50 acres of fields and a sea of purple flowers.

West Garden - With a central monument feature anchored by two white birch trees and an aspen, this garden presents a wonderful sense of tranquility as it is abutted by natural forest and protected woodlands.

Mt Zion - Located on a grand hill overlooking a valley, this garden features a beautifully matured landscape and is reminiscent of "the old country" to many of our families.

Sunset Garden - Located towards the rear portion of our property, this garden is set on primarily level ground and has an outcropping of Roxbury puddingstone as its most prominent landscape feature.

Specialty Gardens

Hong Ling Garden - Hong Ling is designated for the Asian members of our community. Set on a quiet hill and facing east, this garden's concept is one of tradition and heritage and allows families to memorialize according to their customs.

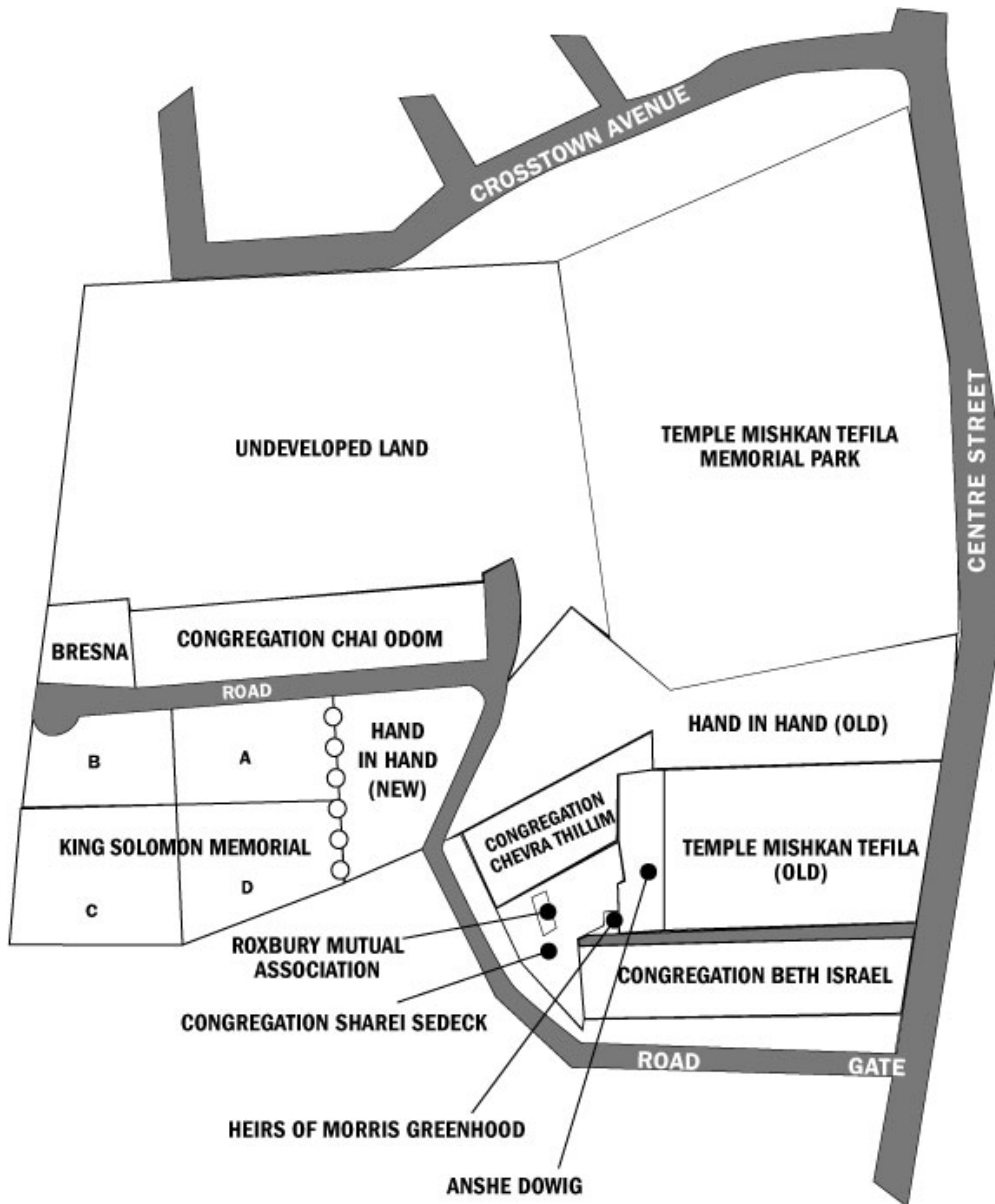
Orthodox Cross - Designated for our Orthodox faith community, this garden is located on a small hill also facing east, and allows families to memorialize according to the customs of their faith.

Garden of Mercy (Almarhama) - Designated for the Islamic community, this garden is located on the east side of our property and is surrounded by lush green arborvitae shrubs. Families are allowed and encouraged to memorialize according to their faith.

Westerly

Westerly Burying Ground was established in 1683 and was active as West Roxbury's only cemetery until 1951. The oldest gravestones are dated 1691. This burying ground provides a visual history of three centuries, from early settlement to our own memories.

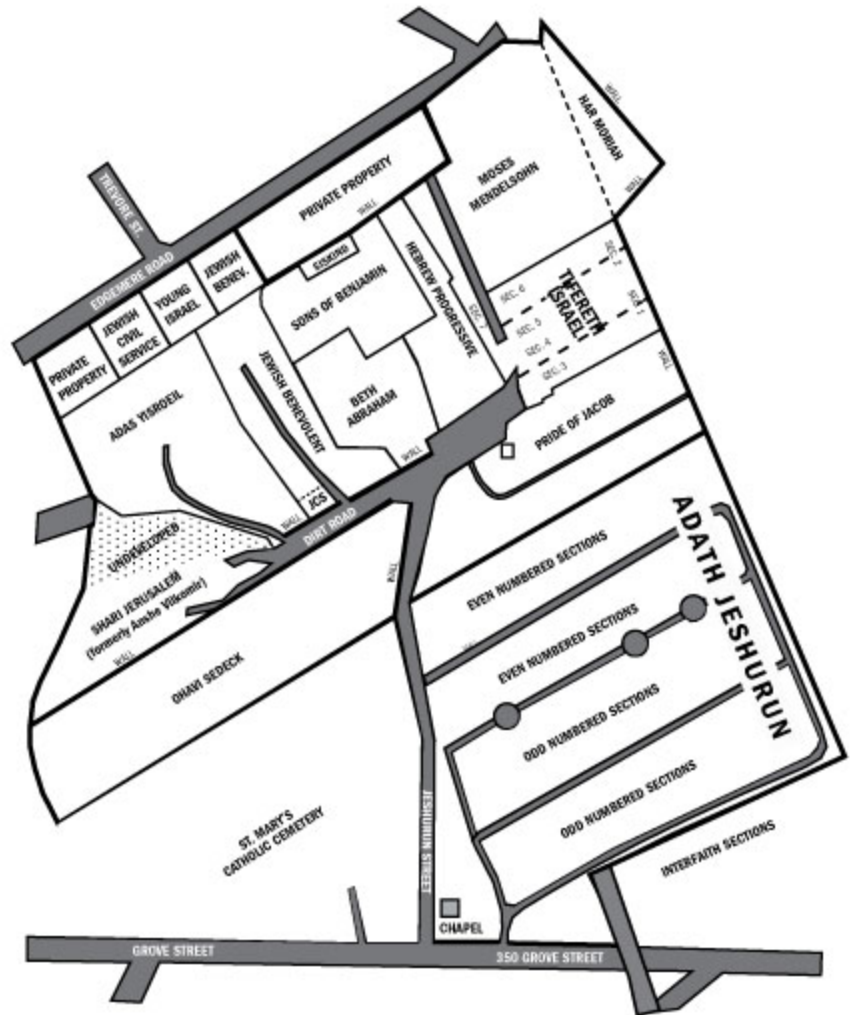
Centre Street Jewish Cemeteries



- Anshe Dowig Association (Contact: JCAM.)
- Beth Israel (Contact: JCAM.)
- Bresna (Contact: JCAM.)
- Chevra Thillim (Contact: JCAM.)
- Chai Odom (Contact: JCAM.)
- King Solomon Memorial Park (Contact: JCAM.)
- Mishkan Tefilan Memorial Park
- Sharei Sedeck (Contact: JCAM.)

Grove Street Jewish Cemeteries

Adath Jeshurun
Beth Abraham
Hand in Hand (New and Old)
Hebrew Progressive
Jewish Benevolent
Jewish Civil Service
(Contact: Myron Porter)
Ohavi Sedeck
Moses Mendelsohn
(Contact: Lillian Shrago)
Pride of Jacob
Roxbury Mutual
Association
Shari Jerusalem
Sons of Benjamin
Tifereth Israel
Young Israel of
Brookline (Contact:
JCAM.)



St. Mary's Cemetery

St. Mary's Parish
(Dedham)

Fairview Cemetery

Fairview was established in 1892. James Monroe Trotter, America's first black commissioned officer, is buried here as well as some of the founders of Hyde Park — Hippolitus Fiske and Charles Jenney. From the high point of Cedar Grove Hill, you get a magnificent view of the Blue Hills. Just through the cemetery gate is a grassy area, shaded by large pine trees, with a view of the Neponset mill pond. This is a great area for a stretch and a picnic, but watch for some poison ivy along the riverbank and make sure you clean up after yourself

Old Mt. Calvary

Early Catholic cemetery contains James Michael Curley & family (mayor, governor, and Congressman) and John L. Sullivan (Irish-American world champion bare-fist boxer).

Dugan, Joseph Anthony b. May 12, 1897 d. July 7, 1982

Major League Baseball Player. A product of Holy Cross College, Jumping Joe Dugan was a mainstay at 3rd base for the New York Yankees for 7 seasons during the 1920's, playing on 5 Pennant winners and 3 World Championship teams. Dugan got his nickname 'Jumping Joe' because he jumped his contract from the Philadelphia Athletics on several occasions. Dugan, who made his Major League debut at the age of 20 in 1917, hated the city of Philadelphia due to their fickle fans. Dugan once commented, "They...[Read More] (Bio by: Frank Russo)

Mount Calvary Cemetery, Roslindale, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USAMcCarthy, Tommy b. July 24, 1863 d. August 5, 1922

Hall of Fame Major League Baseball Player. Born in Boston, Massachusetts he joined the Boston Reds as a pitcher and outfielder on July 10, 1884. For twelve seasons he played for the Boston Reds 1884, Boston Beaneaters 1885, 1892 to 1895, Philadelphia Quakers 1886, 1887 and St. Louis Browns 1888 to 1891. He finished his career with a .292 batting average, 1496 hits, 44 home runs, 1096 runs batted in and 500 stolen bases. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee in...[Read More]

(Bio by: John "J-Cat" Griffith)

Mount Calvary Cemetery, Roslindale, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

Plot: Grave 74, Range 26, Section 9Naphen, Henry Francis b. August 14, 1852 d. June 8, 1905

US Congressman, Lawyer, State Senator. He graduated from Harvard University in 1878 then attended the Boston University Law School. He passed the bar in 1880 and began to practice in Boston. He was a member of the school committee of Boston from 1882 through 1885. He was member of the Massachusetts State senate in 1885 and 1886. He was also appointed bail commissioner by the justice of the superior court. Between March 4, 1899 and March 3, 1903 he was elected to the Fifty-sixth and Fifty-...[Read More] (Bio by: Denise)

Mount Calvary Cemetery, Roslindale, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USASullivan, John L. b. October 15, 1858 d. February 2, 1918

First Heavyweight Champion of the World 1882-1892. John L. Sullivan was a true fighting man. He drank, womanised and proudly boasted he "could lick any man in the house." He was the first world heavyweight champion to wear gloves, as required under the Marquess of Queensbury rules, and boxing's first ever superstar, commanding combined purses of over a million dollars in the course of his career. Born in Roxbury, Massachusetts on October 15, 1858, Sullivan turned professional as a high-spirited...

[Read More] (Bio by: Soorus)

Mount Calvary Cemetery, Roslindale, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

New Calvary Cemetery

Carson, Anthony J. b. April 23, 1869 d. April 25, 1943

Philippine Insurrecton Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. He served as a Corporal in the United States Army in Company H, 43d Infantry, U.S. Volunteers. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for action on April 15-19, 1900 at Catubig, Samar, Philippine Islands. His citation reads "Assumed command of a detachment of the company which had survived an overwhelming attack of the enemy, and by his bravery

and untiring efforts and the exercise of extraordinary good judgment in the handling of his...[Read More] (Bio by: Don Morfe)

New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA
Plot: Section 20A, Grave 2651

Curley, James Michael b. November 20, 1874 d. November 12, 1958

US Congressman, 56th Massachusetts Governor, Boston Mayor. He was a Democratic political force in Massachusetts for 48 years, starting with his election to the Massachusetts Legislature in 1902, and he defeat as Mayor of Boston in 1950. He was elected to two separate stints in the United States House of Representatives, representing first the 10th, then the 12th Massachusetts Districts, serving from 1911 to 1914. 29 years later he was elected to represent the 11th District, serving from 1943 to...[Read More] (Bio by: Russ Dodge)

New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

Duffy, Hugh b. November 26, 1866 d. October 19, 1954

Member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. (Bio by: Stew Thornley)
New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA
Plot: Lot 45, Section 3, Maple Avenue

Keliher, John b. November 6, 1866 d. September 20, 1938

US Congressman. Elected to represent Massachusetts' 9th District in the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1903 to 1911. Also served as a Member of the Massachusetts State House of Representatives in 1896, Member of the Massachusetts State Senate in 1899, and Candidate for Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts in 1925. (Bio by: K)

New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

Kerrigan, John E. b. 1906 d. May 2, 1987

Boston Mayor. Served as the Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, from 1945 to 1946. He was defeated in 1945.

New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

Kyle, Patrick J. b. November 4, 1854 d. October 28, 1929

Peacetime Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. He served as a Landsman in the United States Navy. His citation reads "For rescuing from drowning a shipmate from the USS Quinnebaug, at Port Mahon, Minorca (Spain), 13 March 1879." (Bio by: Don Morfe)

New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA
Plot: Section 2, Row 4, Grave 10

Laffey, Bartlett b. 1841 d. March 22, 1901

Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. He served as a Seaman in the Union Navy. His citation reads "Off Yazoo City, Miss., 5 March 1864, embarking from the Marmora with a 12-pound Howitzer mounted on a field carriage, Laffey landed with

the gun and crew in the midst of heated battle and, bravely standing by his gun carriage and rammer, contributed to the turning back of the enemy during the fierce engagement." (Bio by: Don Morfe)

New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA
Plot: Section 5, Range 39, Grave 49

Logan, Edward Lawrence b. January 20, 1875 d. July 6, 1939

United States Army General. He graduated from Harvard University in 1897, enlisted for the Spanish-American War in the 9th Massachusetts Infantry, advanced in rank to become the regiment's Sergeant Major, and took part in combat in Cuba. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1901, became an attorney, and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant. Logan served on Boston's City Council from 1899 to 1900, as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1901 to 1902, and as a... [Read More] (Bio by: Bill McKern)

New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

Perkins, Michael J. b. 1899 d. October 28, 1918

World War I Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. Perkins served as a Private First Class, United States Army, Company D, 101st Infantry, 26th Division. He was awarded his medal for service at At Belieu Bois, France, on October 27, 1918. His citation reads-He voluntarily and alone, crawled to a German "pill box" machinegun emplacement, from which grenades were being thrown at his platoon. Awaiting his opportunity, when the door was again opened and another grenade thrown, he threw a bomb... [Read More] (Bio by: K)

New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA

Roantree, James S. b. 1835 d. February 24, 1873

Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. He served as First Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. His citation reads "On board the USS Oneida during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, 5 August 1864. Despite damage to his ship and the loss of several men onboard as the enemy fire raked her decks and penetrated her boilers, Sgt. Roantree performed his duties with skill and courage throughout the furious battle which resulted in the... [Read More] (Bio by: Don Morfe)

New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA
Plot: Section 10E, Row 5, Grave 5

Ruth, Helen b. 1897 d. January 11, 1929

Helen Woodford "Kinder" Ruth was Babe Ruth's first wife. She died in a house fire in Watertown at age 31. She is buried with her brother at Mt Calvary Cemetery, at Harvard St and Cummings Pkwy. Boxer John L. Sullivan and "The Rascal King" Mayor James Michael Curley are nearby.

New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA
Plot: Sec 7 West side, Row 7, Grave 7

Ward, James b. December 6, 1858 d. March 11, 1901

Indian Campaigns Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. He served as a Sergeant in the United States Army in Company B, 7th U.S. Cavalry. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for action on December 29, 1890 at Wounded Knee Creek, South Dakota. His citation reads "Continued to fight after being severely wounded." (Bio by: Don Morfe)

New Calvary Cemetery, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA
Plot: Section 1, Lot 793

Mt. Hope Cemetery

Established in 1851 in the new “garden style”, this is the city’s largest cemetery with 194,117 burials, many of whom are unmarked pauper graves located in the large, seemingly unused lawns. There is also a special, once-segregated Chinese section. Irish patriot John E. Kelly is here as well as monuments for Veterans, Elks, Boston Police, Masons, OddFellows, and Civil War soldiers.

Mount Hope was established in 1851 as a 125 acre garden style cemetery. The large, seemingly unused lawns are actually “paupers’ fields,” the unmarked grave sites of the city’s indigent. Maps available at the office should help you find the Veterans, Elks, Boston Police, Civil War, Masons, and Odd Fellows memorials, as well as the Chinese section and the grave site of Irish patriot John E. Kelly

1852- Mount Hope was consecrated as a private cemetery in 1852. At this time, the City of Boston was seeking to develop a municipal rural cemetery. In 1857, after several years of consideration, the City purchased Mount Hope Cemetery. It was the first large cemetery owned by the City, covering 85 acres. Following the design tenets of the Rural Cemetery Movement, considerable attention was paid to the landscaping of the grounds and the layout of roadways. In addition to the numerous tree species planted in the cemetery, the seasonal floral displays attracted considerable attention. Mount Hope was established prior to the development of Boston's park system and its beautiful grounds also served the local population as a site of passive outdoor recreation. The prosperous development and recognition of Mount Hope Cemetery was not as rapid as many hoped for a variety of reasons. In addition to competition with other public and private cemeteries, the site was not easily publicly accessible, public perception was low, the site was difficult to develop, financing was tenuous, and the politics of the times were stressful. In spite of these obstacles, burials increased and the cemetery acquired additional land resulting in its current area of 125 acres. Over the years, special monuments have been erected to honor special groups such as veterans from the Grand Army of the Republic to the present, Elks, Boston Police, and the Odd Fellows. A large expanse of land at the rear of the cemetery contains the unmarked graves of the City's indigent.

St. Michael’s Cemetery

St. Michael was founded in 1905 as an Italian Catholic perpetual care cemetery. Today it continues to serve Boston families as a non denominational cemetery with a caring

family tradition. It mirrors cemeteries throughout Europe, with more than 200 stately granite mausoleums, filled with closely lined rows of headstones, with ornate statuary, carvings and the personal effects of those who rest here. It is a place where families still come on special days to socialize and pay their respects, a place where children can learn their family's history and where parents recount memories of those whose names are carved on the headstones and what their lives were like.

Boston Daily Globe January 9, 1906

Italian Cemetery.

Clergymen Interested in Starting It Comment Upon "Unfounded Rumors" That Have Been Circulated.

To the Editor of the Globe - Since the granting by the board of aldermen of a permit to the Italian Catholic cemetery association to use a certain parcel of land for burial purposes all sorts of unfounded rumors have been circulated, and in order that the public may have correct information we ask the publication of this letter.

The Italian population in Boston numbers about 60,000 and has had no place of its own in which to bury its dead. Holy Cross cemetery at Malden and Calvary cemetery in West Roxbury are crowded, and the burial lots can no longer be secured at reasonable figures, and no more free graves for the poor are obtainable. The movement for a new cemetery was started by the pastors of the four Italian churches in Boston, and all steps taken, both with reference to negotiating for the purchase of the land and for the granting of a permit by the board of aldermen, were by and under their advice.

The continued news items against the cemetery because of its being Italian are unfair. We are proud to say that no people of God's earth better adorn or decorate the graves of their dead than do the Italians. We characterize as false all statements relative to graft or illegal burial. We ourselves were in touch with the negotiation for the purchase of the land, and we also attended upon the board of aldermen in person the interment of the body, made solely for the purpose of taking legal possession of the premises under the permit as we understand to be customary, was made on the afternoon of Monday, and not in the evening of Saturday.

we understand that under the laws of the commonwealth and ordinances of our city the dead may be buried within the confines of the city. We asked nothing more, and we received nothing but what was our right, what has been granted to others and will be again. We deem it a right that no man can deny, that as citizens of Boston we are entitled to a place of burial for our dead.

If the entire city were searched no more fitting place could be found for the site of a cemetery than that selected, as may be attested by the location of others in the same vicinity, namely the Forest Hills cemetery, Calvary cemetery, Mt Hope cemetery and

others. In fact it is the cemetery district of Boston, and this leads us to look in that direction for a location.

The property is bounded by Walk Hill, Canterbury and Bourne sts on three sides and by vacant unused land on the fourth. There are no buildings on the property save one on Walk Hill st, which we are willing and desirous of purchasing. Pierce farm, owned by the city of Boston, is on the opposite corner, and with the crematory but a few feet away on Walk Hill st it is in no sense a residential district.

We must have a cemetery and what better place could there be for one than the one selected, with a cemetery on the opposite side of the street and another directly to the rear, with very few residences in the immediate locality, and with the prospect of building entirely eliminated by the public lands held by the city in the immediate vicinity.

We have met every legal requirement, and feel that the opposition we are now meeting has been aroused, and that the press is unwittingly being used by interested persons with ulterior motives, who have endeavored to thwart us in our efforts to secure the permit, and we are cognizant of the fact that they are now encouraging unjust agitation against us.

Rev Roberto Biasotti
Rev F. Valerianus, OFM
Rev P Di Milla
Rev Francis F. Saunella.

Forest Hills Cemetery

Created in 1848 by Roxbury Mayor, Henry Dearborn, one of the people involved in the creation of Mt. Auburn (1831), its 250 landscaped acres are once again open to the public and used for art displays and respectful recreation.

Victorian Spiritualism: Spiritualists believed that death was a transition to a new form or existence; people who had “crossed over” could be contacted through seances and spirit guides. Visit some of the religious leaders and practitioners – as well as skeptics – of this controversial 19th-century faith. \$9

The famous and lesser known are at rest here—at peace in a truly beautiful setting. From the beginning in 1848, Forest Hills has been the resting place for some of the community’s most outstanding citizens, honored for service to their country, or for their success in politics, literature or the arts and sciences. It is also a resting place for every citizen, of any origin or accomplishment.

Today, Forest Hills is still an active burial ground, and is also a historic site, an open-air museum, and a 275-acre greenspace and arboretum. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004, the distinctive Victorian landscape design features meandering

paths, scenic vistas, and lovely lake Hibiscus. Many prominent historic, cultural and civic figures are buried here, including the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, suffragist Lucy Stone, poets Anne Sexton and e.e. cummings, playwright Eugene O'Neill, and sculptor Martin Milmore.

On March 28, 1848, Roxbury City Council (the municipal board in charge of the area at that time) gave an order for the purchase of the farms of the Seaverns family to establish a rural municipal park cemetery. Inspired by the Mount Auburn Cemetery, Forest Hills Cemetery was designed by Alexander Dearborn to provide a park-like setting to bury and remember family and friends. In the year the cemetery was established, another 14½ acres were purchased from John Parkinson. This made for a little more than 71 acres (290,000 m²) at a cost of \$27,894. The area was later increased to 225 acres (0.9 km²). In 1893, a crematorium was added to the cemetery, along with other features like a scattering garden, an indoor columbarium and an outdoor columbarium. In 1927, anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were cremated here after their execution; their ashes were later returned to Italy.

[edit] Notable persons interred at Forest Hills

Rufus Anderson, missionary and author[1]
Charles Hiller Innes, Massachusetts Politician
Hugh Bancroft, president of The Wall Street Journal
Clarence W. Barron, president of Dow Jones & Company
James Freeman Clarke, author
Channing H. Cox, Governor of Massachusetts (1921–1925)
E. E. Cummings, poet and artist
Fanny Davenport, actress
William Dawes (possible[2]), tanner and American colonial minuteman
William Dwight (1831–1888), general in American Civil War[3]
Eugene N. Foss, Governor of Massachusetts (1911–1914)
William Lloyd Garrison, abolitionist
William Gaston, Governor of Massachusetts (1875–1876)
Kahlil Gibran (1922–2008), Sculptor
Curtis Guild, Governor of Massachusetts (1906–1909)
Edward Everett Hale, author
William Heath, general in American Revolutionary War
Karl Heinzen, author
Faik Konica, Albanian thinker, writer, journalist, politician
Reggie Lewis, basketball player for Boston Celtics
Francis Cabot Lowell, after whom Lowell, Massachusetts is named
John Lowell, Federal judge
Martin Milmore, sculptor
Theofan S. Noli, Bishop, Prime Minister of Albania
Eugene O'Neill, playwright
Anne Sexton, poet
Lysander Spooner, early American libertarian, abolitionist, writer, anarchist
Lucy Stone, suffragist

Joseph Warren, physician and patriot, killed at Battle of Bunker Hill
John A. Winslow, admiral in American Civil War
Jacob Wirth, restaurateur

Allen, Frederick Lewis b. July 5, 1890 d. February 13, 1954
Historian, Magazine Editor. He studied at Groton and graduated from Harvard University in 1912, receiving his Master's Degree in 1913. Teaching at Harvard briefly, he became assistant editor of the Atlantic Monthly in 1914, then managing editor of The Century in 1916, before joining Harper's Magazine in 1923. He was promoted its editor-in-chief in 1941 and held this position until shortly before his death. Allen is best remembered for his penetrating works of social history,
Plot: Cherry Avenue

Barron, Clarence W. b. July 2, 1855 d. October 2, 1928
Publisher, Journalist. In 1903 he purchased Dow Jones & Company, following the death of co-founder Charles Dow. From 1912 until his death, he was president of Dow Jones. During this period, as de facto manager of The Wall Street Journal, he expanded its daily circulation, modernized its printing press operations, and deepened its reporting capabilities. In 1921, he founded a Dow Jones financial journal for investors and financiers, Barron's National Financial Weekly, later renamed Barron's