## A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF HISTORIC

## EVERGREEN HILLSIDE, NJ

Tour curated and written by Jean-Ray Turner

vergreen Cemetery, its grave sites and design, and the people laid to rest here, all reflect the history of our entire region since 1853, when this cemetery was founded by clergymen and businessmen from Elizabethtown and Newark. The founders believed that a non-profit, non-denominational cemetery was needed, because the small church graveyards in Elizabethtown and Newark were crowded. Additionally, at least two Elizabethtown churches, Second Presbyterian Church and St. John's Episcopal Church, planned to enlarge their buildings.

The 30-acre John Teas Farm on the Upper Road in Union Township was selected. By 1928, Evergreen Cemetery covered 115 acres of Hillside, Elizabeth and Newark.

The administration building started out as a barn. Before its completed in 1912, the board of trustees of the cemetery decided that a new office was needed. Opposite the office is the original mausoleum row. Among these buildings is the cemetery's

mausoleum, where cremated remains may be interred. The Rankin Mausoleum (first on the left) displays an Egyptian sunburst over the door and heavy pillars, as seen on many early Egyptian buildings.

Set on expansive, picturesque, park-like grounds, Evergreen Cemetery is replete with thousands of impressive funerary monuments. Many Doric and Ionic pillars support the roofs of structures modeled after ancient temples or palaces.

Symbolism abounds on markers and monuments. Mourning is signified by columns or urns adorned with drapes. A truncated, draped column signifies a life cut short. Urns symbolize the ashes of death. A grapevine vine represents the church, and its branches are church members. A heart motif symbolizes the human soul. Flowers represent the life of man (or woman), beauty, and the brevity of life. A crown represents the victorious soul, while trees represent both earthly and heavenly, life, and a willow signifies both joy and the loss of life.

Monuments and markers in Evergreen range from the simple, upright sandstone markers of the Colonial period to monoliths, footstones, ledger stones, elaborate sculptures and garden-style granite memorials. A small number of monuments are made of metal, slate, marble, brownstone, or even boulders.

Lovely statues adorn some grave sites. One gravestone, made in Italy, is for a Helen Wagner who lived across the street from the cemetery, and died in 1912. Depictions include two reclining ladies, men pointing to the bleeding heart, and sometimes Mary or Christ. There is a replica of Rodin's "Winged Victory," as well as a small nymph, a tiny lion, several lambs and angels.

A wide variety of crosses can be seen, including: Gothic and Wayside crosses on an ornate octagonal shaft supporting a

small cross with a gable hood; simple or "true" crosses; the Celtic cross, featuring a circle and cross; and the Greek cross – with two cross-bars. The Star of David appears on many stones. A few markers feature the Muslim crescent, and others display fraternal or patriotic symbols.

This scenic walk takes approximately an hour. This booklet will guide you to the historic graves of writers, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, community leaders, and many others. Limited to the oldest area of the cemetery (Victorian era), this walking tour features winding paths, circular graves, and centuries-old shade trees.



1 Begin at the gravesite where the author and poet, STEPHEN CRANE is buried. His plot is located in the 5th row of stones in SECTION C, a short distance from the three mausoleums, behind the Memorial Circle at the entrance.

Stephen Crane was youngest son of Rev. Jonathan Townley Crane, a native of the Townley section of Union Township, and Maria Helene Peck Crane, a daughter of Rev. George D. Peck, DD, the founder of Syracuse University. Crane was born in 1871 at a Methodist parsonage in Newark. His father died shortly after he entered school. Crane was an indif-

ferent student, but attended two private schools and Lafayette College before going on to Syracuse University, where he flunked out. His first profitable writing experience was as a stringer for the *New York Tribune*. Crane spent the summer of 1891 in Asbury Park, working in the news bureau for his oldest brother, Townley.

After their mother died, Crane began to write, sometimes living with his brothers, and using his small inheritance to support himself. Initially he wrote stories, and then sketches of events, which became the "Sullivan County Sketches."

Crane moved to New York City in 1892, and wrote "Maggie, A Girl of the Streets," a book about a prostitute, followed by "George's Mother," and "The Red Badge of Courage," his famed book of a youth who discovered the horrors of war and death during the Civil War, published in 1895. He also served as a correspondent in New Mexico, and in conflicts in Cuba and Greece. "The Open Boat," a story about a shipwreck, was inspired by Crane's experiences off the Florida coast en route to Cuba. Crane also wrote poetry. He suffered from tuberculosis, and died in 1900 at age 29 in a sanatorium in Germany. Considered an outstanding American writer of the 19th century. Crane is arguably the most famous individual buried in this cemetery.

about twelve steps from the Crane plot to the east (or your right). The monument is made of old red sandstone, now broken, and adorned by a plaque. Dodge was the daughter of James Mapes, who operated an experimental farm in Newark, and published a newspaper known as *The Working Farmer*. She is the renowned author of the popular book, "Hans Brinker" (or "The Silver Skates"), which she wrote for her sons, who loved iceskating. The book is considered an excellent description of Dutch life.

Dodge was also the editor of Saint Nicholas Magazine for children. Her husband died young, leaving her to support two young sons. She loved Sir Walter Scott's novels, and named the area around Frelinghuysen Avenue and Meeker Avenue "Waverly" in his honor. The state fairgrounds located in the vicinity were known as the Waverly Fair.

**3** Buried at Dodge's feet is WILLIAM FAYAL CLARK. A friend of Mrs. Dodge's sons, Clark worked at Saint Nicholas Magazine, and later became its editor. He also wrote short stories and poetry.

Walk east, toward Newark, to the grave of Chancellor WILLIAM JAY MAGIE, the son of Rev. Dr. David Magie, founder and first minister of the Second Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, and a founder of this cemetery. Ivy and other plants grow in front of the monument. Under the 1776 Constitution, the governor of New Jersey served as the top judge in the state. The Second Constitution, adopted in 1844, established the position of chancellor for the top judge. William Jay Magie was appointed as the second chancellor. Read his tombstone, which outlines his legal career.

monument surrounded by a series of smaller monuments with a circle around it? This is the largest and one of the oldest plots in the cemetery, belonging to the CHETWOOD FAMILY. Among them are: WILLIAM CHETWOOD, who served with the troops in Pennsylvania in the Whiskey Rebellion; JOHN CHETWOOD, a Congressman from California; and FRANCIS B. CHETWOOD, who served as mayor of Elizabeth for multiple terms.

SECTION C holds the graves of many 19th-century Elizabeth residents. Near the road are:

6 The grave of WILLIAM BLOOMFIELD SAYRE, who was buried in 1854 at age 16, was the first in this cemetery. The words on his marker have vanished due to acid rain.

7 A short distance away from Sayre, in a pathway, is the grave of 18-year-old Private ROBERT D. TALLEY, U.S. Army, who was killed in 1991 in the Persian Gulf War. This is a United States Government Marker, placed flush with the ground.

Look across the road. You will see a fenced plot. During the 1800s, iron fences surrounded many of the plots. Most such fences were removed to facilitate lawn-mowing, but two of the gates to these plots remain.

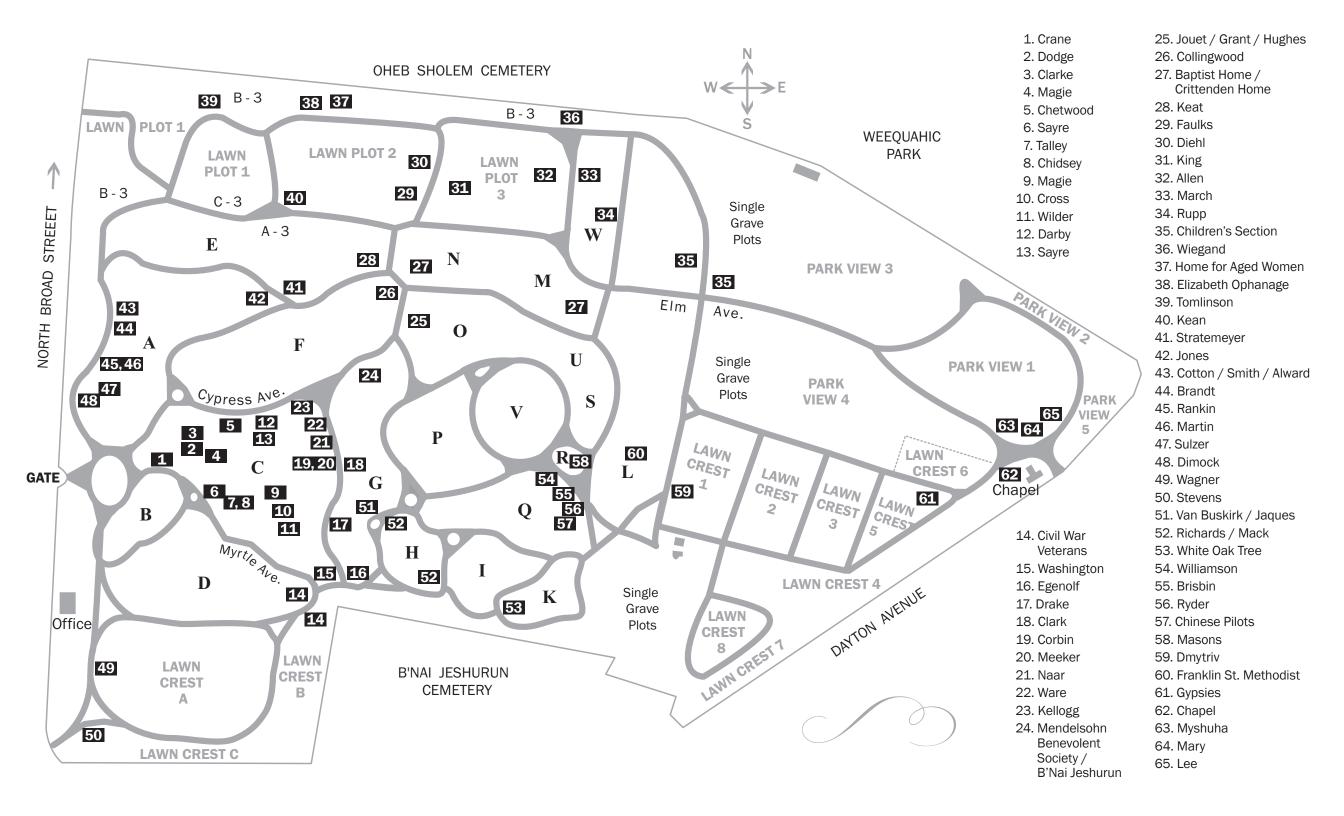
- B Look to your right for the CLARK monument. Behind it are four small, matching markers for the CHIDSEY FAMILY. The marker at the right contains the names of four members of the Donald Barr Chidsey family. DONALD BARR CHIDSEY grew up in Elizabeth, attended Pingry School and Princeton University, and was one of the writers for Edward Stratemeyer. He wrote nonfiction historical books for youth.
- About five rows to the east of the CHET-WOOD monument are two tall monuments. The first is for Rev. Dr. DAVID MAGIE, mentioned above (#4). His monument was donated by his congregation, and the name of the monument works company appears on this marker. Very few monument manufacturers signed their work.
- 10 The adjacent monument is for JOSEPH CROSS, MD, an area doctor for many years. Cross Avenue in Elizabeth is named for him.
- 11 A rectangular-shaped, box-like structure nearby is for SAMUEL WILDER, for whom nearby Wilder Street, on the Elizabeth-Hill-side line is named.

- 12 North of the MAGIE monument stands the colonial-style marker of ELIAS DARBY, the last mayor of Elizabethtown Borough and first mayor of Elizabeth City.
- **13** A small green plaque on a nearby stone just northeast of the CHETWOOD plot is for DANIEL H. SAYRE, Union Township Clerk and a member of the Board of Health.
- 14 Walk back along the road. You will see an American flag, two canon and rows of stones. These, too, are government issue. This is the CIVIL WAR VETERANS' SECTION. When the Civil War broke out, the trustees of the cemetery allotted land for free burials of veterans. Study the stones, and you will discover that members of the Colored Troops, as African-American soldiers were then called, are buried among whites. The last Civil War veteran here was buried in 1945. Can you find his marker? The canon are from the Spanish-American War. This cemetery also set aside land for the ELIZABETH ORPHANAGE and the HOME FOR AGED WOMEN in Section B.
- **15** At the end of SECTION C, opposite the VETERANS' SECTION is a mound. This is one of the first mausoleums. Unlike the others, it extends eight feet below ground! It was built for Dr. JOHN WASHINGTON, who practiced medicine in New York City. He objected to paying taxes, so he erected a building in Elizabethport and called it a church. The city, however, thought otherwise, and he was forced to pay taxes.
- **16** Walk past the mound. Near the corner, on the right, is the grave of PETER EGENOLF, for whom the Egenolf Day Nursery in Eliza-

beth was named. Egenolf was an officer at the Prudential Insurance Company in Newark. He and his wife had no children, and bequeathed their estate to the Elizabeth Day Nursery.

- Walk about 50 feet along the road, and look for a broken white monument. Behind it, you will see the government marker for General J. MADISON DRAKE, a veteran of the Civil War, author of at least two books, and owner of several newspapers in Elizabeth. Drake is one of three Medal of Honor recipients in the cemetery. As a founder and member of the Veteran Zouvaves, he participated in many patriotic events throughout the nation.
- 18 Evergreen cemetery holds the graves of several members of the House of Representatives. AMOS CLARK JR., an attorney, lies a short distance from Drake. Clark was also a member of the City Council and the State Senate. He was a party in one of Elizabeth's most famous law suits. When the grade crossing and the Union Railroad Station were eliminated and the Arch was built, it left the front door to Clark's property eight feet in the air.
- 19 WILLLAM CORBIN, another attorney, who represented the Central Railroad in the suit, is buried opposite Clark. He also served as an Assemblyman and a member of the Elizabeth Board of Education. He is the author of "Corbin's Forms."
- 20 Rev. Dr. JONATHAN MAGIE MEEKER, a clergyman as well as an educator, was the first president of Centenary College, when it was a technical school.

- DAVID NAAR was the first Jewish mayor of Elizabeth, the first Jewish member of the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and state treasurer. He subsequently served as consul to the Island of St. Thomas, and was the editor and publisher of *The True American*, a Trenton newspaper that opposed the Civil War.
- Just beyond the NAAR grave are two large plots. The WARD FAMILY plot contains the grave of Dr. ISAAC MOREAU WARD, a medical doctor who had a farm on the site of present-day Weequahic Park, opposite Lyons Avenue, Newark. WILLIAM WARD, his son, was an agriculturist and founder of the New Jersey Agricultural Society. His grandson, Dr. WILLIAM R. WARD SR., was the horse and buggy doctor in Lyons Farms (Newark and Hillside), and a president of both the New Jersey Sons of the American Revolution and the New Jersey Historical Society.
- 23 In the KELLOGG plot lies EDWARD KELLOGG, who purchased many farms in Elizabeth and subdivided them as the industrial city of Elizabeth. Kellogg Park in Elizabeth is named for the family. JAMES KELLOGG, chairman of the New York and New Jersey Port Authority, is one of the family members buried here. The graves are shaded by centuries-old beech and white oak trees.
- 24 Opposite the NAAR grave and near the AMOS CLARK JR. monument are the areas sold to the MENDELSOHN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in 1854 and CONGREGATION B'NAI JESHURUN a short time later. (There are two markers for the society. Can you find them?) B'nai Jeshurun purchased additional land in



1906, and has a cemetery adjacent to Evergreen, to the east. Congregation Oheb Shalom also purchased land to the west of the cemetery in 1900 for a cemetery.

The Evergreen board of trustees subsequently stopped selling land to private groups, however it agreed to make some areas available. When St. John's Ukrainian Church in Newark sought a site, the trustees agreed to make land available in Park View 4, near Dayton Street.

Perhaps you have noticed that the plots vary in shape and form, and the paths and roadways are curved. These features are typical of Victorian design during the 19th century. The 20th-century plots are rectangular in shape. At the intersection of SECTIONS G, F, and O, you can see a replica of the "Winged Victory," missing one wing.

Near the roadway are two monuments for the JOUET family. Their ancestor, Cavalier Jouet, was a Tory who fled to England during the Revolutionary War. The Jouets buried here were born in Canada and moved to Roselle as adults.

There also is a stone for ORVIL GRANT, a brother of President General Ulysses S. Grant, who reportedly came by ferry with a team of horses for a graveside service. (This monument faces the "Winged Victory," and one side may be covered by foliage.)

SECTION O also contains the grave of JAMES BAXTER, the first African-American principal of the "colored" school in Newark. The city's board of education invited him to come to Newark after the Civil War, to open the school. He came, and operated the school

until 1909, when he retired and subsequently died. Baxter is noted for demanding excellence from his pupils. Many became professionals, including his daughter — who became a teacher.

From the intersection of SECTIONS G, F, and O, walk between F and O. Just before the next road, look for the BONNETT lot. In the front row is the grave of FRANCIS COLLINGWOOD, JR., a civil engineer, who assisted Washington Roebling in the building of the Brooklyn Bridge. Mayor PETER BONNETT of Elizabeth, later the city comptroller, also is in the plot.

27 SECTION N contains a plot owned by the BAPTIST HOME, while SECTION M has a plot for the FLORENCE CRITTENDON HOME FOR UNWED MOTHERS, both in Newark. Neither is marked.

28 Continue along the hill to SECTION E. A short way down the street, note the KEAT grave on the right. This is a plot provided for the Second Presbyterian Church and St. John's Episcopal Church, both in Elizabeth, when graves were moved from the church graveyards to this cemetery to make room for building. Few of the churchyard markers were moved here.

Return to the corner, and walk between SECTIONS N and E to the next roadway. Turn right, then left. You should be between Lawn Plots 2 and 3. Notice the FAULKS footstones. Look for the marker for THEODOSIA GARRISON FAULKS, a poet whose work appeared in women's magazines between 1900 and 1940.

Take the path to the left just beyond the FAULKS plot. Look for the DIEHL monument on the right. PHILIP DIEHL was an inventor who initially worked for the Singer Manufacturing Company and later established his own company, manufacturing electrical parts. Through innovation, he invented the ceiling fan.

Walk down the central path in Lawn Plot 3 to the grave on the right of RUFUS KING, a career United States Army veteran who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. He resided on North Avenue, now part of the Kean University campus. King has a government grave marker.

32 Continue along the pathway. Beyond a small circle is the grave of Rev. Dr. LYMAN WHITNEY ALLEN, pastor of the defunct Second Presbyterian Church in Newark, and author of patriotic poems.

reach SECTION W, where two drowning victims are buried. The first is JOHN STARR MARCH, one of five postmen on the HMS Titanic, whose body was the 225th to be pulled out of the Atlantic Ocean. He has the family monument and a stone marker like those of Titanic victims' graves in cemeteries in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where many of the unclaimed bodies were buried. (His monument is two rows away from the leaning statue along the road for the WHITE FAMILY, and the third plot in from the road.)

**34** WILLIAM C. RUPP was a Westinghouse employee on the excursion boat, Eastman, when it capsized at Chicago during a company outing in 1915. He is in a single grave

facing the road, between SECTION W and the CHILDREN'S SECTION. His marker is two rows from the WHITE monument, on the opposite side from March (#33), and second row from the road.

of small single graves. Children's deaths were common before inoculations became mandatory. Can you find two similar white crosses? The crosses are for twins who died several months apart. Several markers have small lambs or angels atop the monuments.

There are single graves for adults at the bottom of the hill in SECTION L, to the right and across the road in Park View 1 and Lawn Crest 1.

36 Walk toward B-3 between SECTION W and Lawn Plot 3. The Weequahic Park Golf Course and Oheb Shalom Cemetery are ahead of you. You are at the boundary line between Essex and Union Counties. Turn to the left. On the right, watch for the monument of GEORGE WIEGAND, a composer and musician who played with the New York Philharmonic.

**37** On reaching Lawn Plot 2, watch for a group of tiny stones placed together. This is the plot for the HOME FOR AGED WOMEN.

**38** A short distance away, also on the right, is the ELIZABETH ORPHANAGE plot. All the graves here are for boys.

39 Continue to B-3. Watch for the TOMLI-SON plot. The first small stone at the left is for Rev. EVERETT TOMLISON, pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Elizabeth, who left the ministry to devote his time to writing books for boys.

Turn around and take the road between Lawn Plots 1 and 2. At the end of the road, turn left. The KEAN plot, with flat Tiffany stones, is there. United States Senator JOHN KEAN, a great-uncle of former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, and six other members of the Kean family, are buried here.

ver SECTION E, toward F. When you reach the roadway between SECTIONS F, A, and E, turn right. The monument with carvings of books and bookends at the top is the STRATEMEYER stone. EDWARD STRATEMEYER, 1862-1930, introduced several continuing series of books for boys and girls, in which the same characters appeared in multiple books. The books were written according to a formula he gave to each writer. Donald Barr Chidsey was one of them. These popular series included "Nancy Drew," "The Rover Boys," "Tom Swift," "The Hardy Boys," "The Bobbsey Twins," and others.

42 Continue down the road between the SECTIONS A and E. Note the grave of Representative PHINEAS JONES on the right, in a raised plot surrounded by a small concrete wall. Jones manufactured circus wagon wheels. His company was located at various times in Newark, Elizabeth, and finally Hillside. It went out of business when circuses started moving in trucks.

Walk between SECTIONS E and A, to the next road. Shortly after the turn are the COTTON and BRANT plots. A cluster of three rows of monuments set sideways to the road is the family plot of ELIAS DARBY SMITH, nephew of Elizabeth's first city mayor, and Smith's niece, MARY ALWARD, the state's

second female lawyer and long-time secretary of the Union County Historical Society.

The BRANT monument displays the name on both sides. A government marker for WILLIAM BRANT is on the roadside. He earned the Congressional Medal of Honor in the Civil War, served on the Elizabeth Police Department, and was a volunteer fireman.

Walk along the road to the RANKIN monument. In front of it is a footstone for JAMES ALEXANDER, JR., an executive for the old Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

46 Behind the Rankin lot is a monument for Captain LUTHER MARTIN, Company D, 11th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, who was killed at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. He operated a newspaper in Plainfield before joining the Union Army.

The SULZER monument contains names of four sons in this Roselle family. WILLIAM SULZER was impeached as governor of New York State. After leaving office, it was determined that he was innocent. His brother, CHARLES SULZER, was a member of Congress from the territory of Alaska. The other two brothers, LT. THOMAS E. SULZER (United States Army) and Captain RAYMOND SULZER, United States Volunteers, died in the Philippines during the war with Spain.

Look for the DIMOCK FAMILY plot. The Dimocks once occupied the mansion that became Battin High School. ANTHONY DIMOCK wrote "How to Become a Millionaire by Twenty-One." He subsequently authored books for boys, and worked as a stockbroker, a photographer and a naturalist.

longer walk or a driving tour will lead you into the Elizabeth and Newark sections of the cemetery. Such a walk may take up to three hours. The drive by car takes 15 minutes or more, depending upon the number of stops made:

49 Walk or drive along the road nearest North Broad Street, toward Lower Road, Elizabeth. Pause to look at the beautiful Italian statue for HELEN WAGNER on the left.

The "SINGING SAM" STEVENS monument is at the corner. This black marble monument, with gold letters and an illustration of the Romani ("Gypsy") musician, is one of the largest and most elaborate in the cemetery. It is one of several along the perimeter of the cemetery, or on tiny islands of land created by the intersection of several roadways. "Gypsy" graves also may be found in Park View 4, near Dayton Street.

Continue along the road that parallels Lower Road. Take the second left beyond the CIVIL WAR VETERANS' SECTION. Observe the mausoleum built into the hillside for SYL-VESTER VAN BUSKIRK and JAMES JAQUES, erected in 1854. Like the RANKIN mausoleum, it displays an Egyptian motif above the door.

Turn right. At the next bend in the road (SECTION H), look for the RICHARDS plot, a plain upright stone, for one of the first free African-American families in Elizabethtown. Continue along SECTION H to the road adjacent to the Lower Road. The grave on the corner is for Dr. WILLIAM A. MACK, who was the mayor who arranged the placement of

the canon in the cemetery. He served the Elizabethport area, where he was loved by residents. A statue for Mack was placed on Elizabeth Avenue, at the port, facing the Arthur Kill.

53 Continue back to the road along B'nai Jeshurun Cemetery. Near the corner with SECTION K stands a 400-year-old WHITE OAK TREE.

Turn left at the tree, and go to SECTION Q. Proceed along the northern edge (left side). A low sandstone marker with the name "WILLIAMSON" honors BENJAMIN WILLIAMSON, whose father was an early New Jersey governor and whose daughter-in-law, Emily, was a reformer.

55 A concrete wall surrounds the plot of JOHN BRISBIN, a Representative to Congress and president of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad.

**56** SETH RYDER, the only man to serve as both sheriff and mayor of Elizabeth, is buried a short distance away.

57 Around the corner is a huge monolith for the defunct Third Presbyterian Church, which once stood on Broad Street in Newark. In front of it are graves of CHINESE PILOTS in the American service, who died in World War II.

58 A circular island of land between SECTIONS Q and L is a plot for members of the FRATERNAL ORDER OF MASONS. Three lodges, now defunct, owned the plot.

**59** Rev. Father NESTOR DMYTRIV, who in 1897 organized the first Ukrainian Catholic Church in Manitoba, Canada, is buried in

SECTION J, opposite SECTION L, near the MASONIC SECTION. Father Dmytriv served as editor of *Svoboda*. On discovering that Dmytriv's gravesite had no marker, a woman raised funds for a black marble monument.

60 SECTION L is on a hillside. Graves moved from the FRANKLIN STREET METH-ODIST CHURCH Cemetery in Newark are located at the top of the hill, while single graves are along the bottom.

Park View 4 and Lawn Crest 1, 2, and 3. Lawn Crest SECTION 5 has a large number of grave sites of Romani ("Gypsies"), including five members of a single family, who died in a storefront fire in Brooklyn.

The ENGLISH TUDOR CHAPEL may be used for funeral services. The grave of architect C. GODFREY POGGI, who designed the chapel in 1932, is nearby in Park View 4.

**63** Opposite the chapel is the grave of LLUKA MYSHUHA (1887-1955), a former editor of *Svoboda*, the largest Ukrainian language newspaper in the United States. A bust of him done by Alexander Archipenko, a Ukrainian sculptor, was stolen.

64 One of the prettiest monuments in Evergreen cemetery is located in the next plot. It is for "Our Mary," a young girl struck and killed by a vehicle in St. Louis in 1950.

65 Beyond her stand three monuments for members of the LEE family. The farthest monument displays the epitaph, "King of the Lee Family." Among the Romani ("Gypsies"), every man is considered a king, and every woman a queen. Another group of "Gypsy" monuments is located at the curve in the road, near Dayton Street and Weequahic Park Golf Course.

Follow the road back to North Broad Street. There are many other interesting stones in the cemetery. If you have time, park, and walk around each gravesite. One interesting marker features a poem, another displays a bas relief depicting a man and his cat. Some markers honor a loved one lost at sea. In some cases, a grave marker may be the sole indicator that the individual buried here once lived.



Evergreen Cemetery is listed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Historical research and tour by Jean-Rae Turner. Map by Barbara A. Moss. © 1999 by Jean-Rae Turner & Barbara A. Moss

