The Union County Board of County Commissioners Presents

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF HISTORIC

EXERGREEN emetery HILLSIDE, NJ

From the tour researched and written by Jean-Ray Turner

VERGREEN CEMETERY, its gravesites and design, and the people laid to rest here, all reflect the history of our region since 1853, when this cemetery was founded by clergymen and businessmen from Elizabethtown and Newark. The founders thought that a non-profit, non-denominational cemetery was needed, because the church graveyards in Elizabethtown and Newark had become crowded.

The 31-acre John Teas Farm in Union Township was selected. Evergreen Cemetery was dedicated in 1853, four years before Union County was created. The oldest sections of this cemetery were designed with winding paths and a park-like environment. Parcels of land were added over the years. By 1928, Evergreen covered 115 acres of Hillside, Elizabeth and Newark.

The cemetery's administration building started out as a barn, but was later converted into the main office. Opposite the office is the original mausoleum row. Among these

buildings is Evergreen's mausoleum, now a columbarium, where cremated remains are interred. The Rankin Mausoleum (first on the left) displays an Egyptian sunburst over its door and heavy pillars, as seen on many early Egyptian buildings.

Set on expansive grounds, Evergreen Cemetery is replete with thousands of impressive funerary monuments, headstones, and mausoleums. Numerous styles of funerary art are found here, as well as simple stones. Many Doric and Ionic pillars support the roofs of structures modeled after ancient temples or palaces.

Symbolism abounds in the imagery and motifs adorning the grave 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 and its branches represents the church and its members. A heart motif symbolizes the human soul. Flowers represent beauty, the

life of human being, and the brevity of life. A crown represents the victorious soul. Trees represent both earthly and heavenly life, and a willow signifies both joy and the loss of life.

Monuments and markers here range from 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.

Some gravesites are adorned with beautiful statues. Depictions include two reclining women, men pointing to a 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 numerous angels. Near the main office is a gravestone sculpted in Italy for Helen Wagner, who lived across the street from this cemetery, and died in 1912 at age ten.

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 – having 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.



HIS SCENIC WALKING TOUR takes approximately an hour. This booklet and its map will guide you to the graves of people including writers, doctors, soldiers, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, community leaders and many others. The oldest area is **SECTION C.**

Begin at the gravesite of STEPHEN CRANE — author, poet, war correspondent and reporter (1871–1900). 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.

The youngest of 14 children, Crane's parents were Rev. Jonathan Townley Crane, a Methodist minister, and Maria Helene Peck

Crane, a writer and daughter of the founder of Syracuse University. Crane attended Lafayette College and Syracuse University, but did not graduate. Living for a period in Paterson, he found stories in New York City to write about, and was especially drawn to impoverished areas in the city. The New York Tribune published some of his early work. He spent part of 1891 in Asbury Park, working in the news bureau for his older brother.

By age 21, Crane was living in a Manhattan boarding house and wrote his first novel, "Maggie: A Girl of the Streets," about an abused slum girl's descent into prostitution. He struggled until his 1895 novel, "The Red Badge of Courage," brought instant fame. In its day, the book was considered a highly

realistic depiction of the brutality of the Civil War. The novel's success led to Crane's subsequent work as a war correspondent.

"The Open Boat," his tale of a shipwreck, was inspired by his own harrowing experience off the Florida coast, when he set out by ship to cover an insurrection in Cuba. After the ship sank, he and three others had to desperately row a dinghy to survive. As a war correspondent, he covered a conflict in Greece and later, the Spanish-American War — going ashore with the Marines under fire. Crane was in Germany when he died from tuberculosis at age 28.

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 is the renowned author of the popular book, "Hans Brinker" (or "The Silver Skates"), which she wrote for her sons, who loved ice-skating. Published in 1865, her novel was considered an excellent description of Dutch life, and remains popular to this day.

Dodge's father had operated an experimental farm in Newark, and published a newspaper known as *The Working Farmer*. She was widowed at age 27, and took up writing to support her two young sons. She also wrote poetry and short stories, and was the long-time editor of *Saint Nicholas Magazine* for children, up until her death in 1905.

Dodge was an admired public figure whose friends included Mark Twain. Having loved the novels of Sir Walter Scott, she named the area around Frelinghuysen Avenue and Meeker Avenue "Waverly" in his honor.

- **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, towards Newark, to see the grave of Chancellor WILLIAM JAY MAGIE. He was the son of Rev. Dr. David Magie (#9), a founder and first minister of the Second Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, and a founder of this cemetery. Plants may obscure this 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.
- Look to the left for a large monument surrounded by several smaller monuments, inside a circle. This is the largest and one of the oldest plots in Evergreen, belonging to the CHETWOOD family. Among them are: WILLIAM CHETWOOD, who served with troops in Pennsylvania during the 1790s Whiskey Rebellion; JOHN CHETWOOD, who became a Congressman from California; and FRANCIS B. CHETWOOD, who served as mayor of Elizabeth for multiple terms.

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

6 The grave of WILLIAM BLOOMFIELD SAYRE is here. He died at age 16. His 1854 burial was the first in this cemetery. Words on his marker have vanished due to acid rain.

A short distance away from Sayre, in a pathway, is the grave of Private ROBERT D. TALLEY, United States Army. He was killed in action at age 18, while serving in 1991 in the first Gulf War. His grave has a United States Government marker, placed flush with the ground.

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

- 8 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 Princeton University, and was a writer for Edward Stratemeyer (#41). He wrote historical nonfiction books for youth.
- 9 About five rows to the east of the CHET-WOOD monument are two tall monuments. The first is for Rev. Dr. DAVID MAGIE, a pastor and prominent leader in Elizabeth 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.
- A rectangular-shaped, box-like structure nearby is for SAMUEL WILDER, for whom nearby Wilder Street, on the Elizabeth-Hill-side border 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.
- A small green plaque on a nearby stone just northeast of the CHETWOOD plot is for DANIEL H. SAYRE, a Union Township Clerk and member of the Board of Health.
- **14** Walking back along the road, you will see an American flag, two cannons and rows of stones. These, too, are government issue. This is the **CIVIL WAR VETERANS' SECTION.**

After the Civil War broke out, Evergreen trustees allotted land for free burials of Civil War veterans. Many original stones remain. The stones show that members of the "Colored Troops" (the term then used for Black soldiers) are buried among white soldiers. The last burial of a Civil War veteran took place in 1945. Can you find his marker? Cannons here are from the Spanish-American War.

Evergreen Cemetery also set aside land for the ELIZABETH ORPHANAGE and the HOME FOR AGED WOMEN in Section B.

- 45 At the end of SECTION C, opposite the VETERANS' SECTION is a mound. It is one of the first mausoleums in Evergreen. 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 thought otherwise, and he was forced to pay taxes on it.
- **16** Walk past the mound. Near the corner, on the right, is the grave of PETER EGENOLF, for whom Elizabeth's Egenolf Day Nursery

(later Egenolf Early Childhood Center) was named. While serving in the Union Army, Egenolf was captured by Confederates and imprisoned in Virginia. He later achieved success as an officer of Prudential Insurance Company in Newark. He and his wife had no children, and bequeathed their estate to the Day Nursery; the Center continues to receive funding from their estate.

17 Walk about 50 feet along the road, and look for a broken white monument. Behind it is the government marker for General J. MADISON DRAKE, a Civil War veteran, an author, and owner of two newspapers in Elizabeth. He was captured by Confederates, escaped, and returned to the Union line. Drake is one of three Medal of Honor recipients buried in Evergreen. As a founder and member of the Veteran Zouaves, he participated in many patriotic events throughout the nation.

18 Evergreen holds the gravesites of several members of the United States House of Representatives, including AMOS CLARK JR., whose grave is near Drake's. Clark had also been a member of the Elizabeth City Council and the State Senate. He was a party in an infamous Elizabeth lawsuit. 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 WILLIAM CORBIN, another attorney, who represented the Central Railroad in that lawsuit, is buried opposite Clark. Corbin also served as an Assemblyman and a member of the Elizabeth Board of Education. He is the author of "Corbin's Forms."

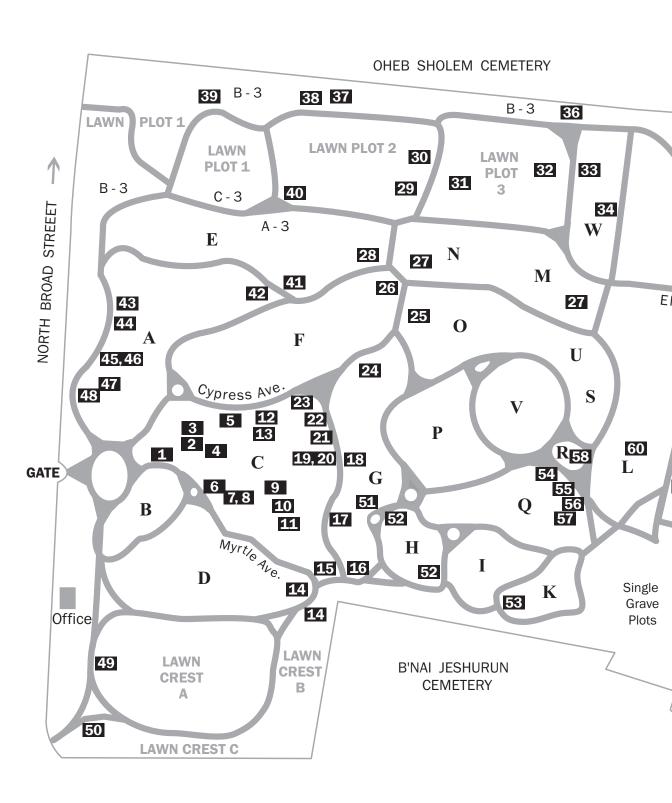
20 Rev. Dr. JONATHAN MAGIE MEEKER, a clergyman as well as an educator, was the first president of Centenary College, when it was a technical school.

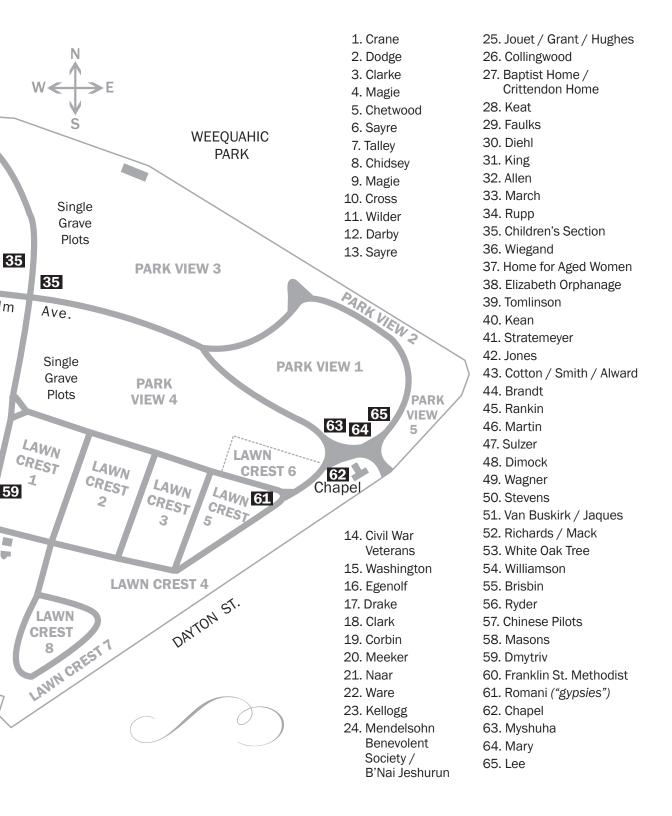
DAVID NAAR was the first Jewish mayor of Elizabeth, the first Jewish member of the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and a New Jersey state treasurer. He subsequently served as consul to the Island of St. Thomas, and was also the editor and publisher of *The Daily True American*, a Trenton newspaper that opposed the Civil War.

Just beyond the NAAR grave are two large plots. In the WARD family plot is the grave of Dr. ISAAC MOREAU WARD, a medical doctor who had a farm on the site of present-day Weequahic Park. WILLIAM WARD, his son, was an agriculturist and founder of the New Jersey Agricultural Society. His grandson, Dr. WILLIAM R. WARD SR., was a horse-and-buggy doctor, and president of both the N.J. Sons of the American Revolution and the N.J. Historical Society.

In the KELLOGG plot lies EDWARD KELLOGG, who purchased many farms in Elizabeth and subdivided them to create industrial parks and residential areas. Also here lies SARAH, a nurse who attended to soldiers during the Civil War. JAMES KELLOGG, a chairman of the New York and New Jersey Port Authority, is also buried here. Graves in this plot are shaded by centuries-old beech and white oak trees. Kellogg Park in Elizabeth is named for the family.

24 Opposite the NAAR grave and near the AMOS CLARK JR. monument are areas sold to the MENDELSOHN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY





in 1854 and CONGREGATION B'NAI JESHU-RUN shortly after. B'nai Jeshurun also purchased additional land in 1906, and has a cemetery adjacent to Evergreen, to the east. Congregation Oheb Shalom purchased land in 1900 for a cemetery west of Evergreen.

Evergreen trustees subsequently stopped selling land to private groups, however the board agreed to make some areas available. When St. John's Ukrainian Church in Newark sought a site, the trustees made 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 1800s. Plots created in the 1900s are rectangular in shape. At the intersection of SECTIONS G, F, and O, one 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 and General Ulysses S. Grant. General Grant attended the 1881 burial service here in Evergreen. This monument faces the "Winged Victory," and may be partially covered by foliage.

SECTION O also contains the grave of JAMES BAXTER, the first African-American principal of the "colored" school in Newark. After the Civil War, the city's board of education invited Baxter to Newark to open the school,

which he operated until 1909. Baxter was noted for demanding excellence from his pupils. Many became professionals, including his daughter.

From the intersection of SECTIONS G, F, and O, walk between F and O. Just before the next road, look for the BONNETT plot. In the front row is the grave of FRANCIS COLLINGWOOD, JR., an accomplished civil engineer who assisted Washington Roebling in construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. PETER BONNETT, an Elizabeth mayor and later the city comptroller, is also buried in this 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, which were both in Newark, Neither section here 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 some graves were moved from the church graveyards to this cemetery, to make room for building at these churches. Few of the churchyard markers were moved here.

29 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. There is a marker for THEODOSIA GARRISON FAULKS, a poet whose work appeared in women's magazines from 1900 to 1940.

Take the path on the left, just beyond the FAULKS plot. Look for the DIEHL monument on the right. PHILIP DIEHL was an

immigrant and inventor who initially worked for Singer Manufacturing Company. He later established his own company, manufacturing electrical parts. Through innovation, he invented the ceiling fan. His company produced numerous electric household items.

31 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 had resided on North Avenue, where part of Kean University now stands. 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 body of JOHN STARR MARCH, a postman on the HMS Titanic, was one of hundreds pulled from the Atlantic Ocean after the 1912 sinking. He has a 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. (Starr's 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*, which capsized at Chicago in 1915 during a company outing. He drowned and is buried in a single grave that faces the road, between SECTION W and the CHILDREN'S SECTION. His marker is two rows from the WHITE mon-

ument, on the opposite side from March (#33), and second row from the road.

The CHILDREN'S SECTION is composed of small single graves. Lambs or angels adorn some of these gravesites. Child mortality was common before inoculations became mandatory. Can you find two similar white crosses? These crosses are for twins who died several months apart.

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.

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 is a monument for GEORGE WIEGAND, a popular 19th-century composer, bandmaster 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 TOMLIN-SON plot. The first small stone at the left is for Rev. EVERETT TOMLINSON, pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Elizabeth, who left the ministry to write books for boys.

Turn around and take the road between Lawn Plots 1 and 2. At the end of the road, turn left to see the KEAN family plot, with flat

Tiffany stones. United States Senator JOHN KEAN, a great-uncle of former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, is buried here, as are other members of the Kean family.

41 Leaving the KEAN family plot, walk directly over 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 highly popular series of books for boys and girls, in which the same characters appeared in multiple books. The stories were written according to a formula he gave to each writer. Donald Barr Chidsey (#8) was one of them. These 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 using trucks to change locations.

43 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 of Smith's niece, MARY ALWARD, New Jersey's second female lawyer.

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

45 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 in battle at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. Before joining the Union Army, Martin operated a newspaper in Plainfield.

The SULZER monument displays the names of four sons in this Roselle family. WILLIAM served in the United States House of Representatives for the state of New York, then became governor of New York, but was impeached. After being removed from office, it was determined that he may have been innocent. His brother, CHARLES SULZER, became a delegate to the United States House of Representatives from the territory of Alaska. Two other brothers, Lieutenant THOMAS E. SULZER and Captain RAYMOND SULZER, both died in the Philippines during the 1898 war with Spain.

48 Look for the DIMOCK family plot. The Dimocks once occupied a distinctive Elizabeth mansion which later became a high school. ANTHONY DIMOCK had dominated the gold market at age 23. He worked as a financier, explorer, steamship owner, naturalist, photographer and author. He also developed numerous buildings in Elizabeth.

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 "gypsy" monument in Evergreen. It is one of several located along the perimeter of the cemetery and set on tiny islands of land at intersecting roadways. "Gypsy" graves are also 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 to see a mausoleum built into a hillside for SYL-VESTER VAN BUSKIRK and JAMES JAQUES, erected in 1854. Like the RANKIN mausoleum, it has an Egyptian motif above its door.

(SECTION H), look for the RICHARDS plot, where a plain upright stone honors 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, as mayor of Elizabeth, arranged the placement of cannons in the cemetery. He had 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.

54 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. His daughter-in-law, Emily, was a leading advocate for indigent children.

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 the graves of CHINESE PILOTS who fought and died in the American service during World War II.

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*, the largest Ukrainianlanguage newspaper in the United States. On discovering that Dmytriv's gravesite had no marker, a woman raised funds for a black marble monument.

60 SECTION L is set on a hillside. Graves moved from Newark's FRANKLIN STREET METHODIST CHURCH Cemetery are located at the top of the hill, while other graves are located 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 ("gypsy") people, including five members of a single family who died in a Brooklyn storefront fire.

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

63 Opposite the Tudor Chapel is the grave of LLUKA MYSHUHA (1887-1955), a former editor of *Svoboda*, the Ukrainian language newspaper mentioned above (#59). A bust of Myshuha, by Ukrainian sculptor Alexander Archipenko, previously here, was stolen.

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

Beyond "Our Mary" are three monuments for members of the LEE family. The farthest monument displays the epitaph, "King of the Lee Family." Among the people known as Romani or "gypsies," a man can be considered a "king," and a woman a queen. Another group of "gypsy" monuments is located where the road curves, near Dayton Street and Weequahic Golf Course.

Street. If time permits, there are many other interesting stones and gravesites to see. One 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 here may be the only indicator remaining that the person buried beneath it had once lived.



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

Historical research and walking tour by Jean-Rae Turner. Map by Barbara A. Moss.
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