

# An Introduction to Allegheny Cemetery



Allegheny Cemetery is the oldest institution of its kind west of the Allegheny Mountains, and the sixth incorporated cemetery in the United States.

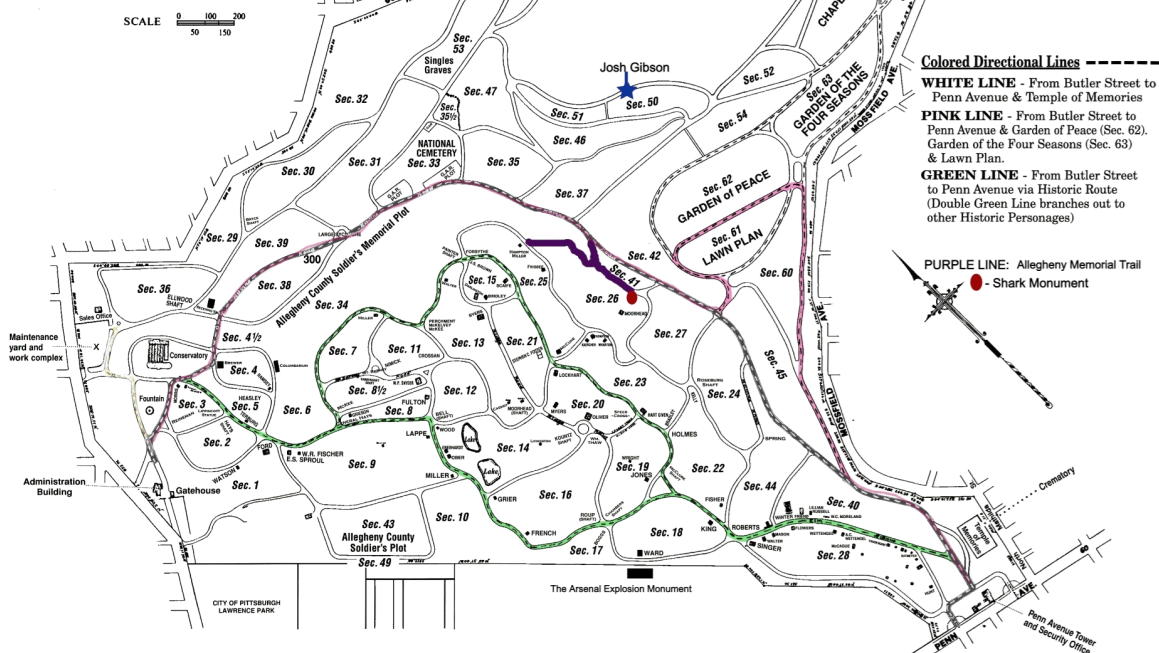
It was originally planned to be a country cemetery away from what was then the city of Pittsburgh. In the ensuing years, however, the city began surrounding the cemetery and additional acres and many improvements were added. Today Allegheny Cemetery is centrally located and is one of the oldest and largest cemeteries in the country with 300 acres and 15 miles of paved roadways. Over 135,000 members of Pittsburgh's families are now resting in Allegheny Cemetery. Twenty-two Pittsburgh Mayors are interred throughout Allegheny. Some are more prominent than others such as Ebenezer Denny, the first Mayor of Pittsburgh. Most of the Lot and Crypt owners reside in Allegheny County and surrounding suburbs, however, many come from all over the United States.

As the years have passed and the Cemetery has become surrounded by activities of modern life, its beauty may have been lost to many of the people. An invitation is extended to all to visit Allegheny Cemetery and discover its quiet charm and restful beauty.

The Cemetery is open to respectful visitors daily or you may telephone (412) 682-1624 for assistance.



**ALLEGHENY CEMETERY  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**  
4734 Butler Street • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201  
Phone: 412/682-1624



## Allegheny Cemetery A Walking Tour . . . .

A cemetery can be a very refreshing place, the air scented by the foliage and flowers growing on the premises. Pittsburgh's oldest rural cemetery is such a place. Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville is not a city of the dead, but a quiet refuge where the history of Pittsburgh lives on. In its architecture, its vast vistas of green, and the legions of Pittsburgh's famous dead who lie buried here, it presents the walker with a serene sense of history and a feeling that Pittsburgh's future will calmly build itself on the solid stone foundation of its rich past.

You become aware of that solidity and growth, so deeply rooted in its history, as you enter the magnificent Butler Street Gate Complex in Lawrenceville. Although the cemetery was incorporated in 1844, the actual Gate Complex Structures were not completed until 1870. The magnificent Tudor sandstone structure was built in two

stages. First the guardhouse, arched gates, chapel (now converted to offices) and stately four-story bell and clock tower were built. A single-story extension was added later (notice how well the addition matches the older parts of the buildings). A walk within the sturdy, well-proportioned structure is well worth the time. Inside the Administration Building, you will find the finest woods, marbles, and building materials available at that time. Note the hand carved wooden window casements, the rich wood paneling, and especially, the imposing spiral staircase, with hand turned wooden pickets and newel posts. This massive stairway is completely unsupported from underneath.

This is the starting point for our tour. It also represents the historical beginning of Allegheny Cemetery. That beginning was made official on April 24, 1844, when Governor David R. Porter signed an Act of Incorporation, making Allegheny the sixth such public, rural cemetery in America.

## HISTORICAL FACTS OF 1844

- Allegheny Cemetery was incorporated on April 24, 1844.
- There were only 26 states in the Union.
- Pittsburgh had 21,115 inhabitants while total population in America was 23,191,876.
- John Tyler was President of the United States (1841-1845). He was the first Vice President to be elevated to the Office by the death of his predecessor William Henry Harrison.
- David R. Porter was governor of Pennsylvania.
- Alexander Hay was the mayor of Pittsburgh from 1842 to 1844.
- Allegheny Cemetery provided space for the first time for cholera victims.
- Stephen Foster's first song was published in 1844.
- The Catholic Parochial School System went into operation in 1844.
- The Pittsburgh Catholic paper was founded.
- Pittsburgh had gas lighting, a water system, a volunteer fire department, free public schools, 50 churches and iron was the backbone of economic life valued at nearly \$5,000,000.
- Samuel F. B. Morse demonstrated the magnetic telegraph before Congress.
- The first issue of the newspaper "The Evening Penny Press" was June 13, 1844.



## HISTORIC POINTS AT ALLEGHENY CEMETERY

<u>Historic Features &amp; Notables</u> (alphabetically)	<u>Section</u>	<u>Lot</u>
<b>ARSENAL MONUMENT</b> (1862 Explosion)	17	--
Avery, Charles (Underground Railway)	3	1
Baum, William Penn (Abolitionist)	16	126
Billings, Kirk Lemoyne (President Kennedy's Roommate)	12	92/93
Briggs, Margaretta Bayard (1st burial in Allegheny)	2	142
<b>BROCKETT, DON</b> (Pittsburgh's Chef Brockett)	24	76
Brunot, Dr. Felix (1797 Pittsburgh Physician)	13	42/43
Clark, Thomas S. (Iron Magnate)	16	120
Coffin, Sylvania C. (Red Cross Nurse-Spanish American War)	2	104/105
Cooper, Daniel William (Sigma Chi)	16	46
<b>FOSTER, STEPHEN COLLINS</b> (Composer)	21	30
<b>GIBSON, JOSH</b> (1930's Baseball Player)	50	SG-C232
<b>GRAND ARMY of the REPUBLIC</b> (Union & Confederate Soldier)	33	231/232
Great White Shark Monument (Mr. Madden saw "Jaws" 16 times)	26	65
Hays Family Lot (1800 example of Tomb Memorialization)	18	108
Hogg Angel (1850 Bronze Sculpture)	13	42/43
Horne, Joseph (Department Store)	13	66
Howe, Thomas Marshall (Past President & Corporator of Allegheny)	20	1
Hunt, Roy A. (Past President of Alcoa)	44	5
Mellon, Thomas Alexander, Jr. (Well Known Pittsburgh Family)	19	137
Miller, Sarah Coleman (Founder of Pgh Women's Hospital)	7	112
Moorhead Lot (Unique Stonework)	13	59
Porter Angel (Bronze Sculpture)	8 1/2	38
Reinhart, Charles Stanley (Pittsburgh Artist)	3	32/33
Rodgers, Calbraith Perry (Famous "Vin Fiz" Flight)	19	102
<b>ROWSWELL, "ROSEY"</b> (Voice of the Pgh Pirates)	44	51
Shiras, Hon. George, Jr. (Assoc. Justice of U.S. Supreme Court)	2	91
<b>SOLDIER'S MEMORIAL</b> (Host of Memorial Day Events since 1937)	38	--
Speer, Charles E. (1900 Stonework)	20	11
Swisshelm, Jane Gray (19th century Abolitionist & Suffragette)	10	485
Thaw, Harry Kendall ("The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing" scandal)	16	119
<b>TURRENTINE, STANLEY</b> (Famous Jazz Saxophonist)	26	722
<b>TWIN LAKES</b> (Ponds)	14	--
Wagener, Frederick G. (Pittsburgh Artist)	24	295 1/2
Wilkins Family Tree (Hand Sculpted Granite Memorial)	14	119

### Private Mausoleums\*

Byers, Eben (Industrialist died 1932 of Radium Poisoning)	13	67
Fell (Scaled reproduction of an English Chapel)	40	20/21
Ford, J. B. (Pittsburgh Plate Glass)	1	32
Jones, B. F. (Founder of American Iron Works)	19	72
Lockhart (Steel Magnate & Investor of Snap Seal Envelope)	20	49
Oliver, Henry W. (Well Known Pittsburgh Family)	20	16
Russel, Lillian (Famous New York Actress)	40	5
Splane, William (Railroad Car Manufacturer)	1	200
Winter (Largest in Cemetery/ Egyptian Design with Sphinx Statuary)	40	6

### Military Figures \*\*

Barney, Commodore Joshua (Mount Barney/Naval Heroes)	8 1/2	11
Craig, Major Isaac (American Revolution)	11	21
Hays, General Alexander (Civil War)	8	149
Jackson, Brigadier General Conrad Feger (Battle of Fredericksburg)	31	70
O'Hara, General James (Quartermaster General of U. S.)	11	6/7/8
Negley, General James Scott ("Duquesne Grays")	19	24
Neville, General John (Hero of American Revolution)	11	21
Robinson, General William J., Jr. (1st Mayor of Allegheny)	21	29

\*Approximately 100 Private Mausoleums are erected in Allegheny Cemetery  
 \*\*The total Military Figures interred in Allegheny are too numerous to mention on this mini-tour

# WELCOME TO A MINI-TOUR OF ALLEGHENY CEMETERY



## ALLEGHENY CEMETERY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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