

TOUR

*Historic Allegheny Cemetery
To Visit Famous Gravesites*

Stephen C. Foster

"Rosey" Rowsell

Josh Gibson

Harry Kendall Thaw

Charles Avery

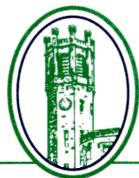
General John Neville

General James O'Hara

Commodore Joshua Barney

and

More of Pittsburgh's History



Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association

4734 Butler Street

Pittsburgh PA 15201-2999

412/682-1624 FAX 412/622-0655

www. Alleghenycemetery.com

Lillian Russell
the "Beautiful English Ballad Singer"
and
Star of Stage and Screen



A Legend From Pittsburgh

Private Mausoleum

Section 40 Lot 5

*ALLEGHENY CEMETERY
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA*



Lillian Russell was an American light-opera soprano, known for her beauty and flamboyant life-style as well as for her singing ability. She studied in Chicago and first appeared on stage in 1879 in New York City in the chorus of “*H.M.S. Pinafore*” by the British playwright-composer team of Gilbert and Sullivan. She sang in various opera companies in England and the United States including one that she headed (*Lillian Russell Opera Company*) and from 1899 to 1904 with the noted Weber and Fields company of New York. Her most famous roles included leading parts in the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan and those of Jacques Offenbach. She was billed as “*the beautiful English ballad singer*” and became the talk of the town with her costumes and hats.

Even though opera was the ambition of Lillian Russell, she later pursued dramatic roles and then again returned to vaudeville. In 1912 she returned to the stage with Weber and Fields in a jubilee production. On June 12, 1912 she married her fourth husband, **Alexander Moore** and moved to Pittsburgh to take on a life of civic activities and an occasional vaudeville appearance. It truly can be said that Ms. Russell had a versatile life with a variety of interests from stage and screen to lectures at the Fulton Theatre (“*How to Live a Hundred Years*”), active suffragette, honorary sergeant in the Marine Corps, special agent of the Department of Labor (*appointed by President Harding*) and newspaper columnist (*Care of Beauty of Face and Form*). Her second husband, Edward Solomon, and father of her only child Dorothy, was held on bigamy charges and then there was her scandalous affair with “**Diamond Jim**” Brady.

However, even with adverse publicity throughout the years, Lillian Russell was remembered with love and admiration by thousands of fans, friends and even state officials. By order of Acting Secretary of the Navy, **Theodore Roosevelt**, Mrs. Moore’s body was guarded at her home and escorted to Trinity Church by a detachment of marines. Two motorcycle men preceded the funeral cortege to Allegheny Cemetery and four patrolmen were stationed at the Penn Avenue entrance to greet the procession. Because Mrs. Moore was Vice Commander of American Post #231, they provided a firing squad to give the last salute.

and the final story of the “R o s e ”

We do not know the full story except that since the death of Lillian Russell Moore, each year on her Birthday, a mysterious rose has been placed on the door of the Private Mausoleum. Cemetery personnel say that in the last couple of years a man owned up to the gesture but without a name or the reason why and since that time, no flower has been placed

Romance or Mystery?

Lillian Russell was born Helen Louise Leonard in Clinton, Iowa on December 4, 1861. She died June 6, 1922 (60 years old) from cardiac exhaustion at 6744 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and was interred June 8, 1922 in this Private Mausoleum in Allegheny Cemetery.

*We assume that her husband, who was the publisher of the Pittsburgh Leader newspaper, **Alexander Penn Moore**, requested that the quote below be inscribed on the Mausoleum since Lillian preceded Alexander (1930) in death by eight years.*

Section 40 Lot 5



The Inscription on the Private Mausoleum reads

Lillian Russell Moore

“The World Is A Better Place For Her Having Lived”

