

HOPE CEMETERY

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS



approximately 500 feet

HOPE CEMETERY is a record of the city of Worcester. It is as textured and complex as the city itself. The tour which follows is an introduction; no tour could tell of all the people, organizations, ethnic groups, businesses and other interesting stories represented in Hope's 168 acres. Such an account would occupy volumes and require years of research. The Friends of Hope Cemetery invites you to use this guide to explore the cemetery and discover some of its fascinating history. For more accounts of those buried at Hope, visit our website at www.friendsofhopecemetery.com. We encourage you to participate by sharing your information and ideas with us.

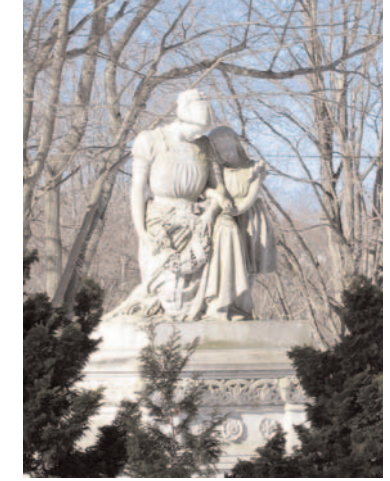


REMOVALS FROM THE COMMON

1 From 1712 to 1824, a portion of Worcester Common was used as the town's principal burying ground. By 1853, the cemetery had fallen into disrepair and the City Council ordered the stones laid flat and covered with earth. Between 1966 and 1968, as the Common was under construction, many of these early burials and their surviving gravestones were reentered in Hope. Worcester Common is still the City's oldest surviving cemetery.

2 Hannah Kalajian, a native of Evereg, Armenia, emigrated to the United States from Lebanon in 1924. She and her husband George operated George's Spa and Market on Lincoln Street where Mrs. Kalajian's Armenian specialties, including rice pilaf, proved extremely popular. The family kitchen became the birthplace of the company that made pilaf a major factor in modern American meals, Near East Foods.

HANNAH KALAJIAN



JOHNSON FAMILY

3 Iver Johnson arrived in Worcester from his native Norway in 1863 at the age of 22 and immediately set to work as a gunsmith. By 1885, he was also manufacturing bicycles, turning out 15,000 bicycles a year. The Iver Johnson Arms and Cycle Works located on Central Street later moved to Fitchburg, producing "honest goods at honest prices." The beautiful monument of a woman and child, attributed to sculptor Andrew O'Connor, Sr., was erected following Johnson's death by his widow Mary; their daughter Nettie died in 1874 at the age of 5.

4 Born in County Mayo, Ireland, in 1841, Thomas Plunkett emigrated to the United States as a young man and achieved fame for his service in the Civil War. A member of Company E, Twenty-first Massachusetts Infantry, he was severely wounded carrying the colors to their furthest point in the Battle of Fredericksburg. After the war he returned to Worcester. An impressive funeral held at Mechanics Hall and attended by the governor and many other dignitaries was followed by his burial at Hope in 1885.

THOMAS PLUNKETT



CAPT. PETER SLATER

5 On July 4, 1870, this white marble obelisk, made at the local monument works of Tateum & Horgan, was dedicated in honor of Peter Slater and his fellow participants in the Boston Tea Party. Only age 13 in 1773, Peter was commended for his ripping the pockets of a man called "Cotton" who had filled his pockets with spilled tea and was trying to sneak away with the contraband. Slater later moved to Worcester where he was a rope-maker, general store operator and hotelier. The early nineteenth century slate markers on this family lot commemorate his wife and four of their children; the early twentieth century stone bench memorializes Slater's great-grandson, Frank Fay, an owner of the Worcester Woolen Company.

6 A rare survival with its nineteenth century fence virtually intact, this family lot was purchased in 1874 for \$300 by Loring Coes, one of the cemetery's five original commissioners. Loring and his younger brother Aury were the inventors of the monkey wrench. In 1869, Aury and Loring dissolved their partnership, with Aury taking over the Webster Square wrench factory and Loring, the family knife shop on Mill Street. Until about 1925, the Coes gardener attended to the upkeep of the lot. Like many 19th century lots, the gravestones are as individual as the occupants.

COES LOT

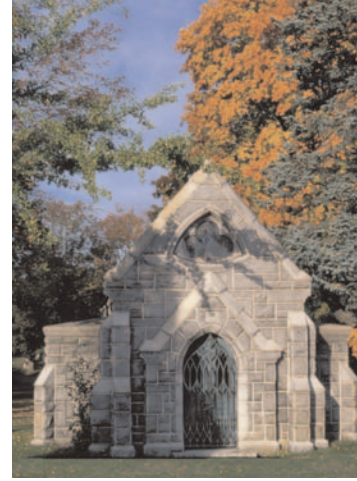


AMOS WEBBER

7 Amos Webber was born a free man of color near Philadelphia in 1826. He later worked in Philadelphia and then moved to Worcester where he worked at the Washburn and Moen Wire Company. He served in the Civil War, rising to Quartermaster Sergeant in the Fifth Massachusetts Cavalry. After the war he returned to Worcester where he was active in a number of veterans and fraternal organizations until his death in 1904. Amos and his wife Lizzie, who also died in 1904, had the body of their son moved from Philadelphia to Worcester, and the three lie together. Webber's "memory books" are the basis of Nick Salvatore's 1996 book *We All Got History*.

8 Arthur B. Hewett was the sculptor of this impressive monument decorating the Worcester Fire Department lot which was dedicated in 1896 with great public fanfare. The subject is Simon E. Coombs, member of the fire department for forty-three years beginning in 1848, and its chief from 1872 to 1891. Coombs' obituary described him as "cool, possessed excellent judgment, and the large fires...were handled in a most efficient manner." Notice that the figure of Chief Coombs is leaning against a fire hydrant and he is carrying a speaking trumpet in his left arm. The edge on the base of the monument is carved to represent a fire hose.

FIREMEN'S MONUMENT



HOUGHTON MAUSOLEUM

9 Hope Cemetery is noted for its impressive mausoleums dating from the nineteenth century to the 1960s. The eleven examples offer visitors a sampling of Classical, Egyptian and Renaissance Revival building styles as well as this picturesque miniature Gothic chapel erected in 1901 or 1902 by the Troy White Granite Company which had offices on East Worcester Street from about 1900 to 1910. C. C. Houghton began the manufacture of boots at Lincoln Square in 1853.

10 "Can't something be done to give Worcester a good shaking?" Abby Kelley Foster wrote in 1851 to Stephen, her husband of six years. Residents of Worcester for most of their married life, the Fosters were committed radicals who believed that the social problems of the nineteenth century-- particularly slavery and equality for women-- could be made right. They traveled the country lecturing and advocating for reform. Their home, "Liberty Farm" on Mower Street, was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Both Fosters actively participated in the first Woman's Rights Convention in Worcester in 1850.

ABBY KELLEY AND STEPHEN FOSTER

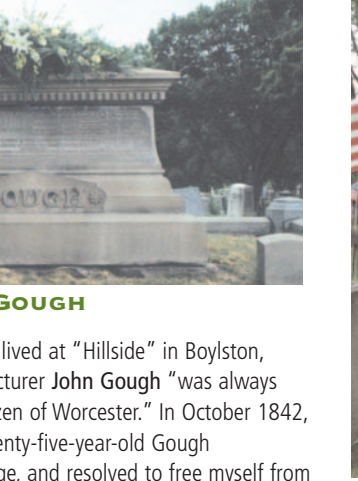


JOHN B. GOUGH

11 Although later in his life he lived at "Hillside" in Boylston, English-born temperance lecturer John Gough "was always pleased to speak of himself as a citizen of Worcester." In October 1842, in Worcester's old Town Hall, the twenty-five-year-old Gough "...signed the total abstinence pledge, and resolved to free myself from the inexorable tyrant -- rum." Gough's commitment to the temperance movement and his skill as a lecturer took him all over the world. Between 1843 and 1869, he delivered more than 6000 public addresses on the evils of drink, claiming to have obtained over 200,000 pledges in the first ten years. Gough died in February 1886 while lecturing on the evils of drink. His funeral service was held at Mechanics Hall where his portrait hangs.

12 On March 16, 1926, twenty-five-year-old Worcester-born Robert Goddard launched the world's first liquid-propellant rocket at his Aunt Effie's farm in nearby Auburn. Given the nickname "Moony" because of his dreams of sending a rocket to the moon, Goddard was later described by NASA as "truly the American pioneer in space." In 1961, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, was dedicated "in tribute to the gentle rocket pioneer who pointed the way to the Space Age." Goddard's rockets are in the collections of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., and his papers are at Clark University's Goddard Library.

ROBERT GODDARD



G.A.R. VETERANS



G.A.R. VETERANS

13 Dedicated on Memorial Day of 1892, this lot was reserved for Civil War veterans who were active members of Worcester's Post 10, Grand Army of the Republic. There are over 1400 veterans of the Civil War buried in Hope Cemetery including many members of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, the first African American regiment to serve for the Union during the Civil War. This unit was commanded by Thomas Wentworth Higginson, a former Worcester minister. Interred here also are 11 men who died while held as prisoners of war in Confederate prisons, including 5 who died at the infamous Andersonville Prison in Georgia and 2 women who served as army nurses. The impressive tripod of gigantic cannon and pyramid of cannon balls were acquired from the Charlestown Navy Yard to "stand as a symbol of the horrors of war."

REMOVALS FROM MECHANIC STREET



REMOVALS FROM MECHANIC STREET





ELIZABETH BISHOP

15 Elizabeth Bishop, Charles Olson and Stanley Kunitz — three major twentieth century poets — were all born in Worcester. Although Bishop left Worcester as a young girl, “the city and its haunting memories” influenced her work which was described as “vivid and passionate.” Kunitz once recalled Bishop saying she was born in Worcester “quite by accident and did not linger long.” Bishop died in 1979, but it was not until the 1997 Elizabeth Bishop Conference and Poetry Festival in Worcester that her inscription and the words “All the untidy activity continues, awful but cheerful” (once requested by Bishop for her tombstone) were added to the family monument.



ELI THAYER

17 “Go west, young man, go West.” Like Abby Kelley and Stephen Foster, Eli Thayer was one of the nineteenth century’s leading advocates for abolition. Mendon-born Thayer came to Worcester to teach at Worcester Academy of which he was principal from 1847 to 1849. Thayer also served as an alderman, school committee member, state representative, U.S. Congressman, inventor, orator, educator and real estate developer, and his monument attests to his role in populating Kansas with antislavery settlers to save the state for the Union on the eve of the Civil War. It has been said that in response to Thayer’s visit in 1854, Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, coined the phrase “Go West, young man...” In 1849, Thayer founded the Oread Collegiate Institute off south Main Street. It was one of the earliest, if not the first, collegiate-level schools for women in the United States.



WALTER CHAMBERLAIN PORTER

19 Listed among Walter C. Porter’s effects were a gold ring on the right hand, a gold ring with diamond on the left, a silver match box, glasses, keys and a diamond stickpin. Homesick from his business trip abroad, Walter Porter boarded the Titanic on April 10, 1912, as a first class passenger returning home to Worcester where he was born and educated. He was a partner with Walter E. Bigelow in the Samuel Porter Last Manufacturing Company on Union Street, a shoe firm established by his father. Although the bodies of his two traveling companions were never recovered, Porter’s was returned to Worcester by train from Halifax for burial next to his parents and first wife, Louise. The diamond in Porter’s stickpin was incorporated into an engagement ring worn by his great grandson’s wife.



REED FAMILY

21 Purchased in 1927 by screw-maker Edgar Reed and enlarged in 1930 to include the entire oval, this is perhaps the most impressive family lot in Hope. Once flat, the area was designed by Tiffany & Co., New York, and included a bronze plaque of Tennyson’s “Crossing the Bar” on one of the central rocks. Reed arrived in Worcester from Kingston, Massachusetts, in 1886 and co-founded the Reed & Prince Manufacturing Co., makers of screws, bolts and rivets.



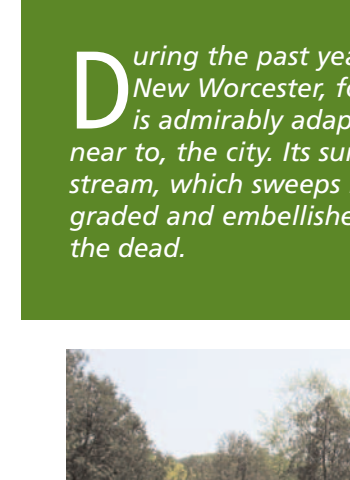
WEBSTER THAYER

23 Interred at Hope is one of Worcester’s most famous or, depending on your point of view, infamous judges, Webster Thayer, who presided at the murder trial of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti in the Norfolk County Superior Court in Dedham in 1920 and 1921. Demonstrations and protests over the verdict and the death sentence which Thayer had imposed marked the twenties. Resentment reached its culmination in the bombing of Thayer’s house at 180 Institute Road at 4:00 A.M. September 27, 1932. Judge Thayer, an alumnus of Dartmouth, Class of 1880, lived, under guard, only a few months longer, dying of a stroke in Boston April 19, 1933. His widow, Bertha Brewer and their daughter, Barbara Harrison are also buried in the plot.



DAVID ARMSTRONG

25 By age 15, David Armstrong was working in a shoe factory in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, ten and a half hours a day, six days a week for less than three dollars a week. He became an office boy at the Berkshire Insurance Co. using his spare time as physical director of the Pittsfield Boys Club. In 1906, at age 21, he was chosen as superintendent of the Worcester Boys Club, then located at the corner of Madison and Portland Streets. A new club was erected on Ionic Avenue and, after he was elected managing director, another club at Lincoln Square, completed in 1936, was erected. Armstrong’s successes in Worcester, which included programs as well as structures, led to his choice as national director of the Boys Club in 1941, a position he held for fifteen years.



REED FAMILY

During the past year [1851], the city has made a purchase of a lot of about 50 acres, situated south of New Worcester, for a public cemetery, at a cost of \$1855. In the opinion of competent judges, this lot is admirably adapted to the purpose for which it is designed. It is neither too remote from, nor too near to, the city. Its surface is variegated with hills and valleys. It is elevated above the New Worcester stream, which sweeps it upon the north. It is susceptible of a high degree of embellishment... If properly graded and embellished, it would furnish a beautiful spot for the resort of the living, and a resting-place for the dead.
—Mayor Peter C. Bacon, Annual Report, January 5, 1852



A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOPE CEMETERY

HOPE CEMETERY, dedicated in 1852, is Worcester’s second garden cemetery, born of the “rural” cemetery movement inspired by romantic perceptions of nature, art and the themes of death, as well as by the realities of civic development and identity. As early as the late 1840s, the need for a new civic cemetery was under discussion as other older burial grounds either filled up or fell victims to neglect. By the end of the century, remains from Mechanic Street, Tatman and Pine Meadow cemeteries were reinterred at Hope, and in the 1960s burials were moved here from Worcester Common.

A city-owned cemetery, Hope is the last resting place of many of the people who shaped Worcester — industrialists and workers, inventors and mechanics, men and women — people of all ages, races and beliefs. Hope Cemetery is truly a reflection of Worcester’s diversity. Few places in the city offer better evidence of the ethnic saga of Worcester as it mirrors the melting pot of all the United States. Before acquiring their own cemetery in 1896, Worcester’s growing Jewish community looked to Hope to ensure proper burial. There are two Jewish burial



sections in the cemetery acquired between 1881 and 1916. A large Moslem lot purchased in 1919 abuts a similar group lot secured by the Syrian Brotherhood Orthodox Society in 1911. In the early 1980s the Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches purchased and facilitated the development of an Orthodox section where each Memorial Day the Worcester churches gather in the cemetery to pray. Although never a large community, a group of Norwegians established a lot in the cemetery in 1884.

enhance the natural beauty of the grounds. The siting of the roads and paths, many of which are named for the beautiful trees that flourish here, as well as the placement and scale of mausoleums, all reflect a sense of design that for over a century and a half has continued to make this a “beautiful spot.”



In 1998, Hope Cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This recognition assists in the preservation of the cemetery as part of the city’s great heritage.

Hope Cemetery

Worcester Massachusetts

about hope cemetery visitors



16 In 1864, the firm of Norcross Brothers, contractors and builders, was formed in Swanscott. Relocated to Worcester by 1866, their first large contract here was for the Leicester Congregational Church. James A. Norcross attended to the clerical and financial aspects of the Norcross Brothers, while Orlando took charge of construction. The work of the Norcross Brothers survives. Perhaps their best known works are Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston, built for the famed architect H.H. Richardson, and the West Wing of the White House. In 1879, James retired and Orlando continued the business alone as Norcross Brothers Company. James’s May St. residence, “Fairlawn,” was occupied in July 1895. This impressive mausoleum was built in 1903.

JAMES NORCROSS MAUSOLEUM



18 By World War I, the Whittall mills on Southbridge Street had 350 looms in operation and employed nearly 1500 skilled laborers. In the 1870s, English-born Matthew J. Whittall worked as a superintendent of the Crompton Carpet Mill founded in 1870 by George Crompton of the Crompton Loom Works and Horace Wyman, later of Wyman-Gordon Company. Eventually reorganized as the Worcester Carpet Company, the business and factory complex was purchased by Whittall between 1901 and 1906. The largest employer in South Worcester, the Whittall Carpet Company remained in business until 1950. Nearby St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church was built in the 1890s by Whittall from plans by Worcester architect Stephen Earle. This monument is attributed to Worcester sculptor Andrew O’Connor, Sr.

WHITTALL ANGEL



20 Hope Cemetery’s most impressive monument was erected probably in 1909 or 1910 after the death of Orlando Norcross’s wife Ellen. The open Roman Doric temple dominates the landscape in tribute to the skills and artistry of Worcester’s most prominent construction company. After his brother James retired, Orlando reconstructed the business as Norcross Brothers Company. Among the firm’s many contracts were erecting the New York Public Library and the Field Museum in Chicago, as well as remodeling the White House (1902-3).

ORLANDO NORCROSS MONUMENT



22 The beautiful bronze plaque ornamenting this granite memorial is signed “W.D. KENNETH ARCH[itec]T, “SC[ulptor]. J. NOUVEAU”, and bears the mark of the foundry, Gorham Co. of Providence. The central portion of the monument serves as a crypt for cremated remains. When Phillip Pfaffman came to Worcester in 1885, he was a carpenter, but having — in his own words — “married the boss’s daughter,” he became a successful textile manufacturer with mills in Cherry Valley on Lynde Brook.

PPAFFMAN FAMILY



24 Eleni (Gatzoyiannis) Ngagoyeanes (Gage) was executed in 1948 at the age of 40 by Communist guerillas in Northern Greece for arranging the escape of four of her five children who went to join their father Christos in Worcester. In 1982, her son Nicholas Gage published the best-selling book *Eleni* about her life and death. When their father Christos died in 1983, the Gage children brought their mother’s remains here from their village of Lia in Greece to lie beside him.

ELENI GAGE



THE FRIENDS OF HOPE CEMETERY

The Friends of Hope Cemetery was founded in 1991 by a group of concerned citizens who wished to assist the City in the preservation, conservation and beautification of the cemetery. The Friends promote an appreciation of the cemetery with a wide variety of programs including historical walking tours, lectures, bird walks, conservation workshops and Arbor Day activities. Significant preservation projects have included the Nixon gates, the James Norcross mausoleum and the Shaw mausoleum as well as restoration of the Houghton mausoleum, the Orlando Norcross memorial, the Bigelow/Stevens mausoleum and the Coes plot fencing and gate. In 2004, a capital



campaign was launched in partnership with the City to erect a children’s monument and to design accompanying landscaping. Through the advocacy of the Friends, Hope Cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. This non-profit organization welcomes all persons interested in the welfare of the cemetery to become a member of the Friends of Hope Cemetery.