

Mount Moriah Cemetery

MOUNT MORIAH

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

OF

PHILADELPHIA

Chartered by the Legislature of Pennsylvania

March 26th 1855

PRESIDENT,

ROBERT P. KING.

MANAGERS:

HON. WM. D. KELLEY, ROBERT P. KING,

DR. WM. CALVERT, FRANCIS BLACKBURNE,

EDWARD WILER, GEO. C. BARBER,

GEORGE H. HART, JOHN M'CARTHY,

JEREMIAH L. HUTCHINSON.

SECRETARY,

GEORGE CONNELL

TREASURER AND SUPERINTENDENT

HORATIO P. CONNELL

PHILADELPHIA:

COOPERATIVE PRINTING CO., 30 & 32 SOUTH SEVENTH ST. 1871

SECURE A BURIAL PLACE

It is the duty of every man to provide in time a suitable place of burial for himself and family. *It is folly to defer this until death invades the family circle*, when, overwhelmed with grief, he is in no frame of mind to undertake the business of making a proper selection and purchasing a lot; when indeed he feels an aversion to everything like business, and is apt blindly to follow the suggestion of some one who induces him to bury his dead in some obscure place, perhaps in some little burial grounds in the built up portion of the city, with his well-considered judgment

subsequently will not be at all satisfied. But should he be the first victim of “the insatiate archer,” leaving a widow to do in the hour of her sorrow what he needlessly neglected to do until too late, the case will be still more unfortunate.

The attention of all persons who have hitherto omitted to, attend to this duty, and also of the large number of families intending to remove their dead from the grave-yards attached to churches and from the small Cemeteries in the built-up portions of the city, now being generally abandoned as places of burial, is respectfully asked to the following pages in reference to THE LARGEST, MOST BEAUTIFUL AND POPULAR OF ALL OUR CEMETERIES.

SECURITY AND PERPERUITY

The first object to be considered in choosing a place of burial is, to locate in some cemetery which will not be liable to be disturbed, or cut through in the future by the opening of city streets; or it's quiet disturbed by the erection of manufactories or other buildings in its immediate vicinity.

In this important respect MOUNT MORIAH has great and decided superiority over and other Cemetery in the vicinity of Philadelphia. Its advantages are apparent at the first glance at a map of the city. Every person knows that the tide of improvement runs northward of the city. It has already reached and enveloped MONUMENT CEMETERY, and is now hemming in the ODD-FELLOWS, GLENWOOD, and the AMERICAN MECHANICS, and in a few years will reach MOUNT PEACE, MOUNT VERNON, LAUREL HILL, and, OLD OAKS. In twenty or twenty-five years time at the farthest these last named will be as completely hedged in by dwellings, factories and other buildings as MONUMENT CEMETERY, or LA FAYETTE is today.

Now while MOUNT MORIAH is not so far from center of the city, say from Broad and Market streets, or the site of the Masonic Temple, as either Laurel Hill or Old Oaks, yet its geographical position dispels all apprehension of its ever

being disturbed by the dangers or annoyed by the nuisances which are certain to surround the Northern Cemeteries.

The larger part of the area of Mount Moriah, viz., eighty acres, is in an angle or corner of Delaware County, and the remaining seventy-four acres, immediately adjoining, are completely shielded and protected by the Delaware County portion, which projects in between the part of the Cemetery in Philadelphia, and the built-up parts of the city; thus presenting an effectual and impassable barrier,--viz., the line of Delaware County, --against the opening of any streets which may hereafter be laid out to run from West Philadelphia toward the Cemetery. So that he who selects the last resting place for himself and family in MOUNT MORIAH can feel assured that while other places of burial will be surrounded, probably cut through, and in consequence gradually abandoned for more remote and safer places of internment, as we have seen to be the case in the old and smaller grave-yards in different parts of the City, which were supposed to be safe enough when first used, MOUNT MORIAH, the great rural Cemetery, WILL REMAIN FOREVER UNDISTURBED IN ALL AGES TO COME.

CONVENIENCE OF ACCESS

While Mount Moriah is by its geographical position forever secure against disturbance from opening of streets or the growth of the City, it is nearer to the heart of Philadelphia, say Broad and market streets, than either Laurel Hill, Mount Vernon, or Old Oaks.

It is now reached by the Darby Passenger Railway, which runs *within two squares* of the entrance of the Cemetery. The Chestnut and market street cars connect in West Philadelphia with this Railway Company. Arrangements are in the progress for additional facilities for reaching the ground, which will be perfected and completed during the coming year.

IMPROVMENTS

A massive brown stone gateway and lodge at the entrance, surrounded by Baird's colossal marble statue of Time; a heavy iron railing running along the front, and three quarters of a mile of high stone wall along the exposed boundary, protecting the ground from intruders; a large and convenient receiving vault; several miles of graveled avenues, all kept in good order; a neat and substantial iron bridge, spanning the creek in the midst of the Cemetery; all these attest the fact that every improvement essential in a first-class Cemetery has been secured. Nor have the individual lot-holders been slow to make tasteful, elegant and costly improvements; several thousand lots have been improved; many in the most substantial and costly manner; many with evergreen hedge, presenting a handsome appearance, and always fresh and pleasing to the eye.

The monument now in course of erection in the circle of St. John, to Wm. B. Schnider, late Grand Tyler of F.A.M. of Pennsylvania, will be, when completed, a model of Art and the perfection of elegance.

As a work of Art the triangular monument of Keystone Chapter, No. 175, designed by Colonel Alfred Day, and executed by Thomas Hargrave, has been universally admired, and is not surpassed in style or execution by any similar work here or elsewhere.

The improvements made by Lodges Nos. 2, 9, 59 and 289, A.Y.M., reflect great credit upon the liberality of the fraternity, and the same may be well said of the enclosures of the lots of Lodge No. 405, I.O.O.F., and of Iroquois Lodge and Kingsessing Lodge, No. 309, of the same Order, who purchased here in preference to the Cemetery known as the Odd-Fellows.

The tomb of Commodore Jesse Duncan Elliot, second officer in command at the battle of Lake Erie, September 10th, 1813, attracts much interest.

The family lots of Robert P. King, Senator Nichols, Col. George Spear, killed at Fredericksburg; Col. John W. Moore, Col. Geo. W. Hawkins, both distinguished during the recent conflict; Capt. James Ferguson, United States Navy; Rev. Thos. H. Stockton, Rev. Thos. H. Beveridge, James Cascaden, Robert Harmer, Capt. John Willits, all now deceased; Col. Ellmaker, Col. Alfred Day, Captain James B. Kirby, Rev. James Neill, Col. D.M. Lane, Thos. T. Tasker, Burton J. Kollock, John C. Davis, Dr. Robert England, Dr. Matthew Semple, Wm. S. Stokley, Abram H. Derrickson, Richard McCambridge, Hugh Purves, Charles Purves, J. Bernard Apple, Lewis S. Heins, Henry F. Prince, Thomas R. Brown, Joseph Fariera, Curtis Clayton, Thomas Tyson Butcher, John S. Snyder, Jacob Conrad, Henry Huhn, Edward C. Wayne, John P. and Charles W. Simons, William Devinney, Jonathan Wolfenden, James H. Lyons, Albert Winkle, James Smyth, Benjamin F. Kern, Joseph Garland, George DeHaven, Jr., well known citizens, and also numerous other gentlemen whom we have not room to name, which ornament the various sections of the Cemetery in which they are located, are substantial evidences of correct taste, and a large and free expenditure of means.

SCENERY

Nature has done all that could be wished for Mount Moriah.

The great diversity of the surface, the variety of landscape, the hills overlooking the county for miles around, the slopes and ravines, the winding stream which gives so great a charm to the ground, and the great extent of the Cemetery fringed with the foliage of old forest trees, all strike the observant visitor with equal surprise and pleasure. Every lover of the beauty and glory of nature is delighted with what he sees here.

Many persons who have visited Mount Auburn, the pride of Boston, the first great rural cemetery established in this country, have said that Mount Moriah resembles it more than any other Cemetery they have seen.

In the beautiful grove in the back of the original ground, and in the woods which cover the high shore along the north-eastern part of the new ground, one can sit in the shade for hours without being conscious that he is near a great city with a population of three quarters of a million, so quiet and tranquil is the solitude of those peaceful retreats. Here, beneath noble old trees of Nature's own planting, every variety of foliage may be seen. The tall hickory, the graceful ash, the rustling beech, the stately tulip polar, the sturdy and wide spreading oak, and the dark cedar, all mingle their leafy boughs to form a grateful shade. And what can present a greater contrast than the green lawns which brighten under the sunlight, sometimes sloping, rarely entirely level, and frequently glistening with the reflection of the pure white marble, memorials of those who sleep here forever.

RAPID PROGRESS

The charter of Mount Moriah was obtained from the legislature in 1855, in which year the principal improvements were commenced. It's projectors purchased originally fifty-four acres of ground, but such was the favor with which the Cemetery was received by the public, on account of its admirable location and exact adaptation for the purposes of burial, that within two years they added to it, by other purchases, one hundred acres more, thus giving this Rural Cemetery more than twice the area of Woodlands, which is the next in size in this vicinity, and placing it far ahead of all other rivals.

The increase in the number of lot-holders has been regular and steady in every year of its existence. The number now exceeds eight thousand, not including the large number of families who are interested in the various sections purchased by the congregations of different churches.

When Greenwood, the great New York Cemetery, now the largest in America, had been in existence the same length of time, the lot-holders in that ground numbered but seven thousand, being on thousand less than have purchased in Mount Moriah during the same period.

The leading Protestant Churches are all represented in the Cemetery, sections of ground having been purchased for the use of congregations by Episcopalians, Baptists, Presbyterians, United Presbyterians, Methodists, and the German Evangelical Denomination, while the St. Andrew, Scots Thistle, Welsh and various other philanthropic societies have secured and improved large lots of ground.

The weekly reports of the Board of Health show that the number of interments are now larger than in any other Protestant Cemetery.

The following Masonic lodges have lots in Mount Moriah:

Lodge No. 2

Lodge No. 3

Lodge No. 9

Harmony Lodge, No. 52

Washington Lodge, No. 59

LaFayette Lodge, No. 71

Philadelphia Lodge, No. 72

Columbia Lodge, No. 91

Solomon's Lodge, No. 114

Rising Star Lodge, No. 126

Phoenix Lodge, No. 130

Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 155

Meridian Sun lodge, No. 158

Eastern Star Lodge, No. 186

Hamilton Lodge, No. 274

Orient Lodge, No. 289

Williamson lodge, No 369

Perkins lodge, no. 402

Vaux Lodge, No. 393

Wm. B. Schnider Lodge, No 419

Also Keystone Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 175

SUITABLENESS OF SOIL

The *natural* drainage of the surface of the ground, owing to its many undulations, which prevents water from lying or remaining upon any part of the Cemetery designed for use, and the consequent remarkable dryness of the soil, have recommended Mount Moriah to many persons who have frequently seen graves filled with water in other Cemeteries not possessing similar natural advantages, and

adaptation for burial purposes. Rain *will* fall from the clouds, and unless nature has provided means of drainage on the surface, *will soak into the ground*, and no artificial means, though frequently resorted to, can prevent its making such soil moist, wet, and disagreeable. Hence one reason for the large number of removals from other Cemeteries to Mount Moriah.

General considerations

We have seen that Mount Moriah combines all the requisites which can be desired for a great and beautiful Cemetery; An immense area, scenery unsurpassed and infinite in variety, the driest soil, elegant and massive buildings specially designed for the purpose, readiness of access, entire protection by its substantial enclosure against intruders, and by its location undoubted and permanent security from disturbance for all time to come.

Contrasting it with Laurel Hill and the Woodlands, the only Cemeteries near Philadelphia which, with any propriety, can be named in comparison, Mount Moriah exhibits several elements of decided superiority over each. Its larger and freer space, and its wider avenues, relieve it from that limited, close, and compressed appearance which makes old Laurel Hill, with all its elegant and costly ornamentation, seem like a choked-up, over crowded flower garden; and it has none of that thick, heavy, depressing gloom which pervades at all seasons the over-shadowy, somber Woodlands.

Besides, Mount Moriah is fortunately free from the curse of noisy, rattling railroads, and the nuisance of the steam whistle of locomotives and river steamboats which mar at all hours the quiet of both the other Cemeteries. Within the wide and peaceful area of this great Rural Cemetery no solemn funeral service is ever interrupted, as frequently occurs elsewhere, by the reverberations of the shrill whistle of the steam-engine as it dashes by, dragging behind its long train of freight or coal cars with their harsh, grating jar. Here, shut out from the noisy world, no dissonant sound falls upon the ear, and the contemplation of the visitor is never discomposed,

save when the deep toll of the great bell in the tower, ringing out a solemn knell for some departed mortal borne to his final home, vibrates through the air.

Here, in this ample space, so admirably adapted to the purpose and capable of future enlargement, shall be for centuries to come the vast City of Philadelphia's dead, where the living shall preserve inviolate the remains of relatives, and gratefully commemorate, by appropriate memorial, the names and virtues of the lamented departed.