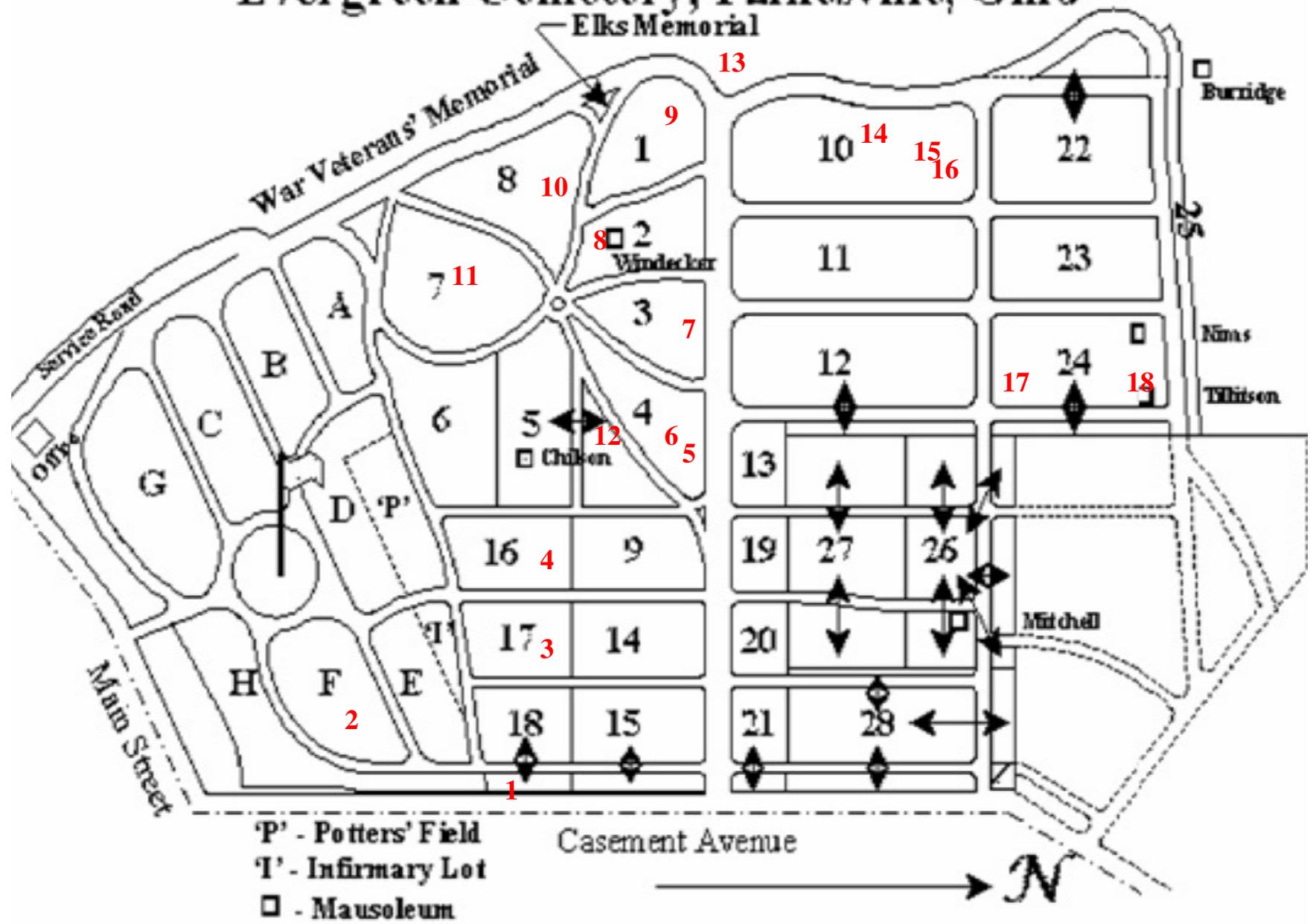


Evergreen Cemetery Walking Tour

**Painesville, OH
2008**

Evergreen Cemetery, Painesville, Ohio



History

The older of Painesville's two burial grounds, Evergreen Cemetery's rich history dates back to 1859 when the Village of Painesville began to buy land from four Western Reserve families: the Littles, the Blackmores, the Cooks, and the Fraziers. The cemetery was established on those twenty-four acres of land on March 17, 1860 on the corner of Casement Avenue and Main Street. Celebrated for its natural beauty and unique design, people began to visit the cemetery weekly for walks and picnics. In 1897, newspapers reported that the Old Burying Ground's land on Washington Street would be used for educational purposes – what is now the site of Harvey High School. Those buried on the property would have to be moved. Many of the people laid to rest in the Old Burying Ground were relocated to Evergreen Cemetery. Because of this increase in lots, the cemetery began to purchase additional land. By 1938, Evergreen Cemetery's acreage had increased to its current size of thirty-four acres. However, the cemetery still was not large enough, so the fifty acre Riverside Cemetery was opened in 1953. As of 2007, 18,740 burials have been recorded in Evergreen

Cemetery.

There have been nine sextons of Evergreen Cemetery, the first of which was Thomas Smith. The title of "sexton" was changed to "superintendent" in 1885 when H.L. Barstow became the second man to run the cemetery, holding the position for ten years. Graydon Sweet became the superintendent in 1936. During his term, Sweet revitalized the cemetery and planted much of the foliage and shrubbery for which the cemetery is known, including oak, hickory, and red Japanese maple trees. Sweet held this position until 1970, a record thirty-four years as superintendent of the cemetery. After Norman L. Eager retired as superintendent in 1999, the City of Painesville's cemetery division was reorganized as part of the Department of Recreation and Public Lands.

Notables

Joseph Linhart

Linhart was laid to rest under the infamous "Not Guilty" grave, featured on the television show, "Ripley's 'Believe it or Not.'" After arguing over a cow, Linhart's wife disappeared. He was later accused of his wife's murder

after she was found dead in a well. Linhart hired a hot-shot lawyer, Homer Harper, who was said to have never lost a case. Before Linhart could be tried, however, he slit his throat with a razor. Many speculated that Linhart's suicide was an affirmation of his guilt which meant that Harper had "lost" his first case. However, Harper had the words "Not Guilty," along with an inaccurate date of death, engraved on Linhart's tombstone. Because Linhart's death prevented him from being found guilty or innocent, Harper claimed that he still had not lost a case.

(# 1 on map – Division 18 – along Casement Avenue – East side)

Gladys Gibson

A hero of the Cleveland Clinic Disaster of 1929, Gibson chose to stay in the medical building that was filling with gas to call for help. She died from suffocation. Gibson was the first woman to receive the Theodore N. Vail Medal for Noteworthy Public Service. (# 2 – Division F – Lot 8 – Northwest side)

Thomas Harvey

Harvey was the superintendent of Painesville schools and the state commissioner of common schools. He

authored many widely used grammar books including *Harvey's Reader* and *Harvey's Grammar*. Harvey also founded the Northeastern Ohio Teachers' Association (N.E.O.T.A.). Harvey High School is named after him. (# 3 – Division 17)

Charles Eledge

Eledge was Corporal in Company C, the 101st United States Infantry during the Civil War. He is one of two Black Civil War veterans in the cemetery and lies in an unmarked grave. (# 4 – Division 16 – Lot 1)

Abraham Skinner

Born in Connecticut, Skinner marched to Lexington during the Revolutionary War in 1775 in response to the Lexington Alarm. After coming to the Western Reserve with General Paine, Skinner erected a barn which held the first court hearing in the County. (# 5 – Division 4 – Lot 22 – Southeast side)

Eleazer Paine

The nephew of Edward Paine, after whom the City of Painesville is named, Eleazer Paine was a drummer boy in the Revolutionary War. After bringing his family to Painesville in 1803, he opened

a supply store but died shortly after. (# 6 – Division 4 – along Main Drive)

Samuel Huntington

Huntington became the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court in 1804. He was also Ohio's second elected governor, taking office in 1808. (# 7 – Division 3 – along Main Drive)

The Windeckers

From a family of industrialists, Charles and Robert Windecker's chemical plant, Clifton Products, was influential in the development of beryllium. Their father, Clifton, was a founder of Diamond Alkali. This company was integral to the development of many chemical products including soda ash, an essential component in the production of glass. In 1936, the company began to work with magnesium oxide. This endeavor translated into a partnership with the United States Army to produce bombs during World War II. Diamond Alkali became the Diamond Shamrock Corporation in 1996 and moved their plant from Painesville to Dallas, Texas. The Windecker mausoleum features a beautiful stained-glass Tiffany window. (# 8 – Division 2)

John Flavel Morse

Morse designed the Old South Church of Kirtland before becoming a State Representative. He later became Speaker of the House and a Senator. Morse was also a captain during the Civil War and fought hard for the abolition of slavery. (# 9 – Division 1 – Lot 19 – Southeast side)

Anson Sessions

Sessions fought in the Revolutionary War and was highly admired. In fact, Aaron Burr asked Sessions to go with him on an expedition; however, Sessions refused because he did not trust Burr. (# 10 – Division 8 – Lot 7)

Edward Whiten

Born in Maryland, Whiten fought in the Civil War as part of Company H, the 29th United States Regiment, Coloured Troops. He is one of two Black Civil War veterans in the cemetery, and he rests in an unmarked grave. (# 11 – Division 7 – Lot 90)

Monument Row

Many prominent Western Reserve families rest in this row of obelisks and other monuments. The Young family's

land is now the home of the County Courthouse. Their white monument is arguably the most unique in the cemetery, resembling a tree.

The Pratt family was well-respected by the citizens of Painesville. Pliny Pratt owned a dry goods store and was also the trustee of the Congregational Church and a member of the Board of Education. Charles Pratt ran a factory on Walnut Avenue that made wooden toothpicks. His factory was located on top of a hill, giving it the nickname of Toothpick Hill. Grace Pratt married Allen Carpenter, a civil engineer for the Osborne Company of Cleveland. Their home was the former Morley Homestead.

Milton Canfield was a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Painesville's Court of Common Pleas. He held this position from 1872 until his death in 1875. S.D.C. Canfield was the first person to be placed in the Receiving Vault on January 4, 1878.

The Holcomb family came to Lake County from Connecticut. They were important figures in the agricultural growth of the Western Reserve. Owning and improving over 100 acres of

farmland, Dereath R. Holcomb made a generous living off of his crops.

Catherine Roddick was from a prominent Painesville family and became a reporter for many newspapers, including the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. However, she was most often seen as a "Bag Lady" because she pushed a shopping cart filled with already used items up and down Main Street. Roddick was a dedicated servant to the community, leaving most of her \$2 million estate to Lake County's United Way.
(# 12 – Division 5)

Receiving Vault

Built in 1877, the Receiving Vault was designed by J.C. McDonald to hold the people who could not be laid to rest in the frozen ground during the cold winter months. It was used for the first time on January 4, 1878.
(# 13 – between Divisions 1 and 10)

Jack and Frances Casement

John (Jack) Casement came to Ohio in 1850 to work for the railroads. Employed by the Lake Shore Railroad Company, Casement was sent to lay track by the Jennings' farm. This was home to his future wife, Frances, who

brought water to all of the workers. Jack and Frances married in 1857 and moved to Painesville.

During the Civil War, Casement became a soldier and joined the infantry that gave Stonewall Jackson his only defeat. He then worked for the Union Pacific Railroad after the war, again laying track. Casement hired William F. Cody, also known as Buffalo Bill, to help him with the work. Their relationship grew, so Buffalo Bill later brought Annie Oakley and the rest of his show to Painesville in 1901. Casement was also a trustee for Lake College, focusing on the issue of lighting and heating for the buildings. When he died, Casement had laid more railroad track than anyone in the country.

Frances Jennings-Casement was a well-known advocate of women's rights and suffrage. She became the first president of the Ohio Women's Suffrage Association, and she also formed a local branch of the Equal Rights Association. Along with her friends, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, Jennings-Casement helped pass the 18th Amendment, establishing prohibition, and the 19th

Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

(# 14 – Division 10 – West side)

Joseph Adams Potter

A direct descendant of Samuel Adams, Potter was Captain in the Quartermaster's Department during the Civil War, providing supplies to Union Soldiers.

(# 15 – Division 10 – by obelisk)

Howell Burr Treat

Treat is the only Civil War veteran in a Lake County cemetery to receive the Medal of Honor. Bringing water to wounded soldiers very close to enemy territory, Treat went under heavy fire but managed to carry a wounded man to safety.

(# 16 – Division 10 – North side)

Judge B. Burrows

Burrows was a distinguished criminal lawyer and judge. He was also Mayor of Painesville.

(# 17 – Division 24 – along drive – Southeast side)

Paul E. Tillotson

Tillotson was a pitcher for the Cleveland Indians and later became one

of the founders of the Tillotson Oil Company.

(# 18 – Division 24 – Lot 85 – North side)