

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

WALKING TOUR



Established 1885
Asheville, North Carolina

For more information about these and other historical individuals contact:
Joshua Darty, Cemetery Manager
(828)350-2066
(828)775-4240 (after hours)
jdarty@ashevillenc.gov

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department of the City of Asheville does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion, or disability in its employment opportunities, programs, services or activities

Asheville has been called home by writers, artists, governors, senators, generals, and many notable individuals. These figures have left their mark on communities, city streets, schools, public parks, and the pages of Asheville’s history books. Riverside Cemetery offers a unique look into the past and gives the opportunity to learn more about these individuals who shaped the city of Asheville. This walking tour includes many of the notable residents of Western North Carolina interred here. The numbers on the map correspond to the names of the persons listed.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Thomas Wolfe | 18 James Harrison Posey | 35 James Bailey |
| 2 W.S. Porter (O. Henry) | 19 James Merrimon | 36 Benjamin Addison |
| 3 Allen Christian Redwood | 20 James Green Martin | 37 WWI German P.O.W.s |
| 4 George Masa | 21 Thomas Clingman | 38 Franklin Terry |
| 5 William Henry Lord | 22 Robert Brank Vance | 39 Burnham Standish Colburn Sr |
| 6 Richard Sharpe Smith | 23 Stephen Lee | 40 Green Mausoleum |
| 7 Caryl Florio | 24 Queen Maude Carson | 41 Buchanan Angel |
| 8 John Lyon | 25 Isaac Dickson | 42 Dr. John W. Ledbetter |
| 9 Kenneth Noland | 26 George T. Winston | 43 Vadim Bora |
| 10 Locke Craig | 27 William Randolph | 44 Hyman Dave |
| 11 Zebulon Baird Vance | 28 Dr. Karl Von Ruck | 45 Andrew McGonnigle |
| 12 James Eugene Rankin | 29 Dr. Lewis McCormick | 46 Lamar Stringfield |
| 13 Thomas Walton Patton | 30 Marshall Hall Fletcher | 47 Allen Turner Davidson |
| 14 Theodore Fulton Davidson | 31 Clara Chunn | 48 Lillian Exum Clement Stafford |
| 15 Richmond Pearson | 32 Leicester Chapman | 49 Robert Rice Reynolds |
| 16 Jeter Conley Pritchard | 33 Theodore S. Morrison | |
| 17 Nicholas W. Woodfin | 34 Solomon Lipinsky | |

1.) **THOMAS WOLFE** (1900-1938) Considered North Carolina's most famous author, Thomas Wolfe wrote four novels and many short stories and novellas. The most well known of these was *Look Homeward Angel*, which gave a semi-fictional account of his experiences as a child at his mother's boarding house, "Old Kentucky Home."

2.) **WILLIAM SYDNEY PORTER** (1862-1910) Better known by his pen name, **O. HENRY**, W.S. Porter was known as the master of the surprise ending. A short story writer with a colorful history, he was best known for the work, *The Gift of the Magi*.

3.) **ALLEN CHRISTIAN REDWOOD** (1872-1922) A Civil War writer, illustrator and soldier for the Confederate army, Redwood depicted battles and everyday life in the military with astonishing accuracy and detail. He is credited with the popularization of the "Johnny Reb" character in his sketches.

4.) **GEORGE MASA** (1881-1933) Born Masahara Izuka in Japan, Masa relocated to Asheville in 1915. After working at the Grove Park Inn, Masa began his career as a large format photographer. In love with the mountains of Western North Carolina, he was instrumental in ensuring the establishment of The Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

5.) **WILLIAM HENRY LORD** (1866-1933) A prominent architect in turn of the century Asheville, he designed schools, hospitals, and private residences. Many of his buildings are in use to this day.

6.) **RICHARD SHARPE SMITH** (1852-1941) Richard Smith was the supervising architect of the largest private home in America, The Biltmore House. After completion, Smith remained in Asheville and designed many important buildings and structures in downtown Asheville, including the Vance Monument.

7.) **CARYL FLORIO** (1843-1920) Named William John Robjohn, he was one of the best composers of the nineteenth century. He won international acclaim for his compositions and popularized church music. He was brought to Asheville by George Vanderbilt to be choirmaster and organist of All Soul's Church in Biltmore Village.

8.) **JOHN LYON** (1765-1814) Lyon was a Scottish botanist who is credited with introducing 31 new plant species into horticulture. His marker is one of the oldest engraved tombstones in Western North Carolina.

9.) **KENNETH NOLAND** (1924-2010) An American abstract painter who was one of the best known American color field painters. Noland was one of the most prominent abstract artists of the 1960s.

10.) **LOCKE CRAIG** (1860-1924) Craig was the 53rd governor of North Carolina from 1913 to 1917. During his term as governor, a highway commission was formed and improvements were made to the state parks system.

11.) **ZEBULON BAIRD VANCE** (1830-1894) Nicknamed "The War Governor of the South," Vance served in the Confederate Army and twice as governor of North Carolina. After the

Civil War he was imprisoned for a short period of time as a member of the Confederacy before being pardoned. Subsequently, he served as a N.C and U.S. senator.

12.) **JAMES RANKIN** (1846-1928) A dedicated public servant to the City of Asheville, Rankin is said to have held over 50 public offices. Most notably, he served five terms as mayor from 1872 to 1915.

13.) **THOMAS WALTON PATTON** (1841-1907) Patton served as a Captain in the Confederate army and then as mayor for two terms. Patton Avenue is named after him.

14.) **THEODORE FULTON DAVIDSON** (1845-1931) Davidson was a lawyer and Democratic party leader in Asheville for many years. He served as mayor and also as State Attorney General from 1921-1923.

15.) **RICHMOND PEARSON** (1852-1923) An American diplomat who served in congress until 1899. He then served as American consul in Belgium, Italy, Greece, and Montenegro. His home became The Richmond Hill Inn, located just across the French Broad River from Riverside Cemetery.

16.) **JETER CONLEY PRITCHARD** (1857-1921) Pritchard was the first southern Republican sent to the U.S. Senate in 20 years in 1895. He introduced the bill to Congress that eventually resulted in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He served as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court until his death in 1921.

17.) **NICHOLAS W. WOODFIN** (1810-1876) A prominent Whig lawyer, he represented Buncombe County in the N.C. Senate in the 1840s. The city of Woodfin and Woodfin St. in Asheville are both named after him.

18.) **JAMES HARRISON POSEY** (1833-1917) Posey was best known as the bodyguard of President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War.

19.) **JAMES MERRIMON** (1842-1900) Merrimon served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Later he became a prominent lawyer and superior court judge. Merrimon Ave. was named in his honor.

20.) **JAMES GREEN MARTIN** (1819-1878) Known as "Ole One Wing" due to the loss of his arm in battle, General Martin was instrumental in preventing the razing of Asheville during the Civil War. His stand in the Battle of Swannanoa Gap is one of the most significant battles in North Carolina history.

21.) **THOMAS CLINGMAN** (1812-1897) Clingman was a brigadier general for the Confederacy who gained the moniker "Prince of Politicians" for his antics in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. Clingman's Dome and Clingman's Peak are named after him.

22.) **ROBERT BRANK VANCE** (1828-1899) Elder brother of Zebulon Vance, Robert was a brigadier general in the Confederate Army. After the war, he served six terms as a U.S. congressman.

23.) **STEPHEN LEE** (1801-1879) Stephen Lee opened “Lee’s Select School for Boys” in 1846. He dedicated his life to teaching at his school, which became renowned across the south for its discipline and curriculum. He was forced to abandon his work during the Civil War, where he fought and attained the rank of colonel. After this, he returned to his school where he continued to teach until his death. Stephen Lee High School (now Stephens-Lee Community Center) was named after him.

24.) **QUEEN MAUDE CARSON** (1865-1947) Carson was the first teacher and principal of the Park Avenue School. Her dedication to the school and her students was recognized when the school was renamed in her honor.

25.) **ISAAC DICKSON** (1839-1919) Isaac Dickson was born a slave. After the Civil War, he devoted his life to educating Asheville’s minority youth. He was the first African American appointed to the Asheville City School Board. Isaac Dickson Elementary is named in honor of him and his accomplishments.

26.) **GEORGE TAYLOE WINSTON** (1852-1932) A lifelong educator, Winston served as the president of both The University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University.

27.) **WILLIAM RANDOLPH** (1854-1935) Randolph served as the first secretary of the Asheville City School Board. He also served as Vice Mayor, Fire Chief, and as a city alderman. In honor of his contributions to Asheville, Montford Avenue School was renamed Randolph School.

28.) **DR. KARL VON RUCK** (1849-1918) Dr. Von Ruck was a pioneer in the fight against tuberculosis. He founded the Von Ruck Research Laboratory in 1895 and put Asheville on the map as the premier location for TB sanatoriums.

29.) **DR. LEWIS MCCORMICK** (1864-1922) Dr. McCormick was a bacteriologist who moved to Asheville in 1904. He spearheaded the “Swat That Fly!” campaign to reduce the population of flies spreading disease in the area. This campaign was partially responsible for Asheville’s reputation as a healthy city for rest and rehabilitation. In recognition of his efforts, the minor league baseball stadium is named McCormick Field.

30.) **DR. MARSHALL HALL FLETCHER** (1859-1925) A noted physician and surgeon, Dr. Fletcher served as the first chief of staff at Mission Hospital. He also served as a city alderman and in the Medical Corps during WWI despite his advanced age. Fletcher Elementary School is named after him.

31.) **CLARA CHUNN** (1845-1933) Prominent citizen of early Asheville. Chunn’s Cove is named in her honor.

32.) **LEICESTER CHAPMAN** (1818-1895) Chapman was a frontiersman who bought land north of Asheville from the city. He became postmaster in 1852 and named the town Leicester in honor of the Earl of Leicester, his namesake.

33.) **THEODORE SUMMEY MORRISON** (1852-1926) Morrison was an Asheville banker named to the board of managers for Wachovia Bank and Trust Company. He then founded the mercantile firm T.S. Morrison and Co. which stands in downtown Asheville to this day.

34.) **SOLOMON LIPINSKY** (1856-1925) Lipinsky founded Bon Marche, one of the largest department stores in North Carolina. It stood as a Asheville landmark for over 90 years.

35.) **JAMES W. BAILEY** (1871-1906) Bailey was a police officer who was killed in a shootout with Will Harris. The shootout took five lives on November 13, 1906. Bailey was standing behind a utility pole when a bullet went through the pole and killed him.

36.) **BEN ADDISON** (1850-1906) Addison was a prominent African American merchant also killed in Will Harris' rampage. Addison's headstone reads "Killed by a Desperado."

37.) **WWI GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR** Thousands soldiers taken at the beginning of the World War I were transferred to a detention center in Hot Springs, North Carolina. 18 German sailors fell victim to typhoid fever. These sailors were given a final resting place in Riverside Cemetery.

3.) **FRANKLIN TERRY** An industrial giant in the area, Franklin Terry was an innovator in electric power. He was the first vice president of General Electric.

39.) **BURNHAM STANDISH COLBURN, SR.** Colburn was president of First National Bank and Trust. He had an extensive private collection of gems and minerals which are now displayed at the Colburn Mineral Museum at Pack Place in Asheville.

40.) **GREEN MAUSOLEUM** The Green Mausoleum is constructed entirely of marble and is the work of a craftsman from the Biltmore Estate.

41.) **BUCHANAN ANGEL** Carved entirely from limestone from the construction of the Biltmore Estate by Fred Miles, stone carver of the estate.

42.) **DR. JOHN W. LEDBETTER** (1929-2011) "Doc," as he was affectionately known, was one of the first neurologists in the WNC area in 1959. He was named "Physician of the Year" in 1979. He was actively involved in the Boy Scouts, becoming a James E. West Fellow. "Ledbetter Lodge" in Camp Daniel Boone was named in his honor in 2001.

43.) **VADIM BORA** (1954-2011) Bora was an internationally know sculptor, painter, and gallery owner from Russia. He was the first portrait sculptor instructor at The Fine Arts League of the Carolinas, where a scholarship is named after him. He was a beloved member of Asheville's art community.

44.) **HYMAN DAVE** (1911-2011) Dave was president of Dave Steel from 1950 until 1976. After retirement, he managed the Asheville Downtown City Club, Asheville Country Club, was on the board of directors of North Western bank, and was the president of Temple Beth Ha-Tephila.

45.) **ANDREW MCGONNIGLE** (1829-1901) As a Captain in the Union Army, McGonnigle was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry during the Battle of Cedar Creek, the pivotal battle in the Shenandoah Valley. He later attained the rank of Brigadier General.

46.) **LAMAR STRINGFIELD** (1897-1959) Stringfield was a prominent composer who founded and conducted the Asheville Symphony and N.C. Symphony. He also composed music for "The Lost Colony," wrote a book of Appalachian folk music, and founded the Institute of Folk Music.

47.) **ALLEN TURNER DAVIDSON** (1819-1905) Davidson represented North Carolina in the Provisional Confederate Congress and the First Confederate Congress during the Civil War.

48.) **LILLIAN EXUM CLEMENT STAFFORD** (1894-1925) Lillian Exum Clement Stafford became the first woman elected to the North Carolina General Assembly at the age of 26. In so doing, she was the first woman in the southern United States to be elected to any state legislature before the 19th Amendment was passed. Today, a North Carolina political organization supporting female candidates for public office is named "Lillian's List" in her honor.

49.) **ROBERT RICE REYNOLDS** (1884-1963) Reynolds, known locally as "Buncombe Bob," was a United States senator from 1933 to 1945. As a senator, he stood out from his fellow southerners by supporting FDR's New Deal. His colorful personality and unique views made him one of the biggest, most easily recognized figures on Capitol Hill.

For more information contact:

Riverside Cemetery
53 Birch St.
Asheville Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, N.C. 28802
(828)350-2066
www.ashevillenc.gov
Email: pbecker@ashevillenc.gov
jdarty@ashevillenc.gov

Hours of Operation

Office:

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Gates Open:

November - March 8:00am - 6:00pm

April - October 8:00am - 8:00pm