

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

WALKING TOUR

Self guided walking tour, using the script from the video

“Journey Beyond The Gates”

Video Tour Presentation

Produced by students of Charles D. Owen High School
1997 Advanced Placement United States History Class

For more information about these and other historical individuals contact:

David Olson, Cemetery Manager

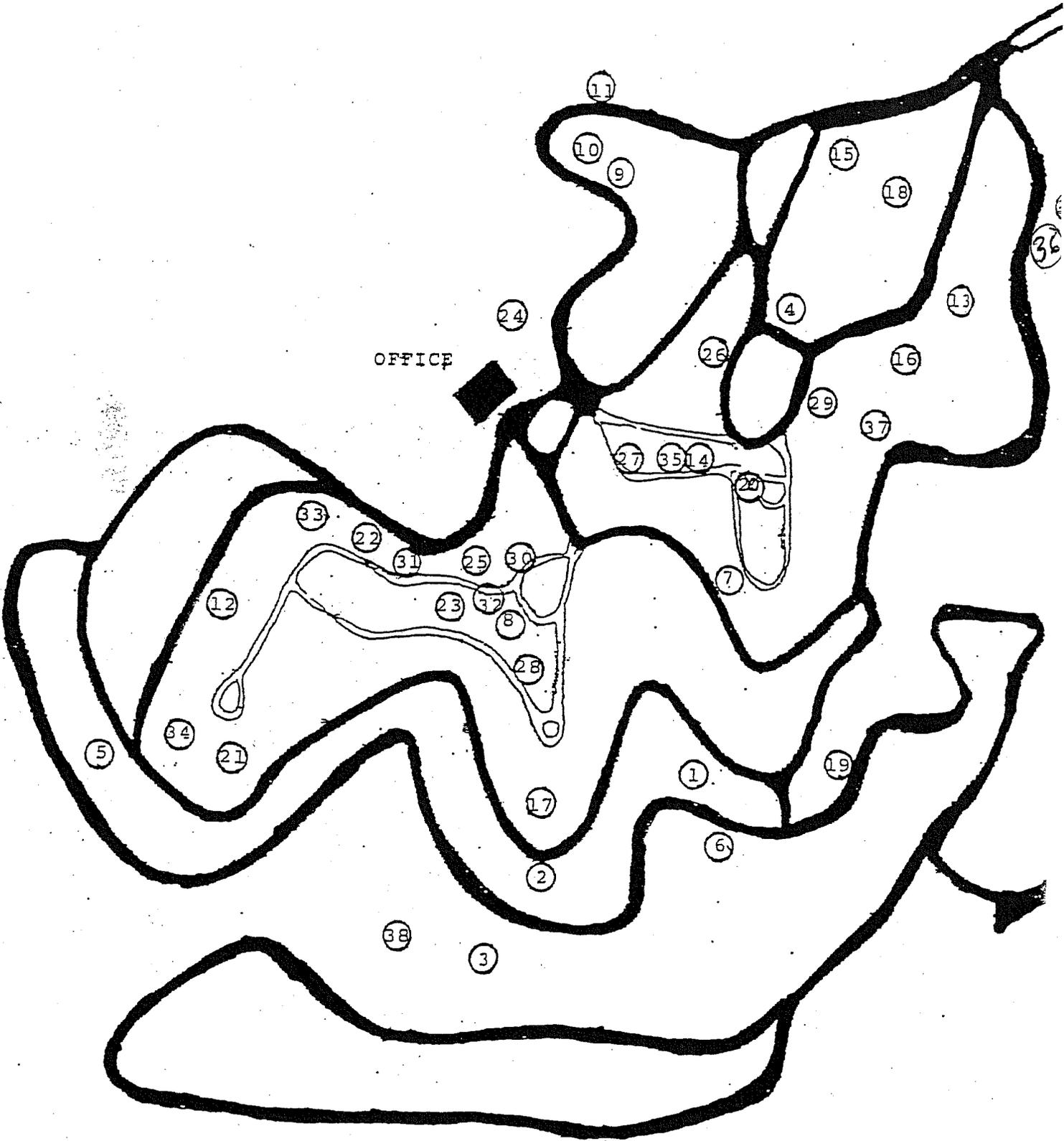
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Use the corresponding numbers, names, map (on the next page) and orange marking flags to help find the grave site location you are searching for.

- 1 John Lyon
- 2 Clara Chunn
- 3 James Harrison Posey
- 4 Thomas Wolfe
- 5 James Bailey
- 6 Ben Addison
- 7 William Sydney Porter (O. Henry)
- 8 Allen Christian Redwood
- 9 Franklin Terry
- 10 Burnham Standish Colburn, Sr.
- 11 Green Mausoleum
- 12 Fred Miles, (Buchanan Angel)
- 13 Richard Sharpe Smith
- 14 William Henry Lord
- 15 Dr. Karl Von Ruck
- 16 Dr. Lewis McCormick
- 17 Marshall Hall Fletcher
- 18 George Tayloe Winston
- 19 Isaac Dickson
- 20 Queen Maude Carson
- 21 William Randolph
- 22 James Eugene Rankin
- 23 Theodore Summey Morrison
- 24 Solomon Lipinsky
- 25 Richmond Pearson
- 26 Jeter Conley Pritchard
- 27 James Merrimon
- 28 Nicholas W. Woodfin
- 29 Locke Craig
- 30 Thomas Walton Patton
- 31 Zebulon Baird Vance
- 32 Theodore Fulton Davidson
- 33 Col. Stephen Lee
- 34 James Green Martin
- 35 Thomas Clingman
- 36 George Masa
- 37 Caryl Florio
- 38 German Prisoners

BIRCH S



In the mountains of Western North Carolina heritage runs deep. The present inhabitants of these beautiful mountains have been influenced by those who came before them. These men and women lay peacefully in the land where their accomplishments became tradition and a part of the culture.

Here at Riverside Cemetery, the memories of these people are engraved in their headstones. However, the humble phrases and the ornate carvings allow but a mere glimpse into the complex legacy they left for us. To truly delve into their lives, one must journey beyond the cemetery gates.

Riverside Cemetery was established on August 4, 1885 by the Asheville Cemetery Company. It covers 87 acres and is now operated under the direction of the City of Asheville Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Department. Before Riverside was organized, there were some earlier burial grounds and cemeteries in Asheville. When these cemeteries closed, the remains of many families were moved to Riverside Cemetery.

1 One of the oldest engraved tombstones in Western North Carolina marks the grave of John Lyon. After his death in 1814, his grave was moved three times from the old burial ground at the corner of Market and Eagle Streets to the old Presbyterian graveyard on Church Street, and finally to Riverside. Lyon, a famous English botanist, lived many years in the Western North Carolina mountains, collecting rare plants and shipping them to English gardens.

2 Other graves moved to Riverside are from the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches on Church Street. Clara Chunn, for which Chunns Cove was named, was moved from the Episcopal Church. One of Abraham Lincoln's bodyguards, James Harrison Posey, was interred only at Riverside Cemetery.

4 Many of the people buried at Riverside Cemetery might have been forgotten altogether for their roles played in shaping Asheville's history if not for Thomas Wolfe's writings. His first novel, Look Homeward Angel, captured Asheville's history at the turn of the century. His portrayal of the residents was less than flattering though some were later honored to have been included in this famous novel.

Wolfe, an internationally known author, was born in Asheville. He grew up in the Old Kentucky Home, which is still standing as a memorial to his family at 48 Spruce Street.

5 Thomas Wolfe also used Asheville as the setting for many of his shorter works. Wolfe's story "Child by Tiger" fictionalizes the dramatic events which took place in Asheville on November 13, 1906. Will Harris, a crazed, drunken man went on a shooting rampage that left five men dead. Two of his unfortunate victims were James W. Bailey and Ben Addison.

Bailey, a police officer, was shot by Harris, while taking refuge behind a utility pole in downtown Asheville. The bullet went through the pole into Bailey's head, before ricocheting off the marble base of the Vance Monument and finally hitting a store's brick wall.

6 Ben Addison was a Black merchant also killed by Will Harris. Addison, a store owner at 53 Eagle Street, was shot when he opened his door to see what the commotion was about on that cold winter night. Buried in Riverside's officially designated "colored" section, Addison's marker is engraved with the words: "Killed by a desperado."

When Harris fled south, a posse was organized, and guns were issued at Harry Finklestein's Pawn Shop located at 23 South Main Street (now Biltmore Avenue). Harris was tracked for two days before he was gunned down near Fletcher. According to Leo Finklestein, Harry's son, every gun was returned to his father by the posse.

7 Another Riverside desperado, was William Sydney Porter, better known as O. Henry. Dissatisfied with his writing, Porter got a job at a bank in Texas where he worked until he was convicted of embezzlement of funds. After fleeing to Honduras to hobnob with fugitives, he served three years behind bars. He published three stories in magazines far beyond his Columbus, Ohio prison, but neither his editors then nor his best New York friends later knew that the author was an inmate hiding behind the nom de plume "O. Henry" that was to become world famous. In 1902, he moved to New York and continued writing. His best known work was The Gift of the Magi. Considered the master of the surprise endings, O. Henry is considered one of the most talented short story writers who ever lived.

8 Allen Christian Redwood, though not as well known as Thomas Wolfe or O. Henry, established himself as a writer and illustrator of the Civil War. With amazing accuracy, Redwood depicted battles and everyday life in military camps. Redwood's image of "Johnny Reb" had a powerful effect on

many Southerners and fostered extreme southern pride and loyalty. His sketches were published in Scribner's Monthly, Century Magazine, and Harper's Monthly. Redwood served during the Civil War in the Confederate Army where he fought in the Seven Days Battles, Second Manassas, Battle of Chancellorsville, and Picket's charge at Gettysburg.

9 Some of the more visible features of the cemetery are its mausoleums. These structures were built to house the remains of entire families, and are often ornately decorated. The Terry Mausoleum, for example, is adorned with a detailed bronze door. Stained glass windows are an added attraction to others.

Mausoleums belong to other families like Colburn, Rumbough, Green, and Von Ruck.

10 Burnham Standish Colburn, Senior was president of the First National Bank & Trust Company, and vice-president and treasurer of the Biltmore Forest Company. In his home, he had a private collection of gems and minerals which is now part of the Colburn Mineral Museum at Pack Place in Asheville. At the time of his death a Smithsonian curator said the collection was "the finest such collection in the country."

11 Many people involved with the construction of the Biltmore Estate have left their mark at Riverside. The Green Mausoleum, which is entirely made of marble, is the work of a craftsman from the Biltmore Estate. A similar structure today would cost more than \$200,000.

12 Fred Miles, a stone carver for the Biltmore Estate, carved this angel entirely out of limestone left over from the construction of Biltmore Estate for the Buchanan family.

13 Richard Sharpe Smith was resident architect for the Biltmore Estate. Remaining in Asheville, he opened a private architectural firm and designed many private homes in Montford. Smith also designed many important buildings downtown, including the Vance Monument in Pack Square.

14 Another Montford architect was William Henry Lord. He, too designed many private residences in Asheville after the turn of the century.

While many artisans came to the Asheville area to work on the Biltmore Estate or the Grove Park Inn, others came for the clear mountain air.

Asheville's climate and serenity attracted many tuberculosis patients. By the end of the nineteenth century, Asheville had developed a reputation as one of the foremost centers for TB sanitariums.

15 Dr. Karl Von Ruck founded the Von Ruck Research Laboratory in 1895. He also pioneered several new treatment techniques against TB, including sleeping porches, a method used to expose the patient to fresh air.

16 Dr. Lewis McCormick, a bacteriologist, moved to Asheville in 1904. Observing that the excessive number of flies in the city posed a health risk, he started the "Swat That Fly" Campaign, greatly reducing the fly population.

Dr. McCormick was given recognition for his efforts when McCormick Field was named in his honor.

17 Marshall Hall Fletcher was a physician and surgeon, and the first chief of staff at Mission Hospital. He was also a city alderman and the Hall Fletcher School is named after him.

18 Notable educators are also interred at Riverside. George Tayloe Winston, served as president of State College in Raleigh and the University of North Carolina.

19 Isaac Dickson was a prominent figure in establishing and furthering the educational system in Asheville to benefit African-Americans. Dickson devoted his life to educating Asheville's minority youth. Mr. Dickson's name is carried on with Isaac Dickson Elementary School on Hill Street.

20 One of the most distinguished educators in Western North Carolina was Queen Maude Carson. She was the first teacher and principal of the Park Avenue School located off West Haywood Road overlooking the French Broad River. Carson's dedication to her students at the Park Avenue School was recognized when the school was named after her. Although Queen Carson never earned a college degree, an honorary doctorate was awarded to her by Women's College (now UNC-

Greensboro).

21

William Randolph was the first secretary of the Asheville City School Board. He was very active in the Asheville community. Raldolph was also a City Alderman, Vice Mayor, Chief of the Fire Department, and the manager of the old auditorium in Asheville. For all his contributions to the city of Asheville, Montford Avenue School was renamed Randolph School.

22

James Eugene Rankin, a public official and banker, served five terms as Asheville's mayor. His last term ended in 1919. Rankin Avenue was named in his honor after his death in 1928.

23

Another Asheville banker, Theodore Summey Morrison, was the first chairman of the board of managers of the Asheville branch of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company. He was also the founder of the mercantile firm of T.S. Morrison and Company and this store still stands on Lexington Avenue in downtown Asheville.

24

Another merchant, Solomon Lipinsky, founded Bon Marche, Incorporated, one of the largest department stores in Western North Carolina. Beginning as a small clothing store in the Swannanoa Hotel, Bon Marche was moved to the Berkeley building on the corner of Patton Avenue and Lexington, and finally to Haywood Street where the building still stands today as the Haywood Park Hotel. The family name can still be found at the University of North Carolina's Lipinsky Auditorium.

25

Richmond Pearson was elected to congress in 1895 and served until 1899. He also served as American consul in Belgium, and in December of 1901 was appointed consul to Genoa, Italy. In 1907 he became minister to Greece and Montenegro. Pearson's home still stands, and has been renovated into a very successful inn and conference center. The Richmond Hill Inn is located just across the French Broad River from Riverside Cemetery.

26

Elected in 1895, Jeter Conley Pritchard was the first southern Republican sent to the U.S. Senate in 20 years. While serving in Congress, Pritchard introduced the first bill for Southern Forest Preserve which eventually resulted in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In 1903, Pritchard became an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia where he served until his death.

27

Merrimon Avenue is named in honor of James H. Merrimon, one of the state's primary lawyers and a superior court judge. Merrimon also served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

28

Nicholas W. Woodfin was a prominent lawyer in Asheville and represented Buncombe County in the North Carolina senate in the 1840's. He represented Buncombe County at the convention where North Carolina seceded from the Union. Woodfin was Buncombe County's largest slave holder and is said to have lost most of his land holdings as a result of the Civil War. Woodfin Street in Asheville and the city of Woodfin to the north on the French Broad River were both named for him.

29

Locke Craig, the Governor of North Carolina from 1913 to 1917, was another prominent politician buried at Riverside. During his administration, the state acquired the summit of Mount Mitchell.

30

Thomas Walton Patton served two terms as Asheville's mayor. He was a captain in the Confederate Army and also served in the Spanish American War. His home still stands on Charlotte Street.

31

Southern pride still runs deep. Vivid stories of Confederate soldiers protecting their families from advancing Union soldiers have been passed down through the generations to those who served in the GREAT WAR. Zebulon Baird Vance is a name most North Carolina school children know. During the Civil War, he served twice as the governor of North Carolina. Vance, who opposed secession, reluctantly served as a colonel of the 26th Regiment of North Carolina. In addition to serving as a two-term governor of North Carolina, he was a U.S. senator, member of the North Carolina and U.S. House of Representatives. The monument in the center of downtown Asheville is a memorial to him. Vance's Birthplace is located north of Asheville, just outside of Weaverville.

32

Theodore Fulton Davidson was only 16 when he served in the Buncombe Rifles during the Civil War. In 1888, Davidson was elected attorney general. From 1891-1892, he served in the state legislature, and in 1895, he was elected mayor of Asheville.

33

Colonel Stephen Lee, a distant relative of General Robert E. Lee, left Charleston to open a school in Asheville in 1846. His school, known as "Lee's Select School for Boys" became famous across the south for its discipline and curriculum. He spent his entire life teaching at his school except for the years of the Civil War. During the war, Lee fought bravely for the Confederacy. Besides serving himself, he sent eight boys into the

Confederate army, four of whom gave their lives to the cause. At the end of his service, Lee formed a company called the "Silver Grays". These men were so well trained by Lee that on April 6, 1865, his small company of less than 300 men repulsed a Union army of 1,100 soldiers who came to Asheville with the intention of burning it down. After the war, Lee gave tracts of land in the Chunn's Creek section to his former slaves. Lee's land holdings before the Civil War included land from the top of Beaucatcher Mountain to the Swannanoa River.

34 James Green Martin was a colorful character known as "Ole One Wing" because of the loss of an arm in the Mexican War. Though not as well known as "Stonewall" Jackson or Robert E. Lee, he was as significant to this area. Martin protected Asheville from the final strike of the Union soldiers on April 18, 1865. General Martin gathered all the Confederate forces in Asheville and ruined Gillem's intentions to loot and burn the city with his stand at "Swannanoa Gap".

35 A brigadier general in the Confederate army and a U.S. senator, Thomas Clingman is perhaps better known for the two peaks which bear his name. Clingman's Dome in Tennessee is measured at 6,643 feet and Clingman's Peak at about 6,520.

While many of the grave sites at Riverside memorialize notable North Carolinians, there are also graves where men recognized internationally are interred.

36 The Appalachian Trail and Great Smoky Mountains National Park were laid out and measured by a man born in Japan in 1882. Born Masahara Iisuka, he changed his name to George Masa for convenience. Masa was recruited to work at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville in 1915. While still working for several inns, he started a photography business. Masa was passionate about the mountains and the land surrounding Asheville and spent the remainder of his life hiking the mountain trails and taking pictures of the rugged landscape. 27 years after his death, Masa Knob was named in his honor.

37 William John Robjohn, internationally known as Caryl Florio, was one of the seven best composers of the late nineteenth century. He won international acclaim for his compositions and popularized church music. Florio was brought to Asheville from New York in March, 1896 by his personal friend, George Vanderbilt. Florio was organist and choirmaster of All Soul's church, Biltmore, where his incredible talent as an actor,

composer, conductor, organist, and teacher were paid for by Mr. Vanderbilt.

38

Riverside Cemetery is the final resting place for World War I German Prisoners of War. Several thousand sailors were first transferred from Ellis Island to a detention center in Hot Springs, North Carolina. A typhoid epidemic resulted in 18 of the sailors dying. The POW's were given a place of rest at Riverside Cemetery. In 1932, a dedication ceremony was held by the Kiffin Rockwell post of the American Legion where the site is enclosed with a granite curb and a monument to the memory of the German sailors. The German ambassador to the US and several other high German officials took part in the dedication ceremony before a group of spectators that numbered over 5,000.

The legacy left to us by these World War I German sailors, and indeed, by all those buried in the Riverside Cemetery, is a long and rich one. Contributions made by these artists and educators, doctors and merchants, writers and architects, public officials and politicians have enriched the lives of us all. These people have also influenced the present-day character of Asheville as well as the culture and heritage of our own lives here in the North Carolina mountains.

"To die completely, a person must not only forget but be forgotten, and he who is not forgotten is not dead." Samuel Butler.

Credits

Black Mountain Video
Black Mountain, North Carolina

Musical selections from:

"Music on The Mountain"
by William Coulter and Barry Phillips

Courtesy of:

Gourd Music

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Thomas Wolfe Memorial
Asheville, North Carolina

North Carolina Collection
Pack Memorial Public Library
Asheville, North Carolina

"Coming To Light"
Asheville Art Museum
Pack Place
Asheville, North Carolina
Zebulon B. Vance Birthplace
Weaverville, North Carolina

Biltmore Estate
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