

Buried History

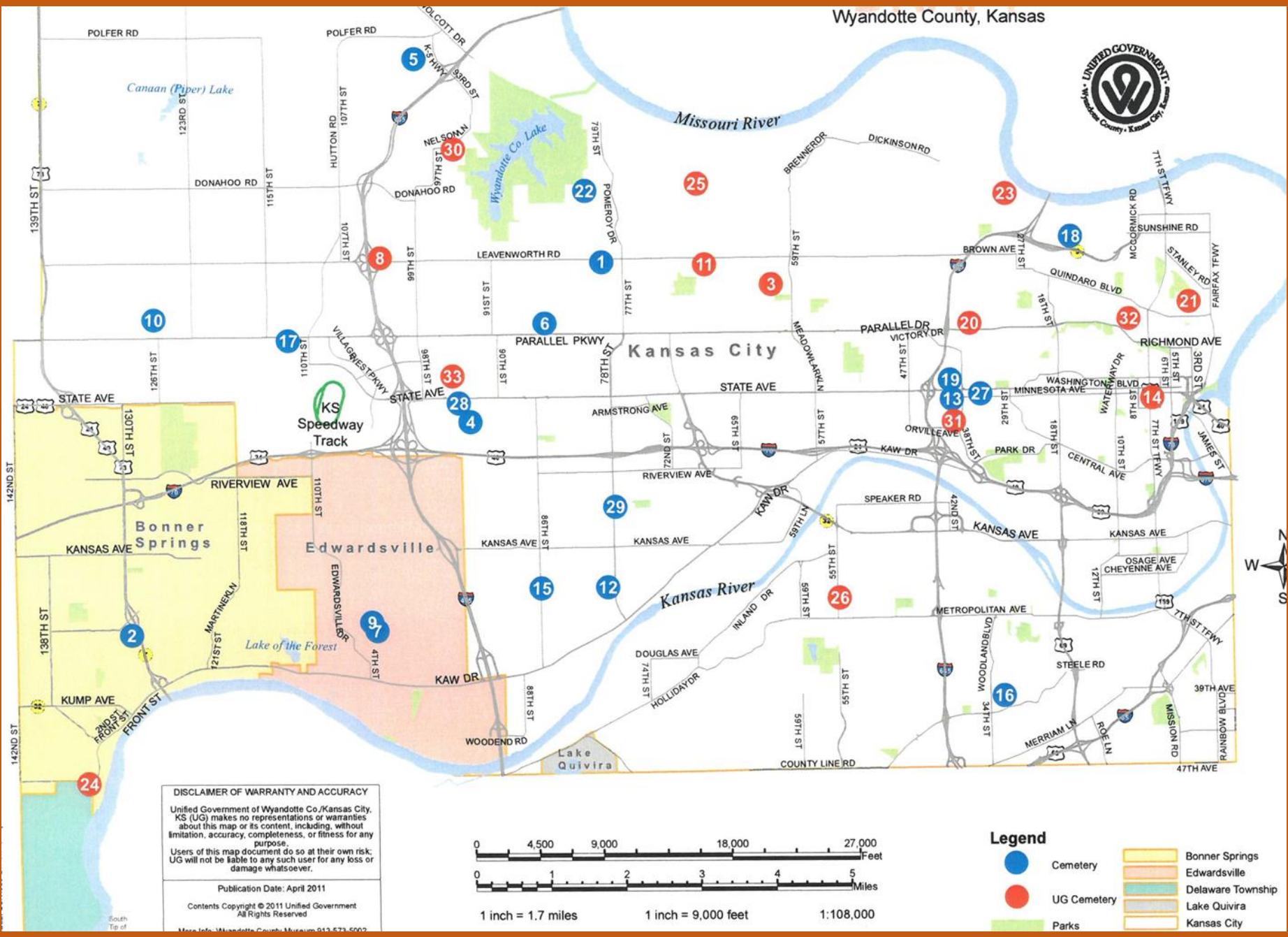
Through this presentation we will show you the history that is buried in some of the oldest cemeteries in Wyandotte County. Some of them are still active, with people still being buried along side of their loved ones, while others have been closed or abandoned.

Back in the 1980s the State of Kansas passed a law which required each county to be responsible for their abandoned and closed cemeteries. The Wyandotte County Museum now holds the records for these cemeteries and the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for their maintenance.

Wyandotte County Cemetery List

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bethel | 12. Grinter | 23. Quindaro City |
| 2. Bonner Springs | 13. Highland Park | 24. Riverview |
| 3. Brune Estates | 14. Wyandotte (Huron) | 25. Saylor |
| 4. Chapel Hill | 15. Franklin/Jordon | 26. Shawnee |
| 5. Connor/Wolcott | 16. Maple Hill | 27. St John |
| 6. Delaware Indian | 17. Maywood | 28. St Patrick's |
| 7. Delaware Township | 18. Memorial Park | 29. Stoney Point |
| 8. Douglas/Prairie | 19. Mt. Calvary | 30. Vinewood |
| 9. Edwardsville | 20. Mt. Hope/Quindaro | 31. Westlawn |
| 10. Gate of Heaven | 21. Oak Grove | 32. Woodlawn |
| 11. Griffith | 22. Pomery/Baker | 33. Wyandotte County |

Bold = [Cemetery Records and Plot Maps](#) held at the Wyandotte County Museum.



Cemetery Map

Many familiar names can be found in this cemetery



Familiar last names with no headstones:
Barnett – Sandusky – Splitlog -Tauromee

The Conley Sisters

- The Conley sisters, Ida, Eliza, and Helena, are buried in this cemetery. The sisters played a vital role in saving the cemetery.
- *Visit the Wyandotte County Museum to learn more about their story.*



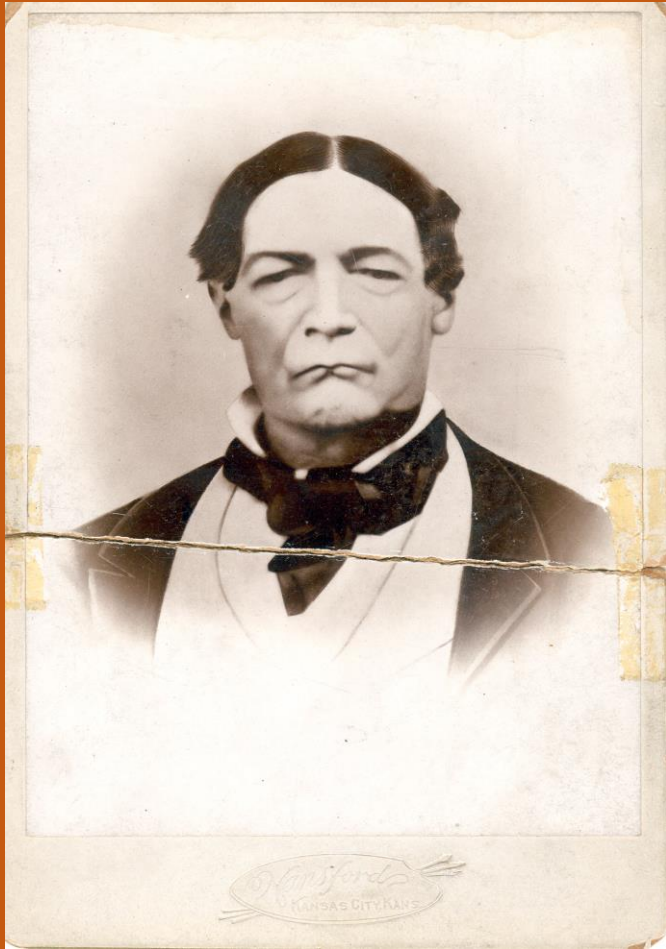
Ebenezer Zane

1868-1902

- Zane was the caretaker for the Wyandotte Cemetery.
- He was also an uncle to the Conley sisters.



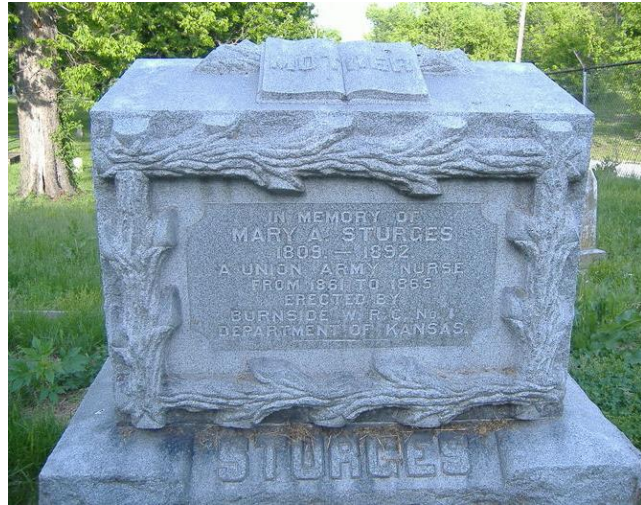
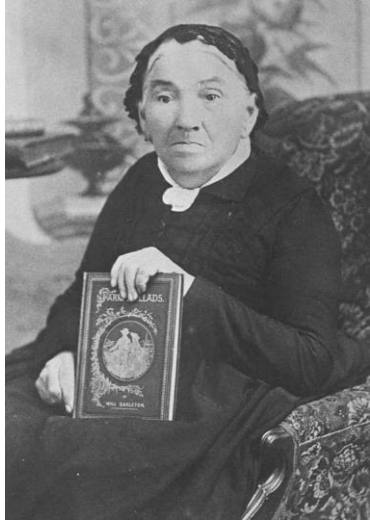
William Walker Jr.



Born: March 5, 1799
Died: February 12, 1874

- Walker was born in Michigan, educated in Ohio, and went on to become one of the most influential men in the Wyandot Nation.
- In 1843 he came to Kansas with his tribe.
- In 1853 he was appointed Provisional Governor of the Kansas Territory.





Mary A. Sturgis

1809--December 29,1892

Mary was prompted to become a Civil War nurse, because her daughter was too young to enlist on her own. Mary was sworn into service in 1861 and was placed in charge of the Adams Block Hospital, where she earned the gratitude of the soldiers. When supplies were low, she begged from door to door. She mended soldier's clothing in her spare time and would give money from her own pocket to help get soldiers home.

After the war Mary moved to Kansas City, Kansas, where she continued her efforts helping the poor. She passed, penniless, in 1892. The monument on her grave was provided by the Burnside Relief Corps.



Stephen Alonzo Cobb

- US Congressman. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War as a Captain of Volunteers in the Army's Commissary Department, and was retired as a Major, US Volunteers.
- He was elected to represent Kansas as an at-large delegate to the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1873 to 1875.

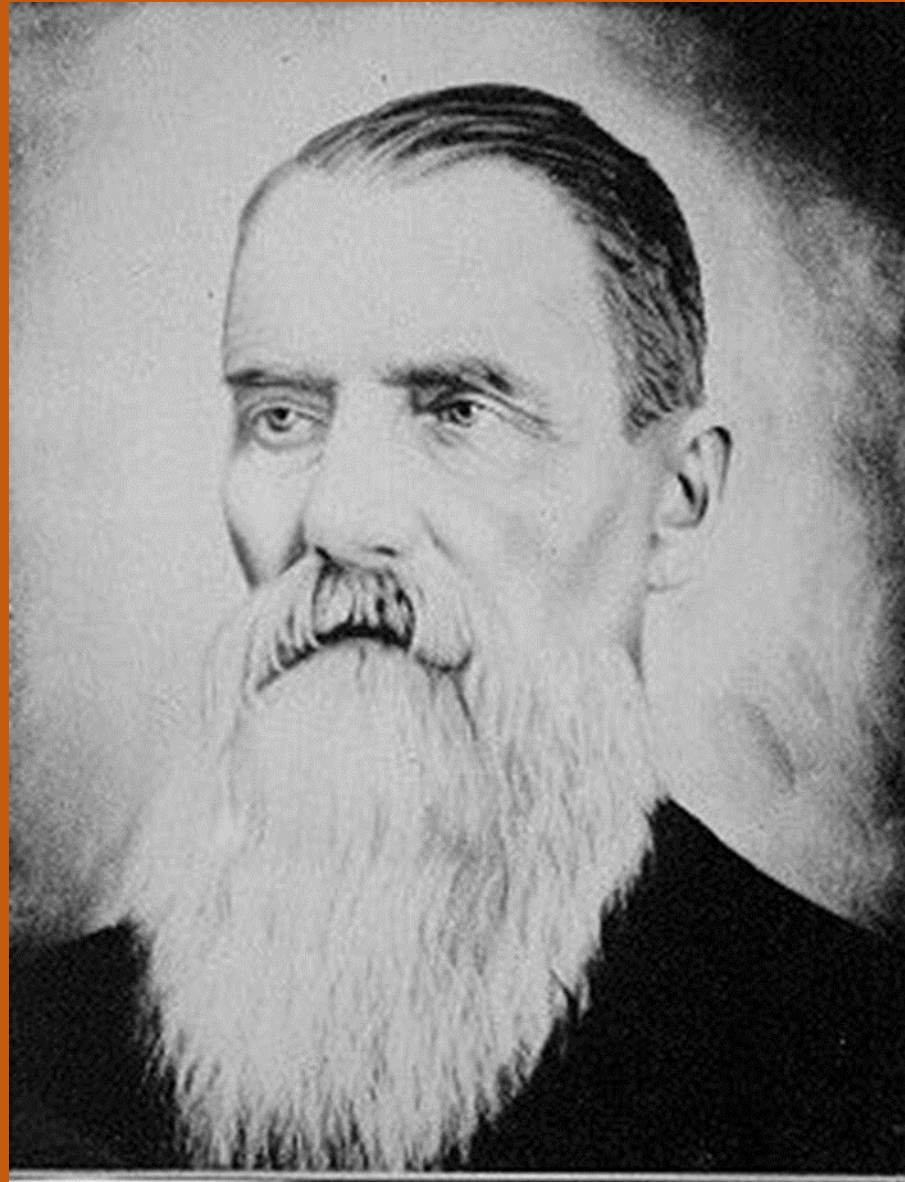


Ruth Miller

- Four-year-old, Ruth Miller died as a result of eating candy tainted by strychnine poisoning. The poisoned candy was sent through the mail and was addressed to her sister, Ella Miller. Ella shared the candies with her siblings. Ruth took several pieces and ate them very rapidly, while the older children noticed a strange taste to the candy and spit it out. Within minutes of eating the candy Ruth complained of severe pain in her stomach and five minutes later she was dead. She passed on February 12, 1908 and is buried in an unmarked grave in Oak Grove.
- It is believed their aunt, Sarah Morash Miller, sent the candy. She stood trial and was found guilty only of sending poison through the mail, but was never convicted of the murder. It is also suspected that she murdered her two husbands with strychnine poisoning, as well as another child left in her care.

DEATH OF COL. PARR.—Col. J. Parr, one of the earliest settlers of this city, died at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning last, at the residence of his son-in-law, Free Cole, corner of Washington Avenue and Eighth Street. His death resulted from the amputation of his foot. Col. Parr was born in Pennsylvania Sept. 1, 1801, and came to Kansas in March, 1857. He settled in this city, where he resided until his death. At the first city election held in Wyandott, April, 1857, Col. Parr was elected mayor. His administration was a creditable one. When he first came to Wyandott he embarked in mercantile business. Being a first-class mechanic, and seeing a growing opening for contracting and building, he engaged in that business. Mr. Parr died September 8th, 1872. He continued to keep house with his daughters until they were all married, since which time he has remained at home with his daughter, Mrs. Free Cole.

Col. Parr was a kind hearted, generous man, and was always ready to give his last dollar for the relief of a distressed fellow man. He leaves three daughters, Mrs. M. E. Harvey, Mrs. H. B. Cole, and Mrs. H. W. Chapman, and two sons, L. W. Parr and Edward I., to mourn his loss. He was buried on Sunday by Wyandott Lodge, No. 3, A. F. and A. M., in which he had been a member for more than a quarter of a century. A large concourse of citizens followed his remains to Oak Grove Cemetery, where they were deposited to await their final resurrection.



James Parr
First Elected
Mayor of the
City of
Wyandott

Oak Grove
Cemetery

Woodlawn Cemetery

2041 North 9th Street



North Division

Grid of lot numbers in the North Division, including sections labeled M, Y, R, T, L, E, C, Y, P, R, E, S, S.

Grid of lot numbers in the North Division, including sections labeled M, Y, R, T, L, E, C, Y, P, R, E, S, S.

Grid of lot numbers in the North Division, including sections labeled M, Y, R, T, L, E, C, Y, P, R, E, S, S.

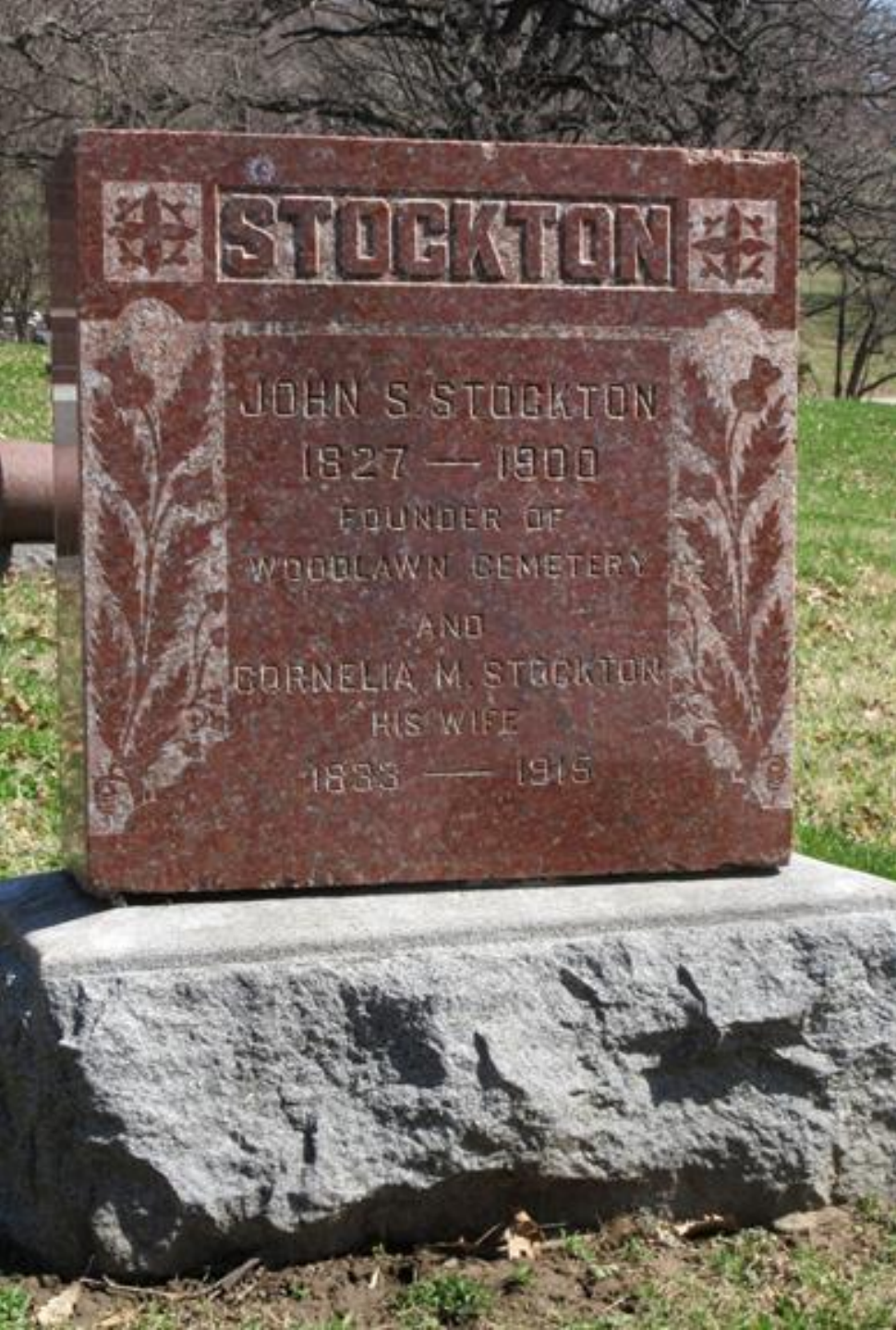
South Division

Grid of lot numbers in the South Division, including sections labeled A, V, E, N, U, E, C, E, D, A, R, P, A, R, K, W, O, O, D, L, A, W, N, P, A, R, K.

Grid of lot numbers in the South Division, including sections labeled A, V, E, N, U, E, C, E, D, A, R, P, A, R, K, W, O, O, D, L, A, W, N, P, A, R, K.

WOODLAWN CEMETERY

Graves are numbered according to Census RECORDED JULY 17, 1925



John Stockton

Died: May 6, 1900

- Stockton came to Wyandotte County in 1858. He was a member of the KCKS Bar Association and served as Mayor four different times.
- He and his wife Cora donated the land where Woodlawn Cemetery now sits.
- Two weeks prior to his death he was seen taking care of the cemetery in preparation for Arbor Day. He planted numerous trees and shrubs.
- Local newspapers noted that he was laid to rest in the shade of the trees he planted with his own hands. When the funeral hearse reached the cemetery, the line of carriages was still forming at his residence at 6th and Oakland.



William Warren Rose

Died: May 23, 1931

- Rose moved to KCK, in 1896.
- He served as Mayor from 1905-1906.
- He had an architecture practice with David B. Peterson, known for the Wyandotte High School, City Library, Bethany Hospital, the Scottish Rite Temple and Memorial Hall in KCK.

John B. Scroggs

Died: June 28, 1899

- Scroggs moved to Wyandott in 1866 and became one of the leading attorneys in the county.
- He was the second husband of Margaret (Kersetter) Cruise-Scroggs. (The couple were original owners of what is today the Strawberry Hill Museum.)
- At the time of his death he was placed in the Public Vault in Oak Grove Cemetery awaiting the completion of the Scroggs Family vault at Woodlawn Cemetery.
- In the 1990s the Scroggs vault began to fall in. John was being relocated the third time. John and his family were then buried in Memorial Park Cemetery.
- The concrete name plates were removed from this vault and are now stored at The Strawberry Hill Museum.



Frank E. Hermanson

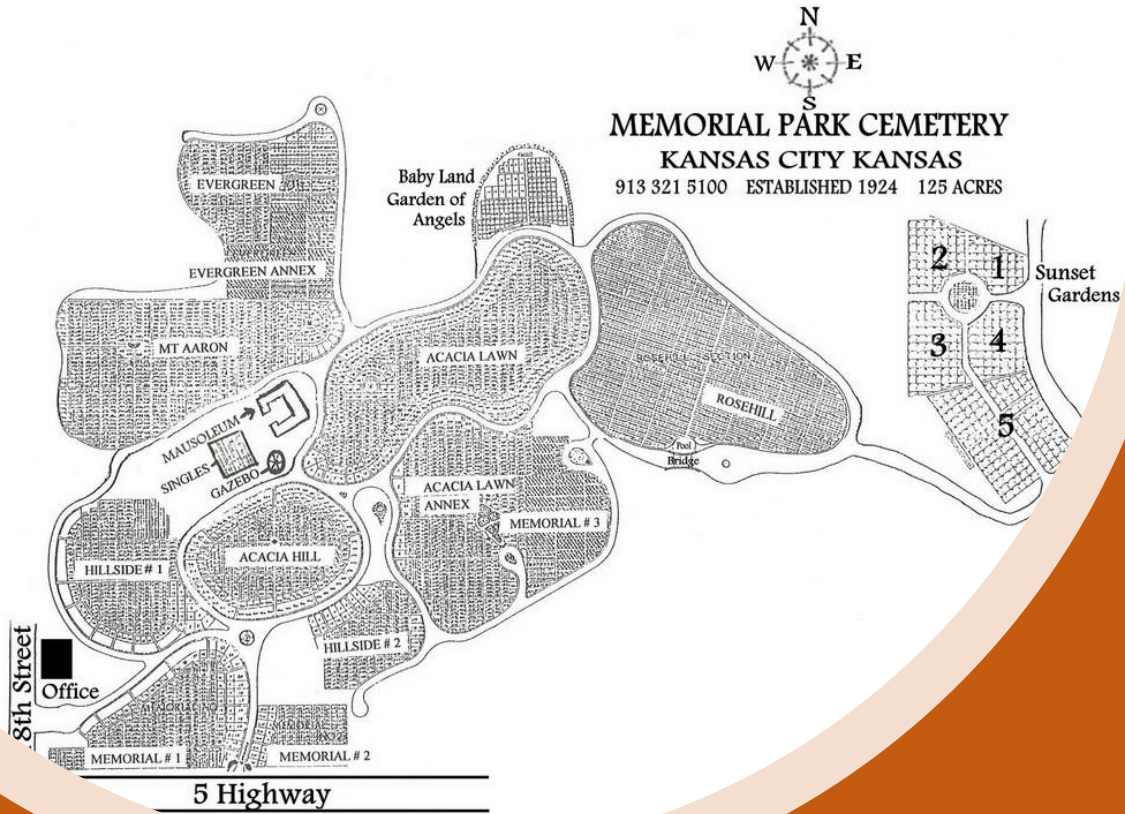
On June 17, 1933, Kansas City Missouri Police Detective Frank E. Hermanson was sent to meet other officers arriving at Union Station with federal prison escapee, Frank Nash. It is believed that an informant had relayed the information regarding the arrival of Nash and his law enforcement escorts to gangsters throughout the metropolitan area. The officers were not prepared for the ambush at the Union Station. Detectives William J. Grooms and Frank E. Hermanson, F.B.I. agent Raymond J. Caffrey, Oklahoma Police Chief Otto Reed , and the prisoner, Frank Nash, were all killed by the mobsters. Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy Floyd", Adam Richetti and Vernon C. Miller are believed to be the responsible mobsters. Hermanson, is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Frank Hermanson



Frank Hermanson was originally buried in grave six, the marker on the right are his parents John and Anna. The remains of Frank were removed from this grave on June 21, 1950, but the cemetery did not keep record of his new location. Years later his remains were found at Highland Park.





Memorial Park Cemetery And Sunset Gardens

3223 North 18th Street





Tharon Leslie "Pat" Collins

Died: May 20, 1960

- Played baseball for the St. Paul Saints, St. Louis Browns, and the New York Yankees.
- He played with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.
- He died at age 63 in his home at 1008 Ohio in KCK.



Ida Barton

October 16, 1879 –
January 15, 1938

- She graduated from General Hospital School of Nursing in Kansas City, Missouri in 1909.
- Ida Barton enlisted as a war nurse when World War I broke out. She served in France where she nursed the wounded. She served with honors.
- Ida Barton went to Wisconsin where she worked at the Veteran's Hospital.
- She died of cancer at the age of 58. Her body was laid to rest in Memorial Park in the Evergreen Section.
- She was buried with full military rights given by the Irwin Kirkwood post of the American Legion. All members of the William T. Fitzsimons American Legion Post were honorary pallbearers for Ida Barton.



Quindaro Cemetery

3726 Parallel Parkway



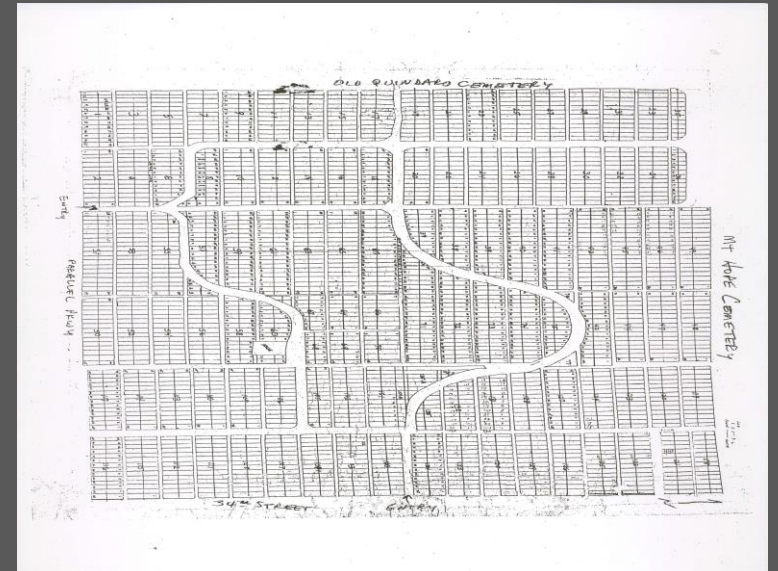
- Quindaro Cemetery was established in 1855. Originally, the cemetery was part of the land of the Delaware Nation. Before the middle 19th century, Reverend James Witten settled on the ground and built a church. Witten's wife died and was buried on these grounds. When this land was transferred to the government, these two acres were reserved as a cemetery. The old log church burned in 1857.



Mount Hope Cemetery

3600 Parallel Parkway

An 1876 plat map shows the owner of the property in which the cemetery sits as being R.L. Gray. However on May 27, 1903 Willard & Anna Merriam sold two and a half acres of their land to the Mt. Hope cemetery association. And again in 1905 with the final plot being purchased in 1919.



Captain William P. Hogarty



Mr. and Mrs. Al Nelson attended the funeral of her aunt, Mrs. Hogarty, wife of Capt. Will Hogarty, of Quindaro, Kansas, which was held on Tuesday. Mrs. Hogarty had been ill but a few days with pneumonia. Her death occurred Sunday. Capt. Hogarty is a retired Civil War officer and draws a pension of \$130 per month. In the service he lost an arm and also his hearing. He was paralyzed, also. A year ago Capt. Hogarty's home was entirely destroyed by fire. His wife managed to get him outside the house in his invalid chair, but only for the assistance of neighbors he would have been burned to death.



Elizabeth May Dickinson

Died February 5, 1931, age 94

- Born in 1836, Elizabeth May Dickinson came to Kansas with her widowed mother. She was a cousin of poet Emily Dickinson.
- From 1862 to 1863 she taught in Quindaro.
- In the fall of 1864, she took a job teaching school in Atchison, but her home and family remained in Quindaro.
- She was also the first librarian in the Kansas City Public Library.
- She was buried in an unmarked grave in the family plot.
- A dedication and placement of a marker was held in 1976. The marker was paid for by collections gathered by the Wyandotte County Historical Society.



George M. Gray

Died August 12, 1958

-
- George Morris Gray was born in 1856. He attended school in Quindaro and Central.
 - In March 1879, Gray received his medical degree. He opened his first practice on Minnesota Ave and assisted Father Kuhls in establishing St. Margaret's Hospital.
 - On 12 August 1958, Dr. George M. Gray passed away at his home at the age of 102.



Winfield and Reba Freeman

Winfield Freeman was born on January 3, 1848

He moved to Kansas City, KS in 1884

In 1893 he was appointed county attorney of Wyandotte County, and from 1903 to 1907 served as probate judge.

Freeman Avenue was named for him after he erected a Queen Anne style home on the northwest corner of that street and Sixth Street.

He taught a class of men and women at the Washington Avenue Methodist Church, where he was a member.

He was also a member of Wyandotte Masonic Lodge #3 and Caswell Consistory #5.

Winfield Freeman died in 1926.

Reba S. Freeman was born in 1854.

She married Winfield Freeman in 1876.

They moved to Kansas City, Kansas in 1884.

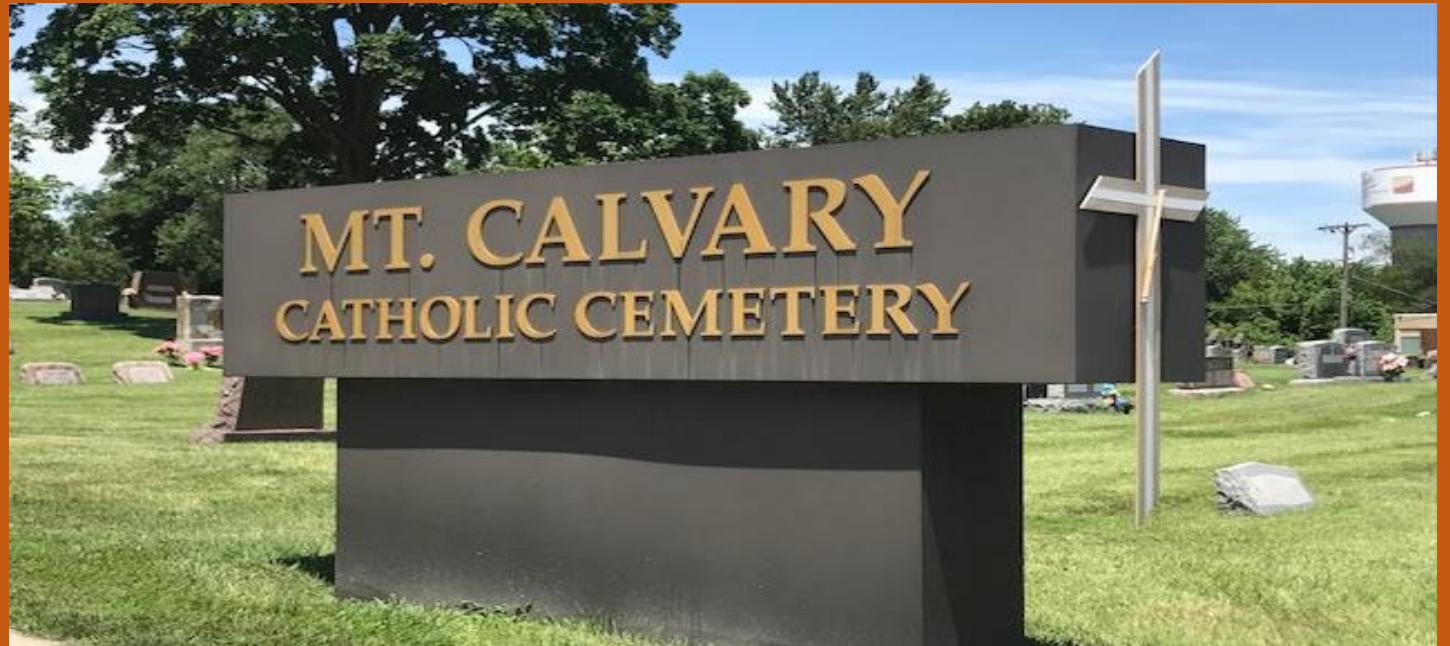
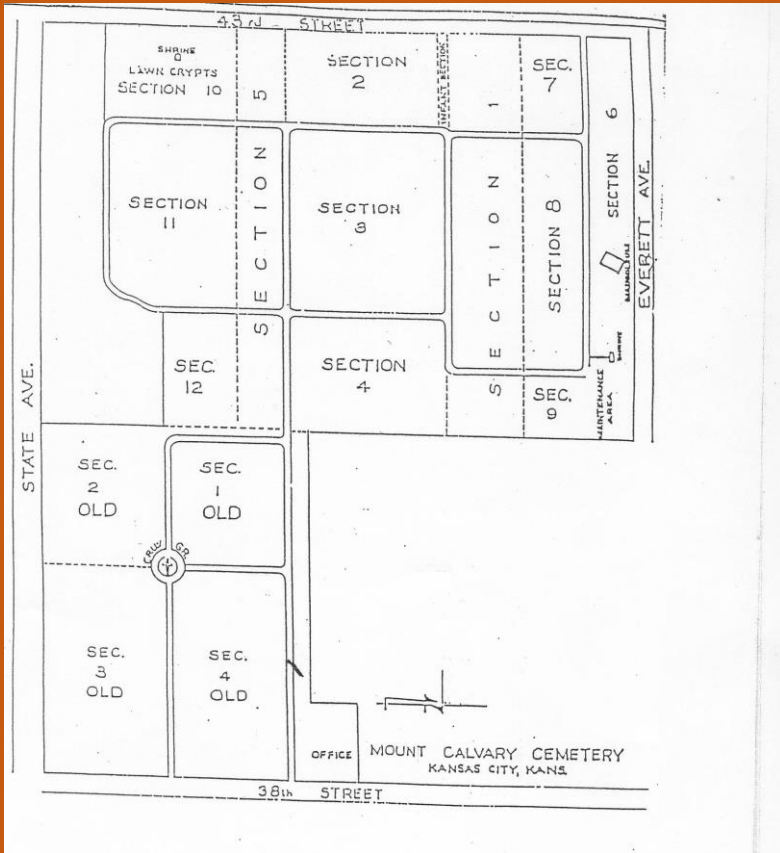
Reba Freeman and her husband took an extensive trip through Europe and Asia in 1907.

She was involved with the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. She also served as a Sunday school teacher for the Washington Avenue Methodist Church and as a social worker.

It is believed that Reba Freeman influenced the establishment of Bethany Methodist Hospital.

She passed away on May 23, 1921. She is buried next to her husband at the Quindaro Cemetery.

From Connelley, William E. A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans. Chicago, 1918



Mt. Calvary Cemetery

1150 North 38th Street

Mt. Calvary Cemetery was established in 1901 to fulfill the need of the growing population in Kansas City, KS. It began with 10 acres but ended up growing to 34 acres. Mt. Calvary was the first Catholic cemetery in the Kansas City area to add a mausoleum.

John E. Reardon

- John E. (Jack) Reardon was born 23 August 1943 in Kansas City, KS.
- Reardon attended Donnelly College and Rockhurst College.
- He was a history teacher at Arrowhead Middle School.
- He served as Register of Deeds for Wyandotte County.
- He was elected mayor in April 1975 at the age of 31. He was the youngest mayor in the history of Kansas City, KS. A democrat, he served 12 years as mayor.
- John E. Reardon succumbed to heart failure on November 25 1988, at the age of 45.



Albert Christopher Ladesich "Al Christy"

September 7, 1918 - March 3, 1995

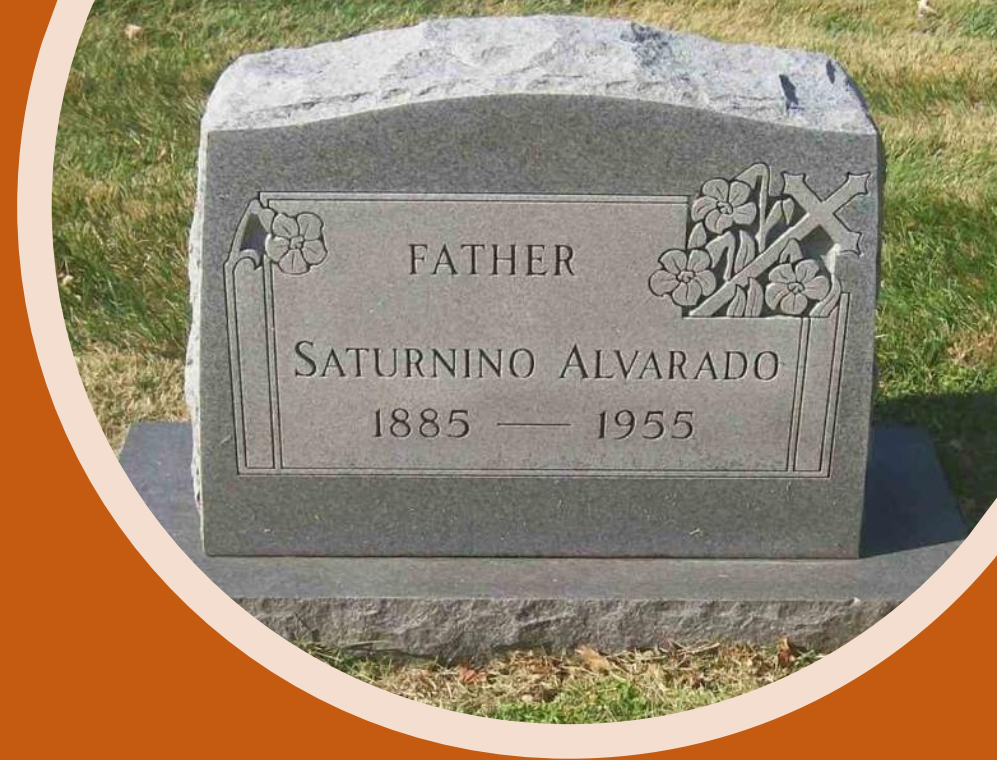
- Albert Christopher Ladesich was born in Kansas City, KS. He graduated from Wyandotte High School in 1937.
- Upon his WWII discharge and return to Kansas City he became an announcer for radio station WDAF-FM. It was here that he first adopted the stage name "Al Christy."
- As an actor he appeared in the films, "Mr. And Mrs. Bridge" (1990), "When Harry Met Sally" (1989), "Samaritan: The Mitch Snyder Story" (1986), "Stand Alone" (1985), and "In Cold Blood" (1967). He also made television guest appearances on, "Punky Brewster" "The Twilight Zone" and "Bonanza."

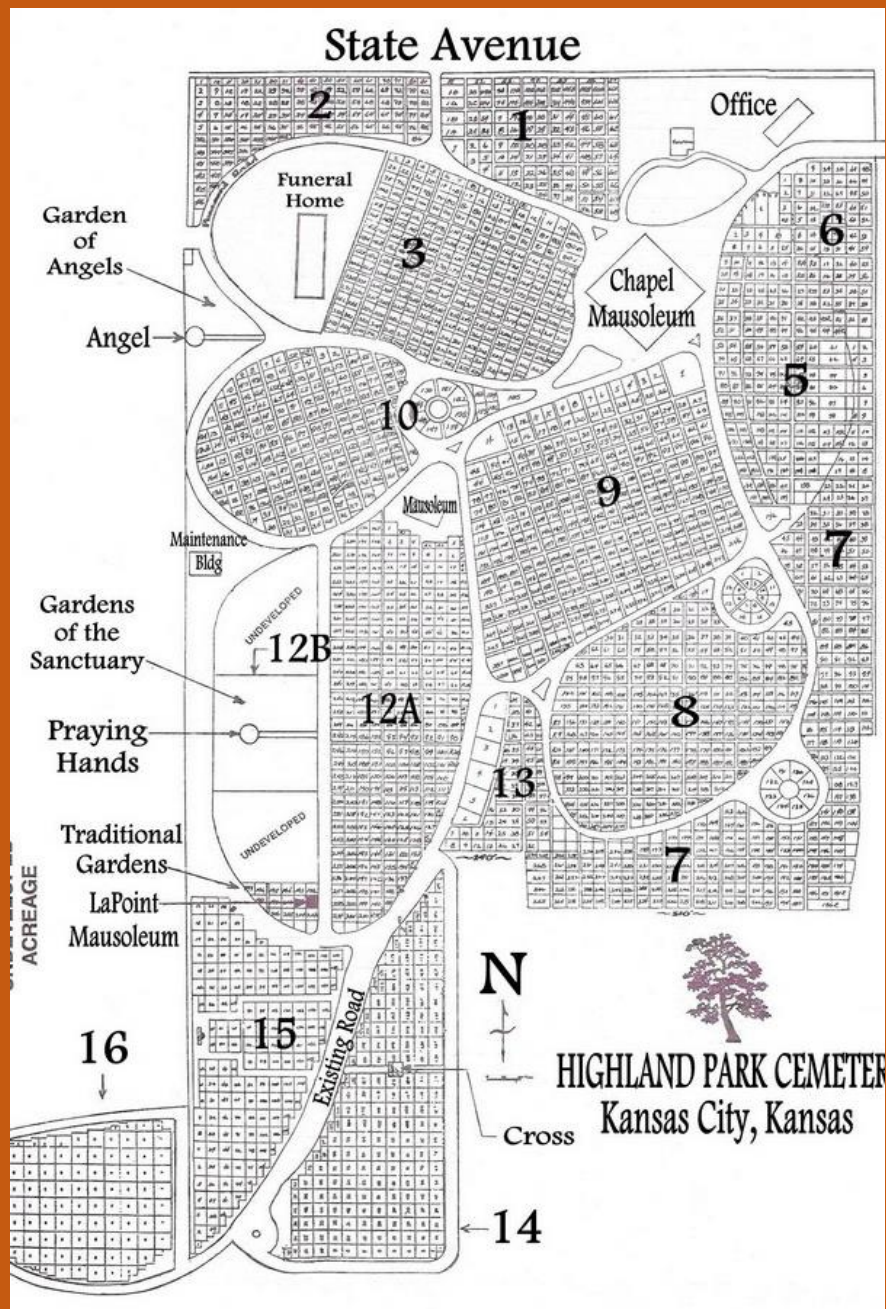


Saturnino Alvarado

November 29, 1883-August 1955

- Alvarado was born on November 29, 1883 in Mexico.
- He graduated high school and was trained as a shoe cobbler in Mexico
- He opened a shoe repair shop when he moved to the Argentine District of Kansas City, KS
- He wanted his children to get a good education, but his children, Luz and Jesus, were denied entry to Argentine High School. Alvarado did not give up and after more than a year's struggle between the school board, the Mexican consulate, and a Kansas attorney general, his children and other Mexican-American students were allowed entry.
- In 1930, Luz and Jesus graduated from Argentine High School.
- Alvarado died in August 1955 at the age of 72.





Highland Park Cemetery

3801 State Avenue

Highland Park Cemetery was founded in 1905. It was originally 20 acres but is now 67 acres

Harry Darby Jr.

January 23, 1895 – January 17, 1987

- After graduation from public school in Wyandotte County, Darby attended the University of Illinois.
- He served as captain in the U.S. Army in France during WWI. He was a major in the U.S. Army Reserves and a lieutenant colonel in the KS National Guard.
- He founded steel manufacturing companies.
- The Darby Corporation built and launched an ocean-going vessel for the U.S. Navy every day during World War II.
- Darby served as U.S. Senator for Kansas in 1949-50
- Darby died at Bethany Hospital at the age of 91





- **George Docking** graduated from the University of Kansas in 1925.
- In 1956, he was elected the 35th Governor of Kansas, serving until 1961. While in office, he battled with the Republican controlled legislature over raising taxes and increasing expenditures.
- After his term, President John F. Kennedy appointed him director of the Export-Import Bank in Washington, D.C. and he served until his death at age 59.



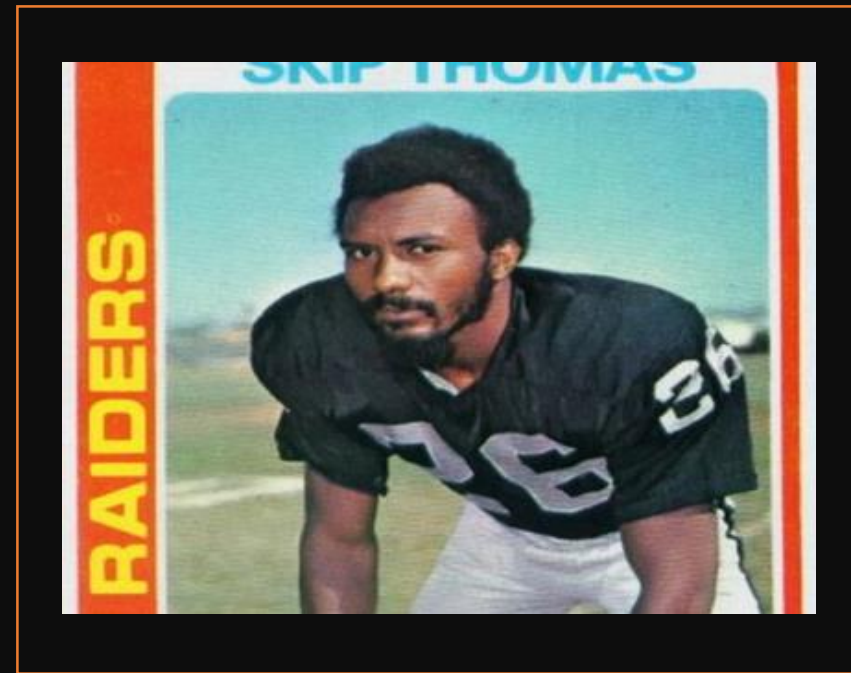
- **Robert Docking** is the son of Governor George Docking.
- During World War II, he served as a Corporal in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1948, served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.
- In 1966, he was elected the 38th Governor of Kansas, serving until 1975. He supported farmers, small business owners and the environment.
- After his term as Governor, he engaged in banking until his death at age 57.

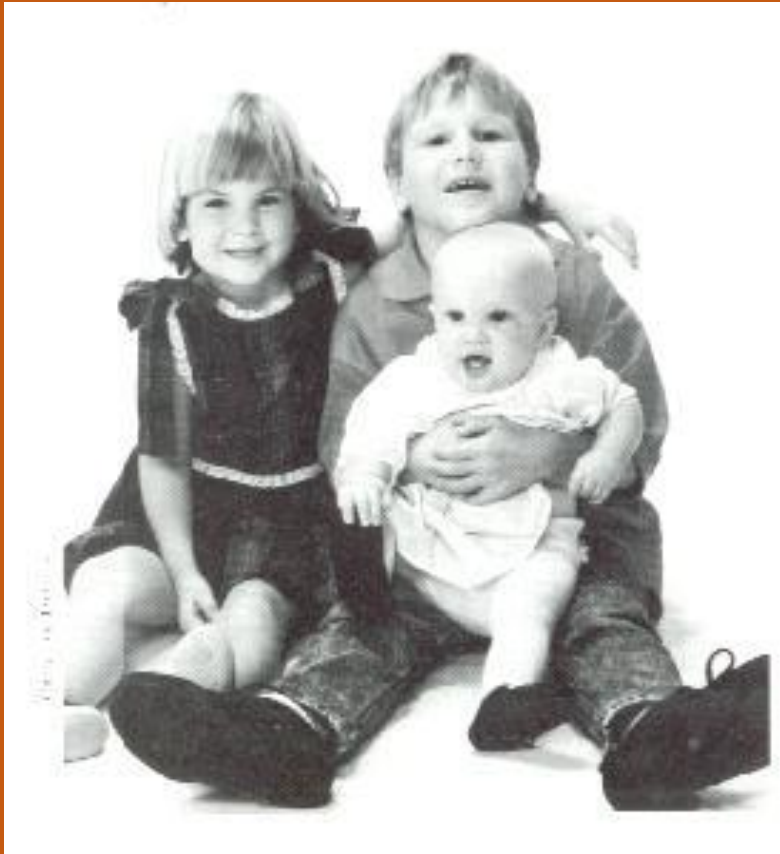
Alonzo Thomas III

“Dr. Death”

February 7, 1950 July 24, 2011

- Thomas was raised in Kansas City, KS, where he attended Wyandotte High School.
- He was selected by the Oakland Raiders during the 7th round of the 1972 NFL Draft. He played at the left-corner back position for the team from 1972-1977.
- Thomas was a component of Oakland’s famed secondary known as “The Soul Patrol” along with Willie Brown, George Atkinson and Jack Tatum.
- They played a significant role in the Raiders’ capturing the Super Bowl XI title in 1977. In 82 regular season games, he recorded 17 interceptions for 222 yards, with one touchdown.



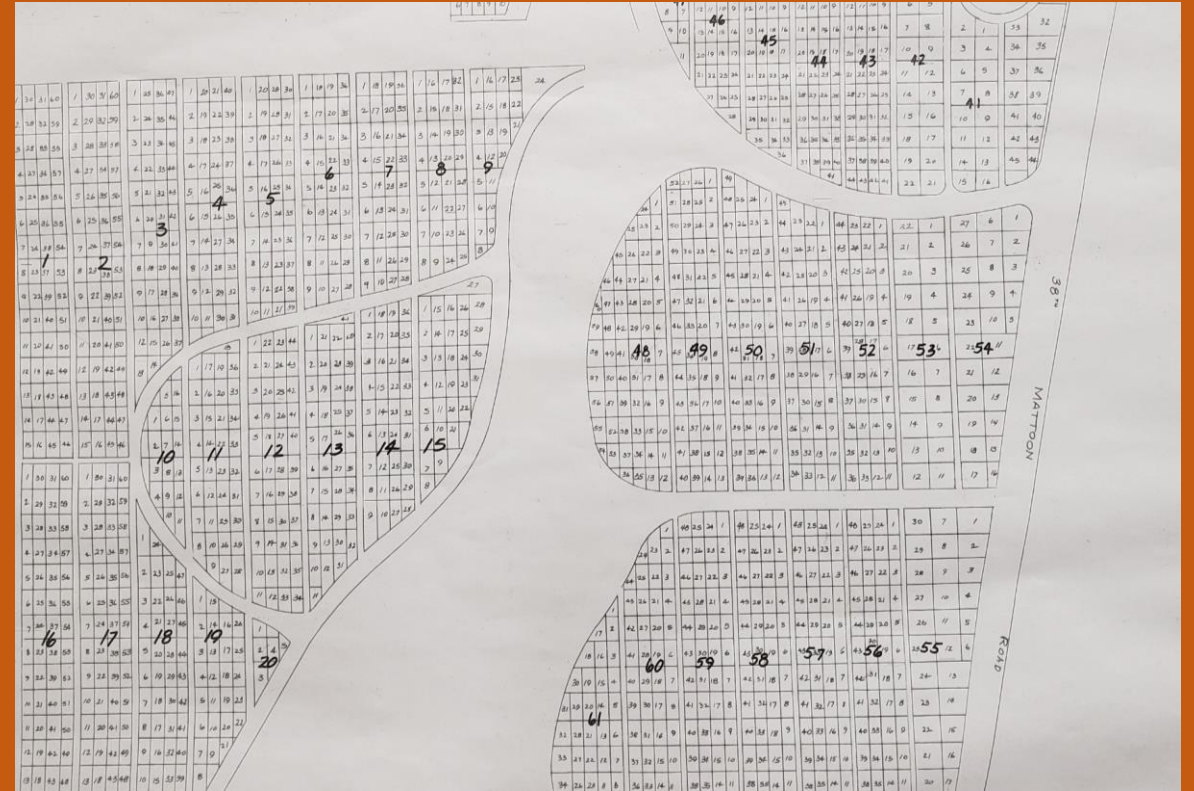


Kelly and Timothy Farrar

Died: October 24, 1995



Kelly Christine and Timothy Scott Farrar were murdered by their mother, Dr. Debora Green, who was seeking revenge on her estranged husband, Dr. Michael Farrar. Green set fire to her house, killing two of her three children, Tim, 13, and Kelly, 6. The murders were the subject of a book by Ann Rule, "Bitter Harvest." Green is currently serving a life sentence. Kelly Christine Farrar was born on December 13, 1988. Timothy Scott Farrar was born on January 20, 1982.



Westlawn Cemetery

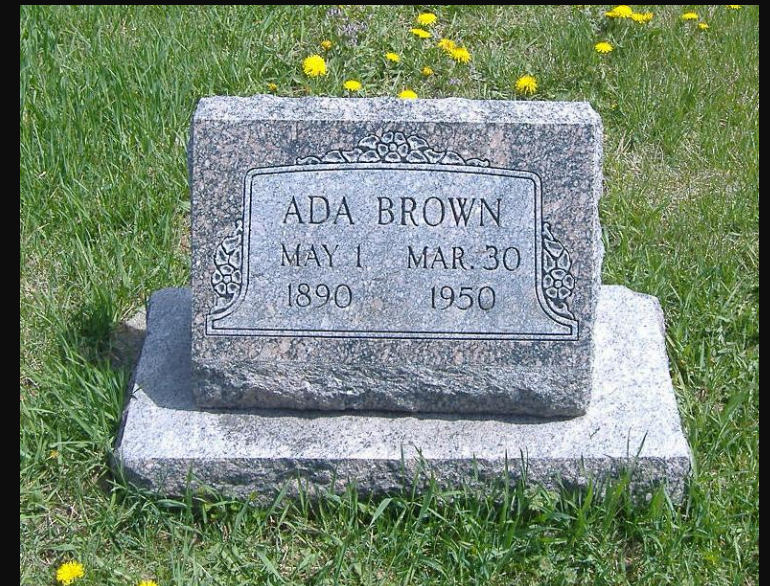
628 North 38th Street

Westlawn started as a black segregated cemetery in Wyandotte County. It remains predominately black. There are approximately 16,800 burials recorded in this cemetery.

Ada Brown

May 1, 1890- March 31, 1950

- Born in Kansas City, KS, Brown's early career was spent on stage in musical theaters and vaudeville.
- In 1926, she made her first recording "Evil Mama Blues" with band leader Bennie Moten.
- Her other recordings included, "111 Natural Blues," "Break O'Day Blues," "That Ain't Right" and "Crazy 'Bout My Lollypop."
- Brown was a founding member of the Negro Actors Guild of America in 1936.
- She performed on Broadway in the 1930s and appeared in the 1943 film, "Stormy Weather." Brown became known as the "Brown Thrush of Swing."
- Brown passed away at her home in Kansas City, KS.



James S. Scott

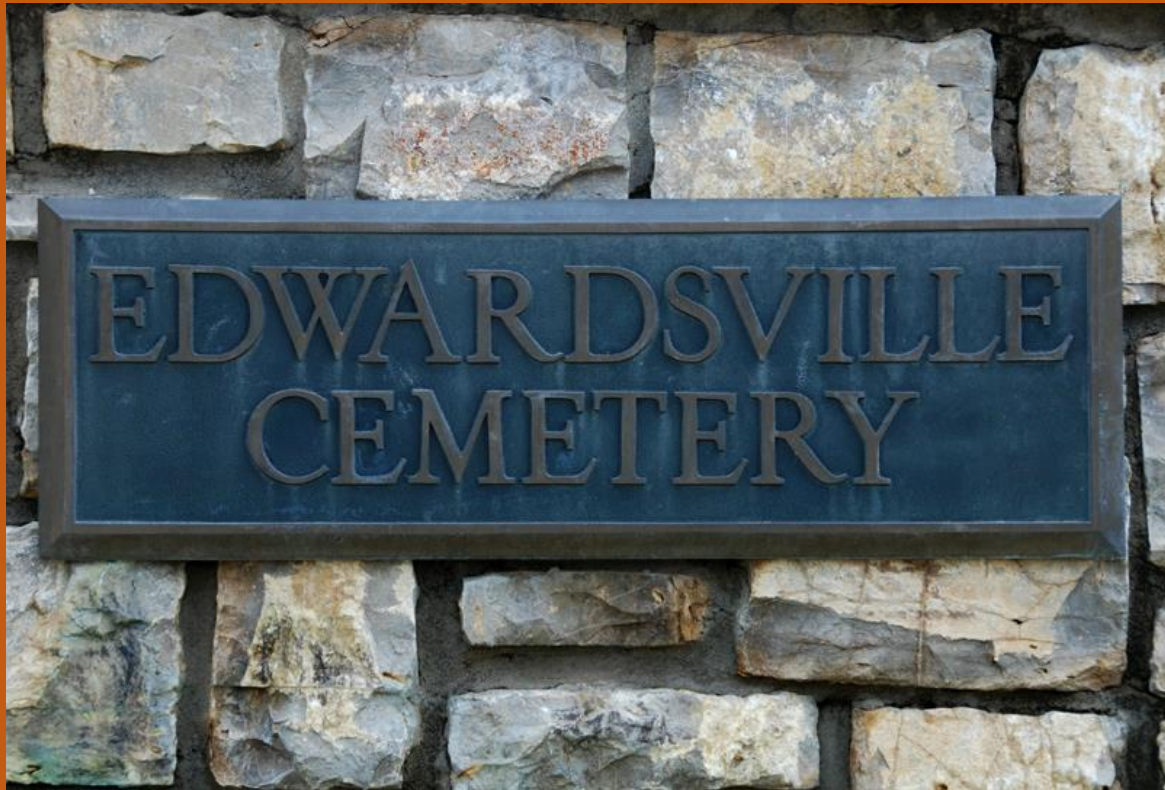
Died: August 30, 1938

- Born the second child of former slaves, in Neosho, MO.
- Scott composed “Hilarity Rag,” “Frog Legs Rag,” and “Kansas City Rag.”
- Known as the “Little Professor,” Scott was second only to his contemporary and friend Scott Joplin.
- Scott was employed as music director of a cinema chain located in and around the Jazz district of Kansas City.
- Once sound was added to movies, music directors were no longer needed for movie theaters.
- He continued to provide piano lessons and to write music throughout his life.
- James S. Scott died in Kansas City, KS in 1938.



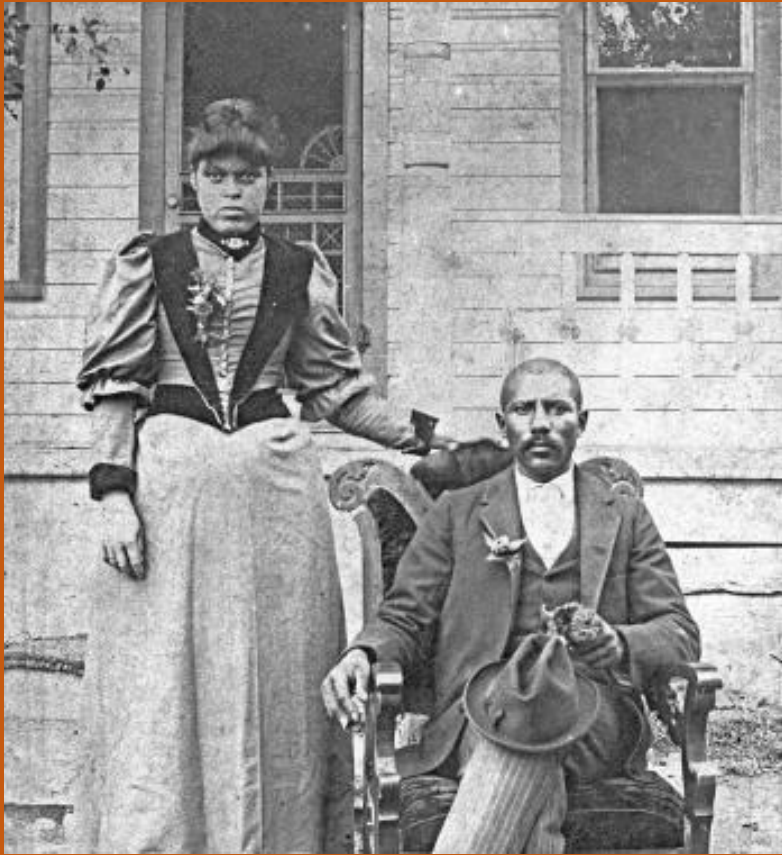


Wyandotte County Cemetery is located at 94th Street between State Avenue and Parallel. It contains graves from the County Farm/Poor House many of them were buried with no headstones.



Edwardsville Cemetery

- Theodore Naish and his wife were on the Lusitania when the Germans sank it off the Irish coast in 1915. His wife survived, but his body was lost at sea.
- Camp Naish, a Boy Scout camp east of Bonner Springs, KS was named in his honor.



Junius and Matilda Groves were buried in unmarked graves in Franklin Cemetery. Learn about the lives of these fascinating Wyandotte County residents with our [new education program](#) or through [Find a Grave](#).



Franklin Cemetery

Franklin Cemetery

86th and Swarts in Kansas City, Kansas

Bonner Springs Cemetery

Sheidley Avenue

Eva and Henry Wagenknecht were married in 1928. Eva was often seen with bruises after one of Harry's fits of rage. On August 16, 1954, Eva was found outside the home strangled, naked and beaten. Henry was convicted of her death.

In 1975 Henry died, and to the dismay of locals, was buried next to his wife in the Bonner Springs Cemetery.



- The first cemetery for Bonner Springs was on a hill that overlooked the Kaw River.
- The community center is now on that property.
- In 1905 John W. McDaniel gave the city 10 acres where the present cemetery is today.

Brune Estates Cemetery

61st and Yecker

Buffalo soldiers were buried here. The two that were documented are Israel Jones and Robert Clayborn. There could be up to 15 others buried here.



Saylor/Drake Cemetery

6901 Donahoo

A family cemetery with burials beginning in the mid 1850's and the with the most recent burial in 2017.



Bethel Cemetery

7900 Leavenworth Road

The land was donated by Fred Woestemeyer in 1896. Notable names here include the Hurrelbrinks, Brune, Bighams and Stotlers.



Wolcott/Connors

Near Hutton Road and Connor Creek. There is no documented history for this cemetery, but it could have over 50 graves.



Griffith Cemetery

Leavenworth Road between two addresses, 6745 and 6805. This was originally the Malott Family cemetery.



Maywood Cemetery

113th and Parallel, this was a cemetery created for the residents of Maywood and associated with the Maywood Community Church in the late 1870s.



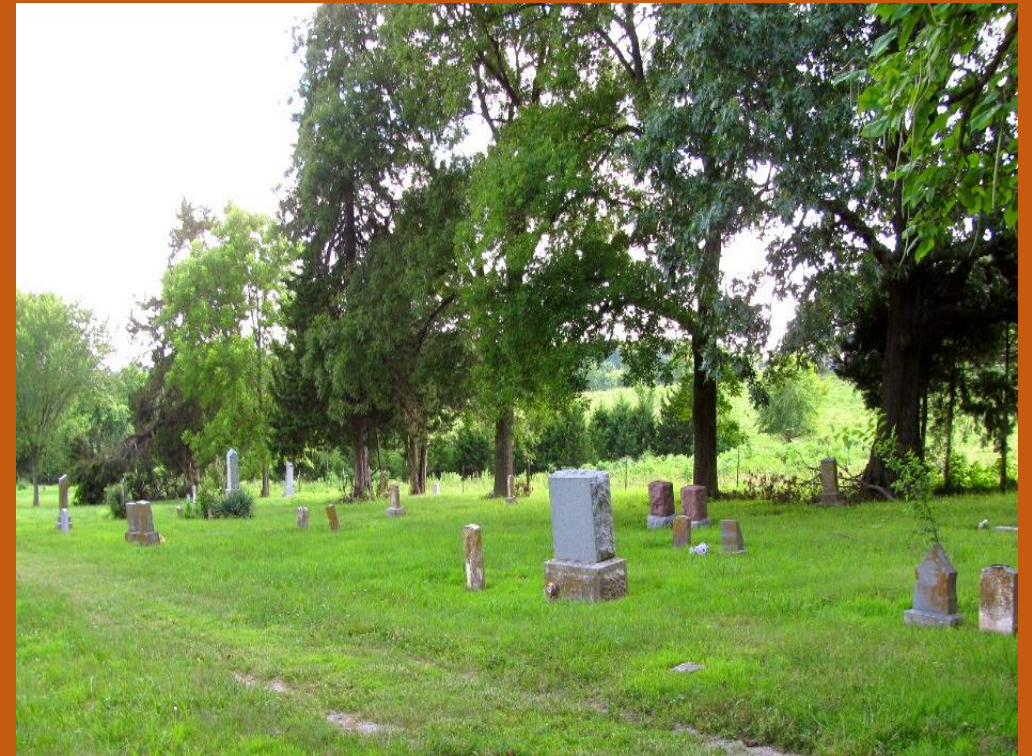
Pleasant Ridge Cemetery

Also known as Prairie, Winters and Douglas Cemeteries. It is in the northeast corner of 1435 and Leavenworth Road. Some burials date to the mid 1800s.



Riverview Cemetery

The Sherman Township Cemetery is located at Stillwell Road West of Loring Drive. It was founded in the early 1900s and is south of Bonner Springs.



Vinewood Cemetery

Located [9514 Nelson Road](#), this cemetery was deeded to the Swedish Lutheran Church of Conner City. The name was changed to Vinewood after 1940.



Grinter Cemetery

Located at [7819 Swartz Road](#), this cemetery contains members of the Defries, Grinter, and Kirby families with graves dating back to the 1850s.

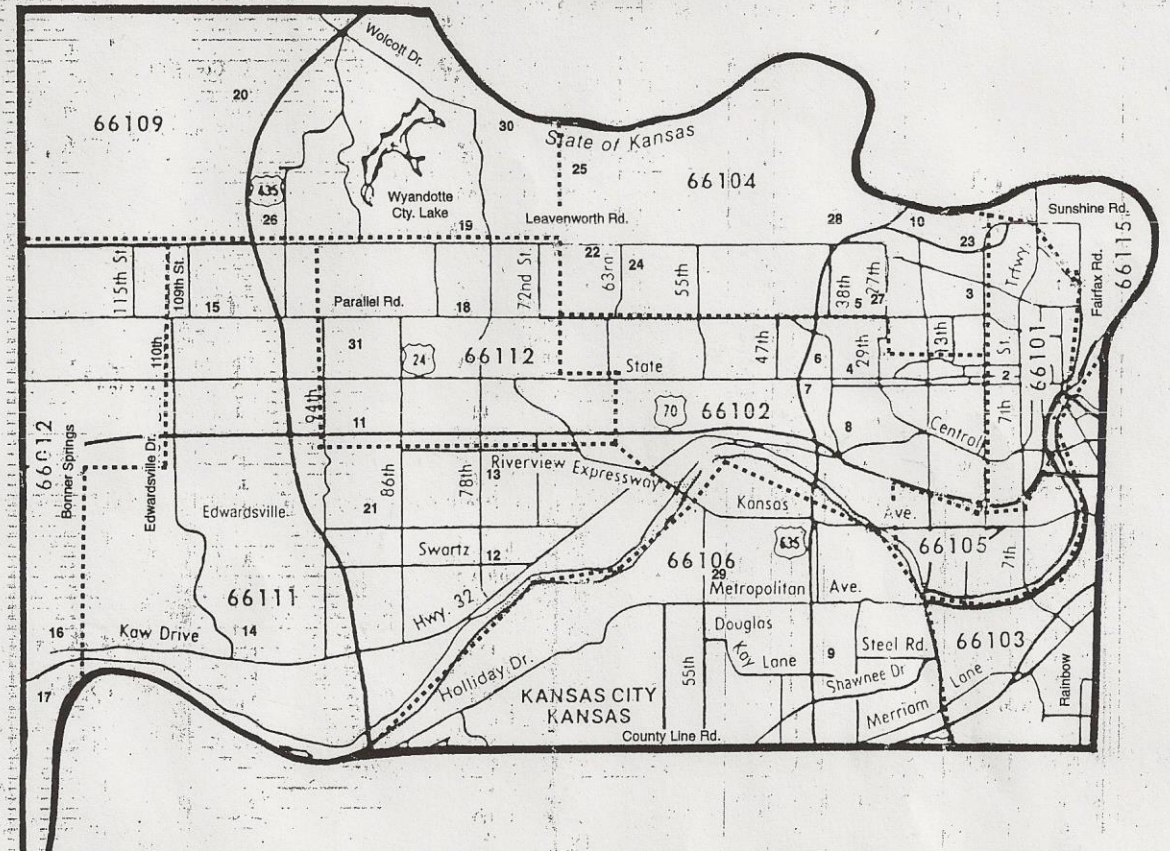


WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS

By J.R. Russell, Wyandotte County Attorney and Local Historian

Great Cemetery Resources

- <https://www.findagrave.com/>
- www.wycokck.org/wycomuseum/Research
- [Highland Park](#) - 913-371-0667
- Memorial Park - 913-321-5100
- Maple Hill - 913-262-6610
- Chapel Hill - 913-334-3366



CEMETERY LOCATIONS IN WYANDOTTE COUNTY

1. Oak Grove - 3rd & Waverly
2. Huron - 7th & Minnesota
3. Woodlawn - 9th & Lafayette
4. St. Johns - 36th & State
5. Quindaro Township - 38th & Parallel Parkway
6. Mt. Calvary - 38th & State
7. Highland Park - 38th & State
8. Westlawn - 38th & Orville
9. Maple Hill - 34th & Shawnee Drive
10. Memorial Park - 18th & I-635
11. St. Patricks - 94th & State
12. Grinter - 78th & Swartz
13. Stony Point - 149 S. 78th
14. Edwardsville - 104th St.
15. Maywood - 112th & Parallel
16. Bonner Springs City Cemetery - Sheidly & Metropolitan
17. Riverview - Stillwell Road West of Loring Drive
18. Delaware/White Church - North 85th and Parallel
19. Bethel I.O.O.F. - 79th and Leavenworth Road
20. Connors City/Wolcott - Hutton Road West 435
21. Chapel Hills - South of 94th and State Avenue
22. Griffith - Vance - 6775 Leavenworth Road
23. Sunset Gardens - 3400 N. 12th
24. Brune Marshall - 61st and Yecker
25. Sailor Drake - 69th and Donohoo Road
26. Pleasant Ridge - Douglas - I-435 and Leavenworth road
27. Mt. Hope - 34th and Parallel Parkway
28. Old Quindaro City - 34th and Sewell
29. Shawnee Township - 55th and Edgehill
30. Barker - Pomeroy - Between Barker Ta and Seigler Orchard
31. Potters Field - 1600 N. 94th St.

This presentation was compiled by David Hartman,
Curator of the Wyandotte County Museum.

Museum [cemetery records](#) and [Find a Grave](#) were the
main sources of information used for this presentation.

Questions and comments can be directed to
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Wyandotte County Museum

Located Inside Wyandotte County Park

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