NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY



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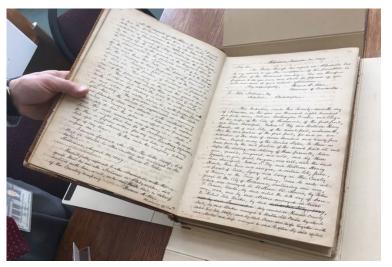
Hollywood Receives Funding from Roller-Bottimore; Phase One of Cemetery Records Digitization Begins

Over the years, Hollywood Cemetery has sent its original Board of Directors minute and meeting books and other essential records to the Virginia Historical Society for safe-keeping and researcher access. Now, a digitization project is underway that will allow the records to be searched and viewed online through the Hollywood Cemetery and VHS websites.

"The digitization project will help us preserve these important but fragile documents and also make them more accessible to researchers and the general public," said Kelly Jones Wilbanks, executive director of Friends of Hollywood Cemetery. "We are grateful to the Roller-Bottimore Foundation for recognizing the significance of this project through its generous gift of \$40,000."

Based in Richmond, the Roller-Bottimore Foundation supports projects that are primarily located in central Virginia, especially those focused on historic preservation and Virginia history. The total project will cost \$81,500 to complete. Wilbanks is seeking additional funding for the remaining \$41,500.

The project will focus on the first 100 years of records, from the founding of Hollywood Cemetery in 1847 to 1947.



Example of Hollywood Cemetery minute book in a custom-made, acid-free box

Archivists and digital specialists with the Virginia Historical Society began copying and indexing the documents in May. The process includes imaging each record, including reviewing and adjusting the imagery to ensure optimal clarity and legibility; creating descriptions for the records; and making them accessible online. Some of the documents will require additional preservation, including cleaning and mending and full de-acidification. Once copies are produced, the originals will continue to be stored in their acid-free boxes, which were custommade to the size of each object.

(continued on page 2)



Digitization (continued)

"We started with the minute books, which are such a great synopsis of what the company was doing over the first 100 years of its history," said E. Lee Shepard, retired vice president for Collections at Virginia Historical Society, who developed the project.

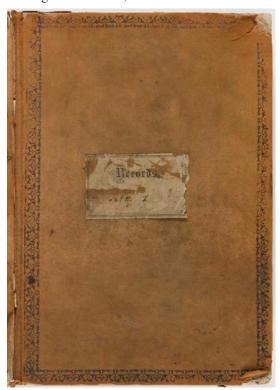
The earliest minute books include beautifully handwritten pages, contained in leather-bound volumes that are beginning to deteriorate. By contrast, the World War II era volumes are typewritten and held in three-ring binders.

Hollywood's directors began sending the important papers to VHS thirty-eight years ago. "It's a pretty substantial amount of material," said Shepard. For instance, the first deposit of papers that arrived in 1979 had over 1,500 items, many with multiple pages.

The archivists are also digitizing other papers in the collection, including bound records as well as loose papers, such as letters, financial documentation, lists of interments and architectural drawings.

"What we're trying to do is highlight the materials that really help to tell the story," said Shepard. "One of the great things about digital imagery is that it gives you an option to do the kinds of searching that would be much harder to do if you just started paging through the minute books. It also reduces the need for people to make a trip to see something if they can find a legible version of it quickly on the internet."

According to Shepard, Hollywood's artifacts are popular among researchers, from those interested in state and local



Leather Bound Records Book No. 1 (1847) of Hollywood Cemetery Company

history and the lives of the prominent people buried in the cemetery, to those who wish to research the records for genealogical purposes.

"I can tell you, from being an archivist and working with the processing of family paper collections, I've looked at the Hollywood records themselves many times to do the research that I needed to do to identify people and family relationships. birth and death dates, and where they lived," he said. "All kinds of information can be teased out of these records."

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Original subscribers to Hollywood Cemetery Company

Some of the types of records that will be available online include:

- Letterhead and Invoices from local businesses-often the only remaining evidence these entities ever existed
- Minutes of annual meetings with lot owners present and asking questions, making comments, and electing officers
- Minutes of board meetings
- Reports of the Hollywood Cemetery Company to stockholders, lot owners and others
- Land acquisition records as the Cemetery grew over the decades
- Time books signed each day by the employees of Hollywood--including such information as tasks performed and wages paid
- Lists of stockholders
- Articles of Incorporation
- Correspondence
- Register of Confederate Dead
- President Monroe's re-interment records
- Financial Records

(continued on page 3)

Digitization (continued)

as the line may be) built of sufficient height to sam The water to the desired breadthe of Ponde. "This is to be recommended also as a regulator to the emission of the waters of the main new, rendering it placed in its bed, which, one cut to the desired size and shape, will be without The trouble and expense of alteration . Thus, Gentlemen, I have endeavored to explain my plan for Hollywood Cemetery . Should my services be further desired, please inform me at your earliest decision, that I may regulate my time so as to visit and stake out The roads, Se. The plan on Vellow paper is the Key to the principal Plan. In trust, healtenen, that the Design may please, I have the honor to be your most obedient servant, John Notman.

The final page of the six page, handwritten report (February 12, 1848) from John Notman, architect of Hollywood Cemetery, to the Cemetery Board of Directors. The entire report conveys in detail Notman's vision for developing the rolling, wooded landscape (known at the time as Harvey's woods) into Richmond's first rural cemetery.

<u>At Hollywood Cemetery</u> Heritage Rose Foundation Returns to its Roots

66 I'm so excited to see what's been done here. I've heard about Hollywood for years," said Anita Clevenger of Sacramento, CA.

Clevenger, a curator with the Historic Rose Garden at Sacramento's Old City Cemetery – a contemporary of Hollywood – was one of the rose lovers who came from far and wide to take a tour of Hollywood Cemetery on May 20th as part of the Heritage Rose Foundation's 2017 conference. The Foundation, founded in 1986, is an international organization devoted to the preservation of old roses.

The conference drew eighty-four participants from across the country, including a large group from California, and even Bermuda. Dr. Sharon Pajka and Bob Olson presented



Connie Hilker, conference organizer, welcomes participants to Hollywood

a trolley history tour of Hollywood, including its roses. By current count, there are 71 heritage roses (antique; old) growing in Hollywood representing 39 different varieties. Afterwards, participants enjoyed boxed lunches at Presidents Circle before taking a cemetery walk led by Connie Hilker, organizer of the 2017 conference, to see some of the famed roses up close.

Five years ago, Hilker (owner of Hartwood Roses in Fredericksburg) organized Hollywood's first ever rose maintenance day. It has become an annual event in March, and an essential element of the maintenance program of Hollywood's exceptional rose collection. It attracts repeat and new volunteers each year. This year's conference, "Returning to Our Roots, and Planning for our Future," was held in Fredericksburg from May 18-20. In addition to Hollywood, the conference included visits to the gardens of Monticello and the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants at Tufton Farm as well as a day of presentations at the 18th Century Belmont Estate in Falmouth, VA.

The name of the conference was fitting. "This is where we got our start," said Stephen Scanniello, President of the Heritage Rose Foundation, referring to Hollywood Cemetery. He explained that Richmond rose lovers John and Marie Butler discovered a variety known as the Crenshaw Rose in Hollywood in the early 1980s (*see the Crenshaw Rose page 5*). Their discovery brought them in contact with other antique rose hunters, ultimately leading

to the formation of the Heritage Rose Foundation in 1986.

"It was fascinating to walk up to one of the graves and see the actual Crenshaw grave and there it [the rose] was. That was fun," said Dr. Malcolm Manners, a professor at Florida Southern College.

On the walking tour, Felicity Holmes of Bermuda learned that a group from Bermuda had planted roses around Presidents Circle in 1994. She also "was very impressed with the renovations done to 'the birdcage'" monument of President Monroe.

Other guests enjoyed taking in the scenery and the Civil War-era monuments. "I'm a history nut," said Judy Eitzen, of Elk Grove, CA, and the editor of *Epitaph*, the newsletter of Sacramento's Historic Rose Garden.

The Foundation planted three antique rose bushes at the cemetery, including a replacement for a musk variety known as the "Temple Musk," which was also discovered by the Butlers at the Temple grave site in Hollywood. Later, at a banquet held at Hilker's home, the group presented a \$500 gift to Friends of Hollywood Cemetery Executive Director Kelly Jones Wilbanks, to support the cemetery's rose maintenance program.

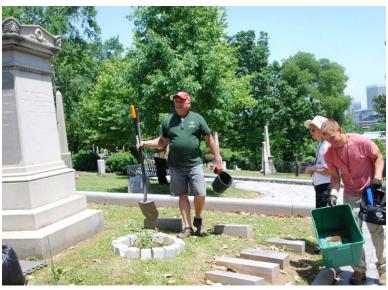
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Heritage Rose Foundation (continued)

"This cemetery visit is one of the things that drew people to the meeting," said Manners. "Among all the rose people, it is famous."

About the Crenshaw Rose

The Crenshaw rose is a musk rose identified botanically as *Rosa moschata plena*. "The musk rose is an ancient rose. There are references to it in literature dating to 1000 B.C.," said Steve Scanniello, President of the Heritage Rose Foundation.



Stephen Scanniello plants a new antique rose (Duchesse de Brabent) at Presidents Circle

But for many years, the white, fragrant rose was thought to be extinct. Then, in the early 1980s, rose lovers John and Marie Butler of Richmond discovered one in Hollywood Cemetery at a grave belonging to the Crenshaw family.



Conference participants break for a Richmond tradition – a Sally Bell box lunch

The Butlers sent a cutting of their discovery to Dr. Malcolm Manners, who teaches plant propagation and horticulture at Florida Southern College and helped identify the variety. It became known by its shortened name – the Crenshaw rose or Crenshaw musk. The Butlers and Manners were among the charter members of the Heritage Rose Foundation.

Scanniello, another charter member, who is also curator of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden in New York City and rosarian of Elizabeth Park in Hartford, CT, has planted the Crenshaw rose at Elizabeth Park and other locations.

"It started here [Hollywood] from cuttings," he said, "and now it grows everywhere."

To read a history of the Crenshaw and other musk roses, please see the May 2017 newsletter found at HeritageRoseFoundation.org.

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FRIENDS OF HOLLYWOOD

The Great Influenza Epidemic of 1918

In 1918 a million American doughboys reinforced the depleted ranks of British and French armies and finally tipped the scales on the Western Front. Allied forces managed, barely, to blunt the last German assaults that spring and summer. By October, their own massive offensive broke through the lines and sent the kaiser's divisions reeling back toward the Fatherland. Newspaper headlines screamed of impending German collapse and an imminent and total victory for the Western democracies in what was then called the Great War.



Broad Street, Richmond parade on November 11, 1918

But in that same month, an entirely different, equally apocalyptic event threatened to push the war off the front pages. A terrible influenza epidemic struck with shocking speed and scythed through civilian populations as well as armies everywhere. In a matter of months, what was inaccurately called "Spanish flu" killed more people around the world than did the Great War in all its four grim years of carnage.

Neither cataclysm—not global war, not worldwide pandemic—was remotely on the horizon for Richmond in the early twentieth century. The state capital viewed itself as a leader of the urban New South, to be sure, but in a parochial, regional sense; international affairs played no part in its outlook. All that changed in an instant when Congress declared war against Germany and Austria-Hungary in April 1917. In a burst of patriotism, young men flocked to the colors, and women served in countless roles, in war work, in nursing, in volunteering. Households observed meatless and gasless days. The community bought millions of dollars in war bonds. Under its dean, Dr. Stuart McGuire, the Medical College of Virginia organized one of the fifty Red Cross field hospitals that would form the medical backbone of the American Expeditionary Force.

Now, not surprisingly, foreign affairs, especially dispatches from the front, dominated local newspaper coverage. By late September 1918, however, even as it trumpeted the latest Allied push in exhaustive detail and whipped up patriotic fervor for war bonds, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* began printing small articles at the bottom of the front page that readers might easily have overlooked. They reported that thousands of soldiers in army camps around Boston had contracted "Spanish flu." By the beginning of October, the influenza wildfire ignited in Richmond, with 10,000 cases reported in a matter of days. With headlines bellowing "Epidemic Forces Drastic Action," the *Times-Dispatch* nearly elbowed aside the bombshell news that the German chancellor had called for an armistice.

This was in fact the second wave of the same epidemic. A first, mild wave had irrupted in spring 1918, in America and then in Europe, but quickly passed without exacting an unusually high death toll. But the virus mutated over the summer into a far more virulent strain. In late August it struck both sides of the Atlantic simultaneously, first in army camps and then quickly spreading to the civilian population. It overwhelmed public health services. People donned surgical masks in a vain hope of avoiding infection. Unlike past flu epidemics, this one tended to spare the very young and very old and instead afflicted those in the prime of life with horrific lethality.

Richmond now shared the fate of cities up and down the Eastern Seaboard. Its leaders responded with admirable speed. At the request of the city's chief health officer, the Virginia capital shut churches, schools, theaters, dance halls, and all other indoor public gatherings. The Instructive Visiting Nurses' Association (IVNA) and the health department divided the city into districts to coordinate visits to stricken households. Westhampton Hospital was quarantined for flu victims only. John Marshall High School became the base hospital and headquarters for mobilizing resources against the threat. The state health commissioner drafted MCV medical students as doctor-assistants. Churches opened soup kitchens for families in need. Impressed inmates from the city jail delivered milk.

(continued on page 7)

Great Influenza (continued)

Like other cemeteries throughout the nation, Hollywood, already beset by a shortage of gravediggers that fall,



Dr. Ennion Williams (1874-1931)

struggled to meet the increased demands placed on it. Many localities feared a breakdown in mortician services, and that anxiety stoked apprehension of an outbreak of secondary, follow-on infectious diseases. The state health commissioner, Dr. Ennion Williams, confirmed that "the undertakers had informed him they were experiencing difficulty in securing coffins." Because the city banned funerals in homes as

well as churches, Hollywood saw a dramatic increase in graveside services.

As the number of reported cases leveled off in late October, officials argued about when to lift the prohibition on public gatherings. The Richmond Academy of Medicine warned against premature action. Finally, on

5 November, the city lifted the ban. The worst was over, though lesser, intermittent spikes of contagion cropped up through the spring.

Dr. Victor Vaughan, former president of the American Medical Association and surgeon general of the United States Army, was asked why so many people were dying of the flu. He confessed "I decided never again to prate about the great achievements of medical science and to humbly admit our dense ignorance in this case."

Worldwide, the pandemic killed as many as 50-100 million. After it was over, health officials estimated that a quarter of Americans had contracted the flu and more than half a million had died. At the beginning of the epidemic, Richmond city officials had accurately predicted 900 to 1,500 deaths; the actual toll from September 1918 to March 1919 was 1,014. Perhaps because people then, unlike today, were accustomed to smallpox, yellow fever, and other epidemics, the great influenza, whose centenary we will mark next year, did not instill as much fear as we might expect. Even though it killed millions, once it had passed, it seemed to have disappeared quickly from American memory. Perhaps also because it was of such short duration and was conflated in retrospect with the brutal climax of fighting in Europe, it was yet another bad memory that people wanted to put behind them.

In spring 1919, Hollywood Cemetery's annual report made a mere glancing reference to "the great upheaval of the past year." It noted that the cemetery's superintendent performed heroically, despite "influenza prevailing, pneumonia and the digging of a good portion of the grounds of Hollywood." The cemetery's statistics bear mute testimony to the catastrophe. Annual interments averaged around 350 for years on either side of 1918. But in that year, they skyrocketed nearly 30 percent, representing Hollywood's share of the death toll allotted to it and the many other burying grounds of Richmond during the great pandemic.

Contributed by Nelson D. Lankford, Ph.D. Board Member, Hollywood Cemetery Company



Influenza ward, Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, DC

The Dooleys of Richmond

Two Generations of an Irish Immigrant Family And Hollywood

That two generations of the Dooley family had active roles in the history of Hollywood Cemetery may surprise almost everyone who has visited Richmond's Maymont, the estate on which the philanthropic second generation lived. Maymont visitors have probably seen the mausoleum there in which those Dooleys are interred. In light of that, visitors may ask how could the Dooleys have any connection to Hollywood? As a matter of fact, from the cemetery's earliest days the members of two generations of the Dooleys were actively involved in the life of the cemetery.

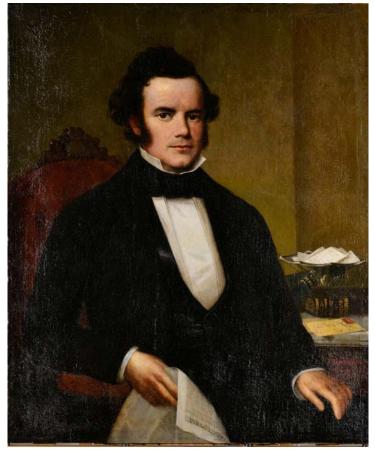
For instance, for many years James Dooley, the lawyer head of the second generation of the family, owned a burial plot on the hillside of Hollywood overlooking the James River. He bought it when his father-in-law, Dr. Henry May, who is buried there, died unexpectedly of a stroke. But Dooley was more than just a lot owner, he also attended lot holders meetings and in 1889, at a time when security at the cemetery was weak, he not only suggested the establishment of a committee to provide "protection, preservation and government" for the cemetery but also served as a hard working chairman of the committee. In a sense he was an early member of Friends of Hollywood.



James Henry Dooley (1841-1922) Courtesy of The Valentine

But James Dooley's immigrant father, John, who arrived in Richmond in 1836 to found a hat manufacturing company, appeared even earlier in the history of the cemetery. His first known appearance occurred in 1858 at a crucial moment in the history of the cemetery when its finances were in such perilous condition there was worry it might not survive. By then John Dooley had become wealthy and noted for his intelligence and his charity. His financial acumen

had earned him seats on bank and insurance company boards and his commitment to educational innovation had prompted him to become a founder of the Mechanics Institute, a night school for working men interested in improving their educational horizons, and one of the four trustees named in the state charter for St. Joseph's Female Academy and Orphan Asylum. By then he had also become a lieutenant in one of Richmond's militia companies, the Montgomery Guard. It was in this role that Dooley and forty-seven other members of the Montgomery Guard made their first contribution to the history of the cemetery. They and six other Richmond militia companies participated in the ceremonies at the burial of President James Monroe in what is now called Presidents Circle in Hollywood.



1859 Portrait of John Dooley (1810-1868) By Baumgras Courtesy of Maymont Foundation

At 6:00 a.m. on July 5, 1858, they marched from their headquarters in the center of the city to the wharf at Rocketts where they and the other militia companies of the First Virginia, were to answer the call to arms at 6:30 while Monroe's coffin was moved from the Jamestown, the steamship which had brought it from New York, to the open hearse drawn by six white horses which would transport it to Hollywood. The ceremony did not take place as scheduled, however, because the steamer on which the Seventh New York Regiment travelled as escort to the presidential remains had run aground down river.

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Two Generations (continued)

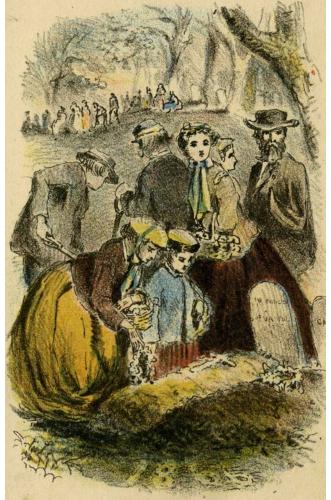
Over three hours passed while thousands of people, the Henrico Guard and the seven militia companies waited while the New York regiment was transferred to another vessel and finally arrived. At 10:00 o'clock the coffin was finally moved into the waiting hearse, as a band played a dirge and minute guns fired as the two-milelong march to Hollywood began. Church bells tolled as the procession of pallbearers, honor guards, New York and Virginia regiments with weapons reversed, and carriages carrying special guests moved slowly along crowded streets for the long trip toward the cemetery. After reaching the hilltop gravesite, the military companies snapped to attention, the coffin was lowered into the grave, Governor Henry A. Wise spoke at great length, and prayers were offered in Monroe's honor. The prestige of Hollywood Cemetery was assured even before the regiments marched out of Hollywood and quickstepped back to their headquarters.

John Dooley had another, even more strenuous, role in the cemetery's history eight years later. By then the Civil War was over, an occupation army governed Richmond, and the city's business district, destroyed in the Evacuation Fire of April, 1865, was slowly rebuilding despite a pervasive financial depression. The cemetery could not afford to hire the staff needed to maintain its grounds which were in very poor condition when in the early spring 1866 the United States Congress allocated funds to maintain the graves of Union soldiers who had fought in the Civil War, but not those of Confederate soldiers. The reaction in Richmond was swift and resentful. The editor of the Richmond Examiner suggested that Richmond churchwomen take up the cause and organize to remedy the situation.

The president of Hollywood, Thomas H. Ellis, invited anyone who wanted to help clean up Hollywood to meet at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on May 3. Ladies flocked to the church to form the Hollywood Memorial Association. At another meeting on the evening of May 14, John Dooley's immigrant wife Sarah was among the women elected to its Board of Managers, and the ladies set May 31 as the date for a Confederate Memorial Day. They made elaborate plans for the day, including a parade of military companies. By May 25 the veterans of the First Virginia met to organize for the parade. John Dooley was appointed to two committees that evening, one to find a band and the other to draft an organizational plan for the regiment's participation.

Three days before the scheduled day, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning, over eight hundred men, including John and his son James, most of them Confederate veterans, arrived to put in a full day's work cleaning-up the cemetery, braving cuts, bruises, and poison ivy before the day was done. The following day five hundred arrived to continue the work. Their efforts won plaudits in the Dispatch which reported enthusiastically, "it was astonishing in the extreme that even ex-Confederates could have performed so much in so short a time." When Memorial Day itself finally arrived, the city's businesses closed for the day. At 9:00 o'clock that morning, the First Virginia led off a parade of military companies who were followed by a procession of over twenty thousand people walking or riding in carriages who finally arrived at Hollywood just before noon. Veterans wore their old uniforms without the buttons and military insignia which had been outlawed by the occupation government. Flowers and large floral arrangements were carefully placed on the graves in the soldiers section.

At two o'clock that afternoon, two companies of Federal soldiers requested by the nervous occupation government arrived at the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad



HOLLYWQQD

Hollywood's First Memorial Day Color lithographic card by William Ludwell Sheppard Courtesy of The American Civil War Museum Richmond, VA

depot, not to attend the memorial ceremonies, but to maintain order. They were too late, but that didn't matter. Their services had not been needed on that solemn occasion.

Contributed by Mary Lynn Bayliss, Ph.D Board Member, Friends of Hollywood Cemetery

A Partial List of 2017 Contributors To **Friends of Hollywood Cemetery**

We are indeed grateful to the following donors for their generous support of Friends from January 1, 2017 – October 6, 2017. You have enabled us to raise awareness of Hollywood and to continue vital monument and fence restoration. Thank you for helping us to preserve Hollywood Cemetery for generations to come.

led Edward M. Farley, IV

Chair, Friends of Hollywood Cemetery

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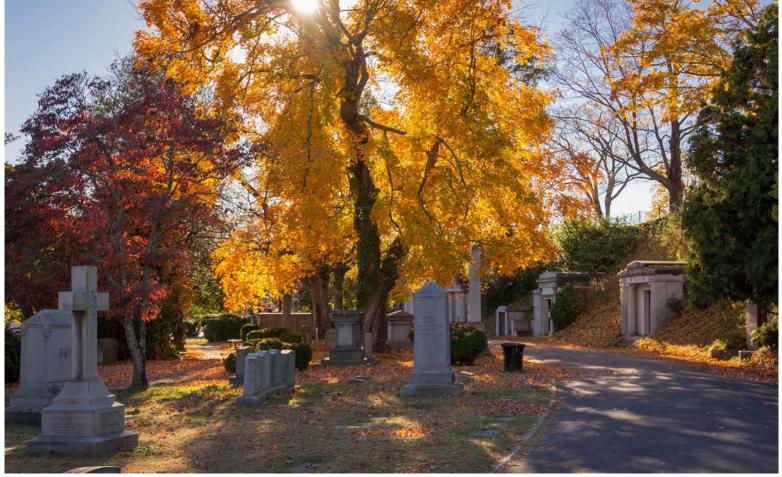
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