Glendale Cemetery

Park and Recreation Board . . . Did you know?

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Thank You

Information compiled by
Des Moines Historical Society’s
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Woodland Cemetery – Established 1848

- At the turn of the century, Des Moines is growing rapidly

- City is looking for an additional cemetery site to meet future needs

Woodland Cemetery Entrance & Gatekeeper’s Residence
Ebenezer J. Ingersoll’s Land Purchased

- Acquired 1886
- “Out west of town”
- 190 acres of farmland
- $200 an acre
A Contentious Start...

- "Woodlawn" unsuitable for a cemetery
- Only a few scraggily oak trees and many boulders so large that blasting was necessary
- It would take a day’s ride with a horse and carriage on rough land to go there and back for a funeral
A Close Call

- Some favored the rolling acres south of Woodlawn that had been purchased for a park in 1894 as the new cemetery location.
Then-Mayor James M. Brenton asked City Council to rename the cemetery Glenndale

Mrs. T. D. Cubitts was buried in Lot 1 September 22, 1904

Over 100,000 people now interred at Glendale
Iowa Mausoleum Co. purchased ¾ acre of land close to the front road and announced construction of the structure.
Too Big For a City the Size of Des Moines

- Contains 600 full crypts and 110 cremation urn niches
- City purchased in 1932 when mausoleum company went bankrupt
Glendale Lake and Roadways

- Built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) 1938-39
- Storm water feeds into the two-acre lake
More Land

- Catholic Church owned a cemetery area contiguous to Glendale
- Deeded it to the City as part of Glendale in the 1940s
Des Moines Municipal Cemeteries...
Come Share the History

Laurel Hill
Woodland
St. Ambrose
Elm Grove
Oak Grove
Simms