Laurel Hill Cemetery

Park and Recreation Board...Did You Know?

September 27, 2016
Laurel Hill – Quick Facts

- Located east of downtown, south of the Iowa State Fairgrounds
- Open in 1907
- 60 Acres
- Scenic Cemetery
Laurel Hill – Quick Facts

- 29,988 Internments
- Active sales in 9 cemetery blocks
- Block N in-ground cremations and columbarium
- Space for 40-50 years
Laurel Hill – Quick Facts

- Over 2,700 vehicles during the Memorial Day weekend
- “Avenue of Flags” on Memorial Day – started in Jan. 26, 1971

Des Moines Park Department
East 1st & Des Moines St
Des Moines, Iowa, 50309

Dear Sir:

At no Cost to the Park Department Or To the City of Des Moines,
BALDWIN PATTERSON POST #274 of the AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Iowa would like permission to have an Avenue of American FLAGS each year at the Veterans Plot in Laurel Hill Cemetery on MEMORIAL DAY.

There will be a 12 inch long pipe drove into the Ground as a Socklet to hold the Flag and flag staff’s from falling to the Ground.

The Flag Committee Will display the Flags from 7 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

The Flags are Donated to the Post by the loved ones and the Widows of Veterans who have departed this world.

Respectfully Yours
Francis H. Emery
Commander
Post #274, American Legion
Des Moines, Ia. 50317
Phone 222-630
The Purchase

- $23,000 George and Laura Curran
The Purchase

- George P. Curran
- Laura Angeline Curran buried 1/15/44 in Block F
- Nine family members
Many Names for New Cemetery

East Siders May Unite and Petition Council for Title They Like Best for Burial Ground.

Scores of names have been suggested to the board of public works for the new cemetery on Dean avenue east side. It is now time for the east siders to get together and petition the council for the one they like best. The council will be the final authority in the matter of naming the new east side cemetery, but as the grounds there are located on the east side there will be an objection to residents of the neighborhood.

Mrs. William Christy, who has probably done more in proportion to her means for the benefit of the poor and needy of the city than anyone else has asked the board to call the new cemetery "Laurel Hill." The title is a pretty one and it is thought other people will favor it. While Mrs. Christy's husband was overeared of the poor she was known to part with her last loaf of bread to relieve the dire necessity in the poorer homes of Des Moines.

Other names suggested are as follows:

- E. J. Blower—Mount Rose.
- E. Keyser, an Iowa author—Forest Grove. Rose Hill, Woodlawn, Spring Grove or Falling Leaf.
- Mabel Wilson—Oakhill or Elmwood.
- Mrs. M. H. Lilly—Mound Grove.
- Miss Margaret Hanley—Calvary or Elmwood.
- Edwin Pearson—Maple Grove.
- Mrs. F. Bullock—Forest Home.
- Anna Wazuh—Eastglen.
- William Baldwin—Forest Lawn, Maple Oak Lawn or Birdland.
- Louise Shaw—Mt. Carmel and Portage.
- Charles Wood—Flowerfield.
- Mrs. W. H. McKay—Crownhill or Dreamland.
- Anonymous—"Home of Peace."

Making Good in New York.

Mayor Selects "Laurel Hill" Name for New East Side Cemetery Was Proposed by Mrs. Mary Christy.

NAME CEMETERY—The new cemetery south of the fair grounds was christened yesterday by the city council as Laurel Hill Cemetery. The name was adopted by ordinance.

ORDINANCE No. 1497.

AN ORDINANCE fixing the name of the Cemetery recently established in East Des Moines, on Lots One (1) and Two (2) of the O. P. of S. E. 1/4 of Section 6, Twp. 78, Range 23, West of the 5th P. M., and setting apart the revenue received from the sale of lots in said Cemetery, as a special fund.

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Des Moines:

Section 1. That the Cemetery recently established in East Des Moines on Lots One (1) and Two (2) of the S. E. 1/4 of Section 6, Twp. 78, Range 23, West of the Street M., be and the same is hereby named Laurel Hill Cemetery, by which name the said Cemetery shall be hereafter known.

Section 2. That the revenue derived from the sale of lots in the said Cemetery be set aside and kept as a special fund to be used in the improvement and maintenance of the said Cemetery.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed December 2, 1907.

Approved December 2, 1907.

G. W. Matters, Mayor.

Attest: Geo. F. Poorman, City Clerk.

I, Geo. F. Poorman, City Clerk of the City of Des Moines, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of Ordinance No. 1497, passed by the City Council at a meeting held December 2, 1907, approved by the Mayor December 2, 1907, and published as required by law December 13, 1907.

Geo. F. Poorman, City Clerk.
First Burial

• Emma Springer

MRS. O. P. SPRINGER STRICKEN
Is Victim of Apoplexy While Engaged
in Her Household Duties—Dies a Few Hours Later.

Mrs. O. P. Springer was stricken suddenly by apoplexy at about 9 o’clock on Saturday morning while working in the kitchen of her home on Lyon, near Eighteenth street. She fell to the floor unconscious and died at 6:30 that evening. Mrs. Springer arose, apparently in her usual health, ate her breakfast, and was about her household duties as usual. Suddenly she remarked to members of the family that she was dizzy and an instant later the stroke came.

Mrs. Springer leaves two daughters, Mrs. Robert Bialock, whose husband is the manager of a theater in Omaha, and Mrs. Smith Russell, who is on the stage in the company of which her husband is advance agent.

The company is now playing at Fargo, N. D., and Mrs. Russell wires that on account of the snow blockade she will be unable to attend the funeral. The funeral services will be held from the residence at 1775 East Lyon street at 2:30 Tuesday afternoon. The body will be placed in the receiving vault at Woodland cemetery.

Mr. Springer was at one time bailiff in Judge McHenry’s court.

SECOND SORROW COMES TO SPRINGER FAMILY
Mrs. Martha Blackman Dies of Heart Failure On Day Following the Funeral of Her Daughter—Was 76 Years Old.

Tuesday Mrs. O. P. H. Springer was laid to rest in the receiving vault at Woodland cemetery. Wednesday, not twenty-four hours later, her mother, Mrs. Martha Blackman, succumbed to heart failure.

Mrs. Blackman complained of a dizzy headache at about 11:30 yesterday morning and lying down on a couch passed peacefully away, three-quarters of an hour later. Mrs. Springer was stricken with apoplexy at about 9 o’clock last Saturday and falling to the floor unconscious, died at 6 o’clock that evening. Both deaths occurred at the residence of Mr. O. H. P. Springer, 1776 Lyon street. Both complained of a dizzy feeling just before losing consciousness.

At the time of the death of Mrs. Springer, her daughters, Mrs. Robert Bialock and Mrs. Smith Russell were notified. The daughters are both engaged in the theatrical business and Mrs. Bialock came at once from Omaha and attended her mother’s funeral. Mrs. Russell was playing at Fargo, N. D., and on account of the snow blockade did not arrive in Des Moines until yesterday, too late for her mother’s funeral, but one hour before the death of Mrs. Blackman. Mrs. Russell will stay here for the funeral of her grandmother, who will be laid to rest Friday in the receiving vault by the side of her daughter.

Mrs. Blackman was 76 years of age. She leaves a sister, Mrs. T. E. Joy of Boise City, Idaho, and a brother, William Lundy of Fresno, Cal.
Burial History

Among other distinguished people buried here are John Heath and his wife, Opie. Mr. Heath was a U.S. Army Buffalo soldier, one of our proud African-American soldiers who bravely fought in the Civil War.
DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa's oldest resident, Nellie Cross of Des Moines, died Wednesday. She was 112.

Cross was born in Plano on Oct. 28, 1889, and moved to Des Moines in 1907. During her working life she worked at an ordinance plant in Ankeny and as a waitress.

She had five children, 11 grandchildren, 54 great-grandchildren, 104 great-great-grandchildren and 27 great-great-great grandchildren.

Source: Des Moines Register
Spunky centenarian, Iowa's oldest, dies at 112 By LINDSEY A. HENRY
Register Staff Writer 04/05/2002
City Nursery

- Original location – opened in 1927 under J.N. (Ding) Darling
- First 10 years… 42,000 trees & shrubs, 4,000 evergreens
The city nursery at E. Thirty-sixth st. and Court ave., may be seen by the public daily, except Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Open Daily
Spring blooms of the hundreds of shrubs and trees at the city nursery, located south of Laurel Hill cemetery, near E. Thirty-sixth st. and Court ave., may be seen by the public daily, except Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Titus arrives at his figure in his way. There are more than 2,000 of the plants on hand.

At a private nursery, the city would have to pay about $2 each for the trees and shrubs. The evergreens range in value from $1 to $30 apiece.

This makes an approximate value of $65,000, as the plants stand in the city nursery. On top of this however, it would cost the city about another $2 apiece to have them planted in parks and cemeteries.

By using city day labor—at $3.50 per day per man for an eight-hour day—the parks department will avoid an item of about $48,000 in getting these shrubs and trees set out.

The city nursery was established in 1927, under the leadership of J. N. (Ding) Darling, Des Moines cartoonist, when the city purchased Laurel Hill cemetery. The nursery was started on a 30-acre plot south of the old Runnels road, near E. Thirty-sixth st. and Court ave.

Nurseryman Gerald Titus trimming a tree.
Laurel Hill Stage Coach 1910
Laurel Hill Road Removed
1950
The story continues…

• Continued improvements
• Burial services options
• Honoring veterans
• Preservation