



# THE GATEWAY



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**CEDAR HILL CEMETERY**

463 FAIRFIELD AVENUE, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06114

FALL 2013

## BURIAL RECORDS NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE

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Visit Cedar Hill Cemetery at <a href="http://cedarhillcemetery.org">cedarhillcemetery.org</a> & Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation at <a href="http://cedarhillfoundation.org">cedarhillfoundation.org</a>	

**U**pdating Cedar Hill's records management and storage began in 2011, when the Cemetery hired Boston Computer Scanning (BCS) to scan, archive and index existing paper records. "For the past two years, our staff has been using Cemeteryfind software to manage and search cemetery records," said Office Manager Mary Anne Hawthorne. "Our staff appreciates the ease of accessing information from their desktop computers."

With the Cemetery's records successfully converted to an electronic format, the next step was to digitally map the Cemetery. Doing so allows the public to access cemetery records and map the location of burials.

To implement the mapping feature, BCS converted Cedar Hill's existing maps into digital format. While many of the

Cemetery's newer sections had been designed using CAD software, the maps of the cemetery's historic sections were hand drawn. Using a process that converted the Cemetery's maps into geographic information system (GIS) based technology, BCS then linked the Cemetery's electronic data to the maps. Conversion of the maps and testing took about six months to complete.

With the mapping conversion complete, Cedar Hill's information will be available on [cemeteryfind.com](http://cemeteryfind.com) for the public's use. Follow the prompts for "cemeteries and burial listings" to locate Cedar Hill's searchable records. A link to Cemeteryfind will be included on Cedar Hill's website, [cedarhillcemetery.org](http://cedarhillcemetery.org).

Cedar Hill continues to maintain its paper records, which are used in tandem

(cont. on page 2)

## NEW MEMORIAL GROUNDS

**E**xecutive Superintendent William Griswold is pleased to announce the opening of the Cemetery's newest memorial grounds, Section 38.

This picturesque area, adjoining sections 15, 23 and 27, is located at the highest point in the cemetery. The new section is a continuation of the Hillside project that began in 1997 that has, thus far, provided 50 additional acres to Cedar Hill's memorial grounds.

(cont. on page 2)



## NEW PLANTINGS ON SECTION 15

Cedar Hill's horticulture crew recently installed a new planting bed along the cemetery's northern perimeter on Section 15. The border, designed to eventually screen the chain link fence, features 47 plants including Weigela 'Wine & Roses', Viburnum Dentatum, Spiraea Snowmound and Pyracantha Mohave. Selected for their hardiness and deer resistance, the plants will create a decorative border along the fence line.



Developed in Holland, Weigela 'Wine & Roses' features bright rose blooms in midsummer and glossy burgandy foliage in the fall. Viburnum Dentatum, a native of the Eastern U. S., boasts creamy white flowers in late May and early June and blue-black berries that appeal to birds in late summer to fall.



Spiraea Snowmound, especially attractive to butterflies, offers clusters of white flowers in mid to late spring. Pyracantha Mohave has lustrous dark green foliage and showcases huge masses of bright red orange berries that create a spectacle of fall color.

The project, completed in September, required 71 man hours by the crew to prepare, plant and mulch the approximately 160-foot long bed. The Cemetery & Foundation would like to thank Larry Carter, a long-time Cedar Hill supporter, for his generous donation to fund this project.

(Burial Records, cont. from page 1)

with Cemeteryfind software. "The result of computerized records, however, is that the public will be able to access the information our staff uses on a daily basis" said Hawthorne. "The easy-to-use website will be available to anyone with internet service, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We hope people find using the web information helpful, keeping in mind that this is an addition to and not a replacement of current customer service available by calling our office."

Cedar Hill Cemetery & Foundation would like to thank the William and Alice Mortensen Foundation for the grant award in support of the mapping project. The Mortensen Foundation's generous funding supported converting the hand drawn maps of Cedar Hill's historic sections into a digital format. Thank you to Art Hutchinson, Cedar Hill's Horticulture Supervisor, for providing CAD maps. Thank you also to Boston Computer Scanning for their professional leadership in implementing this project.

(New Memorial Grounds, cont. from page 1)

"The new section includes single, as well as large multi-grave lots, offering families the broadest selection of choices when considering burial space at Cedar Hill" explains Griswold. "The Hartford skyline is visible from much of the new section, along with views of the cemetery grounds that include new ponds, decorative shrubbery and specimen trees" said Griswold.



The section was designed to incorporate open spaces and wooded areas that follow the natural sweep of the terrain. The grounds include flowering shrubs and trees set against a backdrop of existing woodlands.

Families wishing to purchase in the new area may do so by calling the office at 860-956-3311. Staff is available to assist you.

## CEDAR HILL TO CELEBRATE 150TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2014

In the Victorian era, there was a growing public sentiment that a cemetery should serve a larger purpose than merely as a place for interment. The result was the development of what we know today as the American rural cemetery.

In Hartford, by the summer of 1863, the need for a place of burial satisfactory to its practical as well as aesthetic Victorian-era requirements became evident. In response, a group of prominent Hartford citizens asked the city's Park Superintendent, Jacob Weidenmann, to aid them in identifying a location for a new cemetery that was "sufficiently removed from the city, possessing suitable soil and the largest number of other desirable characteristics, such as variety of surface, beauty of landscape and running water."



The desired location, in Hartford's south end, included nine parcels of land, each belonging to different individuals or estates. To resolve difficulties over the purchase of the land, the General Assembly passed a bill in May 1864 granting the institution the power to acquire the land by eminent

domain, marking the beginnings of Cedar Hill.

Construction of the new cemetery began in September 1865 and the first burial took place on July 17, 1866. Designed by landscaping pioneer, Jacob Weidenmann, Cedar Hill's innovative layout became the guiding principle for Weidenmann's book, *Modern Cemeteries*, published in 1888.

Cedar Hill's landscape played a significant role in American cemetery development. While the cemetery incorporates the best features of earlier prototypes, it also includes several features unique in rural cemetery design. The burial plots are smaller than those of its contemporaries and not always contiguous. This arrangement allows for plantings in the spaces between the lots and creates vistas unbroken by hedges or curbing. Drives following the natural sweep of the terrain in a graceful, curving manner are basic to the landscape design.

Perhaps the most impressive feature of the landscape is the ornamental foreground that effectively secludes the burial sections of the cemetery from the roadway. Much of Cedar Hill's wildlife is sustained in this natural habitat of water and woodlands that contains more than 65 acres of open space landscape and ponds. The largest of the ponds is Llyn Mawr, whose name means "great lake" and which covers about eight acres along the entrance avenue. As the main entrance to the cemetery grounds, the foreground later was enhanced by the Superintendent's Cottage in 1875, the Northam Chapel in 1882 and the Gallup Memorial Gateway in 1889.

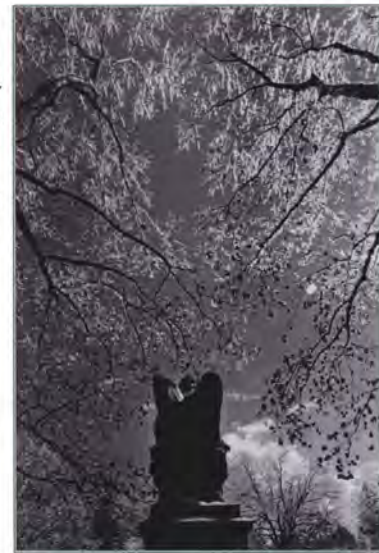


Photo by Robert Benson

Cedar Hill Cemetery & Foundation look forward to sharing and celebrating its history with you in 2014.



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## Order Your Holiday Decorations Today!

To order winter horticultural services, please complete the form below and mail it to:

*Arthur H. Hutchinson, Cedar Hill Cemetery, 453 Fairfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Street/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_ Section #: \_\_\_\_\_ Lot #: \_\_\_\_\_

Evergreen Blanket(s) Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00 Sub-total: \_\_\_\_\_

Evergreen Basket(s) Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ \$41.00 Sub-total: \_\_\_\_\_

Evergreen Wreath(s):  Small (12") Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ \$33.00 Sub-total: \_\_\_\_\_

Large (14") Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ \$41.00 Sub-total: \_\_\_\_\_

You can send payment with your order, or we will bill you when the order is received.

Amount Enclosed

Please Bill Me

### Cedar Hill Offers Special Services

**C**edar Hill Cemetery offers a variety of special services to meet the needs of its families. Such services include:

§ Arrangement and placement of floral bouquets for special occasions including birthdays, anniversaries and holidays such as Mother's Day and Father's Day

§ Washing of monuments and footstones

§ Placement of winter and spring holiday decorations

§ Trimming and removal of trees and shrubs on individual lots

§ Preparing of spring flower beds

In addition, Cedar Hill offers Perpetual Care Trusts, which enable

the Cemetery to care for your lot in perpetuity in accordance with your wishes. Perpetual Care Trusts offer peace of mind that your lot will continue to adequately memorialize you and your loved ones in the future.

To learn more, contact the Cemetery's offices at 860-956-3311.