

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

FOREWORD

Calvary Cemetery is indeed a unique and historic place. As we continue to learn more about some of the people at Calvary, we will continue to update and expand the pages of this booklet. If you have information that could help, please pass it on. The desire is to keep Calvary a living and growing entity for all of us and most importantly for future generations.

On behalf of our entire cemetery division staff, we hope you enjoy the learning experience that *is* Calvary Cemetery. Should you have comments, questions, or suggestions, please contact me at our main office:

Randal S. Chasco
Archdiocese of Milwaukee Catholic Cemeteries
Holy Cross Cemetery
7301 W. Nash Street
Milwaukee WI 53216
414.438.4420 ext. 311 / voicemail
414.438.4427 / fax
chascor@archmil.org

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere and deep gratitude to all those who so kindly and generously assisted me in compiling this story:

Historic Milwaukee Inc.
Carl and Ellen Baehr
The Chicago Historical Society
American Cemetery Magazine
The Milwaukee Historical Society
Charles J. Murphy

The stories of *The Newhall House Fire Monument* and *The Lady Elgin* are taken from stories I had the privilege to write for the *Famous People* section of our web site. For these and other stories about "famous" people at our cemeteries, go to: www.cemeteries.org, then to *Genealogy*, then to *Famous People*. All Calvary burial records can be viewed at www.cemeteries.org.



SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF HISTORIC CALVARY CEMETERY

BLUE MOUND ROAD & HAWLEY ROAD
MILWAUKEE IN WISCONSIN

By Randal S. Chasco

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

HISTORIC CALVARY CEMETERY IN MILWAUKEE

INTRODUCTORY HISTORY

Although the current Calvary Cemetery dates from 1856, the original Cemetery was founded in 1845. Cemeteries had existed in Milwaukee for at least two decades prior to that. As early as 1836, there was a cemetery at what is now the southwest corner of Humboldt and Brady. But, let us start a bit earlier.

The following describes the beginning of the Catholic cemeteries in our city. In Memoirs of Milwaukee County by Col. J.A. Watrous (1909), he writes: *"In the early history of Milwaukee there was a plat of ground in the first ward, near the lake, which was fenced in and used as a burial place for citizens, regardless of their religious views. It later became a Catholic cemetery, and in 1844 Bishop Henni purchased what was known as the "Old Cemetery," situated on Grand Avenue. The first interments were the remains of many taken from the first ward cemetery. The "Old Cemetery" consisted of ten acres and contained the dust of several pioneer clergymen. This ground becoming too small, and also being within the city limits, what is now known as Calvary cemetery was purchased by the Right Reverend John Henni, Bishop of Milwaukee and consecrated by him on Nov. 2, 1857. This cemetery is located in the town of Wauwatosa and is nicely improved... Trinity (Catholic) cemetery is situated in the Town of Lake, on New Road, one and one half miles south of the city limits. The grounds, which originally consisted of six acres, were purchased by the Trinity congregation who (sic) afterward admitted St. Anthony and St. Stanislaus. The original cemetery was consecrated in 1859, and an additional six acres were consecrated on July 8, 1877."* (Vol. 1, page 328)

The Cemetery, as we know it today, is a relatively modern institution. For centuries, bodies that were not buried in ones own land, farm etc., or in a churchyard, were often buried in larger mass graves for the most part unmarked. Several factors led to changes. One was the growth of cities and businesses which led to a rise of the middle class made up primarily of merchants and craftsmen.

These people wanted their lives and names to be remembered and memorialized. There was also a growing awareness of disease, often spread by unsanitary burial practices. Another was the social climate. Both the United States and (inspired by the Americas) the French had revolted and thrown off the idea of a monarchy. Social equality was an issue that called for the ability to treat each person with individuality and dignity regardless of status.

The first "modern" cemetery that is recognized as such is Pere-Lechais Cemetery in Paris established in 1804. From that time on the movement toward the new type of cemetery spread rapidly throughout all of France, Germany, and England. With so many immigrants coming to the United States, it was natural that these ideas came with them.

Most of these "modern" cemeteries were not owned by churches; but, rather the

city or town and in some cases by cemetery associations. These were relatively large parcels, larger than needed, with an eye toward the future for room to grow along with the community. They were generally placed far outside the settled areas. They became and were used like parks with families often going on a picnic and tending the graves while there. In Milwaukee the only one of these older cemeteries in its original location is Forest Home Cemetery, founded in the early 1850s.

What was known as "The Old Cemetery" was no exception. Founded by Bishop John Henni (Milwaukee's first Catholic Bishop), it covered less than ten acres and was in the area of N. 22nd and N. 23rd Streets, W. Michigan and W. Clybourn Avenues. By 1856 it was apparent that more land would be needed soon. Bishop Henni then purchased 55 acres at 55th and Blue Mound Rd. in the town of Wauwatosa. The land was consecrated on All Souls Day, November 2, 1857. All of those buried at the original cemetery were moved to the new Calvary Cemetery over the next few years.

Bishop Henni granted the original land to a religious order, The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) with the thought that they might use the land for a school. This was not to be. The order sold the land to real estate developer Alexander Mitchell. He had the land platted and sold the lots despite strong public opinion that he donate the land to the city for a park. One of the buildings erected on those lots was the Grand Avenue Congregational Church, which remains to this day.

By 1880, over 10,000 burials had taken place and it was clear that more land would be needed; so, Bishop Henni purchased 20 additional acres. The cemetery remains at this land-locked size of roughly 65 acres with about 70,000 burials.

TOUR OF HISTORIC CALVARY CEMETERY

(refer to map in center of this booklet for the numbered stops)

1. The Gate House and other buildings

The oldest building on the grounds is The Gate House. Completed in 1897, it was designed in the Gothic Revival Style by the famous architect Erhard Brielmaier who is buried here and will be discussed at Stop 9. In 2002 The Gatehouse was repainted and a new garage/storage building was erected west of it. The remaining structures will be discussed in more detail later as we approach them.

2. Luick, John (Block 7B, Lot 67)

John Luick was born in New York and moved to Milwaukee with his family when he was 11. The following year, he began working for Henry Miller, a local confectioner. After six years in Mr. Miller's employ, he accepted a position working for a local toy-maker, Henry George. At 21 years of age John enlisted in the Union Army, but was able to serve for only six months due to ill health. Following his discharge he moved back to New York and then to Virginia before permanently settling in Milwaukee.

In 1867, John married Monika Adler. They had five children before Monika died in 1876. Mr. Luick remarried to Elizabeth Hoff and had five more children with Elizabeth. It was said that Elizabeth was nothing short of a silent partner in the confectionery business they opened; cooking, running the delivery wagon and making ice cream. It would be his ice cream that would make him famous.

President Grover Cleveland is said to have served Luick Ice Cream at a White House State Dinner. John retired at the age of 63 in 1903 and his son William took over the business. Two years before that William had opened the Luick Ice Cream factory. The business and factory were eventually bought by the Sealtest Ice Cream Company. Elizabeth Luick died in 1931. John remained active until his death, at the age of 98, in 1938.



3. Juneau, Solomon

(Block 7B, Lots 102,103,129,121)

Solomon Juneau was Milwaukee's first permanent white settler and first Mayor. He is credited as one of three "founding fathers" of Milwaukee. He was born in L'Assumption, Canada on August 6, 1793. As was common with men of French descent of the time, he became a fur trader. The area of Juneau's trading post on the east side of the Milwaukee River became known as "Juneautown" with the area on the west side of the river later becoming known as "Kilbourntown" as the first German settlers moved into the area.

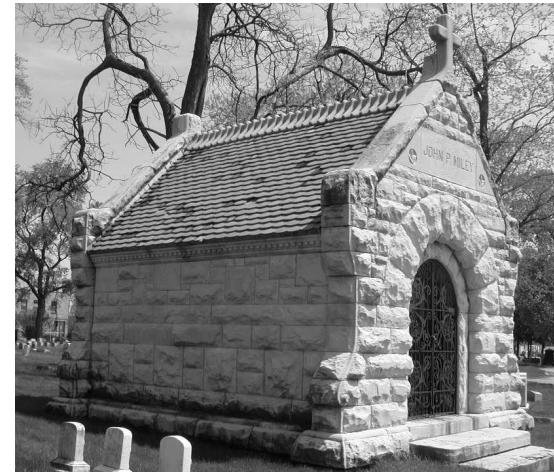
He met his wife Josette Vieau in Green Bay where her father was also a fur trader. They had 17 children, with 15 surviving. In 1834 President Andrew Jackson named Juneau Milwaukee's first Postmaster. At this time

Wisconsin was still a territory, not gaining statehood until 1848.

In 1837 he was elected village president. By 1846 Milwaukee had grown beyond village status and he was elected the city's first mayor. All this size and all the people may have driven him to leave Milwaukee. He moved to Theresa, Wisconsin and it was there that he died. It is said that Chief Oshkosh and three other Indians were his pallbearers. He had always had very good relationships with the Native Americans and there was a great deal of mutual respect.

A short time after his death his body was disinterred from its original grave and brought back to Milwaukee. A proper funeral Mass was held at St. John's Cathedral and he was buried in the "Old Cemetery." Following Bishop Henni's purchase of the land that became Calvary, Solomon Juneau was moved again, at last at rest. In 1946 the Milwaukee Common Council commissioned this memorial to him, which replaced

the original markers.



4. Miley, John

(Block 11A, Lot 136)

John Miley was prominent in the Milwaukee business community. He was a co-founder of the G.M. Barrett Department Store and was one of the founders of the Shorewood Woolen Mills, of which he was Vice President. He remained active in the business until he became unable to work because of illness one year before his death in 1922.

5. Niezerowski, Frank (Block 11B, Lot 87)

With many of the people whose lives are remembered here we do not know much more about them except the basics. Many of their relatives, as well as their contemporaries, have also died. Fortunately, we do know something unique about Frank Niezerowski that gives us a glimpse into his character.

Frank, an immigrant from Poland in 1854, was a strapping man who enjoyed physical labor. He worked as an apprentice and later a journeyman brickmaker. He continued in this business until 1882 when he was appointed to the police department. During this era in the city, being a member of the police force seems to have been more of a political appointment than anything else. When an administration changed, it was not unusual for two-thirds of the force to be let go.

After he lost his position on the police force, Frank returned to a successful career as a mason contractor. He remained interested in public service and served as alderman for the 18th district from 1890-1894 and later served as Public Works Commissioner. He died in 1896 under suspicious circumstances as a result of injuries suffered in a fall while inspecting a tall smokestack.

The incident I referred to earlier took place on a Sunday in September in 1885. I quote from information given me by Historic Milwaukee Inc.:

"An incident arose over the question of the church organist at St. Hyacinth keeping or losing his job. It seems that the organist also taught in the parish school. The problem was, he couldn't speak English, which the immigrant parents considered a glaring fault. In addition, it was rumored that the organist had run off with the wife of a traveling salesman before he came to St. Hyacinth's. Niezerowski, at 31 still young and strong, was head of St. Hyacinth's board of trustees. On the Sunday in question, he and his committee stood on the stairs leading to the organ loft, refusing to let the organist pass. Mass began and concluded with no

music. At the end of the service, the priest said that there would be no further masses that day and that each parishioner must see him and sign a statement attesting his loyalty to the Church. The parish priest was himself an immigrant from a Poland where, under German and Russian rule, the clergy had fallen from their exalted position to be frequently hunted down and killed. He felt a need to control the situation. His methods, however, produced nothing but resentment and anger from those who opposed him. These feelings were no doubt caused in part because Polish immigrants believed or at least hoped they had left oppression and despotism behind them when they left Poland. When Frank and his committee went to

see the priest that day, Frank was restrained and hit repeatedly on the back of the head by a blunt instrument by three men loyal to the priest. That incident began a riot which caused many injuries, much property damage and not a few arrests. The archbishop closed the church and the school, both of which remained closed until December when a new priest was assigned to the parish. The other priest left in October of that year....Francis Niezerowski, a strong man with strong convictions, living in a Catholic community that was evidently filled with strife.”



6. “Newhall House Fire” Monument (Block 11B)

“It was 4:00 AM on the 10th of January 1883. Firemen were rushing to the corner of Michigan and Broadway. The Newhall House was on fire. It would prove to be the tragic end of a famous building and over 70 people, both employees and guests, would die.

“From the 1850s on, Milwaukee was a major wheat exporting center. This was partly location and partly the result of a city sponsored program of inspection, weighing, and grading of wheat; giving an honest measure, which gave Milwaukee a reputation for dependability in eastern and European markets. By 1880, the city was handling 40 million bushels of wheat per year, and for a period, exported more wheat than any other port in the world.

“The Newhall House was one of the young city’s early landmarks. Built in 1857 of Milwaukee Brick, it was six stories high and considered by some to be the “finest hotel in the west.” President Lincoln was a guest there at one time. It would remain the largest hotel in the city for over 20 years. Before there was a trading pit in the city, traders would travel from one grain elevator to the next and gather in the lobby of the Newhall House to make their deals, buying and selling well into the evening.

“By 1883, the condition of the building had deteriorated and it had changed ownership several times. The new owners became less and less interested in making improvements or

upgrading such items as adding more exterior fire escapes or replacing aging and hardening fire hoses.

“When the firemen arrived, flames engulfed the entire building and people were hanging out of the windows yelling for help. The firemen did the best they could. When they tried to use the hoses in the building they found them to be so stiff that they cracked when they were unrolled. Ladders were put up to supplement the fire escapes but they couldn’t reach the top floors.

“General Tom Thumb, the 25-inch tall celebrity and his equally tall wife, a former teacher, were guests on the third floor. They were both rescued. Some ladders broke, hoses failed, but the firemen continued to fight valiantly.

“They set up their nets and encouraged those on the upper floors to jump. Some of the cloth nets were rotten and did not hold. A few of the jumpers bounced off a wire on the way down and missed. Many of the hotel’s employees, including over 40 of the maids, lived on the top floors. One fireman rescued six of the women by dragging them across to an adjoining building using a ladder. A few escaped through a stairwell that led to a connecting building.

“An accurate list of the dead was never able to be compiled because the hotel register was lost in the fire. However, there were 28 bodies identified. Forty-three were charred beyond recognition. It was believed that several others were also lost, totally consumed by the fire.

“On January 25th two funerals were held for the 43 unknowns. One for the Protestants and one in memory of the Catholics at St. John’s Cathedral. Following the services, a procession was held with the mourners accompanying 43 coffins covered with black cloth resting on platforms built on sleighs.

“The tragedy was a terrible blow to the young city and remains among the greatest losses of life in Milwaukee history. There is a large monument at Calvary Cemetery in memory of all of those lost with the names of those known engraved on the monument. (The monument is over 20’ tall; the graves take up four full lots.)”

7. Shea, Thomas (Block 11C, Lots 23 & 25)

Thomas Shea was born in Ireland in 1832. After coming to Milwaukee as a common laborer, he got into the freight business and started his own company in 1855. In just a few years he received an exclusive contract with the Chicago and Milwaukee Railroad. He delivered all the freight the C&M Road brought to Milwaukee. Following the merger of C&M with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad he was able to land a similar agreement.

His company grew continuously and he became one of the wealthiest men in the city. With his health failing, he relinquished control of his company to his sons. Besides his own company, he also had other business and real estate investments. He was well known and respected in the community and served as a charter member of the city’s Board of Fire and Police, remaining until his death in 1894.

Being an active member of clubs in the city he was an organizer of the *Lady Elgin* trip that turned into tragedy. He survived; but we will look into the *Lady Elgin* disaster a little later at Stop 25.

8. Hilbert, Theodore (Block 9, Lot 134)

Theodore Hilbert was born in Luxemburg in 1829. He completed his schooling there, including a course in industrial studies at the Royal College. He came to the city in 1849 as the assistant engineer for the construction of the first railroad into Chicago. After the railroad was completed he returned permanently to Milwaukee in 1863.

He was continuously involved in designing and building railroads; and was also an active citizen being elected two times to the Common Council. He was chief engineer for the Milwaukee and Northern Railroad and later served as city engineer and city treasurer. He died in 1914.

9. Brielmaier, Erhard (Block 9, Lot 131)

Erhard Brielmaier was born at Neufra near Rottweil, Wurtemberg, Germany on January 7, 1841. His family came to Cincinnati in 1850. At a young age, Erhard became very adept at drawing and the art of drafting. He worked with his father, planning and building both residential and commercial properties; also, some churches – which would become important later. Erhard came to Milwaukee in 1874 and in short order his designs earned him a national reputation.

Many people believe that one of his most innovative designs was the one for St. Josephat's Basilica. Much of the materiel that was used for the Basilica was salvaged from the demolition of the Chicago Post Office. Over the years, he designed over 800 churches as well as convents, hospitals, et al. His designs are said to be in every state as well as Canada.

Erhard and his wife, Theresia (nee Haag) were married in Nov. 27, 1860 and had 13 children, nine sons and five daughters. Five of their sons survived and eventually worked in the firm with their father. In 1887 the name of the company was changed to E. Brielmaier and Sons.

In addition to St. Josephat's, some of his other local designs were: The Chapel and Gatehouse at Calvary Cemetery, St. Stanislaus, St. Elizabeth, Saints Peter and Paul School, Notre Dame Convent, Mt. Sinai Hospital, St. Anthony's Hospital.

The artist's brush and palette is that of Clothilda Brielmaier, a noted artist who died two years before her father.

10. Sanger, Caspar (Block 9, Lot 115)

Caspar Sanger was born in Prussia in 1836. His parents moved the family to Detroit when he was four years old. He lived there until 1862, marrying Mary Holler in 1860. Throughout his life, he was involved in various businesses including a shoe store, tannery, flour mill and lumber. By 1877 he was considered a wealthy man. He was also involved in public service, having been elected to the state legislature, the Milwaukee Common Council, and as sheriff. While making a stump speech in 1891, he had a stroke, partially paralyzing him.

In the years following, he had 14 additional minor attacks; but was still able to form a syndicate with Daniel Wells, Jr., William Metcalf, and William Bradley to buy a

silver mine in Daggett, California. He moved his family there, but a financial crash almost ruined him. He lost his mining interests, his farm in Waukesha, and his home on Prospect Avenue. He reportedly moved back to California to promote and build a railroad. In 1896 he moved back to Milwaukee; he died in 1897. There are 13 burials on the lot.

11. Jung, Phillip (Block 9, Lot 99)

The first brewer we come to is Phillip Jung. Phillip was born in Germany in 1845. After completing his education at 14, he went to work for his grandfather. During that time he was involved in various businesses; but determined he was most fond of the brewing industry. At the age of 19, he left his grandfather and went to work for a brewer in Frankfurt-am-Mainz. He came to the U.S. in 1870 and worked in New York and Cincinnati, coming to Milwaukee in 1874.

He was taken on at Best Brewing as an assistant foreman and worked his way up to supervisor of two of Best's breweries, Empire and Southside in 1879. He was married to one of the Best daughters, Anna Dorothy Best. He left Best in 1879 and, with Ernst Borchard, started Jung and Borchard Brewing. They later merged with F. Falk and became Falk, Jung, and Borchard. That company was acquired by Pabst Brewing, the old "Best" in 1891. He died in 1911.

12. Schulte, Victor (Block 6, Lot 79)

Victor Schulte immigrated to Pennsylvania when he was 19 and studied woodworking, eventually becoming a master carpenter. Upon arriving in our city he set up business as a contractor and supervising architect. He erected the first swinging bridge across the Milwaukee River.

He is also well known as the builder of many local Catholic Churches; the most famous being St. John's Cathedral. In 1860, he essentially retired, moving his family to a 100-acre farm he had purchased some years before. He spent his final years supervising his farm. He died in 1890.



13. Miller, Frederick (Block 9, Lot 70)

Our next "Brewing Lion" is perhaps the best known, Frederick Miller. He was born in Germany in 1824, coming from a prosperous middle class family. Upon completing his studies in Germany at 14, he went to France to continue his education. When he completed his formal education, he took a "grand tour" of Europe, even including Africa. Upon returning home, he studied brewing with his uncle and traveled throughout Germany,

studying different brewing methods. He then leased the royal brewery in Hohenzollern.

In 1854, he sold his lease and moved to America. He lived with friends in New York while he traveled around the country seeking a place to settle permanently. With its large German population, Milwaukee reminded him of home; so he moved here. He purchased the Plank Road Brewery from Charles Best for \$8,000, with production of 300 barrels per year. Under his leadership, production had grown to over 100,000 barrels per year at the time of his death in 1888.

Over the next five decades, four of the five children born to Frederick and Elizabeth "Lisette" Miller (nee Gross) served as president of Miller Brewing including their daughter, Elise. In 1946, Fred C. "Freddie" Miller, the one most of us remember, became president. An able business man, he is perhaps even better known as a man who served as an assistant football coach at Notre Dame for ten years on a volunteer basis and as a man very responsible for the actions that brought the Braves to Milwaukee.

"Freddie" died in 1954 of burns suffered in a fire aboard his plane, a Lockheed Ventura. In 1966, Lorraine John, Elise's daughter, sold her 53% share of the brewery to W. R. Grace for \$36 million, thus ending the family's control of the company. Grace, in turn, sold to Phillip Morris for \$130 million. Harry John, Jr., Lorraine's brother, sold his shares to Phillip Morris in 1969 for \$97 million.

14. Baasen, Michael (Block 9, Lot 2)

Michael Baasen came to the city when he was just seven years of age. After completing his basic education he attended both Notre Dame and Georgetown Universities where he served as a professor for several years.

After moving back to the city, he worked in the city treasurer's office for 30 years. At the time of his death, in 1917, his sister Elsie donated some \$700 for the original high altar at Holy Cross Church, which has since been removed.

15. Deuster, Peter (Block 12, NW Corner)

Peter Deuster was born in 1831 in Germany. Being farmers, when the family moved to the U.S. they first settled down in a farming community. Peter worked the on family farm for a season; but, in the autumn, he was apprenticed to *The Wisconsin Banner*. This turned out to be his dream job and for the rest of his life he was actively involved in journalism.

Over the years, he was a partner in and sole owner of *The Daily Milwaukee Seebote (Democrat)*, the oldest German language newspaper in the state, and *The Chicago Daily Union*. He was also active in public service being elected to both the Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate; as well as serving two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. He died in 1905.

The family mausoleum has been in almost continuous use since being constructed in 1875. It is at this time quite crowded; two recent burials having to be

made in the floor right inside the door.

16. Batz VG, Reverend Leonard (Block 12, NW Corner)

The Reverend Monsignor Leonard Batz was born in Germany and was educated there. He was ordained upon his arrival to the United States in 1858. He served as a professor at St. Francis Seminary for several years and then was appointed pastor of St. Mary's and served the parish for 15 years. He retired in 1875, but was called back into service again one year later and returned to St. Mary's as pastor. During that time, he was named Vicar General of the diocese, the second ranking official after the bishop. While holding that office, he laid the cornerstone for Holy Cross Church in 1879. In 1880, he retired from St. Mary's; but continued to serve as Vicar General.

17. Holding Room

The Holding Room, inside of Chapel Hill, was originally designed in the late 1800s as a holding place for burials that could not take place during the winter. It was also used for temporary entombments during the time that a new family mausoleum was being constructed. In 2001, work began on refurbishing the room and 300 new crypts and niches were constructed.



18. Chapel Hill and Jesuit Graves

The Romanesque-style Chapel was designed by Erhard Brielmaier and was completed in 1899, but not dedicated until All Souls Day in 1902. It sits on the highest point in the cemetery (also one of the highest points in the Milwaukee area). It replaced a large cross that had memorialized the hill as the "final resting place" for the clergy, and became known as "Jesuit Hill." The hill is still in use as a burial site for clergy and members of religious orders.

The building is designed in a cruciform plan created by projecting pavilions on the sides. The Chapel contains 27 crypts, although only one was ever used. There have been and continue to be consistent and serious maintenance problems with the chapel building primarily because there were never any utilities installed, therefore, no heat, light, or plumbing. The lack of heat that causes the most problems and deterioration from continuous freezing and thawing cycles.

The Chapel was used for Memorial Day and All Souls Day Masses until about 1950, at which time the building's condition and the steep climb to reach it made it impractical. The building was built for about \$10,000. Today, to totally refurbish and repair the Chapel would cost millions. There are some funds held in a trust. The "Friends of Calvary" continue to promote refurbishment of the Chapel.

The Catholic Cemeteries have tried to maintain the Chapel as well as we can within our budgetary constraints. We encourage use and visitation of Calvary, even as the number of new burials declines. We continue to support the annual Memorial Day Mass as we host 600 or more every May. We also provide personnel, equipment, and materials as we maintain the grounds and buildings.

19. Service Building

We don't have many specifics about this building. It was built sometime after 1890. We know this because there is evidence that in 1890 there was no water available in the cemetery and this building housed a well. Built of Cream City brick, it is still in use, primarily for storage and maintenance equipment.

20. Devine, George (Block 12, Lot 49)

George Devine, a native son of Milwaukee, was born in 1890. At the age of 14 he quit school and went to work as a delivery boy. His next job was at the old Hippodrome Skating Rink between N. 6th and 7th Streets. He became an expert skater. As the Hippodrome was also a dance hall, George gained his first dance experience there.

Following WW I, George secured financial support from two of his uncles and opened the George Devine Chateau Dance Studio. Many Milwaukeeans, with their amalgam of languages, pronounced "chateau" more like "shadow" so he soon changed the name to "Roseland."

In 1924, George opened the "Wisconsin Roof" atop the Carpenter Building, above the Wisconsin Theater. The "Roof" remained open until the 1950s; but George had left there in 1934 to open the famous George Devine's Million Dollar Ballroom in the Eagles' Club. At its peak during WW II the ballroom was the top destination for servicemen and their dates, the lovely young women of the city, to socialize and dance. Though business waned severely after the War, George continued dreaming of a rebirth of popularity until he died in 1964 after being seriously injured in a car accident.

21. Saxe, John and Thomas (Block 12, Lots 49 & 54)

John and Thomas Saxe came as boys from Ireland to Milwaukee in 1891 and settled in the Merrill Park area. They earned money by selling newspapers and family history says that the brothers literally fought their way up to control the city's most profitable corner at Third and Wisconsin.

By 1898, Tom had opened a saloon and John a sign painting business. John's

business was doing well and Tom soon joined him. Together, they recognized that a business with a good potential was the entertainment field. They tried as "dime museum" and a kinoscope parlor which both failed badly. But in 1905 they got their first big break. On Wisconsin Avenue, they opened a theater where they put on an exhibition that simulated a train ride throughout different places in the world.

As many as 50 patrons could sit on the platform at one time while it moved to simulate a moving train. Through the "windows", the riders would see a movie of different places, giving the riders the feeling they were actually there. This was very well received and the brothers were on their way to financial success. By 1908 they were operating five popular theaters under their banner.

They opened their finest theater to date in December of 1909. It had a twenty-seven-stop pipe organ that cost \$5,000, a solid cork floor to deaden sound, mosaic tile in the lobby and was the first building in the city with an electric ventilation system. The grand opening of the Princess Theater was indeed a gala affair, by invitation only. Mayor David Rose delivered the address that officially opened the theater. It was an immediate success and within a very short time, the brothers opened a sister theater on the south side, the Modjeska.

The Saxe brothers eventually sold their theater leases to Fox and later to Warner Studios. They both however, remained active in the everyday operation of the theaters and other real estate ventures. Tom Saxe stayed active in the business until his death in 1938. John died in 1939.

22. Civil War Veterans (Block 5E, Lot 38)

Let us pause here for a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made for our Country by veterans who fought in the Civil War. Before you lie the graves of three of those veterans.

Please refer to the map. There is an area at the far south end of the Cemetery within Block 14 noted as Soldier Graves. Located in the south central part of that Block, the land for these 690 burials was donated to Wood National Cemetery by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in 1876, "for the burial of Catholic veterans." Among these are at least one Confederate Veteran. The top of this memorial has a peak rather than a smooth curve. One story is that Veterans of the Confederate States Army "*didn't want no darn Yankees sitting on our headstones.*"

There are two Civil War Veterans buried at Calvary who were recipients of The Medal of Honor. We will visit them later at Stops 34 & 39.

23. Johnston, Alexander H. (Block 6, Lot 265)

Alexander H. Johnston was born in Castle Douglas, Scotland in 1810. He was 30 when he came to the U.S. in 1840. That same year he married Margaret Mary Maxwell Porter. Together, they moved to Beaufort, SC and started a bakery.

They moved to Milwaukee in 1848 and started the A.H. Johnston Confectionery & Biscuit Company, the precursor of what became the Robert A. Johnston Company

(see Stop 29). He had a tomb constructed for his family, but, for reasons unknown, his sons and grandchildren are not buried there, rather, in their own spaces.

24. Drew, Patrick (Block 6, Lot 251)

Patrick Drew was born in Ireland in 1829. He emigrated to the U.S. from Ireland when he was 19, settling in New York. While there, he learned the building trades and masonry. He moved to Milwaukee in 1854. Being a skilled tradesman, he later supervised the construction of many of the bridges and public buildings in Milwaukee.

For most of the years between 1868 and 1876, he served in the State Legislature; and also served as the Commissioner of Public Works for the east side from 1893 to 1896. He died in 1903. The monument was commissioned by Ellen Drew (possibly his wife). She had a concept of what she wanted and hired well-known local Polish Sculptor, Joseph Aszklar. The Angel is made of bronze-plated steel. The hand that was lost (cut off) originally held a cross.



25. THE LADY ELGIN (Block 6B)

"The year was 1860. Politics had deprived militia groups, such as the Irish Union Guards, the German Black Jaegers, and the German Green Jaegers of arms and equipment. Members of these groups, as well as other leaders and members of the community decided to take a day-trip to Chicago to hear a speech by Lincoln's election foe, Stephan Douglas, and combine business with pleasure by also using the excursion as a fundraiser to buy new firearms and other needed materials.

"The boat chosen for the trip was the

Lady Elgin. She was popular for her luxurious accommodations and fast speed. They left Milwaukee early in the morning on the 7th of September and arrived in Chicago by dawn. During the morning the unit went on parade before large crowds that lined the streets and then toured the city. In the evening they attended a dinner dance and listened to Douglas' speech.

"By this time it was 11:00 PM. It had been a long day. Despite their exhaustion and the Captain Wilson's misgivings about the weather, the decision was made to head back to Milwaukee. About 2:30 AM the Lady Elgin was about seven miles off Winnetka, Illinois when she was struck by the schooner Augusta, driven into her by the stormy seas.

"The Lady Elgin was by all accounts overloaded and began to break up rather quickly. The numbers in the accounts vary; but, most estimates show a total of about 600 - 700 people on board. No exact passenger list exists but it is believed that approximately 430 died, less than half of which were found.

"At any rate, we know that most of those who died were from Milwaukee and that most of

those were from the Irish Community in the third ward. The tragedy of the Lady Elgin still ranks as the second greatest loss of life on the Great lakes. It took a horrendous toll on both the Irish community and the leadership of the city.

"Among those lost were Fire Chief T. H. Eviston; Deputy Fire Marshal John Horan, Register of Deeds Samuel Waegli; Harbormaster Martin Doerly, County Treasurer and Captain of the Union Guards, Garrett Barry; School Commissioner James Rice; and City Councilor Frank McCormick; along with a large number of militiamen and their families. In many cases both husband and wife were lost and an estimated 1,000 orphans were left behind.

"Many of those lost are interred in their family lots at Calvary Cemetery. Bishop Henni presided at the memorial service at the Cathedral and a procession to Calvary Cemetery, which was viewed by over 10,000 mourners."

The *Lady Elgin* disaster has some lasting effects to this day. The Irish community, one of the most influential in the city at the time did not fully regain its prominence. As new immigrants from Italy and Poland came in the decades that followed, they took on more influence, altering the political and cultural climate of Milwaukee.

Many of the bodies were never recovered and one will find many examples of monuments at Calvary where the inscription "lost on the *Lady Elgin*" is present. This is what is generally referred to as a "cenotaph" - in name only, for these people are not actually buried there but remembered by their loved ones. Many memorials can be found in Blocks 5, 6, and 7, a majority in block 6. Two good examples of these are the Pollard family monument in Block 6B, and the McGrath family in Block 5E. How many more can you find?

26. Meehan, Patrick (Block 5, Lots 390, 342, 345)

Patrick Meehan was born in Canada in 1838. His family moved to Wisconsin and settled in Wood County. His father was in the lumber business. Patrick and his brothers followed their father and in 1859 they built what is thought to be the first lumber mill in the state in Portage County.

He was successful in the business in both Minnesota and Wisconsin until he retired in 1902. He and his wife Mary (nee Connelly) then moved to Milwaukee. He died in 1908 survived by Mary alone for they had no children.

27. Black, John (Block 16, Lot 189)

John Black was born in France in 1830. He immigrated to the US in 1846 settling in New York. In 1857 he came to Milwaukee with his wife Elizabeth (nee Schoeffel). He was a wholesale liquor and wine distributor. Mr. Black was also active in public service being elected to both the State Assembly and Senate. The acme of his political career was when he was elected Mayor in 1878 and was reelected in 1879.

Throughout his life, he was involved in the banking business in the city. He was one of the founders of the Bank of Commerce and was a major stockholder in the Merchant's Exchange Bank. He played a significant role in the merger between that

bank and the First National Bank.

In 1891 his wife died. Mr. Black had commissioned the building of a private family mausoleum. The granite was quarried in Vermont, transported and assembled in Calvary by craftsmen from the quarry. The total cost of the mausoleum came to nearly \$10,000. Mr. Black also donated \$10,000 to St. John's Cathedral for the erecting of a tower at the Cathedral in his wife's memory. John died of a kidney ailment in 1899.

28. Cudahy, Patrick (Block 18, Lot 1)

Patrick Cudahy was born in Ireland in 1849. When just a few months old, his family immigrated to the United States. In 1863, at the age of 14 he started work as a scaler in a small Milwaukee packinghouse. From that time until 1888 he worked for many of the meat packing firms then in business in the city. In 1888, he was working for Plankinton & Armour as Superintendent, owning a 50% share of the company.

Mr. Plankinton died that year and Patrick leased the plant until 1893 when Cudahy Brothers opened on a portion of the 700 acres that Mr. Cudahy had purchased 2 years earlier. The balance of the land was developed into the city of Cudahy. Patrick served as President of The Cudahy Land and Investment Company and of the Cudahy Building & Loan Association though he had no shares in it.

Later, he served as Director and President of the First Wisconsin National Bank as well as being involved in many Irish associations and social clubs. He died in 1919. On the rear of the monument there are two vault doors that were made in Italy. It is believed that Patrick's daughter was the model for the statue in the monument.

29. Johnston, Robert A. (Block 20, Lot 80)

Robert A. Johnston took over his father's business in 1879. He reorganized the company as Johnston Brothers. He began the American Biscuit Company in 1890 as a preemptive measure against incursion by eastern manufacturers. In conjunction with that a new plant was built in 1891, and in 1894 he joined the National Biscuit Company (precursor of NABISCO), a trust company. In 1899, with more security, he left the trust, built a new plant on the south side, and renamed the company Robert A. Johnston.

30. Johnston, Harry S. (Block 20, Lot 80)

Harry S. Johnston was Robert's second son. He served first as Vice-President, eventually becoming President and Treasurer of his father's company. The company became one of the strongest and most influential in the industry under his leadership. The plant most commonly associated with the Robert A. Johnston Company was built in 1902 while Harry was President.



31. Waldeck, Jacob (Block 20, Lot 79)

Not much is known about Jacob Waldeck. He was in the wholesale liquor business and died in 1902. The feature here is the private mausoleum (right). His wife wanted this to be their "home" at Calvary Cemetery, so she hired Lohr & Co. to erect it for them.

32. Coakley, Charles Block 16, Lot 178)

Charles, George and William Coakley started a small moving and messenger company in 1888 called Lightning Messenger and Express Company. They changed along with the times taking on commercial accounts when streetcars were introduced. In 1900 they built their first warehouse; but did not build their first fire-proof warehouse to store furniture until 1911. That year they renamed the company Coakley Brothers Fireproof Warehouses. Later, they built two more warehouses in 1929 and 1931. The last was built on West Wisconsin Avenue and is still standing. It can be seen while coming east on the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge.

33. Memminger, Herman (Block 20, Lot 4)

Herman Memminger was a native son of Milwaukee. At the age of 20, he joined the Milwaukee Fire Department and remained one of "Milwaukee's Finest" for life. At only 25 years old he earned a promotion to Captain and was appointed Chief in 1903. At his age, this was unusual but was brought about by the deaths of the Chief and many senior officers as a result of inhalation of smoke and noxious fumes at the fire at the Schwab Stamp & Seal.

Chief Memminger holds the credit for modernizing the fire department by working to obtain the most modern equipment available. He was so beloved by all members of the Department that he was presented a gold and diamond badge for his 30th anniversary on the job. He died of a lung infection aggravated by the smoke and fumes he inhaled at a box company fire in 1905.



34. McGinn, Edward

(Block 20, Lot 13)

Edward McGinn was born in New York. He served with the 5th Ohio Infantry. At the battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi he took part in an action as part of a group made up of volunteers, all single men, who dubbed themselves "forlorn hope." The group numbered 150 of which only 50 survived. He received the

Congressional Medal of Honor; his citation reads: "*Gallantry in the charge of "the volunteer storming party."*"

He moved to the Milwaukee area after the War, perhaps to live with a daughter. His brother, John, also a Civil War vet, is buried next to him.

35. Rose-Blakely, Mrs. David (Block 20, Lot 3)

Mrs. David Rose purchased the lot and there are several members of both the Rose and Blakely families buried there. The fact that David Rose is not buried there is perhaps the real story. David Rose was the 30th mayor of Milwaukee. During his administration "All-The-Time-Rosy" stood idly by while the infamous "River Street" era reached its peak. On the plus side, he actively worked to improve the port of Milwaukee by the construction of docks and terminals in deep water off Jones Island as the rivers were inadequate to meet the increasing commerce to and from the city. On a negative note, that same year he was accused of taking \$50,000 from an electric utility, but it was never proven in court.

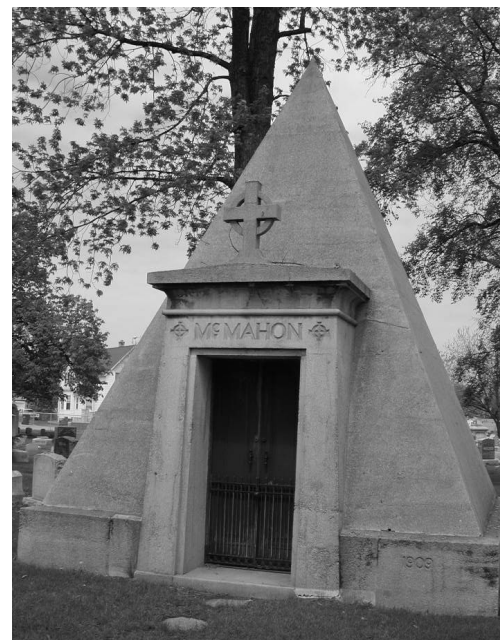
Upon losing his re-election bid he left office in 1910. Emil Seidel was elected mayor and cleaned up the city. David Rose ran again for mayor in 1924; but was defeated by Daniel Hoan (who is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery). Rose is buried in Darlington, Wisconsin.

36. McMahon, Lawrence

(Block 21, Lot 175)

The story of Lawrence McMahon is more of the story of his private family mausoleum (see next page). He was born in Boston in 1845. His entire working life was spent in the pharmacy and drug business. He started in the business in Madison with the drug firm Dunning & Sumner. From there he moved to Clinton, Ohio, where he established his own business and then, for reasons unknown, moved to Omaha, Nebraska where he started his own pharmacy named Ische & McMahon.

He had decided to build a mausoleum for he and his wife as their resting place in



Calvary Cemetery. He hired the well known architect Herman Buemming; and proceeded to plan his tomb. He retired from business and moved into the new home he had built in Milwaukee.

He wanted the tomb to last forever and wanted it designed as a pyramid (a popular theme at that time). Only the finest of materials were used. They used quartz as aggregate for the concrete. The reinforcing rods were copper to prevent rust, the doors were bronze, and the interior was lined with Italian marble. The mausoleum was completed by 1909. Mr. McMahon moved the body of his wife, Jennie, who had died in 1907 into the mausoleum where he took his place beside her in 1941.

37. Keenan, Matthew (Block 6, Lot 288)

Matthew Keenan was born in New York in 1825. His family moved to Milwaukee when he was 12. Family lore says that his first job was operating the ferry at the foot of Spring Street. When he was 16 both his parents died and he became the head of the house. He worked as a clerk in William Brown's General Store. By 1852 he had become a partner in the business.

That same year he sold his interest in the store and embarked on a career in public service. From 1852 until 1874 he held a variety of elected offices, including alderman, assemblyman, and tax commissioner. In 1874 he took a position with Northwestern Mutual Life and eventually became Vice-President. Being an active and concerned citizen, he was involved in several clubs in Milwaukee, including the Temperance Society and the Old Settlers' Club.

He is credited with the establishment of the Old Soldiers Home. Once he was awakened at 2:00 AM and was asked to resolve some thorny problems that had arisen regarding the home; the most grievous being the high cost of land. By the close of the day, Mr. Keenan had resolved the problems. He retired from NML in 1894 and died four years later. Childless, he was survived by only his wife.

38. Ziegler, George (Block 13, Lot 112)

George Ziegler was born on a farm in Bavaria in 1830. He was 15 when his family immigrated to a farm in Columbus, Wisconsin. Having no interest in following his

father in faming, he went to work as a clerk in a general store in Milwaukee.

He worked seven days per week and, after three years, his health gave out. He left and took a job as an apprentice in the shoemaking trade for Bradley and Metcalfe. In 1865 he was married to Barbara (nee Boll). Two of her brothers lost their jobs as candy-makers in Chicago and moved back to the Boll family home. At George's suggestion, they began to make and sell candy from their home.

At the outset, George's father-in-law, Peter Boll, handled the sales. Their venture prospered and George was eventually able to quit his job to take care of the business. In 1877, after bringing his sons into the business, he renamed the company George Ziegler Company. He remained active in the business until his death in 1904. (Look for the tall obelisk.)

Several members of the Boll family, including Peter, are buried in two lots in block 5C (lots 33 and 34) that were owned by Peter Boll and George Ziegler.

39. Breen, John (Block 5A, Lot 293)

John Breen was born in New York in 1827. He had served in the United States Navy until 1859 and re-enlisted when the Civil War broke out. As a Boatswain's Mate, Breen received the Congressional Medal of Honor. His citation reads:

"On board the U.S.S. Commodore Perry in the attack upon Franklin, Virginia, 3 October 1862. With enemy fire raking the deck of his ship and blockades thwarting her progress, Breen remained at his post and performed his duties with skill and courage as the Commodore Perry fought a gallant battle to silence many rebel batteries as she steamed down the Blackwater River".

John Breen died in 1885 and is buried on a lot with other family members. His grave has gone unmarked all these years; but that is being addressed. Unmarked for almost 120 years, a grave memorial is now on order for him. Cemetery personnel will place it when it arrives so his grave will be properly marked and his life memorialized.

Milwaukee area brick-and-mortar genealogy research locations:

~ Milwaukee County Register of Deeds, 901 North 9th Street, Courthouse-Room 103, Milwaukee WI 53233-1458, 414 278 4011, regdeeds@milwcnty.com

~ Milwaukee Public Library, 814 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53233, 414 286 3000, www.mpl.org

~ Milwaukee Urban Archives at the Golda Meir Library, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, 2311 East Hartford Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53211, 414 229 4785, askalibrariam@uwm.edu

~ Milwaukee County Historical Society Research Library, 910 North Old World 3rd Street, Milwaukee WI 53203, 414 273 8288, www.milwaukeecountyhistsoc.org

~ Family History Center operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (The Mormons), 9904 West Calumet Road, Milwaukee WI 53224, 414 355 2241

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

On September 9, 1879, (now) Archbishop Henni donated three acres of land across Blue Mound Road from Calvary to the Capuchins. In return, the Order was to build a Monastery and a Church and to conduct the graveside committal service at any funeral at which the priest from the deceased's parish was unable to attend. This sometimes did occur. In those days, a burial was an all-day affair and at times the priest was not able to make the four-mile ride to the Cemetery by horse and buggy.

The corner stone of the church was laid on October 26, 1879 and was dedicated by Vicar General Monsignor Leonard Batz. The church itself was dedicated on April 20, 1880. A life-sized crucifixion scene once stood where the rectory now stands. The Capuchins blessed the cemetery on All Souls Day and held processions on the Feast of Corpus Christi. In addition to their duties at the cemetery, they were also responsible for the religious needs at the county hospital, insane asylum, and the poor farm. The Pallotine Order was in charge of the parish for many years. A merger took place and it is now known as St. Vincent Pallotti East.

Memorialization

Let us take just a moment here at the beginning of our tour to look at examples of the ways lives were remembered and memorialized by artwork and symbolism during this era. We have two good examples before us:

A. The Cross and Crucifix

This is a good time to point out the use of the cross and crucifix (a cross holding the body or corpus of Christ crucified) in memorial art. Although the cross and crucifix are common Christian symbols today neither became popular until the 5th century. Cultures in Asia, India and Egypt had used the cross as a religious symbol for hundreds of years before Christ though sometimes in a slightly different shape than is familiar today.

The Latin Cross is, at times, found on a raised base consisting of three rectangular stones of decreasing size to represent the cardinal virtues of faith, hope, and charity. Crosses did not commonly appear on individual graves until the late 17th century. The crucifix is used primarily in Catholic cemeteries.

B. The Bedford Tree Stump

In the early part of the last century this "tree" became a very popular form of memorialization. The "stump" functioned as a visual representation of a life "cut short." The tree was typically found with ivy or flowers shown at the base or climbing the tree. This represented the new life that comes from the old. New life, new hope, hope in the eternal life are assured by our faith in the Resurrection and are guaranteed by the sacrifice our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ made for us all.