

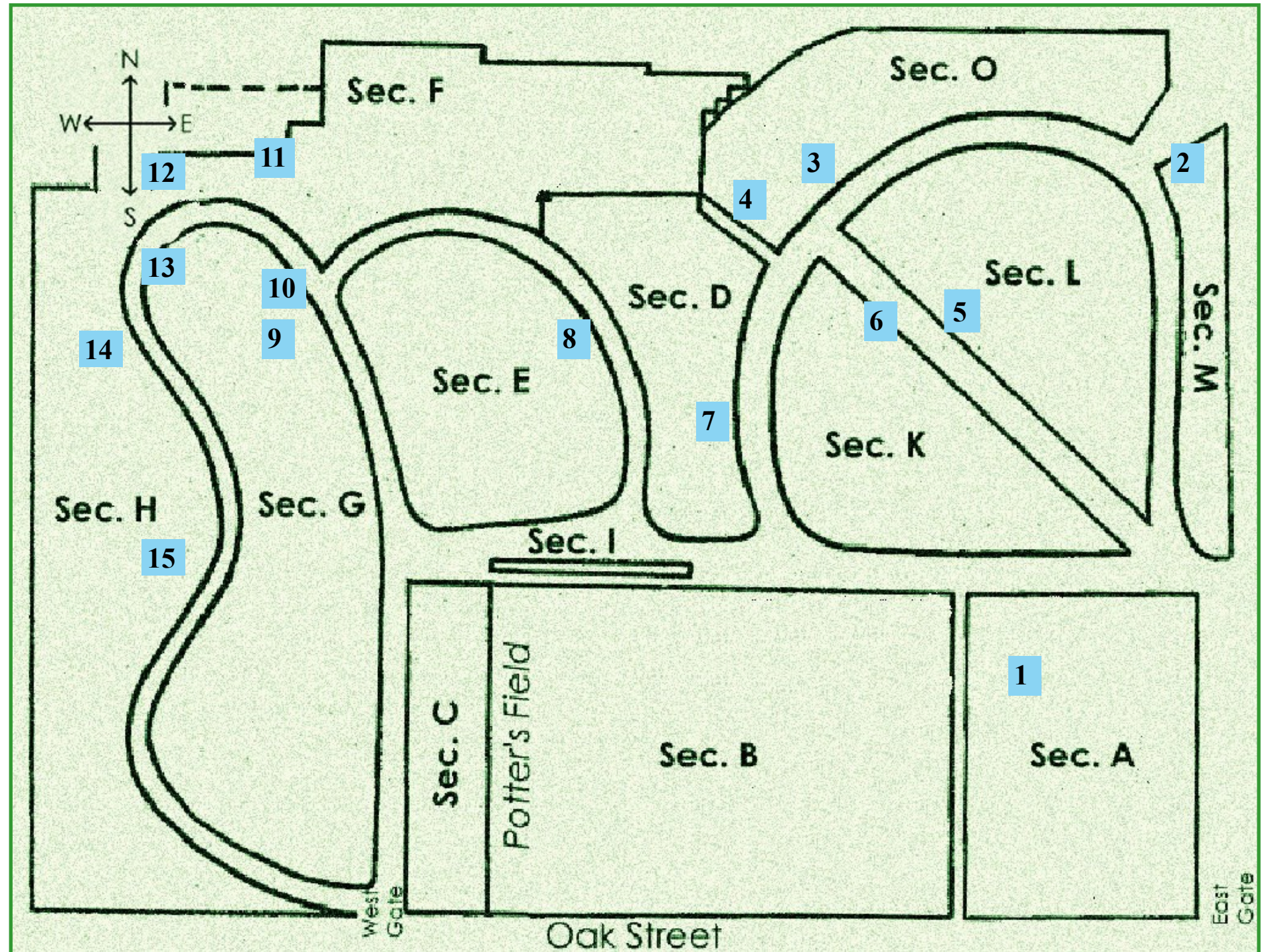
GREENWOOD CEMETERY

is one of the oldest public cemeteries in Michigan, founded in the wake of the terrible Utter murders in 1825. Initially, the cemetery consisted of 1/2 acre donated by Dr. Ziba Swan (Section A). The cemetery was enlarged in 1846 by another 1 1/2 acres, and twice more before 1904, enlarging it to about eight acres. It was cared for by private citizens until Martha Baldwin (see "[19th Century Community Builders](#)" tour) organized a group in 1885 that became the Greenwood Cemetery Association. In 1946, the City of Birmingham took over its operation.

Many stories survive, and more are discovered every day, of the fascinating men and women buried here. Those reflected in this self-guided tour brochure, "[20th Century Notables](#)" are but a few of many. Two other brochures, "[Birmingham's Pioneers](#)," & "[19th Century Community Builders](#)" feature individuals from those periods.

The **Friends of the Birmingham Museum** conduct guided cemetery tours twice yearly, and also offer special private tours. For more information, contact the Birmingham Museum at **248-530-1928** or museum@bhamgov.org.

The cemetery is open down to dusk and is located on Oak Street west of N. Old Woodward. Please do not park in the cemetery.



20th Century Notables

Risk takers, creative artists, and engineers emerged in Birmingham in the 20th century, and many are represented here.



- HETH, Eugene Ira** [1879-1959] - barnstormer aviator known as "Wild Bill;" first solo flight, June 27, 1911; civilian flight instructor for first pilots in World War I; commemorative marker from the Early Birds, exclusive group of early aviators who flew before WWI.
- PRICE, Genevieve Swezey** [c1892-1974]- adopted at age 2 by 3 unwed sisters; Oberlin College grad; became a nurse; was a WWI Red Cross Searcher who sought lost soldiers and delivered supplies to the front; married Henry Price in Paris in 1919; after he lost his leg in a flying accident they came to Birmingham and opened the Chateau Tea Room.
- STRATTON, Mary Chase Perry** [1867-1961] & **William Buck** [1865-1938] -- Founded Pewabic Pottery as young woman; lived briefly in Birmingham with brother (married to Harriet Peabody); Parents/sister also at Greenwood; married architect Stratton in middle age.
- BOOTH George Gough** [1864-1949] & **Ellen Scripps** [1863-1948] **Family Plot** cultural powerhouses; established Cranbrook to promote arts; publishers; philanthropists; artists; engineers; icons on family markers with crests symbolize personal interests.
- BRUSH, Alanson Partridge** [1878-1952] -- high school educated auto pioneer and engineering genius; founded Brush Motor Car Co. and designed what later became the Cadillac; held numerous other patents.
- LEVINSON, David** [1896-1976] & **Martha Nye** [1895-1969] High school sweethearts who married much later over his mother's objections that Martha was not Jewish but Catholic. Merchants Morris and Gitel Levinson were the first Jewish family in town. David remained in Birmingham and became Catholic. His sister Bess married into the Levin family; her sons are Carl and Sander Levin.

- CORYELL, Ralph** [1892-1975] graduated MSU 1914, Agriculture degree; founded successful Coryell 60-acre plant nursery formerly south of Maple (now known as Coryell Park neighborhood); enlisted in new U.S. Air Service, WWI; survived air battles, poor aircraft, frostbite, etc. in France; 2nd U.S. Airman to be awarded Silver Star for gallantry; returned to Birmingham and the nursery after the war.
- PARKS, Ella Johnston** [1875-1939] noted Michigan Impressionist/modern artist; learned to paint at a young age from her aunt Sarah Beddow Aldridge; accomplished; graduated 1894, Birmingham High, part married Bham livery owner Edgar Parks; continued career as Ella Johnston Parks, won 150 awards; was exhibited at the Detroit Art Museum (DIA); works have surfaced in recent years at auction.

- WILLET, Florence Harris 'Twink'** [1915-2002] City commissioner, 1955-1963; first woman mayor of Birmingham (2 terms); collaborated with all-male peers; often scrutinized for fashion, role as mother/wife rather than as elected official.
- RANDALL, Charles B.** [1889-1969] & son **Bruce** [1924-2010] Descendants of Civil War veteran and owner of John West Hunter House, Henry Randall; Charles began the banking legacy before the Depression, Bruce following, leading to four generations of bankers in Birmingham banks, including the present.
- ALLEN, Harry** [1882-1957] & **Marion Clizbe** [1884-1973]-- Allen grew up on a nearby farm; went to law school on family 'egg money,' specialized in municipal law; married (1914) Marion Clizbe, daughter of town politician. The Allens were central to the transition from village to city (1933); Harry wrote the charter; was first city mayor; built Allen House (Birmingham Museum).
- LEONARD, Elmore "Dutch"** [1925- 2013]; novelist, short story writer & screenwriter; family came from New Orleans to Detroit to work for GM; got nickname in Navy in World War II; attended U of D; settled in Birmingham in later life. Film/TV adaptations of his work include *Get Shorty*, *Out of Sight*, *Jackie Brown*, *Justified*, etc.
- FREDERICKS, Marshall M** [1908-1998] Famous 20th century sculptor who lived in and raised his family in Birmingham; numerous works are installed around the city (e.g., Shain Park's *Freedom of the Human Spirit*); Greenwood Cemetery is home to a small casting of *Flying Wild Geese* and also *Leaping Gazelle* at his grave, from Fredericks' personal garden.
- YAMASAKI, John** [1886-1962] & **Hana** [1893-1967] Parents of celebrated architect Minoru Yamasaki (Twin Towers) who had a firm in Birmingham in the 1950s but who could not find housing in town due to discrimination; Minoru and his wife are buried in Lakeville Cemetery.
- FRY, Walter L.** [1881-1969] Pres, Springfield Body Corp., maker of luxury convertible autos. 1914-1916; later of Fry Products, Inc., maker of OEM seat covers; staged a counter-sit-down by joining workers and bought them food in the Sit-Down Strike of 1939; after three days his workers struck a deal with him to go back to work.

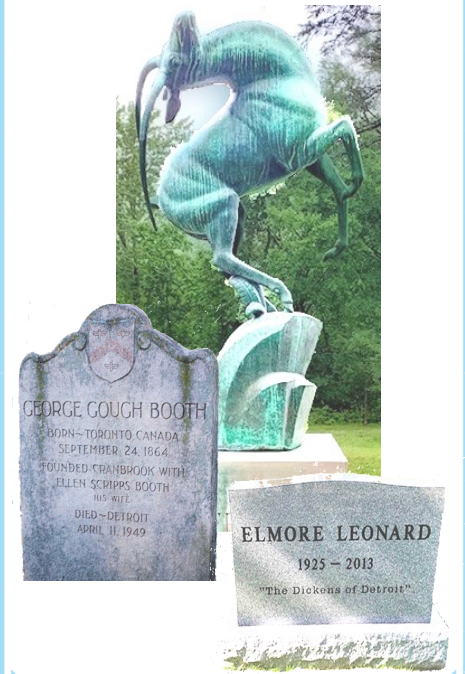
GREENWOOD CEMETERY

EST. 1825

Birmingham, MI

SELF-GUIDED TOUR #3

20th Century Notables



www.bhamgov.org/museum
556 West Maple ~ Birmingham, MI 48009
248.530.1928