

Rose Hill Cemetery Bloomington Twp, Monroe County, Indiana



Rose Hill Cemetery with mausoleum on hill in background

Large stone in foreground:

BANKS

James E

May 13 1877 - Apr 29 1931

Ida M

Aug 1 1880 - Dec 9 1944



Tree trunk stone:

Wm McKinney

Died Sept 5, 1887

Aged 27 yrs 9 mo 6 da

*Public Cemetery, maintained by Bloomington City Parks and Recreation see:
http://bloomington.in.gov/documents/viewDocument.php?document_id=4676*

Location: 86 32 54.0 36 09 56.0 Rose Hill Cemetery is located at 1100 W. Fourth St

Rose Hill is one of Monroe County's best known cemeteries. It is one of the largest, oldest, and most centrally located between west Kirkwood and west Third Sts. It is often visited by joggers, dog walkers, and bicyclists along its winding roadways as well as by those visiting gravesites. And it is graced with many very interesting and notable grave markers.

The cemetery was at first simply called "The Grave Yard" and the original land was what is now the southeastern section of the cemetery, known as the Old Spencer Addition. In 1892, under the guidance of the Ladies Cemetery

Association, the cemetery was renamed “Rose Hill” for the many wild and cultivated roses growing there. Within a few years, a fountain, made locally by the Seward Foundry was installed in the center of a circular roadway surrounded by pines. That fountain was relocated to Third Street Park in 1991.

In Old Spencer Addition one can see early Whetstone markers. This stone is tan-colored siltstone that was quarried in Orange County and was also used for the sharpening of tools. It marks the grave of the 1828 burial of G. A. Anderston and the graves of the 1830 burials of the Pauleys and Paughs. This section also contains the resting places of many illustrious Bloomingtonians. One of the oldest is that of Andrew Wylie, 1789-1850, the first president of Indiana State Seminary, now Indiana University. His marker is a tall limestone obelisk with an epitaph inscribed in both English and Latin. Other early stones here include those of Dr. David Maxwell, 1786-1854, Bloomington’s first physician, who also helped frame the Indiana state constitution and was one of the founders of the Indiana State Seminary, and the markers of Paris C. Dunning, 1806-1884, who served in the state legislature and as governor in the mid 1800s; Rev. Elisha Ballantine, professor of Greek; Theophilus A. Wylie, professor of philosophy and chemistry; Daniel Kirkwood, professor of mathematics; and Lewis Bollman, the first graduate of Indiana Seminary in 1830. A newer stone, in this section, which marks an old gravesite, was placed in 1984 by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to mark the grave of Andrew Ferguson, 1765-1856, a free African-American who fought in the Revolutionary War. Four other Revolutionary War soldiers are known to be buried in Rose Hill.

The cemetery was expanded to its present size of 28 acres during the first third of the 1900s and several public monuments and structures were added. In 1900, a memorial to Civil War veterans was installed, consisting of a statue of a Union soldier, and a bronze plaque depicting a battle scene. 1917 saw the erection of Rose Hill Mausoleum, designed in the Art Nouveau style, with stained glass windows and bronze entry doors. The carved limestone reliefs are full of funerary symbolism. In 1923, a World War I monument was erected, depicting “The Spirit of the Doughboy”. Several family crypts were installed between 1927 and 1940 and the King Mausoleum was added in 1953.

Walking through the winding lanes of the newer areas of the cemetery, one can find the monuments of other Bloomington notables of the 20th Century, such as the Showers Bros. Furniture Factory entrepreneurs; Margaret McCalla, notable for her achievements in the field of education; George Crafton, a businessman who died aboard the Titanic; baseball players Eithel “Lefty” Galloway, whose

marker bears a porcelain photograph of him in his uniform, and George Shively who played with the Negro Baseball League's Indianapolis ABCs; Alfred Kinsey who founded the Institute for Sex Research at Indiana University; and musician and songwriter Hoagy Carmichael. The cemetery is also full of stones with interesting and unique carvings and symbolism.

Bloomington's Department of Parks and Recreation has been responsible for the administration and maintenance of Rose Hill Cemetery since 1997, and a cemetery office is located at west Fourth and Elm streets.

A stroll through Rose Hill Cemetery gives one a wonderful sense of local history, arts and memories.

Read more about it:

The Cemetery files at the Genealogy Library, Monroe County History Center include various contributions by MCHC members about Rose Hill. See also the Bloomington Parks and Recreation website about the cemetery noted above. There is also a walking guide to the cemetery "A walk through Rose Hill Cemetery", Historic tour number

12. <http://bloomington.in.gov/media/media/application/pdf/5409.pdf>

Rose Hill Cemetery / compiled by Donald K. Matson. Bloomington, Ind. : Monroe County Genealogical Society, 1976 (Indianapolis, Ind. : Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe). Available at the MCHC Genealogy Library and the Lilly Library (F532 .M7 R79)

For more information about the Harmony or other cemeteries, consult the Cemetery Files at the Genealogy Library at the Monroe County History Center or contact the Cemetery Committee at genealogy@monroehistory.org.