

## A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

of ELMWOOD CEMETERY

*The following is a brief look at some of the people of note buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Kansas City, Missouri. (For a more complete look at the lives of these, and all of the people buried in Elmwood, please see the "Elmwood Family History Project," at [www.ElmwoodCem-KC.org](http://www.ElmwoodCem-KC.org)).*

### 1 FELD, MILTON (1892-1947)

In 1920 Walt Disney produced his first animated films which he sold to Milton Feld who was then managing the Newman Theatre in Kansas City. These films were known as "Newman's Laugh-O-Grams." Milton later became a producer for Universal Studios with Darryl F. Zanuck.

### 2 HELZBERG, MORRIS (1867-1922)

When Morris Helzberg fell ill his son Barnett Helzberg, Sr. became responsible for the family business. Eventually the name was changed from Shaw Diamonds to Helzberg Diamonds. It subsequently became one of the country's largest jewelry businesses under Barnett Helzberg, Jr.

### 3 WOLLMAN, JONAS (1824-1905)

Jonas was the great-grandfather of Henry and Richard Bloch, founders of H&R Block. He was born in Prussia. He was a pioneer of the state of Kansas and was a highly successful clothing merchant. He was one of 384 passengers on the ship "Guttenburg" that arrived in New York on July 1, 1851.

### 4 GANZ, HERMAN (1833-1920)

Herman Ganz was the first Jewish resident in the city of Kansas City when he settled here in 1856. He established a clothing store in Westport. In 1889 he was manager of the KC Clothing Co. located at 1204 Main.

### 5 McGEE FAMILY

James Hyatt McGee died in 1840. His is the oldest burial in Elmwood Cemetery. As the city expanded the McGee family graves were moved from their farm to Elmwood in 1883. He was the first English speaking man to own land in Kansas City. He arrived in this area in 1827 with his wife and children. He was an industrious businessman and first operated a gristmill over the river. His son, Elijah Milton McGee was the Mayor of Kansas City in 1870.

### 6 SNYDER, ROBERT M. (1852-1906)

Robert M. Snyder was a wholesale grocer, a real estate developer, a railroad president, and a bank president. He organized what is now the Kansas City Life Insurance Co. In 1904 he formed the Kansas Natural Gas Co. On 5,000 acres in the Missouri Ozarks he started construction on his dream estate, Ha-Ha-Tonka. Before it was finished, however, he became one of the earliest auto fatalities in Kansas City.

### 7 BULLENE, THOMAS B. (1828-1894)

Thomas B. Bullene served as mayor of Kansas City. During his term, the first street lights were installed in Kansas City. He was also founder of what became the famous Emery, Bird, Thayer & Co. department store. He was the first president of the Humane Society. He was president of the Kansas City Board of Trade.

### 8 KEARNS, LEANNAH (LOVEALL) (aka ANNIE CHAMBERS) (1843-1935)

Annie was Kansas City's infamous madam at the turn to the 20th century. Her first house was on the north side of the river. Her "resort" was at 3rd & Wyandotte. She prospered there for 50 years until she went "straight". In a provision made in her will, she donated her home and estate for the benefit of the City Union Mission.

## ELMWOOD CEMETERY

Kansas City, Missouri

There are 1,400 veterans buried in Elmwood  
(800 from the Civil War)

### FIRSTS

The first permanent resident of Kansas City  
The first Jewish settler in Kansas City  
The first Mayor of Kansas City  
The first Chief of KC Police  
The first African-American KC Police Officer  
The first Chief of KC Fire Dept.  
The first KC Major League Baseball team owner  
The First female member of the KC Board of Education  
The first female KC Livestock Exchange seat holder  
The first President of the Chamber of Commerce

### BY THE NUMBERS

12 Kansas City Mayors	100 Lawyers and Judges
20 City Council Members	4 U.S. Congressmen
15 Park Board Commissioners	15 KC Board of Trade Members
150 Physicians	50 fireman and policemen

### WHERE DID I COME FROM?

If you have ever pondered that question, and you are related to someone buried in Kansas City's historic Elmwood Cemetery, you might be interested in learning more about, and contributing to, the Elmwood Cemetery Family History Project.

*Elmwood Cemetery*

### FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT

TO AID GENEALOGISTS, family members and Kansas City historians, the Elmwood Cemetery Society is compiling a family history project. The project includes information on the more than 36,000 individuals buried in Elmwood. The family history project includes birth, marriage, death and burial dates, biographies, family genealogies, and sources of information. This information is included as a part of the cemetery's website, [www.ElmwoodCem-KC.org](http://www.ElmwoodCem-KC.org).

If you have information or photos of family members buried in Elmwood, and would like to have it included in this undertaking, your participation will be greatly appreciated.

To submit materials, or if you have any questions about the Elmwood Cemetery Family History Project, please contact Society board member, Bruce Mathews, at 816-868-1392, or email [bmathews2@kc.rr.com](mailto:bmathews2@kc.rr.com).

ELMWOOD  
CEMETERY SOCIETY

4900 Truman Road, Kansas City, MO 64127  
[www.ElmwoodCem-KC.org](http://www.ElmwoodCem-KC.org)



## ELMWOOD CEMETERY

Kansas City, Missouri

*Founded in 1872*





**9 LAMB, DELLA (COCHRANE) (1874-1951)**

Della C. Lamb was for twenty-five years the president of the Neighborhood house named in her honor. She was active in the Council of Clubs, in Methodist missionary and women's work nationally, and in various social agencies of the Community Chest.

**10 LOOSE, JACOB (1850-1923) & ELLA (1860-1945)**

Jacob Loose, along with his brother Joseph, was founder of the Loose-Wiles Biscuit Co. The name was later changed to Sunshine Biscuits, "Sunshine" being his nickname for his wife Ella. He was also an early President of the Elmwood Cemetery Society. After his death Ella donated to the city of Kansas City 80 acres of land south of the Country Club Plaza, which to this day bears his name. Their mansion at 101 East Armour still stands today. Their charitable trusts, together with those of his brother Joseph and family, ultimately formed the basis for today's Kansas City Association of Trusts and Foundations.

**11 BARRET, SARAH ANN (RICKARD) (1821-1908)**

As a young woman in Springfield, Illinois, Sarah was many times the companion of Abraham Lincoln to numerous social functions. There was, at one point, speculation that he even proposed marriage to her, but being much younger, she did not take his proposal seriously. In a 1907 interview published in the "Kansas City Star" article she confessed, "If I'd known that he was going to be the President, I would have paid more attention to him".

**12 MOORE, JOHN C. (1831-1915)**

John C. Moore was a journalist and newspaper editor. In 1868 he came to Kansas City, Missouri, borrowed \$5,000 from his father, and with B. R. Drury started "The Kansas City Times" newspaper. A "Kansas City Star" article of April 20, 1913 called him the "father of journalism in Kansas City." He was the founder and first mayor of Denver, Colorado.

**13 McCUNE, HENRY LONG (1862-1943)**

Judge McCune received his law degree from Columbia Law School in 1886. He was a judge of the Circuit Court in Kansas City. While judge of the juvenile court he started the "McCune Home for Boys." He was president of the Kansas City Bar Association in 1895.

**14 McKIM, AMERICUS (1840-1910)**

Americus McKim became known as the father of Major League Baseball in Kansas City. In 1884 he owned a team in the Union Association. In 1885 he was president of the Western League. Then in 1886, along with James Whitfield of the "Kansas City Times" and brewer Joseph Heim, they raised the \$25,000 needed to purchase a National League franchise. This team was known as The Kansas City Cowboys.

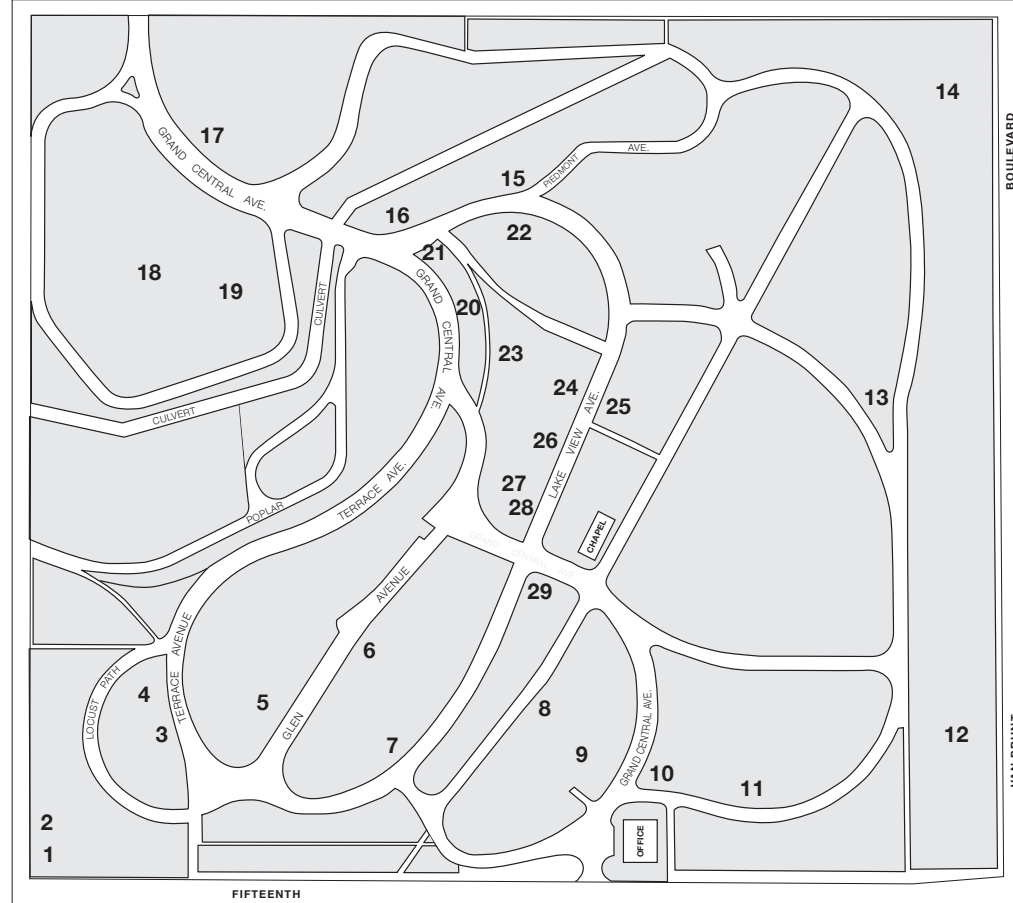
**15 FULLER, CAROLYN (FARWELL) (1870-1944)**

She was a dynamic leader for women's rights in Kansas City. She was the first woman ever elected to the Kansas City Board of Education. She also helped found and operate the Kansas City Young Matrons, The Republican Women's Political Organization, The St. Joseph Hospital Auxiliary and The Kansas City Rose Society.

**16 BOWMAN, SAMUEL M. (1815-1885)**

Before the Civil War he was friends with, and attorney for, William T. Sherman. During the war he rose to the rank of General in the Union Army. Upon General Bowman's death in 1885, General Sherman traveled to Elmwood Cemetery to deliver his eulogy.

**MAP of  
ELMWOOD CEMETERY**



*Numbers indicate designated points of interest on the walking tour.*

**17 DAVIS, WILLIAM F. (1843-1891)**

William F. Davis was the first African American officer for the Kansas City Missouri Police Department. In 2006 the Kansas City Police Historical Society placed a monument on his grave recognizing his achievement.

**18 COATES, KERSEY (1823-1887) & SARAH (CHANDLER) (1829-1897)**

At the age of 25 Kersey Coates entered the law office of the Hon Thaddeus Stevens. Coates is best remembered for his influence upon the growth of Kansas City through his interests in railroading, real estate and many civic endeavors. Kersey's wife Sarah was a staunch abolitionist, civic leader and suffragette. She was a close friend of Susan B. Anthony.

**19 ARMOUR FAMILY**

Kirkland Brooks Armour, his brother Charles, and their uncle Simeon were part of the family's meat packing business. Kirkland, especially, was earnestly involved with city betterment projects throughout Kansas City. After his death in 1901, his widow built the beautiful Armour Chapel, located in the center of Elmwood Cemetery. In his honor, Armour Boulevard in Kansas City was named after Simeon.

**20 GREGORY, WILLIAM SAMUEL (1825-1887)**

William S. Gregory was the first mayor of Kansas City (one of twelve buried in Elmwood). He was elected in 1853 but had to resign after ten months in office when it was determined he did not reside within the city limits. There were only 63 residents of Kansas City at the time.

**21 SMITH, WILLIAM JOSEPH "CABLE CAR" (1836-1915)**

William Joseph Smith came to KC from New York in 1866 and opened a store dealing in wagons, seeds and agricultural implements. He was one of the largest John Deere dealers in the country. He was known as "Cable Car" Smith having been instrumental in the creation of the first such railway system in the city.

**22 HOLMES, NANCY (TYLER) (1780-1874)**

Nancy was a cousin of President John Tyler. She was the great-grandmother of President Harry S. Truman.

**23 MEYER, AUGUST (1851-1905)**

August Meyer was the first president of the Kansas City Parks Board. His home at 44th & Warwick is now "Vanderslice Hall" at the Kansas City Art Institute. He made his fortune in mining interests and founded the town of Leadville, CO. Meyer Boulevard is named after him. He worked with George Kessler, the landscape architect who designed Elmwood Cemetery, to design the parks and boulevards we enjoy today in Kansas City.

**24 ATKINS, MARY (McAFEE) (1836-1911)**

Mary was a former schoolteacher. She was a recluse in later life and during that period married her childhood friend, James Atkins. Her thrift, after her husband's death enabled her to amass a fortune. Her bequest of \$350,000 to the city for the establishment of an art museum, combined with William Rockhill Nelson's formed what became the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

**25 SPEERS, THOMAS M. (1834 - 1896)**

Thomas Speers was Kansas City, Missouri's first Chief of Police. He was appointed by George Caleb Bingham who was Chairman of the Police Board. He served in this capacity for over 21 years. Speers included among his friends, Wyatt Earp, Batt Masterson, "Wild Bill" Hickock and "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

**26 JENKINS, BURRIS ATKINS (1869-1945)**

Burriss A. Jenkins was a clergyman, author and college president. He was the pastor of the Linwood Boulevard Christian Church and later the Community Christian Church at 46th & Main. After church on Linwood burned in 1939 he chose Frank Lloyd Wright to design his new church.

**27 WEEKS, EDWIN RUTHVEN (1855-1938) and MARY (HARMON) (1851-1940)**

Mary Harmon Weeks was an author and educator in child welfare. She was the organizer of the first PTA in Missouri. Mary Harmon Weeks School is named in her honor. Edwin R. Weeks founded the first electric light company in Kansas City.

**28 WEEKS, JOSEPH VAN RENSSSELEAR (1821-1874)**

Joseph Van Rensselear Weeks did much to promote causes for African Americans. He championed education and opened a school for blacks in Westport. Before coming to Kansas City he had lived in Iowa and helped slaves escape by providing a station on the "Underground Railroad." He was a brother of Edwin Ruthven Weeks.

**29 ALLEN, EDWARD H. (1830-1895) & AGNES E. (BEECHER) (1831-1919)**

In 1867 Edward Herrick Allen was elected mayor of Kansas City, Missouri. He was the official greeter of Pres. Benjamin Harrison upon his visit to the city. He was an honored guest at the opening of the Hannibal Bridge in 1869. He married Agnes, a niece of Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin". Agnes and three sisters, Grace, Mary and Roxana are also buried in Elmwood.