

REMARKABLE WOMEN

CEDAR HILL CEMETERY ~ HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT



Remarkable Women Of Cedar Hill Cemetery

On June 4, 1919, U. S. Congress passed the 19th Amendment. After 36 states (not including Connecticut) ratified the Amendment on August 18, 1920 women were granted the right to vote.

Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation celebrates the centennial of the 19th Amendment by highlighting some of the extraordinary women laid to rest in our historic cemetery.

(Connecticut did not endorse the Amendment until September 14, 1920, reaffirming the decision on September 21, 1920.)



FERN ANDRA

(1893 – 1974)

Section 14, Lot 10

Known as the Mary Pickford of Germany, Fern Andra began her career as a tightrope walker. She performed with the famous Millman Trio, a high wire and vaudeville act. While overseas, she began working as a stunt performer and actress. She eventually moved to Berlin and starred in her first German silent film in 1913. During World War I, she set up her own production company in Germany, producing more than 80 films, as well as starring in over 20. When her career faltered, she returned to the U.S. and worked in radio and theater. She made her last two movies in Hollywood in 1930.



IDA BUTLER (1868 – 1949) Section 8, Lot 1

Ida Butler, a nurse, was head of the maternity and gynecology department of Hartford Hospital for 12 years. During World War I, she served as chief nurse at a children's hospital in France. Butler continued her work with the National Red Cross stateside, eventually being promoted to director of Nursing Services in 1936. She was awarded the Florence Nightingale medal by the International Red Cross Committee of Geneva in 1937 (highest award made to members of the nursing profession), the French Reconnaissance Medal, and the Connecticut Distinguished Service Medal.



EMILY PARMELY COLLINS (1814 – 1909) Section 7, Lot 27

After attending the Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls in 1848, Emily Parmely Collins became an avid supporter of women's suffrage. While living in upstate New York, Collins wrote newspaper articles in support of the cause and petitioned the legislature to grant women the "privilege of voting." When the Civil War broke out, she served as a volunteer nurse. In the early 1880s, Collins moved to Hartford. She wrote in support of women's rights for the *Hartford Journal* under the pen name "Justitia" and helped to organize the Hartford Equal Rights Club.



ELIZABETH JARVIS COLT (1827 – 1905) Section 2, Lot 2

At the death of her husband Samuel in 1862, Elizabeth Colt became one of the richest women in the country having inherited an industrial empire. She helped manage Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company from behind the scenes. When the armory burned to the ground in 1864, it was Elizabeth who had insured the building beforehand and managed its reconstruction, including making it fireproof and recreating the blue onion dome. She was also a prominent philanthropist and patron of the arts.



KATHARINE SEYMOUR DAY (1870 – 1964) Section 1, Lot 21

Katharine Seymour Day enrolled at Radcliffe College at age 47, completing her undergraduate and master's degrees in five years. She earned a graduate degree in history from Trinity College at age 66. Active in historic preservation, Day fought to relocate the Wadsworth Stable from Hartford to Lebanon to save it from destruction. She organized the Friends of Hartford to prevent the Mark Twain House from being razed. And she created the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, having purchased the Stowe House in 1924.



SOPHIA FOWLER GALLAUDET (1798 – 1877) Section 3, Lot 1

Sophia Fowler was born deaf at a time when there were no schools for the deaf in America and only three in the world. When Thomas Gallaudet opened what would become the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, Sophia was accepted as the 15th student. She studied for three years then, in 1821, Gallaudet proposed marriage. Concerned that her schooling would end, it was not until he assured that her education would continue that she agreed to marry him. They were married 30 years and had 8 children. When their son Edward became principal of the first school for the deaf and blind in Washington, DC, the widowed Sophia joined him becoming the founding matron of Gallaudet University.



EDITH DIMOCK GLACKENS (1876 – 1955) Section 1, Lot 104

Artist Edith Dimock Glackens primarily worked in watercolors enhanced by gouache and black crayon. Many of her paintings were character studies of women and children of the lower and middle classes. Her work was exhibited in numerous shows including the Independent Show of 1910 and the Armory Show of 1918. She also illustrated two children's books.



ANNIE WARBURTON GOODRICH (1866 – 1954) Section 16, Lot 45

A graduate of the New York Hospital School of Nursing, Annie Warburton Goodrich dedicated her career to improving the education of nurses. As nursing superintendent at several New York hospitals and a member of the faculty of Columbia University, she advocated for university-based education over hospital-based training. When World War I began, she was appointed Chief Inspecting Nurse of the Army Nurses Corps. In 1923, Yale offered Goodrich the position of Dean of its newly-established nursing program. During her tenure, she developed the program into the Yale Graduate School of Nursing.



KATHARINE HOUGHTON HEPBURN (1878 – 1951) Section 10, Lot 132

Katharine Houghton Hepburn was an active champion of women's right to vote. She helped organize the Hartford Equal Franchise League. As President of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, she took part in pickets of the White House during Woodrow Wilson's presidency. She was also an avid supporter of women's right to birth control. She advocated for the repeal of Connecticut's restrictive law making birth control illegal, even for married couples.



KATHARINE HEPBURN

(1907 – 2003)

Section 10, Lot 132

Katharine Hepburn was a celebrated actor on stage and screen. Working in Hollywood, her off-screen behavior hindered her initial success. Labeled "box-office poison," she headed to Broadway to star in *The Philadelphia Story* (1938) for which she received critical acclaim. She purchased the film rights and returned to Hollywood where she chose her director and co-stars for the film version of the play. The movie was a hit and revived her career. Hepburn acted in more than 50 movies and 10 Broadway productions. She still holds the record for most Best Actress Oscar wins with four.



ISABELLA BEECHER HOOKER (1822 – 1907) Section 4, Lot 20

Isabella Beecher Hooker was the founder of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association (1869), serving as its director for 36 years. She assumed a leading role in planning women's rights conventions throughout the state. She championed a married women's property bill, which she introduced to the state Legislature for seven years until its passage in 1877.



MARY TURNER HOOKER

(1864 – 1939)

Section 12, Lot 15

Upon the death of her husband Edward in 1915, Mary Turner Hooker was named to complete his unexpired term on Hartford's Board of Education. Three years later, she was elected to the Board in her own right, serving for nearly twenty years. She was the first woman legislator in the state of Connecticut, serving as representative from Hartford in 1921 and 1925. The Mary Hooker Magnet School is named in recognition of her efforts to promote education in Hartford.



MARY GOODRICH JENSON (1907 – 2004) Section 4, Lot 100

Mary Goodrich Jenson was the first woman in Connecticut to earn a pilot's license. She worked for the *Hartford Courant* as its first aviation editor and later became the first woman at the *Courant* to have a by-lined column. In 1929, Jenson was a charter member of the Ninety-Nines, an organization created to provide support for women in aviation. She piloted a Fairchild KR-21 bi-plane and made history as the first woman to fly solo to Cuba. She served as director of the Betsy Ross Corps, a group of female pilots organized to assist in national defense.



BETTY KNOX

(1908 – 1966)

Section 10, Lot 61

During World War II, Betty Knox opened a day care center in Hartford's Charter Oak Terrace to supervise children of working mothers. In the 1950s & 60s, she served six terms on Hartford's City Council. Knox was committed to urban renewal, city parks, zoning protection for residential neighborhoods, and providing opportunities to underprivileged residents. Upon her death, she left funds to her charitable foundation to be used to "create, beautify and improve parks and other areas open to use or view by the public."



GERTRUDE O. LEWIS

(1861 – 1957)

Section 6, Lot 236

In 1880, in her senior year of high school, Gertrude Lewis arranged for leading animal welfare advocate, George T. Angell, to lecture in Hartford. Nearly 200 people remained after his presentation to begin the process of forming a society. In April of 1881, the General Assembly granted a charter to the newly established Connecticut Humane Society. Angell noted the Society “now stands as a monument of the power of one modest but earnest schoolgirl.”



ANNE TRACY MORGAN (1873 – 1952) Section 11, Lot 1

During World War I, Anne Tracy Morgan established the American Friends for Devastated France which relocated the homeless, built orphanages and clinics, and helped to restock and equip farms. In 1918, she was awarded the Croix de Guerre for her work. In anticipation of World War II, Morgan organized the American Friends of France in 1939. She directed the work of this group and had three relief centers ready when war broke out. Forced to leave the country in 1940, she returned later to supervise postwar activities.



VIRGINIA THRALL SMITH (1836 – 1903) Section 4, Lot 20

Virginia Thrall Smith served as a missionary for Hartford's City Missionary Society and was an elected member of the Connecticut State Board of Charities. In these capacities, she was responsible for establishing the first free kindergarten in the state and advocating for a law requiring appropriate temporary residences for dependent and neglected children. After forming the Connecticut Children's Aid Society, in 1898 Smith opened a home in Newington to meet the needs of dependent, sick, and incurable children.



FRANCES LAUGHLIN WADSWORTH (1909 – 1978) Section 5, Lot 30

Frances Laughlin Wadsworth began sculpting at the age of seven. Her first major work was the life-size sculpture of Thomas Hooker that stands outside the Old State House in Hartford. Other local works include the memorial to the founders of the American School for the Deaf that stands in Gallaudet Square at the convergence of Asylum and Farmington Avenues, and “The Safe Arrival” which was commissioned by Travelers and stands at Tower Square.



CEDAR HILL CEMETERY FOUNDATION

For more information about Cedar Hill Cemetery, including tours and other activities, visit cedarhillfoundation.org.

To map the location of a burial, visit cemeteryfind.com

