

Prairie Home Cemetery- Self Guided Walking Tour

The route designed on the map will take you in order as listed below. The individuals listed in **Blue** are those Living Historians featured during the Waukesha Historic Preservation Days on May 19, 2012.

Waukesha Historic Preservation Days- May 19th and 20th, 2012
Prairie Home Cemetery – 605 S. Prairie Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53186
262-524-3540

1. Russell M. Schuetze – Section 5 Lot 123 Grave 3

In 1913, the Schuetze Family moved to Waukesha relocating their Manitowoc Church Furniture Company with the persuasion of Waukesha Bankers Walter Frame and Edward Estberg. After graduating college in 1928, Schuetze toured Europe and what impressed him the most was a light airplane that he saw at a Berlin Airport. An aviation pioneer, Russell Schuetze returned home to build his own airplane, an Irwin Meteor. This was the first home-built airplane to be assembled in the City of Waukesha. By the efforts of Schuetze and other aviator's efforts, it resulted in the eventual creation of Crites Field now Waukesha County Airport. In addition to his aviation interest he was devoted to the family business and extremely active in many community organizations.

2. Lester Polsfuss (Les Paul) – Section 5 Lot 108A Graves 1 & 2

Les Paul and his mother, Evelyn Polfuss are buried here. Les was an American jazz and country guitarist, songwriter and inventor. He was the pioneer in the development and an inventor of the solid body electric guitar. Polsfuss was credited with many recording innovations. Evelyn Polfuss was moved here after her son, Les died in 2009.

3. Johnnie Miller – Section 10 Lot 274 Grave 1

His likeness is inscribed on his headstone along with his name, Johnnie. He was a Black Entrepreneur and popular downtown property owner. He owned Johnnie's Enterprises, which included a shoe repair and shine business and a restaurant.

4. Lee Sherman Dreyfus – Section 11 Lot 177 & 178

The Dreyfus Monument is one of our most unique monuments, carved from Wausau Red Granite in the shape of Wisconsin. Both the late former governor and his wife, Joyce are interred here. Governor Dreyfus was Wisconsin's 40th Governor. He is the first of Wisconsin's former governors to be interred at Prairie Home.

5. Carl Taylor – Section 10 Lot 90 Grave 1

Carl Taylor was the founder of Waukesha State Bank in 1944. Mr. Taylor was a dynamic public speaker and taught communications at UW-Milwaukee. In 1947, he launched the local radio station now known as WAUK-AM. He also spearheaded the campaign to raise money to build the YWCA in Waukesha. Carl was a devout Christian and is fondly remembered for helping many people in Waukesha realize their dreams.

6. Dean and Olive Crites - Garden of Gethsemane Mausoleum Crypt # C17 & 18

Dean and Dale Crites (twins) began their future in flight in 1919. In 1938, Dean Crites made the 1st Airmail flight into Waukesha Airport in a WACO 10, that flight inaugurated Airmail Service at the airport and to Waukesha County. Olive Crites was the first woman in the county to receive a pilot's license, completing 11 hours of solo flying.

7. Mr. Andrew J. Frame – Section 2 Lot 42 Grave 12

Mr. Andrew J. Frame was born in Waukesha on February 19, 1844. He later went on to work at the Waukesha National Bank, first as a clerk and then later as president and chairman of the board. He was very involved in the community and served as a Carroll College Board of Trustees for 41 years. In 1923, Mr. Frame donated Frame Park located along the Fox River to the City of Waukesha.

8. Charles Phillip Gaspar – Section 2 Lot 3 Grave 1

In 1864, 14-year-old Charles Gaspar enlisted as a Drummer Boy in the Union Army's Company C, 39th Wisconsin Infantry. Drummer Boys were vitally important in battle as their drumbeats gave the main signal to troops as they went in to battle. Gaspar served two tours of duty and was mustered out on May 6, 1865. He went on to join his family's furniture and undertaking business. Gaspar's Civil War Drum was later retrieved by his granddaughter and is on display at the Waukesha County Historical Society.

9. Little Lord Fauntleroy – Section 1 Lot 39 Grave 6

On March 8, 1921, Little Lord Fauntleroy was a well dressed little boy of about 5, found drowned in the O’Laughlin Quarry (now Waukesha Lime and Stone). Despite monumental efforts by the police, his death was never solved. The cause of his death and his identity remains a mystery to this day. Dubbed “Little Lord Fauntleroy” by the citizens of Waukesha, no one ever stepped forward to claim him.

10. Mr. and Mrs. O.M. Hubbard - Section M Block 8 Lot 2 Graves 3-6

Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard were owners of the boarding house where Mary Todd Lincoln stayed during her stay in Waukesha in July 1872. Their son, Monroe J. Hubbard served in the 28th Wisconsin Regiment and died in the Civil War Hospital at Helena, Arkansas.

11. Morris Cutler – Section M Block 43 Lot 2 Grave 5

Morris Cutler was Waukesha’s first permanent white settler. He came to Waukesha in 1834 and lived here until his death in 1896. He owned much of the land from East to West Avenue, from Wisconsin to College Avenue. In 1902, Cutler’s heir sold the home and surrounding park to the City of Waukesha which then became Cutler Park.

12. Fred and Mary (Molly) King Wardrobe- Section N Block 51 Lot 2 Graves 1 & 2

Fred Wardrobe was a soldier in the 28th Regiment during the Civil War. He enlisted in 1861 and served in Arkansas until 1863 when he transferred to serving at a hospital in Tennessee. There he met his wife, Mary King who although born in New Orleans came north to serve as a nurse in the Union Hospital in Gayoso, TN. They married right after the war and spend the rest of their lives in Waukesha.

13. Martha G. Cork – Section M Block 100 Lot 1 Grave 4

Martha G. Cork was the first President of the Waukesha, W.B. Cushing Woman’s Relief Corps Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic.

15. Elihu and Frances Enos - Section K Block 85 Lot 1 Graves 3 & 5

Elihu Enos served in the 28th Regiment in Company G in the Civil War and was twice Waukesha’s Postmaster. Two of his Civil War letters to his wife have survived. He also was superintendent of the town’s schools.

16. The Hadfield/Cook Monument - (the finger pointing upwards) Section K Block 96

Look up to see the Hadfield/Cook monument topped with a large finger pointing to the sky. This monument was the joint purchase of Thomas D. Cook and Abraham Hadfield, whose families intermarried for a time. It is one of the largest and most unique monuments on the grounds of Prairie Home Cemetery.

17. Dr. Volney L. Moore – Section M Block 156 Lot 1 Grave 3

Dr. Moore renowned Homeopathic Physician served in the Civil War as a Private in the 3rd Regiment of the Wisconsin Cavalry Company L for three years. In 1877, he built his historic home which is located at 307 East Main Street. The home on Main Street is on the National Register of Historic places, the State Register of Historic places, a City of Waukesha Landmark and is endangered.

18. Veterans Circle and Veteran Civil War Monument- Section P

This half-moon shaped circle is reserved for the burial of veterans and their spouses. Several thousand veterans are interred at Prairie Home, from conflicts as early as the War of 1812. We want to especially thank Veterans of Foreign War for their gift of the howitzer that once stood in front of the VFW in Waukesha. The Woman's Relief Corps Monument to the Unknown Soldier is located in the center of Veterans Circle. The monument was rededicated last year, commemorating its 100th Anniversary.

19. Frank B. Booth – Section C Block 7 Lot 2 Grave 4

Frank Booth served in “Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders” as a Private in the 1st USV Cavalry. He died in Key West, Florida from an illness as a result of the wounds he received in Cuba during the Spanish American War.

20. Henry Mott and Theodora Winton Youmans - Section 3 Lot 21 Graves 3 & 4

Henry Mott Youmans was the editor and publisher of the Waukesha Freeman. In 1889 he married Theodora Winton. Theodora Winton Youmans worked as a journalist and later editor of the Freeman. She was a noted Suffragette and woman's rights activist.

21. Guy A. Butterfield – Section 3 Lot 59 Space 6

Guy Butterfield served in the 4th Wisconsin Infantry Company A as a Corporal. His company served at Camp Shipp in Alabama. Later he went on to be the first Commander of the United Spanish War Veteran's Frank L. Tiffany Camp, a Spanish American War Veteran's Organization.

22. Arthur “Green” Reese – Section C Block 88 Lot 1 Grave 4

Mr. Reese, a Black Civil War Veteran, holds the singular distinction of having served on both sides of the Civil War. After the war, he returned to Waukesha with Colonel Putney and when settled opened Waukesha’s first barbershop. His wife, Orisa, operated the first beauty shop in Waukesha. Reese was one of the longest surviving Black Civil War Veteran and the oldest resident of the City of Waukesha when he passed away at the age of 103 in 1943.

23. William Pond – Section D Block 88 Lot 2 Grave 5

William Pond was a Civil War Veteran and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. The G.A.R. was a Civil War Veteran’s Organization.

24. Daniel Sumner - Section I Block 33 Lot 1 Grave 4

Daniel Sumner, a Democrat serving as a U.S. Representative in the Forty-Eighth Congress (March 4, 1883 - March 3, 1885). He also served as Waukesha’s District Attorney for many years.

25. Clinton S. Breese – Section E Block 46 Lot 2 Grave 6

Clinton S. Breese served as a Second Lieutenant in World War I, in the 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, American Expeditionary Forces, (A.E.F.). He was awarded the “Distinguished Service Cross”, the second highest award 2nd Lt. Breese could have received for conspicuous and extraordinary heroism for his actions on November 2, 1918, during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive near Argonne, France. Second Lieutenant Breese was also awarded the “Silver Star” for gallantry in action, near Buzancy, France, while on a photographic mission during World War I.

Presented by: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Major General
John Gibson, Camp #4 and the Woman’s Relief Corps,
W.B. Cushing Corps #64, the City of Waukesha Landmarks and
Prairie Home Cemetery
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