

*The Historic*

*Poughkeepsie*  
RURAL CEMETERY



*A Walking Tour*

# A Walking Tour of the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery

## A BRIEF EARLY HISTORY OF THE CEMETERY

In the middle decades of the nineteenth century, a revolution took place in the manner in which Americans viewed death and burial. "Rural cemeteries" replaced church yards and family plots as the burial place of choice, and the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery was part of this revolution. Even though they were nearly always located near growing urban areas, these cemeteries were called "rural" because their carefully landscaped grounds embodied a respect for nature, and provided a respite from the chaotic bustle of the city.

In December 1852, a committee was formed to seek land for a new cemetery for the city of Poughkeepsie, as it was evident that the local church yard burial grounds would soon be filled. Among the members of the committee was local brewer Matthew Vassar, who later founded Vassar College. The committee first considered a parcel of fifty acres of land on the east side of Academy Street, which Vassar purchased for \$8000, with the intent of then selling it to the subscribers of the cemetery. Not enough subscribers could be found for this land and the committee decided to look for another location. Vassar then built his summer home, named Springside and designed by landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing, on this site. The cemetery committee finally decided on a fifty-four acre parcel of land located on the west side of Academy Street and South Avenue and belonging to the estate of Supreme Court Justice Smith Thompson. This land forms the nucleus of the present cemetery.

The purchase of the land was made possible by sixty citizens of Poughkeepsie who invested \$300 each and were given the option of either being paid back once the cemetery began to sell plots, or using the investment to pay for a family plot. The grounds were laid out by landscape architect Howard Daniels, and the opening ceremony took place on November 2, 1853. The Poughkeepsie Eagle newspaper described the opening ceremony in the following manner: "The day was uncommonly fine, the air salubrious, the ground dry, and all nature seemed to smile on the praiseworthy undertaking of our citizens in planning, lying out and decorating such a beautiful spot for a burial place."

The cemetery was enlarged in 1883, with the purchase of an additional 106 acres located at the south end of the grounds and belonging to Samuel G. Wheeler.

**The tour begins at the main gate and then proceeds up the main driveway, stopping at the Trolley Waiting Shelter on the right and the Gate House and the Office on the left until you reach the Sundial.**

### 1. TROLLEY WAITING SHELTER

Located at the entrance to the cemetery, this shelter was donated by Mary M. Hinkley in 1904. The bronze plaque affixed to the wall contains a scaled-down replica of the trolley, known as the Poughkeepsie and Wappingers Falls Railway Company that ran between Poughkeepsie and Wappingers Falls along tracks just outside of the cemetery fence.



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## 2. GATEHOUSE

Located at the entrance to the cemetery grounds, this was the original gatehouse for the Smith Thompson estate. Earlier in this century it served as the cemetery office, but it is now a private residence. No information is currently known about the architect or when it was built.



## 3. OFFICE

Excavation began June 14, 1927 and the office was completed on January 1, 1928. It is an integral part of the cemetery operations and a place where families can gather before committal services. It is also an information center for families doing genealogy and provides a directory for those wishing to locate specific graves within the cemetery.



## 4. SUNDIAL

The sundial, located in the circle in the main drive, three hundred feet west of the main entrance, was designed by Tiffany Studios of New York and donated to the cemetery by a Poughkeepsie attorney Frederick Barnard in 1923. The dial reads "Vitae Fugaces Exhibit Horas" which translates as "It Shows the Fleeting Hours of Life." The granite base, weighing three tons, consists of the famous Tiffany Granite that is quarried exclusively in Cohasset, Massachusetts in a Tiffany mine.



The bands along the side read, "Time goes, you say? O no! Alas, time stays, we go," a quotation taken from the writings of Austin Dobson, and "What Shadows we are and what shadows we pursue," lifted from a speech delivered by Edmund Burke in England in 1780. A second sundial was donated to replace the original if it should become damaged and it is now on view in the Lawn Crypt Garden west of the Community Mausoleum.

**Walk to the left around the back of the office. On your right is Section A. Just off the road to the right you will see a dark granite tombstone a few spaces up from the road behind the Matheis marker. This is the gravesite of Samuel Neilson.**



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## 5. SAMUEL NEILSON (1761-1803)

Samuel Neilson is considered among Irish nationals to be one of the first Irish patriots in the country's history. He was born in Ballroney, County Down Ireland in 1761. There he founded the controversial newspaper *The Northern Star*, whose editorial policies included separation from England and political equality for all Irish people. The motto over the office door read, "Civil and Religious Liberty to all Mankind." For his treasonous and subversive opinions, Samuel Neilson was sentenced to several prison terms and ultimately exiled to the United States.



Once in America, he founded an organization called United Irishmen which continued the efforts of a late 1700's movement to unite Protestants and Catholics in Ireland. In addition to advocating the union of the Irish nation under an independent self-rule, it rallied for the reform of English Parliament to end the suppression of all Catholics in Ireland. In Poughkeepsie he died of Yellow Fever, or possibly Apoplexy, just before implementing his plans to start a new evening newspaper in this town. Since his death, he has been moved to three different cemeteries before he finally came to rest in the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery in 1880.

**Behind Neilson and slightly to the left you will see a tall granite monument with an acorn and urn at the top. This is the Collingwood gravesite.**

## 6. JAMES COLLINGWOOD (1814-1874)

In 1869, James Collingwood founded the Collingwood Opera House, now known as the Bardavon Opera House, which was built at 35 Market Street in downtown Poughkeepsie at the site of his lumber and coal yard. Mr. Collingwood's intention was to build an opera house which would rival the elegance of the finest opera houses in Europe. After opening night on February 2, 1869, the Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle reported that 300 gas jets flooded the theatre and the Eastman College Band played the Grand Inaugural March for an audience of 2,000 people. "Diamonds and costly jewels," the article states, "silks and satins worn by the fair ones there assembled, glistened and rippled in the gas light, while bejeweled thus in undulating movement sent wave after wave of perfume through the air from parquet to dome."



Collingwood and other local businessmen invested \$50,000 in the project because they felt that Poughkeepsie could be a hub that would attract top acts from all over the country, and it has been. Since the opening, Mark Twain, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Frank Sinatra, Wynton Marsalis, Isadora Duncan, Rachmaninoff, John Philip Sousa and Helen Hayes have all graced the stage of this theatre. Although renovated in 1921 and 1975, it has never ceased operation and it is now known as the oldest running theatre in New York State.

**Continue walking down the middle of section A in the same direction. Or if you prefer, you may return to the path and circle around section A to the other end past the mausoleum cut into the side of the hill. You will see the Eighmie family plot and a smaller stone next to it with the name Anandabai Joshee.**

# A Walking Tour of the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery

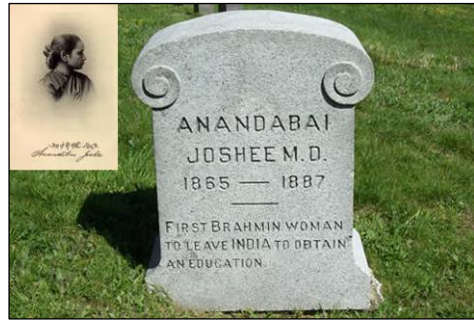
## 7. ANANDABAI JOSHEE, M.D. (1865-1887)

Joshee was the first Brahmin woman to leave India to receive an education abroad. She was sponsored by Theodosia Eighmie Carpenter of Poughkeepsie who, in 1882, read a magazine story about an Indian woman who wished to leave India to study to be a doctor. Carpenter sponsored Joshee's trip to the U.S., and the Carpenters became a second family for Anandabai.

In 1883, she enrolled in Pennsylvania Medical College, an amazing accomplishment for any woman at that time. She received her medical degree in 1886 and returned to her home to practice medicine. Tragically, she contracted tuberculosis soon after her return to India and died in 1887 at the age of 21.

Although Indian tradition required that she be buried with her family, Joshee had insisted that her ashes be returned to her adoptive home of Poughkeepsie where they were buried in the Eighmie family plot.

**Return to the path and head to the left. Follow the map toward the gravesite of Gaius Bolin in section 19 across from section 10.**



## 7.5 The Stream (Waterfall)

On your way stop and admire the waterfall on the left side of the path. This stream was known to Dutch settlers as Rust Platz or 'resting place,' because it was the stopping point for Native Americans traveling along the north-south trail. Native Americans called it "Upp uqui-ipis-ing" from which the name Poughkeepsie was derived. The stream now flows underground beneath the cemetery and empties, at the edge of the cemetery, into the Hudson River.



## 8. GAIUS BOLIN, SR. (1864-1946)

Gaius Bolin was the first African-American lawyer in Dutchess County. He grew up in Poughkeepsie and in 1889 was the first black graduate of Williams College. He opened his own law firm in Poughkeepsie in 1895 and practiced general law providing legal services for clients of all races and faiths. In 1931, Bolin was one of the seven founding members of the local branch of the NAACP and in 1945 he was elected County Bar Association President.



**Across from Bolin is the Civil War Memorial in section 10.**

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## 9. CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL

This memorial consists of a cannon surrounded by the graves of local Civil War veterans. It was dedicated to the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery in 1923.

**Continue up the path in between sections 10 and 11. On the right you will see the Smiley family plot in section 11.**



## 10. SMILEY FAMILY

Albert (1828-1912) and Alfred (1828-1903) Smiley were twin brothers who gained local, national, and international prominence around the turn of the century as the owners of Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz. They were devout Quakers and had both served as teachers before buying the property for Mohonk in 1869 where they built a resort and conference house.

They were deeply involved in Native American affairs and were appointed to the board of Indian Commissioners in 1879. In 1895 the first annual Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration was held; these conferences attracted attendees from throughout the world and had a far-reaching impact on the peace movement. They served on the board of trustees of several colleges and universities, and were involved in the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

One writer summed up their lives with the following statement: "Their concern and involvement in education, business, grounds adornment and land use, Indian affairs, international arbitration, negro affairs, and religious endeavors is illustrative of the social gospel in action."



**Across the road from the Smiley's' you will see another War Memorial in section 25.**

## 11. VETERAN WAR MEMORIAL

This memorial contains veterans from World War I, World War II, and the Korean Conflict.

**Follow the path to the right between sections 11 and 15. Continue to the Jones Plot and the Mausoleum which is at the corner of section 16.**



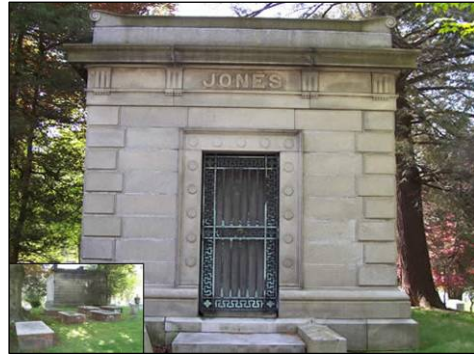


# A Walking Tour of the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery

## 12. JONES FAMILY PLOT

This plot contains the remains of a prominent local family. It was moved here from the original family cemetery in Rhinebeck in 1880. The most notable members of the family are Samuel Jones, Jr. (1770-1853) and Catherine Schuyler Jones (1792-1829). Catherine was the granddaughter of Revolutionary War hero General Philip Schuyler and the niece of Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton (Alexander Hamilton's wife).

Samuel was a state assemblyman and later a justice of the state Supreme Court. The couple lived in the family home in Rhinebeck, and a collection of their letters written between 1816 and 1829 are part of the local history collection in the Adriance Memorial Library in the City of Poughkeepsie. Their tombs are located to the left of the Jones Vault.



**Continue up the path between sections 12 and 16 and you will see on your left the gravesite of Edmund Platt which is marked by a tall grey obelisk.**

## 13. EDMUND PLATT (1843-1913)

In 1872, Charles Luckey and Edmund Platt co-founded Luckey, Platt and Co., one of the most successful department stores in the country. Upon Edmund Platt's twentieth birthday, he received a gift from his father of one hundred thousand dollars. With this money, he was able to do what he had been dreaming of for three years; buy a share in Charles Luckey's department store business.

The two men bought property on Main Street, in Poughkeepsie, and built a store whose innovations included a set price policy, telephone customer service, and passenger elevators. The company policy, as printed in the Eagle Family Almanac of 1877 was: "Everything will be bought and sold for CASH only, and the benefits of the cash system will be given to our customers. Having no bad debts nor long standing accounts we can, and will, sell at lower prices than can be afforded by those doing credit business. Everybody will be served alike; everything marked in plain figures and sold at one price to all. We will keep no damaged or inferior goods of any kind, but deal only in the best qualities of everything. Receiving new goods nearly every day, we can always show the best assortments and the newest goods on the market."



**Continue to the end of the path and you will see several large mausoleums. The Murphy Mausoleum is in section 40. You may want to explore the other mausoleums in the area as several contain beautiful stained glass windows.**

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## 14. THOMAS MURPHY (1877-1967)

Born in Glen Cove, Long Island, Thomas Murphy, known to most as "wizard of the reins," gained international fame as the greatest trainer and driver in the history of harness racing. His first experience with horses was breaking in cow-ponies shipped from the West for sale. He is reported to have borrowed a trotter from a neighbor and, with this horse, won his first race in 1891 when he was just fourteen years old.



Throughout his career, which lasted twenty three seasons, his earnings totaled close to \$2,000,000. He was the first driver to win more than \$50,000 in one year; the first to win more than \$100,000 in one season (he did this five times); and the first to earn more than \$50,000 with one horse in a single season. In addition to his winnings, he displayed a remarkable ability to detect champion material in an untried horse or yearling. In 1927 he decided to retire from the sport of harness racing and stated after his retirement, "The game at the time was about at its lowest ebb. I had many bad spills, and there were many in races, and it seemed I was always in them. Purses had gotten so low that entrance fees ate up about all our horses could win. With all the broken bones I'd had, I thought I had better stop while I was partly whole." Yet, his love of the game and horses compelled him to remain in the sport, not only as an owner and breeder, but as an excellent Standard bred trainer who developed a long series of world champions.

**Straight ahead you will see the pond.**

## 15. THE POND

Constructed in 1877, the pond contains friendly ducks and geese. The Victorian gazebo, transported to the Cemetery from a home on Academy Street, was fully restored to its original condition by the Cemetery.



**Continue to walk along the edge of the pond and you will reach the Police Memorial on your left.**

## 16. POLICE MEMORIAL

This memorial was dedicated in May 1990 to pay tribute to all police officers who have served in the Town of Poughkeepsie. The granite bench located to the right of the memorial was donated in memory of the actor James Cagney, a long-time county resident and friend of the police department, whose estate generously gave a large portion of the funding needed for the completion of the memorial.



**If you would like to take a fifteen minute hike up the hill along the path behind the pond, you will witness a spectacular one hundred and eighty degree view of the Hudson River and the Mid-Hudson Bridge. If you choose not to visit Whittier Memorial continue on the tour to number 18.**



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## 17. WHITTIER MAUSOLEUM

At the top of this hill is the Whittier Mausoleum constructed in 1932 by Dr. Emile Alfred Muller, an internist and surgeon from Manhattan. Shortly before his death, he searched for the perfect spot to find eternal peace and he finally settled on this breathtaking site in the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, for a memorial to his housekeeper Alice Whittier and his family. Also known to locals as "Lovers Leap", a name derived from the legend of a Native American woman who chose to jump from the cliff to her death rather than consummate an arranged marriage.



**Across the road from the Police Memorial, in section W, is the Spanish American War Memorial.**

## 18. SPANISH AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL

The Spanish-American War memorial consists of a cannon surrounded by the graves of many local veterans of this conflict.

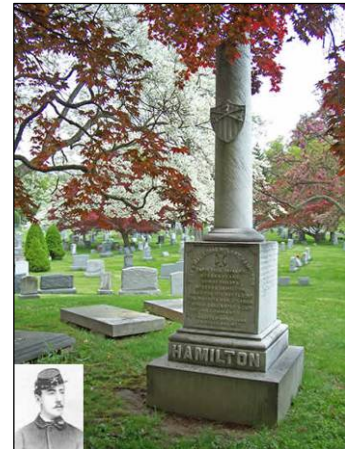
**Across the road from the Spanish American War Memorial is the Hamilton plot, in section V, easily distinguished by the large white broken column.**



## 19. CAPTAIN LOUIS MCLANE HAMILTON (1844-1868)

Louis was the grandson of Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the U.S. Treasury in the Cabinet of George Washington. As the text on his monument describes, Louis was a highly decorated member of the 7th U.S. Cavalry under General George Custer and was killed during the Battle of Washita. Generals Custer and Sherman were among the pallbearers at his funeral. The eulogy from his fellow officers stated: "Resolved, that the death in battle of our late comrade, Captain Louis M. Hamilton, has bereft us of a dear and valued friend, whom while living we cherished as a rare and gifted gentleman of unsullied honor and spotless fame; that we miss the genial face, the sparkling wit, the well-tryed, war and trusty heart of him whose loss we mourn more deeply than words can tell."

Among the other members of the Hamilton family buried in this plot is Philip Hamilton (1802-1884), the youngest son of Alexander Hamilton and his wife, Elizabeth. Philip was named after an older brother who had been killed in a duel in 1801 at age 19. Philip's wife, Rebecca McLane, is interred next to him. Nearby are the graves of their other son, Alan McLane Hamilton and his wife, May Copeland.



**Continue to walk towards section Q, which will be to your left. Circle around section Q until you reach the grave of Harvey Eastman.**

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## 20. HARVEY EASTMAN (1834-1878)

In 1859, at the age of twenty-seven, Harvey Eastman founded the Eastman National Business College in Poughkeepsie. The school originally enrolled only three students but by 1864 the daily attendance had risen to 1700 students representing every state in the nation as well as several foreign countries. By this time, it had become internationally known as one of the best business schools in the United States. Building on his success, Eastman was elected mayor of Poughkeepsie in 1871 and 1876, and was also elected to the New York State Assembly in 1874. While he was mayor, Eastman was instrumental in planning the railroad bridge over the Hudson River, although delays meant that it did not open until ten years after his death. He also implemented vast civic improvements in Poughkeepsie during his mayoral tenure.



**Turn around, walk straight down the path ahead of you. Walk to the Cable family monument on your left. The gravesite of General Alfred Baker Smith will be across from the Cable monument on your right in section P.**

## 21. GENERAL ALFRED BAKER SMITH (1825-1896)

Alfred Baker Smith joined the Union Army as a Major of the 150th New York Volunteers division and quickly rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, which was, by brevet, Brigadier General. During the Civil War, he participated in every military engagement from Gettysburg to Bentonville including William T. Sherman's campaign in Atlanta. Smith gained national attention when President Andrew Johnson offered him the governorship of one of the Southern states during the Reconstruction period, an offer which he ultimately declined. After the Civil War, General



Smith settled in Poughkeepsie and focused his attention on the educational system; he served on the Poughkeepsie Board of Education until his death. According to a letter from a descendant, he died suddenly at the residence of Professor MacDonald in Poughkeepsie while leading a cottage prayer meeting. He had just announced the hymn, "More Love to Thee, O Christ" when he sank down in his chair, the Bible fell from his hands, and before a minute had passed he was dead.

**To your left, across the road and up the hill in Section D is the Fireman's Monument.**

## 22. FIREMANS MONUMENT

Located in section D of your walking tour map, this monument has beautifully hand carved designs of hose carts on all 4 sides of this monument.

**Walk to the left, around Section D, and in that section you will see the grave of Charles Luckey on the hill next to that of Matthew Vassar Jr. The monument is easily distinguished by the sculpture of a woman.**



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## 23. CHARLES LUCKEY (1832-1896)

In 1872, Charles Luckey and Edmund Platt co-founded Luckey, Platt and Co., one of the most successful department stores in the country. Upon Edmund Platt's twentieth birthday, he received a gift from his father of one hundred thousand dollars. With this money, he was able to do what he had been dreaming of for three years; buy a share in Charles Luckey's department store business.



The two men bought property on Main Street, in Poughkeepsie, and built a store whose innovations included a set price policy, telephone customer service, and passenger elevators. The company policy, as printed in the Eagle Family Almanac of 1877 was: "Everything will be bought and sold for CASH only, and the benefits of the cash system will be given to our customers. Having no bad debts nor long standing accounts we can, and will, sell at lower prices than can be afforded by those doing credit business. Everybody will be served alike; everything marked in plain figures and sold at one price to all. We will keep no damaged or inferior goods of any kind, but deal only in the best qualities of everything. Receiving new goods nearly every day, we can always show the best assortments and the newest goods on the market."

**In Section Fare two granite columns, each with a spherical jug on top. The column to the left is the Smith family gravesite.**

## 24. ANDREW and WILLIAM SMITH (1836-1894 & 1830-1913)

Andrew and William Smith, two brothers born in Poughkeepsie, were cofounders of the Smith Brothers Cough Drop Company after inventing the throat lozenge. They derived their secret recipe from their father who was a candy maker. The packaging of the drops, or 'cough candy,' propelled the two brothers into both financial success and personal celebrity.

The images of the two brothers with their famous beards were cut into woodblocks, reproduced in line drawings, and placed on the cardboard boxes of their licorice drops. The two portraits of the men were placed above the words 'trade' and 'mark' which appeared as names underneath each brother; William and Andrew thus appeared to be named Trade and Mark Smith to many customers.



This trademark, registered in 1877, is one of the oldest and most famous in America. William or 'Trade,' was known as an eccentric man who was the dominant figure in the business and became a militant prohibitionist. Andrew or 'Mark,' never married and gained a reputation of being free with his money, consequently earning the nickname 'Easy Mark.' William is buried in section 13.

The Smith Brothers Cough Drop Company was sold to Warner-Lambert Pharmaceuticals in 1963.

**Return to the path and continue upward towards section L. Straight ahead you will catch a glimpse of a large white marble acorn. This is the monument of Matthew Vassar which is located in section L.**



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## 25. MATTHEW VASSAR (1792-1868)

Matthew Vassar was a member of the original committee that organized the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. He was a prominent local businessman who ran a brewery and founded Vassar College.

He was born in Norfolk, England and emigrated with his family to the U.S. in 1796. His wife, Catherine Valentine, is buried next to him; the two never had any children. Although Matthew Vassar himself never had much formal education, his most important legacy is undoubtedly Vassar College, the first women's college in the U.S. and an institution that revolutionized the education of women in both the U.S. and Europe. Fittingly enough, he died in the middle of a meeting of the board of trustees of the college.



**Directly behind the Vassar plot is the Gill family plot where Dina Gill has been interred. Her marker is a small white stone, near the James Gill marker flush with the ground, with simply the name "Dina" carved on it.**

## 26. DINA GILL

Dina Gill was an eighteenth century African American slave owned by Theophilus Anthony. According to local legend, she was left behind to guard the house when the Gill family fled the approaching British troops in the year 1777, and she singlehandedly managed to save the house from destruction by bribing the soldiers with a good home-cooked meal.



**Continue along the same path toward section M where you will see the grave of Springarn which is a large flat stone slab marked by four bushes, one at each corner.**

## 27. JOEL SPRINGARN (1875-1939)

Joel Springarn, a man of Jewish faith, was one of the co-founders of the NAACP, at a 1916 meeting at the Troutbeck Inn, in Amenia. Springarn's close friends in the NAACP included WEB Dubois, Langston Hughes, and Thurgood Marshall.

The NAACP's most prestigious annual award, the Springarn Medal, is named after him. The medal is awarded to "the man or woman of African American descent and American citizenship who has made the highest achievement during the preceding year in any honorable field."



Before entering the political sphere, Springarn had been a professor of comparative literature at Columbia University, in New York City, from 1899-1911. He was dismissed from his position after defending a colleague who had been named as a defendant in a breach of contract suit. His dismissal was apparently not a devastating personal blow because in 1936 he held a 25th anniversary party to commemorate the occasion. He became the country's leading authority of the Clematis vine, growing more than 250 species.

**Take the grassy path to the right and continue to follow it around the section. Take the first straight path to the left towards the Mausoleum. On the left side you will**

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see a rectangular plot of land encircled by tall bushes. This is the family plot of the Livingston's.

## 28 LIVINGSTON PLOT

This small family plot pre-dates the rest of the cemetery as it was the private plot on the estate of the Livingston's, one of the oldest and most powerful local families. Ancestors of the Livingston's buried here were among the original patron settlers of the Poughkeepsie area, and Dr. Henry Livingston (1714-1799) was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. This piece of land and the surrounding 1.4 acres were acquired by the cemetery from a Livingston heir in 1914. Many of the graves in this plot date back to the eighteenth century; unfortunately, the inscriptions on many are no longer legible.



The most notable person buried in the Livingston Plot is Smith Thompson (1768 - 1843). Thompson's estate, which constituted the original land purchased for the cemetery, was actually to the south of this plot, but he was married to Sarah Livingston, and was buried here in her family plot. Thompson served as a NY state legislator, chief justice of the NY Supreme Court and was a member of the 1801 New York Constitutional Convention.

He was also President Monroe's Secretary of the Navy, and in 1823 was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by Monroe. Thompson's political aspirations were even higher. He only accepted the appointment to the Supreme Court after he was certain that he was not going to receive the 1824 presidential nomination. While on the court, he ran for Governor of NY in 1828 and lost, primarily because he had refused to resign his justiceship before the election.

Across from the Livingston plot is the Community Mausoleum. You may wish to explore the building and the Lawn Crypt Garden which contains the second sundial.

## 29. COMMUNITY MAUSOLEUM

This mausoleum, which was opened in 1985 offers spaces for above-ground burial, which is known as entombment, and for memorialization of cremated remains, known as niche spaces for inurnment.



Retrace your steps back toward the main cemetery. Turn left and walk straight ahead towards the main entrance. As you are ending your tour, you may wish to visit the gravesite of John Bolding which is located between the Bauer and Douglas family plots in section B.

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## 30. JOHN A. BOLDING

John A. Bolding was a slave from South Carolina who escaped to Poughkeepsie in 1847. He quickly integrated himself into the community and became a tailor. In 1852, he was discovered and sent to New York City for a trial. The law in New York during this period presumed that African Americans were free unless proven otherwise. To verify that a man or woman was a slave, the claimant had to prove that the accused was of African descent, born of a slave mother, and the property of the alleged owner.



The judge presiding over the case of John A. Bolding concluded that he was a mulatto and the legitimate slave of Robert C. Anderson who was consequently authorized to take Mr. Bolding back to South Carolina. After the trial, Mr. Anderson announced that he would sell Mr. Bolding to his Northern friends if they wished to buy him.

A committee of outraged Poughkeepsie residents, including Matthew Vassar, raised the requested fifteen hundred dollars for John A. Bolding's freedom. He remained in Poughkeepsie to spend the rest of his life a free man.

**From Section B return to the Sundial at the entrance driveway and back to the Main Gate.**



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## **Additional Information**

**Throughout the cemetery grounds you will notice various sections where monuments and markers have been placed in a straight line and many are back to back. Many of the former city church burial grounds were removed to this cemetery throughout the years and they are as follows:**

CHRIST CHURCH - Section 4 Lot # 13 Section A Lots # 41 thru # 48

DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH - Section X Lot # 70

EPISCOPAL CHURCHES OF POUGHKEEPSIE - Section A Lot # 67 Property for this church purchased by St. Barnabas Hospital of Poughkeepsie

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH - Section Q Lot # 49

CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER - Section B Lots # 189 thru #194

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - Section 4 Lot # 10

**We hope that you have enjoyed this brief introduction to the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. If you have any questions concerning the tour or cemetery services, please feel free to inquire at the office before leaving the grounds.**

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## Other Notable People Interred in the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery

**EMILE BACHELET** - SEC I A LOT 46 (1863-1946)

She was an early 20th century inventor who produced the original prototype of the Magnetic Levitation Transportation. (Written in Scientific American)

**DR. EGBERT CARY** - SEC F LOT 46 (1745-1830)

A State Legislator, Surgeon of 4th NY State Cavalry Regiment in 1812.

**DR. CLARENCE CHENEY** - SEC 11 LOT 79 (1887-1947)

President of the American Psychiatric Association in 1926, he "made significant contributions to the scientific development of psychiatry".

**DR JOHN FAUST** - SEC 13 LOT 27 (1835-1901)

He was the 1st to successfully vaccinate cattle against anthrax fever.

**DR ALFRED HASBROUCK** - SEC G LOT 10 (1821-1903)

He was the President of the Dutchess County Medical Society, Medical Examiner for this District under the U.S. Pension Bureau and an original member of the Republican Party.

**GILBERT LIVINGSTON** - LIVINGSTON PRIVATE CEMETERY (1743-1806)

NY Assemblyman, deputy to all four Provincial Congresses beginning in 1775.

**WILLIAM SCHRAUTH** - SEC 11 LOT 72 (1875-1945)

"Oldest continuous ice cream manufacturer in the U.S." (1936 testimonial). In 1940 he was elected mayor of Poughkeepsie

**MAJOR HENRY LIVINGSTON** - LIVINGSTON PRIVATE CEMETERY

He may have written "T'was the Night before Christmas."

**DR EDWARD HAZEN PARKER** - SEC 8 LOT 47 (1823-1896)

He was President of NY State Medical Society, in 1862 he founded St. Barnabas Hospital in Poughkeepsie which closed in 1871 when Vassar Brothers Hospital opened.

**DR JOHN WILSON POUCHER** - SEC 16 LOT 49 (1859-1948)

He was one of the founders of Dutchess County Historical Society and author of Old Gravestones of Dutchess County.

**DR. GARRETT A. H. PRICE** - SEC 30 LOT 171 (1899-1985 )

He was Dutchess County's 1st black physician.

# A Walking Tour of the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery

**JOHN SUTCLIFFE** - SEC 12 LOTS 22 AND 25 (1838-1910)

He built the City of Poughkeepsie's sewers and laid out its water pipes and also built Hudson River Iron Works.

**EDWARD ELSWORTH PERKINS** - SEC L LOT 25 (1863-1952)

He helped launch FDR's political career in 1910 when he persuaded him to run for State Senate. He was also the city attorney, organized Hudson Gas and Electric Co and several railroads. He was elected Justice of the Peace at age 21.

**ANDREW BILLINGS**- SEC 4 LOT 13 (1744-1808)

A silversmith, he engraved seals of City of New York in 1784, made silver for George Washington, Lord Stirling, and George & De Witt Clinton. He was also a Village Trustee and county coroner.



# A Walking Tour of the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery

## **Additional Credits**

In addition to the files and resources of the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, the following works were consulted in the preparation of this tour:

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*The Dictionary of American Biography*, various volumes. NY: Scribner, c. 1932-e. 1958.

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Poucher, J. Wilson. *Old Gravestones of Dutchess County, New York*. Poughkeepsie, 1924.

Rorty, Elizabeth, "Thomas W. Murphy, 90, Dies," *The Horseman and World Fair*, vol. 91, No.2, March 29, 1967.

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# A Walking Tour of the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery

## NOTES

- ① Trolley Waiting Shelter
- ② Gatehouse
- ③ Office
- ④ Sundial
- ⑤ Samuel Nelson
- ⑥ James Collingwood
- ⑦ Anandabai Joshee, M.D.
- ⑧ Gaius Balin, Sr
- ⑨ Civil War Memorial
- ⑩ Smiley Family
- ⑪ Veteran War Memorial
- ⑫ Jones Family Plot
- ⑬ Edmund Platt
- ⑭ Thomas Murphy
- ⑮ Pond
- ⑯ Police Memorial
- ⑰ Whittier Mausoleum
- ⑱ Spanish American War Memorial
- ⑲ Capt. Louis McLane Hamilton
- ⑳ Harvey Eastman
- ㉑ Genl. Alfred Baker Smith
- ㉒ Freeman's Monument
- ㉓ Charles Luckey
- ㉔ Andrew and William Smith
- ㉕ Matthew Vassar
- ㉖ Dina Gill
- ㉗ Joel Springarn
- ㉘ Livingston Plot
- ㉙ Community Mausoleum
- ㉚ John A. Bolding

HUDSON RIVER

SUNFISH COVE

NORTH

# Walking Tour of POUGHKEEPSIE RURAL CEMETERY

DATE: JUNE 1, 1995

SCALE: 1" = 400'

SHARON DRIVE

