Cemetery visits can be fascinating and thought-provoking. Durango’s Greenmount Cemetery, which dates back to the 1880s, has approximately 12,000-14,000 graves as old as 1857. Its 40-acre spread encompasses sections set aside for fraternal organizations (Elks, Masons, etc.), ethnic groups (Italians, etc.), religious affiliations and other categories including infants, veterans, and indigent residents of the County. What better way to delve into Durango’s history than to take an annotated walking tour through this beautifully landscaped and well-maintained cemetery park?

History is the study of individuals. It is always to some degree biographical. It is a human discipline, in contrast to the other disciplines such as geology, geography, biology and botany. Individuals affect all aspects of the progress of history. A cemetery reminds us that we are all called upon to be involved and participate in the progress of history, whether our life be short or long. None of us is ever only a bystander in the story of humanity. Though we oftentimes tend to live as if death is something that happens to someone else, the human mortality rate is 100% and each of us has the opportunity to make a positive difference in our world during our relatively brief tenure here.

The number is not a closer estimate due to the complexities of how the various spaces at Greenmount were owned, documented and managed over time, and because not every burial is accompanied by a gravestone. As noted in this guide, some of the burials predated 2/15/1887 when the Durango City Council adopted Ordinance O-38, “Establishing the Green Mound Cemetery and Providing the Managing the Same.” Also, initially there were 10 to 12 graves in a lot when coffins were 26” wide. Standard coffin width now is 36” and there are 10 graves per lot. Cemetery staff estimate that at the present rate we have roughly 50 to 75 years of available space at Greenmount.
A walk through the past gives us inspiration for today.\(^2\) Let us see what a walk through the cemetery stirs in each of us, grateful that our own stories are still unfolding. In this guide we have presented a selection of lives—recognizing that each one of the thousands of individuals buried here is of great interest and profound importance.

This walking tour takes about an hour (depending on how much you read) and covers 1.5 miles. It starts in the section just west (uphill) of the Parks and Recreation Department’s office and work buildings. You may park by the Cemetery layout sign (shown below) or by the buildings.

For purposes of clarity in this guide we have **named the drives** as shown in the centerfold map. Thus far in its 130+ years, Greenmount has had no named roads—they are all called drives. To dispel confusion and to make it easier to give directions, we have named the 8 roads that run roughly east to west **numerically** (Drive 1 through Drive 8), and have labeled those that run from south to north **by letters** (Drives A through F). The graves noted in this guide are matched with circled numbers on the map. The monumental map at the Cemetery entrance shows the **overall layout of most of the drives and the Blocks** in the cemetery.

A simple set of rules is also posted at the entrance. The main tenet of **cemetery etiquette** is not to walk, stand or sit on a gravestone. Also, pets are not permitted at Greenmount (the resident deer seem to have the claim on animal activity here). To report questionable behavior of **humans**, call non-emergency dispatch at (970) 385-2900. (Of course, call 911 in an emergency.) A City rule not listed on the posted sign here is that there can only be one headstone per grave space.

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\(^2\) Historically, and still today in many cultural and religious traditions, a person’s death date—rather than the birth date—has been celebrated. This was/is a way to honor the decisions, accomplishments and character development of that individual.
An interesting facet about this cemetery it is that some of its sections are named for the organizations or groupings that initially managed the burials there—before the City took on the perpetual care of all of the Cemetery. Greenmount is a conglomeration of numerous originally separate cemeteries.

[1.] Walk west/uphill on Cemetery Road [i.e., main], with the above-ground mausoleum/crypts and the grassy, largely unused first sections (Blocks 41-43) on your right. Just this side of Drive B is Block 41, designated for the I.O.O.F., Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a fraternal organization whose members were sometimes referred to as Odd Fellows or (if female) Rebekahs. Though not affiliated with the Masons (which has the largest and most prominent section of Greenmount, uphill and center) those two fraternities share a lot of origins, values and symbolism. The Odd Fellows was also known as "The Three Link Fraternity" which stands for Friendship, Love and Truth, or FLT as shown on its icon here. In 1916 its Durango Lodge No. 48 agreed to pay the City 50¢ per irrigation season for each lot not owned by a private individual “for the irrigation of the unoccupied portion of ... the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Hood's Cemetery, at Greenmount,” then described as consisting of 64 lots. Subsequently, the I.O.O.F. (which still exists in Colorado) gave the City the northern half of its plots.

[2.] Continuing walking west/uphill, nearly to the elk sculpture that’s on your left, and turn right into the middle of Block 41, heading for Row 4, which is five north-south-running cemetery rows from Drive B, to see the short (16”) gravestone of Cyrus G. Graden (1868-1936) and his wife Ethel, just south of a large Colorado blue spruce. Mr. Graden was a noted early Durango businessman and served on Council and as Mayor from 1927-1929. Another, earlier Graden, was Thomas C. (not buried at Greenmount), a Civil War veteran who served as Mayor from 1884-1885 and 1890-1891. T. C. Graden was never married; he was the one who built the Graden flour mill that Cyrus later owned (site of the Doubletree Hotel today), and, with his business partner Robert E. Sloan (1886-1952, in Block 8, Row 21), built the Graden Mercantile Company in 1881 that is still functioning in downtown Durango at the corner of 8th Street and Main Avenue.

[3.] Walk north 25 strides, just one row east of the Graden’s’, to see the nice white marble headstone for

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Durango Police Corporal **Gale Evan Emerson** (1950-1974) in Block 41, Row 3 (Greenmount rows are counted from the east). He and Durango firefighter Nick Parks III died while fighting the fire that ravaged the buildings formerly on the site of the Main Mall in downtown Durango on August 24, 1974.4

[4-5.] Look back SW 20 strides in this Block 41 to Row 8, which is the first row east of Drive B, to see the large 2.5’ tall gravestone of **Fred Kroeger** and his wife **Eleanor**. Kroeger has been a noted name in Durango for many decades. Kroeger’s ACE hardware store was an expansion of Fred’s family’s Farmers Supply Company that dated back to 1921. Also buried here is their son **Stanley** (1947-1984), whom they lovingly cared for throughout his life. Digitized recordings of oral history interviews with Fred Kroeger, **Barney Schoser** (whose marker is six gravestone rows east and 12 strides (or 7 stones) north of the Kroegers’, at the current north end of that row of stones), who helped build the hardware store, and Center of Southwest Studies founder Robert Delaney (later on this tour) are audible on the Center’s website.5

[6.] Walk north across Drive B and turn right onto Drive C; don’t take the left onto Drive 7. By now you’ve probably noticed that most of the gravestone inscriptions are on the side facing east. In this case you can see the Fanto family name, about 6 cemetery rows east of Drive C, just past Drive 7, at the start/south edge of Block 29 in the City section. This is the resting place of Rose “Ma” Fanto, whose name was mentioned several times in early City Council meeting minutes due to police visits to the bar she operated south of 6th Street. Fanto Park (a City park which, through surveying errors, runs under and through a portion of Park Elementary School) was named after her.

[7.] One row east of Fanto is the monument to **Christopher Columbus**, the focal point of this area where members of the **Knights of Columbus** were buried in the center of Block 29, between Drives B and C. That organization pays the City about $500 a year for the upkeep of this portion of the cemetery.

[8.] Walk nearly to Drive 8 to see the grave of **Manvel John Parsons** (1898-1964) on your right, three rows in (Block 29, Row 9), about a dozen stones this side (south) of Drive 8. Some of these gravestone/  

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4 For more, see the *Durango Herald’s* article 8/24/2014 by Brandon Mathis, “’74 fire burns place in history: Gale Emerson’s and Nick Parks’ sacrifice honored.” For Parks’ gravesite, see Tour Stop #70 on page 19 of this guide.
5 https://swcenter.fortlewis.edu/finding_aids/inventory/DigSou.htm
biographical connections are more tenuous than others. Is this the same person as M. J. Parsons who was the caretaker (as recently as 4/5/1949) of the City’s in-town airport (per the City Council minutes of 1/22/1946)? By 1948 his title was manager of the Municipal Airport where the College was later built; the same 8/10/1948 Council meeting also considered the heating at the [new] City and County airport; the 4/5/1949 Council minutes mentioned both the roof on the administration building at the new airport and Parsons as the manager of the old Municipal Airport.

[9.] Cross Drive C (that you were just on) and angle to the SW. Amidst a cluster of cedar trees on a hill in the middle of Block 28 on your left (just before it drops down ahead) are the graves (much worn) thought (by cemetery staff) to be of three **Chinese men** who were construction workers on the Durango-Silverton narrow gauge railroad. Moss/lichens and the ravages of time have blurred the inscriptions but they seem to be of persons who died (left to right) in Feb. 1919, on 10/27/1912 at age 82, and on 10/28/1918 at age 36.

[10.] Walk NW to the NW corner of Block 2 where Drive D and 8 meet. Just before you turn left to walk back south on Drive D you will see the **Truby** family plot. The life of **William Truby** (1883-1911; Block 2, Row 4; a small flat stone) apparently came to a violent end when he reportedly was shot in the chest by Ike Cox and left behind Cordula, his 14-year-old wife of three months, who was rumored to have been the person dressed in man’s clothes who shot at Cox multiple times on 10th Street between Main Avenue and East 2nd Avenue a month later and escaped in the direction of the railroad yards. Andrew Ruple was convicted of intent to kill Cox and was released from the Buena Vista prison for good behavior after just 11 months there. Cox survived the attempt on his life and was deemed not guilty after a trial of nearly two weeks. As the Cox/Truby family feud continued, **Samuel Truby** (b. 1890; also in the Truby family plot here) was killed in a shoot-out in Cox Canyon, SW of Bondad, in mid-November of 1912, only about 18 months after his brother Bill, and was likewise interred at Greenmount.

[11.] Keeping Block 3 on your right/uphill, head up Drive D. In the fifth cemetery row in on your left, the last stone before Drive 7 as you head south on Drive D is of **John F. Bell** (1855-1938; Block 2, Row 1), who was the City Clerk and Recorder from 1884 to 1885. He was the Acting Mayor at a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Durango on 7/24/1884 “to consult and take action regarding threatened Indian Trouble and arrest made by the Town Marshall.” By the way: across Drive 7 to the

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6 Drive 8 is the northernmost drive; the number 8 signifies new beginnings; on its side ∞ it is the symbol for infinity.
west, nearly at the south end of the first row there in Block 3, in Lot 20, is the burial of Bobbie Crawford, a great-grand-daughter of Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

[12.] George W. Kephart (1849-1925; Block 9, Row 5—in the very NW corner of this block—SE corner of the intersection of Drives D and 7) owned (as early as 1880) the G.W. Kephart & Co., seller of general merchandise in Animas City (which is now the northern part of the City of Durango). Mr. Kephart seems to have had a rocky road as mayor of Durango, 1892-1895. He refused to sign an Ordinance that Council had passed on October 16, 1894. Mayor Pro Tem J. C. Sanford signed it on April 15, 1895. Sanford was the virtual mayor for four months, as Kephart was absent from every Council meeting held after December 4, 1894 (he was listed as absent for 17 meetings in a row—all the way through to the meeting of the new Council on April 15, 1895 with A. L. Harris as the new mayor). At the Council meeting of July 19, 1898, Council changed the name of the City’s fire wagon from the George W. Kephart to the William J. Bryan.

[13.] The gravestone of Milton McCloskey (d. 1892) is three stones to the left/south of Kephart in Row 5. It is typical of those for members of the fraternal order, Woodmen of the World. Being a member of that organization served as a form of end-of-life insurance. Mr. McCloskey died young, at 37. His wife, May, died the year before and has her own stone, of a much different geometry (6 points).

[14-16.] From McCloskey, angle SE into Block 27 and walk 35 strides toward a clump of four large cedars. There, appropriately, in Row 16 is the marker for Peter Taylor (1845-1913) an early arborist here. Two rows east of his is the grave of Gladys McBee, longtime member of the League of Women Voters of La Plata County. And no, as you walk south nearly to Drive 6, that’s not a typo in the surname, Strnad, where George (1898-1966; Block 9, Row 3) and his wife Lorene are buried, three rows east of Drive D.

Block 27, like the inexplicably named Graceland southern halves of Lots 14 and 15, has been a sort of no man’s land at Greenmount: nobody seems to know who owned it or managed it originally. Also: part of this area of Block 27, bounded by Drives C and D, between Cemetery Road and Drive 7, is known informally as the Italian section. (Also, you may have noticed the staining of some headstones by the lime in the City’s irrigation water; the cemetery staff has a method for removing it, by request.)

[17.] On your left, nearly at Drive 6/Cemetery Road, in Block 27, Row 13, is the large stone for Benjamin J. Ochsner, an early Durango medical doctor (one of his new hospitals is now the Gable Bed and Breakfast at 805 East 5th Avenue), shooter (his pistol range was said to extend under
the city street), and noted photographer (his photo collection is at the Southwest Studies Center up at Fort Lewis College).  

[18-21b.] One row down/east in Block 27, Rows 12 and 13, are the graves of several Days. Four stones in from Drive 6 is the simple headstone of an individual, **Victoria S. Day** (1849-1941), who had a complex, intense long life. As Linda Wommack writes in her book, *From the Grave: A roadside guide to Colorado’s pioneer cemeteries* (page 383), “Victoria was the daughter of a rich plantation owner [in Maryland]. Her mother died when she was quite young. During the Civil War, she and her sister helped run the plantation…. In 1865, the Union Army took part of the family livestock. Renegades from the Confederate Army stole the remainder. In 1870, she married David F. Day, a Northerner, which caused much anguish to her family.” David was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his gallantry before Vicksburg in 1863 at age 14. The first four or five of their seven children were born to them before David left for the West in 1878; traveling by train, the family joined him in Ouray in 1881, the year in which he started *The Solid Muldoon*, which became known as one of the most influential and controversial newspapers in Colorado (it later was one of the origins of the Durango Herald). Their son **George Vest Day** (1880-1969; buried to the left of his mother’s body) wrote of him, “Father’s idea of a good time was a scrap for what he thought was right: the bigger, the better.”  

The Day House, their home at the end of the Boulevard at 1503 E. 3rd Avenue and 15th Street (pictured here in 2002 while yet in its derelict state) was built in 1881; its iconic octagonal turret has been maintained through recent alterations. After David died in 1914 Victoria sold the old Trimble Springs hotel she had been managing (“building it into a flourishing business in order to support and rear the four orphaned grandchildren of her sister”) and bought a ranch at Bondad, which she worked until her death in 1941. One row west (in Row 13) is the grave of **David F. Day** (1912-1979).

The life of one of these younger generations of Days had a violent ending. The grave of **Roderick S. “Rod” Day** (1874-1940) is to the right of that of Victoria S. Day. He shot William Lyon Wood, editor of the *Durango Evening Herald*; his body was transported by train to Montrose for burial there) in an altercation in front of a pool hall on Main Avenue on a Monday morning in 1922, but was deemed not guilty after a jury’s 30-hour deliberation and 13 ballots.  

(In passing: one of the more beautiful and well preserved early headstones is the 1904 marker for **Ada E. Meyer**, in Row 9. If you look at it on site, here in Block 27, note the spelling of *forever* in the last line.)

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8 For more, see [https://swcenter.fortlewis.edu/finding_aids/inventory/Ochsner.htm](https://swcenter.fortlewis.edu/finding_aids/inventory/Ochsner.htm)  
9 Notes to the City by Walt Heikes, July 5, 2007 and June 26, 2008.  
10 Colorado Historic Building Inventory Record: Steven & Janna Rasdall Residence, online in Historical Buildings at [http://durangogov.org/index.aspx?NID=190](http://durangogov.org/index.aspx?NID=190)  
11 Turner, *Notorious San Juans*.
[22.] Angle back toward the Parks and Rec shop and walk across Drive C, just barely into Block 30 to Row 6 for the grave (just past the closest large cedar tree) of (at least—keep reading) Sarah Thompson, the wife of William J. (W. J.) Thompson, a Durango sheriff who was shot and killed by Acting Marshal Jesse Stansel in 1906. Sheriff Thompson “was trying to stop an illegal gambling ring. The confrontation was the culmination of a feud between city and county factions,” writes Linda Wommack. The authors of the guide to the Animas City Cemetery add that “According to Stansel’s testimony, there were no bad feelings between them before that day, though they were from opposing political parties and Thompson had beaten Stansel for the office of Sheriff a couple years earlier. Stansel was acquitted of the murder.” Wommack also notes that “There is a dark granite marker to his wife’s memory in Block 30, Lot 11. The stone also lists William. Greenmount Cemetery records show the burial of his wife, Sarah, in 1924. However, there is no record of Sheriff Thompson being moved here from the Animas City Cemetery.”12 The online guide to Durango’s other, much smaller, cemetery says “It is questionable if William Thompson was originally buried in the Animas City Cemetery. If he was, he was later exhumed and reinterred in Greenmount Cemetery. There is no marker for him in the Animas City Cemetery.”13 Are his remains here? A gravestone does not necessarily equate to a burial. A number of persons were buried without gravestones, and some families choose to get a memorial stone but do not inter the actual remains.

[23-24.] Cross Cemetery Road and walk south toward Drive 5 through the area (not in any Block) known as The Triangle. Uphill on your right is the Masons’ metal icon. Downhill is the Elks section and the iconic elk. Blocks 26, 31 and 40 are the B.P.O.E. (Elks fraternal organization) section. The elk statue is a memorable sight at the main “intersection” of this cemetery’s paved driveways. This elk figure is a replacement of the original, green with time, which was knocked over and damaged as a teenage prank in the 1980s.

[25.] Close to Cemetery Road, seven cemetery rows west of the Elk, is the headstone (the inscriptions on these dark stones are often hard to decipher) of William W. McEwen (1853-1941) and his wife Artie (1851-1902; Block 26, Row 7). He became Mayor in April of 1903 after a tight election. His platform was that the City’s ordinances should be upheld and enforced and its financial condition should be improved. William W. McEwen (1885-1965, buried in the same family plot and presumably their son) was hired by the City as a stock herder at $35/month in 1904 after Dr. McEwen was no longer Mayor, and later worked nights as a Minute Man for the Fire Department.

12 Linda Wommack, From the Grave: A roadside guide to Colorado’s pioneer cemeteries, (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Press, 1998), page 385. On 11/27/2017 Parks and Recreation staff contacted Hood Mortuary about W. J. Thompson and confirmed that their records also indicate that he is buried at Animas City Cemetery, not at Greenmount.
13 http://www.animascitycemetery.org/BurialsOZ.html
[26.] Nine cemetery rows uphill (still in Block 26—in Row 16), on the south edge of Drive 5, is the grave of Helen Sloan Daniels (1899-1979), who contributed much to the cultural life of Durango as a Durango Public Library trustee and her work in the archaeology and ethnology of the region, including using New Deal dollars during the Great Depression to employ and train young men and women in archaeological projects.¹⁴

[27-28.] Three rows west and four stones and a tree in from the Blk 14 sign in Row 19 are the graves of two noted Durango couples from several generations ago. Judge William Searcy (portrait on the left; wife Helen) served in the 6th Judicial District Court of Colorado from 1913 to 1932. Their family’s papers are at the SW Center at FLC. Philip C. and Ida Schools (three stones south) have interestingly distinctive small flat headstones. Their daughter Phyllis Case described his life in a 1999 oral history interview that is accessible on the SW Center’s website. An electrical engineer for the Western Colorado Power Company (headquartered in the Newman Building downtown) in an age when there were not many of that career, he was the Superintendent for the project to build electrical lines that brought alternating current to mines in the Western Slope region. He drove his car on dangerous narrow early roads like a mountain goat, and he held a high standard of dust-free cleanliness for the generators in his plants. His wife was one of the first Registered Nurses in the US, in an age when wealthy people took R.N.s on their vacation trips.

[29-30.] Two rows west and two stones to your right is the marker for Charles E. McConnell (1867-1940; Block 14, Row 2). He was an Army veteran and was the Mayor of Durango from 1905 to September 17, 1907. A Democrat during the first half of the City’s history when candidates for Council declared their political affiliations, his platform was that the municipality, not private interests, should control Durango’s public interests. He resigned on the spot on September 17, 1907, after Council discussed that he had accepted $25 and issued a license for a tent/pony/vaudeville show without authority to do so. Note the four rows of veterans’ burials (mostly the standard white marble headstones) in this NW corner of Block 14. Others are dispersed through Greenmount. They include (in Row 5) the grave of Paul Dunn, one of at least 7 U.S. servicemen who died in the Korean conflict at age 16. In stark contrast to most Greenmount burials, these young men are here alone, without wives, children—without family.

Take Drive D north; on your left is Block 15. On the NW and NE corners of this block, visible if you were to turn left and walk uphill on Drive 5, are small green Cemetery signposts for G.A.R. Block 13 and the northern half of Block 15 were originally designated for members of the Grand Army of the Republic, once a large nationwide fraternal organization of veterans of the northern/federal side in the US Civil War, founded in 1866 and dissolved in 1956 when its last member had died.¹⁵ The American Legion section is

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Army_of_the_Republic. The GAR also had perhaps at least some of Block 13. The section delineations in Greenmount are not always particularly well-defined—especially on its maps. Note: The GAR section of Block 15 is the only portion of the cemetery that has husband and wife burials in the same plot (two-deep, dug by the Army, perhaps — not the City). Elsewhere at Greenmount, that only occurs if the body of one or both of the persons was cremated.
the G.A.R. section of block 15 (mainly its north half). Just beyond/ south of the G.A.R. section, in the southern halves of Blocks 14 and 15, is the Graceland section between Drives D and E. That name is a mystery; it is also referred to as the Veterans section.

[31.] Turn left onto Drive 6, at the Blk 10 sign. Halfway uphill in Block 10, to your left on a fairly isolated grassy knoll about a dozen yards from Drive 5 is the grave of Thomas Rockwood (Row 9, directly in the center of Greenmount). He was “a hotel manager who became a leader in area real estate and insurance, including founding the town of Rockwood, now a stop on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.” Mayor Doug Lyon, who played the role of this man for a heritage days celebration in the cemetery, “told the crowd that one of his ancestors beat Henry VIII at chess, was knighted by the temperamental king and then left for Massachusetts, just in case.”

[32.] Cross 6 and walk north/uphill in an open northsouth swath of lawn. Among various Goodmans on your left is the memorial for George Goodman (1861-1940; Block 8, Row 11), one of the most respected individuals in the history of the City. As Fire Chief, on February 9, 1895 he refused the raise Council had given him. Council gave Mayor Goodman a gold watch on April 15, 1895, as a token of its thanks for his long service to the City. He owned Goodman’s, a long-time clothing store in Durango, and also was a funeral director, both at 8th Avenue. On January 19, 1909, Council granted his petition for an undertaker’s license, along with a similar request by Hood & Ames. Incidentally, the remains of Andrew F. Hood, who was Goodman’s successor as Mayor, the first City Manager of Durango (1915-1919) and an undertaker by profession, are east/downhill in the 4th row of Block 27, in that Block’s most prominent point just north of the Elk sculpture—but, enigmatically, the headstone only lists his middle name, Fuller. Mr. Hood had purchased one of the large lots (Lot 6) in Block 2, on 1/12/1904, possibly for use in his mortuary business.

We are now in the section of Greenmount designated for Masons (Durango Lodge No. 46 of the A.F. & A.M.), which now includes Blocks 6 through 10, 12, the eastern 60’ of 16, and 17. This large area of the cemetery is between Drives 4 and 7, west/uphill of Drive D (plus Tiers 1 and 2, just east of Drive D). The Masonic Lodge was the only entity that assigned tiers (Tier 24 is on the western edge of the cemetery, in Block 6, between Drives 6 and 7). Its grave plots are 5’ wide (the Cemetery standard is 4’—for 36” wide caskets; previously the caskets were 26 or 8” wide, which allowed space for 3 graves in a ¼ lot). The City’s ownership at Greenmount apparently grew out of its initial purchase of some of the existing acreage of the Masonic Cemetery in 1886 (marked in its original corners, presumably, by letters [A], B, C, and D on the map included in this guide. At its regular meeting on 11/5/1886 City Council heard a “report that a plot of ground five acres in extent can be secured of the Trustees of the Masonic Cemetery for about $300,” and gave an order to purchase the grounds for a City cemetery and to draw up a bond for deed and to survey and lay out cemetery lots.

[33.] A noted pioneer family, Wigglesworth, has at least eight members buried on your right in the very SW corner of Block 8 near Drives 6 and E (i.e., the NE corner of that intersection). The earliest date of birth and date of death are (on the west face) of Thomas H. Wigglesworth (1835-1909; Block 8, Row 21) and his wife Ann (1844-1934) and (presumably) their sons Charles (1864-1941) and William (1866-1946) on the east face. The 12/8/1883 Durango Weekly Herald reported that Thomas, Resident Engineer of the Denver and Rio Grande Railway and owner of a valuable ranch a few miles above Durango, had donated 18 pairs of Kentucky quails, turned loose in the Animas Valley. Note the crack in the name portion of this monument.

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17 Early City Council minutes contain 9 references, ca. 1907-1916, to Hood Cemetery, Hood’s Cemetery, and the Hood Addition. The Hood Investment Company had property at Greenmount as of about 1907; it was asking the City for irrigation rights.
18 Apparently, W. H. Wigglesworth and James H. Wigglesworth, who were the second and sixth City Managers of Durango, respectively, are not among the Wigglesworths buried at Greenmount.
[34.] Cross Drive 6 and look toward the NW from that intersection. Mamie J. Burns (1871-1888; near the SE corner of Block 7, in Row 2), was 16 when she died. How we would like to know something of the story of this young woman.

[35.] Cross Drive E; angle across Block 8 toward the NE into a wide swath of lawn and head north, looking for this stone with a top scroll in Row 16, of a predecessor of Dr. Ochsner: James Tracy, M.D., who died on 11/4/1888. He regularly advertised in the Durango Herald (“Special attention given to diseases of women and children and surgery” per 11/21/1883). His death must have been rather unexpected, as his last ad was dated 9/15/1888 and the 8/9/1888 paper mentioned him as a coroner who held an inquest re: the 16-year old son (not buried here) of William Robertson who burned to death on Monday night 8/6.1888 with Andrew Salise, a rancher near Hay Gulch where they were stacking grain.

[36.] Continue northward; turn left onto Drive 7; take a quick right on to Drive E, now loose asphalt/gravel. We are now in the City section of Greenmount, which includes Blocks 3 and 4. On the nearly most prominent hill in the cemetery is the impressive family plot that includes the remains of A. P. Camp and his son A. M. Camp and other family members, influential wealthy founding members of Durango’s early society. Alfred McNeil Camp (1884-1969) (Block 3, Row 24 in the Camp / McNeil section) was president of the bank his father founded: the First National Bank of Durango until 2018. His parents Alfred P. Camp (1850-1925) and Estelle M. Camp (1857-1948) are also buried here, in Lot 11. Linda Wommack writes that A. P. Camp started in banking in Del Norte before moving to Animas City; his Bank of the San Juan here was the first bank in the San Juan region and his bank in the new railroad town of Durango was the start of a banking “dynasty, providing a fortune to the Camp family well into the 1950s.” He was heavily involved in the founding and development of Durango and briefly (1883/1884) served as the Town’s Treasurer. According to a Durango Herald article reporting on a 2012 Durango Heritage Celebration tour of the Cemetery organized by Durango historian Duane Smith, Estelle Camp “was a strong force in the Durango community.” She “was one of the founders of the City Improvement Society, which spurred planting trees such as those in the median on East Third Avenue—and also was one of the women responsible for helping to get Mesa Verde a national park designation in 1906.” Wommack called her “the soul of Durango society [and] the center of social and charity affairs;” their home on The Boulevard “became the epitome of Durango society.”

[37.] Sam G. Wall (1921-2001; Block 3, Row 25—on the east edge of Drive E, two tree-clumps this side of Drive 5) and his...
ancestors owned the S.G. Wall Drug Store on the SE corner of 10th Street and Main Avenue (mentioned as early as 5/6/1899 in the *Durango Democrat*; Olde Tymer’s Café today, but the Wall Drug sign painted on the red brick on the side street has been maintained for more than a century; front photo ca. late 1970s.). His namesake was Mayor from 1901 to 1903.

[38.] Next on your right in Block 3, Row 24, which is two cemetery rows east of Drive E, 19 strides north/downhill from Wall, about a dozen plots south of Drive 8, is the memorial stone for **James H. McHolland**. There was more than one James McHolland in Durango’s recorded history. This grave seems to be of the more recent McHolland, who protested to City staff in 1916 after loose livestock had trampled his new lawn. An earlier namesake (perhaps his father?) served Durango (as did Henry Hechtman before him) as the Police Magistrate from 1887-1890 and as the Town Marshal in 1886. The minutes also tell us that in 1890 City Council agreed to rent a room in the Ricker Building occupied by McHolland and N. W. Chamberlain for Council meetings at the rate of $10 per month, cash. In 1898 Council accepted an invitation to attend his funeral.

[39.] If you turn left at the T and walk uphill on Drive 8 and look at the northern edge of the cemetery in Block 1 on your right, you could see a number of infant burial sites both ancient and recent, such as baby **Koty Wayne Jones** who was born and died on March 21, 1991 (two stones in from the road in Row 17, which is two rows to the west of a bench gravestone). Behind you to the north of Drive 8 in Block 42 (the NE corner of Greenmount) are many infant burials. The City has more than 40 deeds for infant plots in Block 42; for some reason, they are only from the rather tight time frame of 1979-1986.

[40.] Turn around to start heading back south on Drive E. Under the first large cedar tree uphill on your right (in the concrete-edged plot next to the road) is the venerable vertical marker for **Martyn McSwain** (1855-1892; Block 4, Row 1), another of the older burials at Greenmount.

[41.] Angle across Block 4 to the SW to see one of the oldest headstones is in this far NW corner of the cemetery, on your right in Block 4, Row 12 within the City section, centered in this Block. It is in a cement-edge plot with a 7’ Woodmen of the World gravestone for **John Wakelin** (d. 1899 at age 21). The inscription is not fully legible. What was the year? It is the grave of **Robbie Wakelin**, who died at 4 months, on January the 5th—is that 1882? A weathered lamb sculpture (seen in other infant burials here) rests on the top of this short (14”) headstone.

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22 Koty Jones is one of a number of infants buried here who were born and died on the same day. At the other end of the continuum, one of the longest-living persons buried at Greenmount was Gladys Morgan (Block 27, Row 9) who was born in 1892 and died (like Koty) in 1991.
[42.] From here, walk uphill/west to Drive F and walk south on it across Drives 7, 6 and 5. The hilly ground to your left is mostly unused. Where Drive F curves east/left in this westernmost SW corner of the cemetery, under a cedar tree on your right/west is the venerable tall marker of Peter Carstairs (d. 1902; Block 17, Row 1).

[43.] At this bend in the road, walk east. On your right, in the SW corner of Greenmount, are burials (most of them, unmarked) of indigent residents of La Plata County. Block 18 was the County’s “pauper's field.” One of the headstones (currently the first in Row 5) is of Bill VanBurgh, who died at age 80. The County section shares Block 19, on your left, with the Peterson and Jones funeral home and the small section in the NE corner of Block 19 labeled for the AOUW (Ancient Order of United Workmen; the first “fraternal benefit society” in North America, offering insurance as well as sickness, accident, death and burial policies after the American Civil War). Management of this portion of the cemetery has its own unique complications because it was not surveyed and thus has no Row or Lot numbers. Also, there are no deeds; the County maintained them and lost them when the courthouse burned. A further challenge regarding the indigent burials is that the $1,500 that the County allows for a qualified indigent burial does not cover the actual costs for mortuary services, casket, required concrete vault, the lot, and perpetual care. Originally, the County donated the ground (now the City owns it and gives it) and the City absorbed the cost of the grave openings/closings. Now turn left/east and walk downhill on Drive 4.

[44-45.] This especially peaceful portion of the cemetery (along with Block 33 down on the “southern plains”) is one of the current sites of new plot sales nowadays. On your left in the SW corner of Block 16 in Lot 78 under a cedar tree close to Drive 4 (and currently the closest stone to the road) are the remains of Marine Captain Jeff Kuss, who died in a plane crash on June 2, 2016 while training with his Blue Angels unit in Tennessee. Colorado Highway 3, the original southern entrance into Durango, was named in his honor. His grandfather, Adolph “Dolph” Kuss, a member of an Olympic training squad and a U.S. Ski Team coach, was a noted early figure in the sport of skiing in this region and was the City’s first Recreation Director from his arrival in Durango in 1955 until becoming the parks and recreation manager for Durango and La Plata County in 1960 before the City established its own Parks and Recreation Department in about 1964. A few steps south of Captain Kuss’s grave is the memorial stone of Mercedez Farley, a 17-year-old who died when 22-year-old Benjamin Keil drove a car off the road in a residential subdivision and the vehicle hit a tree on June 9, 2017. Her “daddy” Andy Farley and Jeff Kuss were friends; they played soccer together when they were younger.

[46.] About a dozen more strides east/downhill on Drive 4 are two Fiorini family plots (not all of the Italians are near the Christopher

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24 For more, read the 6/10/2016 Durango Herald news article by Ann Butler, “Capt. Jeff Kuss’ remains come home to Durango: Community encouraged to line route of motorcade Saturday morning.”
Noel J. Fiorini (1909-1976; Block 16, Row 10, at the top left of the Masonic Lodge section), was Durango’s first Italian mayor (1953-1955) and played his accordion at many dances and weddings. He was the Mayor when the City conveyed 193 acres on Reservoir Hill for the new Fort Lewis College campus. His wife was Thelma Fiorini (1914-1996). Just north of this is the above-ground crypt (fairly unusual here) for some other Fiorini members.

Out of our sight to the right, near the SW corner of Block 20 on Drive E, is an interesting serendipity: the undated marble headstone of Kathryn Conway Mullen has been nearly surrounded by the trunk of a large tree. Dominating the middle of this Block, shaded on the east by a flowering tree, is a monumental pewter sculpture (made in Italy; brought here by ship in the early 1950s; it originally had an angel on the left, that was vandalized) of Christ on the cross. This is the Catholic section, east of Drive E, platted on June 1, 1907, consisting of Blocks D [a small square], 20 thru 22, 25, 32 thru 34 and 39. All of these were gifted to the City in their entirety by the Bishop of Pueblo by a deed dated 5/22/1973. Some of the boundaries are rather fluid and may be interrelated with the Masons’.

Two cemetery rows east of the Catholic centerpiece, about six strides south of Drive 4, is the grave of P. T. McCartney (1862-1934; Block 20, Row 11), who had a long and active tenure as Durango’s Police Marshal (predecessor of today’s Police Chief), from 4/5/1907 to 1934 (with some periods of absence). Soon after he took office, the Durango Democrat of 5/15/1907 reported that “City Marshal McCartney and his force of police will make an immediate and special visit to all property owners regarding the disgusting appearance of back yards and alleys. There is an ordinance governing nuisances and property owners must clean up all refuse or be arrested and heavily fined.” On 11/24/1909 the same paper stated that “Marshal McCartney is never asleep when it comes to crime. He is a tireless toiler in interest of justice.” P. T. was succeeded as head of the Police Department by Leo McCartney (his son, perhaps?) on 9/19/1934, who served through 1949.

Walk south down that row about 25 strides to the grave of Miss Sadie K. Sullivan (1893-1961; Block 20, Row 11, next to the 2’ 6” Sullivan family stone). She was Durango’s longest-serving Library Director, from 1916 to 1957. The Public Library was its own entity until it became a City department in 1987.

From here, angle across Block 20 toward its SE corner, near the intersection of Drives 3 and D. Here, in Row 2, is one of the oldest headstones in this park and an example of how even granite can weather in such a relatively short period of time as 130 years. The birth date of

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25 Another example of the typical: the man married a significantly younger woman, whose lifespan was much longer than his.
Catharine McCormick is not noted. Her date of death is not wholly legible, even when scrutinized up close. Is it July 25, 1887? She lived to 54.

[51.] Walking north, parallel to Drive D, about seven strides north of McCormick and one cemetery row to your right/east is the small headstone of Miss Helen Rodgers (1869-1962; Row 1; visible from Drive D in the Rodgers family plot). She was the first female City Clerk and Recorder and the City’s first female elected official (1894).

[52.] Heading north on Drive D, two rows in to the left (Row 2) and halfway to Drive 4 is the marker of Frank Chabrand who died in 1882 at age 49. Judging from the number of 19th century death dates here, it would seem that these grounds had already been used for burials prior to the Town of Durango’s formal establishment of Green Mound Cemetery (its original name) in 1887.

[53.] On your right across Drive D, nearly to Drive 4, is the leaning-tower memorial to one of the most-distant deaths. James E. McConnell was born in 1877 and died the next year, in 1878. Also in this family plot (Block 21, Row 6, just east/downhill of Drive D) are two more infants, Mary O’Connell (1879-1880 and Edna O’Connell (1890-1892). Here too are the remains of William O’Connell (1839-1905). Perhaps he was the father of those babies.

[54.] Back on the other/west side of Drive D, nearly at Drive 4, in the NE corner of Block 20 (this is the SW corner of the intersection of Drives 4 and D), you will see the old headstone of Robert Hurley, who died in 1890, two weeks short of his 29th birthday.
[55.] Walk downhill on Drive 4 toward where it curves NE into Drive C. One row west of the Blk 14 sign is Row 1. Here is the grave of Mathew Salmhofer (1846-1910) and his wife Mary (1832-1910). Linda Wommack recounts that Mary (Marie) was born in France and immigrated alone to America in 1850 to live with siblings in New York. She traveled West, alone again, settling and marrying (Louis Valiton) in Dubuque, Iowa. They moved to Denver in 1861 by covered wagon, and subsequently operated a mercantile and drug store in Fairplay, where Louis died at some point after the business was lost in a fire in 1873. By 1879, she had moved to Animas City by way of Fort Garland and Taos. “She built the first frame house in the new town of Durango, located near the future site of the railroad depot... [and] married Matt Salmhofer in 1889.” Wommack notes that “she was active in the Catholic church and helped the needy and sick in many ways.” Her husband died six months before she did. 

[56.] One row to the west, two stones and a tree north of Drive 4 in Block 14, Row 2, Lot 6, is the grave of John Fiorini (1877-1939), father of Noel Fiorini. Linda Wommack writes that John was born in Piedmont, Torino, in northern Italy, and followed in his family’s business of stonecutting. “His father and his grandfather cut the native Italian marble, the same used by Michelangelo, to build many of the landmarks around Milano.... He came to America in 1906, settling first in Silverton, Colorado. His expert hand-carved stone is evident in the Town Hall building he built in 1908 [and which survived the fire of November 30, 1992]. Married to Genevieve and with a family, he moved them from Silverton to Marble, where, using his hand tools, “he sculpted and formed much of the marble used in our nation’s monuments, including the Washington and Lincoln Memorials.” In 1917 the Fiorinis moved to Durango, where John taught his craft to his son Noel and carved from native sandstone and granite blocks “many of the beautiful and unique tombstones found all over the Four Corners area.” The family trade is continued downtown (appropriately for this setting) by Duane Fiorini of Family Craft Monuments, which John established a century ago as the Durango Monument Works.

[57.] One block to the east (back in Row 1 of Block 14) in this downhill portion of the Graceland central section of the cemetery, about nine strides in from Drive 4, is the marker for Henry J. Hechtman (1853-1912), the 5th Police Magistrate of the City of Durango, from 1884 to 1886. The Police Magistrate was the Municipal Court Judge of nowadays.

26 Wommack, From the Grave, page 384. Note: the spelling of the first names here is per the headstone; Ms. Wommack has them as Matt and Marie. Was there any connection between this Valiton family and Genevieve Valiton who married John Fiorini?
27 Wommack, From the Grave, page 384.
28 https://www.ancestry.com/genealogy/records/john-alfred-fiorini_78248429 viewed on 10/31/2017 states that he was born in Italy and was the father of 10 children, of whom Noel was the eldest.
[58.] One row east and one tree and six stones north (we’re now back in Block 26, in Row 19), to the left of the 3’ family marker is the grave of Reese McCloskey (d. 1947; any relation to Milton?). He served as the City Attorney from 1929-1939. Before that, he was one of the members of City Council (from 1913 through 1978 they were called Commissioners).

and eight strides north of the McCloskey family stone are some more Kroegers, including long-time Durango surveyor Allison L. Kroeger (1882-1956; he left his mark on an untold number of maps of Durango) and his wife Emma (1890-1981) in Block 26, Row 16 (about in the center of this Block); Frederick Kroeger (1838-1907) in Row 18 and Frederick W. Kroeger (1879-1964) and his wife Sabrina (1885-1963) in Row 17.

[59.] Two rows east

[60.] Walk east to Drive C where it curves. Just to the left of the pavement, 2 rows in (it’s Row 9) after you’ve passed 3 trees while you’re heading north, is the final grave of 24-year-old Stella Dempsey (4/29/1885-1/14/1910), “a young woman well known here,” who apparently died of suicide and who possibly (according to Linda Wommack’s research)29 was a prostitute. Miss Dempsey lived in a rooming house above the Fulton Market in Durango. She was one of 11 children of a poor Mormon couple. The Durango Evening Herald reported that two of her brothers travelled from Utah for her funeral at the Goodman Undertaking parlors on 1/21/1910 to represent the family. Her brother Jack (age 14 at the time of her death) later won the heavyweight world championship in 1919; his 1915 Durango boxing match with Andy Malloy is memorialized by a large wall mural around the corner from the El Rancho Tavern at 10th and Main. Once he was a successful adult, Jack joined the Elks and arranged for his childhood sister’s remains to be moved from elsewhere in Greenmount into the Elks Section in June of 1923. The following month, between prize fights, he made a brief visit to Durango and paid his respects at the hefty granite grave-stone that we see here in the south City section.

[61.] In Row 9, eleven stones and one tree north of Dempsey is the grave of Charles E. Stilwell (1868-1948), and also of his namesake, who only lived 33 days in 1920, and his wife Perle (1887-1935). He served more terms as Durango’s mayor than anyone else: five consecutive terms, from 1922 to 1927. In those days, Council was just three men: the president, the vice president, and the third commissioner.

Before we leave the Elks section, here is a brief explanation about Cemetery fees and charges. (Skip to the bold, next page, for just the bottom line.) For most of the history of Greenmount, the cost of maintenance has been an issue. At its August 8, 1933 meeting, City Council considered the problem of the City not being reimbursed for its upkeep of lots. Of the total 209 lots that the Sexton was caring for in 1933, only 40 were in the section of the cemetery that the City owned. Historically, the City has charged service organizations annual fees for its upkeep of their sections. In 2012 the Elks’ Durango Lodge deeded 1.5 acres at Greenmount to the City in exchange for the City providing perpetual care for 25 years for Blocks 26, 31 and 40, having a capacity for about 2,281 grave sites. (This will have to be renegotiated in the year 2037.) City Council minutes of May 3, 1977

29 Linda Wommack, From the Grave, page 383. The Durango Evening Herald (1/15/1910) reported that “she was employed as a waitress at a local hotel for some time” and said “numerous theories are advanced as to her reason for committing the act.”
mention that representatives of several fraternal orders including Duane Fiorini of the Elks were complaining that their members were having to bear too much of the burden of the cost of maintaining the approximately one-million square foot cemetery. Further, they thought they should only have to pay for its upkeep for six months rather than for a full year. They recommended the City raise its $100 burial lot fee so that it would better cover the cost of perpetual care. In 2010 the City did in fact double the lot price from its longstanding $200 to $400, and nearly doubled it again (to the current rate of $700 for an adult burial; $400 for an infant) as of 2019. The grave opening fee is $750 for an adult grave on a weekday; more details are online. Still, the charges are much less than what some private cemeteries, elsewhere in the US, charge. **Bottom line: burial is the one thing about Durango that is less expensive than in other cities.** Greenmount is a City-sponsored benefit for all.\(^\text{30}\)

[62.] Now start walking south on Drive C and look to your left two rows in. The memorial to **Fred and Beatrice Garcia** (Block 32, Row 10—look for the colorful image of the Virgin Mary) is one of the most multidimensional grave markers here. The Virgin Mary was in their home and was incorporated into the design of the headstone. It is maintained, cleaned and painted by their youngest son, Cristobal Garcia.

[63.] **Robert W. Delaney** (1920-1992; a 3.5’ slender stone in the newer City section in Block 32, Row 11, which is the first row in/east from Drive C) was the first director of the Southwest Studies Center at Fort Lewis College, which has preserved a record of much of the history and culture of the Four Corners region.

[64.] About 15 stones south of the Delaney’s, in that same row, are the double graves of the **Kristy and Sherry Janson**, sisters who were murdered by 13-year-old classmate Aaron Carter in 1983 when they were just young teenagers, are one of the most poignant memorials in this cemetery. Their mother, Vickie, has spoken about this on the 700 Club television broadcast and in countless meetings. She and her husband Joe, the girls’ father, became advocates for the reform of juvenile criminal laws.\(^\text{31}\)

[65.] **Robert W. “Bob” Rank** (1920-1992, two rows in/east from Drive C, 4 plots north of Drive 2, in the newer City section in Block 32, Row 10 with space pre-allocated the remains of his widow, **Loris**, age 91 as of this writing) was the City Manager from 1960 to 1980. (The photo on the left was taken at his retirement party on 6/30/1980.) His headstone bears the City of Durango logo and the words, “a life of love and service for his family and community.”

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\(^{30}\) Note: the City of Durango has deeds to individual plots that were deeded by the City—but does not yet have deeds to plots that were owned by the Elks, Masons, and other organizations. When the Elks deeded 1.5 acres to the City in 2012, the two parties arranged for it to encompass the undeveloped portions of Blocks 26. The City’s 12/12/2017 purchase of 9.75 acres of open space (directly north of Block 1) from the Elks for $440,000 gave the City expansion space for burials at Greenmount.

Continue walking toward the south end of Drive C, halfway from Drive 2 to Drive 1, halfway across to the western edge, to the markers of three very different members of the Durango community. Each impacted it in beautiful ways. The marker of Jan Roshong, conductor, musician and husband of Shelley Mann, is in Block 24, Row 7. Roshong Recital Hall in Jones Hall (named after Shelley’s subsequent husband, former FLC President Joel Jones, now also deceased) was named in his honor.

Anna O’Reilly (Block 24, Row 8) lived a full life of blessing others during her 16 years as a person with Downs Syndrome. She knew more names of more people around town than her parents—and she loved to worship—as indicated by the inscription here.

Barbara Conrad (Block 24, Row 7) served the arts community of Durango for many years. A gallery at the Durango Arts Center is named in her memory.

Start walking back toward your car, on Drive B. In the first row on your left, near the end of Block 32 in Row 1, is the marker for a young adult of recent times, Devin Hart, an avid soccer player and a well-liked high school student who apparently dropped dead of a heart attack while playing a game. After a year of discussion involving the development of a new City policy that a person must be deceased a year before something can be named after him or her, the new soccer field at Riverview School was named in his memory and was dedicated on 10/23/1992. A bench has been added above and around his gravestone since it was first photographed by the City.

Another young man was taken early: Walking north on Drive B toward your vehicle as we near the end of this tour, we visit the grave of Nick Parks III (1949-1974; Block 31, Row 3—immediately north of the walkway divider between Blocks 32 and 31). Along with Gale Emerson, young Parks died in the line of duty as a fire raged on the 800 block of Main Avenue on August 24, 1974. His parents’ remains are in this same family plot: Nick Parks II died in 1987; Louise Parks in 2003.
[71.] Walk 34 strides north of Parks and look two rows to your left for the grave of William J. Horther and his wife Edna in Block 31, Row 5, which is midway between Drives B and C, between Drives 5 and Cemetery Road. He was the City Clerk/Recorder and City Treasurer for a long time—from 1948 until 1964. At the end of his tenure the responsibilities were split—as they had been from 1881 to 1891. He was City Clerk when the new City Hall building was dedicated in 1963; his signed minutes of the City Council meeting of June 4, 1963 include Resolution #107 resolving “that all who enter this structure, whether they be those who serve the City or those who are being served, shall endow this building with that living spirit of friendly warmth and beauty which is necessary for the birth and administration of the highest ideals of City Government.”

[72.] Two rows east, 10 strides and five gravestones north of Horther, is the grave of Earl A. Barker (1896-1968) and his wife Elsie. Evidently a Mason, he was part of a group of businessmen who bought the Strater Hotel in 1926 and made it a landmark, owned today by his grandson Rod Barker.

To search the City’s Geographic Information Systems records of burials at Greenmount and to view photos of headstones, open the GIS Greenmount Cemetery Records Search at https://gis.durangogov.org/DurangoJS

When the GIS Viewer is open, click on Map Themes, select Greenmount, then open “Maps” and then “Bookmarks” and then “Greenmount Cemetery”. At that point you can use “Quick Search” to search by last name, first name, dates, years, if a veteran, by typing in service, e.g., Army, Navy, etc. OR, click on the Search yellow button to the left of that row of icons, and select the Advanced Search menu option, which allows you to refine and filter your search.

Note that some of the Greenmount keyword search fields are divided into 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.—which is because some gravestones have multiple names on them. Be advised that an Advanced Search for a date field as a date (e.g. searching for all dates prior to a certain date) does not work—because GIS did not format that field as a date field. Also, the GIS database is not quite current.

When you zoom in on the map, three different colors of boxes are visible. A larger red box indicates a headstone for multiple people in a family. Green squares mean the headstone includes the spouse. Smaller orange boxes mark a headstone for an individual. When zoomed in further still, the names for that headstone will be listed next to the box if you’ve selected. Select Identify/Detail from the upper tab and an inset box will open when you click on a surname—showing details about that burial.

Four suggestions for further reading and research on this topic:


Historical notes and references re: Greenmount Cemetery, by Todd Ellison, 2017 (12 pages, including a list of references to the Cemetery in the City’s minutes, 1884-2016 (downloadable the same as this tour guide is).

La Plata county cemetery index published by Genealogical Research Society of the Four Corners, Volume 2 (Greenmount Cemetery). Durango, CO: Genealogical Research Society of the Four Corners, 1997. Call number at the Durango Public Library: SW 929.5 GEN V.II (upstairs in the SW section; cannot be checked out).

Durango Herald Archive and Genealogy Digital Workstation upstairs in the Durango Public Library.

Animas City Cemetery: to read about persons whose bodies were interred at Durango’s other cemetery, bounded by Florida Road and North College Drive, see www.animascitycemetery.org