

Columbia Cemetery Maps and Records Guidebook

Introduction

Death Data Difficulties

Columbia Cemetery did not give up its burial information easily. The earliest books (if any existed) maintained by the Masons and Odd Fellows have never been located. The first known book of the Masons begins in 1887. The Boulder Clerk & Recorder's office does have records of some lot purchases in Columbia, but in the early days it was not necessary by law to record lot purchases. Several maps have been drawn by various people that include names of owners and occasionally of burials. Responsibility for keeping the records of Columbia Cemetery fell to Howe Mortuary. Norman Howe gave these records and maps to Carnegie Branch Library for Local History in 1988. Some Columbia Cemetery maps may have been lost.

Several Columbia Cemetery grave markers contain names, but no death dates. This may be due to the fact that they are not yet deceased, they are deceased but have been buried elsewhere, arrangements for inscribing the marker were never made, or there is simply no available information. The remains of 56 persons went to the University of Colorado Medical School, eventually being buried in "boxes" in Columbia Cemetery. And there is a question of whether some of the people named are indeed buried in Columbia—early obituaries did not always state the name of the cemetery in which the deceased were buried.

"Columbia Cemetery, Boulder, Colorado 1870 to the Present" A Monumental Effort

The most comprehensive information on burials in Columbia Cemetery is included in an eight-volume document entitled, "*Columbia Cemetery, Boulder, Colorado 1870 to the Present.*" Initially published in 1997 by author/genealogist/Columbia Cemetery volunteer Mary McRoberts and the Boulder Genealogical Society, these volumes contain an index of Columbia Cemetery burials, maps of lots, and biographical information. The authors have generously permitted the inclusion of much of the information contained in the publication to be made available to the public on this website. The eight volumes are available for reference at the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, located at 1125 Pine Street in Boulder, Colorado.

The goals of the publication were to locate every burial in Columbia Cemetery, compile biographical information about each person, ascertain the purchasers of each lot, and to attempt to determine descendants of the deceased. Many sources were used for research, including Columbia Cemetery Ledger books at Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, records of Howe Mortuary, Crist Mortuary, Boulder County Clerk and Recorder records, censuses of Boulder County, Estate Files of Boulder County, obituaries, *Boulder Daily Camera* newspaper files, and family histories. Every source has been listed with each entry and all sources are included in ***Glossary and Abbreviations***.

A 1971 Survey of Columbia Cemetery by Robert L. DiMarco was the initial document consulted for available information. DiMarco's publication was prepared for the city of Boulder to update and fill in gaps in the burial records, and to centralize all of the available information. Historic Boulder, Inc.'s 1993/1994 publication entitled "*Columbia Cemetery Gravestone Inventory*" was also consulted. Mary and Barrie McRoberts completed a visual survey of Columbia Cemetery in 1997, with Mary McRoberts completing an additional survey in 2001.

In most cases, the 1971 DiMarco survey and the Historic Boulder, Inc. inventory agree, but there are some differences. Occasionally, neither agrees with the written record of an individual's burial location. Usually, the written record prevails, except for a few cases in Section E of the Cemetery.

There are over 700 persons who are believed to be buried in Columbia, but their specific burial location in the Cemetery is unknown. Their location is listed in the *Index of Burials* as "Section X."

Mary McRoberts and the Boulder Genealogical Society have made every effort to be as accurate as possible. If mistakes are noted, or if you can add any additional information, corrections, or wish to donate old photographs of Columbia Cemetery and/or its grave markers, please either email mcnellanm@bouldercolorado.gov or write to:

Boulder Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 3246
Boulder, CO 80307
ATTN: Mary McRoberts

This is an ongoing project, and updated information will be added to the copy of "*Columbia Cemetery, Boulder, Colorado 1870 to the Present*" that is located at Carnegie Branch Library for Local History.