

**CEDAR HILL CEMETERY,  
HARTFORD  
CONNECTICUT, 1863-1903**

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Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford Connecticut, 1863-1903 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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# **Cedar Hill Cemetery**

**Hartford Connecticut**

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**1863-1903**



Published by  
**Cedar Hill Cemetery**  
**1903**





MAIN ENTRANCE TO CEDAR HILL CEMETERY.

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### VICE-PRESIDENT

GEORGE G. SUMNER

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Office of the Secretary:—Mechanics Savings Bank, 44 Pearl Street,  
Hartford. Telephone number 1876. Connected by private telephone line  
with the Superintendent's office at Cedar Hill.



"Kings have no such couch as thine,  
As the green that folds thy grave."

## Historical and Descriptive Sketch of Cedar Hill Cemetery

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THE purpose of Cedar Hill Cemetery is to provide a place of sepulture in harmony with the promise of rest and peace for the dead, satisfactory to the most cultivated taste of the living and made forever secure as a sacred trust in the care of a perpetual corporation.

This ideal the modern cemetery has sought to realize. It can only do so under certain conditions. A tract of land must be purchased, having a considerable extent, located near the city and convenient of access, but protected from all encroachments of the future, amid rural surroundings, with proper soil, and offering in its natural advantages an opportunity for the landscape architect to produce with earth, rock, water, and wood those beauties which have ever made nature the temple of God. These are essential elements. If, in addition to them, the place affords those extensive scenic effects of hill and valley which awaken a sense of vastness and sublimity, the highest results can be attained. Such a tract of land cannot be found in the neighborhood of all cities, and could not be secured except through legislative authority which is justified by the public benefit. The work of developing it requires means. It demands, moreover, a plan carefully considered and intelligently, continuously, and patiently pursued throughout the course of years which are necessary for its perfection. There are trusts also to be fulfilled in providing special care of grave markers and monuments, or the perpetual disposal of cut flowers upon the resting places of friends, or the like, which may be a pleasure to the living and an honor to the departed. The experience of the past has proven that all

these various ends can only be attained when the place of sepulture is committed to a corporation created for the purpose, and having no other aim than to secure to the lot-owners all the benefits which the funds accruing from the sale of lots may provide. These are the reasons for the modern cemetery, in which the wisdom, taste, and forethought of our age have found expression.

The rural cemetery has been a gradual development and has reached a pre-eminence in our American life. The reawakening of civilization in Europe found customs prevailing which were offensive to the sentiments of cultivated people, dangerous to public health, subject to the vicissitudes of time, and inadequate to the necessities of interment. The mausoleums of the nobility were erected to some extent within their parks, where taste could be amply gratified; but, for the most part, the ancient practice of burial in or near Christian churches held sway. This, in the beginning, arose out of the erection of shrines or temples over the remains of martyrs. A burial within sacred walls was harmonious with their faith. It was thought also to render the resting place secure in the future. The history of many famous cathedrals, such as St. Peter's at Rome, Notre Dame at Rouen, and Westminster Abbey at London, has seemed to justify this expectation. Some burial places, however, once as highly esteemed, have been swept away like that of Iona, "the blessed isle". Interments within the parish churchyard could not hope for the perpetual protection afforded by a cathedral. As time passed there arose the necessity of using the limited area for other generations. More especially was this true within the crowded city. Sometimes even the church, which had other ends to serve, thought itself justified in abandoning the graveyard to the habitations and business of man. Instances are not unknown where these sacred acres were ruthlessly taken from the church. Hence there was occasion for a new method which would obviate these evils.

Sanitary reasons also were a great force in urging forward this development, especially in large cities. The vast number of intramural interments in Paris was thought to be dangerous, especially when contagious diseases were prevalent. In 1790 the National Assembly of France passed a decree prohib-