

**ERIE CEMETERY; A HAND BOOK,  
HISTORICAL, BIOGRAPHICAL AND  
DESCRIPTIVE, CONTAINING ALSO  
THE CHARTER AND LAWS, RULES AND  
REGULATIONS, AND OTHER MATTERS OF  
GENERAL INFORMATION**

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Erie Cemetery; A Hand Book, Historical, Biographical and Descriptive, Containing Also the Charter and Laws, Rules and Regulations, and Other Matters of General Information by Erie Cemetery

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ERIE CEMETERY ENTRANCE.

# ERIE CEMETERY

A HAND BOOK

## HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE

CONTAINING ALSO THE

Charter and Laws, Rules and Regulations, and other  
Matters of General Information

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Written and published by authority of and under direction of the  
Corporators

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THE LODGE.

## THE BURIAL PLACES OF OLD ERIE.

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In connection with sepulture in Erie in the earlier part of its existence, especially as bearing on the old burying grounds, which are in their proper place adverted to, it must be remembered that there were circumstances connected with the settlement of Erie which in Europe would have placed it in the category of a walled or fortified town. Indeed, its very first settlement was as a collection of homes of those connected with a military occupation of its site, and the erection of a fort by an army of King Louis XV. in the execution of his gigantic continental policy, embodying the connection of Canada, then in the possession of the French, by a chain of forts extending from Lake Ontario along the south shore of Lake Erie to what is now the city of Erie, and thence by a well constructed road from Erie to Fort LeBoeuf, now Waterford, continuing down French Creek to the Allegheny River and Fort Duquesne, now Pittsburg, and by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to the Louisiana territory, connecting Canada with the island of Orleans, then one of the principal footholds of the French king in his attempted subjugation of the North American continent. This well laid plan was thought to have been carried out when a French army of 1,200 men in 1753, erected Fort Presque Isle, at Second and Parade streets, and completed the roadway which led almost directly south to the present location of Waterford.

This military occupation, though interrupted for a while by the capture of the forts by the confederated savages, was resumed and continued by the British after their successes over the French, and again by the military forces of Pennsylvania about the time of the return of Gen. Wayne from his successful campaign in the west, at which time a blockhouse was erected and military protection was afforded to the surveyors, who, by authority of the commonwealth at the dawn of the century, proceeded to lay out the town of Erie on the plan upon which it was settled. These movements were followed by the occupation of

Erie by the armed forces of the United States, that in the War of 1812-13, in conjunction with the naval forces, after a navy yard had been established at Erie in 1812, effected the destruction of the British fleet in the great naval battle of Sept. 10, 1813.

All of these events and the stationing of armed forces, which was continued until the year 1825, tended to make the people of this region familiar with military and naval movements; and all that related to the stateliness of military and naval forms, the presence of so many military and naval officers, some of them of national renown, had its influence on the tone of society of the whole region and tended to familiarize the people with the forms and ceremonies of military and naval funerals with all the solemn obsequies, then as now, so scrupulously adhered to.

The presence of such large bodies of men with the deaths and burials which were a necessary incident, demanded places of burial, each of which in its turn was used for this purpose. Of these places there may be mentioned the French burying ground, quite near to Fort Presque Isle, east of Parade street, which, having been used until a number of interments were made, was followed in its turn by the occupancy of a portion of Front street, which was used during the War of 1812-13. The construction of the Philadelphia & Erie R. R., in 1858 and 1859, caused the exhumation of the remains, which were still discernible. Yet the respect and regard entertained by the earliest settlers of Erie for those who had lost their lives in the service of their country was instilled into their children, together with the form incident to military usage, so that when these bodies were exhumed in the summer of 1859 a military funeral of a most imposing character was accorded to the remains, and a public ceremonial under command of the Adjutant General of the State, with military and civic honors, characterized their escort to the Erie Cemetery, where they were reinterred with every mark of respect awarded them.

In this connection it is proper to add that the military forms and usages had, by the continued presence of military and naval officers at Erie, become so familiar, that the feelings of the people on occasion of national bereavement, on the recurrence of the death of men of national renown, caused public funerals to be observed with unusual demonstrations of respect and of funereal pomp. This was most notably observable at the death of Presi-