

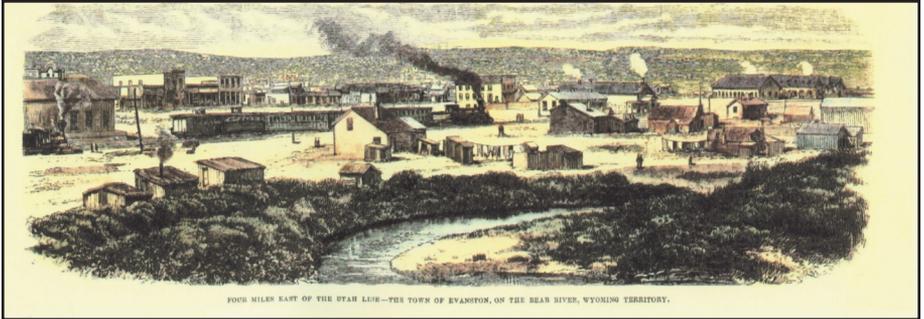
The Evanston City Cemetery is as old as the town itself. The cemetery clearly reflects key aspects of our community's history — from the graves of immigrant coal miners to those of prominent political and business leaders to the casualties of war and disease.

This guide will help you discover some of the stories of the people who lived here and the events that have shaped Evanston's history.



If you encounter a funeral in progress during your visit, please bypass that area and visit another. Thank you for helping maintain a respectful atmosphere on the grounds.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF EVANSTON AND ITS CEMETERY



Evanston was established in 1868, a few months after the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad were laid through southwestern Wyoming. In 1870, the railroad made Evanston a service point for its steam locomotives, assuring the town's future. North of town, at the community of Almy, were coal mines. Ranchers took up land north and south of Evanston.

According to cemetery records, the first burial was of Elizabeth Seaton, aged one year, in August of 1867. The Seaton family lost seven more children over the next nine years.

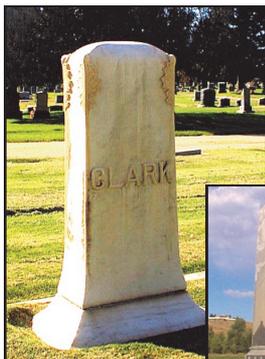
By the early 1870s, the town cemetery was already established about a mile northeast of the town limits. Within its boundaries, separate cemeteries were created in the mid-1870s by the Evanston Masonic Lodge and the Evanston chapter of the International Order of Oddfellows (IOOF). A separate Catholic cemetery was established sometime after the Catholic congregation was founded in 1884. The largest expansion of the cemetery took place in the late 1930s, when a new section to the east was constructed as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. The most recent expansion of the cemetery took place in the summer of 2008.

In May 1903, the Town Council appointed Thomas Timmins as cemetery caretaker at a salary of \$50 a month. "His duties to consist of keeping all drive ways, fence, and gates in good order, and perform any other duties that the Council require. He shall also be empowered with the authority to act as a Marshal, while on duty in the Cemetery or City Park, to make arrests for any violation of the Town Ordinances pertaining to said Cemetery or Park, but nowhere else."

1. MASONIC CEMETERY

The Evanston Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons was established in 1874 as Lodge #4 in Wyoming. The 16 charter members were the business and political leaders of the fledgling community.

Among the prominent local names in this section are Clarence D. Clark, Wyoming's first Congressman. The Guilds were an early ranching family south of Evanston. Peter Downs built the Opera House on Front Street in 1885. The Bradbury family began as miners at Almy and became bankers. C. H. Solier was superintendent of the Wyoming State Hospital from 1891 to 1930. A. C. Beckwith ran a general store and operated a large horse farm on the south edge of town. Thomas Blyth started a general merchandise business that operated until 1981.



The Masonic Lodge is still active in Evanston; the two-story brick Masonic Temple, built in 1910, stands on the corner of Main and Ninth Streets. Many headstones in this section bear Masonic symbols, including the sword and crown and the compass/eye of God symbol.

One of the largest headstones in this section marks the grave of Harvey Booth, the victim of presumed murder in 1895.

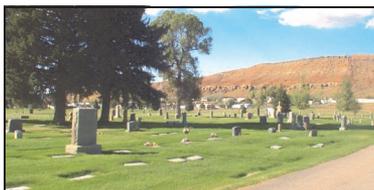
Booth was one of the first — and most prosperous business owners in Evanston.

Although guilt was never proven, Booth's partner and brother-in-law, E. S. Crocker, was tried twice for the murder.

IOOF CEMETERY

The local chapter of International Order of Oddfellows was established in Evanston about the same time as the Masonic Lodge. Burials in this cemetery date back to 1875.

In 2003, the last surviving lodge member gave the balance of the IOOF cemetery to the local American Legion post, which still uses it.



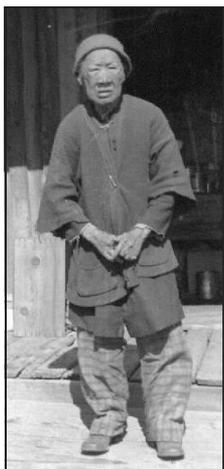
2. THE OLD PUBLIC CEMETERY



The earliest burials in the cemetery are located in this section, many of them members of Evanston's earliest families. The Myers family arrived in the late 1850s and established the first ranch in the area. At the eastern edge of this section is the grave of Christopher "Kit" Castle, the first sheriff of Uinta County. On the western edge lies Robert Calverly, the deputy sheriff who arrested Butch Cassidy for horse thieving in 1893.

This section also reflects the ethnic diversity of the community, with Greek, Italian and Finnish names appearing on the headstones. After representatives of the Finnish miners appeared before the Evanston Town Council to ask for separate space within the cemetery, the "Finn" section was created on the western side of this part of the cemetery in the early 1900s.

AH YUEN AND LONG LOOCK CHUNG



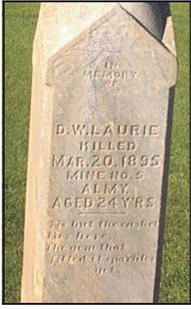
The southeastern corner of the old public section contains pauper graves. There are few stones in this area because the burials were made at public expense. Two notable exceptions are the markers for Ah Yuen (China Mary) and Long Loock Chung (Mormon Charlie). Both were familiar sights on the streets of Evanston from the 1910s through the 1930s.

Charlie raised and sold vegetables, walking around the downtown neighborhood with two large baskets balanced on a pole between his shoulders. Mary, one of the very few Chinese women in Evanston, lived in a tiny house along the tracks in north Evanston. Charlie died in January 1939, and Mary the following October.



The first burials in Evanston seem to have been made just east of the present cemetery at the foot of Red Mountain. It is likely that most of those graves were moved into the cemetery once it was established. A notable exception is a cluster of Chinese graves discovered in the early 1980s during a construction project in that area.

ALMY COAL MINERS



Six miles north of Evanston was the coal mining community of Almy. The mines, owned by the Union Pacific Coal Company, began operations in the late 1860s. In the late 1880s and 1890s, a series of disastrous explosions killed many men and eventually forced the closure of the mines. Several miners who lost their lives at Almy are buried in this section of the cemetery. Many more are buried in the Almy cemetery.

MILITARY VETERANS

Although military veterans are buried throughout the cemetery, this section was historically used by the American Legion and contains the graves of veterans of all America's major conflicts from the Civil War to the present. Several Civil War veterans are buried here; historically, many such men moved West after the war.



Evanston citizens served in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. Among the veterans of World War I are several soldiers who perished in France during the Spanish flu epidemic and whose bodies were returned home for burial.



Ben Eckles was a railroad fireman killed in a train wreck in 1904 about 70 miles east of Evanston.

Until recently, the cemetery records listed the cause of death for each person. The causes reveal much about life in the community. Fatalities from railroad, coal mining and other industrial accidents were very common from the 1870s through the 1940s. Other accidental deaths were caused by drowning and exposure. In the 1920s and '30s, a number of young men were killed on the railroad tracks -- likely hoboes or tramps.

The records also reveal the effects of epidemics, such as diphtheria, smallpox, and the Spanish flu. Children's deaths due to common childhood diseases were all too frequent up until the 1930s. Deaths following surgery and childbirth were also numerous through the 1940s. Because Evanston is the home of the state mental hospital, alcoholism and paresis (final stage of syphilis) also appear often in the early records.

3. THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY

The Catholic parish of St. Mary Magdalen was formally established in 1884. A year later, the pastor purchased a large lot at the north end of the city cemetery, which was consecrated as the Catholic cemetery. The parish kept its own burial records which, unfortunately, were destroyed in a fire in 1939.



THE FELTER VAULT

This stone and concrete vault was built in 1885 by John Felter, first sexton of the cemetery. It stood vacant for nearly 20 years after construction and was often used to store bodies through the winter until graves could be dug. Eventually John and his wife, Ellen, were buried in the vault. After the bodies were removed and reburied in 1968, the structure was torn down.

4. THE “NEW SECTION”

The Works Progress Administration helped develop this section of the cemetery beginning in 1938. WPA workers prepared the ground, laid the irrigation system, and installed the landscaping. This was the first section of the cemetery to require flat grave markers to make it easier for cemetery custodians to maintain the lawns.



WYOMING STATE HOSPITAL BURIALS

The Wyoming State Hospital, which opened in 1889, maintained its own burial grounds north of the hospital campus for many years. In the 1940s, the hospital established a small burial plot at the northwest end of the New Section. It was used through the 1980s.

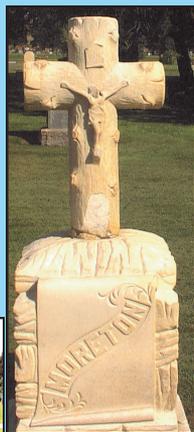


Many of the graves in the cemetery are located within family plots (originally sold by the city as 16' x 16' lots). In the older parts of the cemetery, these plots are bounded by concrete or stone. In some plots, you will see newer headstones side by side with older ones -- testimony to the stability of the local population. Many of the family names on the oldest stones can be found in the current telephone directory.

HEADSTONE STYLES AND SYMBOLS

Grave markers seem to be as subject to fashion as clothes or cars. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, pillars, obelisks and other large standing stones decorated with symbols and religious imagery were popular.

During the same time period, children's gravestones were often decorated with angels, lambs, and doves.

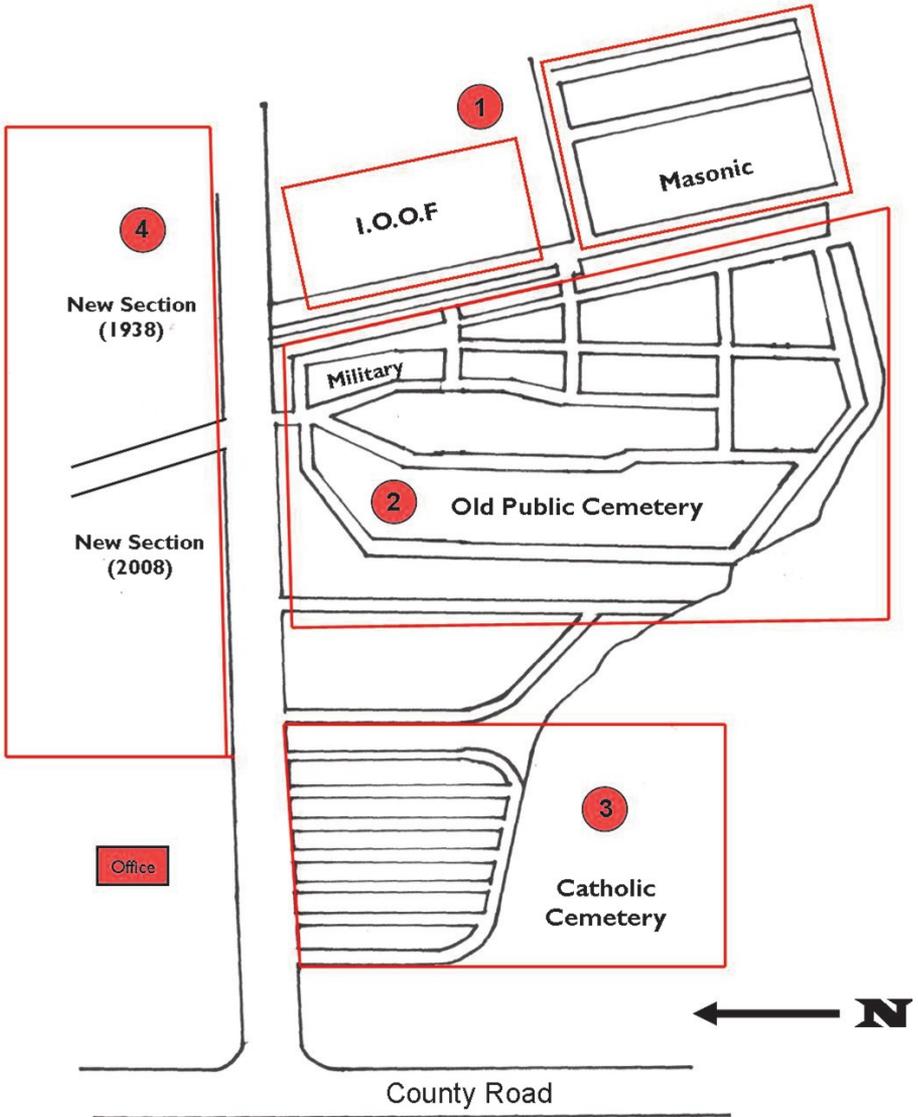


By mid-20th century and through today, headstones have become more personalized with images reflecting an individual's life and interests.



This brochure was financed in part with funds granted to the Evanston Historic Preservation Commission from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office administers these federal funds as part of Wyoming's Certified Local Government Program. This program received Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. The contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of policies of the Department of the Interior. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

CEMETERY MAP



Credits

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Kathy Defa, City Treasurer
Barbara Allen Bogart, Uinta County Museum
Evanston Historic Preservation Commission

Photographs courtesy of the Uinta County Museum. A list of burials in the Evanston City Cemetery is available at the Uinta County Library. The City of Evanston maintains the official cemetery records.