

Of all the sites that its founders could have chosen for the planning of Chippiannock Cemetery, this one, on the summit and slopes of Manitou Ridge overlooking the Mississippi and Rock Rivers, is probably the most beautifully serene and historically significant.

This is where the native Americans of the Sauk and Mesquakie nations established Saukenuk, along the north shore of the Rock River, in 1730. Soon, the village housed over 3,000 souls, a population which later grew to more than 7,500, thought to be the largest Indian population in the United States.

Over 100 years later, there still was no formal cemetery for white settlers in Rock Island. The dead were buried in Bailey Davenport's pasture, just above the city. And the city was growing, from a population of 5,000 reported in 1854 to over 10,000 three years later, in 1857. At this time, local leaders felt the need for a formal cemetery which would provide space for family plots with suitable monuments, and house records of the burials.

Rock Island's First Formal Cemetery

Chippiannock's founders – and their names can be read on headstones and monuments throughout the cemetery: Holmes Hakes, S.S. Guyer, Ben Harper, William L. Lee, Bailey Davenport, Henry Porter – 14 of them in all, were important community leaders of their day. It was to them that Dr. and Mrs. Ebenezer Lathrop conveyed “by metes and bounds” some 62 acres of land for the purpose of establishing a cemetery.

Five acres of that parcel were subsequently deeded to the Bishop of Chicago for the Catholic families of the area. Later on, an additional 38 acres were added to Chippiannock's original 57, making a total of 95.

Susan Lewis Goldsmith, mother of Bailey Davenport, suggested the name *Chippiannock*, an Indian word meaning “Village of the Dead,” for the new burial ground.

Landscaping by Mr. Hotchkiss; plantings by Mr. O'Shaughnessy

About this time, in 1855, the new cemetery board voted to obtain the services of a Mr. Hotchkiss. He was the engineer responsible for Greenwood Cemetery, Long Island, New York, who at the time was designing Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis. It

was Hotchkiss who designed Chippiannock – for the most part, as it stands today.

Chippiannock's grounds, which had previously been covered with blue grass, corn hills and scattered trees, were soon planted in evergreens, flower beds, and rose gardens. All this was under the direction of its first superintendent, Patrick O'Shaughnessy, a native of Ireland, veteran of the Florida War, and a professional gardener.

Horticulturists Tell Us

In 1931, the U.S. Bureau of Horticulture requested Professor L.H. Pammel of the State College at Ames, Iowa, to record and label the trees and shrubs planted throughout the cemetery. There were some 150 species and varieties at the time. Many more have since been added.

Architectural Landscaping

Four miles of paved roads now meander through the cemetery in a tree-shaded circuitry that runs from the cemetery's summit down to the frontage road just above 12th Street, Rock Island. Here and throughout the cemetery are carefully tended plots with simple markers, fine monuments – some as old as Chippiannock itself – and stately mausolea. Interspersed with these are new gravesites, as the cemetery has by no means reached its capacity, and there remain over 35 acres of unplatted ground in the uncut timber facing 17th Street.

A National Treasure

Taken together, Chippiannock's architectural landscaping, art and architecture have earned it a place in the National Register of Historic Places. According to the U.S. Department of Interior, the listing is based on the cemetery's excellence as an example of the early rural cemetery movement, which dates back to the mid-1800's. The award was received here in May of 1994.

One can trace the history of the territory, and even the nation, in the inscriptions on the headstones of the adventurers and settlers, river men and preachers, statesmen and builders who have left their mark upon the territory. There are many unique and imaginative monuments to be found here – rugged boulders, spheres, anchors, anvils, cradles, Celtic crosses – even a pyramid and two family dogs. The tales that go with them are worth telling.

when confederate batteries opened fire. Second Officer Harte's steamboat was blown up, and he was shot swimming to shore.

Though the family never found his grave, his son, Dr. Richard H. Harte, who later became a famous Philadelphia surgeon, commissioned the Calder Celtic cross. An intricately carved cenotaph, it was designed to employ a variety of nautical and religious symbols, and is an excellent example of the sculptor's art.

Though Harte is not interred here, his wife, Mary Ann Betty Harte, was buried here on top of the hill in her family's lot. The cross has since been placed at the cemetery entrance where it remains, a high point in any tour of the cemetery.

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Once one has walked through Chippiannock, experienced the peace and grandeur of the setting, and read the inscriptions on the monuments and markers, they can relate, with even greater understanding, to the words of the great Sauk chief, Black Hawk:

“With us it is a custom to visit the graves of our friends and keep them in repair for many years. The mother will go alone to weep over the grave of her child. After he has been successful in war, the brave, with pleasure, visits the grave of his father and repaints the post that marks where he lies. There is no place like that where the bones of our forefathers lie to go to when in grief. Here, prostrate by the tombs of our forefathers, will the Great Spirit take pity on us.”

—Memoirs

1. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial: The first monument in view from Chippiannock's front gate was erected in 1915, in memory of all military personnel who had fought in American wars. It was paid for with contributions from Rock Island school children, together with the veterans' associations.

2. Somewhat to the North is the enclosed lot of **Ben Harper**, distinguished by a tall monument, topped with a life sized statue. Mr. Harper was a former mayor of Rock Island and a charter member of the Chippiannock Cemetery Association. His is an interesting story.

Mr. Harper was born in Pennsylvania, and had made a small fortune in St. Louis in the clothing business before he was 30 years old. Shortly thereafter, following his wife's death, he sold out and moved to Rock Island, because he felt it was the gateway to the West and destined for a great future. Once he was settled in Rock Island, Mr. Harper was a busy man, building some 45 homes and buildings, including the Harper House, at one time the most luxurious hotel west of Chicago. He later built Harper's Theatre, and he also brought light to the city, as owner and twenty-year president of the Rock Island Gas Company. During that time, he also organized the Rock Island-Moline Horse Railway Company.

3. The next two burial plots are those of **Ransom R.** and **Philander Cable**. R.R. Cable was president of the Rock Island - Peoria Railroad, while his uncle, Philander Cable, was president of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. He donated

to the city of Rock Island the waterworks pumping station at the foot of 24th Street.

Philander's son, Ben Cable, was Congressman from this district for many years, after which he lived abroad for a time. In 1891, while in France, he purchased a large bronze monument. The monument, designed and sculpted by Paul De Vigne, was cast in Brussels. The completed work, which stands in the family plot, features a grief-stricken woman standing beside it, with a large bronze sarcophagus supported above.

4. Philemon Mitchell, another member of the Chippiannock Association, is interred in an adjacent circular lot. He, together with his partner, Mr. Lynde, were early bankers in Rock Island. Their bank was later known as the State Bank, and is now the National City Bank.

5. The **Denkmann** family is interred in their mausoleum nearby. One attractive feature of the mausoleum was a Tiffany glass window with a beautifully executed pastoral scene titled The River of Life. It has since been replaced with a simple stained glass cross. Mr. Denkmann started out as a grocer. Just as Frederick Weyerhaeuser started out in business running a sash and door company close by. Business was good then, but not good enough. Soon, the two decided to go into the lumber business together, beginning with the first band saw available in North America, and progressing to a vast empire of forestry, lumber cutting, transport and milling. The two had no idea what they were beginning when they started up river to look for the world's best lumber. We know. They're both buried here at Chippiannock with their families.

6. Just to the west are the combined lots of **Frederick Weyerhaeuser, Thomas B. Davis**, and **Samuel S. Davis**. Mr. Weyerhaeuser, with his brother-in-law Frederick Denkmann, were founders of the Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann Lumber Company, now the Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company, known throughout the world. At the time of his death in 1914, Mr. Weyerhaeuser was one of the wealthiest men in the United States.

Consider Chippiannock

As you plan your future, we invite you to consider Chippiannock as your final resting place. Proud as we are of our history, we are equally proud of the services we continue to render to area families. We have reserved enough land to accommodate generations to come, and since we are non-profit, we offer single-to-family-sized lots, as well as chapel and crematory facilities at exceptionally low rates.

Visits and Tours: The cemetery park is open from early morning to sundown. Visiting times are posted at the cemetery entrance. Tours are also conducted, upon request. To arrange group and school tours, please call the office (309/788-6622) for a reservation.

Donations: As a non-profit organization, we look to our friends and families to help with the considerable expenses involved in keeping Chippiannock as beautiful as it is. One gift program is our memorial tree planting project. Another is the purchase of benches and other enhancements on behalf of the deceased. On another level, we invite contributions to Chippiannock's endowment fund, which helps support major expenses such as road repair and building maintenance. We also invite donations from groups as well as national and local foundations. Should your family, company or foundation wish to contribute toward the present and future needs of Chippiannock, please contact us and we'll be happy to meet with you.

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Chippiannock Cemetery is listed in the National Register of Historic Places



CHIPPINANNOCK CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
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father owned land in Millersburg, Mercer County, where he built a farm house and settled in. In 1843 he was married to his wife, Ann. Following a brief time spent in the California gold rush, Mr. Burrall returned here with \$4,000 to invest in a country store in Edgington as well as a mercantile business in Rock Island. He was later President of The Rock Island-Moline Quilt Company, and a stockholder in the Glass Company, to mention just a few of his affiliations. He was also a director and stockholder in The Rock Island Stove Company, and served the public library, the Rock Island school board, and the athletic club on their boards of directors. Mr. Burrall was also vice president of The Rock Island National Bank. When he died in 1877, Mr. Burrall had previously chosen his own monument, a 30-ton boulder which he had seen beside the road west of Davenport. It was moved, probably across the frozen Mississippi, to Rock Island, by a crew of about 60 men on horseback. However, historians are not entirely clear about how it finally arrived at Chippiannock.



27. Sculptor Alexander Stirling Calder, father of the well-known modern artist, Alexander Calder, designed and carved the Celtic cross erected here in honor of **William Harte**. Harte was a naval officer during the Civil War. His ship was leading a convoy on the White River near St. Charles, Arkansas,

7. Thomas B. Davis, President of the Rock Island Plow Company, was married to Appolonia Denkmann, while his brother, Samuel B. Davis, was married to Appolonia Weyerhaeuser. He was head of the Davis Waterpower Company, which had generators in Moline and Sears. He also was affiliated with the Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann Lumber Co.



8. A large granite pyramid decorates the **John Volk** lot. Mr. Volk, a pioneer contractor and builder in this area, owned and operated the Volk Lumber Company, a sash and door works. He also built over 400 depots for the Rock Island Railroad as well as numerous public and private buildings in and around the Rock Island area, including the Harms Hotel, Rock Island High School, and the Watchtower Inn. He was born in Germany and came to the U.S. at the age of 16 with his parents. He was known and respected as an excellent contractor and builder. He was also admired as a truly honest man whose word was as good as his bond.

9. There are three granite anvil-and-hammer monuments in the park. The one most evident from the front of the cemetery was erected to the memory of **William Tenges**, a blacksmith who maintained his shop just south of what is now the Milan bridge. He was a large man who furnished the skill and brawn most needed in those early days to keep the horses in shoes, the wagons on wheels and every other metal household thing in repair, and Tenges’ blacksmith shop was a popular stop in the community.

10. Toward the northwest corner of the cemetery is the lot of **Capt. A.J. Whitney**, a steamboat owner

and contractor with the U.S. Engineers, who hauled supplies and equipment up and down the Mississippi. As the story goes, he had his steamboat loaded up one weekend, when a storm came through, tearing the boat from its moorings. The boat drifted downstream toward the Crescent Bridge, and since the crew had no steam up, they could only drop anchor. The anchor dragged and finally caught, and was bent. Captain Whitney said later that the bent anchor “saved his bacon” that day, and the anchor now rests on his grave.

11. A story-telling headstone east of Whitney’s lot reads, “**William R. Little**, government trader with the Sac and Fox Indians. Adopted into the Iowa tribe 1886. His Indian name Chuck-a-Walk-a-See-Little-Fox. Founded Cushing Oklahoma 1892.”

12. Nearby is another anchor at the grave of **Capt. David M. Tipton**, a friend of Mark Twain and captain of the government snagboat, “Colonel Alexander Mackenzie.” He died in 1904 at the wheel of his boat in the middle of Lake Pepin. His crew found an anchor at the bottom of the harbor at Keokuk, brought it to Chippiannock and placed it near his grave.



13. Among the more unusual monuments is the 6’4”, 6-ton granite sphere on the lot of the **Dean Tyler Robinson** family. It has been said that the monument was on exhibit at the Columbian Exposition, where he purchased it and shipped it, at great expense, to Rock Island. The sphere is positioned on a large granite base, which weighs 6 tons.

14. Charles Buford was born in Kentucky and was the first man to bring thoroughbred cattle to Rock Island County. He was once president of the Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association in Kentucky. In Rock Island, he founded the Buford Plow Works, which later became the Rock Island Plow Company.

15. Ada Brackett Schwatka (1854-1930), granddaughter of James and Eliza Brackett of Rock Island (by way of Cherry Hill, New York) and niece of their youngest son, Albert, learned to love excitement. Albert, who had fought in the Indian wars, introduced Ada to his friend, Lt. Frederick Schwatka, a world-famous explorer returning from Alaska, and the two fell in love. They were married immediately at the vine-covered mansion on Eleventh Street, and Ada went with her husband on all the adventures that followed, save one. That was the day he died at age 43 in Portland, Oregon. Mrs. Schwatka, now determined to go on with the work they had done together, continued to travel on her own for another 40 years.

16. America’s first easy chair was invented by **C.C. Knell**, who owned a furniture store beneath the new Harper Theatre, which rose three stories above the ground-level stores. In addition to his store and furniture factory, he later took over the management of the theatre. He invented Knell’s recliner chair in 1883.

17. General William Hoffman was graduated from West Point in 1828. He fought in every major war until his death. During the Civil War, Gen. Hoffman was placed in charge of all Union prisoner of war camps and hospitals and was credited with bringing about whatever uniformity there was in the care of Civil War prisoners.



18. Col. John Buford was a friend of Andrew Jackson and presided at three or four national conventions in his time. He was born in Virginia in 1779. Two of his sons were major generals in the Civil War. One son, Major General John Buford, a cavalry general, chose the site of the battle of Gettysburg. His men fought and held their position there for three days until the Federal troops arrived.

His brother, Major General **Napoleon Bonapart Buford**, was a general on the western front. He is said to have bought the town of Rockport for his wife as an investment. They later renamed the town Andalusia. Though Napoleon Buford is buried here, his brother’s body rests at West Point. John

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was accorded the largest, and possibly the first, military funeral in Washington, D.C. , and a statue of him astride his horse, Grey Eagle, has been erected at Gettysburg.

19. Capt. John Wilson, born in 1781, came to Rock Island in 1831 from New Hampshire. In 1837 he purchased the local ferry business from Antoine LeClaire for the price of \$1,000 plus free rides for LeClaire. His fleet of barges and boats provided the only means of crossing the Mississippi, except when it was frozen, until the first bridge was finished in 1856. By whatever means were available at the time, thousands of covered wagons crossed here on their way to the West.

20. One of the most unusual monuments in the cemetery is on the double gravesite of **Eddie and Josie Dimick**, brother and sister, both of whom died on the same day of diphtheria, at the ages of five and nine. The family lived nearby, and when they visited the



children’s grave, the dog walked with them. After the first few visits, the dog took to visiting the cemetery alone early in the morning, and remaining at the grave until dark. When the dog died, the family placed a statue of him at the grave, in honor of his devotion.

21. The first black landowner in Rock Island was **William Morrison**, buried here. He was a member of John Buford’s Post 243, and joined the Army at the start of the Civil War in New Orleans. He mustered out in Rock Island. When it was over, he stayed on, bought a parcel of land, cleared it and built his house where it stands today, on 20th Ave., Rock Island. His wife, Cecilia Ann Morrison, organized the Second Baptist Church and died in the 1930’s.

22. The monument that decorates the Mansill lot consists of a polished red granite sphere set on a pyramid supported by four pillars, probably representing the four pillars of the universe. **Richard Mansill** came here with his parents from Staffordshire, England at the age of 20. At first, he worked as a miner in Coaltown. Then, employing thrift and imagination, he became involved in myriad interests, including a lumber yard and coal mines of his own.

He was also interested in countless matters concerning the natural sciences and was author of many books about the origin and workings of the universe. Though his plan to create a museum to house his many interesting finds as well as his written work could not be realized before his death, he was able to publish considerable material, including an annual almanac, *The Almanac of Planetary Meteorology*, which was published and circulated regularly throughout the U.S. and England for five years before his death. Mansill was known and respected throughout scientific circles.

Mr. Mansill died in 1903 at the age of 74, leaving a son, Tom. His wife, Julia Trekle Mansill, had preceded him in death 40 years before. Burials on this lot are under the monument, which itself is unusual.



23. Nearby is the resting place of **Col. George Davenport**, his wife **Margaret**, stepdaughter **Susan Lewis Goldsmith**, and his son **Bailey**. The Colonel, a veteran of the War of 1812, came to Rock Island May 10, 1816, and became an Indian trader. He was murdered in his home on what is now Arsenal Island on July 4, 1845, while his family was in Rock Island watching the holiday festivities.

Both he and his wife were buried close to his home, and the Indians erected a totem pole near his grave. Later, Bailey Davenport had their bodies moved to Chippiannock, where the monument and stone totem pole were erected.

Bailey, many times Mayor of Rock Island, was owner of most of Rock Island and of thousands of acres elsewhere. He also owned coal mines, stone quarries and banks, and was one of the many organizers of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. He died at his home, “Bailey’s castle”, a house of 40 rooms and a block of porches, January 10, 1890.



24. Across the drive from the Davenport lot is the grave of **Benjamin Dann Walsh**, a native of England and a graduate of Cambridge University. Together with his wife, he came to this country becoming, successively, a farmer, an editor of entomological journals, a Rock Island alderman, a lumber dealer and Illinois’ first state entomologist.

A familiar figure in Rock Island, “the bug man” was often seen with staff, net and dunce cap on which he pinned his specimens. While pursuing his science, he was run over by a locomotive and lost a foot. Mr. Walsh died of infection shortly thereafter, and his collection of 30,000 insects was sold to the State of Illinois and moved to Springfield. Later, it was moved to the Chicago Academy of Sciences for safekeeping. In 1871, the collection was destroyed in the Chicago Fire. Some 50 years after his death, the United States Entomologist declared that Walsh’s work was still authoritative and standard.

25. Minnie Potter was just 32 years old in 1898 when her husband John, publisher of the Rock Island Argus, died leaving her with three small children and a promising young newspaper to run. At his death she had vowed to carry on publishing the paper until the children were old enough to take over. And this she did. For 22 years she worked at it, finding the energy and determination necessary each day to keep the paper up to their early vision of excellence. Minnie Potter died in 1936, knowing that she had kept her promise to her husband, her children and herself.



26. Edward Burrall, Jr. came to Illinois from Connecticut to repair his faltering health. He had been born and educated in the East, but felt he needed some prairie life to counteract time spent at school and in his first job with an eastern banking house. His