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STORIES *in* STONE  
**NEW YORK**  
WRITTEN *and* PHOTOGRAPHED  
**BY DOUGLAS KEISTER**

**HERE IS A GUIDE** for those who call the New York City area home and for those who live vicariously through and have studied the lives of the residents of its beautiful cemeteries. In fascinating stories and images, Douglas Keister provides GPS coordinates for most gravesites and discusses cemetery symbols, funerary architecture, secret societies and clubs, the people (and their dogs).

STORIES  
*in* STONE  
**NEW YORK**  
A FIELD GUIDE  
*to* NEW YORK CITY AREA  
**CEMETERIES**  
& *their* RESIDENTS  
**DOUGLAS KEISTER**

KEISTER  
STORIES IN STONE  
NEW YORK

**COME ALONG ON A JOURNEY** through time and history that includes at least seventeen of the New York City area's most beloved resting places by an author and photographer who has garnered praise from around the world.

**THE BIG FOUR**

- Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn
- Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx
- Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla
- Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Sleepy Hollow

**MANHATTAN CHURCHYARDS & RESTING PLACES**

- The Holy Trinitys
- St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery
- St. Patrick's Cathedral Crypts
- Grant's Tomb

**HUMANE REMAINS**

- Hartsdale Pet Cemetery, Hartsdale

**ETERNAL EXCURSIONS**

- Calvary Cemetery, Woodside
- Cypress Hills Cemetery, Brooklyn
- Ferncliff Cemetery, Hartsdale
- Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne
- Moravian Cemetery, Staten Island
- St. Raymond's Old and New Cemeteries, Schuylerville

Travel/Regional



**DOUGLAS KEISTER** is based in Chico, California, and has authored more than thirty-five critically acclaimed books. He also writes and illustrates magazine articles and contributes photographs and essays to dozens of magazines, newspapers, books, calendars, posters, and greeting cards worldwide. His wealth of books on architecture has earned him the title, "America's most noted photographer of historic architecture." His book on cemetery symbolism, *Stories in the Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism*, has garnered a number of glowing reviews. *Sunset* magazine said, "Keister has done for cemetery exploration what Audubon did for birding." Keister also edited a book of his collection of glass plate negatives titled *Lincoln in Black and White: 1910-1925*. He has also authored additional cemetery guides titled *Forever Dixie* and *Forever L.A.*, dealing with the those areas and their residents as well. You can visit him on the web at [www.douglaskeister.com](http://www.douglaskeister.com).



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# The Green-Wood Cemetery

500 25th Street

Brooklyn, New York 11232

(718) 768-7300

[www.green-wood.com](http://www.green-wood.com)

Maps in office

40° 39' 29.23" N 73 59' 40.56" W (entrance gate)



The Green-Wood Cemetery (Gothic entrance gate)



The Green-Wood Chapel

In the first part of the nineteenth century, New York City was facing a looming burial crisis. The population was booming, available land was being gobbled up, and the tiny churchyards that were the traditional burying grounds for urban dwellers were full to bursting. What to do? Recognizing the problem, Brooklyn leader Henry Evelyn Pierrepont turned to another eastern seaboard city with a similar problem. In 1831, civic leaders in Boston established Mount Auburn Cemetery, America's first garden cemetery, in the suburb of Cambridge. Green-Wood would become the second. Mount Auburn's inspiration came from Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. Established in 1804, it was a response to the overcrowding of the city's burial grounds. Rather than simply create a larger burial ground, the founders of Père Lachaise wanted to create a bucolic park-like environment that encouraged people to linger and enjoy nature.

It didn't take long for Green-Wood Cemetery to become the premier cemetery in the New York metro area. By 1860, Green-Wood was attracting over 500,000 visitors a year and soon became America's second most popular tourist destination (Niagara Falls was number one). Green-Wood's 478 acres of glacial ponds, spectacular scenery, and notable residents are an American treasure, so much so that it was declared a National Historic Landmark in 2006. What the *New York Times* said in 1866 is still true for many New Yorkers today: "It is the ambition of the New Yorker to live upon Fifth Avenue, to take his airings in the [Central] Park, and to sleep with his fathers in Green-Wood."

## The Green-Wood Chapel

40° 39' 22.98" N 73° 59' 43.10" W

When Green-Wood was first laid out in the 1830s, a section of land named Chapel Hill was set aside for the erection of a chapel. But as the years ticked on, it was determined that a chapel wasn't necessary, and the Chapel Hill land was divvied up and sold as plots. However, at the dawn of the twentieth century, the cemetery's Board of Directors decided that the cemetery needed a proper chapel. Land was reclaimed from Arbor Water, a pond near the cemetery entrance, and the cemetery requested plans from some of the leading architectural firms. The cemetery awarded the construction contract to the firm of Warren and Wetmore. The firm had previously designed a number of signature buildings in New York, including the Commodore Hotel, the Yale Club, and the New York Yacht Club.

# Grant's Tomb

Riverside Drive at West 122 Street  
New York NY 10024

## Ulysses S. Grant

April 27, 1822–July 23, 1885

## Julia Grant

January 26, 1826–December 14, 1902

40° 48' 48.12" N 73° 57' 47.29" W

Grant's Tomb, officially called the General Grant National Memorial, is a mausoleum dedicated to General Ulysses S. Grant. How the largest mausoleum in North America got constructed for an esteemed Civil War general but a mediocre president (he was America's 18th) is an interesting tale. Ulysses S. Grant, born Hiram Ulysses Grant, in Point Pleasant, Ohio, entered the United States Military Academy at West Point when he was 17. Although he graduated in the middle of his class, he was noted as a fearless and expert horseman. He excelled at a number of military positions, and after leaving the military at age 32, didn't find civilian life to his liking. Grant reenlisted at the outbreak of the Civil War and was quickly advanced through the ranks because of his leadership qualities. He amassed a number of victories, and in 1864, he became Commanding General of the United States Army. Most importantly Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Grant in April 1865 at Appomattox, which ended the Civil War. Ulysses S. Grant became the Union's hero.

