

The Entombment and Burial of James Whitcomb Riley The Hoosier Poet

James Whitcomb Riley died at his home at 528 Lockerbie Street, July 22, 1916. Following a private funeral at the residence three days later, the Hoosier poet's remains were conveyed to Crown Hill Cemetery and placed in the Gothic Vault. Here they remained for nearly 16 months before final burial was made at the summit of the hill within the cemetery. Today this location is the most popular attraction at historic Crown Hill.

Pictured below is the burial permit on record at **Crown Hill Cemetery**. It gives the date of Mr. Riley's death as well as the date of his "proposed burial", or that day on which his body was received at the Gothic Vault (known today as the Gothic Chapel). In the upper right hand corner is written "Oct. 6, 1917". This is the date on which James Whitcomb Riley was removed from the temporary entombment and taken to his final resting place.

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PERMIT FOR REMOVAL AND BURIAL Oct 6 1917

No. 2851 County MARION Township CENTER City or Town INDIANAPOLIS

Decedent's full name James Whitcomb Riley Date of Death July 22 1916 Age 66

Cause of death Cerebral Effusion

Medical attendant C. B. Mc Gulloch

Place of death 528 Lockerbie St.

Proposed date of burial July 25 1916

Proposed place of burial Crown Hill

Undertaker Argenta & Bailey Address City

A Certificate of Death having been filed in my office in accordance with law, I hereby authorize the removal and burial of the body of said deceased person as stated above. In the case of death from a dangerous communicable disease, the burial must be conducted according to the rules of the State Board of Health. This permit to be delivered to sexton or person in charge of cemetery.

Dated July 25 1916 Health Officer or Deputy A. S. Morgan Address _____

(Sexton or person in charge of cemetery should preserve this Permit)



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