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.