CROWN HILL: HISTORY, SPIRIT, SANCTUARY

In celebration of Crown Hill’s 150th anniversary, the Crown Hill Heritage Foundation and the Indianapolis Historical Society Press published Crown Hill: History, Spirit, Sanctuary. In June 2014, it was named a Silver Award Winner in Foreword Reviews’ prestigious national Indie Book “Book of the Year” contest. Written by Douglas Missing, Marianne Tobias, Rebecca Dulan, and Anne Ryder, Crown Hill: History, Spirit, Sanctuary tells the story of our nation’s third-largest non-government cemetery from its founding in 1863, during the Civil War. It weaves together 150 years of Crown Hill history with local and state history, creating the context that allowed Crown Hill to become “the City on the Hill”—the final resting place of many of our pioneers, civic leaders, politicians, musicians, artists, automotive manufacturers and Indianapolis 500 notables, military and public safety heroes, and countless others.

This stunning 11˝ by 11˝ hardcover coffee table book includes nearly 400 species of 650 beautiful color photographs by Marty N. Davis and Rich Fields, featuring aerial scenes, Crown Hill’s natural beauty, statues, monuments, historical structures, and people.

Purchase your copy at the Crown Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery Office (700 W. 38th St). Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Order by mail using the downloadable order form on the Crown Hill Heritage Foundation website at CrownHillFoundation.org, or by phone at 317.920.4165. The cost is $40 per book, tax included, with an additional $10 shipping and handling fee for mailing.

For more information, please contact Marianne Randjelovic at 317.920.4165 or at development@CrownHill.org.

CROWN HILL CEMETERY BY THE NUMBERS

FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 25, 1863:
Crown Hill’s 565 acres include 25 miles of roads. Its more than 200,000 burials and entombments increase by approximately 1,200-1,500 a year, and include thousands moved from Greenwood, Indianapolis’ first city cemetery. More than 200 years of burial space remains.

TWO NATIONAL CEMETERIES: The first (pictured) has 2,000 Civil War Union soldiers. The second, the Confederate Ground, has 1,800 soldiers who died in 1861 and 1862. Of those, 5,800 are buried at Camp Morton. Other military sections include Section 28, the Field of Valor section and mausoleum, and the Garden of America mausoleum. Among the many thousands of military veterans buried here are the three Medal of Honor winners, the three Civil War Army Generals, and three Medal of Honor winners.

“THE CROWN”: Marion County’s Highest Hill, at 842 feet above sea level, offers a 360-degree panoramic view of the entire Indianapolis skyline. Marion County’s highest elevation is located on the northwest side. THE BRIDGE OF PUBLIC SAFETY MOURNERS: Inscribed on the walkway around this mausoleum are the names of 658 Indiana law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMS who died in the line of duty. Of those, 18 were buried under the supervision of Major Victor Grant. The Civil War soldiers, who died in 1862-1863, are buried at Crown Hill. PIONEER CEMETERY: 1,219 burials from three early Indianapolis cemeteries. Of the 130 moved from Greenwood who were not reinvented in family lots at Crown Hill, only 35 have been identified.

110 species of TREES tagged and thousands more inventoried; 58 PRIVATE FAMILY MAUSOLEUMS; and more than 100 SIGNS, including 30 AWARDS ROUND THE TRIP DISTANCE: From the Skimana Fountain inside the 1464-foot beautiful, peaceful oasis amidst a busy urban environment, with thousands of trees, rolling hills, a white-tailed deer herd, and numerous small marmorex and birds. Crown Hill Cemetery forms a 5 mile loop. Crown Hill is located 3-3/4 miles north of Monument Circle.

CROWN HILL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

It is the mission of the Crown Hill Heritage Foundation to restore the cemetery’s architectural landmarks for contemporary use and future appreciation; to preserve the great natural beauty of the cemetery; and to provide historical, educational programs, and special events for the thousands of students, families, and cultural tourists who visit historic Crown Hill Cemetery annually.

You can HELP SUPPORT THE MISSION of the Crown Hill Heritage Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, with a tax-deductible contribution. Please:

- Make a check payable to CHHF and mail it to the Foundation
- Donate online at CrownHill.org/donate.html
- Remember the Foundation in your will

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WELCOME TO CROWN HILL

We hope you enjoy your visit to the cemetery. Awarded Trip Advisor’s “Certificate of Excellence,” Crown Hill Cemetery is rated by visitors among the top 100 Indianapolis attractions and second of all cultural attractions. It’s the largest green space inside the I-465 beltway: a beautiful, peaceful oasis amidst a busy urban environment, with thousands of trees, rolling hills, white-tailed deer herd, and numerous small marmorex and birds.

We welcome all who wish to enjoy the history, beauty, and quiet solitude of this sacred place. Visitors can walk, run, bike, picnic, collect leaves, take a guided tour, or visit the many city skyline from “The Crown.” We welcome all who wish to enjoy one of our many events.

Crown Hill is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the burial site of such famous people as Pres. Benjamin Harrison, poet James Whitcomb Riley, Col. Eli Lilly, and the notorious bank robber John Dillinger. Also buried here are three U.S. Vice Presidents, 14 U.S. Senators, 11 Indiana Governors, pioneers, business and civic leaders, musicians, actors, artists, automotive manufacturers and Indianapolis 500 notables, military and public safety heroes, and countless others. The grounds include two National Cemeteries honoring thousands of Civil War Soldiers.

In 1993, the Crown Hill Funeral Home was established to offer the convenience of a full-service funeral home on the historic grounds of Crown Hill Cemetery. Since that time, it has served thousands of families, and has created a lasting legacy of remembering the lives they’ve touched.

We’re open 365 days a year, and we welcome your visit.