



2020

CROWN HILL WALKING TOUR  
OF INDIANAPOLIS'  
BICENTENNIAL NOTABLES



✦ **1. Alexander Ralston (1771-1827)** Born in Scotland, Ralston immigrated to the U.S. following the Revolutionary War. He served as personal assistant to Pierre L'Enfant in 1791 during his planning for Washington, D.C. Hired in 1820 to survey land for Indianapolis on a 4-mile plat of dense forest. Inspired by his work with L'Enfant, he designed a Mile Square plan consisting of a central circle with four radiating avenues bisecting a grid of streets. **Lot 30, Section 3 (Pictured)**

✦ **2. John Washington Love (1850-1880)** The artist's palette on the side of Love Family monument is a fitting tribute to this artist. He was the co-founder of the first professional art school in Indianapolis and Indiana. Unfortunately, death at age 30 from "congestion of the stomach" cut short what might have been a very noted career as a painter. **Lot 3, Section 3**

✦ **3. Richard J. Gatling, M.D. (1818-1903)** Doctor and prolific inventor best known for his invention of the Gatling gun in 1861, considered the first successful machine gun. He believed his invention would end all wars. **Lot 9, Section 3**

✦ **4. Hiram Bacon (1801-1881)** His farm included an area still called Bacon's Swamp, now a lake just west of Keystone between Kessler and 54th Street in the middle of a retirement community. According to some sources, he used his barn as a stop on the Underground Railroad. **Lot 43, Section 3**

✦ **5. Horatio Newcomb (1821-1882)** Indianapolis elected its first mayor in 1847, Samuel Henderson, who left town in 1849 in pursuit of California Gold. He was succeeded by Newcomb, elected to the first of two terms when he was just 27. Newcomb resigned early in his second term to pursue his law career, but held other local and state offices later. **Lot 46, Section 3**

✦ **6. Meredith Nicholson (1866-1947)** While half-heartedly pursuing careers in law and business, Nicholson found time to write a collection entitled "The Hoosiers," which met with such success that he was able to return to Indianapolis and build a fancy house at 1500 N. Delaware, now home to Indiana Humanities, where he continued to write novels and essays. **Lot 6, Section 4**

✦ **7. Sarah T. Bolton (1814-1893)** Bolton was considered Indiana's foremost female poet for many years and its unofficial poet laureate. Also known as the "Pioneer Poet Laureate." Her famous poem, "Paddle Your Own Canoe," is inscribed in the Indiana State Capitol building. **Lot 15, Section 5**

✦ **8. Herman Lieber (1832-1908)** German-born Lieber arrived in Indianapolis in 1854, starting a stationary and art supply business which helped launch the careers of some of Indiana's most famous artists. Highly respected at age 32, he was one of Crown Hill's





founders and a driving force behind what we now call The Athenaeum. **Lot 70, Section 5**

♣ **9. Thomas Sullivan (1846-1936)** – father, an Indianapolis Mayor (1890-1893). **Reginald Sullivan (1876-1980)** – son, an Indianapolis Mayor (1930-1935 & 1939-1943). Besides both father and son being mayors, the Sullivan’s have another tie to Indianapolis. It was Thomas’ grandfather, Jeremiah Sullivan, an Indiana Supreme Court Justice (and buried in Madison, IN), who is credited for the name “Indianapolis.” Thomas & Reginald are buried in **Lot 9, Section 12**.

♣ **10. William H. English (1822-1896)** Served as U.S. Representative (1853-1861) and was the unsuccessful Democrat Vice Pres. candidate in 1880. As a successful businessman, he built the English Hotel on Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis. **Lot 72, Section 1 – English Circle (Pictured)**

♣ **11. Hervey Bates (1795-1876)** After arriving in the new city in 1822, he was appointed the first Marion County Sheriff. In 1852 he built the Bates House Hotel, the first in town with indoor plumbing. Lincoln stayed there on his way to Washington D.C. after being elected president and gave a speech from the balcony. **Lot 1, Section 8**

♣ **12. James Ray (1800-1881)** Arriving in Indianapolis in October 1821, Ray served in many public and civic posts, often second in charge to James Blake. It was Ray who organized the effort that led to the founding of Crown Hill in 1863. **Lot 70, Section 1**

♣ **13. James Blake (1791-1870)** One of the city’s first citizens and very active in its civic life for five decades. According to one historian, “he was the Grand Old Man of Indianapolis and if ever a man deserved a statue to perpetuate the memory of his virtues and his usefulness, it was James Blake.” **Lot 69, Section 1**

♣ **14. Ovid Butler (1801-1881)** After leaving his law career in 1849, citing health reasons, Butler founded Northwestern Christian University, heading its board of directors from 1851 to 1871. It took the name Butler University in 1877, about the same time it moved to the Irvington area from its origins on land Butler owned near 14th & College. **Lot 14, Section 6**

♣ **15. Henry West (1796-1856)** Elected as 5th Mayor of Indianapolis in 1856 and died shortly after taking office. He also served on the school board. His legacy as a strong advocate for free public schools was established after it became a part of the 1851 State Constitution. **Lot 6, Section 6**



♣ **16. Morris Morris (1780-1864)**  
Morris moved to Indianapolis from Kentucky in 1821 because he no longer wanted to live in a slave state, and he gave up his law practice because “it interfered with the Christian Life.” The northern boundary of his Madison Avenue farm became Morris Street. His son Thomas built the first Union Railroad Station, among many other accomplishments. His son John was the original owner of the Morris-Butler house. **Lot 1, Section 6 (Pictured)**

♣ **17. Calvin Fletcher (1798-1866)**  
One of the giants of the city’s first 45 years, and having left an 9-volume diary, that period’s most detailed chronicler. He was instrumental in the establishment of Crown Hill, and the \$50,500 loan to purchase the land came from the bank of his brother, Stoughton Fletcher. **Lot 9, Section 7**

♣ **18. Samuel Merrill (1792-1855)** – father, and **Catharine Merrill (1824-1900)** – daughter. Samuel was State Treasurer when the capital moved from Corydon to Indianapolis. He brought the state’s funds via four horse-drawn wagons over 160 miles, a trip that took two weeks. His daughter Catharine made the trip with him as a baby, and was later appointed a professor of English at Butler University in 1869, the 2nd female professor in the U.S.  
**Lot 16, Section 7**

♣ **19. William Tinsley (1804-1885)** Architect born in Ireland and lived briefly in Indianapolis in the 1850s. While in Indiana he designed “various Mansions, Villas, Court Houses, Jails, and Churches,” but most notably Christ Church Cathedral on Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis. **Lot 43, Section 7**

♣ **20. George Lockerbie (1771-1856)** A native of Scotland, Lockerbie served as an early Indianapolis assessor and trustee. His name became a permanent part of the city when his daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Thomas McQuat, bought land a little east of downtown and eventually developed it into a neighborhood, naming one of the main streets after her father. **Lot 1, Section 13**





❖ **21. “Crown Hill Racing Legends” Historical Sign and the “Final Finish Line”**

The “Crown Hill Racing Legends” historical sign (2017) and the “Final Finish Line” yard of bricks (2018) were both installed as a result of a collaboration between Crown Hill Heritage Foundation and Indiana Racing Memorial Association (IRMA) to commemorate all four founders of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, as well as over 57 others related to the racing and the automotive industry that are buried at Crown Hill. This yard of bricks, using bricks from the same manufacturer and time period that the Brickyard was established, was installed in the road in front of Carl Fisher’s family mausoleum.

*By Section 13 (Pictured)*

- ❖ **22. Carl Fisher (1874-1939)** A visionary entrepreneur, Carl was the main force behind the creation of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and helped promote other innovations like headlights and paved roads to make the automobile more practical. One of the paved roads he promoted ended in Florida, where Carl was also developing Miami Beach. **Section 13, Lot 42, Fisher Family Mausoleum**

- ❖ **23. May Wright Sewall (1844-1920)** Nationally known for her work towards Women’s Suffrage, Sewall’s influence in Indianapolis includes founding The Indianapolis Propylaeum, the Art Association of Indianapolis (predecessor of the Indianapolis Museum of Art Newfields), and other organizations. **Lot 24, Section 13**

❖ **The Lilly Family**

**24. Col. Eli Lilly (1838-1898)** **Section 13 Lot 19, Lilly Family Mausoleum**

**Eli Lilly (1885-1977)** **Section 13 Lot 18, Lilly bronze angel**

**25. Josiah K. (J.K.) Lilly, Sr. (1861-1948)** **Section 14 Lot 18, Lilly Obelisk**

**26. Josiah K. (Joe) Lilly, Jr. (1893-1966)** **Section 14 Lot 9, Lilly Brinkmeyer Mon.**

After establishing a successful pharmaceutical company, Col. Eli turned the business over to his son J.K. with these words: “Take what you find here and make it better and better. No business worthwhile can be built upon anything but the best in everything.” J.K. in turn was succeeded by his two sons as the company continued to grow into not only one of the city’s biggest employers, but its largest benefactor. Three Lilly family members served on Crown Hill’s Board of Corporators.

- ❖ **27. Thomas Taggart (1856-1929)** Indianapolis Mayor (1895-1901), US Senator, 1916. As Mayor he purchased 900 acres along the White River to form Riverside Park. A monument to him there is currently being restored. In his later years he owned the French Lick Hotel and was a Hyannis Port, MA neighbor to Joseph Kennedy. **Lot 3, Section 30**



♣ **28. John Caven (1824-1905)** Indianapolis Mayor (1863-1867, elected by a margin of 2,889 to 8), and (1875-1881). Caven took leadership in securing schools for black children, a city library, bi-partisan election boards, and once stopped a labor riot by personally leading jobless workers to a bakery and buying them bread at his own expense. **Lot 46, Section 13**

♣ **29. Harrison Eiteljorg (1903-1997)** While developing and looking after mining interests in the West, Eiteljorg also collected the art of the region, enough to fill a museum. He created the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art in 1989. **Lot 8, Section 61 – on the Crown**

♣ **30. Clarence Kittle (1896-1991)** – father, and **James Kittle (1917-1998)** – son. Clarence Kittle opened a furniture store at 120 N. Penn. in 1932. His son James joined in 1945 and expanded upon it, with his sons, James Jr. and John, carrying on when he retired in 1979 to lead the Kittle Foundation. **Lot 6, Section 61 – on the Crown**

♣ **31. Thomas Binford (1924-1999)** The highlight of his first Indy 500 as a child was the fried chicken dropped down his back by a drunken woman behind him. In addition to a successful business career, he was President of USAC (1957-1970), and Chief Steward of the Indy 500 (1973-1995). The portion of Indiana H.W. 37 leading out of town to the NE was renamed “Binford Boulevard” in his honor. **Lot 26, Section 61 – on the Crown**

♣ **32. James Whitcomb Riley (1849-1916)**

The “Famous Hoosier Poet” was born in Greenfield, IN, then lived most of his life in Indy. With much acclaim, he performed his poetry on stage on the lecture circuit with Mark Twain. He donated \$75K for the construction of Central Library and over 35,000 passed by his coffin in the State Capitol. Riley Foundation & Children’s Hospital were started by his friends after he died.

**Lot 1, Section 61 – top of the Crown (Pictured)**



♣ **33. Robert Irsay (1924-1997)** After developing

a number of businesses, mostly in the Chicago area, he acquired the Baltimore Colts in 1972, moving them to Indy in March 1984 in fifteen Mayflower Moving Vans in the middle of the night. The then CEO of Mayflower, John B. Smith, is buried just up the hill and across the road from Irsay.

**Lot 5, Section 88**

♣ **34. Caleb Scudder (1795-1866)** A cabinet maker by trade, Scudder was the 3rd Mayor of Indianapolis, as noted on his headstone, serving from 1851-1854. **Lot 52, Section 22**



- 35. Benjamin Harrison (1833 – 1901)** U.S. Senator (1881-1887), 23rd U.S. President (1889-1893). Moved to Indianapolis shortly after being admitted to the bar in 1853, Harrison was asked by Gov. Morton to raise up a regiment of Civil War volunteers and lead trials against Southern sympathizers. Upon Morton's death in 1877, Harrison became the state's leading Republican, winning the U.S. Senate in 1881 and the Presidency in 1889. Wife, Caroline, was the first President General of the D.A.R.  
*Lot 57, Section 13 (Pictured)*



- 36. Booth Tarkington (1869- 1946)** Indianapolis-born Tarkington wrote successful novels for almost 50 years. Many of them, such as Pulitzer Prize-winning “The Magnificent Ambersons,” were given Indianapolis-like settings with themes of the transition from the days of horse-drawn carriages to the hustle and bustle of the automobile and the changes it brought to the landscape, including expanding the city north of 38th Street where he built a home at 4270 N. Meridian in 1924. *Lot 56, Section 13*

- 37. Daniel Glazier (1835-1873)** While trying to put out a major fire at the Woodburn Sarven Wheelworks near today’s main post office, Chief Fire Engineer Glazier led a small group of men inside the building. He was killed when a portion of the building collapsed, becoming the first Indianapolis fire fighter to die in the line of duty. His monument was not erected until March 2000. *Lot 30, Section 15*

- 38. Abraham Shortridge (1833-1919)** Shortridge served as Superintendent of Schools 1863-1874, establishing the city’s first high school a few blocks from Crown Hill, which was eventually named for him. He later served as president of Purdue University for two years. *Lot 74, Section 15*

- 39. Clemens Vonnegut (1824-1906)** A German immigrant, his name was synonymous with hardware in Indianapolis for over 100 years. In addition to his hardware store business success, he served on the school board for 27 years and was instrumental in the founding of Manual High School, the city’s 2nd high school. *Lot 52, Section 2*

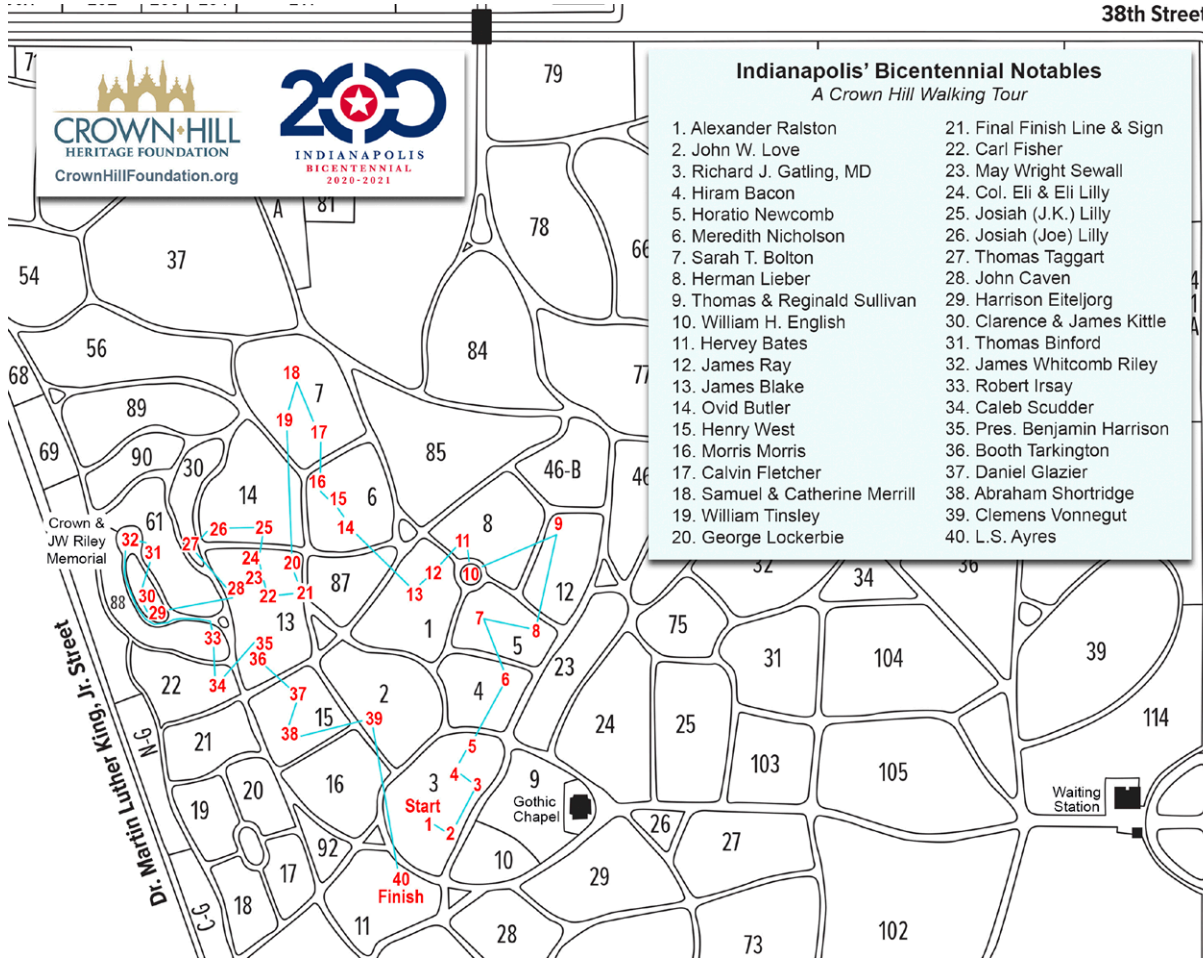
- 40. L.S. Ayres (1824-1896)** Already a success in the department store business, Ayres moved to town in 1874, growing his store of 30 employees to over 175 in his lifetime, but still knowing them all by name and giving them, and his customers, “the best department store in town” in which to work and shop. The famous Ayres “Tea Room” has been recreated in the Indiana State Museum. *Lot 19, Section 11*



### Indianapolis' Bicentennial Notables

*A Crown Hill Walking Tour*

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Alexander Ralston           | 21. Final Finish Line & Sign |
| 2. John W. Love                | 22. Carl Fisher              |
| 3. Richard J. Gatling, MD      | 23. May Wright Sewall        |
| 4. Hiram Bacon                 | 24. Col. Eli & Eli Lilly     |
| 5. Horatio Newcomb             | 25. Josiah (J.K.) Lilly      |
| 6. Meredith Nicholson          | 26. Josiah (Joe) Lilly       |
| 7. Sarah T. Bolton             | 27. Thomas Taggart           |
| 8. Herman Lieber               | 28. John Caven               |
| 9. Thomas & Reginald Sullivan  | 29. Harrison Eiteljorg       |
| 10. William H. English         | 30. Clarence & James Kittle  |
| 11. Hervey Bates               | 31. Thomas Binford           |
| 12. James Ray                  | 32. James Whitcomb Riley     |
| 13. James Blake                | 33. Robert Irsay             |
| 14. Ovid Butler                | 34. Caleb Scudder            |
| 15. Henry West                 | 35. Pres. Benjamin Harrison  |
| 16. Morris Morris              | 36. Booth Tarkington         |
| 17. Calvin Fletcher            | 37. Daniel Glazier           |
| 18. Samuel & Catherine Merrill | 38. Abraham Shortridge       |
| 19. William Tinsley            | 39. Clemens Vonnegut         |
| 20. George Lockerbie           | 40. L.S. Ayres               |



Crown & JW Riley Memorial

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street

Gothic Chapel

Waiting Station





Visitors have consistently rated Crown Hill  
in the **Top 10** of all Indianapolis attractions!

**“BEST WALKING TOURS”**

As voted by  
*Indianapolis Monthly* Magazine

**“TERRIFIC TOUR”**

As featured in  
*Midwest Living* Magazine



Crown Hill Heritage Foundation  
700 W. 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208  
(317) 920-4165  
[CrownHillFoundation.org](http://CrownHillFoundation.org)

