

Notable Women of Early Des Moines

Woodland Cemetery Tour

Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Woodland Cemetery
and the 100th Anniversary of Hoyt Sherman Place Auditorium

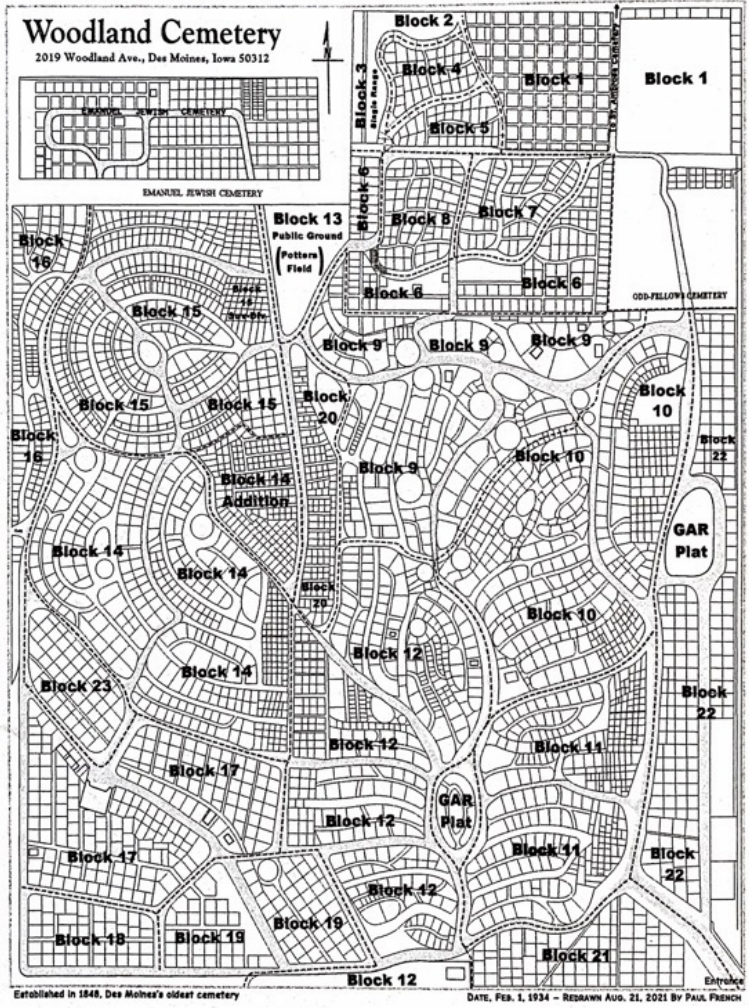




Woodland Cemetery 175 years

- Opened in 1848, two years after Iowa became a state
- The first “garden cemetery” in Des Moines
- Built on the outskirts of town
- Four acres were donated by four separate farmers
- The graves and monuments were placed before the roads and the curbs were built in 1938 by the W.P.A.
- The first walking tours of Woodland were created and lead by Gerald LaBlanc
- Recently a project by Kristine Bartley has created QR codes which point to memorial videos about various people buried in the cemetery.

Emanuel Cemetery



St. Ambrose Cemetery

Tree Stump Markers – Woodsmen of the World





Frances Elizabeth Cooper Hubbell 1840-1924

- Suffragist and Club Woman
- Entertained the national suffrage conference at Terrace Hill.
- Block 22 Lot 79



National Woman's Suffrage convention in Des Moines – speakers, reception in August 1897 just twelve years after the 1885 National Women's Congress in Des Moines and the formation of the Des Moines Women's Club.

THE DES MOINES LEADER: WEDNESDAY 1

FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

(Continued from First Page.)

court of the United States in the cases of Mrs. Myra Bradwell for the protection of her civil rights, and of Mrs. Virginia L. Minor for the protection of her political rights, and the decision of the supreme court of the state of New York on the law giving women the right to vote for county school commissioners, and various other decisions—he will find that in every case the courts have put the narrowest possible construction upon the spirit of the letter of the constitution. Whereas, the judges of Idaho did themselves the honor to make a decision in direct opposition to judicial precedent and prejudice. So the Idaho victory is a great credit, not only to the majority of men who voted for the amendment, but to the three judges

its waters flow on unceasingly and forever." She spoke of Miss Anthony's advanced years and the strain to which she must have been subjected.

Here Miss Anthony arose to interject that every one of the campaigners brought more avoirdupois from over the mountains than she took out, at which there was a burst of laughter.

A hundred and ninety meetings were held in less than three months, continued Mrs. Hay, and good planks were inserted in the platforms of most of the parties.

At the conclusion of Mrs. Hay's address, Mrs. Shaw announced that a collection would be taken. The meeting was being held in a church, and it was not desired to depart too far from the usages of the place. A number of ladies passed baskets, and the contribution, which was taken in the midst of an era of especial good feeling, was liberal.

Mrs. Bradford on Colorado.

Mrs. Mary C. C. Bradford of Denver

he referred to his wife and daughter. "As I sat there in the audience by the side of my companion in life, whom I consider in every respect the equal of myself, and saw my daughter speaking to you from the platform, I confess that my heart grew tender and the tears came to my eyes."

Here the recollection of his emotions of a few moments before almost overcame the senator, and the floodgates were with difficulty saved from breaking. He winked away the lachrymal evidence of his feeling, shook his head till the uncertainty in his voice was overcome, and continued:

"Your president has said I would bring you news from the capitol. I am sorry to say I have nothing of importance to tell you." Here the good senator again almost succumbed at the feeling of humiliation at being compelled, as the chosen representative of the legislature, to make no more encouraging report. But he recovered in a moment, and extended the assurance that that hope, which springs eternal

with a sigh of relief, when it was announced to her that the reception committee could disband. She said she believed she had shaken hands with 300 people. When reminded that such was the penalty of fame, she exclaimed that it was not often that the suffragists were given opportunities similar to the one offered that evening. But we are progressing, she said with a laugh. It was only last year at a state convention that a newspaper account made the statement, she said, that suffragists were becoming not only popular, but quite the fashion. This she said, never in the wildest imaginings had they hoped for.

The guests disbanded shortly after 10 o'clock. The occasion was a most happy one, affording all the delegates and others attending the convention to meet with each other, and, at the same time, partake of Des Moines' best hospitality.

THE FORENOON SESSION.

•Minnie Christina Elizabeth Lawson Fleur

- 1880-1930
- Block 22 Lot 170
- Raised Money for the gold star monument
- One of the first female elected officials:
- Polk County Recorder from her election in 1922 until she died in 1930.



Orphans' Memorial

Block 11

Home for Friendless Children

Orchard Place



Annie Nowlin Savery 1831-1891

- Pioneer Women's Suffragist from 1860s
- Was ostracized by the suffrage movement
- For defending the right of free speech and Mary Wolstoncraft.
- Helped found the public library and the first Public hospital in DSM.
- One of the first two women to graduate from the U of Ia College of Law
- Block 21 Lot 25





Martha Coonley Callanan 1828-1901

Took over Annie Savery's role after controversy

Important Iowa Activist – buried in New York

Woman suffrage advocate, newspaper publisher, and philanthropist

Wife of a well-known local Doctor, James Callanan

Callanan Middle School

- Founded Des Moines Home for the Aged
- Second President of Des Moines Women's Club
- Helped organize and Four term President of the Iowa
- Woman Suffrage Association
- Launched the Women's Standard, a monthly spokes piece for that organization
- WCTU Activist
- One of the founders of the Benedict Home

Died of injuries in a carriage accident. Left bequests to the home for the aged, Tuskegee Institute, WCTU and the Women's Standard

JAMES CALLANAN
NOV. 12 1818
SEP. 26 1904

MARTHA COONLEY CALLANAN
MAY 18 1828
AUG. 16 1901



A women's suffrage delegation meets in the Martha Callahan home at Twenty-eighth and Woodland in the late nineteenth century.

(Paul Ashby Collection, Iowa State Historical Department)

Infants' markers

- There are 536 babies buried on the south edge of the cemetery
- Markers were Funded by Gerold LaBlanc and the Abigail Adams Chapter of the DAR
- Baby Frank Law was “found” by his family when the graves were marked.



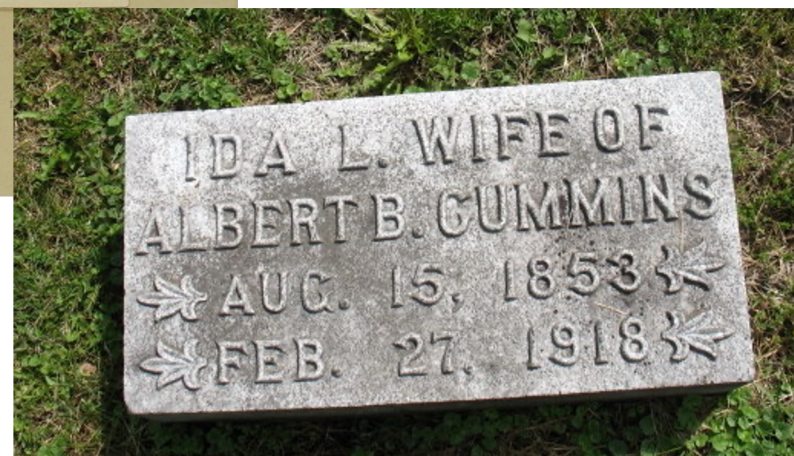


Ida Cummins 1853-1918

Suffragist, Club Woman

Block 19 Lot 57

Wife of Albert Baird Cummins, Iowa
governor who supported suffrage



- Cora Cummins 1858-1948
- Block 19 Lot 57
- Sister-in-law of Ida Cummins



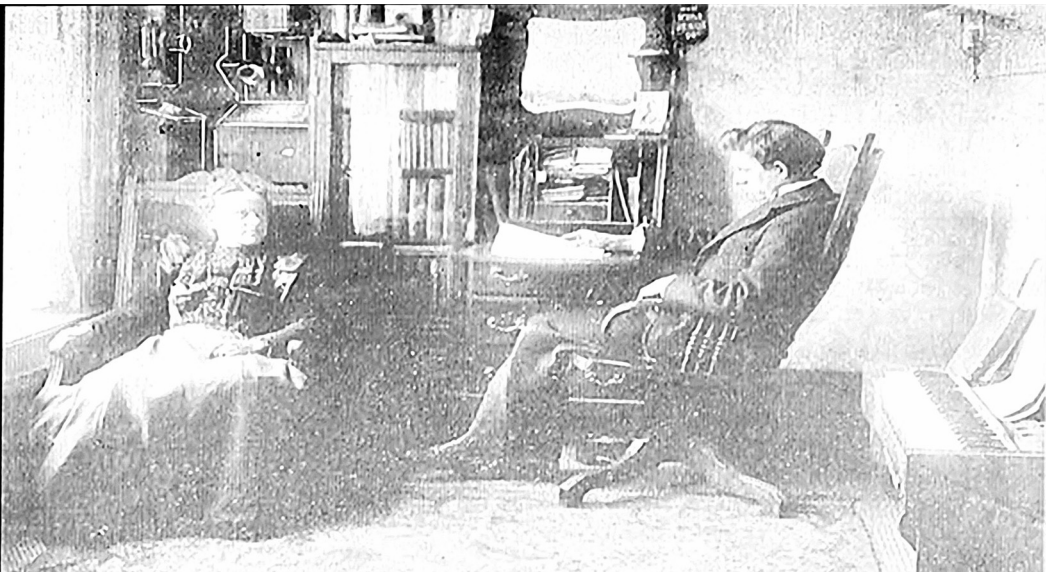


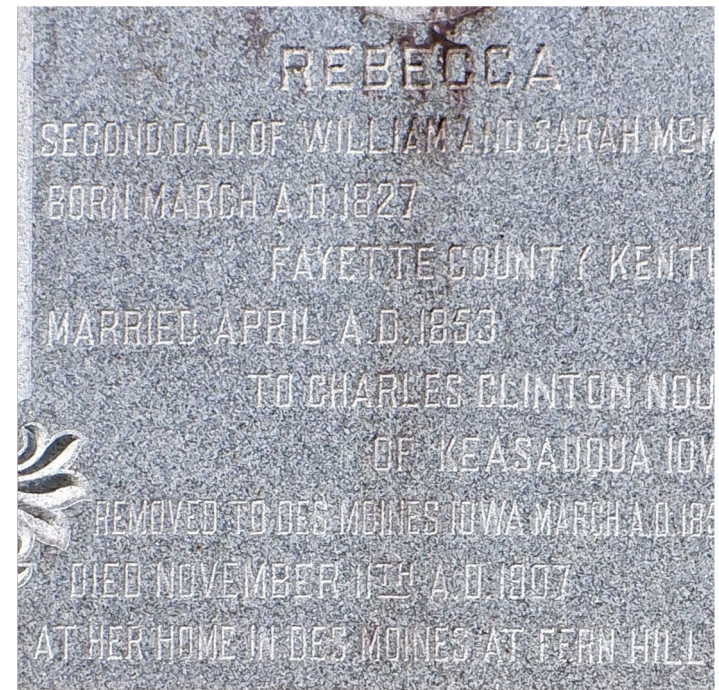
- **Grace Cramer 1872-1924**

- With Frank founded and ran Sunbeam Rescue Mission in

- Downtown Des Moines from 1893-1906

- Block 19 Lot 71





Rebecca Nourse 1827-1907

Charter member DMWC and attended women's conference
Honored as a charter member of the Political Equity Club in a
1905 event
Block 17 Lot 55

Delia Ann Webster 1817-1904

Block 19 Lot 1

Abolitionist – First woman in the US to be jailed as a conductor on the underground railroad in Ohio
Moved to Iowa at age 83 to live with her niece.



Delia Webster (front left) and her sisters



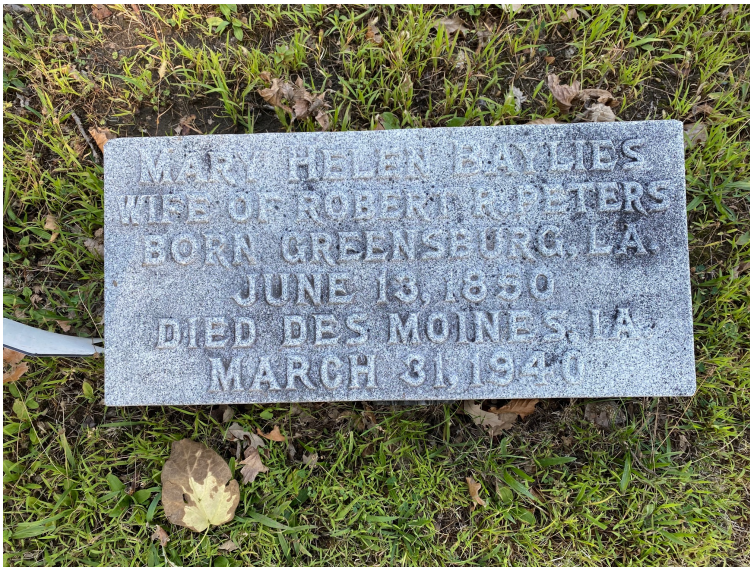
Mary Orwig 1839-1907 Block 18 Lot 21

- Nationally known Suffragist and friend of Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Charter Member of DSM Women's Club
- Marker has civil war canons and veteran marker
- Member of the Women's Relief Corp of the Grand Army of the Republic
- WCTU, Home for the Aged, Active Methodist



Mary Helen Baylies Peters 1850-1907 Block 18 Lot 4

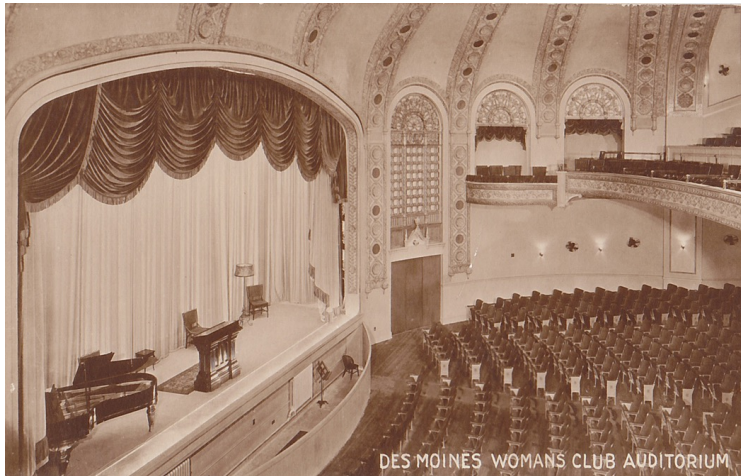
- Early president of Women's Club,
- Founder of Abigail Adams DAR Chapter
- Trolley Car fundraiser to save the Home for the Aged
- First woman appointed to the public library board
- Genealogist





•Alice Carey Wilson Weitz 1871-1957

- Journalist and Club Woman
- One of the first female journalists in Des Moines
- Married to Frederick W. Weitz, builder
- President of Des Moines Women's Club when the auditorium was built in 1922/23
- A Founder of the Des Moines Federation of Women's Clubs
- Block 17 Lot 71



Sarah A. Graham Palmer Young "Aunt Becky" Block 17 Lot 134



"AUNT BECKY" YOUNG, Army Nurse
ENLISTED JUNE, 1862, AT ITHACA, N. Y. IN THE 109TH N. Y.
INFANTRY.
Died April 6, 1908, buried in Woodland Cemetery, Des Moines, Iowa.
She was a charter member of Kingsman Corps No. 24, and a past
president of Joe Hooker Corps. In 1880 she transferred to Crocker
Woman's Relief Corps No. 27. She served as Department Chaplain for
eight years.
"The memory of this true patriot will ever be revered."



- Calista Halsey Patchin 1849-1920
- First female reporter for the Washington Post
- Wrote a novel, *Two of Us* in 1879 “about a young independent woman who finds her way working in wood”
- Well known artist and journalist, was influential in the development of the art collection
- Block 17 Lot 135.

Washington, D.C., 1878...

