

# ANGELS & CHERUBS

*A Self-Guided Walk of Mount Auburn Cemetery*

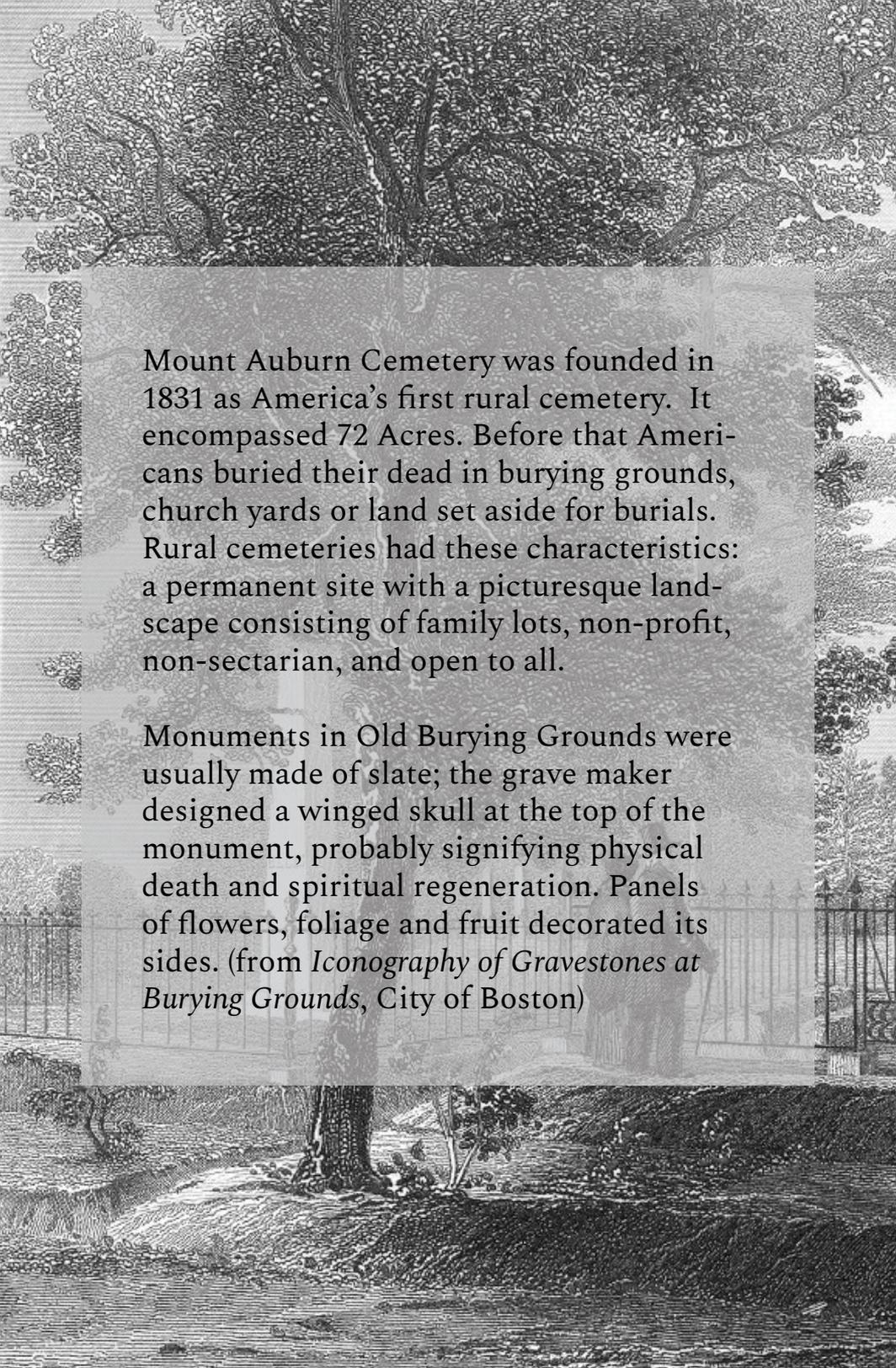
FRIENDS OF  
MOUNT AUBURN

ALAKAKAKA



2021

MY BELOVED DAUGHTER  
MARIA.



Mount Auburn Cemetery was founded in 1831 as America's first rural cemetery. It encompassed 72 Acres. Before that Americans buried their dead in burying grounds, church yards or land set aside for burials. Rural cemeteries had these characteristics: a permanent site with a picturesque landscape consisting of family lots, non-profit, non-sectarian, and open to all.

Monuments in Old Burying Grounds were usually made of slate; the grave maker designed a winged skull at the top of the monument, probably signifying physical death and spiritual regeneration. Panels of flowers, foliage and fruit decorated its sides. (from *Iconography of Gravestones at Burying Grounds, City of Boston*)



**The Brown Lot**  
**#787 Cypress Avenue**

This image is an example of a Colonial Revival (1870-1940) headstone in Mount Auburn Cemetery. The marker honors the lives of Henry Howard Brown (1851-908) and Hannah Bangs Thayer (1849-1941). It is from the company of John Evans and takes as its template a 1690 gravestone in Portsmouth, N.H. Two angels across the top of the monument hold a winged hourglass symbolizing fleeting time. Down each side are florets. The stone is slate.



*Another Colonial Revival  
Monument to Explore*

**Lowell Lot**

**#323 Fountain Avenue**

This monument is the headstone for James Russell Lowell (1819-1891) and family Lot. Notice the winged skull, whereas the image on the Brown Lot is of an angel.



**Williams Lot  
#1697 Spruce Avenue**

Joseph Watson (1792-1831) is buried here. The monument was placed by his sister, Elizabeth Williams (1784-1851), erected in grateful remembrance. The monument is neo-classical, a geometric design and noted for its architectural structure. In the arch notice the bas-relief, a winged death's head as found on gravestones in Old Burying Grounds, found here as a cherub. The stone was carved by Joseph Carew, a skilled monument maker in mid-19th Century, Boston.



## Full-Bodied Angels

Three-dimensional full-bodied angels appear after 1850. Their emphasis, consolation, rather than the earlier representative commemoration stone (Note B. Watson monument on previous page). Eight types of angels appear in cemeteries of this era, with a purpose to comfort the bereaved.

- Some point to heaven.
- Others pray.
- Some bear souls heavenward.
- Others adorn and watch over gravesites.
- Some record in the Book of Life.
- Others hold trumpets, signaling resurrection.
- And all convey messages about the fate of the human soul after death-- namely, resurrection.

(from *Embodying Immortality: Angels in America's Rural Cemeteries 1850-1900* by Elisabeth Roark.)



**Copenhagen Lot  
#3733 Sycamore Avenue**



This three-dimensional marble monument commemorates the life of Maria Copenhagen who died at age 30. Her mother commissioned prominent sculptor, Martin Milmore, who created it in his studio in Rome in 1872. The figure is six feet tall, delicately draped, and has wings. The wings signify angels can travel between earth and the beyond. The face is Maria's. The sculpture is titled Angel of Resurrection. One hand points heavenward telling us Maria's spirit is already in heaven; the other points downward and holds a trumpet to be sounded on Resurrection Day. The pedestal is inscribed My beloved daughter, Maria.

**Holbrook Lot**  
**#2697 Central Avenue**

This is another three-dimensional full-bodied figure, an angel who points heavenward. Whereas Copenhagen, just seen, and Chickering, next stop, were commissions to well-known artists, Holbrook is a stock angel. Stock angels carved by Italian stone carvers were sold by American monument companies. The practice boomed in the late 19th Century. Holbrook's angel message is clear. Non-verbally it says, "do not look here, these souls are in heaven."

*Other Monuments to Explore*

**Hurlbert Lot**  
**#135 Willow Avenue East**

Two angels in a bas-relief bear a woman heavenward. (right)

**Knox Lot**  
**#295 Poplar Avenue**

A full-bodied angel records in The Book of Life.

**Donaldson Lot**  
**#1267 Pilgrim Path**

A full-bodied guardian angel prays in an intercessory role.



**Chickering Lot  
#2282 Magnolia Avenue**



This exquisite monument was sculptured by Thomas Ball who also sculptured the George Washington equestrian monument in Boston Public Garden. The sculpture is to the memory of Jonas Chickering, renowned manufacturer of the Chickering piano. The monument was made in the artist's studio in Florence where the artist resided. It was brought to America and installed in the cemetery in 1869. Ball titled the monument the Realization of Faith. It is filled with symbols of life and death. The young Angel of Death lifts the veil from the eyes of Faith. The young angel holds two torches which point downward, a symbol of death. In the marble base the muse of music holds a laurel wreath, a symbol of everlasting life and a lyre with two broken strings. Chickering was a president of the Handel and Haydn Society. Ball mentored artists Martin Milmore and Daniel Chester French.

**Nevins Lot**  
**#4659 Eagle Avenue**

Another monument of a well-known artist is that on the Nevins lot. It was commissioned by Julia Nevins to commemorate Henry Nevins' life (1843-1892). Augustus St. Gaudens, noted artist of the day, along with his friend, Stanford White, an architect, collaborated on a monument that was more architectural, than sculptural. Two impish angels stand on either side of a palm decorated slab. The palm symbolizes eternal peace and spiritual victory. Perpetual care instructions provide the lot be decorated with changing seasonal flowers. The inscription from Song of Songs reads "until the day breaks and the shadows flee away", a message of a deep love.

*Another Monument to Explore*

**Sears Lot #6009 Opal Path**  
The monument is by Bela Pratt who was also the head of the sculpture department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Pratt was mentored by St. Gaudens.



**Thomas Lot  
#6150 Spruce Avenue**

Mount Auburn is dotted with Celtic Crosses. In the 19th and 20th Centuries there was a Celtic Cross revival attributed to the renewed interest in Celtic culture. The Celtic Cross on this lot was designed by the John Evans Company in 1905. It celebrates the life of Theodore Thomas, esteemed Chicago Symphony Orchestra director, and commissioned by Mrs. Rose Fay Thomas, his wife. Notice the stylized praying angels in the capstone.

*Another Celtic Cross Monument  
to Explore*

**Roberts Lot #5945 Mist Path**  
This cross is a reproduction of an 8th century Saxon cross. Notice the angels with scepters and trumpets.



**Blanchard Lot**  
**#1896 Spruce Avenue**

This exquisitely carved sarcophagus remembering John Adams Blanchard (1842-1885) and his son, George who died in 1873 at 16 months, was carved by monument maker, L. Costoli of Florence Italy. The monument is edged with four cherubs, each with differing expressions.

*Other Monuments to Explore  
that Remember the Life of a  
Child*

**Meyer Lot #1375 Fir Avenue**

This monument remembers Maude age 6, and Leon age 3, Meyer. An angel sits atop the monument guarding them.

**Noll Lot**

**#2598 Walnut Avenue**

This monument remembers seven young children in the Noll family who died between 1856 and 1884. (Middle)

**Mudge Lot**

**#3144 Lawn Avenue**

This monument remembers Ernest Mudge, died 1871, 4 years five months. (R)





## Bigelow Chapel North Window (Chancel)

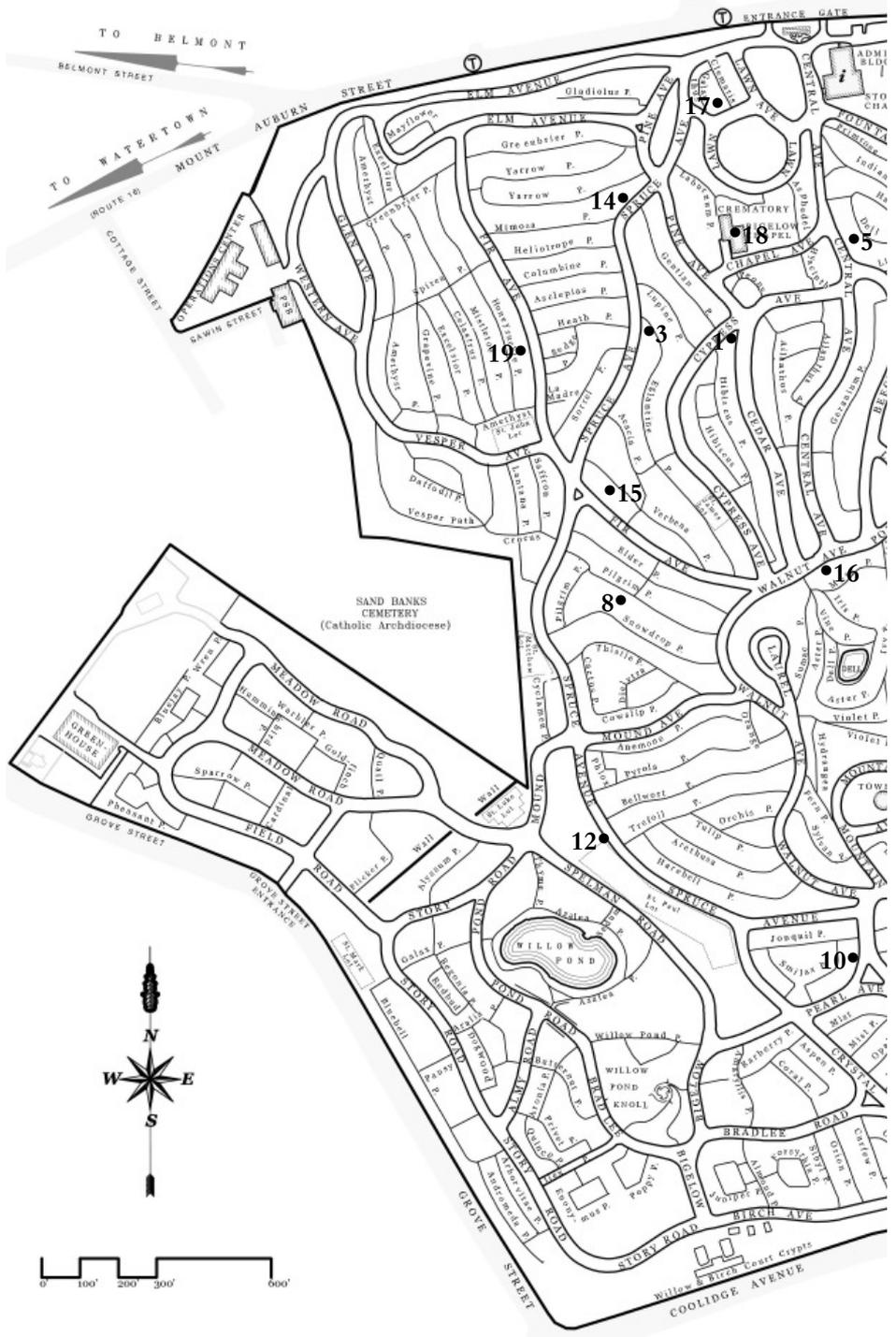
Step up three front steps to the Chapel and peek through the thick wood and glass doors. In the North Window of the chapel is a stained-glass image commissioned by Mount Auburn Cemetery in 1846, inspired in design by Jacob Bigelow and built by Ballantine and Allan of Edinburgh. An angel, poppies in her hair (symbol of rest, sleep, peace) carries two infants, Sleep and Death, heavenward. The design is from a bas-relief by Bertel Thorvaldsen and is called Night. *Bigelow Chapel is not currently open to the public*

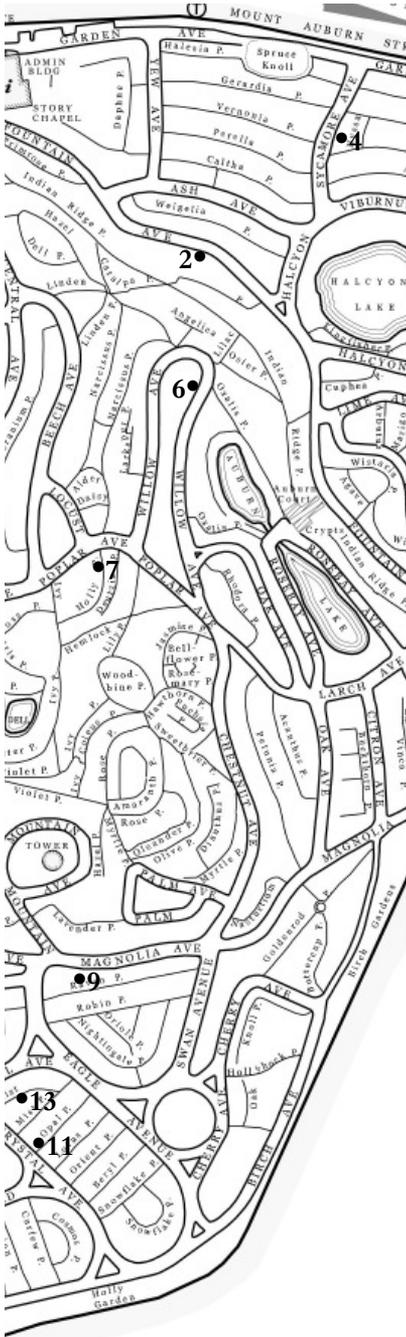


*Another Monument to Explore*

## Poor Lot #1012 Fir Avenue

This monument design is from Thorvaldsen's bas-relief, Day, a companion piece to his Night.





## List of Angels & Locations

1. Brown Lot # 787 Cypress Avenue
2. Lowell Lot #323 Fountain Avenue
3. Williams Lot #1697 Spruce Avenue
4. Copenhagen Lot #3733 Sycamore Avenue
5. Holbrook Lot #2697 Central Avenue
6. Hurlbert Lot #135 Willow Avenue East
7. Knox Lot #295 Poplar Avenue
8. Donaldson Lot #1267 Pilgrim Path
9. Chickering Lot #2282 Magnolia Avenue
10. Nevins Lot #4659 Eagle Avenue
11. Sears Lot #6009 Opal Path
12. Thomas Lot #6150 Spruce Avenue
13. Roberts Lot #5945 Mist Path
14. Blanchard Lot #1896 Spruce Avenue
15. Meyer Lot #1375 Fir Avenue
16. Noll Lot #2598 Walnut Avenue
17. Mudge Lot #3144 Lawn Avenue
18. Bigelow Chapel Chancel Window
19. Poor Lot #1012 Fir Avenue

For directions to graves:

<https://mountauburn.org/mobile-app>

FRIENDS  
OF  
MOUNT  
AUBURN

Since its founding in 1831, Mount Auburn Cemetery has retained its original purpose of being a natural setting for the commemoration of the dead and for the comfort and inspiration of the bereaved and the general public. Its grounds offer a place for reflection and for observation of nature — trees, shrubs, flowering plants, ponds, gentle hills, and birds both resident and migrant. Visitors come to study our national heritage by visiting the graves of noted Americans and enjoying the great variety of monuments and memorials. Mount Auburn Cemetery began the “rural” cemetery movement out of which grew America’s public parks. Its beauty and historic associations make it an internationally renowned landscape. Designated a National Historic Landmark, Mount Auburn remains an active, nonsectarian cemetery offering a wide variety of interment and memorialization options.

This Self-Guided Walk written by Rev. Rosemarie Smurzynski is intended for the stroller interested in spotting and learning about angels in Mount Auburn Cemetery. Smurzynski has led angel walks in this cemetery, yearly since 2011. Her work is inspired by Janet Heywood, retired Vice President of Interpretive Programs, in the angel walks Heywood gave between 1995-2005. Heywood began those walks as a way “to go into the gravitas of these go-betweens.”

t: 617-547-7105 | f: 617-876-4405

[www.mountauburn.org](http://www.mountauburn.org)

[friends@mountauburn.org](mailto:friends@mountauburn.org)

The Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery is a nonprofit charitable trust promoting the appreciation and preservation of the cultural, historic and natural resources of America’s first landscaped cemetery, founded in 1831.  
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