

Sources:

Rockford Cemetery Association, 1910, Charters of 1845 and 1852, By-laws and Rules and an Historical Sketch.

Church, Charles A. 1877. *The History of Winnebago County, Ill. Its Past and Present*. H.F. Kett and Co.: Chicago, IL.

Biographies courtesy of the Rockford Historical Society
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MANY THANKS TO:

Rockford Cemetery Association
Rockford Historical Society
Midway Village Museum
Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum

Henry Lord Gay, Chicago architect and designer of the Greenwood Cemetery Chapel, Anna P. Sill's monument and the Winnebago County court house.



Photo Courtesy of Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum



Heritage is enriched by the lives and deeds of the men and women who have preceded us. The Trustees of Greenwood Cemetery are dedicated to enhancing the beauty and preserving the heritage of Greenwood Cemetery. If the staff or trustees can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact them.

CEMETERY • CHAPEL • CREMATORY
GREENWOOD
CEMETERY

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HISTORY OF GREENWOOD CEMETERY

Greenwood Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Rockford. It began in 1844 as a site along Kent Creek, located on the land now occupied by Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum's Railroad Garden and the railroad yards. The cemetery trustees were prominent citizens; John Taylor, Richard Montague, Cyrus Miller, and Benjamin Kilburn. Mrs. Montague was the first person interred in the new cemetery.

In 1852, the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad bought the land to build a railroad yard in Rockford. The trustees needed to move the cemetery to a new location.

May 1852, the cemetery trustees bought a 33 acre tract for \$1200 on the corner of North Main and Auburn Streets. Over time, the cemetery grew to its current size of over 100 acres. David Alling was hired to move 175 bodies to the new cemetery.

The distinctive chapel, designed by Chicago architect Henry Lord Gay, was built in 1891. Gay had also designed the Winnebago County Court House in 1877. After the Court House was demolished in 1967, the bronze statue of the civil war soldier was relocated to the southwest corner of Greenwood Cemetery (at the corner of North Main and Auburn Streets).

In 1921, the cemetery's name was changed from West Rockford Cemetery to Greenwood Cemetery. Veterans of every war (except the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan) are interred in Greenwood Cemetery, including one Revolutionary War veteran and 529 Civil War veterans.

Cover Photo: Greenwood Chapel, built in 1891. Photo courtesy of Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum.

The individuals are listed by the cemetery section where they are located.
See the map on pages 6 & 7.

SECTION 1

John Pells Manny – (1823-1897) Born in Amsterdam, New York in 1823, he came west with his parents. In 1854, he began making knife blades for his cousin John Henry Manny's reaper company. John Pells had a special tempering process that resulted in superior blades.

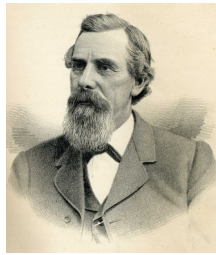
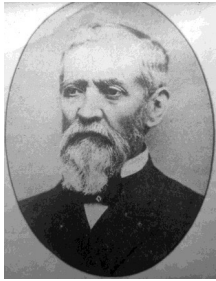


Photo from Church, 1877, History of Winnebago County.



SECTION 2

Goodyear Asa Sanford – (1816-1894) Born in Hamden, Connecticut, he was a farmer until he moved to Alton, IL in 1836. In the following year, he moved to Rockford and engaged in the mercantile business. Sanford soon became interested in local politics and he was appointed Deputy Sheriff in 1838, serving until 1842. In 1873, a new bank was organized as the Rockford Savings Bank, naming Goodyear Sanford as its president.

Photo Courtesy of Rockford Historical Society



SECTION 3

Julia Lathrop – (1858-1932) Born in Rockford, she went on to become one of the most famous women in the Rockford community. She attended the Rockford Female Seminary and then Vassar. After her education at Vassar in 1880, she worked as a secretary and later joined her Female Seminary friend Jane Addams at Hull House in Chicago. In 1893, she became a member of the State Board of Charities and

in 1912, was appointed by President Taft to be the first Chief of the Children's Bureau.

Julia Lathrop (right) and a sister

Photo Courtesy of Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum & Gardens

William A. Knowlton – (1831-1892) He worked with John H. Manny in the Manny Reaper Company during the 1800s. After Manny's death, Knowlton became the business agent for Mrs. Manny and was in charge of the reaper company. He also invented the Knowlton Mower/Reaper and the Knowlton's Cultivator.



Photo Courtesy of Rockford Historical Society

SECTION 53

Hiram Buckbee – (1860-1921) Born in Rockford, he started selling plants at age 11. His business grew and became the Buckbee seed and plant business.

Between sections 53 & 54 – upper left of the circle

Harry & Della Burpee – (1861-1947), (1861-1937) Harry, an undertaker, and his wife Della traveled through Europe visiting museums. They wanted to start an Arts and Sciences museum in Rockford to provide children with cultural experiences without traveling abroad. In 1935, they purchased the Thomas Nelson mansion to hold their collections.

SECTION 46

E. Kenneth Todd – (1894-1969) He came to Rockford in 1923 as a newspaperman. Todd became General Manager of the *Register Republic* and *Morning Star*. After retirement in 1967, he served the Rockford community in many capacities.

Seth B. Atwood – (1886-1980) He was the son of one of the first pioneer families to settle in Rockford. He served as a Rockford Park District commissioner 1928-1960; President, 1942-1960. He was a moving force in Rockford's manufacturing industries.

SECTION 60

George S. Roper – (1832-1897) He was the founder of the George D. Roper Corporation. He was a Major in the Civil War, an entrepreneur, lumber company owner, insurance salesman and executive, and an inventor of healing equipment. He diversified his business early. The Roper Corporation grew from making stoves to a great variety of household products. Buried at Greenwood Cemetery are all of the Roper Corporation Presidents up to 1958. They are Major George S., George D. Roper (1855-1925), Mabon (1892-1942), and George D. (1922-1958).

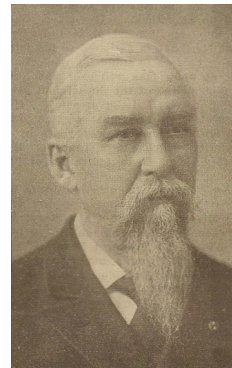


Photo courtesy of Rockford Historical Society

SECTION 48 near the Hebrew cemetery; center of the section near the hedge.

Jesse A. Barloga – (1888-1947) He was a talented architect who shaped many of Rockford's historic neighborhoods. He designed many of the houses in the Brown Hills Historic District, on Paris Ave., and on National Ave. His Art Deco design for the Rockford News Tower defined the modern city skyline.

Jesse Barloga was the architect for the Forest View Abbey Mausoleum (1913-1985) in the 2100 block of N. Main St. on the north edge of Greenwood Cemetery. It was designed and built with marble, carpeting and stained glass to provide a luxurious final resting place. It was not owned or operated by Greenwood Cemetery. It was demolished in 1985 due to disrepair.



Web photo



Forest View Abbey Mausoleum, c. 1913

Photo courtesy of Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum

SECTION 49

Howard Colman – (1873-1942) He was an inventor, an entrepreneur and the founder of the Barber-Colman Company. He made many contributions to Rockford's manufacturing heritage. He was also a major contributor to Rockford College.

SECTION 51

Prof. P.R. Walker – (1835-1913) He was a Civil War hero and an educator.

He moved to Rockford from Connecticut in 1856. Shortly after this, he became a teacher. When Illinois called for Civil War volunteers, he joined the army and went to Camp Fuller in Rockford. After the war ended, Walker returned and served as the first superintendent of schools until 1913.

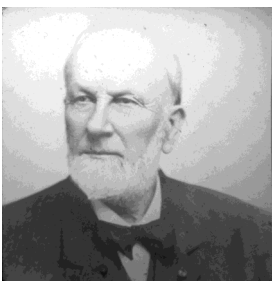


Photo courtesy of Rockford Historical Society

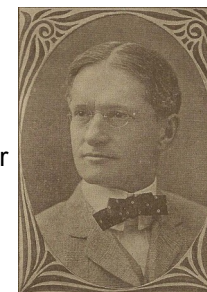
John Henry Manny – (1825-1856) Manny was born in Amsterdam, New York, moving west with his parents in 1836 at the age of 12. He farmed with his father, Pells Manny, and worked on inventions including a reaper to cut grain (patented in 1846). In 1853, he updated his invention and moved to Rockford, establishing the Manny Reaper Company with his business partners Ralph Emerson and Wait Talcott. In 1855, the company was sued by Cyrus McCormick for patent infringement. Abraham Lincoln was hired as one of the lawyers to represent Manny. He died at the age of 30 just two weeks after winning the Circuit Court case. His widow, Mary Dorr Manny, married Robert Tinker in 1870.



Photo Courtesy of Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum & Gardens

SECTION 4

Chandler Starr – (1851-1930) Born in Rockford, to a father that organized and was president of the first bank to open in Rockford. Chandler Starr married Blanche Ellis in 1874. She was the daughter of E.F.W. Ellis, who was killed at Shiloh in the Civil War. She was active in musical circles in Rockford and one of the founders of the Mendelssohn Club.



Chandler and his brother Henry formed and promoted the Forest City baseball Club in 1865. They made the team's first ball.

Photos Courtesy of Rockford Historical Society



Colonel Edward F. W. Ellis – (1819-1862) a Rockford Civil War hero, teacher, lawyer, statesman, banker, and Freemason. He was born in Ohio, coming to Rockford in 1854. He entered the banking business and established Rockford's Fire Department. When the Civil War started, he formed the Ellis Rifles. He became a Lt. Colonel in the 15th Illinois Volunteers. He was killed in the battle of Shiloh in 1862.

Photo Courtesy of Rockford Historical Society

SECTION 5

Duncan Forbes – (1799 -1861) a native of Scotland, he moved to Rockford in 1854. He established the first foundry in Rockford and, with his son, is credited with making the first malleable iron castings west of Pittsburgh. Mr. Forbes died in 1861 and the business continued under the name of the Rockford Malleable Iron Works. They were known for their fireplace grates, sled runners, and cast iron stoves. The company later became known as Gunite Foundries, Rockford's oldest continuously operating manufacturing industry.

SECTION 6

Lewis Lemon – (1812-1877) He was the only man who lived in Rockford as a slave. He came to Rockford in 1834 with Germanicus Kent who had purchased him in Alabama. Lemon was one of the founders of Midway Village which later became Rockford. Lemon purchased his freedom from Kent for \$800. After earning his freedom, he worked as a truck farmer and remained in Rockford until his death. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery without a headstone. Students of the Rockford public schools raised funds for his monument.

SECTION 7

Jehial Harmon – (1762-1845) is the only Revolutionary War soldier to be buried in Greenwood Cemetery. He was born in Connecticut and though he was too young to join the army at first, he eventually took his brother's gun and joined up. After the war, he married and remained in Connecticut, following his older children to Winnebago County in 1844. He died a year later.

SECTION 10

James Henry Breasted – (1865-1935) Born 1865 in Rockford, Illinois. He was a world-renowned Egyptologist, and the first American Egyptologist. He was a Professor at the University of Chicago for 40 years. He was the Director of Chicago's Oriental Institute, did extensive work in the Valley of the Kings and in Mesopotamia, and authored many books on archaeology. His granite gravestone is one of the most unique in Greenwood Cemetery. The stone is from an Egyptian temple.



Web photo

SECTION 11

Thomas D. Robertson – (1818-1902) He was one of the early pioneers of Rockford. He was one of the first lawyers in Rockford, arriving here in 1838. In 1848, he and John Holland established Rockford's first bank. He quit his law practice and went full time into banking and real estate. He was also a leader in bringing the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad to Rockford.



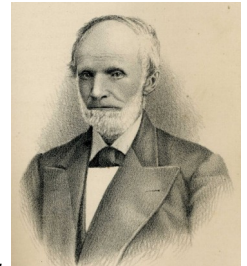
John Lake – (1821-1907) He was vice-president of the Rockford Fire Insurance Company from 1866 to 1886, when he became president. In 1873, he was elected alderman of Rockford from the Second ward and during his service of over 10 years, he gave his official support to many progressive measures. During the 1870s, he was a county supervisor and in 1877, Chairman of the Board of Education. The family home was at 1313 East State St. It was later purchased by P.A. Peterson and is known today as the Lake-Peterson House.

Photo from Church, 1877, History of Winnebago County.

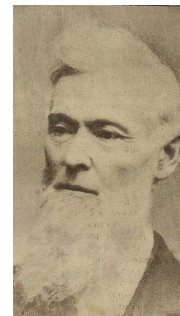
SECTION 34

Thatcher Blake – (1809-1879) Along with Germanicus Kent and Lewis Lemon, was a founder of the city of Rockford in 1834. Blake stayed in Rockford and saw the city grow.

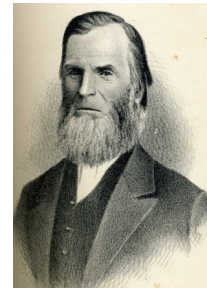
Photo from Church, 1877, History of Winnebago County.



SECTION 35



William D. Trahern – (1824-1883) The monument has no markings except for the family name, Trahern. William was born in Virginia, coming to Rockford in 1848. His company, under the leadership of his son, later became the Trahern Pump Works, which became known nationally.



Dr. George Haskell – (1799-1891) He arrived in Rockford with his wife Eunice and daughter Ellen in 1838. He purchased Rockford's first General Store, remaining in this business and real estate for the rest of his life. He was active in founding the Rockford Female Seminary and gave land for Haskell park. He was honored by the city with an elementary school that was named after him.

Photo from Church, 1877, History of Winnebago County.

SECTION 25

Gilbert Woodruff – (1817-1903) He arrived in Rockford in 1858. One of his local ventures was as developer of the Seventh Street business district as well as residential lots immediately east of the business district. By 1878 he was president of a bank, an insurance company, and a furniture factory. He also served two terms as the mayor of Rockford.

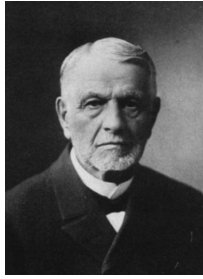


Photo Courtesy of Rockford Historical Society

SECTION 30

Ralph Emerson, Sr. – (1831-1914) He moved to Rockford from Massachusetts at age 18 in 1852. He opened a hardware store and in 1854 became partners in the Manny Reaper Co. He was extremely successful in manufacturing, overseeing the Manny Reaper Co. as it evolved into the Emerson-Brantingham Co. He raised 5 children with his wife, Adeline Talcott. They were influential in the manufacturing and social development of Rockford.

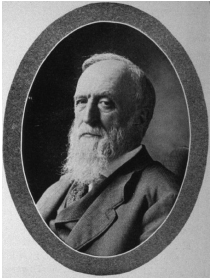


Photo Courtesy of Rockford Historical Society

SECTION 31

William H. Ziock & William Jr. – (1866-1905), (1888-1921)

Ziock, Sr. had a woolen mill in St. Charles, Mississippi, but decided to bring his entire factory to Rockford to take advantage of the water power and textile factories where he could sell his wool. Ziock, Jr. succeeded his father as head of the Rockford Mitten Company. He was also with Burson Knitting Company for many years and was president of Ziock Paper Box Company.

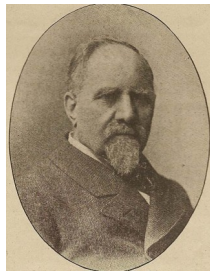


Photo Courtesy of Rockford Historical Society

SECTION 33

Anna Peck Sill – (1816–1889) She was born in Burlington, New York. After teaching and managing several girls' schools, she came to Rockford to take charge of the Female Seminary. She was the principal for 35 years, retiring in 1884. The Rockford Female Seminary became Rockford College. Anna P. Sill's monument was designed by Chicago architect Henry Lord Gay, who had designed the cemetery chapel and the Winnebago County Court House.



Photo Courtesy of Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum

SECTION 15

Levi Rhoades – (1830-1891) He moved to Rockford from Troy, WI in 1876. After working a variety of jobs, he purchased an interest in a barrel-making business. He soon became the sole owner and business boomed during the Civil War. He then invested in paper manufacturing, insurance and banking. He became President of the Rockford Watch Company, the Rockford Water-Power Company and vice-president of Rockford's City Railway.

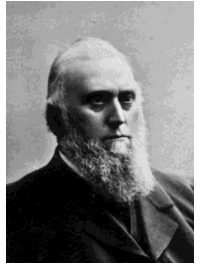


Photo Courtesy of Rockford Historical Society

Wait Talcott – (1807-1890) In 1838, he closed a mercantile business and moved to Rockton, Illinois with his family and father. His son, William Ariel was the first child born in the new Rockton settlement. By 1839, Wait, his father and 3 brothers had developed the first water-powered saw and grist mill on the Rock River. Wait helped to incorporate both Beloit College and Rockford Female Seminary (later Rockford College). Later, Wait represented 4 area counties in the Illinois Senate and laid the groundwork for the first railroad link between Rockford and Rockton. President Abraham Lincoln appointed Wait as commissioner of Internal Revenue for the Second Congressional District.

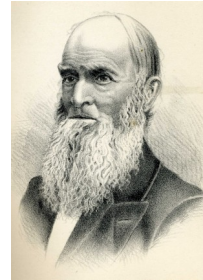
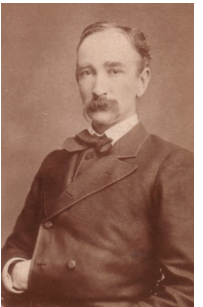


Photo from Church, 1877, History of Winnebago County.

SECTION 23

Robert Hall Tinker – (1836-1924) He was born in Honolulu, Sandwich Islands where his father was a Presbyterian minister. He moved to Rockford in 1856, working as a salesclerk for the Manny Reaper Co. In 1870, Tinker married the widow Mary Dorr Manny. He served as Mayor of Rockford in 1875 and a founding Park District Commissioner from 1909-1923. He was involved in many local businesses. He built the Swiss Cottage based on Swiss-style architecture he saw in Europe.



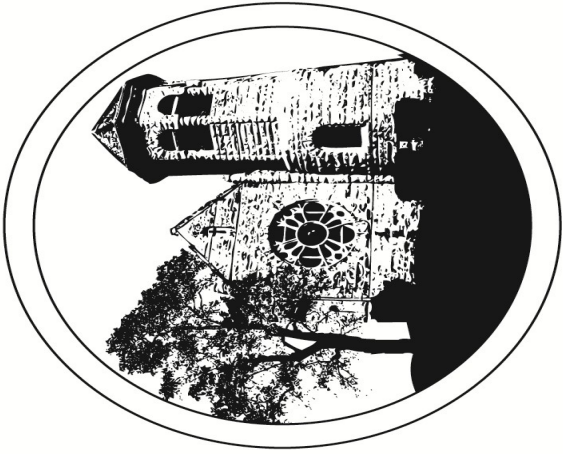
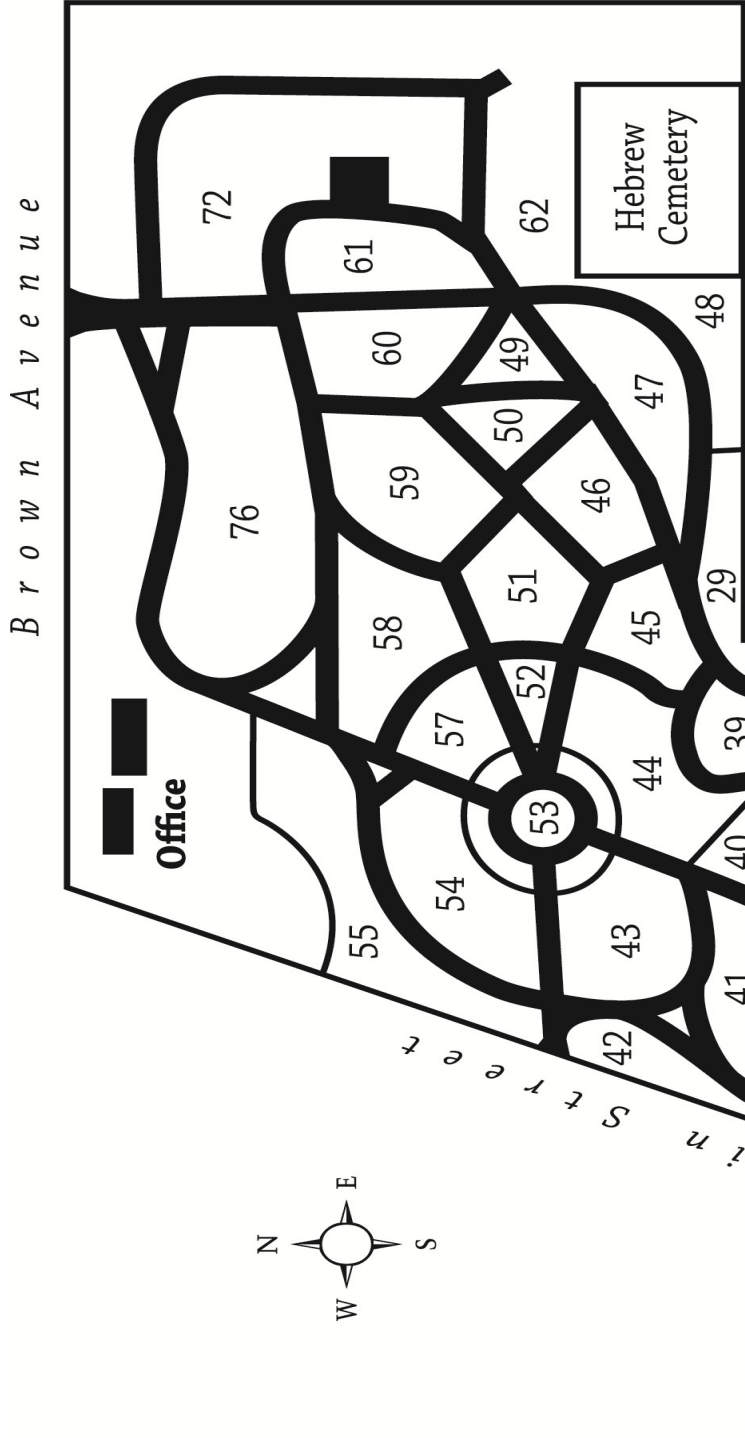
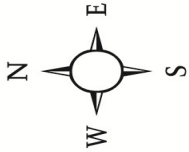
Mary Dorr Manny Tinker – (1829-1901) She first came to Rockford as John Henry Manny's wife in 1853. After Manny's death, she oversaw the business interests of his estate. In 1870, she married Robert H. Tinker. She was involved in her church and local charities helping found the Ladies Union Aide Society in 1877 (today known as Family Counseling Services).



Tinker monument
designed by Robert Tinker

*Tinker photos
Courtesy of Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum*





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CEMETERY

ESTABLISHED IN 1845
1011 Auburn Street
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Auburn Street