

CRANFORDITES IN FAIRVIEW CEMETERY - SELF GUIDED TOUR

Getting to the start of the tour - Make the first left onto Hillside Ave as you enter the Broad Street gates of the Fairview Cemetery, follow the road to the top of the hill, then make a right onto Grace Ave and park near the tall angel monument

Total walk - 1 mile, mostly on paved roads (note: road names are usually marked on curbs) – the tour is a circle so you end close to where you started

Legend for the attached map - Numbers indicate the burial site and monument. Lower case letters indicate explanations of symbols on monuments.

Fairview Cemetery has been the final resting place for many Cranfordites of all social classes and colors since its dedication in 1868. It is located between Cranford and Westfield on land purchased from the Millers and the Piersons. The cemetery was advertised along with other businesses in the 1904 “Cranford Illustrated”, a marketing brochure published by Louie Hendrickson about the advantages of living in Cranford.

	DIRECTIONS	PHOTO	NARRATIVE
1	Begin at the Ham monument next to the road on Grace Ave in Area A 	 Ham family with Benjamin in center, 1910	BENJAMIN HAM - 1836-1910 - Benjamin Ham was born in Baldwinsville, NY. It's unclear when he came to Cranford. In 1864 he married Zilpha Bush and they had 6 children. He was a Civil War veteran and held several Township positions, serving as the commissioner of appeals and the town treasurer for several years without a salary - but he was removed from the position in 1903 for refusing to turn over the books to an auditor. He was one of the wealthiest men in town, owning Cranford real estate and a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, selling it in 1900 for \$65,000 - about \$2.5 million in today's dollars. He was active in the Methodist Church on Walnut Avenue and bought it to save it from foreclosure and eviction in 1901, and they eventually bought it back from him. In 1895 he led the creation of a map that established property lines in Cranford. In 1909 he was injured when he was thrown from his carriage because his horse was frightened by a car on Walnut Avenue. He died at age 74 of a stroke on June 9, 1910.
a	Same location		Ham monument - The angel on top of the monument is the Angel Gabriel prepared to sound the trumpet on Judgement Day.
2	Walk about 15 feet away from the road to the fenced area behind Ham 	 Denman farm at lower left, 1888	DENMAN - The Denmans were the first family to settle their 100-acre property south of what is now Lincoln Avenue in what would become Cranford, arriving in the area in about 1720. The property was in the same family for 228 years, being sold in 1948. The first private telephone was installed in the Denman home in 1899 – phone number 1. In addition to the Denman family members, also buried in the plot are two Black servants, Jude and Sarah, who may have been enslaved individuals. (Note - At one point New Jersey had over 12,000 enslaved people and was the last of the northern states to abolish slavery, with some enslaved people held as late as 1865.)

3	Exit the Denman plot – walk away from Ham, toward the road, between the column and the obelisk -cross the road (Summit Ave) - straight ahead – 2nd row 	 Beadle Bridge at Hampton and Springfield, 1888	EDWARD BEADLE - 1845-1927 - Edward Beadle was the manager of the Cranford Opera House, served as Chair of the Township Committee in 1885, held other positions in the township, and helped organize the first River Carnival held in Cranford in 1886. He came to Cranford in 1875 and he bought land from John Grant Crane on Springfield Avenue in 1884. He and his wife and children lived at the corner of Hampton Street and Springfield Avenue for most of his life. Because of the proximity of his house and land to the bridge over the Rahway River at that point, the second bridge away from the center of town, it was referred to as Beadle's Bridge. Beadle sold his property to the Beekman Trading Company who then developed the area into a "very high-class property" with lots 100x150 feet, "quite high above the water" according to a Beekman ad. He died on July 14, 1927. (Note - The first bridge over the Rahway River as you left town, at Orange Avenue, was known as Isenmann's bridge. John Isenmann was a Union County Freeholder and fought for funding for bridges in Cranford, succeeding in replacing six wooden bridges with iron ones, the first one, in 1878, at the end of his property.)
b	Same location		Beadle monument - A roughly hewn grave marker, a style referred to as rustication, became popular from the Victorian era through the early 20th century. It was a response to the Industrial Revolution, a romanticized view of the countryside. It also symbolized permanence and strength, a sense of enduring physical stability and a bedrock foundation.
4	Go back to road (Summit Ave) – turn right – just after the red spigot with Clark on left - 3 rows in - in front of Brewer – stone flat on the ground 	 Curtis Culin III	CURTIS CULIN III - 1915-1963 - Curtis Culin was born on February 10, 1915 in Cranford and he and his parents lived on Holly Street. Curtis graduated from Cranford's high school, Cleveland High. In 1938 he joined the National Guard, and with the advent of World War II his unit was activated in January of 1941. As a 29-year-old sergeant tank commander he came up with the idea to weld teeth, or tusks, to the front of tanks to help them get through the hedgerows that were proving to be a significant obstacle during the Battle of Normandy and the D-Day invasion. Most tanks were then fitted with the device which proved to be a major innovation. Because of his "rhino" he became a celebrity, being photographed, awarded the Legion of Merit, and interviewed and recorded by Armed Forces Radio. Curtis later stepped on a mine and shattered his left leg and severely wounded his right thigh. Another man from Cranford, William Bateman, was with him and he lost his left leg to a mine as he went for aid. Both soldiers were evacuated to Belgium, and he was discharged from the army in September of 1945. After the war he married Bernice Enright and they lived in New York City where he died on November 20, 1963.

5	Continue walking in the same direction through the plots toward the boundary – cross the road (Mt Pleasant Ave) – look left – 1st row 	 William Mendell	WILLIAM MENDELL - 1836-1930 - William Mendell was born in Elizabeth, NJ. He grew up in Cranford and practiced carpentry until age 82. He married in 1858 and had four children. He enlisted in the Union army in 1862, but never fought in a battle, though he would emphasize his service for the rest of his life. In 1875 his family moved into a house on Walnut Avenue (where the Jumble Store is) where he lived until his death. He held every post in the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization and advocacy group for Union veterans promoting patriotic education, voting rights for Black veterans, and helping make Memorial Day a national holiday. He was also involved in efforts to allow Black Civil War Veterans to be buried in the veteran's section of Fairview. He marched in virtually every Cranford Memorial Day parade until 1926 and gave talks (in full uniform) to students about patriotism and the Civil War. In 1878 was appointed Justice of the Peace, thus becoming Judge Mendell, a post he held for 50 years. He died on Walnut Avenue, at age 94, reportedly Cranford's oldest resident.
6	Walk toward the boundary – look a bit to the right – 4 rows back at boundary 	 Severin Droesch	SEVERIN ROBERT DROESCHER - 1866-1936 – Severin Droesch was born in Germany and emigrated to the U.S. in 1881. In 1901 he settled in Cranford with his wife and children on Lincoln Avenue East. By 1891 Droesch had already founded the S. R. Droesch Company in New York, importers of straight razors and cutlery from Germany. He served on the Township Committee from 1910-1912 and represented Cranford for 10 years on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. He also served on the boards of two local banks. Droesch owned the mill at High Street and Lincoln Avenue where he manufactured razor hones and sold them through his New York business, now called the Cranford Razor Company. In 1912 he created and marketed one of Cranford's early significant neighborhoods, Lincoln Park. He published a brochure about Lincoln Park and frequently advertised in local and New York newspapers. Running from Centennial Avenue to the Rahway River, and from South Avenue to Lincoln Avenue, for reasons unknown the development never saw its full potential, perhaps because of anti-German sentiment during WWI. On his death at age 70 his page 1 obituary in the "Cranford Chronicle" announced that flags in Cranford would be flown at half-staff for a month.
c	Same location		Droesch monument - A grave marker with an area left intentionally rough, or half-carved, symbolizes the souls ongoing refinement in the afterlife as it transitions from life to death. Palm fronds symbolize victory over death. Ivy, because of its evergreen nature, symbolizes immortality, while the association of clinginess can represent everlasting love, gone but not forgotten.

d	Walk back to the road (Cypress Ave) – turn left –look on the right		Carpenter monument - The stairs guide the eye and the spirit upwards, representing an ascension to the afterlife. The depiction of the mourning woman is derived from classical Greek and Roman traditions where women led funerary rites and kept vigil over the departed.
e	Continue along Cypress Ave – looking on the right		Van der Hoef monument - The Masonic “G” at the center of a compass and square represents the grand architect of the universe.
7	Continue along the road –at the large tree/bush walk to the left across the grass – look just left of the twin shrubs - bright stone with inscription on reverse 	 Joshua Bryant, 1885	JOSHUA BRYANT - 1852-1898 - Joshua Bryant, the first Black man to hold elected office in Cranford, was buried in an unmarked grave in Fairview Cemetery when he died at age 46 on October 16, 1898. Coming to Cranford from Virginia in about 1873 at age 21, he was first elected constable in 1881 and was re-elected three times to three-year terms, serving as Cranford’s constable until 1893. He was very active in the Republican party in Cranford, but broke with the party in 1896, throwing his support to the opposition and helping unseat two prominent Republicans. He married Margaret Nowley (or Taylor) in 1879 and lived on Mulberry Street, which is present day Retford Avenue. He was a member of the first congregation of the First Baptist Church where his funeral service was held when he died from asthma in 1898. Researchers located his grave in 1994 and in 1996, the “Friends of Joshua Bryant”, led by the Cranford Historical Society, raised funds for a marker to be placed at Fairview Cemetery in his honor.
f	Go to Lawn Ave (the side road) and go right - go left at Cypress Ave - look to the right several rows in		Mead monument - The draped cinerary urn at the top of the marker can represent the earthly garments humans cast aside when leaving this world. The urn, for Victorians, represented the body as a container for the soul. Some word etymologists say that the phrase “gone to pot” may refer to the cinerary urn.

g	Go left on Mt Fairview – look at the corner of Mt Fairview and Cypress		Jones monument - The grave marker is a good example of a zink, aka “white bronze”, monument. The twig design of the letters can symbolize the idea of a return to nature in a rapidly industrializing nation, but for Victorians it was also an aesthetic choice.
8	Turn right into the wide path between monuments with the spigot on the left with no curb – look right at 1st tree -monument says HIGBIE 	 Sarah Vreeland	SARAH VREELAND - 1826-1882 - Several members of the Vreeland family owned at least two of the 11 mills on the Rahway River in the 1800s, including one close to Raritan Road near Centennial Avenue. One grist mill was built in the 1700s, and Sarah bought the mill at a sheriff's sale in 1876. Sarah lived at the Vreeland home at 306 Lincoln Avenue East, which was the homestead of a large estate that extended along Lincoln Avenue from Walnut to Centennial Avenue and south to the area of Raritan Road. The house, which still stands, was originally built in 1840 by James Vreeland and has been expanded several times. The mill was remodeled in about 1912 by Thomas Sperry to serve as the pump house on his Osceola Farm and was demolished to make way for the Garden State Parkway. Members of the Higbie family married members of the Vreeland family.
9	Continue down the path – on the left – across from fenced grave area 	 Alice Lakey, 1918	ALICE LAKEY - 1857-1935 - Alice Lakey was born in Ohio, and at age 39, in 1896, moved to 209 Miln Street where she taught music and voice. Her mother had died and she lived with her father and because of his picky eating habits, she became interested in food science and health. In 1903 as president of the Cranford Village Improvement Association (VIA), she invited a speaker to talk about tainted food, and she became an enthusiastic supporter of laws against the use of toxic colorings and narcotics in food products. In 1905 she became head of the National Consumers' League's Pure Food Committee and was part of a group that met with President Theodore Roosevelt to push for a federal law. She mobilized over one million women to write letters in support of the Pure Food and Drug Act, which was passed in 1906. In 1909 she influenced the writing of legislation to certify the quality of milk in NJ, and that law became the model for other states. She lectured, wrote, and lobbied extensively for women’s suffrage and food laws. In VIA she also lobbied for garbage collection, town snow plows, and a fire department. She also helped found the local Visiting Nurse Association, helped start Cranford's PTA, and served on the Zoning Commission. She was one of the first woman to be listed in “Who's Who”.

10	Continue walking down the path toward the large bush -monument is in front of it 	 Henrietta Dreyer, 1980	HENRIETTA DREYER - 1913-2007 - Henrietta Dreyer's resting place is in another section of the cemetery, but many of her family members rest here. Henrietta was born in Springfield and grew up on her family's plant farm there. After college she taught elementary school in Springfield for several years. She married Henry Dreyer and soon after, in 1946, she and her husband started the Dreyer Farms produce and plant stand on Springfield Avenue. She ran the stand while Henry grew the vegetables. The stand was expanded and stood for over 60 years before being replaced by the new building. She was a member of the Union County Board of Agriculture for more than 50 years, and at the time of her death she was the only woman to have served as president. She was also a member of the New Jersey Farm Bureau, and was elected the Farm Bureau Woman of the Year in 1964. She was a member of The First Presbyterian Church where she served as deacon and trustee of the Sunday school. Established in 1904 by Gus Dreyer, and initially named Fairview Manor Farm, Dreyer's is the only working farm still operating in Union County.
11	Go to road (Hillcrest) – make a right – at the fork keep to the right – look right at the end of the triangle 	 William Sperry	WILLAM MILLER SPERRY - 1859-1927 - William Sperry was born in Bristol, Tennessee and it's unclear when he arrived in Cranford. His first wife died, and in 1897 he married Emily Mooney and they had four daughters. In 1893 he co-founded the Sperry and Alexander Hardware Company. He remained active in that company even after joining his brother Thomas' Sperry and Hutchinson Green Stamp company in 1896. He bought out Hutchinson in 1904 and become president of S&H at Thomas' death in 1913. He built a mansion at the corner of North Union Avenue and Riverside Drive, now the site of Riverside Condominiums, and lived there on and off from 1907 until his death in 1927. Thomas and William, along with J Walter Thompson built the first Cranford Casino in 1892, then in 1894 they developed Roosevelt Manor. After a fire destroyed a building on North Avenue across from the train station, he rebuilt it and his name is on the building. He helped rebuild the Opera House Block after the fire of 1912 destroyed it. He was one of the founders of the Cranford National Bank which became the Cranford Trust where he served as president. He served as a library trustee and on the Board of Education. In 1910 he gave land near the Rahway River for Sperry Park.
h	Continue in the same direction – make a left at Hillcrest Ave – look to the left		Pierson monument – The hip tomb sarcophagus is on a pedestal to give it a more imposing look. Doric columns represent quiet strength and classical dignity.

i	Continue on Hillcrest Ave – look on the left about 7 rows in		Love monument - The broken column symbolizes a life cut short, while the palm frond portrays victory over death.
j	Continue on Hillcrest Ave – look on the left		Pearsall monument - The large monument depicts an angel with open wings and upstretched arms and a flying dove, both representing guiding the deceased to the afterlife and the ascension of the soul.
12	Continue on Hillcrest Ave – on the left 	 Thomas Sperry	THOMAS ALEXANDER SPERRY - 1864-1913 - Thomas Sperry was born in Knoxville, Tennessee. In 1896, along with Shelly Hutchinson, he established the Sperry and Hutchinson Company, notable for its S&H Green Stamps. S&H rewarded shoppers with paper stamps when they made purchases and timely payments in cash, which in turn helped maintain customer loyalty to merchants that participated in the program. Stamps could be exchanged for merchandise. During the 1960s the company issued more stamps than the U.S. Postal Service. Thomas married Kate Major in 1891 and they would have four children. When they moved to Cranford isn't clear, but Thomas built his first mansion on Prospect Avenue and Claremont Place in 1905. The mansion was substantially destroyed by fire in June 1912 and was rebuilt in an even grander style. (When their mansion caught on fire in June, 1912, the house was filled with valuable paintings and art work. As firemen were saving her wedding portrait Kate Major Sperry reportedly said "Don't save that, save something worthwhile".) The house was demolished in 1938 to make way for English Village. The mansion's original sunken garden and 1910 iron fence (installed at a cost of \$20,000 then, \$685,000 now) still stand at English Village. Sperry's heirs sold his farm called Osceola in 1940 and Sunny Acres now stands on a section of it. After the Opera House Block burned in 1912, he and brother William helped build the Cranford Trust Company on the location. Thomas co-founded and served as president of Cranford's first bank, Cranford National Bank, established in 1904 in the Masonic Building. For nine years the bank legally printed money backed by the federal government. (The Cranford National Bank issued a total of \$138,300 in denominations of \$10 and \$20, with bills 3 by 8 inches in size). At his death, Thomas left an estate valued at \$68 million in today's dollars.

k	Same location		Sperry monument - The inverted torch symbolizes death. The light of the physical body is extinguished, but the flame of the spirit and soul burns on eternally. The laurel wreath represents enduring remembrance and triumph over death.
l	Reverse direction on Hillcrest Ave – look to the left on the corner of Vernal and Hillcrest		Beinecke monument - The exquisite art deco style of the monument contains a band of three-petal flowers representing the holy trinity. The rectilinear pedestal is capped with an eternal flame bowl.
m	Make a right on Grace Ave – walk straight ahead		Military area - The military plot was constructed in 1886, and unusual for the time, was not segregated. The zink monument is a Civil War memorial to commemorate the Union army soldiers and sailors.
n	Same area		Military area – The area is surrounded by three historic cannons. According to local lore “Old One Horn”, so called because of its missing right mounting “horn”, was used during the Revolutionary War.

13	Make a right at the Military area onto Cypress Ave – walk up the hill – look 3 rows in on right near the bush and the tree– monument faces away from the road 	 Porcella boat house, 1887	SANTIAGO PORCELLA - 1860-1910 - Santiago Porcella was born in Italy and came to Cranford in 1885. He married Nina Amelia Munoz in 1886 and they had four children, Ninetta, Santiago Jr, Sylvia, and Margarita. Nina, a Christian Scientist, refused to see a doctor for an illness, and died in 1899 at the age 33. Santiago was a sugar broker in New York, carrying on trade with Cuba and Puerto Rico. In the 1890s he built three houses on Holly Street at Alden Street, and he and his extended family lived in all three, selling them to one another over the years, his decedents owning one house until 1992. He partially financed the first Cranford Casino, was a director at the Cranford Building and Loan, and trustee of the Presbyterian Church. His Holly Street home backed up to the river and his canoe cruise with lighted lanterns was credited with inspiring the river carnivals first held July 18, 1889. He died by suicide in his Holly Street house on January 15, 1910 at the age of 49.
o	Same location		Porcella monument - A grave marker of classical Greek design, the shouldered architrave, also referred to as crosette or Greek ears, on the top corners symbolize status and structural strength. They act as architectural signifiers of importance. The laurel wreath represents triumph of the spirit over mortality, celebrating a life of great achievement.
14	Walk toward the road - look right on same side of the road 	 Isabella Crane, 1875	ISABELLA WILLIAMS CRANE - 1851-1935 - Isabella Williams was a member of the family who owned the Williams or Vreeland Mill. She lived on the mill property with her aunt Elizabeth Williams Vreeland from age eight until 1873 when she married Theodore A. Crane, who was Cranford's tax collector from 1894 to his death in 1916. They lived on Walnut Avenue and had three children.
p	Same location		Crane, MacConnell, and Adams monuments - The classical obelisk represents the connection between heaven and earth, power, and fatherhood.

15	Cross the road (Cypress) – the crooked monument in the first row 	 Joseph MacConnell	DR JOSEPH KERR MACCONNELL - 1836-1917 - Dr. Joseph Kerr MacConnell moved to Cranford in 1869 and was the town's first physician. He had graduated from Starling Medical College in Columbus, Ohio in 1868 and may have come to Cranford at the urging of his brother, Rev. Alexander A. MacConnell, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The MacConnells and their three children lived in a house he built at Eastman Street and North Avenue, where the post office stands. MacConnell owned many lots in Cranford, and in 1906 he bought the triangle of land at the intersection of North Avenue West, Eastman, and Miln Streets from Eastman, Bigelow and Dayton, the original developers of Cranford. He sold the triangle (at the flagpole), along with the peninsula of land on Eastman Street and the Rahway River (now MacConnell Park), to the town for \$1,500. MacConnell resigned as town physician in July 1907, and died at age 81 in August 1917. In February 1919 his home was sold by MacConnell's estate to Frank Hayashi, who converted it into a restaurant. The US government purchased the building and land in 1934 for \$15,000 and built the Post Office on the site.
16	Walk straight ahead a bit to the right 	 Emmor Adams Jr	EMMOR K ADAMS JR - 1855-1934 - Emmor K Adams came to Cranford when he was 15. His father, Emmor Adams Sr, who died in 1887, was Cranford's first tax assessor and a committeeman from 1873-1875. As a boy of 16 in 1871 Adams Jr started a local newspaper, "The Times". As an adult he and his wife and two daughters lived on Union Avenue, then on Marlboro Street (a street now covered by a parking lot and the gazebo on Springfield Avenue). During his lifetime he organized Cranford's first two fire companies and served as chief; founded the Cranford Thief Detecting Society and served as its Captain; and was a Union County Special Deputy Sheriff for more than 40 years. At various times he was elected constable, inspector of elections, township treasurer, member of the township committee (1891-1892), and Union County Freeholder (1896-1910). He also had various real estate holdings in town, was an insurance agent, and had a vast collection of military memorabilia which was donated to the Cranford Historical Society.