Cradle Graves of the Grove Street Cemetery

The Friends of Grove Street Cemetery invite you to visit twenty-four graves which once again hold flowers, as they did in the Victorian period. Known as “cradle graves” for their shape, these special tombstones were designed to incorporate small flower beds to be tended by family members. While some were created for infants, most memorialize beloved wives, husbands, daughters, and sons aged 16 to 85, who died between the years 1847 and 1908. Below is a list of the interred; a guide to their gravesites is on the other side.

1. Joseph Manuel Andreini (1879–1880) at 5 Sylvan Ave., East
   findagrave.com/memorial/11334809/joseph-manuel-andreini

2. Olive Louise Clapp (1868–1886) at 26 Sylvan Ave., East
   findagrave.com/memorial/120066781/olive-louise-clapp

3. Jane Staveley Honey (1848–1908) at 29 Sylvan Ave., East
   findagrave.com/memorial/137562520/jane-edith-honey

4. Sarah Day Trowbridge (1845–1863) at 42 Cypress Ave., West
   findagrave.com/memorial/10486274/sarah-day-trowbridge

5. Abigail Phillips Salisbury (1814–1869) at 39½ Linden Ave., East
   findagrave.com/memorial/11336236/abigail-salisbury-salisbury

6. Mary Virginia Donaghe (1831–1847) at 11 Ivy Path, North
   findagrave.com/memorial/208235103/mary-virginia-donaghe

7. Harriette Thompson Heminway (1844–1885) at 12 Ivy Path, North
   findagrave.com/memorial/18788711/harriette-h-heminway

8. Alice Smith (1880–1881) at 22 Ivy Path, North
   findagrave.com/memorial/39387593/alice-smith

9. Three generations of one family at 58 Spruce Ave., East
   findagrave.com/memorial/7639666/thaddeus-hotchkiss
   Thaddeus Hotchkiss (1783–1850)
   Harriet Ball Hotchkiss (1785–1870)
   Nelson Hotchkiss (1812–1879)
   Clara Benton Hotchkiss (1815–1880)
   Nelson A. Hotchkiss (1837–1878)
   Hattie Hotchkiss Griswold (1842–1869)
   Martha C. Hotchkiss (1849–1869)

10. Emma Gilbert Caskey (1841–1876) at 36 Spruce Ave., East
    findagrave.com/memorial/10626719/emma-richmond-caskey

11. Narcissa Perry Hitchcock (1796–1854) at 18 Spruce Ave., East
    findagrave.com/memorial/13348854/narcissa-hitchcock

12. Three Bryan siblings at 34 Locust Ave., East
    findagrave.com/memorial/208970186/william-daggett-bryan
    William Daggett Bryan (1846–1858)
    Henrietta Miles Bryan (1855–1898)
    Mary Brown Bryan (1860–1861)

13. Robert Chamberlin (1880–1901) at 50 Locust Ave., West
    findagrave.com/memorial/209270003/robert-morse-chamberlin

14. Edwin Rood (1873–1876) at 8 Central Ave., West
    findagrave.com/memorial/12571845/edwin-rood

15. Philip Easton Pardee (1897–1898) at 6½ Central Ave., West
    findagrave.com/memorial/125715059/philip-easton-pardee

16. A mother and daughter sharing one grave at 17 Central Ave., East
    findagrave.com/memorial/133863505/louisa-b_-austin
    Louisa B. Hughes Austin (1830–1854)
    Louisa Hughes Austin (1852–1870)

Grove Street Cemetery
227 Grove Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511
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Pictured above: The double cradle grave for Louisa Hughes Austin and her daughter Louisa, at 17 Central Ave., East.
Some of the cradle graves are extremely high style—particularly those of Sarah Day Trowbridge (number 4 on the map) and Abigail Phillips Salisbury (5)—while others are simply a small initialed headstone and low coping to define the flower bed, with the names inscribed on a central family monument in the lot. Markers of this type appear on the Bryan family lot (12) on Locust Avenue, and on the Hotchkiss lot (9) on Spruce Avenue, which is remarkable for its group of seven cradle graves. The burials there spanned from 1850 to 1880 and memorialize Thaddeus and Harriet Hotchkiss, their son Nelson and his wife Clara, and that couple’s children Nelson, Hattie, and Martha.

The Grove Street Gardeners chose flowers appropriate to the period of the gravesites. Come back often to see what’s in bloom!

The Grove Street Gardeners welcome new members. We are active from May through October and currently are working on maintaining the newly planted flowers in the cemetery’s cradle graves. For more information or questions contact friends@grovestreetcemetery.org. No experience is necessary. We will mentor you.

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