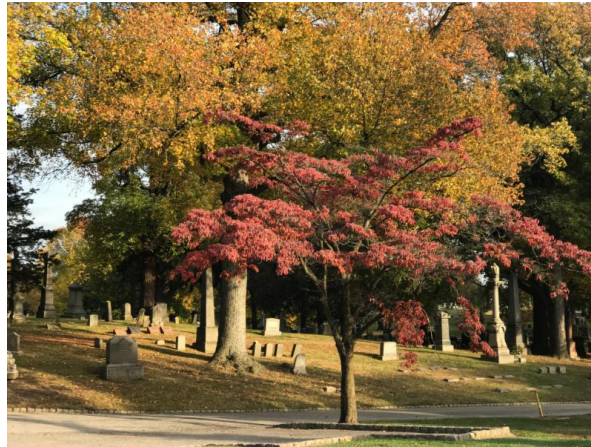


The Evergreens Cemetery

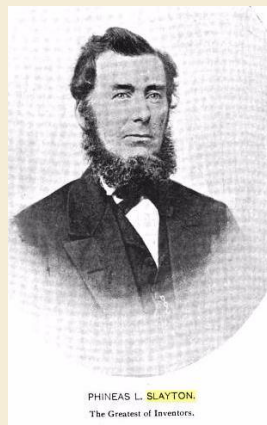
Quarterly Newsletter



Notable Resident

This article continues our series highlighting important people buried at The Evergreens Cemetery.

Phineas L. Slayton (1821 - 1872)



Phineas Slayton was a prolific 19th-century inventor, holding multiple patents in a variety of areas. The plaque on his cast iron grave marker calls him "The Great Inventor." According to this plaque "he invented the fountain pen, shoe pegging machine, Singer sewing machine, looms to weave hair nets, casing for rubber hose, cover of whipstocks, – to weave muffs, shirts, drawers, stockings, hats, – to braid whiplashes, to knit scotch caps; machines to make brushes, temper wire in gas flame, and many others." In 1898, in "The History of the Slayton Family" author Asa Walker Slayton claimed "he was the original inventor of what is called the Singer sewing machine."

In fact, Slayton was one of multiple inventors involved in the origins of the sewing machine. While Elias Howe had patented the original sewing machine in 1846, Isaac Merritt Singer patented another version in 1851. Several other inventors followed with patents making improvements to the sewing machine, resulting in what is known as Sewing Machine War of the 1850s, where multiple innovations led to a legally complex "patent thicket." Slayton's contribution from January 1, 1856 was patent number 14,022: 'Improvements in Sewing Machines. The application states "Be it known that I, Phineas L. Slayton. . . have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Machines for Sewing and Embroidering Cloth, also for Making Button-Holes. . ." followed by a detailed description and drawings.

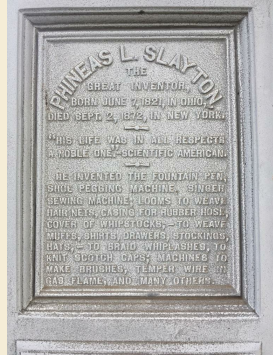
He was, however, more interested in inventing than profiting off of his inventions, and he sold his contribution to the invention of the sewing machine for cash and an interest that he never received. Asa Walker Slayton explains: "When Phineas had completed a machine for one purpose, his next thoughts were for a more complicated machine for some more difficult work." After his death, his wife, Lucy Caroline Armstrong, mentioned to a contemporary that "Phineas had been poor like most inventors" and that "he was good-natured – had no ability to accumulate money as others had from his many inventions, upon which he studied continually."

Thus, sadly, his contribution to the invention of the sewing machine is largely unknown, and he never reaped financial gains from his numerous



Grave of Phineas L. Slayton and his wife Lucy Caroline Armstrong

inventions.



Detail of Slayton's grave marker, listing his multiple inventions



Letter from the President

2017 shepherded in new changes at The Evergreens Cemetery. The rolling hills and beautiful landscape were enjoyed by so many of our families and neighbors due to our outreach to the communities we serve.

We hosted an array of programs including tours of the art and architecture of the cemetery, tree walks, yoga classes, bird walks, commemorations of historical figures buried here, and stargazing with the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York. We were pleased to welcome members of the community for these events, and look forward to continuing to offer an exciting array of programs in 2018.

The grounds of The Evergreens were given a facelift in 2017. In order to maintain this beautiful landscape designed by A. J. Downing, we focused on paving roads, repairing and replacing sidewalks, removing overgrown trees and bushes and general reconditioning throughout the cemetery. I am proud to say that our grounds have never looked better, and we are looking forward to more improvements in 2018.

This year we were honored to receive two grants from the New York State's Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program. Both grants will be invaluable in helping us plant and maintain our beautiful tree canopy and will help ensure that we remain a beautiful natural oasis in New York City.

The Evergreens Cemetery was gratified to be chosen as one of Open House New York's Spaces of Respite for 2017. Open House New York included The Evergreens as part of its curated selection of spaces that offer a tranquil respite from the chaos of the city.

Since 1849, The Evergreens has been providing families with a final resting place for their loved ones. We are proud of our commitment to our community and to our families.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a Happy Holidays and New Year! I would also like to invite you to stop by and visit our beautiful, newly renovated landmark administration building designed by the famed architect A. J. Davis. It is a remarkable treasure nestled in the middle of our historic and nationally registered cemetery.

Warmest wishes,

Julie Bose

Recent Events at The Evergreens

Open House New York Weekend

On October 14 and 15 The Evergreens Cemetery participated in Open House New York (OHNY) Weekend, a citywide celebration of architecture, design and New York City.

"We were pleased to participate in Open House New York for the first time this year" said Director of Programs Eva Bowerman, who led tours of the art and architecture of the cemetery. "We explored the wide variety of architectural and art-historical styles that are represented in our mausoleums and grave markers, as well as visiting the community mausoleum and the receiving vault, which is normally closed to the public."

In addition, Tony Wetzel, President of Historic Construction Mgmt. Corp., led tours of the Victorian Gothic chapel, designed by Alexander Jackson Davis in 1849/50, which serves as the cemetery office. This tour focused on the restorations on the chapel that are currently underway.



Eva Bowerman, who is wearing a red coat in this photo, leads visitors on a tour of the Evergreens.

Brooklyn Eagle photo by Lore Croghan



Tour-goers step inside the receiving vault, which is

The Evergreens was selected as one of OHNY's Spaces of Respite, a curated selection of serene spaces throughout the city. "We were delighted to offer visitors the chance to enjoy our peaceful green space, and especially to welcome many visitors who have never been to The Evergreens before" said The Evergreens President Julie Bose.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle featured Open House New York at the Evergreens Cemetery in an article:

<http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/2017/10/16/evergreens-cemetery-draws-visitors-during-open-house-new-york-weekend>



Tour-goers photograph the Mayer-Schmitt mausoleum, which was constructed in 1939.
Brooklyn Eagle photo by Lore Croghan

normally closed to the public.
Brooklyn Eagle photo by Lore Croghan



Tony Wetzel discusses the exterior chapel restorations.



Tony Wetzel leads a tour of the restored interior of the historic chapel.

Stargazing with the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York

On Friday, October 27 the cemetery hosted another of our popular stargazing events in partnership with the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York, a group dedicated to observing the sky and introducing the public to the wonders of astronomy.

We observed Saturn, its rings clearly visible, briefly before it descended into the trees, as well as the double star Alberio. We also observed the great galaxy Andromeda or M31, the open star cluster called "The Coat Hanger," and the moon grazing a double star system, Omicron Capricorni just before the end of the session.

We look forward to continuing our series of stargazing events next spring.

Community Halloween Event

On Saturday, October 28 we held our first annual Community Halloween Event, welcoming over 200 people to the cemetery. Visitors enjoyed a fun-filled day with a horse-drawn hayride, petting zoo, pumpkin decorating and refreshments. We look forward to continuing to serve our community with this tradition next year.





Tour: Tree Stories

On Sunday, October 22 we held a guided tree tour of The Evergreens Cemetery, led by noted arborist and author William Bryant Logan. Attendees learned how to identify a variety of tree species, and learned the lore, history and science of different species.



Board Spotlight

Interview with John E. Osnato, Esq.

John Osnato serves as Secretary and Treasurer of The Evergreens Cemetery Board of Trustees, and is on the Investment Committee.

How long have you been involved at The Evergreens Cemetery?

I have served on the board for fifteen years.

How did you first become involved at The Evergreens?

The Osnato family ties to The Evergreens go back almost 100 years – my great-grandfather, Joseph Osnato, was a local businessman who immigrated to this country from Italy in the 1880s. He died in 1922 and was buried in the cemetery. His son, my grandfather, was Dr. Michael Osnato. He was a prominent neurologist who was on the faculty of the Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital of Columbia University. He prematurely died at the age of 46, in 1932. His mother, Stella, took a portion of the inheritance he left her to purchase the Osnato mausoleum in the Tulip Grove section of The Evergreens. Her remains joined those of her son in 1943.

What is your position on the board of trustees?

I serve as as secretary and treasurer, and am on the Investment Committee.

What is the most rewarding part of being on the board at The Evergreens?

I think the board is blessed with a terrific group of trustees, led by Jon Weld.

What is your profession?

I am a semi-retired corporate attorney, which helps me serve as secretary and treasurer of the cemetery.

Where do you live?

I live in the Prospect Heights section of Brooklyn.

Do you serve on any other boards?

I also serve on the boards of the Brooklyn Hospital Center and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Support Us

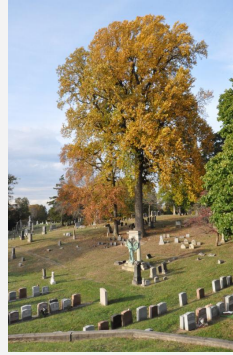
We are committed to maintaining our beautiful historic cemetery, and offering our beautiful space to our community through a wide variety of programs. Your support helps make our this possible, and each year we reach out at this

time and ask for contributions to our annual appeal.

Your generosity makes a difference in so many ways. It allows us to offer Easter and Halloween parties for local children, tours of cemetery architecture, tree walks, stargazing, yoga, bird walks, and many other events. We are grateful for your support in helping us fulfill our mission. Please join us in supporting the Evergreens Cemetery with your tax deductible gift.

Donations may be made by credit card through PayPal or mailing a check to:

The Evergreens Preservation Foundation
1629 Bushwick Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207



To make a donation through PayPal please click [HERE](#).

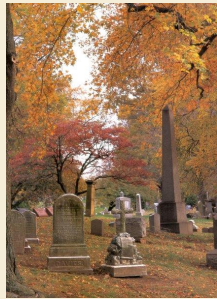
Making Arrangements

The Evergreens Cemetery provides a beautiful final resting place for loved ones, and we are pleased to discuss the variety of options available.

Contact:
Damaris Rodriguez
Family Service Counselor/Interment Clerk
718-455-5300
info@theevergreenscemetery.com

Research

We welcome genealogical inquiries. Please contact the office at info@theevergreenscemetery.com or tel. 718-455-5300 for further information.



Cemetery Hours

Grounds are open seven days a week from
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The office is open Monday through Friday from
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please contact the office about holiday closures.

The Evergreens Cemetery Board of Trustees

Jonathan M. Weld, Chairman

Julie Bose, President

Frederick A. Bland, Chairman, Buildings and
Grounds Committee

William R. Cline, Jr.

Jennifer Eisenstadt, Buildings and Grounds
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Elba Luna

Henry J. Nunez, Superintendent

Karim Parchment, CFO

Damaris Rodriguez, Family Service
Counselor/Interment Clerk

Nicole Segarra, Interment Clerk

Veronica Willis

*Newsletter edited by Eva Bowerman
Newsletter designed by Eva Bowerman
and Elba Luna*

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Brooklyn, New York 11207 |
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