



O'RORKE-CATHOLIC CEMETERY

O'Rorke-Catholic Cemetery was designated as a local historic landmark in 2010. Over the years, the beloved small, one-acre O'Rorke-Catholic Cemetery has had many names. These include the Catholic Cemetery, St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Sacred Heart Cemetery, City Cemetery, and City Cemetery Annex. The cemetery is also known as a potter's field for indigents.

The property was donated to the Raleigh Catholic Church in 1858 by John O'Rorke, a Raleigh merchant. O'Rorke, who was born 1788 in Swords Parish, County Dublin, Ireland, came to Raleigh in 1820. He owned a carriage shop on Wilmington Street at the former site of Helig-Levine Furniture store. In 1858, O'Rorke donated a 1 1/8-acre parcel of land, selling it for \$5 to the Catholic Diocese. Cemetery land is located on the original parcel. The Catholic Diocese ceded control of the property to the City in 1938, but no legal transfer took place until a formal deed was executed in 2009. The number of burials and their location is unknown due to lack of records, few stones and markers, as well as re-interments to other cemeteries, including Oakwood Cemetery. The Church of the Sacred Heart's incomplete records indicate that graves were moved in 1890 and from 1981-83.

Initially the City of Raleigh used the area on the western/Catholic side for transients and paupers. Starting in 1971, the volume increased to use the eastern portion of the cemetery. In 1985, the State Highway Department reinterred eight graves from the Howle family, previously located on Rock Quarry Road. The last known burial was March 1986.

ABOUT RALEIGH CITY CEMETERIES PRESERVATION, INC.

Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation (RCCP) is a 501C3 organization and is incorporated as a non-profit in the State of North Carolina. Established in 2006, RCCP is a partner with the City of Raleigh and others to promote and provide preservation and restoration of the three city-owned cemeteries, City Cemetery, O'Rorke -Catholic Cemetery and Mount Hope Cemetery.

Our mission is "to help the City of Raleigh promote and provide preservation and restoration of city-owned cemeteries and assist with programs to enhance education and heritage tourism."

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE GREATER RALEIGH CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU FOR ITS SUPPORT. IF YOU ARE PLANNING A HERITAGE TRIP TO RALEIGH, GO TO WWW.VISITRALEIGH.COM FOR MORE THINGS TO DO, ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRAVEL RESOURCES.

THANKS TO PAMELA BAREFOOT FOR HER DONATION TO HELP FUND THIS MAP IN HONOR OF HER FRIEND, MATTHEW RUDISILL.

THANKS TO CHARLES P. BLUNT, IV FOR HIS ORIGINAL RESEARCH, WHICH HELPED NAME O'RORKE AS A LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, AND TO CREATE THIS MAP.

MAP PROVIDED BY:

RCCP
Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc.

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A Walking Tour of O'RORKE-CATHOLIC CEMETERY



GRAVESTONES AND MARKERS

While under ownership of the Catholic Church, there were approximately 100 Catholic burials during a 93-year period (1858-1931). Church records identified 70 burials. Although John O’Rorke and his wife, Elizabeth Guthrie O’Rorke, are believed to be buried in their fenced plot at the cemetery, they are not included in the identified burials. Burials that occurred before the property was donated in 1858 included two infant children, Patrick and Margaret Ferrall. The Ferralls knew John O’Rorke, and were likely related to him, and also buried in O’Rorke Cemetery although re-interred in Oakwood Cemetery in 1890. Ann Andrews (Andens Ann) Barbee, 7 ½ years old, who also died in 1858, was likely buried at O’Rorke.

City of Raleigh records indicate 232 transient and pauper graves are located in this cemetery.



SOME BURIALS OF INTEREST INCLUDE:

- M.B. Barbee (1829-1906) and his wife, Mary (1831-1903). Their daughter, Ann (1851-1858), was buried here before the cemetery was formally given to the Catholic church.
- Mary Butler (d. 1867), wife of U.S. Army officer, Sgt. Butler.
- James Casey (1831-1891), and his wife, Ellen (1839-1900); both Irish. Lived in Graham, North Carolina; he was a salesman (peddler). Parents of at least 12 children, three of whom are buried here: Infant Boy (1875), Infant Boy (1878) and William Edward (1864-1865).
- Patrick Dolan (1828-1888) and his wife, Elizabeth (1833-); he was Irish, she was born in Pennsylvania. He was a carpenter/ coachmaker and she had a bakery establishment. They had at least 10 children of whom two are known to be buried here: Mary Ann (1851-1876) and Agnes (1874-1875).
- James Duffy and his wife, Mary; he was Irish, she was a North Carolinian. At least four of their children were buried here.
- Antonio Dughi (1854-) his wife, Elizabeth Louise (1855-); both Italian. Parents of at least 12 children; moved to North Carolina about 1884 and operated a confectionary store on Fayetteville Street. At least one of their infant children, Vincent (1901) is buried here.

- Patrick Ferrall (1815-1868) and his wife, Margaret Fanning (1822-1880); both Irish. Two of their children, Thomas James (1855-1858) and Catherine Bridget (1852-1858) were originally buried here. The entire family was reinterred to Oakwood Cemetery in 1890.
- Thomas K. Howle (1814-) and his wife, Molinda (1815-1877) and their family were reinterred to this cemetery during a construction project on Rock Quarry Road in 1985. Eight graves were moved here including: T.K. Howle, Molinda Howle, Eugene Bond Howle (1883-1942), Fannie J. Howle and four unidentified burials.
- Michael Leary (C.S.A.) enlisted in Co. A., 6th Infantry Regiment in May 1861 and died of disease on June 24, 1861 in Burlington, NC.
- John O’Rorke (1788-1867) and Elizabeth Guthrie (1790-1865); he was Irish and she was a North Carolinian.
- Narcisse Plumadore (1843-), and his wife, Catherine (1848-); both Canadians. Parents of at least five children, two of whom are buried here, Mary Gertrude (1874-1874) and Mary Louisa (1871-1871).

- Michael Prendergast (1810-1875) and his wife, Joanna (1813-1888); he was born in Ireland, she in Nova Scotia. He was a carpenter and worked on the State Capitol building; she was a milliner. Parents of at least two daughters, Lucy (b. 1830) and Elizabeth (b. 1827). In 1870, the local Catholic priest, James McNamara, was living with them.
- John Tighe (1821-1871), and his wife, Mary Judge (1831-1906); both Irish. He was a gardener and she a dressmaker. Parents of at least nine children. In addition to John and Mary, the following other members of the family are known to be buried here: Catherine (1904), Francis (1906), Lucy V. (1864-1931) and Mary J. (1911).
- Syrians. At the turn of the 20th century, a large number of Syrians immigrated to the U.S. Many settled in major urban areas, however a number of Maronite families located in Raleigh. Burials that represent this community include: Anthony Barakat (1905), Mary Jasmine Bolus, James Milad (1902), George Joseph Milad (1906), Elias Joseph Tani (1901), Mary Tanos (1908), Marie Tanous (1909) and Jebolum Peter Tanous (1912).



An additional database is provided on the website of Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc. www.rccpreservation.org

