

Trees & Monuments of Greenmount Cemetery

Colchester Ave, Burlington

A Self-Guided Tour

A Project by *Branch Out Burlington!*



This pamphlet contains interesting facts about the trees and monuments in Greenmount Cemetery. This is Burlington's oldest cemetery, with monuments dating back to the late 1700's. The statuary honors some of Burlington's celebrated residents, most notably Revolutionary War hero, Ethan Allen. Many of the city's earliest residents including shopkeepers, farmers, laborers and prominent leaders of the community and their families are also laid to rest here. Take a walk through the city's history in this special place. The trees are marked with numbered metal tags and are visible from the path.

M1: Ethan Allen [1738-1789] He was an early American revolutionary and leader of the Green Mountain Boys who fought for control of the New Hampshire Land Grants, which later became Vermont. He joined Revolutionary War leader Benedict Arnold, capturing Fort Ticonderoga in New York, taken without a shot, in the first victory of the war in 1775. He lived in Burlington and his name is known city-wide and beyond.

M2: Roger Enos [1729-1808] He fought in the French and Indian Wars, took part in the British Expedition against Cuba, the American Revolution and in the defense of Mount Independence and Fort Ticonderoga. He is buried in Ethan Allen's family plot because his daughter married Ira Allen.

T1: Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) This deciduous conifer is a relative of the southern baldcypress and western redwood and a relic of ancient Asian forests, thought to be extinct before trees were found in China during WWII. It loses its needles in the fall and grows new ones in the spring, and has a distinct pyramidal shape.

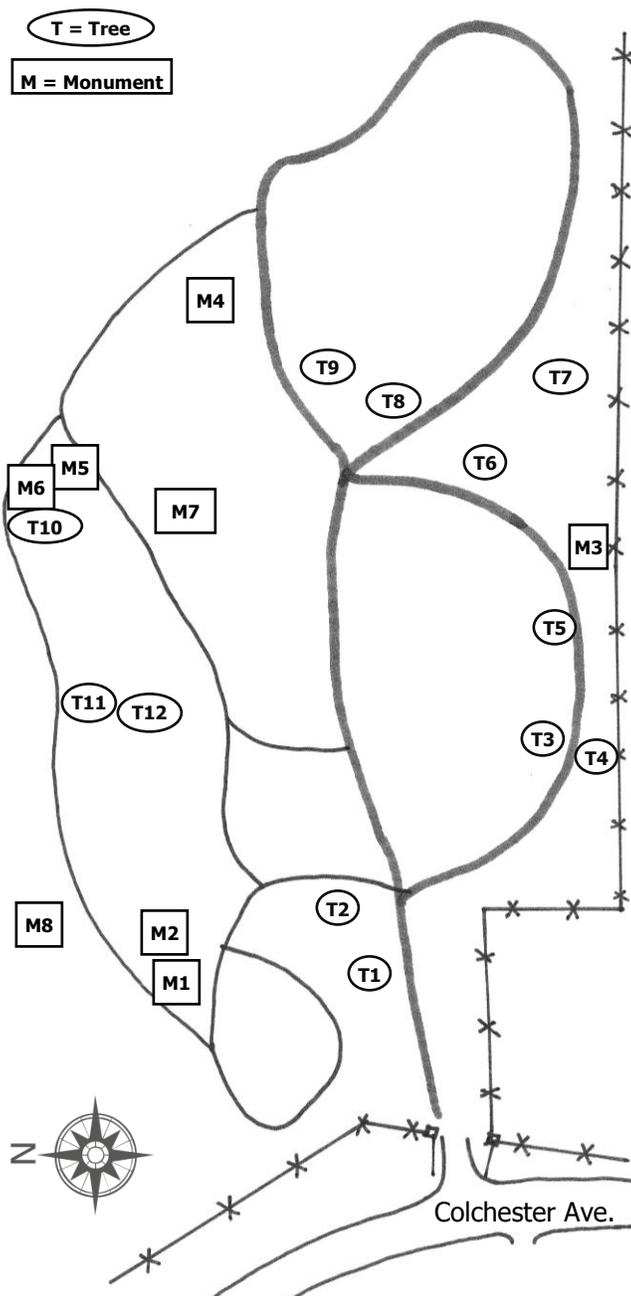
T2: 'Crimson King' Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides* 'Crimson King') This Norway Maple cultivar has maroon leaves and is a striking-looking tree in the landscape. The non-native species Norway maples were popular landscape trees, but have now been designated as 'invasive', though cultivated varieties don't produce as much seed as the straight species.

T3: Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) This native of eastern forests has small 2-ranked needles and tiny cones. In northern woodlands it grows in pure stands which shelter wildlife in winter. It is susceptible to hemlock woolly adelgid.

T4: 'Heritage' River Birch (*Betula nigra* 'Heritage') This tree has beautiful exfoliating bark, and is one of the most disease- and insect-resistant of the ornamental birch trees.

T5: Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) This native maple prefers damp feet, but tolerates a wide range of soil types, and has beautiful red fall color. The leaves are three-lobed with toothed edges. It is found growing somewhere in all 48 continental United States.

M3: George Osborne [1886-1983] A son of a freed slave from Kentucky, he enlisted in the all-black 10th US Cavalry - a regiment known as Buffalo Soldiers - stationed at Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester. He fought in the Philippines and later in Mexico. Osborne worked at American Woolen Mills in Winooski and lived with his wife Vesta in Essex, VT after he retired from military service in 1935.



Note: All trees included in this brochure were alive in June 2016. Don't be alarmed if you can't find them all. Some may be lost to disease or storms in the future.

T6: Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) Also known as Mossycup oak, this young tree and others were planted at Greenmount, to replace trees destroyed in the 1998 ice storm. This native tree tolerates a wide range of soils, and develops a large spreading crown. The acorns have fringed caps.

T7: Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) This tree is a legume, which fixes nitrogen in the soil, helping root growth. Early settlers roasted seeds from the large seedpods to make a coffee substitute, and the wood was used for fence posts. The leaves are bipinnately compound.

T8: Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) This relative of the Amer. elm shows considerable resistance to Dutch elm disease and other common elm pests. It tolerates many soil types. It is often planted instead of native elm species.

T9: Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) This species is common in cemeteries and looks somewhat like the Italian cypress, which has long been a tree of symbolic value in cemeteries since Roman times. Also known as "arborvitae" or tree of life, tea made from its soft green needles gave early settlers a source of vitamin C to help treat scurvy.

M4: George Franklin Edmunds [1828-1919] He served in the Vermont legislature and US Senate for 25 years. He chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee, which brought impeachment procedures against President Andrew Jackson in 1868. In 1880 and again in 1884, his name was floated as a presidential candidate at the Republican National Convention. He authored the Edmunds Act in 1882 to suppress polygamy, and wrote sections of the Sherman Act, the famous anti-trust bill. Edmunds Elementary/Middle Schools on Main Street were named in his honor.

M5: Edward John Phelps [1822-1900] He was admitted to Middlebury College at age 14, graduated at 18. He attended the Yale Law School, and returned to practice law in Middlebury, then in Burlington and also across the lake in New York. He helped establish and was the first president of the American Bar Assoc. He held many distinguished positions, and toured as a gifted orator and taught at UVM, Harvard and Yale later in life.

M6: George Grenville Benedict [1826-1907] He graduated from UVM, with honors, in 1847. After teaching for a short time, he was employed in building the VT and Boston Telegraph Co. lines. He was Editor of the Burlington Free Press, and a Burlington postmaster. He fought in the Civil War as aide-de-camp for the famous VT General George Stannard.

T10: Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) This majestic conifer is also known as a "cemetery pine" for its weeping branches. This non-native evergreen has been extensively used in timber plantations and has naturalized here in the northeastern US.

M7: Henry Adam Smalley [1834-1888] He attended Norwich and UVM, and graduated from the US Military Academy. He served as a Brigadier General in the Civil War and led regiments in several Civil War battles, and was recognized for 'gallant and meritorious service during the war' in 1865. Burlington's Smalley Park carries his name.

T11: Larch/Tamarack (*Larix laricina*) This native deciduous conifer prefers wet soils but seems to thrive here on sand. This is the largest of its species known to be in Burlington.

T12: Eastern Redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) This native tree is actually a Juniper, with sharp-pointed needles and tiny blue berries. It is often confused with Northern White Cedar.

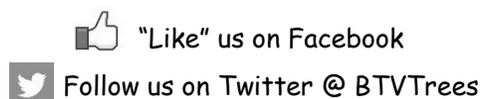
M8: Mary Martha Fletcher [1820-1860] She was born in Jericho, VT, and moved with her family to Burlington. She suffered ill health including tuberculosis, but became a generous benefactor with the \$400,000 estate she inherited. The family created the Fletcher Free Library. Mary Martha founded the Mary Fletcher Hospital and Mary Fletcher School of Nursing, both named in honor of her mother.

Produced by:
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Information about the monuments came from "Greenmount Cemetery: A Walking Tour of Burlington's History",
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