Marker Text

Crown Hill Cemetery, founded in 1863, is the fourth largest cemetery in America. The history of Indiana and the United States is reflected in its monuments. President Benjamin Harrison, Vice-Presidents Charles Fairbanks, Thomas Hendricks, and Thomas Marshall, innovators Richard Gatling and Col. Eli Lilly, author Booth Tarkington and poet James Whitcomb Riley are among the many political, commercial, and literary leaders buried within its bounds. Crown Hill is the only cemetery in the state listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Report

The following report intends to provide additional information about Crown Hill Cemetery and correct errors within the marker text.

The Articles of Association were signed on September 25, 1863. One month later the Crown Hill founders began buying the necessary land for creation of the cemetery. By the next year, on June 1, 1864, a dedication ceremony occurred; the cemetery's first burial took place the next day. For more information see the "Articles of Association" for Crown Hill Cemetery in the 1896 Crown Hill Board Report. This report also reprints the "Address of Judge White at the Dedication of Crown Hill Cemetery," from the *Indianapolis Daily Journal*, June 2, 1864. This article notes the date of the dedication, and the date of the cemetery's first burial on June 2, 1864. See also Anna Nicholas's *The Story of Crown Hill* (1928) and Crown Hill Cemetery's web article "Education: The Story of a Cemetery."

All of the listed "political, commercial, and literary leaders" noted on the marker are indeed buried at Crown Hill Cemetery. There are many notable people buried within Crown Hill who are not mentioned on the marker. It is important to note that a United States President, and various Vice-Presidents are buried in Crown Hill, but there are other national, state, and local politicians, city and state leaders, actors, writers, entrepreneurs, businessmen, war veterans, African-American leaders, and significant women entombed within Crown Hill Cemetery. The cemetery has its own publications and pamphlets highlighting noted people now buried there and the list of "notables" will continue to grow and change. See the Crown Hill Cemetery website article "Noted Persons: The People of Crown Hill."

According to the Crown Hill Cemetery website, the facility is the "third largest cemetery in the United States." In *My Indiana: 101 Places to See* (2006), author Earl L. Conn notes it is the

"third largest nongovernmental cemetery in the United States." Despite the discrepancy, both sources note the cemetery is the third, not the fourth, largest cemetery in the country. No evidence, stating it is the fourth largest cemetery, could be located, but that may have been true in 1976 when the marker text was written. Crown Hill Cemetery is not the only cemetery listed on the National Register from the State of Indiana. The National Register website currently lists six cemeteries and twelve churches with cemeteries from Indiana; that number could change over time. Visit the website at National Register Website, http://www.nps.gov/nr/.