

Outreach WRAP Initiative: Walk, Reflection and Prayer

Exploring Graceland Cemetery and Arboretum (4001 N. Clark)

Think of these Lenten WRAPs as mini pilgrimages: “a journey, often into an unknown or foreign place, where a person goes in search of new or expanded meaning about their self, others, nature, or a higher good...”

Timing/distance: A pilgrimage to Graceland Cemetery from Atonement would be a bit under an hour’s walk; a walk around Graceland may take an hour (or more if you want to do some exploring on your own). Total distance, from Atonement, around Graceland and back, would be perhaps 7 miles or three hours’ (brisk) walk. If you drive there, parking is inside the gates at the NE corner of Clark and Irving Park. Their visitors center is closed, due to COVID but you will find maps at the door (from which this guide is extracted) with much more detail than provided here.

This guide is designed for families and some of its **sites that may be of especial interest to kids are in bold**. This walk provides an opportunity to explore the ways people think about mortality and immortality in the monuments they use to mark their lives on earth. It shows us how other faith traditions distinguish themselves in death. Graceland is a carefully planned and certified arboretum, and the range of trees and plantings there is remarkable. As perhaps the premier site for some of Chicago’s glitziest names, it offers more than a bit of Chicago history. The route suggested here will take you by sites listed on the attached map; all the internal roads are named, but Graceland’s 121 acres is still large enough to lose your bearings.

Background: There are several northside cemeteries that pre-date the Civil War and the Chicago Fire, all established in the mid-19th century. Cemeteries generally cater to the religious affiliations and/or origins of their clients, which explains the smaller, German Protestant Wunder’s Cemetery just south of Graceland and the adjacent Jewish cemetery, both established in 1851. To relocate 2,000 graves from the city’s first burial site in what is today Lincoln Park, Rosehill was created in 1859, and Graceland – a private cemetery – in 1860. These sites were all north of the city limits at mid-century, surrounded by farms, when they served as park-like refuges from the crowded city to the south. The incorporation of Edgewater into Chicago (and building Church of the Atonement) would not happen until 1889.

TOUR: The final resting place of the most celebrated from Chicago’s past are found in an area near Lake Willowmere, at nearly the opposite side of the cemetery

from its main entrance. How you get there and back may be determined by other graves you may be interested in visiting after consulting the Graceland map. A basic Graceland walk follows Main Avenue (from the main entrance) until it meets Lake Avenue, then follow Lake Avenue around Lake Willowmere, double back to Ridgeland Avenue going north to Northern Avenue, and then turn left (west) to Graceland Avenue which will lead you back to the main entrance. Among the sites to see, in the numerical order of the Graceland Map and in sequence on the route suggested here, are:

2. **Graves' grave:** Dexter Graves (ca. 1793-1845) among Chicago's original settlers whose grave is distinguished by a Lorado Taft bronze, "Eternal Silence." This may be what every kid carries in his mind as the essence of cemetery sites.
4. John Kinzie (1763-1828), also among the first Chicagoans, and man after which Kinzie Avenue is named; he was first put to rest at Fort Dearborn, then moved to the City Cemetery, and finally relocated to Graceland, so his remains have seen three layers of Chicago's development.
6. Jack Johnson (1878-1946), first Black heavyweight champion boxer whose three marriages to white women and a victorious fight against a 'Great White Hope' champion distinguished him as among the earliest African American sports heroes.
7. Another Lorado Taft statue, "**Crusader**" stands guard over the Norwegian immigrant Victor Lawson (1850-1925), publisher of the Chicago Daily News for 29 years.
10. The George Pullman (1831-1897) monument to the railway car man may be most famous for what you cannot see: such was his family's fears about desecration of his grave by irate unions, beneath the column lies a bloc of steel-reinforced concrete to protect his remains.
- 11, 12, and 13. Architect Louis Sullivan designed # 11, resembling an Egyptian pyramid for Art Institute Trustee, Ryerson, Sr; his own monument is at # 12; and **the Getty Tomb** he designed at # 13 was described as "a great poem" by Frank Lloyd Wright.
15. Potter Palmer (1826-1902) has a columned monument that may be the grandest in Graceland, fitting for the man behind the beginning of Marshall Field & Co., one of the creators of State Street as a shopping emporium, the Palmer House Hotel, Lake Shore Drive and the Chicago Board of Trade.

18. Daniel Burnham (1846-1912) designed perhaps the first skyscraper in Chicago (a 10-storey building), was director of works at the Columbian Exposition (1893), and his 1909 Plan of Chicago largely accounts for the city's expanse of lakefront greenery.

21. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969) founded the second Chicago School of Architecture, the Armour Institute that later became IIT, and served as director of the German Bauhaus school of design.

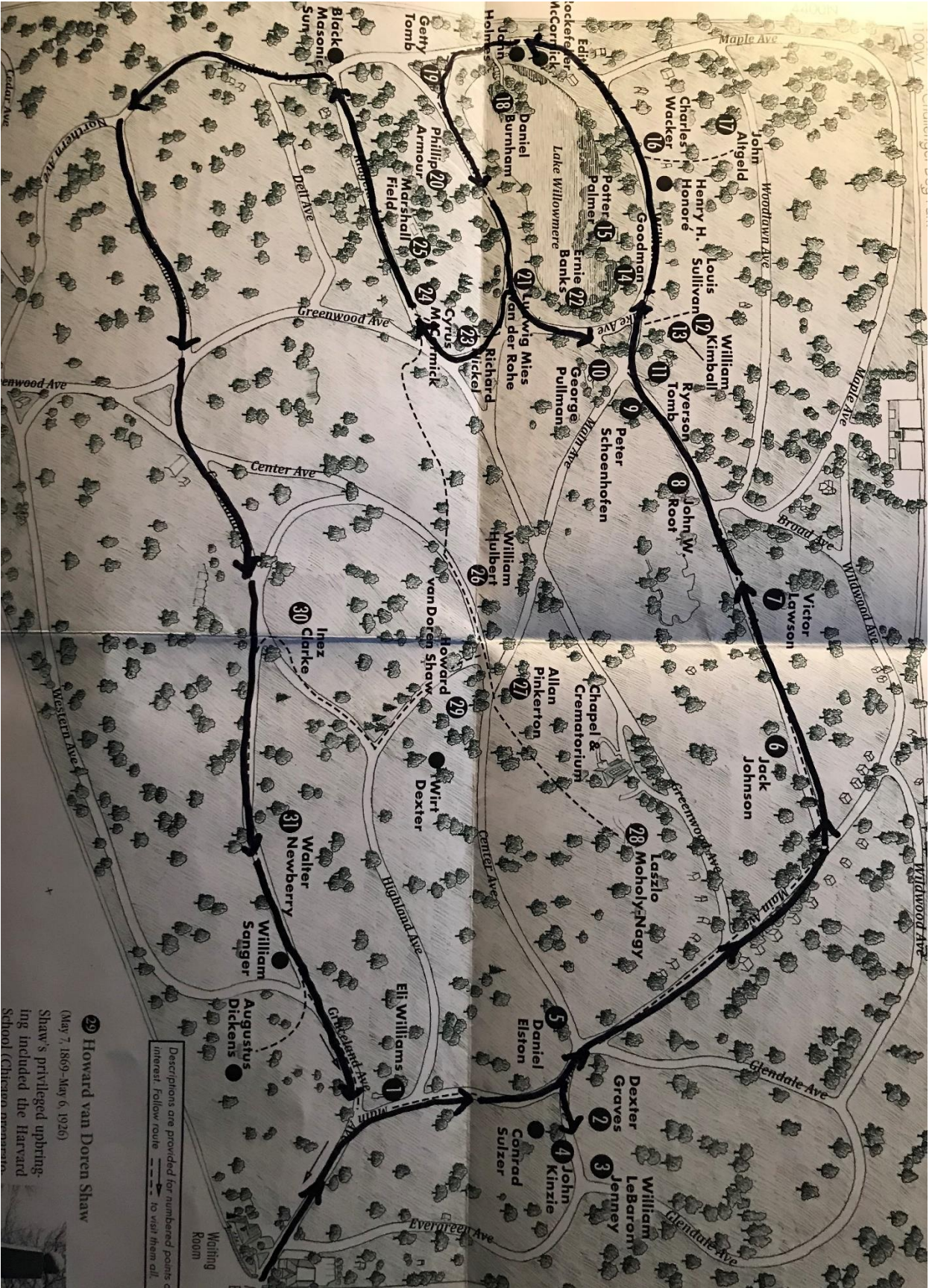
22. **Ernie Banks (1931-2015)**, "Mr. Cub" played for the Cubs nearly 20 years and was the first African-American accepted by the Cubs; regarded as one of the best Cubs players of all times.

25. Marshall Field (1834-1906) needs to be introduced to youngsters unfamiliar with the reverence with which the State Street icon has been known in years past, but his name on the Field Museum will be known; maybe best known for the mantra "Give the lady what she wants" revolutionized retail trade at the end of the 19th century,

26. William Hubert (1832-1882) founded the National League in 1876 and was an owner of the Chicago White Stockings, later the Cubs; kids will need to look for a **baseball monument**, the only of its kind at Graceland.

27. Allan Pinkerton (1819-1884), a Civil War scout, guardian of President Lincoln and one of this country's first undercover agents; his agency gave rise to the phrase "Private Eye." Look for two of his agents nearby, including **America's first female detective**.

Now, to share your walk: send any photos that we can circulate and with them please add a phrase or two of moment(s) during your walk when you felt God's presence or saw signs of his work. Armchair anthropologists may want to reflect on what cemeteries tell us about ourselves and our society; in what ways is Graceland a reflection of our values?



29 Howard van Doren Shaw
 (May 7, 1869–May 6, 1926)
 Shaw's privileged upbringing included the Harvard School (Chicago preparation).

Descriptions are provided for numbered points of interest. Follow route to visit them all.

Waiting Room