

## NIAGARA FALLS/TOWN OF NIAGARA/TOWN OF LEWISTON CEMETERIES

**Oakwood Cemetery** 763 Portage Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14301 (716) 284-5131 office 9-4 Monday-Friday website [www.oakwoodniagara.org](http://www.oakwoodniagara.org). Tim Baxter-Director of Operations Established in 1852, the occupants of the Old Cemetery at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main were transferred to Oakwood along with their monuments. That portion of the cemetery is about 18 acres, and the design was courtesy of Theodore Dehone Judah, promoter of the Trans-Continental railroad. In 1855, the railroad came through the other half of the old cemetery and those people were placed on 2-1/2 acres at the southern edge of Oakwood that was purchased by the Town of Niagara, and they still own it to this day. It is called Town Ground and most people are unaware of the fact that it is a piece of the Town in the heart of the city. The Town Ground is leased to Oakwood to be maintained. The cemetery contains over 25,000 people, and there are many of note. The most notable is Annie Edson Taylor, the 62 year old school teacher who went over the Falls in a barrel and survived. Died penniless and blind in Lockport. OK what records are available and where. The primary source is the surname register. The original one is at the cemetery office, but there is a copy at the Niagara Falls, NY public library near the reference desk on the first floor. It is arranged in alphabetical order by first letter of surname in chronological order. Sp last name, given name, middle name or initial, age, date of burial, lot or grave #, burial permit #, notes. With that information, you can check at the office for the actual location of the lot and grave. For a fee, one can get a copy of the lot map, and if available a copy of the burial permit. The permit is like a small version of a death certificate, but depending on when it was filled out and by who, will dictate the amount of information that is found on it. It MAY contain last residence address, name of spouse and/or parents, age, cause of death, occupation. It costs \$5 where an actual death certificate is \$10 from the city clerk's office which is located at City Hall at 745 Main Street 286-4392 open 8am – 4 pm.

**St. Marys Cemetery** is at the corner of Elmwood Avenue and Portage Road Niagara Falls, NY 14301. It was established in 1861 and is maintained by Gate of Heaven in Lewiston, NY. Their office is located at 500 Riverdale Avenue, Lewiston, NY 14092 and is open from 8am-4pm M-F and 9-12 on Saturday. Saint Marys Cemetery is actually 2 cemeteries under one name. The land is divided from east to west by a drive that bisects it. On the south side of the drive are the parishioners of St. Marys church which is located at 259 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303 and their phone number is (716) 282-0059. The actual cemetery records burned so most of what is available is the headstone reading that Dorothy and Jerry Rolling did back in the 1980s. The church office has the death records from 1861-2011, so there are some records that will state if they are buried at St. Marys, but won't give an actual location. On the north side of the drive are parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish that was located at 11<sup>th</sup> and South Avenues in Niagara Falls. Their records are held at St. Raphael Church at College and McKoon Avenues in Deveau, previously known as St. Theresa's. Their office is open from 9-3 on M, T, T, F and the phone is (716) 282-5583. Their death records go from 1897-1999. Same thing as St. Marys church death records, it will give the name of the cemetery they are buried in, but not a specific grave location.

**Temple Beth El Jewish Cemetery** on Elmwood Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14301. No burials since the 1940s and the only records are a headstone reading by Jerry and Dorothy Rolling and findagrave.com. There are about 2 dozen people buried there, and Daniel Cohn, a 16 year old Civil War soldier was 1st.

**Any other local people of the Jewish faith may be buried at Temple Beth Israel on Military Road, Havos Shalom next to Witmer Cemetery, or at Riverdale Cemetery next to Gate of Heaven.**

**St. Josephs Cemetery** 3806 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14301 Office (716) 284-4163 or 282-3179 was established in May of 1920. It consists of 17 acres with over 15,000 residents. Records are online at [www.monroefordham.org](http://www.monroefordham.org) from 1920-2011. Information is sparse, but cards list names and locations of their burials. Go to digital collections, and click on St. Joseph Cemetery. Cards are in alphabetical order by surname or [http://www.niagarafallspublib.org/Pages/St\\_Joe.html](http://www.niagarafallspublib.org/Pages/St_Joe.html) at the Falls Library website. It is the final resting place for primarily those of Italian descent.

**Witmer Cemetery** located at Witmer Road and Pennsylvania Avenue in the Town of Niagara. Formerly known as Rural, Collins, Lieb, Homestead, this 3 acre site was established in 1875. The land was given by Benjamin Witmer to his children to use as a cemetery in 1840. Unfortunately, the original records have been missing for years. There is a headstone reading done by Dorothy and Jerry Rolling, and if want to contact me at [pames@townofniagara.com](mailto:pames@townofniagara.com) or call me at (716) 297-4429, I will be happy to look for someone for you.

**Havos Shalom Cemetery**- located next to Witmer Cemetery, is in very good shape and contains persons who attended the temple on East Falls Street back through the 1930s. There is a list of persons buried there, and I have a key as TON historian, so let me know if you want to get in to pay respects, or to take pictures of the stones.

**Memorial Park Cemetery** is located at 5871 Military Road, Lewiston, NY 14092. The office is open from 9-4 on Monday-Friday, and the phone number is (716) 297-0811. Established in 1929, records are on file at the office. There are maps and name register by the reference desk at the Niagara Falls Public Library.

**Riverdale Cemetery** 5606 Old Lewiston Road, Lewiston, NY 14092 phone (716) 285-4968 office M-F 9-5. The records are in the office, and in the Local History Department at the Niagara Falls, NY Public Library on microfilm by the Church of Latter Day Saints from 1896-1983.

**Gate of Heaven Cemetery** 500 Riverdale Avenue, Lewiston, NY 14092 (716) 282-5084 Catholic Cemetery that was established in 1897 as a part of Riverdale that covers 32 acres. Records are at the office.

**Holy Trinity Cemetery** 5401 Roberts Avenue, Lewiston, NY 14092 is maintained by Gate of Heaven next door, so call Heather in the office at (716) 282-5084. Catholic and primarily those of Polish extraction. I have a list of burials that includes the death date, internment date, age section, lot, and grave numbers. I am trying to get copies of the maps. NOTE:If you have someone buried there of Polish ancestry, I have records from the International Institute that contain information on hundreds of Polish immigrants who went to the Institute for assistance in assimilation to the US.

**Temple Beth Israel Cemetery** opened in 1908 and is located on Military Road, to the north of the power plant reservoir. Persons from the original temple located at Cedar Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY are buried there as well as the subsequent temple on College Avenue off Lewiston Road. I have a list of people buried there, but no other information.