

Please begin this walking tour through the cemetery gates on 7th Street N.W. The gates are open from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Sunday and holidays from May 1 through October 31. During the winter, the cemetery closes at 5 p.m.

1 The Werts Receiving Vault:

This structure, built in 1893, was used as a temporary resting place for President William McKinley from September 19, 1901 until the McKinley National Memorial could be completed. The receiving vault was watched over by an honor guard of Federal army sentries during this time. Ida visited this place daily until her death in May 1907, when she was entombed here with her husband. Their bodies, along with those of their two young daughters, were moved to the McKinley National Memorial in October 1907.

2 Saxton Family:

James Saxton was the father of First Lady Ida Saxton McKinley and was one of the most influential and prominent citizens of Canton during his active life. He was an accomplished businessman and banker. James died March 16, 1887, at the age of 71. Katherine Dewalt Saxton, wife of James, died in 1873. Ida's younger brother, George Saxton, was well known in Canton as a "lady's man." His romantic escapades led to his murder on October 7, 1898.

3 Lewis Gibbs:

In 1856, Lewis Gibbs took over operation of his father's plow company. He formed a partnership with his two brothers, Martin and William, and the new company was known as Lewis Gibbs & Brothers. After seven years, the company was dissolved and Lewis Gibbs joined John Rex Bucher in founding Bucher & Gibbs Plow Company. It became Canton's largest plow manufacturer from 1864 through the early 1880s. After 22 years, Gibbs sold out his interest and devoted his time to the Gibbs Lawn Rake Company, which he owned along with his sons Elmer and Alvin. Lewis Gibbs died on April 5, 1914, at the age of 80.

4 Captain Benjamin Page:

As an officer in the American Revolutionary War, Captain Page had a most unusual military career. He served first with the Connecticut Militia; later he left the Army to enlist in the Navy. He attained officer's rank in both branches of the service. Page moved to Canton to be near his son, also named Benjamin. Captain Benjamin Page died on November 14, 1834, at the age of 82.

5 Cornelius Aultman:

Aultman put Canton on the map as the world's largest producer of reapers and mowers for many years. In 1863, the directors of C. Aultman and Co. founded the First National Bank, and Aultman became its first president. In 1884, he organized and was named president of the Canton Public Library. Aultman became a wealthy man, and he gave away much of his wealth to benefit Canton and its citizens. Cornelius Aultman died December 26, 1884, at the age of 57.

6 George D. Harter:

After serving in Company E, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, George Harter returned to Canton to join his father and brother in the banking business. In 1866,

7 George B. Frease:

George B. Frease became editor of The Repository in 1886. By 1892, Frease had also bought controlling interest in the company. Under his leadership the newspaper grew into a large and nationally known publication. Frease had been a close friend of William McKinley since boyhood. He worked successfully to get McKinley elected as Ohio's governor and after McKinley was nominated as the Republican presidential candidate, Frease became executive chairman of his "Front Porch Campaign." During the campaign, correspondents of the Associated Press were placed under the direction of Frease and The Repository became their headquarters. One of McKinley's first appointments after taking the presidential office was to make Frease the postmaster of Canton. George Frease died in 1907, at the age of 67.

8 George W. Belden:

In 1837, George W. Belden was elected by the state legislature as Common Pleas Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit, a position he held until 1843. Then, in 1851, he was elected under the state's new constitution as District and Common Pleas Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, serving until 1855. He was appointed the United States District Attorney for the northern district of Ohio by President Buchanan in 1857, without even being a candidate. At age 57, he met 24-year-old William McKinley, who had just graduated from law school. Shortly thereafter the firm of Belden & McKinley was formed. Belden died a year later on August 15, 1868, at the age of 58.

9 John Saxton:

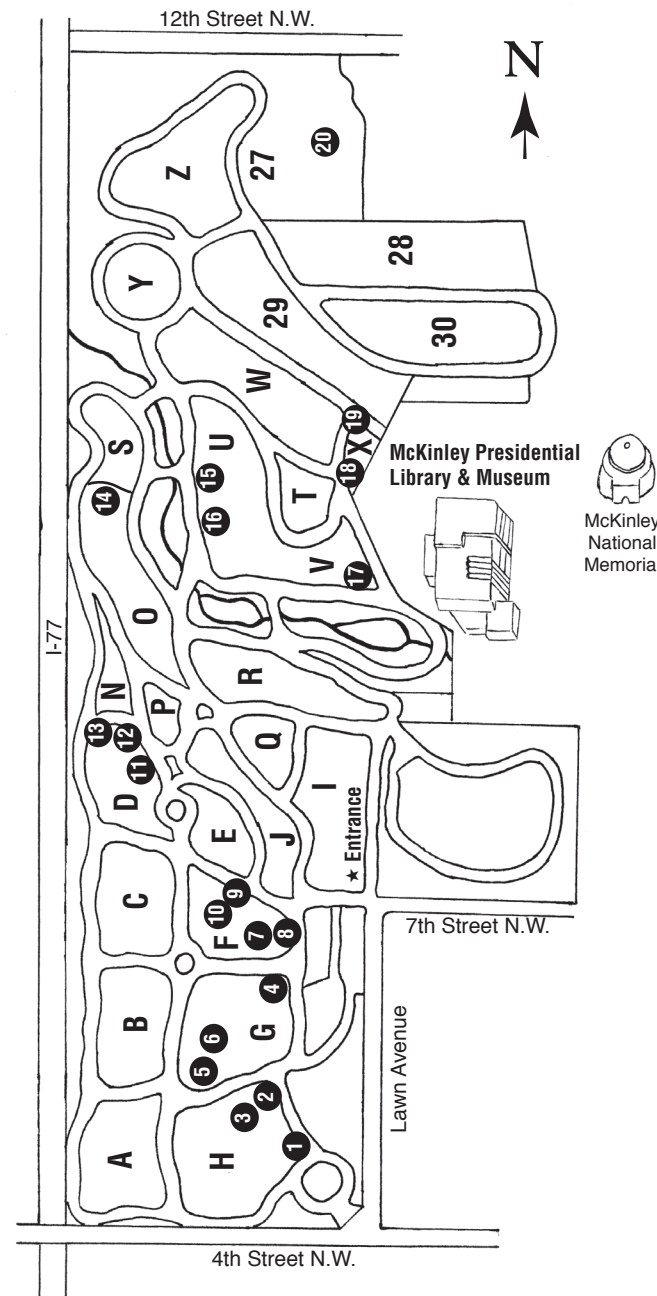
As a young man in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, John Saxton worked in the printing shop of John McCahan and learned to set type and how to run a hand printing press. In 1814, he set out looking for new opportunities in the Ohio country. In 1815, he established his own newspaper, The Ohio Repository. Saxton continued to manage and edit the paper for the next fifty years. That same year he returned to Pennsylvania to marry Margaret Laird and the couple made their residence in Canton. (See #2 for information on their son, James Saxton) In addition to his job as the town's printer, Saxton also became a land agent and took on the civic offices of county commissioner, county auditor, and postmaster. John Saxton died in 1871, at the age of 79.

10 John Danner:

John Danner had a restless, inquisitive mind and excellent mechanical ability. The result of one of his experiments was a revolving bookcase, patented in 1874. To manufacture his invention, Danner founded the John Danner Revolving Bookcase Company. The firm's success was almost instantaneous. By 1880, more than 6,000 bookcases had been sold, not only in the United States, but all over the world. In 1887 the firm incorporated as the John Danner Mfg. Co. John Danner died in 1918, at the age of 95.

West Lawn Cemetery

Historic Walking Tour Guide



11 William R. Day:
William R. Day was a neighbor as well as a close friend and political associate of William McKinley. He served with distinction as McKinley's Secretary of State and later was named by President Theodore Roosevelt as a Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Justice Day was widely respected in legal circles for his outstanding ability and his public service brought him international fame. Justice Day died July 9, 1923. He is buried beside his wife Mary, who died in 1912.

12 Barber Family:
Mary Saxton Barber, sister of the first lady, Ida McKinley, was a life-long resident of Canton. She helped organize the local Y.W.C.A. chapter, was active in the Red Cross and served as a trustee of the George D. Harter Bank. She died in June of 1917, at the age of 68. Mary's husband, Marshall C. Barber, was a Civil War veteran and a very prominent businessman in Canton. He died in 1918, at the age of 72. Four of their children are buried here: William McKinley Barber, named after Mary's brother-in-law; George Saxton Barber, named after Mary's brother; James Saxton Barber, named after Mary's father; and Ida Saxton (Barber) Day, named after Mary's sister.

13 McKinley Family:
On the list of prominent graves in West Lawn Cemetery are members of President McKinley's immediate family. His father William McKinley, Sr., died in 1892 while his son was Governor of Ohio. His mother, Nancy Allison McKinley, who lived to attend her son's inauguration as President, died in 1897. His younger brother, Abner, died in 1904. His two sisters also rest here: Helen McKinley, who participated in the dedication of the McKinley National Memorial, died in 1924; and Anna McKinley, died in 1890. It was Anna, the first member of the family to settle in Canton, who established her parents in the old home on West Tuscarawas and later urged her brother (William McKinley) to take up his law practice here. As a teacher and principal in the city schools for 25 years, she was well loved and honored in her own right.

14 Bernetta Miller:
Bernetta grew up in Canton and at the age of 28 she began saving money for flying lessons from her \$5 a week salary as a bookkeeper. In 1912, she became the fifth female pilot in the country. That year she demonstrated the monoplane for the United States government, a job that she considered the most important of her career. She also worked the front lines in France during WWI, earning France's highest award for bravery. Bernetta Miller died in 1972, at the age of 88.

15 Murray Spangler:
In 1907, a Hoover family friend named Murray Spangler was working as a janitor at William Zollinger's store. The dust aggravated his asthma when he swept the floor, so he set out to invent a contraption that would use suction to collect the dirt instead of blowing it around the room and into the air. "Boss" Hoover liked the invention, so he purchased the patent from Spangler in 1908 and began producing the Hoover Suction Sweeper.

16 William H. "Boss" Hoover:
The Hoover family legacy began with a tannery operated by Daniel Hoover after the Civil War. He and his wife Susan are the parents of William H. "Boss" Hoover, who took over the family business in the 1870s. "Boss" started making leather horse collars and saddles. With the invention of the automobile, "Boss" knew there would be less demand for horse equipment. Spangler's invention of the suction sweeper launched the company in a brand new direction. "Boss" Hoover was a beloved figure in North Canton. Despite the family's wealth and local fame, their graves are quite modest,

blending in seamlessly with the markers that surround them. The rest of the family is buried at North Lawn Cemetery, West Lawn's sister cemetery.

17 John McTammany:
John McTammany served in the 115th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. While convalescing in a military hospital after being critically wounded in battle at Chattanooga, Tennessee, McTammany passed the time tinkering with an old music box. It was this tinkering, he said, which gave him the idea for his famous invention, the player piano. McTammany made three models of the player piano between 1866 and 1877 and gave a public exhibition in St. Louis in 1876. After a long litigation, he received a patent in 1881. John McTammany died in 1915, at the age of 70.

18 Max Stern & Henry Mann:
Canton's legendary department store Stern & Mann opened in 1887 when Max Stern and Henry Mann bought Winterhalter Millinery Store on South Market Avenue. At first they sold hats, ribbons, buttons, fabric, and some dressmaking supplies. When the store opened a colossal new building on the corner of Cleveland Avenue and Tuscarawas Street in 1925, they were selling "ready to wear" clothing. Four generations of the family operated the store before the doors finally closed in the early 1990s. The two families were so close, they share a monument – it says "Stern" on one side and "Mann" on the other.

19 Sam Stone:
In December 1933, anonymous donor "B. Virdot" placed an ad in the *Repository* offering Christmas gifts to people in need in Canton. A total of 150 families received \$5 each, which would be \$100 today. The story was kept secret for two generations, until Ted Gup discovered the amazing generosity of his grandfather, Sam Stone. In 2010 Gup chronicled this story in his book *A Secret Gift*. Based on the handwriting on the canceled checks, Gup believes his grandmother Minna was the one who actually wrote the checks. She is buried here with her husband.

20 Henry H. Timken, Sr.:
After receiving his law degree, H. H. Timken joined his father in St. Louis where they built a model carriage and wagon making factory. In 1895, he became the factory manager and worked to perfect the Timken tapered roller bearing for carriage and wagon axles. Soon after, his father organized the Timken Roller Bearing Axle Company, and H. H. Timken became vice president. In 1902, they moved the company to Canton. By 1908, Timken bearings were used in 95 percent of American-made trucks and in 46 percent of the cars. As soon as the company was firmly established in the automotive field, Timken turned to developing alloy steel. In 1929, the company had become the world's largest maker of alloy steel for bearings and the largest producer of alloy seamless tubing. Henry H. Timken Sr. died in 1940, at the age of 72.

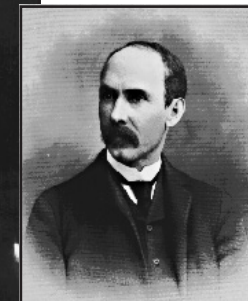
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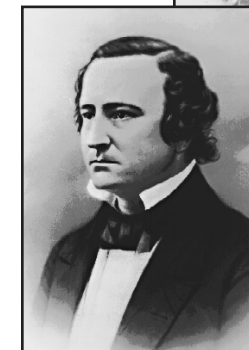
William R. Day



George D. Harter



Anna McKinley



George W. Belden



Mary Saxton Barber

► **Historic Walking Tour**

*by The McKinley Presidential
Library & Museum • Canton, Ohio*