

## A Walk Through Time: Missouri Cemeteries Challenge

Missouri cemeteries provide a glimpse into the past, not only of people and the landscape, but also of the state's diverse political, social, military, art, and religious history. A Walk Through Time: Missouri Cemeteries Challenge invites you to explore Missouri's rich history and culture through some of its historic cemeteries.



*A Walk Through Time: Missouri Cemeteries Challenge is sponsored by Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum. Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum was created as a garden cemetery in 1849 and spans 314 acres. It is an accredited level 2 Arboretum on the Morton scale and remains active to this day as a nonsectarian cemetery, accepting of all: Yesterday\*Today\*Forever.*



*A Walk Through Time: Missouri Cemeteries Challenge ... Visit 6 sites within at least 4 counties. Remember: Missouri Explorers must be registered in the program, and they are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites. Upload your verification photographs using the online submission form at <https://missouri2021.org/missouri-explorers/> to receive your merit badge button.*

**Remember**, Missouri Explorers, you are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites before arriving.

**And a special reminder**, Missouri Explorers: be mindful that these sites contain the final resting places of loved ones, and many of these sites are still in active use. Remember your pledge to be respectful of your surroundings and respect the privacy of families conducting burial services.

### **Boone County**

#### **Columbia Cemetery**

30 E Broadway  
Columbia, Missouri  
573-449-6320

*Columbia Cemetery, the city's oldest, continuously operating cemetery, was founded in 1820. In 2007, the cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. For 200 years, the cemetery has served the burial needs for people of all races, religions and burial practices. Interred in Columbia Cemetery are two Revolutionary war soldiers and veterans from every war and conflict the United States has been involved in to the present. Noteworthy people buried in Columbia Cemetery are the father of the University of Missouri James S. Rollins, ragtime pianist John William "Blind" Boone, singer and entertainer Jane Froman, and others who create a historical record of the history of Columbia and the University of Missouri. Please take the time to visit and stroll*

*through the streets of Columbia Cemetery to see one of our city's premier cultural treasures. Snap a photograph next to James S. Rollins burial. Use this limerick to find his grave:  
Mister Rollins he founded a school  
That later was known as Mizzou  
He now rests his tired feet  
Way down Switzler Street\*  
His wife, Mary Elizabeth, he did woo  
\* 3 blocks down  
And losses to Kansas he did rue*

<http://www.columbiacemetery.org/index.html>

#### **Jewell Cemetery State Historic Site**

S. Providence Road  
Columbia, Missouri  
573-449-7402

*Jewell Cemetery contains the graves of Missouri's 22<sup>nd</sup> governor, Charles Hardin, along with decedents of George Jewell, including William Jewell, who established William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri.*

*Snap a photograph by William Jewell's burial site.*

<https://mostateparks.com/park/jewell-cemetery-state-historic-site>

### **Buchanan County**

#### **Mount Mora Cemetery**

824 Mount Mora  
St. Joseph, Missouri  
816-232-8471

*Mount Mora Cemetery, established in 1851, is the oldest operating cemetery in St. Joseph, Missouri. It is rich with history and contains the final resting places of early pioneers to the area, three Missouri governors, and two Pony Express Riders. Snap a photograph next to the burial site of Pony Express rider Charley Cliff.*

<http://www.mountmora.com/>

### **Clay County**

#### **Mt. Memorial Cemetery**

500 College Hill  
Liberty, Missouri  
816-439-4537

Please note: the cemetery follows college guidelines about COVID. Social distancing and masks are required.

*Mt. Memorial Cemetery has been in use since the 1820s and is located on William Jewell College campus. Snap a photograph next to "The Old Graveyard" plaque describing the cemetery.*

<https://www.visitmo.com/things-to-do/mt-memorial-cemetery>

### **Dade County**

#### **Sinking Creek Cemetery**

895 East Dade 166  
Everton, Missouri  
417-429-8989

*Sinking Creek Cemetery dates to the early 1800's when a pioneer family stopped along Sinking Creek below the current church to camp. A few of their children were ailing with diphtheria and eventually succumbed to it. They were laid to rest on the hill. Unfortunately, the graves were unmarked and have not been located. The current church building was erected and the 10-acre cemetery officially established in 1849. The earliest known grave was interred between 1836-1840. This grave, of Mrs. Mary Snodgrass Wills, is a stacked stone grave in the East 1 section. The cemetery includes the graves of many Dade County pioneers that settled in Rock Prairie Township prior to the Civil War as well as their descendants. Many families can trace back 6 or more generations of burials. The cemetery and church building have many stories to tell. The church is open May 22-23 and 29-31. The cemetery is still active. From the beginning, there has never been a fee for burial. The grounds and buildings are maintained by volunteers and monetary donations. Snap a photograph next to the Sinking Creek sign.*

<https://www.facebook.com/SinkingCreekCemetery/>

### **Greene County**

#### **Maple Park Cemetery**

300 W. Grand Street  
Springfield, Missouri  
417-869-0217

*Maple Park Cemetery was established slightly outside of the city limits, at the time, in 1876 by 6 businessmen. Those same men and another 7 financially backed the development of the cemetery. The city cemetery, Hazelwood, had been built 9 years before this cemetery, but it was over 2 miles away from the city limits. This led to many people being unable to go with their loved ones for burial during inclement weather, if they were in poor health, or if their finances prevented them from hiring a carriage. Families were heartbroken that it would take so long to walk there and back or cost too much money to the cemetery to visit and care for the graves. So, Maple Park Cemetery was established for the*

community, not only as a burial place for their friends and family but also to enjoy picnics, listen to speeches or bands at the gazebo, and for walking. Being just two blocks from the city limits made the cemetery easily accessible to everyone in the city. The cemetery was established as a not-for-profit cemetery and continues to operate as a not-for-profit cemetery association. Visit the cemetery and find the unique Freeman family monument. It is a long stone with four panels designed and created by Frances Freeman, and she is one of the people buried there. Snap a photograph by the monument.

[www.mapleparkcemetery.org](http://www.mapleparkcemetery.org)

### **Springfield National Cemetery**

1702 East Seminole Street  
Springfield, Missouri  
417-881-9499

*Springfield National Cemetery was established in 1867. The cemetery contains burials of veterans from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War II. Snap a photograph by the Pearl Harbor Memorial.*

<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/springfield.asp>

### **Jackson County**

#### **George Historic Cemetery and Heritage Park**

37201 E. Hillside School Road  
Oak Grove, Missouri  
816-537-8814

The cemetery is located at Church and Hillside School Road.

*The George Historic Cemetery was established in 1840 by the family of David C. George. The family migrated to Jackson County, Missouri, in Fall 1836. The cemetery's goal is to be a learning experience for all ages regarding pioneer life, the Border War and Civil War. Solve the riddle: "One Body, Two Headstones,*

*Two Dates of Death." Snap a photograph by the grave that answers the riddle.*

<http://www.freedomsfrontier.org/Visitors/Sites/Comments.aspx?ID=176>

#### **Lee's Summit Historical Cemetery**

806 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Lee's Summit, Missouri  
816-969-1590

*Lee's Summit Historical Cemetery was established in 1867. It is the resting place of many local notable Missourians. Snap a photograph next to an example of Victorian era cemetery symbolism on a gravestone: a dog, representing loyalty, or a lion, representing courage/resurrection.*

<https://cityofls.net/parks/facilities/historical-cemeteries>

#### **Union Cemetery**

227 E. 28<sup>th</sup> Terrace  
Kansas City, Missouri  
816-472-4990

*Union Cemetery was established in 1857 and is the oldest public cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri. It contains burials of veterans from various wars and the burial site of artist George Caleb Bingham. Snap a landscape photograph (including yourself in the image) of the cemetery.*

<https://kcparks.org/places/union-cemetery-sextons-cottage/>

### **Jasper County**

#### **Mount Hope Cemetery**

3700 N Rangeline Rd  
Webb City, Missouri  
417-673-1590

*Mount Hope Cemetery represents an extremely valuable cultural and historical asset of the four-state area. The genealogical information, the gravestone architecture, and iconography make Mount Hope an historical treasure. Notable Joplin, Webb City, and Galena*

*businessmen of the zinc and lead mining era are interred on the cemetery grounds. Joplin co-founding father Patrick Murphy and Webb City founding father John Cornwall Webb are both buried in the cemetery. The engineering wonders that Mount Hope Cemetery provides contain splendid architectural structures that have remained unspoiled for over 100 years. Mount Hope features nine elaborately designed mausoleums. These innovative and elegant homes for the departed, forever tribute those who made our community what it is today. Although the private mausoleums of yesteryear were primarily built for wealthy families, today new technology makes these magnificent structures more affordable. Snap your photograph by the Schifferdecker Mausoleum.*

<https://www.facebook.com/Mt-Hope-Cemetery-782105595256240/>

### **Park Cemetery**

801 S. Baker Boulevard  
Carthage, Missouri  
417-358-4534

*Park Cemetery was established in 1879 and encompasses 78 acres. Around 15 acres are currently undeveloped. With Carthage Marble Corporation operating at the north edge of town for many years, it is no surprise that there are hundreds of elegant hand-carved limestone monuments throughout the older sections of the cemetery. Feel free to park your car near the office and take a stroll through Park Cemetery. Snap a photograph by Marlin Perkin's headstone. He was the host of Wild Kingdom from 1963 to 1985.*

<https://www.facebook.com/Park-Cemetery-120114864672577>

### **Peace Church Cemetery**

3311 North Peace Church Road  
Joplin, Missouri  
417-629-4914

The cemetery is located on the east side of Peace Church Road, half-way between Zora and Fountain Roads, just outside of Joplin, Missouri.

*From the first burial site in the 1840s to the most recent in 2005, the Peace Church Cemetery Association of Jasper County, Missouri, aims to honor and tell the stories of those who are laid to rest here. Peace Church Cemetery is the resting place of veterans from five wars: Civil War (both Union and Confederate soldiers), Spanish American War, World War I and World War II, and the Korean War. Several members of one family, buried near the cemetery wall, died during the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918. In the State of Missouri, when a cemetery is not maintained by a municipality or county, land ownership reverts to the families of those buried in the cemetery. Several years ago, Peace Church Cemetery was overrun with rocks, tall grass and weeds. Now, descendants and community members volunteer as caretakers, and the five-acre cemetery is 100% open. Take a self-guided tour and snap a photograph next to the entrance sign and flagpole.*

<https://www.facebook.com/peacechurchcemetery/>

### **Jefferson County**

#### **Gov. Daniel Dunklin's Grave State Historic Site**

104 Dunklin Drive  
Herculaneum, Missouri  
636-464-2976

*The gravesite of Missouri's fifth governor, Daniel Dunklin. He is known as the "father" of public schools. Snap a photograph next to the gravesite, including the gravesite walls.*

<https://mostateparks.com/park/gov-daniel-dunklins-grave-state-historic-site>

### **Marion County**

#### **Mt. Olivet Cemetery**

2340 Fulton Ave.  
Hannibal, Missouri  
573-221-0655

Please note: Masks and social distancing are required.

Originally established in 1847 as a burial ground for Park and Arch Street Methodist Churches, the cemetery was incorporated as a non-profit benevolence in 1866. Today the cemetery, resting amongst the rolling hills just south of Hannibal, includes over one hundred park-like acres. The current board of directors vow, as their predecessors did, to preserve the past yet plan for the future. The cemetery is the resting place for Samuel Clemens's father, mother, and siblings, as well as other notable figures from Hannibal's past. Snap your photograph next to the Clemens family monument or beside Clarence Gideon's monument.

<https://mtolivetcemeteryhannibal.com/>

### **Saline County**

**Sappington Cemetery State Historic Site**  
County Road AA  
Nelson, Missouri  
660-837-3330

*Sappington Cemetery is the resting place of prominent area doctor, Dr. John Sappington. The site also contains burials of two Missouri governors. Snap a photograph beside the State Historic Site plaque.*

<https://mostateparks.com/park/sappington-cemetery-state-historic-site>

### **Ste. Genevieve County**

**Ste. Genevieve Memorial Cemetery**  
35 N. Fifth Street  
Ste. Genevieve, Missouri  
573-883-9622

*Ste. Genevieve's Memorial Cemetery was established in 1787 and contains the tombs of the area's earliest French pioneers. It is a contributing site to both the Ste. Genevieve Historic District and National Landmark District. Snap a photograph by the cemetery entrance.*

<https://www.visitmo.com/things-to-do/ste-genevieve-memorial-cemetery>

### **St. Louis City**

**Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum**  
4947 West Florissant Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-381-0750

Please note: social distancing is required with at least 6-foot distance from other visitors.

*To traverse the 314 acres and 14 miles of roadway, please stop at Bellefontaine's office at 4947 W. Florissant Avenue. The "White Line" tour map will guide you to William Clark's final rest place. Explorer, Territorial Governor, and pivotal person in Missouri's bicentennial, Clark's monument is No. 26 on the map. While there, reflect that in its day, this location gave a view to the river below where William Clark and Meriwether Lewis set out on their famous Corps of Discovery. Snap a photograph beside William Clark's bust, the bison, wolf, or obelisk.*

<https://bellefontainecemetery.org/destination/horticulture/>

### **St. Louis County**

**Fee Fee Cemetery**  
8430 Gravois Road  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-739-2415

Please note: The interior of the cemetery office is ONLY for official cemetery business and is not open to the public. Masks must be worn at the cemetery and guests are limited to 10 people at a time.

*Fee Fee Cemetery is one of the oldest active cemeteries in the St. Louis area, with its first burial in 1822. Located on the southwest corner of Fee Fee Road and Old St. Charles Road, it is a 12.86-acre site with over 4,000 interments. Fee Fee is the final resting place for some of the earliest settlers in North St. Louis County and veterans from the American Revolutionary War through the Vietnam War. Take the self-guided*

*cemetery tour – found at the link below and on the cemetery’s website – and snap a photograph beside the monument for Fee Fee preachers.*

<http://www.feefecemetery.com/cemetery-grounds/>

### **Historic Quinette Cemetery**

12120 Old Big Bend Road  
Kirkwood, Missouri

Please note: Masks and social distancing are required.

*The oldest African-American cemetery west of the Mississippi River was rescued from a developer’s hands to become part of the Kirkwood park system. The site is believed to be the resting place of approximately 150 individuals and was offered as a free burial site for those of African-American decent starting in 1866. Snap your photograph underneath the entrance gates or by the Historic Quinette Cemetery plaque.*

<https://www.kirkwoodparksandrec.org/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/28/444#>

### **New Mt. Sinai Cemetery and Mausoleum**

8430 Gravois Road  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-353-2540

Please note: The cemetery follows St. Louis County COVID guidelines.

*New Mt. Sinai Cemetery was established in 1850. It is the resting place of notable Missourians who have contributed greatly to the state, including many department store moguls, such as Charles A. Stix. Snap a photograph next to Charles A. Stix’s burial site, located in Section N-Lot 4 of the cemetery.*

Self-guided tour map:

[https://www.newmtsinaicemetery.org/pdf/NMS\\_Self-Guided\\_Tour\\_Map.pdf](https://www.newmtsinaicemetery.org/pdf/NMS_Self-Guided_Tour_Map.pdf)

<https://newmtsinaicemetery.org/>