

Frequently Asked Questions About Mt. Moriah Cemetery

Where did the name Mt. Moriah originate from?

Deadwood's Mt. Moriah Cemetery and its street names contain a religious affiliation with the Christian Bible and the Jewish Torah. The real Mount Moriah is located within Jerusalem, Israel and is the location of Solomon's Temple. Coincidentally, there are fifteen Mt. Moriah Cemeteries in the United States.

What do the symbols on the cemetery gateway represent?

The Mt. Moriah gateway symbols, from left to right, represent the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Freemasonry, and the Star of David.

How many people are buried in Mt. Moriah Cemetery?

The burial of James Delong on June 1, 1878 was the first of 3,627 recorded burials in Mt. Moriah Cemetery. The number may be higher due to lost and incomplete burial records. Approximately half of the burials in the cemetery have permanent grave markers.

Why are rocks left on some of the graves?

Rocks on the grave act as a remembrance to the deceased. The origin of this practice is not clear, however, the placement of stones on graves has gone on for thousands of years. When rocks are not available, coins and bits of glass are sometimes substituted.

Can I buy a plot in Mt. Moriah?

Mt. Moriah is a "closed" cemetery. All of the plots within the cemetery are held by various individuals and families for future use. Deadwood's active cemetery, Oakridge Municipal Cemetery is approximately one mile east along US Highway 14A going towards Sturgis, South Dakota.

Is there a Chinese Section in Mt. Moriah Cemetery?

In 1908 the Deadwood's Chinese community built an altar and ceremonial oven in Section 6. This section of the cemetery over time would be referred to as the Chinese section in Mt. Moriah Cemetery. In 2013, the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission rebuilt this unique feature to the cemetery. Some of the bricks used in the oven were salvaged from the Wing Tsue Emporium, once located in Deadwood's Chinatown district.