

**The Filson Historical Society**

**Cave Hill Cemetery  
Papers, 1849-1963**

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of Special Collections, James J. Holmberg

**Size of Collection:**

14 cu. ft.

**Location Number:**

Mss./BB/C378

**Cave Hill Cemetery  
Papers, 1848-1963**

**Scope and Content Note**

The Cave Hill collection contains various letters, papers, and correspondence related to the Cave Hill Cemetery Company. Much of the correspondence regards payments, proposal, rule changes, plot entitlement, and various requests. Construction and renovation communications include letters from architects, craftsmen, statuary companies, civil engineers, and stone and iron workers. These letters disclose a fine impression of nineteenth century landscaping, monumentalization, and structural design. The collection also contains correspondence from and regarding regional notables including Alfred Pirtle, Bennett Young, R. C. Ballard Thruston, John Leathers, George D. Todd, Arthur Peter, W. A. Haldeman, Nicola Marschall, R. T. Durrett, and the Simon Bolivar Buckner family. Although most of its papers date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the total collection spans over a century and satisfactorily details the day to day tasks of maintaining a cemetery as well as the broader evolution of the company.

## **Cave Hill Cemetery Papers, 1848-1963**

### **Historical Note**

Chartered in 1848, Cave Hill Cemetery and Arboretum is a 296 acre Victorian era National Cemetery. The grounds boast a Corinthian-style tower and main entrance, two man made lakes, more than five hundred species of trees and shrubs, as well as the Kentucky's finest collection of outdoor monumental sculptures. Beargrass Creek runs through the middle of the property, dividing the cemetery into new (eastern) and old (western) sections. It is also the burial site of many of Louisville's older families. As of 1998, the cemetery had interred approximately 118,000 people. Notable internments include three Union Civil War generals, Revolutionary War leader George Rogers Clark, Abraham Lincoln confidants James and Joshua Fry Speed, and fried chicken entrepreneur Colonel Harland Sanders.

**Cave Hill Cemetery  
Papers, 1848-1963**

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