



HISTORIC
OAK HILL CEMETERY
WHERE BATTLE CREEK'S HISTORY ENDURES
255 SOUTH AVENUE, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN 49014

Beyond these gates lie celebrities that improved the world and reprobates that were a stain on humanity – just like any cemetery. Here is a list of a few local citizens known beyond the boundaries of Battle Creek:

1a. **White, Ellen** (1827-1915) was named among 100 Most Significant Americans in the Smithsonian magazine for her influence on religion. She, along with her husband, co-founded the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (SDA). She wrote more than 5,000 periodical articles and 40 books, including *Steps to Christ*, which was published in more than 140 languages. It is estimated that Ellen G. White is the most translated female non-fiction author in the history of publishing. Lot 320.

1b. **White, James Springer** (1821-1881) In 1849 he started *The Present Truth* (now *The Adventist Review*). In 1855 he relocated the fledgling center of the movement to Battle Creek. He played a major role in the formation of Battle Creek College (now Andrews University). Lot 320.

2. **Arnold, Adam C. "Pump"** (ca. 1827-1897) was a bootlegger, a robber, a con-artist, an arsonist, loan shark, and when he died he saved the taxpayers from sentencing him for the murder of his son. His wife was a devout member of the Christian Temperance Union, whose group provided his headstone. See *Original Battle Creek Crime King: Adam "Pump" Arnold's Vile Reign* by Blaine Pardow. Lot 285.

3. **Hussey, Erastus H.** (1800-1889) was born to Quaker parents. He was a teacher, and the books he brought with him from the East served as a community library. He became known as the Father of the Battle Creek Public School System. He established the Michigan Liberty Press, an abolitionist newspaper and was burned out 2 years later. He was the station master of the Battle Creek branch of the underground railroad from its inception, providing food, shelter, and lodging to fleeing fugitives, helping over 1,000 families seek freedom. He is a major figure in the Underground Railroad monument in downtown Battle Creek. Lot 284.

4. **Decker, Johannes** (1839-1910) learned about dry goods in New York, coming to Battle Creek in 1866. His wife commissioned sculptress Nellie V. Walker of Chicago to create a bronze statue that was awarded first prize at the Art Institute in Chicago. The statue over the grave of Johannes has become a local legend. It is known as “Crying Mary” and featured in *Weird Michigan* due to the patina on her cheeks caused by rain. Lot 499.

5. **Kellogg, Will Keith (W.K.)** (1860-1951) In 1880 he went to work for his brother John, and for 25 years helped to create formulas for new breakfast cereals to be used at the Sanitarium. They produced the first successful flaked cereal made from wheat, and in 1899 came the first corn flaked cereal. In 1902, W.K. bought the rights to the new cereals. It grew to have factories located on four continents and earned profits of millions of dollars. He built an auditorium, a junior high school and recreation center. Sec. A.

6. **Kellogg, Dr. John Harvey** (1852-1943) was a medical pioneer. He coined the term “Sanitarium” and developed many theories about living longer and healthier. He encouraged his patients to avoid red meat, sugar and regular exercise. Dr. Kellogg authored 50 books, using royalties as income, never expecting a salary for being head of the Sanitarium which drew movie stars, presidents, millionaires and royalty. Sec. A.

7. **Walker, Junior** (1931-1995) was born Autry DeWalt Mixon Jr. He convinced the “All Stars” to move from South Bend, IN to Battle Creek, MI. Their first and signature hit was “Shotgun”, written by Junior Walker and produced by Berry Gordy. This was followed by “(I’m a) Road Runner”, “Come See About Me” and “How Sweet It Is”. Walker’s “Shotgun” was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2022. Lot 998.

8a. **Post, C. W.** (1854-1914) entered the Sanitarium Hospital as a sick, semi-invalid. With Dr. Kellogg’s proper diet and exercise program, C. W. was soon well. In 1895 he perfected his first batch of Postum, a substitute for coffee. He introduced Grape-Nuts Cereal in 1899. In 1904 Post Toasties was introduced. Sec. O.

8b. **Montgomery, Leila Diadema (Young) Post** (1877-1940) was one of Battle Creek’s greatest benefactors, including 90 acres for the Leila arboretum, the Emily Andrus Home for elderly women, and the Leila Hospital.

9. **Kellogg, Frank James** (1845-1916) Not related to the Kellogg brothers, he became well known in his own right. Known as "Professor" Kellogg, he became a millionaire as the manufacturer and promoter of "Professor Kellogg's Brown Tablets" which he advertised nationally as weight reduction "anti-fat" tablets. In later years, his patent medicines were the first investigated by (and possibly the reason for) the precursor of the Food & Drug Administration. Sec. P.

10. **Sojourner Truth** (1797-183) was an ex-slave, temperance leader, evangelist, orator, abolitionist and advocate of prison reform. In 1828 she fought a legal battle to regain custody of her son, becoming the first black woman to win a lawsuit against a white man. Named to the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1981, and the first woman named to the Michigan Hall of Fame in 1983. Lot 634.