

burials now occur. As of 2010 this is the only cemetery in the Roslyn complex that guarantees perpetual care.

**9. Eagles Cemetery:** Established by Roslyn Eagles Aerie 696 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in 1904.

**10. Polish Cemetery:** The only cemetery in the Roslyn complex that buries its dead facing north; all others face east. One explanation is that the northern burial position allows the resurrected to face their church, Roslyn's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Both Polish and Lithuanian lodges used this cemetery, and this sharing reflects the close cultural connection between the two countries.

**11. Silvio Pellico Cemetery:** Named in honor of a northern Italian patriot. Pellico was a *carbonari*, a member of a secret revolutionary society that influenced the development of Italian nationalism and contributed to Italian Unification in 1861. Roslyn Italians founded this lodge, *Societa' Silvio Pellico* and its cemetery in the early 1900s.

**12. Redmen Lodge Cemetery:** The Improved Order of Red Men Lodge was active in Roslyn from 1898 – 1950. The Roslyn lodge had a women's counterpart, the Hiawatha Council - #4 Degree of Pocahontas. This national fraternal lodge, initially named the Sons of Liberty, was organized to preserve American traditions, and to provide sickness, accident, and burial benefits to members.

**13. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Cemetery:** In Roslyn the International Order of Odd Fellows started in 1888. The women's chapter, the Rebekah Lodge, started in 1889.

**14. Slovakian Cemetery:** Established by the National Slovak Society that was officially chartered in Roslyn on May 24, 1891 according to records at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania headquarters.

**15. New Knights of Pythias Cemetery:** Established in the 1930s as an annex to the original Knights of Pythias Cemetery. The Knights of Pythias are an international non-sectarian fraternal order.

**16. Old Knights of Pythias Cemetery:** The Order of Knights of Pythias (KP) was founded in 1864, and based its rituals on the story of Damon and Pythias, a Greek tale of trust and loyalty in friendship. Welcome Lodge # 30 of the Knights of Pythias was chartered in Roslyn on November 15, 1887. This cemetery contains several graves of miners killed in the May 10, 1892 mine explosion.

**17. Foresters Cemetery:** The Ancient Order of Foresters was founded in England in 1745 and introduced to America in 1832. The local lodge of The Foresters of America was founded in Roslyn in the 1890s, with the first grave in the cemetery dated 1894.

**18. Druid Cemetery:** Northern Italians chartered a Druids Lodge in Roslyn in 1900. The men's order folded first, but the Druidesses' lodge, Prosperity Circle No. 2, continued to operate until the mid-1950s.

**19. Cacciatori D'Africa:** Translated from the Italian as *Hunters of Africa*, an Italian lodge named in honor of Italian infantry who invaded parts of Africa, including Libya, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, during Italian colonization in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The local Lodge was founded in Roslyn in 1889.

**20. Serbian Cemetery:** Established in the early 1900s by an active Serbian Lodge, this cemetery contains the remains of Orthodox Christians. Eastern Orthodox crosses mark graves. This cemetery contains not only Serbians but also Orthodox Christians of other nationalities.

**21. National Croatian Society Cemetery:** Founded by members of the National Croatian Society (*Narodne Hrvatske Zajednice, NHZ*) in the early 1900s, this cemetery was established by a Croatian lodge that provided life, accident, health, and death insurance to members and their families. It is believed that the local lodge organized in Ronald. It eventually merged with the local Dr. Starceovich Lodge #56.

**22. Sokol Cemetery:** Founded by the Sokol Lodge, organized in 1904 to promote athletic skills and patriotism among its members. Czech for "falcon," Sokol has been in the United States since 1865 and attracts Americans of Czech, Slovakian, and Moravian descent. The American Sokol Organization remains active throughout the nation today. Based on the credo of "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body." American Sokol organizations offer physical training, particularly in gymnastics, as well as cultural awareness and social activities. More than one Sokol Lodge formed here; it is unclear which one founded the cemetery.

**23. St. Barbara Cemetery:** This cemetery was established in the early 1900s by St. Barbara's #39 J.S.K.J. Lodge. St. Barbara is said to be the patron saint of those who work underground.

**24. Dr. David Starceovich #1, Lodge No. 56:** This lodge was founded in Roslyn in 1897, and is a chapter of the Croatian Fraternal Union. Local Croatians named their lodge to honor a Croatian leader Dr. David Starceovich, a solicitor who actively opposed Hungarian rule in Croatia until he was imprisoned for professional misconduct in 1887.

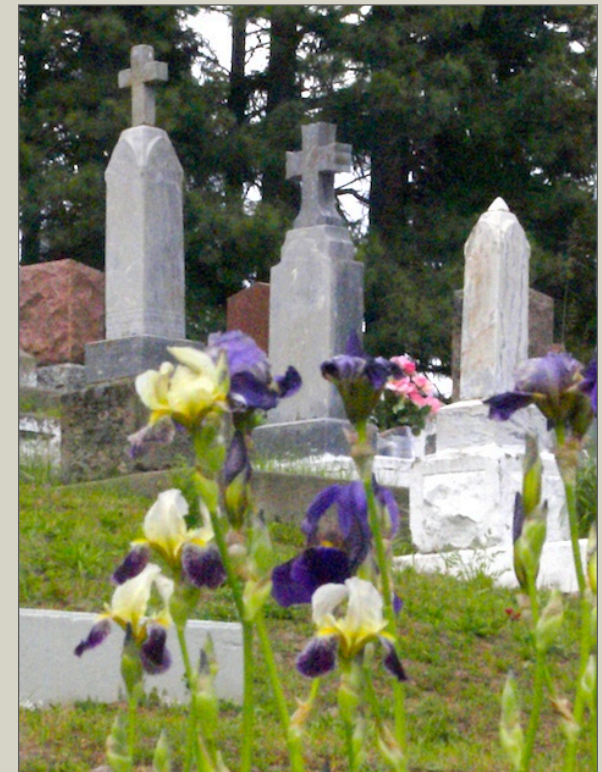
**25. Masonic Cemetery:** This cemetery contains the remains of Roslyn's Freemasons and their family members. The Roslyn Masonic Lodge, St. Thomas Lodge #54 Free & Accepted Masons was chartered in 1888.

**26. Old City Cemetery:** The oldest cemetery in the Roslyn complex, the oldest known grave dating to 1887. As Roslyn's first cemetery, established by the Northern Pacific Coal Company, it remained a general cemetery that was taken over by the city in 1926. The Old City Cemetery contains a diverse mix of ethnicities as evidenced by the names and languages engraved on tombstones.

**27. Mt. Olivet Cemetery:** African American miners were brought from the Midwest to Roslyn in the 1880s to work in the mines during labor disputes. Other African American families followed the initial Black immigrants. Although many African American families moved away, by 1900 the Black residents still totaled more than 20% of Roslyn's population.

# ROSLYN

## CEMETERY GUIDE



ESTABLISHED 1886

27 separate cemeteries tell the story of Roslyn's rich multi-cultural past as a mining town that attracted workers from throughout Europe. Examples of ethnic individuality and cultural heritage abound.

A walk through this complex conveys remembrances of the more than thirty ethnicities that lived and died in Roslyn, Washington.

# ROSLYN CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

The cemetery complex in Roslyn, Washington contains the largest grouping of old city, ethnic, and fraternal lodge cemeteries in the Northwest. Established when Roslyn was platted in 1886, 27 separate cemeteries tell the story of Roslyn's rich multi-cultural past as a mining town that attracted workers from throughout Europe. Roslyn became a major coal producer with a population peaking at 3126 according to the 1910 U.S. Census.

Lodge affiliation segregates Roslyn's cemeteries. Because Roslyn attracted such a diverse mix of Europeans, lodges—based for the most part upon ethnicity—thrived in Roslyn's immigrant population. Italians joined Italian lodges, Croatians joined with their countrymen in Croatian lodges, and Slovaks, Poles, Serbs, Lithuanians, and African Americans established their own lodges.

Cultural and social connections were important attractions to lodge membership; however, a more practical reason for membership lay in personal benefits. A country without social benefits in pre-Social Security days forced citizens to join fraternal orders or beneficial societies to obtain old age insurance and medical or burial benefits. Thus practical reasons motivated the ethnic segregation visible in the Roslyn Cemetery complex.

Examples of ethnic individuality and cultural heritage abound in the Roslyn Cemeteries: Slavic languages grace tombstones, Eastern Orthodox crosses decorate Serbian graves, and elevated and curbed graves climb steep slopes. Many graves are unmarked by tombstones. In some cases graves are only noticeable because of rings of stones.

As visitors walk through the Roslyn Cemeteries they will note other signs of the times: the large number of children and baby graves provide evidence of high childhood and infant mortality of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In several cemeteries baby graves are separated from adult graves in rows independent of family plots. Graves of victims of the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic are numerous, as are graves of miners killed in Roslyn's two major mine explosions: May 10, 1892 and October 3, 1909.

More than a hundred years after its founding, the Roslyn Cemetery complex survives as a physical reminder of the richly diverse ethnic composition of the United States' population. A walk through this complex conveys remembrances of the more than thirty ethnicities that lived and died in Roslyn, Washington.

Please remember this cemetery is sacred ground. We ask visitors to respect our cemetery:

- Keep off graves
- Be sensitive to unmarked graves. Do not walk on them or disturb their stone borders
- Do not remove any elements from the cemetery
- Properly dispose of litter
- Keep vehicles within marked roads and parking areas
- No dogs allowed
- No skateboards or scooters allowed

Roslyn Cemetery Beneficial Association  
PO Box 156, Roslyn, WA 98941  
[www.roslyncemetery.org](http://www.roslyncemetery.org)

*This brochure was printed with the assistance of a grant from Humanities Washington, November 2010*

**BEGIN** in parking lot by informational kiosk. (**Star** on map).

**1. Veterans Cemetery:** The Robert H. Brooks VFW Post #4125 and the Roslyn-Ronald American Legion Post #206 built this cemetery. Fred P. Pasquan, killed in WWII, was the first burial in the Roslyn Veterans Cemetery on April 10, 1949.

**2. Veterans Cemetery #2:** Roslyn acquired the Old County Cemetery or paupers' cemetery from Kittitas County in the early 1980s to expand the Veterans Cemetery.

**3. Old County Cemetery:** Used by Kittitas County to bury people with no means of burial, this paupers' cemetery was little used; there is no sign marking the Old County Cemetery, which became Veterans Cemetery #2 in the 1980s. #3 is therefore not shown on the map.

**4. Moose Cemetery:** A cemetery affiliated with the Loyal Order of Moose, which started Moose Lodge #1644 in Roslyn in 1911. The original lodge disbanded, but was

re-established in the 1920s. The Roslyn lodge then merged with the Ellensburg lodge in 1931.

**5. Dr. Starceovich Lodge #56 Cemetery #2,** of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America: This historic cemetery was originally affiliated with the Croatian League of Illinois until it merged with the local Dr. Starceovich Lodge #56 in 1927.

**6. New City Cemetery:** The first cemetery built by the City of Roslyn. This cemetery was established when Old City Cemetery was filled and space was needed for an additional general cemetery.

**7. Lithuanian Cemetery:** Established 1909 by the Lithuanian Alliance of America, or *Siuvinejimas Lietuviu Amerikoje (SLA)*. Members of SLA Cle Elum Lodge 97, Roslyn Lodge 297, and the Society of Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas are buried here.

**8. Memorial Gardens:** Established in 1977, is maintained by the City of Roslyn and is the cemetery in which most

## WALKING TOUR CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

