

Cincinnati's Historic Cemeteries: Courage, Cooperation & Perseverance on the Underground Railroad and in the Civil War

This tour is intended to be a driving tour for the purpose of experiencing two of Cincinnati's most historic cemeteries. Spring Grove Cemetery is world renowned for its beautiful monuments and serene landscapes. However, it is also the final resting place for many individuals who were involved in the Underground Railroad and the Civil War. The Union Baptist Cemetery is the largest African American cemetery in Hamilton County, and it is a hidden gem in the history of the community.

Stop #1: Union Baptist Cemetery

Founded in 1831, the Union Baptist Church is the second oldest African American congregation in Cincinnati. The church began as a result of fourteen African Americans leaving the Enon Baptist Church due to their practice of segregating the membership and forcing the black congregants to sit at the back of the church.

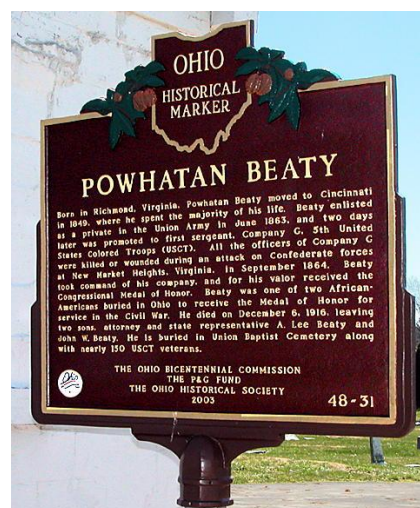
After meeting in a residence on Third Street between Plum and Elm Streets, a new house of worship was dedicated in 1835 on Western Row near Second Street. It was at that location that the seeds of abolition were sown for the Union Baptist congregation. Not only was the Union Baptist Church a station on the Underground Railroad, it was also a gathering place for anti-slavery meetings and summits. Some of the best known American abolitionists are known to have spoken at these meetings, including William Lloyd Garrison, Henry Ward Beecher, and Frederick Douglass.

In 1848, Union Baptist welcomed its new pastor, William P. Newman. Newman had been educated at Oberlin College, and he was well known as a fiery and passionate preacher. However, there was something about his past that would create an even greater firestorm in the Union Baptist Church community by 1850. Rev. William P. Newman was a fugitive slave. He had come to Cincinnati by way of Virginia, and legally he was still the property of his owner. With the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Newman and his family were in danger of being captured by Federal Marshals and returned to Virginia. Therefore, they left for Chatham, Ontario, Canada; where Newman continued to fight for the cause of freedom until his return to Cincinnati in 1864. William P. Newman died in 1866 as a result of a cholera outbreak in Cincinnati. He is buried here in the cemetery.

Union Baptist Cemetery was opened in 1864, and many noted individuals have found their final resting place here. Some members of the Black Brigade of Cincinnati, including Powhatan Beaty, are buried here, as are some of their children and other relatives. Additionally, there are 120 United States Colored Troops from the Civil War buried at Union Baptist Cemetery.

Two additional suggestions for those interested in finding out more information about the Black Brigade and/or the Union Baptist Church are to stop in at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and

4933 Cleves Warsaw Pike



There is a spark within each of us,
Fan the Flame

the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal. At the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, you will find the church records for the Union Baptist Church as well as additional information on the Black Brigade of Cincinnati. Visitors are also welcome to utilize the resources at the John Parker Research Library located on the 4th floor of the Freedom Center. Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal is the home of the Cincinnati Historical Society and their magnificent library which houses unique information on many subjects related to Cincinnati, its role in the Underground Railroad as well as the Civil War. Please visit their respective web sites for more information: www.freedomcenter.org or www.cincymuseum.org

Stop #2: Spring Grove Cemetery

4521 Spring Grove Avenue

Perhaps one of the most well known cemeteries in the nation for its landscape and architecture is Spring Grove. With a rich history, the cemetery has become the final resting place for many of Cincinnati's best known families. Many of history's heroes are also buried here. Among them are Levi Coffin, who was known by many as the president of the Underground Railroad; and General William Lytle, a poet and 19th century Renaissance man, whose bravery and leadership were recognized after his death at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863.

More information is available at the cemetery, including a map and guide to the location of the many individuals and families involved in the Underground Railroad and the Civil War. You can also access their web site at www.springgrove.org or contact them by phone at 513-681-7526.

Maps are also available from the Spring Grove web site: <http://www.springgrove.org/sg/maps/maps.shtm>

Walking Directions and Map

Start: National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
50 East Freedom Way Cincinnati, OH 45202

1. Head east on E Freedom Way toward Walnut St (0.1 mi)
2. Turn right onto Main St (0.1 mi)
3. Turn right onto W Mehring Way (1.4 mi)
4. Continue onto Freeman Ave (0.4 mi)
5. Turn left onto W 8th St (1.1 mi)
6. W 8th St turns slightly right and becomes Glenway Ave (3.0 mi)
7. Turn left onto Cleves Warsaw Ave/Cleves Warsaw Pike Destination will be on the left (0.2 mi)

4933 Cleves Warsaw Pike Cincinnati, OH 45238

8. Head east on Cleves Warsaw Ave/Cleves Warsaw Pike toward Coronado Ave (0.2 mi)
9. Take the 3rd right onto Glenway Ave (2.2 mi)
10. Turn left onto Grand Ave (1.0 mi)
11. Take the 3rd right onto Westwood Ave (0.3 mi)
12. Slight right onto Harrison Ave (0.2 mi)
13. Take the ramp to I-75 S 427 ft
14. Merge onto Western Hills Viaduct (0.4 mi)
15. Turn left onto Spring Grove Ave (2.2 mi)
16. Continue onto William P Dooley Bypass (0.7 mi)
17. Continue onto Spring Grove Ave (0.7 mi)
18. Turn left onto Winton Rd (0.8 mi)
19. Turn left onto Gray Rd (0.2 mi)

Spring Grove Cemetery 4521 Spring Grove Ave Cincinnati, OH 45232-1954

20. Head southeast on Gray Rd toward Winton Rd (0.2 mi)
21. Turn right onto Winton Rd (0.8 mi)
22. Turn left onto Spring Grove Ave (0.4 mi)
23. Turn right onto W Mitchell Ave (0.3 mi)

24. Take the ramp onto I-75 S (5.6 mi)
25. Take exit 1B on the left for I-71 N/US-50 E toward US-52 E (0.3 mi)
26. Take exit 1A for Second St toward Downtown/Riverfront (0.3 mi)
27. Merge onto Second St W (0.5 mi)
28. Turn right onto Walnut St (374 ft)
29. Take the 1st right onto E Freedom Way Destination will be on the right (236 ft)

End: National Underground Railroad Freedom Center 50 East Freedom Way Cincinnati, OH 45202