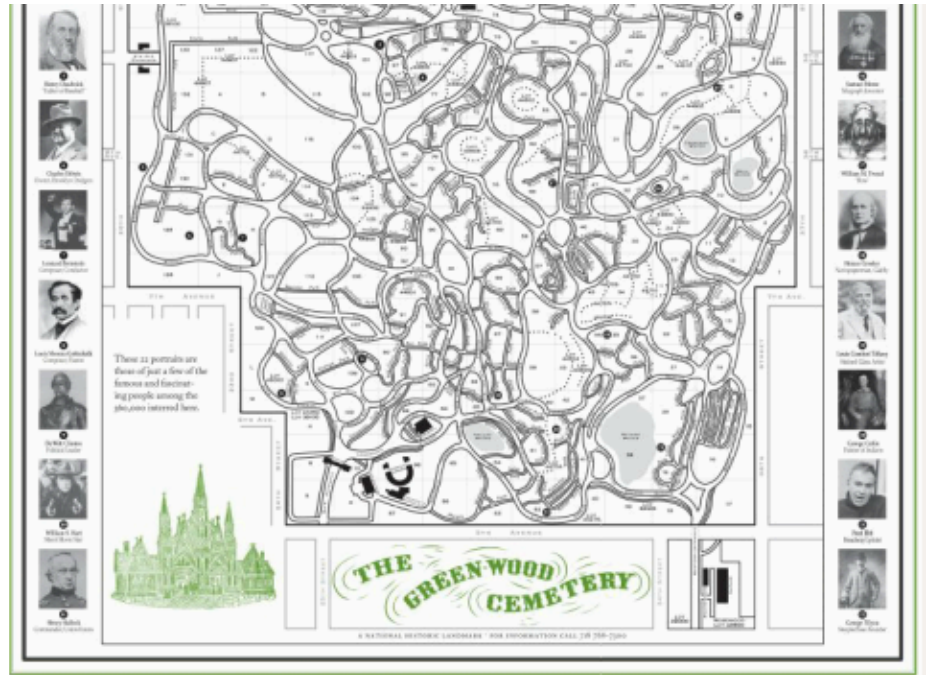


Remembering Black New Yorkers at Green-Wood Cemetery

What is the history of Black burials and memorials for Black New Yorkers at Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery?



Julia Miele Rodas

is a devoted Brooklynite, whose parents and grandparents also hail from Brooklyn. She lives in Park Slope, about five blocks from her childhood home, with her husband and two teenaged children, both of whom attended the same primary school where she went as a kid. She likes to read and write, paint and draw, cook and garden.

And ... her great grandfather is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery!

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In a roundtable discussion on *The Atlantic's* "Politics" blog, "What Does It Mean for America to Put Harriet Tubman on the \$20 Bill?" Gillian White observes:

There is ... something incredibly important about being represented and being seen. The luxury that so many white people take for granted is seeing people who look like them in every facet of life, from politics to economics to entertainment. This doesn't exist for people of color.

As a life-long Brooklyn resident, I have often visited historic Green-Wood Cemetery, 478 acres of beautifully landscaped green space in the heart of the borough. Green-Wood is full of elaborate old monuments and sculptures: angels,

mausoleums, obelisks, even a pyramid. When I recently attended a tour of Green-Wood, the guide talked about how wealthy 19th-century New Yorkers would try to out-do one another with the size and ornamentation of their burial sites, the same way living people sometimes compete with one another by building huge houses and buying expensive cars. When I consider all these monumental grave-sites in the context of recent discussions about the way people of color have often been excluded from the way we remember and memorialize U.S. history, and I start to wonder about the history of Black people is at Green-Wood cemetery and I began to investigate if there are any African-Americans New Yorkers buried under these spectacular monuments.

JOSH CLARK & CHUCK BRYANT FROM *STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW*

Josh Clark and Chuck Bryant from *Stuff You Should Know* say: "You have got to listen to Julia's amazing podcast about Green-Wood Cemetery! Not only is it super informative—it's also wildly entertaining! We learned all kinds of cool stuff about the history of Black Brooklyn and it really made us want to visit Green-Wood. Highly recommended!"