

Cemetery Vocabulary

Afterlife (noun): an existence after death

Churchyards (noun): a yard that belongs to a church and is often used as a burial ground

Columbariums (noun): a structure of vaults lined with recesses for cremation urns.

Cremated (adjective): to reduce (a dead body) to mostly tiny bits of bones resembling ash through exposure to flame and intense heat followed by pulverization of bone fragments

Drapery (noun): a decorative piece of material usually hung in loose folds and arranged in a graceful design

Egyptian Revival (noun): an architectural style that uses the motifs and imagery of ancient Egypt

Elaborately (adjective): marked by complexity, fullness of detail, or ornateness

Flush (adjective): having or forming a continuous plane or unbroken surface

Garden cemetery (noun): a style of cemetery that became popular in the United States and Europe in the mid-19th century due to the overcrowding and health concerns of urban cemeteries, which tended to be churchyards. Rural cemeteries were typically built 1–5 mi (1.6–8.0 km) outside of the city, far enough to be separated from the city, but close enough for visitors. They often contain elaborate monuments, memorials, and mausoleums in a landscaped park-like setting.

Granite (noun): a very hard natural igneous rock formation of visibly crystalline texture formed essentially of quartz and orthoclase or microcline and used especially for building and for monuments

Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School (organization, noun): founded by the State of Illinois as Illinois Soldiers' Orphans' Home for orphans of the Civil War, was a home for children who were orphaned, indigent, or neglected located in Normal from 1865 until 1979.

Mausoleums (noun): a large tomb; usually a stone building with places for entombment of the dead above ground.

Memorialization (verb): commemorate

Monumental (adjective): serving as or resembling a monument: massive

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Obelisk (noun): an upright 4-sided usually monolithic pillar that gradually tapers as it rises and terminates in a pyramid

Ornate (adjective): elaborately or excessively decorated

Ossuary (noun): a depository for the bones of the dead, or cremated remains.

Pierre Lachaise (noun): opened in 1804 and is the largest cemetery in Paris, France, at 44 hectares or 110 acres.

Reverence (noun): honor or respect felt or shown: deference

Sanitation (noun): the promotion of hygiene and prevention of disease by maintenance of sanitary conditions (as by removal of sewage and trash)

***The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (noun):** a 1900 children's novel written by author L. Frank Baum and illustrated by W. W. Denslow. It is the first novel in the Oz series of books

Urn (noun): a vessel that is typically an ornamental vase on a pedestal and that is used for various purposes (such as preserving the ashes of the dead after cremation)

Vandalism (noun): willful or malicious destruction or defacement of public or private property, in this instance monuments in a cemetery.

Veil (noun): as related to cemeteries and funerary monuments, the veil can symbolize the separation between the living and the dead. Shrouds can also represent the parting of the veil between the two worlds. Veils can also represent grief and mourning. Veils are often found covering obelisks or urns on monuments.