

# A GUIDE TO Trinity Church Cemetery & Mausoleum



## TRINITY CHURCH CEMETERY & MAUSOLEUM—A WALK THROUGH HISTORY

*Welcome* to Trinity Church Cemetery & Mausoleum—a unique historical site and a quiet sanctuary. This guide provides a tour of the grounds. The cemetery offers a serene place to walk, views of the Hudson River, and is the final resting place of many notable people.

The Cemetery was established in 1842 by the parish of Trinity Church. It was opened after burials were prohibited in Lower Manhattan due to outbreaks of cholera and other diseases. The site's earlier history dates back to 1776, when the Battle of Fort Washington was waged here during the American Revolution. As you walk the grounds, take note of some of the interesting people interred here and highlighted on the map. One recognizable name is John James Audubon, the naturalist and artist. His estate, Minnie Island, was located nearby, and Audubon is buried in the Eastern division, behind the Church of the Intercession. His memorial is a tall, distinctive Celtic cross adorned with reliefs of animals such as deer, buffalo, and elk. Other notable names include: Alfred Temyson Dickens, son of Charles Dickens, John Jacob Astor, industrialist, Ralph Ellison, author of *Invisible Man*, and Clement Clarke Moore, author of the beloved poem *A Visit from St. Nicholas*. Trinity Church Cemetery & Mausoleum is the only active cemetery in Manhattan. It is operated as an outreach ministry of Trinity Church Wall Street, an Episcopal parish in Lower Manhattan made up of Trinity Church and St. Paul's Chapel. You can learn more about the parish's history and mission at [trinitywallstreet.org](http://trinitywallstreet.org).

THANK YOU FOR VISITING!

### PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

#### 1 Church of the Intercession

Broadway and 155th Street (on the grounds of the eastern division of the cemetery) | [intercessionnyc.diocese.ny.org](http://intercessionnyc.diocese.ny.org) | 212.283.6200

Originally built as an independent church, the Neo-Gothic structure that now stands was built as a chapel of Trinity Church. It was consecrated in 1915 and became independent from Trinity in 1976.

#### 2 The Hispanic Society of America

Broadway between 155th & 156th Streets | [hispanicsociety.org](http://hispanicsociety.org) | 212.926.2234

A free museum and reference library for the study of the arts and cultures of Spain, Portugal, and Latin America.

#### 3 Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum

65 Jumel Terrace (between 160th & 162nd Streets, east of St. Nicholas Avenue) | [morrismetel.org](http://morrismetel.org) | 212.923.8008

Considered Manhattan's oldest house, the mansion was once headquarters for General Washington in 1776. It was later purchased by French emigrant Stephen Jumel and his wife Eliza, who is buried in Trinity Cemetery. Eliza Jumel later married Aaron Burr, former U.S. Vice President.

#### The Cloisters

99 Margaret Corbin Drive, Fort Tryon Park | [metmuseum.org](http://metmuseum.org) | 212.923.3700

A branch of The Metropolitan Museum of Art that consists of a reconstructed medieval monastery and cloistered gardens containing medieval European art and architectural elements.

#### Fort Tryon Park

Riverside Drive to Broadway, West 192nd to Dyckman Streets | [forttryonpark.nycgovparks.org](http://forttryonpark.nycgovparks.org)

Built in 1935 by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., son of the architect of Central Park and encompassing 66.63 acres. The park features the Heather Garden, which has panoramic views of the Hudson River, and the Alpine Garden, a 3-acre garden and collection of stone staircases that traverse the slope between the Cloisters and Broadway.

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The Rev. Dr. William Lupfer, *Rector*  
The Rev. Phillip A. Jackson, *Vicar*

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[trinitywallstreet.org/cemetery](http://trinitywallstreet.org/cemetery)

BY BUS  
• Take the M4 or M5 to Broadway and West 153rd Street.

BY SUBWAY  
• Take the C subway line to the 155th Street station stop. Walk west on 155th Street toward Riverside Drive.

• Take the #1 subway line to the 157th Street station stop. Walk south to 155th Street and west to Riverside Drive.

BY CAR  
• **North** on the Henry Hudson Parkway (9A), take exit 13 toward West 158th Street. Continue on 158th Street. Turn right on Broadway and right at 153rd Street.

Trinity Church Cemetery & Mausoleum is located in Northern Manhattan at 770 Riverside Drive between 153rd Street and 155th Street.

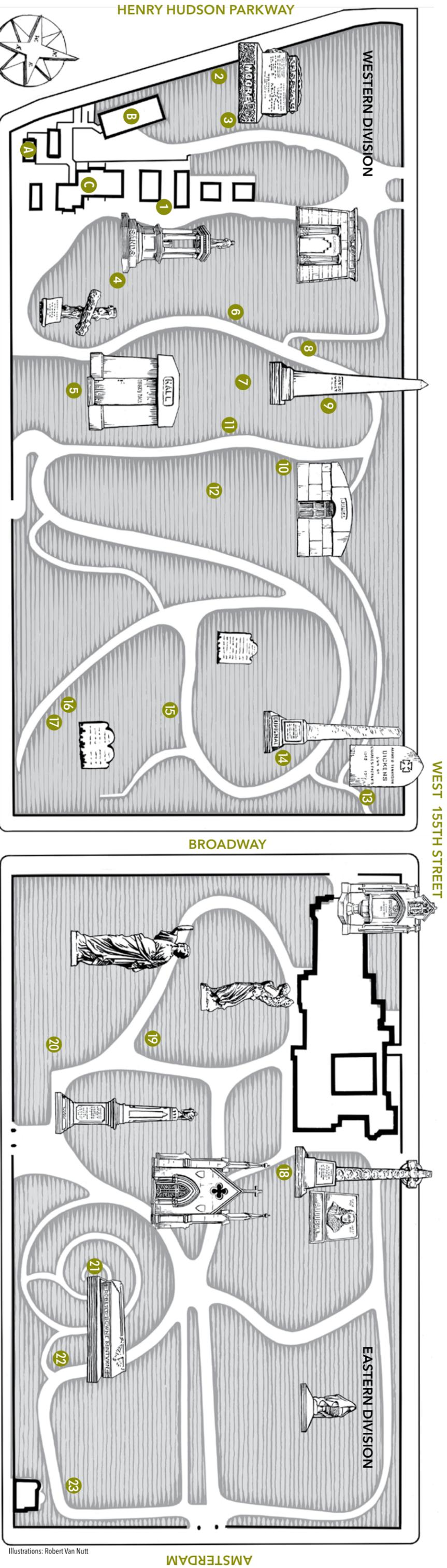
### DIRECTIONS

### TRINITY THROUGH THE YEARS

- 1697 King William III grants Trinity Charter.
- 1698 Trinity Church opens for first service. Construction is completed with use of tackle loaned by Captain Kidd, a Trinity pewholder.
- 1705 Queen Anne makes land grant for a “Church Farm” running from Broadway to the Hudson River and from Fulton to Christopher Streets.
- 1756 Cornerstone laid for first building of King’s College (later Columbia University); land granted by Trinity Church.
- 1766 St. Paul’s Chapel opens at Broadway and Fulton Street.
- 1776 “Great Fire” destroys first Trinity Church.
- 1789 President George Washington attends services at St. Paul’s Chapel on Inauguration Day, April 30.
- 1790 Second Trinity Church consecrated.
- 1843 Trinity Church Cemetery at Broadway and 155th Street opens.
- 1846 Third Trinity Church consecrated.
- 1871 Broadway extends northward and cuts through Trinity Church Cemetery dividing it into eastern and western divisions. A footbridge crossing Broadway was erected in 1871 but taken down in 1911.
- 1971 Trinity Grants Program established.
- 1976 H.M. Queen Elizabeth II visits Trinity.
- 1979 First mausoleum consecrated at Trinity Church Cemetery.
- 1997 300th anniversary celebration of the founding of Trinity Church.



- 4 **National Track & Field Hall of Fame Museum**  
216 Fort Washington Avenue (at 168th Street), 212.923.1803 | [armorytrack.com](http://armorytrack.com)  
An interactive museum located at The Armory Foundation that surveys the history of track and field, including clips of Olympic moments.
- 3 **The Little Red Lighthouse** (not shown on map)  
Fort Washington Park (at 181st Street) | 212.304.2365  
Immortalized in the book *The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Grey Bridge* by Hildegarde H. Swift and illustrated by Lynd Ward. The lighthouse's real name is the Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse. It is open for tours from Spring thru Fall. Call ahead for tour schedules.



Illustrations: Robert Van Nutt

HENRY HUDSON PARKWAY

WESTERN DIVISION

WEST 155TH STREET

BROADWAY

EASTERN DIVISION

AMSTERDAM

WESTERN DIVISION

(The first three people are interred in the Mausoleums)

**Ralph Ellison** **1** was the author most famous for his novel *Invisible Man*, which won the 1953 National Book Award. The Ralph Ellison Memorial, featuring a 15-foot high *Invisible Man* sculpture, is nearby at 150th Street and Riverside Drive.

**Jerry Orbach** **2** was an actor best known for his long role on “Law and Order” and “Homicide: Life on the Street.” Orbach brought to life the roles of Ed Gallo in “The Fantasticks,” Billy Flynn in “Chicago,” and Julian Marsh in “42nd Street.”

Located in the Chapel is **Booker T. Washington III** **3**. He is the grandson of Booker T. Washington, the head of the Tuskegee Institute who was born into slavery and freed during the Civil War.

On the pathway outside the mausoleums is a beautiful monument with columns for **Richard Sands** **4**, a circus impresario famous for walking on the ceiling with suction cups.

Just north of the last mausoleum, down the hill and near the stone wall, are two interesting markers. Against the wall is **E. P. Dutton** **2**, publisher and founder of E.P. Dutton & Co., which started as a bookseller in Boston and expanded to New York. In the 1860s, the company began publishing books as well as selling them.

In front of Dutton’s marker is one for **Clement Clarke Moore** **3**, author of the holiday favorite *A Visit from St. Nicholas* (“*’Twas the night before Christmas*”). Moore was the son of Bishop Benjamin Moore, sixth Rector of Trinity Parish. An annual reading of Moore’s famous poem takes place at The Church of the Intercession, followed by a procession to his grave to lay a wreath. Clement Moore donated land for his estate for the General Theological Seminary in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan.

Behind the Sands monument, in the same tract, is **The Rt. Rev. Benjamin T. Onderdonk** **4**, Fourth Bishop of New York. A cenotaph memorial to Onderdonk can be found in the Monument Room of All Saints’ Chapel inside Trinity Church, Broadway at Wall Street.

Following the path around toward the East, just at the turn, is an above-ground mausoleum for **Abraham Oakey Hall** **5**, Mayor of New York

City 1869-1872, and allegedly part of the vilified Tweed Ring. Previously he had served as a District Attorney of New York from 1855-1858. Later in life, he defended the famous feminist and anarchist Emma Goldman against charges of inciting to riot in New York City. His middle name has been spelled as Oakey and Oakley.

Continue on the roadway and a little over halfway down, on the left, is a mostly illegible headstone for **Samuel B. Ruggles** **6**, a lawyer who influenced the development of Gramercy Park and Union Square. He also served on the commission to expand the Erie Canal and build the Erie Railroad.

There are a several Astor vaults in the cemetery, including one for **John J. Astor** **7**, considered the first multi-millionaire in the United States. Relatives of John Jacob Astor are also buried here, including Astor’s great grandson John Jacob Astor IV, who perished on the *Titanic*, his wife, Madeline Force Astor, who survived the *Titanic*, and his son,

John Jacob Astor VI. Across the road is a mausoleum marked **William Astor** **8**.

In the same area is a very prominent above-ground mausoleum for the **Cisco Family** **9**, a wealthy finance family. John J. Cisco was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under President Lincoln and a Trinity Church vestryman.

Follow the road around the corner and you’ll see a hillside vault marked **Jumel** **10** for Eliza Bowen Jumel, wife of a wealthy French wine merchant. After his death, she married Aaron Burr, the controversial third Vice President of the United States. The Morris-Jumel Mansion, considered the oldest house in Manhattan, is nearby between 160th Street and 162nd Street, east of St. Nicholas Avenue.

A little further down the road on the right is a tablet memorial to **Oliver Evans** **11**, an engineer and writer.

If you cross the road, hike up the hill a bit, and are intrepid, you might spot the tombstone for **John Augustus Shea** **12**, a poet.

His poem, *The Ocean*, is inscribed on the marker. Unfortunately, most of it is not legible. It is said that Shea helped Edgar Allen Poe get his poem *The Raven* published.

Find the road again and follow it all the way up to the northeastern end of the Cemetery grounds. Off on its own is a simple and beautiful headstone for **Alfred Tennyson Dickens** **13**, son of novelist Charles Dickens (*Oliver Twist*, *A Christmas Carol*), and godson of poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

Alfred Dickens was visiting New York to celebrate the centennial of his father’s birth when he died suddenly. Trinity Church offered to hold a funeral and provide a burial space.

Back on the road, walking south and to the right is a tall monument for **Ebenezer Robert Dupignac** **14**.

Although there are several Ebenezer Dupignacs buried here, it is unclear whether E.R. Dupignac Jr., who played on the first professional baseball team, the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club, is interred here.

Turn right on the path and a short way down on the left is **Samuel Seabury** **15**, a descendant of the first American Episcopal Bishop. Seabury

served on the New York Supreme Court. In the 1930s he headed the Seabury Commission to investigate city corruption. His investigations fought Tammany Hall and led to the resignation of mayor Jimmy Walker.

Following the path around again to the southeast corner is a tall monument to **Richard F. Carman** **16**, a real estate magnate and namesake of the area in Manhattan called Carmansville, which was roughly between 130th Street to the north end of the Island and between 8th Avenue and the Hudson River. Carman was involved in rebuilding after the 1835 New York fire. He sold 23 acres to Trinity Church for this cemetery.

Next to Carman is **Gardner Avery Sage** **17**, said to be a detailed map maker.

EASTERN DIVISION

Once you’ve crossed Broadway and walked to the back of the Church of the Intercession, the first monument you’ll see is perhaps the most impressive in the cemetery—

the tall, ornate monument to **John James Audubon** **18**. A naturalist, ornithologist, and artist, known for his study and accurate paintings

of birds, Audubon’s book, *Birds of America*, became a renowned catalog of many species. Part of his 19th-century farm, Minnesland, was adjacent to Trinity Cemetery. The unique monument marking his grave features carvings of various animals.

Follow the path around the Church and turn left going south. On one corner tract is another tall monument to **Fernando Wood** **19**, Democratic mayor of New York

City from 1855-1858 and 1860-1862. He also served in the House of Representatives from 1841-1843, 1863-1865, and 1867-1881. Wood was a Copperhead, or sympathizer with the Confederacy during the Civil War, and suggested New York secede from the Union to protect the city’s trade with the Confederacy in cotton.

Walk south toward the wall to see a third tall monument to **William Augustus Darling** **20**, U.S. Republican Congressman from 1865-1867 representing New York in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Take the path around and toward the east. If you feel like climbing the sloping hill to the top of the mound, you’ll find a fenced

area that contains the grave of **Robert Bowne Minturn** **21**, a shipping merchant and owner of the famous clipper ship *Flying Cloud*. He was among the first to propose Central Park, and along with his wife, donated land for its establishment. He was also a founder of St. Luke’s Hospital and the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

Hike down the mound and walk toward the far eastern part of the Cemetery (toward Amsterdam Avenue). Here a plaque marks **the Middle Redoubt of Battle of Washington Heights** **22**, where some of the “fiercest fighting of the Battle of Washington Heights” took place.

Not far away is the headstone for **Edward I. Koch** **23**, a three-term Mayor of New York City from 1978 to 1989. Koch was famous for asking people “How’m I doin’?” about his administration. Previous to his time as mayor he served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1969 to 1977.