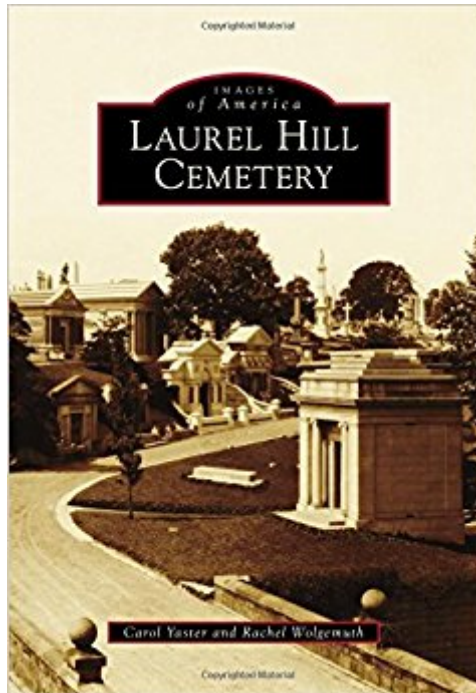




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# Laurel Hill Cemetery (Images Of America)



## Synopsis

Established in 1836, Philadelphia's Laurel Hill Cemetery was one of the earliest rural cemeteries in America. The picturesque views and outstanding horticulture, along with sculptures and monuments designed by notable artists and architects—like Alexander Milne Calder, Alexander Stirling Calder, Harriet Frishmuth, John Notman, and Thomas Ustick Walter—attracted thousands of visitors. Laurel Hill became the desired place of burial for Philadelphia's elite and the final resting place for those with last names like Widener, Wharton, Meade, and Elkins. The cemetery's design was much admired and widely imitated, both locally and nationally. While the 20th century ushered in a steep decline for Laurel Hill, the establishment of a friends group in 1978 and the cemetery's designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1998 signaled a transformation for the cemetery. Laurel Hill entered a new century as a revitalized and relevant institution. Once again, the cemetery is regarded as an important part of the community, a worthy destination for visitors, and a place to share in the stories of the men and women whose lives shaped both Philadelphia and the nation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“While the written history throughout the book provides readers with a look into the cemetery's history and local significance, the book's real draw are the nearly 200 photographs on its pages. Throughout the total 127 pages, Yaster and Wolgemuth have provided

readers with plenty of black-and-white photographs of the cemetery—its 78 acres and its many occupants, as well as maps, letters and diary entries in which the cemetery is referenced."   
Montgomery News

Carol Yaster is the president of the Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery. Rachel Wolgemuth is an author and historian with a background in cemetery research.

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