

## 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.

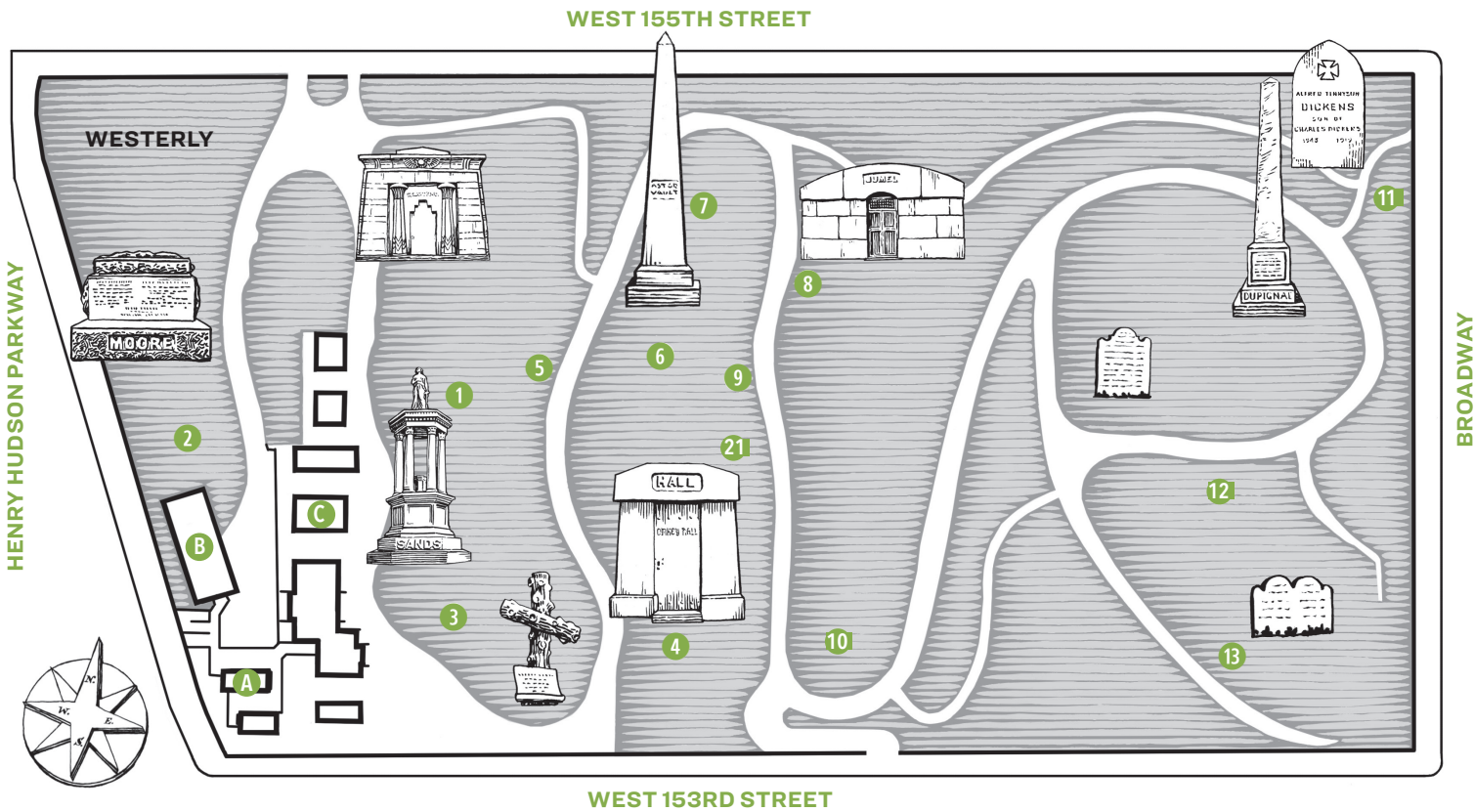
As you walk the grounds, take note of some of the interesting people interred here (highlighted on the map). One recognizable name is John James Audubon, the naturalist and artist. His estate, Minniesland, was located nearby, and Audubon is buried in the Eastern division, behind the Church of the Intercession. His memorial is a tall distinctive Celtic cross adorned with reliefs of animals including deer, buffalo, and elk.

Other notable names include: Alfred Tennyson 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*. (also know as *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*).

Trinity Church Cemetery & Mausoleum offers the only active community mausoleum 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!





### WESTERLY DIVISION

(The first three biographies refer to individuals interred in the mausoleums)

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

**Jerry Orbach** (B) was an actor best known for his long roles on *Law and Order* and *Homicide: Life on the Street*. He was also a Tony Award-winning Broadway actor.

The first African-American fire commissioner of a major U.S. city, **Robert O. Lowery** (C) was appointed New York City's fire commissioner in 1965, when arson-fueled fires ravaged the city's minority communities and racial tensions divided the FDNY.

On the pathway outside the mausoleums is a beautiful monument with columns for **Richard Sands** (1), a circus impresario famous for walking on ceilings with suction cups.

At the bottom of the hill is a marker for **Clement Clarke Moore** (2), 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.

Behind the Sands monument, in the same tract, is the **Rt. Rev. Benjamin T. Onderdonk** (3), fourth bishop of New York. A cenotaph memorial to Onderdonk can be found in the Monument Room of the Chapel of All Saints inside Trinity Church, Broadway at Wall Street.

Following the path around toward the east, just at the turn, is an aboveground mausoleum for **Abraham Oakey Hall** (4), the city's district attorney, 1855–1858, and mayor, 1869–1872. Later in life, he defended the famous feminist and anarchist Emma Goldman against charges of inciting to riot in New York City.

Continue on the roadway, and on the left is a mostly illegible headstone for **Samuel B. Ruggles** (5), 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 several Astor vaults in the cemetery, including one for **John J. Astor** (6), considered the first multi-millionaire in the United States. John Jacobs Astor's grandson William Backhouse Astor Jr. and his wife, Caroline Schermerhorn Astor, are buried in the Astor vault. Caroline was a prominent socialite in New York's high society in the late 19th century.

Also buried in the vault is Caroline Schermerhorn Astor's son, John Jacob Astor IV, whose body was retrieved after he perished during the sinking of the Titanic. His pregnant wife, Madeline Force Astor, survived and was eventually interred with her son, John Jacob Astor VI, in Trinity Cemetery.

In the same area is a very prominent above-ground mausoleum for the **Cisco Family** (7), 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** (8) 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 who killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel. The Morris-Jumel Mansion is nearby.

A little further down the road on the right is a tablet memorial to **Oliver Evans** (9), a writer and engineer noted for being one of the first Americans building steam engines and an advocate of high-pressure steam.

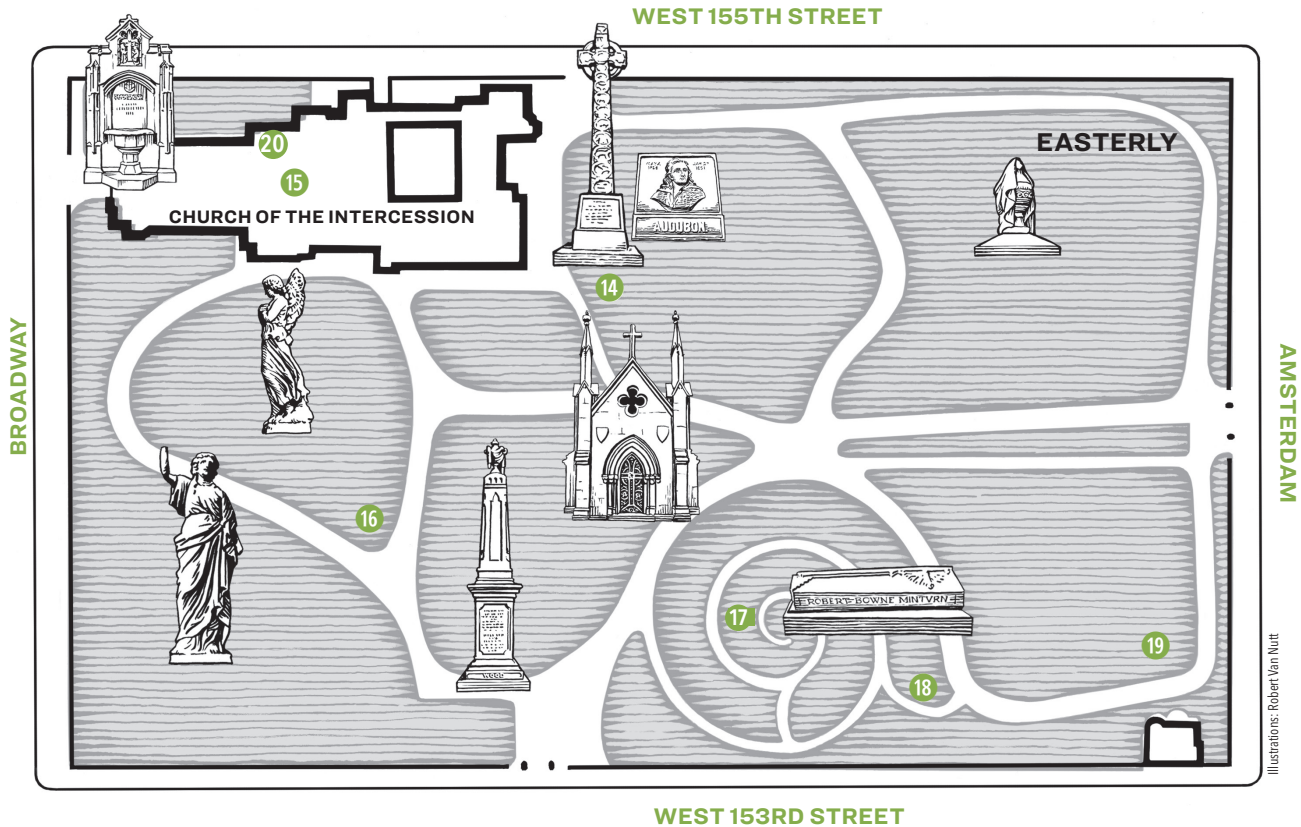
**John Adams Dix** (10) was a famed Union Major General during the Civil War, a New York State governor, and served as both a United States Senator and Secretary of the Treasury. Dix was also

a committed vestryman at Trinity Church and fought for resolutions for Trinity to establish more programs to support the poor. His son, Morgan Dix, would serve as the rector of Trinity Church from 1862 to 1906 and is also interred here.

Off on its own is a simple and beautiful headstone for **Alfred Tennyson Dickens** (11), son of novelist Charles Dickens, 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.

Turn right on the path and a short way down on the left is **Samuel Seabury** (12), 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** (13), a real estate magnate. Carman helped rebuild the city after the great New York fire of 1835. He sold 23 acres to Trinity Church for this cemetery.



Illustrations: Robert Van Nutt

## EASTERLY DIVISION

Once you've crossed Broadway and walked to the back of the Church of the Intercession, the first monument you'll see is the tall, ornate monument to **John James Audubon** 14. Audubon was a naturalist, ornithologist, and artist. His book *Birds of America* became a renowned catalog of many species. Part of his 19th-century farm, Minniesland, was adjacent to Trinity Cemetery.

On your right is the **Church of the Intercession** 15. During the groundbreaking for the construction of the building in 1912, a parade of 3,000 people processed up Broadway to the site where the English Gothic-style chapel would eventually be built in 1915.

Follow the path around the church and turn left going south. On one corner tract is another tall monument to **Fernando Wood** 16, Democratic mayor of New York City from 1855–1858 and 1860–1862. He also served in the U.S. 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.

At the highest spot in the cemetery you'll find a fenced area that contains the grave of **Robert Bowne Minturn** 17, a shipping merchant and owner of the famous clipper ship *Flying Cloud*. The ship held the record for the fastest passage (89 days, 8 hours) from New York to San Francisco for more than 100 years. Minturn was a founder of St. Luke's Hospital and among the first to propose Central Park and, along with his wife, donated land for its establishment.

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** 18, where some of the "fiercest fighting of the Battle of Washington Heights" took place.

Not far away is the headstone for **Edward I. Koch** 19, the city's three-term mayor, 1978–1989. Prior to his time as mayor he served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1969 to 1977. Koch was famous for asking New Yorkers "How'm I doin'?" about his administration. He is known for restoring the city's fiscal integrity as it faced potential bankruptcy.

## ARCHITECTURE AT TRINITY CEMETERY

**James Renwick Jr.**  
In 1843, the Trinity Vestry selected James Renwick Jr.'s designs for the layout of the cemetery. Renwick also designed St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

**Calvert Vaux**  
When the city decided to open 11th Avenue through the cemetery, splitting it into easterly and westerly divisions, the Trinity Vestry commissioned Calvert Vaux to build a bridge to connect the two halves. In 1857, Vaux, along with Frederick Law Olmsted, had developed the architectural and landscape designs for Central Park. Vaux's services were retained until 1880 and, in addition to the bridge, he designed the landscaping and the wall enclosing the cemetery. To make way for the new Church of the Intercession, the pedestrian bridge was dismantled in 1911.

**Bertram Goodhue** 19  
The Church of the Intercession was previously a chapel of Trinity parish, and was known as the Chapel of the Intercession. The chapel, designed by Bertram Goodhue, in English Gothic style, was consecrated in 1915. Inside the chapel is a memorial and tomb honoring Goodhue. Along the arch of the tomb are sculptural renderings of Goodhue's notable designs: St. Bartholomew's Church, St. Thomas' Church, Yale Library, and the Nebraska State Capitol, to name a few. The Chapel was made independent of Trinity Church in 1976 and became known once again as the Church of the Intercession.

**Frederick Clarke Withers** 20  
Frederick Clarke Withers designed the reredos of Trinity Church, Jefferson Market Courthouse on 29th Street in Manhattan, the Church of Transfiguration, and others. He is buried here in the Trinity Cemetery.

# TRINITY CHURCH CEMETERY & MAUSOLEUM

## TRINITY CHURCH WALL STREET THROUGH THE YEARS

- 1697 King William III grants Trinity's Charter.
- 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.
- 1776 "Great Fire" destroys first Trinity Church.
- 1790 Second Trinity Church consecrated.
- 1842 Trinity Church purchases land for a cemetery on the Hudson River at 155th Street. Architect James Renwick Jr. is chosen to design the layout of the cemetery grounds.
- 1843 Trinity Church Cemetery at Broadway and 155th Street opens.
- 1846 Third Trinity Church consecrated after beams of the second church buckle in 1838.
- 1871 Broadway extends northward and cuts through Trinity Church Cemetery dividing it into eastern and western divisions. A footbridge crossing Broadway was erected but taken down in 1911.
- 1915 The Chapel of the Intercession, situated on the corner of 155th Street and Broadway and designed by Bertram Goodhue, is consecrated. Intercession was made independent of the Parish of Trinity Church in 1976.
- 1978 Trinity adds mausoleum facilities to continue providing burial space in Manhattan.
- 1979 First mausoleum consecrated at Trinity Church Cemetery.
- 1997 300th anniversary celebration of the founding of Trinity Church.



# TRINITY CHURCH CEMETERY & MAUSOLEUM

## PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

### Church of the Intercession ❶

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

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.

### The NITCHEN Children's Museum of Native America

Located inside the Church of the Intercession 212.694.2240  
[cccona.nyc](http://cccona.nyc)

A museum that offers programs for school groups about native cultures of today and of the past.

### The Hispanic Society of America ❷

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

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

### Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum ❸

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

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 (not shown on map)

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

This branch of The Metropolitan Museum of Art consists of a reconstructed medieval monastery and cloistered gardens and contains medieval European art and architectural elements.

### Fort Tryon Park (not shown on map)

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

Built in 1935 by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., son of the architect of Central Park. Encompassing 67 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.

### National Track & Field Hall of Fame ❹

216 Fort Washington Avenue (at 168th Street), 212.923.1803  
[armorytrack.com](http://armorytrack.com)

The interactive museum located at The Armory Foundation surveys the history of track and field, including clips of Olympic moments.

### 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 Gray Bridge* by Hildegard 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.

## DIRECTIONS

### 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.
- **South** from the George Washington Bridge, take exit I for the Henry Hudson Parkway (9A), follow signs for Riverside Drive/Downtown. Continue on Riverside Drive. Turn left at 165th Street, right on Broadway, and right at 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 number 1 subway line to the 157th Street station stop. Walk south to 155th Street and west to Riverside Drive.

### BY BUS

- Take the M4 or M5 to Broadway and West 153rd Street.

**HOURS** | Monday-Friday: 9am–4pm

### TRINITY CHURCH CEMETERY & MAUSOLEUM

770 Riverside Drive | 212.368.1600  
[cemetery@trinitywallstreet.org](mailto:cemetery@trinitywallstreet.org) | [trinitywallstreet.org/cemetery](http://trinitywallstreet.org/cemetery)

The Rev. Phillip A. Jackson, *Priest-in-charge*

The Rev. Michael A. Bird, *Vicar*

### TRINITY CHURCH CORE VALUES

Faith | Compassion | Integrity | Inclusiveness | Stewardship | Social Justice

