Green-Wood Cemetery (Images Of America: New York)
For generations, Green-Wood Cemetery has played an integral part in New York City’s cultural history, serving as a gathering place and a cultural repository. Situated in the historic borough of Brooklyn, the thousands of graves and mausoleums within the cemetery’s 478 acres are tangible links and reminders to key events and people who made New York City and America what it is today. The monuments read like a who’s who of American greatness and include the names of Leonard Bernstein, F. A. O. Schwarz, Charles L. Tiffany, Samuel Morse, and DeWitt Clinton, among others. A national historic landmark since 2006, Green-Wood is considered one of the preeminent cemeteries in the country and is a living display of the evolving funeral traditions of the city and America as a whole. The cemetery was and remains one of the city’s largest open green spaces and a century ago was a social venue for picnics, outings, and political events. Through vintage photographs, Green-Wood Cemetery chronicles the cemetery’s rich history and documents how its tradition as a park and a popular tourist attraction continues, drawing 300,000 visitors annually.

Green-Wood Cemetery is a recent addition to the "Images of America" series of Arcadia Publishing and authored by Alexandra Mosca, noted New York metro area funeral director and author. As I first glanced through the book, my thoughts were how can text and photos of a cemetery be interesting? It only took a few minutes to dispel my early ideas! Alexandra has taken the ‘story’ of one of America’s noted cemeteries from early beginnings to today’s modern and ever changing customs of...
burying our deceased family members. The book itself is well laid out, exceptional illustrations and photo images along with exacting text that gets you hooked from the time you pick it up till the ending. Ms. Mosca is a skilled writer that has taken the time to research her subject matter and put forth in an easily understandable manner. As a New York native, now removed to Iowa for 45 years, the book is a refreshing trip into the early Brooklyn borough history with the likes of western actor William S. Hart & Frank Morgan of "Wizard of Oz" fame. Sports figureheads like Henry Chadwick, father of baseball and Charles Ebbets, long associated with Brooklyn baseball. Transportation pioneers De Witt Clinton and Juan Tripp, Erie Canal and Pan-Am Airlines respectively all have a place in Green-Wood. Alexandra has indexed each part of Green-Wood’s history, burials and architecture for easy reference when you go back again and again to marvel over the art, design and people of Green-Wood. There is something here for everyone, if you are ’hooked’ on art, history, architectural design, landscape or just a leisurely walk. I can only wish to be closer and view the grandeur in person, but thanks to Alexandra Mosca, it can be done with a wonderful literary presentation.

Green-Wood Cemetery, a new pictorial history book written by eminent New York based funeral director and author Alexandra Kathryn Mosca, documents the fascinating history of one of Brooklyn’s largest green spaces. Mosca meticulously explains, in easy to read prose, why Green-Wood Cemetery remains a park and tourist attraction that draws more than 300,000 people annually. Part of Arcadia’s Image of America series, Green-Wood Cemetery offers readers a mesmerizing glimpse at the national historic landmark where citizens of great stature - such as Horace Greeley, Elmer Sperry, Leonard Bernstein, F.O.A. Schwarz, Charles L. Tiffany and DeWitt Clinton - among others have been buried. Other highlights of Mosca’s “can’t put it down” book include a thorough and touching explanation of how Green-Wood Cemetery honored U.S. civil war veterans, Green-Wood’s current connection to the NYC school system, and an apt tribute to the natural beauty of the land. She also elucidates the history of the spectacular architecture of Green-Woods buildings, mausoleums, markers and statuary. Mosca’s distinctive experiences as a well seasoned funeral director, particular history researcher and skilled writer (American Funeral Director, American Cemetery, NY Newsday, Times Ledgers Newspapers and her book, Grave Undertakings) help to draw the reader into this handsomely bound book, which is replete with superb graphics and well restored photographs. Mosca has decidedly achieved her stated goal in writing the book: to reacquaint readers with one of the nation’s leading cemeteries and its’ famous and infamous “residents”. Green-Wood Cemetery actually makes learning about an important
cemetery enjoyable and easy.

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