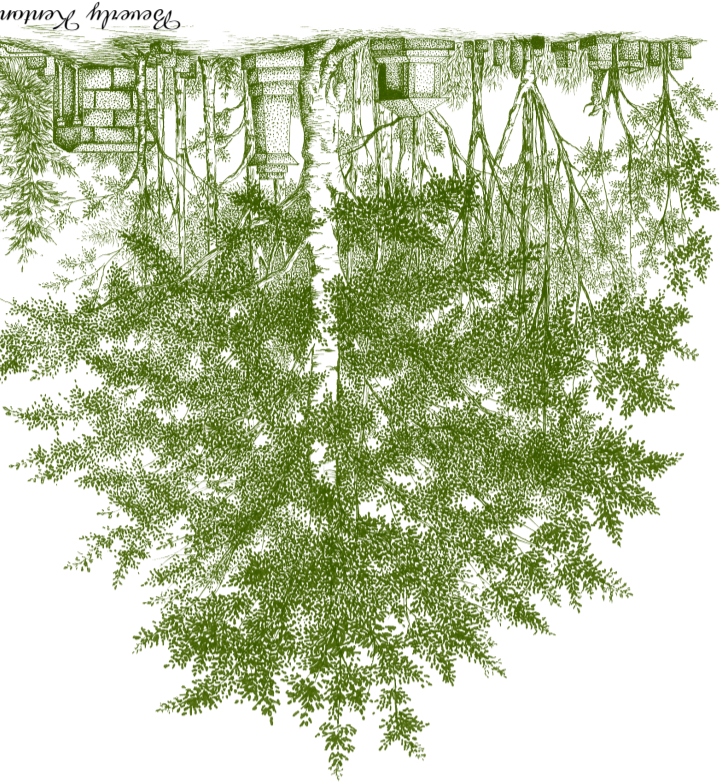


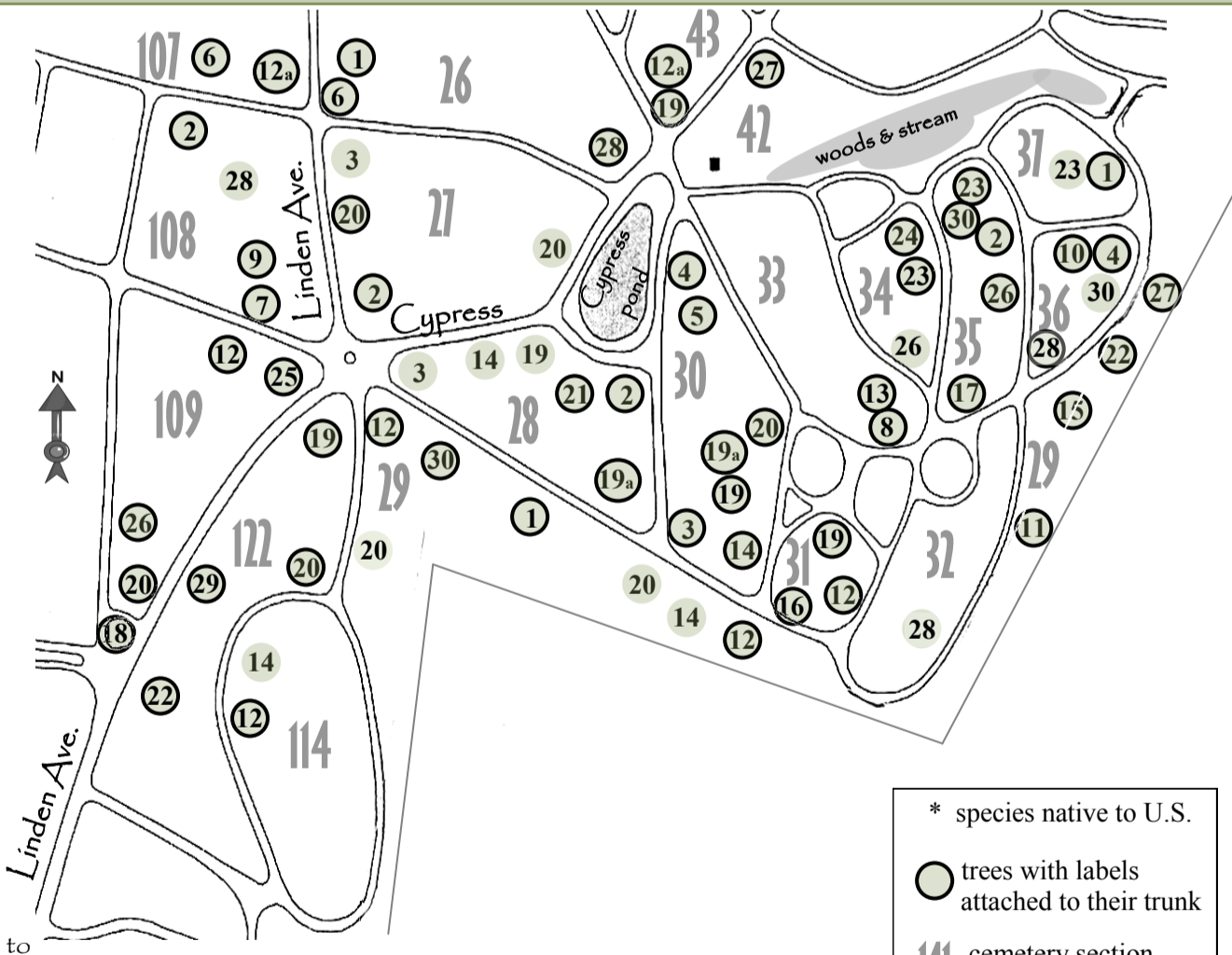
Visiting the Trees at Albany Rural Cemetery



I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech-tree.... — Henry David Thoreau

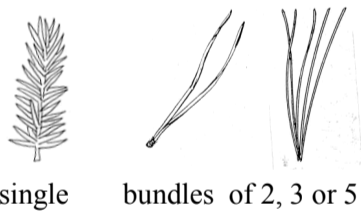
Albany Rural Cemetery was incorporated in 1841 and was originally designed as a park as well as a cemetery. The 467 acres are beautifully landscaped and include the burial plots of many distinguished dignitaries. A president of the United States is joined by 5 governors, 8 presidential cabinet members, 5 US senators as well as 55 mayors of the city of Albany. The cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Map of Albany Rural Cemetery



Identify a tree by its leaf

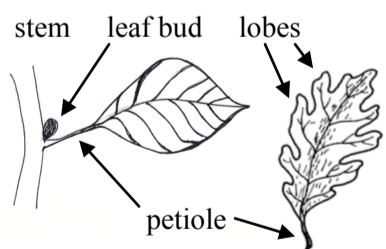
needle-like leaves



scale-like leaves

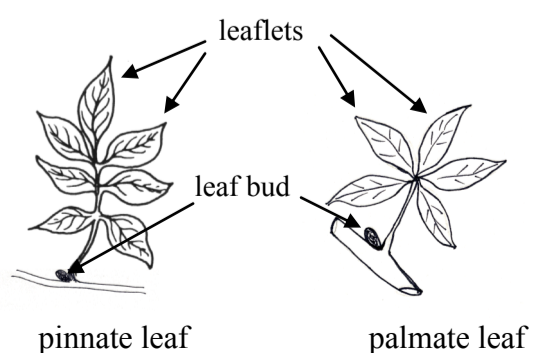


simple broad, flat leaves



South entrance & Linden trees

compound broad, flat leaves



- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. White Fir * | 16. Cucumber Magnolia |
| 2. Japanese Maple | 17. Saucer Magnolia |
| 3. Norway Maple | 18. Star Magnolia |
| 4. Crimson King Maple | 19. Norway Spruce |
| 5. Red Maple * | 19a. Weeping Norway Spruce |
| 6. Silver Maple * | 20. Colorado Spruce * |
| 7. Sugar Maple * | 21. White Pine * |
| 8. Common Horsechestnut | 22. Douglasfir * |
| 9. Shagbark Hickory * | 23. White Oak * |
| 10. Moss Falsecypress | 24. Pin Oak * |
| 11. Yellowwood * | 25. English Oak |
| 12. European Beech | 26. Red Oak * |
| 12a. Weeping Beech | 27. Japanese Yew |
| 13. White Ash * | 28. White Cedar * |
| 14. Ginkgo | 29. Linden |
| 15. Osage-orange * | 30. Eastern Hemlock * |

* species native to U.S.

○ trees with labels attached to their trunk

114 cemetery section

Key: 3" = .2 mile

Fruit is the seed bearing part of the tree and can be nuts, acorns, berries, drupes, winged seeds, pods, or cones.



30. Eastern Hemlock
(*Tsuga canadensis*)
Softly pyramidal in outline and 40'-70' tall. The 1/4"-2/3" needles have two distinctive silver bands on the underside. The cones are small (1/2"-1") and hang down from the branches like little decorations. They turn from closed green to open brown in the fall.



29. American Linden or Basswood, European Linden or Lime tree, and Littleleaf Linden
(*Tilia americana, Tilia x europaea, Tilia cordata*)
Identified by their unusual flowers and seeds. The small yellow flowers are attractive to bees and hang down from a long stem attached to a leaf-like bract. After flowering, small seeds hang down from the bracts. A number of different varieties of lindens line the South entrance along Linden Avenue.



28. Northern White Cedar or American Arborvitae
(*Thuja occidentalis*)
Commonly used for landscaping and hedges, where they can grow up to 50'. The needles are scale-like forming a flattened spray. Tiny 1/2" cones look like little brown flowers where they are clustered on the branches. The dark green scales are yellowish beneath and smell like apple when crushed.



27. Japanese Yew
(*Taxus cuspidata*)
An evergreen tree or shrub which can grow to 50'. The 1/2"-1" needles are hard, dark green and shiny above and yellow-green below and sharply pointed. The 1/3" berry is bright red with a dark seed protruding from the end. The tree is favored by deer, which trim off the branches within their reach. There is a particularly nice cluster of specimens in Section 42.



26. Red Oak *
(*Quercus rubra*)
Unique among oaks for its rounded growth habit. Pointed lobed leaves are 4 1/2"-8 1/2". The bark is distinctive with flat gray and ridged areas. The acorn is 3/4"-1" with a thick saucer-like cap which is wider than the nut.



25. English Oak
(*Quercus robur*)
One of the most spectacular trees in the cemetery. English Oaks can grow to be over 100' with a spread of 75' and may live 800 years. The 2"-5" leaves are dark green and simple with rounded lobes. The 1" narrow acorn grows on a long stalk.



The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit. — Nelson Henderson

Visiting the Trees at Albany Rural Cemetery

1. White Fir

(*Abies concolor*)

Usually grows 30'-50', but in native Rocky Mountains, up to 120'. The needles are 1½"-2½" long, blunt tipped and flat, and blue-gray to gray-green. They are attached singly to twigs that are arranged in flat sprays. The mature cones, often at the top of the tree, are green with a purple bloom and stand upright.



2. Japanese Maple

(*Acer palmatum*)

A popular small tree or shrub often seen in home landscapes. There are many cultivars; some have green foliage others red. The leaves are palm-shaped with 5-9 lobes; each lobe is finely serrated. In the fall, leaves are rich yellows and reds. As with all maples its seed is a samara that hangs in bunches.



3. Norway Maple

(*Acer platanoides*)

The most numerous tree in the cemetery and considered an invasive species. Norway and Sugar Maples were planted along the roads to mark the boundary of one section from another and to form a pleasant allee. In spring, small, bright yellow flowers form in conspicuous clusters on the as yet leafless branches. The seed is a samara with wings that are straight across. The leaf is palm shaped with 5 lobes. A milky sap is exuded when the petiole is snapped off from the stem and squeezed. In fall the leaves turn yellow and it is the last maple tree to lose its leaves.



4. Crimson King Maple

(*Acer platanoides* 'Crimson King')

A cultivar of the Norway Maple with dark maroon leaves. The flowers are small and red in dense clusters. Its leaves and samaras are like the Norway Maple and it also has milky sap in the petiole.



No shade tree? Blame not the sun, but yourself.
— Chinese Proverb

5. Red Maple

(*Acer rubrum*)

Notable for its red fruit and flowers in the spring followed by emerging reddish-tinged leaves that change to green, although the petiole retains its reddish hue. The 5" palmate leaves have 3 lobes and are narrower than the Norway and Sugar Maples. In the fall, the leaves turn to bright reds and yellows.



6. Silver Maple

(*Acer saccharinum*)

Fast-growing maple with branches that break easily. The leaves are silver-white on the underside and have 5 lobes that are deeply cut. A breeze highlights their silver undersides. The flowers are small and range in color from yellowish to red.



7. Sugar Maple

(*Acer saccharum*)

Known for its maple syrup and distinguished by its rough bark. This is the second most numerous tree in the cemetery. Greenish yellow flowers emerge before the leaves and appear from a distance as a soft haze. The leaf, palmate with 5 lobes, is not as wide as the Norway. The sap runs clear when the leaf is snapped off and the petiole is squeezed. The samaras are horseshoe-shaped. Leaves are bright yellow in the fall.



8. Common Horsechestnut

(*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

Valued for its long flower stalks that are white and form upright clusters in May or early June. The leaves are palmately compound with 5-7 leaflets which are 10" long. The leaves frequently turn brown by mid-summer from scorch. The green fruit is round and spiky and splits to release one or two shiny brown nuts.



Bread and butter, devoid of charm in the drawing-room, is ambrosia eating under a tree.
— Elizabeth Russell

9. Shagbark Hickory

(*Carya ovata*)

Distinguished by its gray bark that splits and hangs in long flakes. It has a compound leaf with 5-7 leaflets, the end leaflets being larger. It grows to 60'. The fruit is round and green when immature and turns brown and splits into four-angled nuts. It is found frequently in groves in woodlands.



10. Moss Falsecypress

(*Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Squarrosa')

A coniferous evergreen about 30'-40' tall. Unlike many *Chamaecyparis* which have scale-like foliage, this coniferous evergreen has dense, soft, blue-green ¼" needled foliage, that produces a very fluffy look. Cones are 1/4" woody spheres composed of 8-10 scales.



11. Yellowwood

(*Cladratis kentukea*)

Best known for its fragrant creamy flowers which bloom primarily in alternate years on 8"-14" panicles in May and June. This 50' native of the southeastern U.S. has bright yellow-colored wood when first cut, and also has bright yellow foliage in the fall. The seedpods are 3"-4" with 4-6 seeds in each pod.



12. European Beech

(*Fagus sylvatica*)

One of the most impressive trees in the cemetery, growing to 50'-60' with a spread of 45'. The trunk, which can be up to 8' in diameter, has smooth gray bark like an elephant's leg. Many beeches in the cemetery are Copper Beeches, a cultivar of the European Beech, and are known for their dark reddish-purple leaves that are simple with serrated edges. Specimens of Weeping Beech ('Pendula') whose branches come down almost to the ground are found in sections 107 and 43.



13. White Ash

(*Fraxinus americana*)

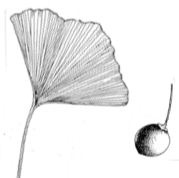
A splendid shade tree growing 50'-80'. The compound pinnate leaves have 5-9 ovate leaflets, which turn rich shades of yellow and reddish purple in the fall. The seedpods on female trees are the shape of canoe paddles and hang down in 6" clusters. The bark on old trees is thick and has diamond-shaped patterns.



14. Ginkgo

(*Ginkgo biloba*)

Native to China and distinctive for its fan-shaped leaves. This is a prehistoric tree with fossil foliage dating to 200 million years. The leaves turn yellow in fall and with a hard freeze drop within a day. The seedpods of the female trees produce a foul odor as they decompose. This is a slow-growing, disease-resistant tree, useful for its columnar shape. It can grow 50'-80' tall.



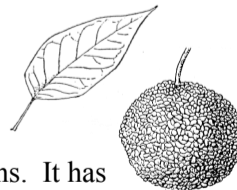
Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them.

— Bill Vaughn

15. Osage-orange

(*Maclura pomifera*)

A 20'-40' tall deciduous tree named after the Native American tribe who used the very strong wood for weapons. It has simple 5" shiny, dark-green leaves. The stems have long, sharp thorns, although thornless cultivars are available. The fruit is pale-green, lumpy, and heavy and is 3"-5" in diameter.



16. Cucumber Magnolia

(*Magnolia acuminata*)

A 50'-80' tree with a comparable spread. Yellow-green flowers appear after the leaves and are followed by small irregular cucumber-shaped fruit, which gives the tree its common name. In the fall, the fruit turns pinkish-red. The leaves are simple and 4"-10" long and about 5" wide.



17. Saucer Magnolia

(*Magnolia x soulangiana*)

A small 25' tree, often multi-stemmed, with simple shiny leaves and white to pink flowers that open in late April. The 9 petals of the flower are 3"-4" long with the outside having pink or purple markings. Many cultivars are available.



18. Star Magnolia

(*Magnolia stellata*)

A small 20' tree with simple leaves and star-like fragrant flowers which are 3"-4" in diameter. The flowers have 12 to 18 narrow white petals that are often wavy.



Humanity is cutting down its forests, apparently oblivious to the fact that we may not be able to live without them.
— Isaac Asimov

19. Norway Spruce

(*Picea abies*)

The most numerous of the needled evergreens in the cemetery. The Norway Spruce is distinguished by its drooping branches whose ends resemble the shape of a canoe and by its 5"-6" hanging pointed cones. It grows 40'-60' and has needles born singly and arranged spirally around the twig. A weeping form of Norway Spruce (*Picea abies* 'Pendula') in Section 28 has reverted back to a normal Norway Spruce.



20. Colorado Spruce

(*Picea pungens*)

A popular specimen tree known colloquially as Blue Spruce because of the blue-green colored needles on some species. Needles are 4-sided, stiff and sharp. The 4" cones are pale tan with wavy toothed scales. Colorado Spruce has a beautiful shape when young but looks ragged when mature. Many were planted next to tombstones as decorative shrubs but now dwarf the tombstones. In its Rocky Mountain habitat, it can grow to 100' or more, although its usual habit is 30'-60'.



S is for
SPRUCE
whose needles are
SQUARE
(4 sided) and **SHARP**.
Spruce cones hang down.

F is for
FIR
whose needles are
FLAT and
FRIENDLY (blunt-tipped).
Fir cones stand up.

21. White Pine

(*Pinus strobus*)

A prime lumber tree in the Adirondacks. It has soft 4" needles in clusters of 5. Usually 80', it can grow to 150' in the wild. The cones are 6" rather narrow, and often sticky with sap.



22. Douglasfir

(*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Native to western US where it might grow to be 200 or more feet, its usual habit is 40'-80'. Its large 3" cones hang down, unlike true fir cones that stand upright. Long bracts come out from between the scales, making the cones very distinctive. The densely-set 1½" needles have blunt tips and smell like camphor when bruised.



23. White Oak

(*Quercus alba*)

Grows to a majestic 50'-80'. Alternate simple leaves are 4"-8½" and the lobes have rounded tips, unlike the pointed tips of red and pin oaks. In the fall, the leaves turn a rich russet-red and are among the last to drop. The acorns are ¾"-1" long with a bumpy cap. There are over 100 White Oaks in the cemetery.



24. Pin Oak

(*Quercus palustris*)

Sometimes nicknamed the jumping jack tree for the distinctive shape of the branches. The lower branches hang downwards, the middle branches outwards, and the upper ones upwards. The leaves of the pin oak are 3"-6" with 5-7 narrow pointed lobes. Twigs are short and pin-like. The acorns are ½" high and ¾" wide with a thin narrow cap. Pin Oaks need a low pH and often get yellowed leaves caused by soil that does not have enough acidity.

