

Rye, N.Y.

Jay Cemetery

THE  
JAY CEMETERY

RYE

NEW YORK



*Established 1815*

*Incorporated 1906*

*under New York Law as a  
Family Cemetery Corporation*

A179804  
OCTOBER 1947



## FOREWORD

THE Trustees of the Jay Cemetery at Rye, New York, think it appropriate at this time, in view of the recent enlargement of its area, to issue a small volume giving information about the Cemetery to members of the family who may be interested.

This is one of the few family cemeteries used by men active in Revolutionary times which is still functioning. As its use is restricted, it is but little known outside of the family. But that it is also known in the neighborhood appears in the recent resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Rye, who in approving our request for permission to enlarge the Cemetery, used the following preamble:

Whereas, the body of John Jay, eminent legislator, executive, jurist and diplomat is buried in the present Jay Cemetery, making said graveyard a shrine to his memory and hallowed by his descendants, and

Whereas, the members of said Council, motivated by a deep respect for his famous career and exemplary life are unanimous in their approval of said request . . .

It is suggested that members of the family receiving this volume should keep it in some place of ready access and should tell their children where it is kept. The officers of the Cemetery

keep in reserve, for future needs, a substantial number of copies of this volume. It is suggested that all those who receive the volume and have children, should, as each child comes of age, request that a copy be sent to him or her.

It is the purpose of the officers, whenever changes occur importantly affecting Part 9, to issue a new page, and to send it to each person who has this volume, *provided* such person requests it in writing *upon receiving the volume*. In this way, whoever may wish to arrange for a burial will have correct information as to how to proceed. A card for requesting the new pages is enclosed.

This volume is divided into nine parts, as follows:

1. Origin of the Cemetery.
2. Who may be buried in the Cemetery.
3. Views of the Cemetery lot.
4. Who are buried there now.
5. Who manage the Cemetery.
6. Increase of the area of the Cemetery.
7. Plans for using a portion of the new area.
8. Endowment and finances.
9. How to arrange for burials. (See inside back cover.)

## 1. *Origin of the Cemetery*

**I**N 1745 Peter Jay (son of Augustus, the first Jay to come to America, in 1685), retired from business in New York City to live in the country. This move is believed to have been due to the threat of another smallpox epidemic in the city and to his desire to provide a country life for two of his children who had earlier become blind through smallpox. He bought a farm of 400 acres in Rye, Westchester County. The farm remained intact through four generations until 1905 when the then heirs of the property sold it. A pen and ink sketch of the house which Peter Jay found on the place, or built himself, is reproduced opposite page 6.

On the death of Peter Jay in 1782, the farm passed successively to his blind son Peter, and to his younger son John. John Jay, born in 1745, was brought up at Rye and lived there until about 1760 when he entered Kings College, now Columbia. In 1800, anticipating retirement from public life, John began building Bedford House at Katonah in Westchester County, where he lived until his death in 1829. He nevertheless retained great interest in his farm at Rye, which remained in the hands of his blind brother, Peter, until his death in 1815.

In the latter years of the 18th century, members of the family used to be buried in a family vault believed to have been at, or close to, the church of St. Marks-in-the-Bouwerie, near 10th Street and 2nd Avenue, New York City. But in 1805 the young son of Goldsborough Banyer, who married John Jay's daughter Maria, died and was buried in a lot in the "East Meadow" of the farm at Rye. A year later the father also died and was buried beside his son.

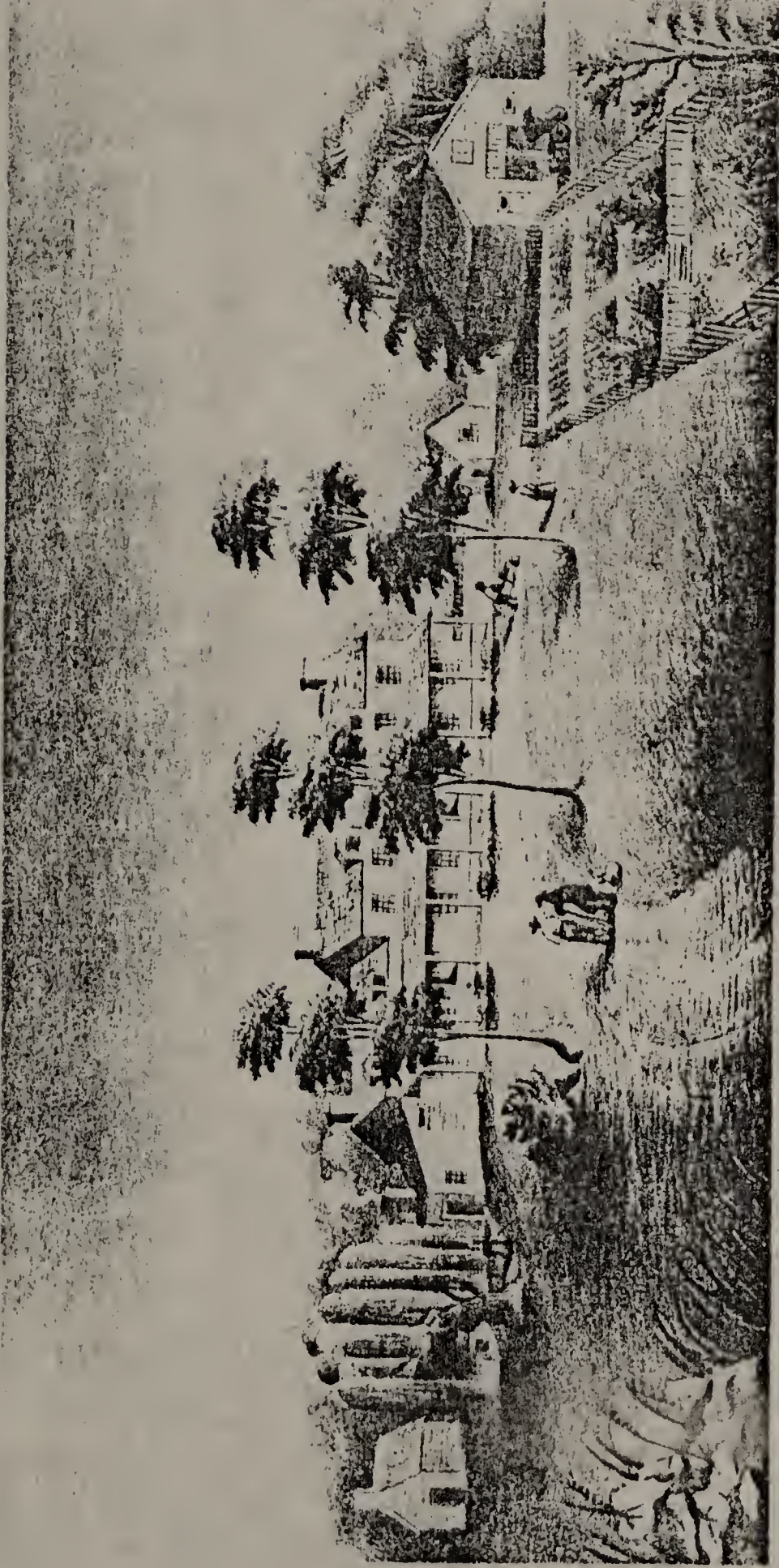
This appears to have been the beginning of the Rye cemetery. Apparently it was a definite decision, for a year later, in 1807, the remains of those who had been buried in the vault in New York City were brought to the same lot in Rye and there interred, but not with individual grave stones; merely one stone having this inscription:

*Remains from Family Vault in New York*

1807

In 1808 and 1810 there were further burials; and in 1815 the remains of Peter Jay and Sir James Jay, brothers of John, were buried there.

In 1815, John Jay upon inheriting the farm from Peter, set aside, as a family cemetery, the lot where these burials had occurred. He himself was buried there in 1829. The area of the lot was 82/100ths of an acre, and it has continued to



*Old house, 1745.*



*Present house built in 1838.*



serve as a family cemetery, 108 members of the family having been buried there, exclusive of those whose remains were transferred from the vault in New York. Unfortunately, no record now exists of the names of those so transferred, but it is known that among them was Sarah Livingston Jay, wife of John Jay, who died in 1802.

Before leaving the early history of the farm at Rye, it may be added that in 1838 Peter Augustus Jay, who had inherited the farm from his father, John, tore down the original dwelling (shown opposite page 6) and erected a house more in keeping with the period, which is still in use. It is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Devereux. Mrs. Devereux is the owner of over 200 acres of the original farm, including the "East Meadow," on the edge of which the Cemetery is situated. A photograph of the present house is reproduced opposite this page.

Also, before leaving the earlier days, it should be recorded that William Jay, second son of John, and a number of his descendants are buried in a lot, surrounded by evergreens, in the churchyard of St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Bedford, New York. This lot has been cared for by the successive owners of Bedford house, at present Mrs. Arthur Iselin, great grand-daughter of William Jay.

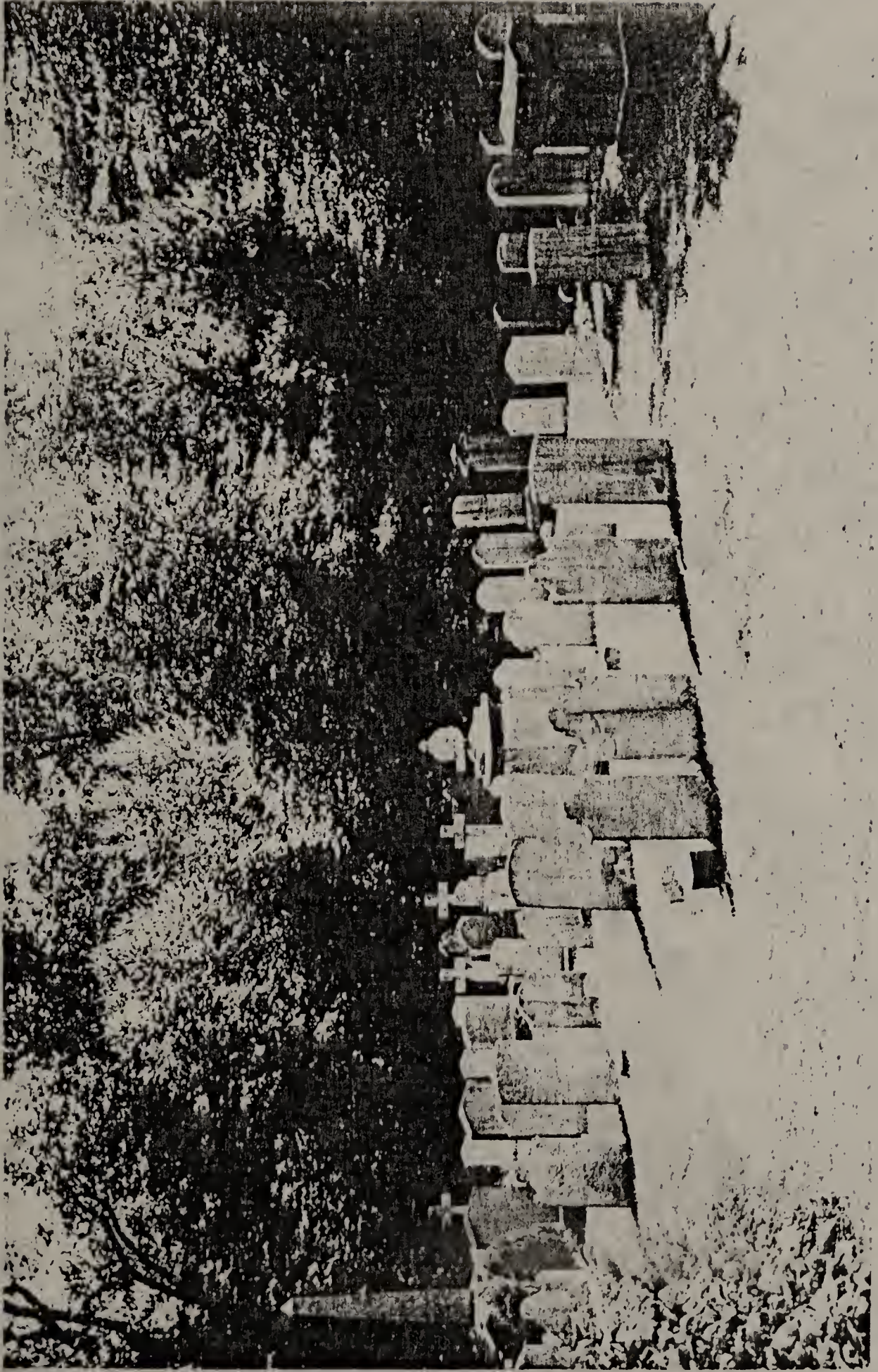
## 2. *Who may be buried in the Cemetery*

**I**N John Jay's deed of 1815 creating the Cemetery trust, of which his son Peter Augustus Jay and his nephew Peter Jay Munro were designated as Trustees, it was provided that "all descendants of Peter Jay [his father] shall have the right of burial in the cemetery lot; also the husbands, wives, and widows of such descendants." This restriction has since been adhered to with two exceptions. In 1843 Judith Livingston Watkins, sister of Mrs. John Jay and an intimate in the Jay family, was buried in the Cemetery. In 1810, before the Cemetery trust was created, three children named Titford, who were drowned in the Sound at the foot of the farm, were buried there.

In 1935, at the request of the Trustees and for their use, Mary Rutherford Jay prepared a detailed table, in genealogical form, showing all those who had or have the right of burial in the Cemetery. Several copies of this table were made for members of the family. Miss Jay is now engaged in bringing the table down to date, and it is hoped that in each generation some member of the family will be found who will undertake this work.



*Engraving, made perhaps a century ago, showing  
Cemetery from south end.*



*The Cemetery in 1946, from north end.*

### 3. *Views of the Cemetery Lot*

TWO views of the cemetery lot are reproduced opposite this and the preceding page.

The first is an old undated engraving made possibly about 100 years ago, showing the lot at that time from the south end; it also shows the stone wall surrounding the lot.

The second is a photograph of the cemetery lot looking from the north end. It was taken in the autumn of 1946 by F. Heyward Hunter, a descendant of Peter Jay. The square grave stone in the foreground is that of John Jay. Many of the grave stones at the distant end do not show, owing to the gentle sloping surface of the ground.



#### 4. *Who are buried there now*

A SCALE drawing has been made as of May 1, 1947, showing the names, with years of birth and death, of all those whose remains have been buried in the cemetery, and the location of their graves. This is reproduced opposite this page.

In order that members of the family may more easily ascertain which of their relatives or ancestors are buried here, a list of their names has been made, arranged by generations, from Peter Jay down to the present.

#### *List of Graves*

Generations from Peter Jay

##### *First Generation*

James Jay  
John Jay  
Mary Jay  
Peter Jay  
M. Euphonne Jay  
Eve Munro  
Judith L. Watkins

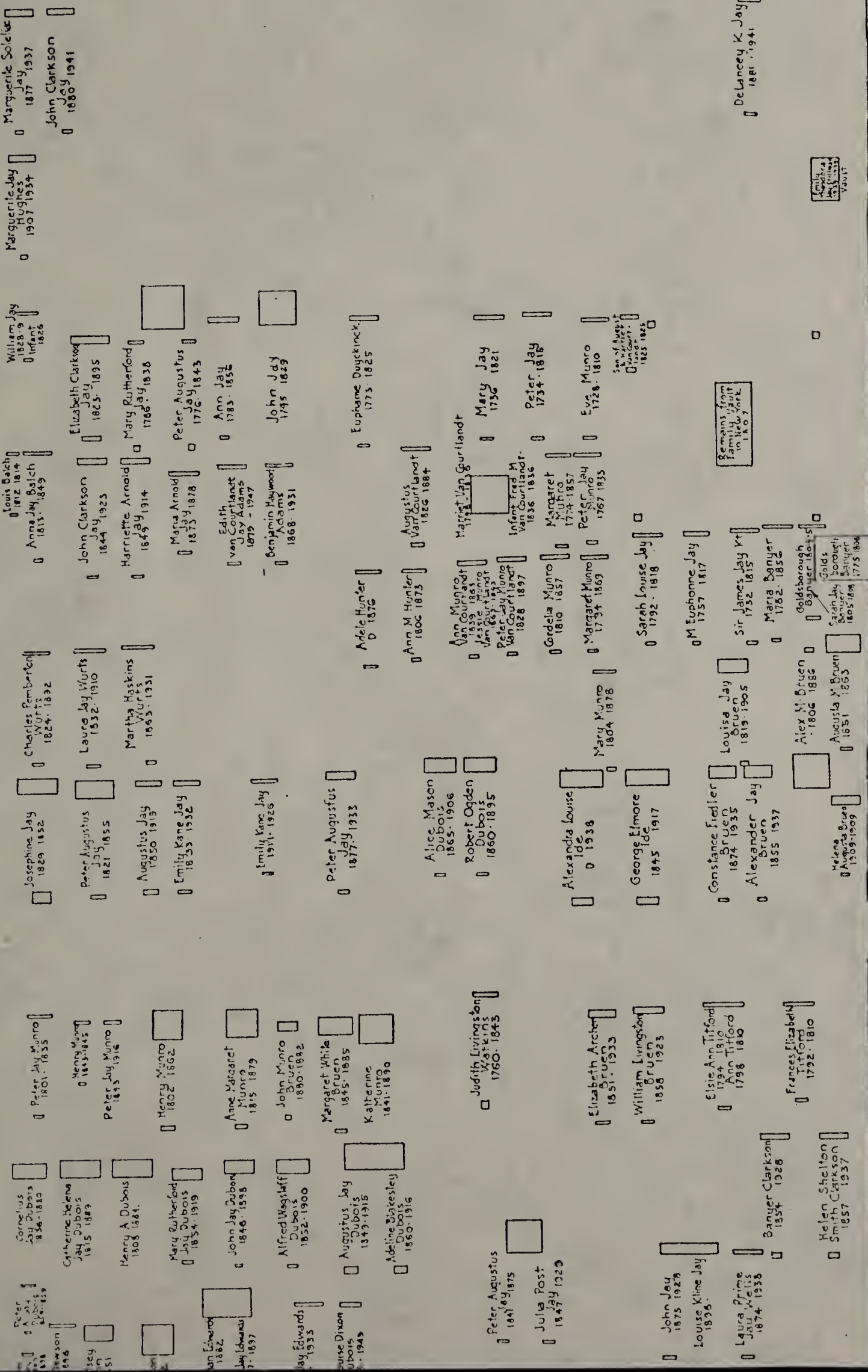
##### *Second Generation*

Goldsborough Banyer  
Maria Banyer  
Ann Jay  
Mary Rutherford Jay  
Peter Augustus Jay  
Sarah Louise Jay  
Peter Jay Munro

Margaret Munro  
Ann Titford  
Elsie Ann Titford  
Frances Elizabeth Titford

##### *Third Generation*

Anna Jay Balch  
Louis Balch  
Goldsborough Banyer  
Sarah Jay Banyer  
Alexander M. Bruen  
Louisa Jay Bruen  
Sarah Dawson  
William Dawson  
Catherine Helena Jay DuBois  
Henry A. DuBois  
Elizabeth Clarkson Jay  
John Clarkson Jay  
Laura Prime Jay



Family Vault

Remains from Family Vault in New York

Delancey K. Jay 1881-1941

Gold's Burial Vault

Gold's Burial Vault

Gold's Burial Vault

Gold's Burial Vault

Gold's Burial Vault

Gold's Burial Vault

Gold's Burial Vault

ERRATA

*The following names should appear in the Fourth Generation instead of the Fifth:*

Alexander Jay Bruen, Constance Fiedler Bruen, William Livingston Bruen, Elizabeth Archer Bruen, Augusta M. Bruen.

*The name of Helena Augusta Bruen should appear in the Fifth Generation.*



*Third Generation (Continued)*

Peter Augustus Jay  
Josephine Jay  
William Jay  
Anne Margaret Munro  
Cordelia Munro  
Henry Munro  
Margaret Munro  
Mary Munro  
Peter Jay Munro  
Mary Rutherford Prime  
Harriet Van Courtlandt

*Fourth Generation*

Margaret White Bruen  
Banyer Clarkson  
Helen Shelton Smith Clarkson  
William Pudsey Dawson  
William Pudsey Dawson (II)  
Alfred Wagstaff Du Bois  
Augustus Jay DuBois  
Adeline Blakesley DuBois  
Cornelius Jay DuBois  
John Jay DuBois  
Mary Rutherford Jay DuBois  
Peter A. Jay DuBois  
Robert Ogden DuBois  
Alice Mason DuBois  
Jonathan Edwards  
Mary Jay Edwards  
Francis Thomas Garretson  
Helen Jay Prime Garretson  
Adele Hunter  
Ann M. Hunter  
George Elmore Ide  
Alexandra Louise Ide  
Alice Jay  
Anna Maria Jay  
Augustus Jay  
Cornelia Jay  
John Jay  
John Clarkson Jay

Harriette Arnold Jay  
Matilda Coster Jay  
Sarah Jay  
Peter Augustus Jay  
Julia Post Jay  
Augustus Jay  
Emily Kane Jay  
Henry Munro  
Katherine Munro  
Peter Jay Munro  
Mary Rutherford Prime  
Augustus Van Courtlandt  
Ann Munro Van Courtlandt  
Frederick Munro Van Courtlandt  
Son of Augustus and Harriet  
Van Courtlandt  
Peter Jay Munro Van Court-  
landt  
Charles Pemberton Wurts  
Laura Jay Wurts

*Fifth Generation*

Benjamin Haywood Adams  
Edith Van Courtlandt Jay Adams  
Alexander Jay Bruen  
Constance Fiedler Bruen  
Augusta M. Bruen  
John Munro Bruen  
William Livingston Bruen  
Elizabeth Archer Bruen  
Louise Dixon DuBois  
Laura Jay Edwards  
Helen Jay Garretson  
John Jay  
John Clarkson Jay  
Marguerite Soleliac Jay  
Maria Arnold Jay  
Peter Augustus Jay  
DeLancey Kane Jay  
Jessie Munro Van Courtlandt  
Laura Prime Jay Wells  
Martha Haskins Wurts

*Sixth Generation*

Helena Augusta Bruen  
Marguerite Jay Hughes  
Emily Kane Jay

Single graves 112; 108 of members of the family, 4 others.

Vault containing members of the family brought from St. Mark's in the Bouwerie, New York City.

*Seventh Generation*

Emily Theodora Jay Stillman

## 5. *Who manage the Cemetery*

**O**F the first Trustees, Peter Jay Munro died in 1833 and Peter Augustus Jay died in 1843.

Upon the death of Peter Augustus Jay, the farm descended to his eldest son John Clarkson Jay and, upon the death of the latter in 1891, to a number of his children and grandchildren. These descendants rented the house and the farm to various tenants until 1905 when the entire place was sold.

Thus during the period 1843 to 1905, the original Trustees having died, John Clarkson Jay and his heirs became the owners of the farm and, in trust, of the Cemetery as well. But specific Trustees were not appointed, and the Cemetery was kept up, first by John Clarkson Jay, and later by his son Dr. John Clarkson Jay.

When the farm passed from the ownership of members of the family, it became necessary to formalize the ownership of the Cemetery lot and the right of way to the Boston Post Road, about one-quarter mile distant, which were reserved by the heirs in selling the farm. Accordingly, in 1906, the heirs decided the lot and the right of way to a family cemetery corporation formed

under New York State laws. The instrument of incorporation provides that the property, including the right of way, shall be held and maintained by three Trustees, each of whom shall be a descendant of Peter Jay, father of John Jay. In the instrument of incorporation, the trustees designated were:

Dr. John Clarkson Jay  
Banyer Clarkson  
John Jay

During the 41 years since the Cemetery was incorporated, the following have served as Trustees for varying terms, listed in the order of their election:

Dr. John Clarkson Jay	John Clarkson Jay
Banyer Clarkson	Peter Jay
John Jay	Elizabeth Jay Etnier
John Clarkson Jay, Jr.	Mary Rutherford Jay
DeLancey Kane Jay	Sarah Jay Hughes
Pierre Jay	

Until quite recently the Trustees, or some of them, have also served as officers of the Cemetery corporation and have managed the Cemetery. But during World War II, two of the Trustees were in the army, and as this was also the period when the Cemetery was being en-

larged, a number of other officers of the corporation were appointed by the Trustees.

The Trustees have absolute discretion, subject to the requirements of the law, in the custody and care of all property of the Cemetery, real estate, securities, and money. They also elect their successors. The corporation has bylaws which are adopted and are subject to change by the Trustees. Under the present bylaws, the Trustees have delegated to officers, whom they have appointed, much of the work of keeping up the cemetery.

The Trustees have certain rules in regard to gravestones and other matters in connection with the use of the Cemetery. That which relates to gravestones will be found in Part 9, inside page of back cover.

## *6. Increase of the area of the Cemetery*

OF the original 400 acre farm, about one-half is now in the hands of various persons. The remaining half, including the house and garden and the area in which the cemetery lot is situated, is owned by Mrs. Walter B. Devereux who, with her husband, have expressed their present intention of continuing to live on the farm. On the other hand, a good deal of development is going on in that section of Rye, and it is apparent that, in the course of time, what remains of the Jay property now in the hands of Mrs. Devereux, is likely to be cut up into smaller holdings and intersected by roads. Thus, eventually, the Cemetery is likely to find itself facing a public road. Moreover, the number of graves in the Cemetery is increasing and it seems likely that before many years the space for graves within the stone walls of the original lot will be quite fully occupied.

Accordingly, to provide additional space for graves, and to protect the privacy of the Cemetery for the long future, the Trustees have for several years felt that it was urgent to acquire additional acreage adjoining the Cemetery, so as to increase our holding from 82/100ths of an

acre to approximately the maximum of three acres to which family cemeteries are limited by New York law. The Trustees approached Mr. and Mrs. Devereux and found that they were in sympathy with this plan and willing to sell the desired acreage at a very moderate price. A private cemetery corporation is not permitted by law to expend its funds for the acquisition of additional land, but is permitted to accept a gift of land. Therefore, in January 1944, a Committee of members of the family was formed to acquire the additional land. The purpose of this Committee was to secure funds from members of the family not only to purchase the land, with the incidental expenses, but also

- A. to fence part or all of the enlarged Cemetery property, including the present lot
- B. to plant evergreen trees around the edges, and
- C. to increase the endowment of the Cemetery by at least \$10,000 to provide for the upkeep of the added acreage.

The total requirement at that time was estimated at about \$15,000.

The Committee and the Trustees felt satisfied that such an enlargement would not in any way change the simple character of the present burying ground. But with the fence, and a locked

gate, privacy and freedom from entrance by unauthorized persons could be secured. How access to the Cemetery is to be had is described in Part 9, inside back cover.

The work of the Committee lasted for two years. The consents of all owners of dwelling houses within 1650 feet of the Cemetery, as required by law, were obtained. The Board of Supervisors of Westchester County gave their consent to the enlargement. The Mayor and Council of the City of Rye adopted resolutions approving the enlargement of the Cemetery. The Title Guarantee and Trust Company examined and guaranteed the title to the additional acreage.

In February, 1946, the Committee took title to the new acreage and promptly deeded it to the Cemetery corporation. Thus the area of the Cemetery was increased from 82/100ths of an acre to 2.85 acres.



## 7. *Plans for using a portion of the new area*

**B**Y reference to the plan of the present graves opposite Part 4, one will see that from the line of graves in which John Jay is buried to the southern end of the present enclosure surrounded by stone walls, not much space for additional graves remains. Moreover, the appropriate places for several of the elder members of the family still living will be among their next of kin in the area just referred to.

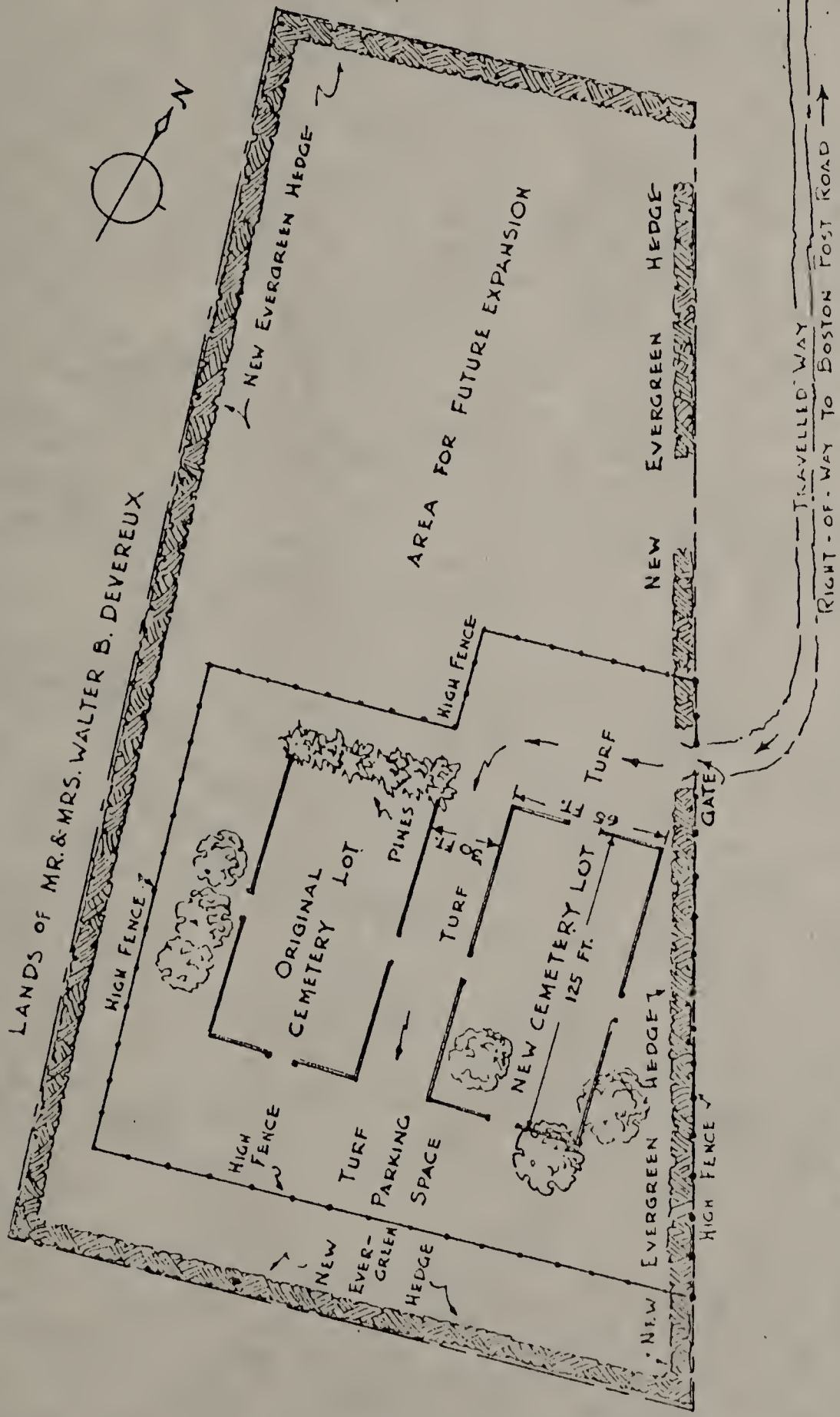
In the area north of John Jay's grave there have not yet been many burials because this area has only recently been made available. Those who are buried in it have numerous children, some of whom would doubtless prefer to be buried near their parents. Now that there is plenty of space available, there seems no reason why such space should not be tentatively reserved; but without creating any vested interest on the part of any individual, in case the Trustees should later decide otherwise. No irrevocable advance commitments, or sales, have ever been made of grave space.

Therefore it seems to the Trustees prudent to proceed at once with the preparation of addi-

tional space for burials, so that it may be ready whenever it may be required. The simplest and most natural place for such graves appears to be in a lot alongside of the present lot. Accordingly, plans have been made to set aside a lot of substantially the same size as the existing one, with some form of enclosure far less expensive than a stone wall. The distance between the two lots would be about 30 feet. This work is now under way. The present entrance to the Cemetery would be moved northward, but motors entering would then proceed southward between the two lots to an adequate parking space which is available there. This entrance would serve both the present and the new lots; also, probably, the area reserved for future expansion.

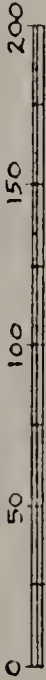
Opposite this page a drawing is reproduced of the present area, as enlarged. It shows both the present and the proposed new cemetery lots. Also the portion of the area which is reserved for use in the more distant future.

At the present time there is a high wire fence where indicated on the map. It will be necessary, (a) to move a portion of this fence a few feet northward in order to provide for the entrance to the Cemetery, (b) to erect a new fence, with gate, which will close the present quadrangle,



PLAN OF PRESENT CEMETERY PROPERTY ~ AREA 2 85/100 ACRES

DRAWN TO SCALE



*Drawing of present Cemetery, showing work to be done in near future.*

one side of which is now open. Such a fence, with its locked gate, will keep out unauthorized persons, who from time to time in the past have damaged some of the monuments. Means of access are described in Part 9, inside page of back cover.

It is not intended to attempt any use of the remaining acreage at present and probably not for many years, unless special circumstances arise. Thus the cost of completing the new lot and maintaining the existing one will not be burdensome. But the new lot and fencing will have to be maintained and the fencing renewed as the years go on.

While it is thus planned to use only a portion of the land at present, it seems wise to plant evergreens around the edges of the entire area. These in time should grow up and assure privacy to the Cemetery. Moreover, should roads be built adjacent to the Cemetery, its appearance would be dignified and attractive.

Looking to the longer future, when there may not be the present cottages at the entrance to the lane, with whose tenants the keys of the gate to the Cemetery may be kept, the Trustees are negotiating with Mrs. Devereux to purchase now, with funds still in the hands of the Com-

mittee referred to on page 17, about half an acre of land adjoining the Cemetery at its north end.

Mrs. Devereux has indicated her willingness to sell this additional land if suitable covenants as to the use thereof for the protection of her adjoining property can be agreed upon. The title to this property would be in a holding corporation to be formed by the Committee, the stock of which would be donated to the Cemetery.

On such a plot a suitable caretaker's cottage could be erected at some future time, if and when necessary. This land, not being Cemetery property, would be subject to a small amount of taxes.

## 8. *Endowment and Finances*

SINCE its incorporation in 1906, the Cemetery has accumulated an endowment, by gifts and by bequests under wills, aggregating \$31,799.59. Of this amount \$16,132.93 has been received in bequests and \$15,666.66 in gifts; from 55 persons in all. During publication of this volume, notice has been received of a new bequest of \$2,000.

In addition, over the years, substantial amounts of surplus income have been added to the principal. The endowment fund has been kept invested almost entirely in bonds, with a few preferred and common stocks. The market value of the fund on January 1, 1947, was about \$55,000.

In addition, the Committee received gifts in connection with the purchase of the additional land aggregating \$3,250 from 18 different members of the family, some of whom do not use the cemetery for burial purposes but have many ancestors buried there.

The costs of preparing the new lot for burial purposes, of clearing away underbrush, of completing the fence and of planting the evergreens will amount to at least \$5,000, and it is hoped that most of this can be met through gifts, with-

out drawing on present Cemetery funds. It is also hoped that the endowment fund may be increased by at least \$10,000, to provide increased income for the care of the added acreage. Up to the present, the existing endowment has produced sufficient income to maintain the original Cemetery, and in some years to leave a surplus, as already stated.

The books are kept in the office of the treasurer. They are audited annually by a public or other qualified accountant. The securities are at present kept in the Irving Safe Deposit Vault.

Should any member of the family hereafter wish to make a bequest to the Cemetery, the proper designation is:

*The Jay Cemetery of Rye, New York, a family cemetery corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York.*

**1964109**

*A Memoir of the ...*

... ..

... ..

Seven hundred copies have been printed  
October 1947  
by the Printing-Office of the Yale University Press.

*This is Number 236.*

... ..



## 9. *How to arrange for burials*

### THE JAY CEMETERY, RYE, NEW YORK

Members of the family wishing to arrange for burial should communicate promptly with one of the officers. They are familiar with the names of those who have the right of burial, the general procedure, and will arrange for the assignment of grave space. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) are perhaps more familiar than others.

#### TRUSTEES

\*PIERRE JAY, 133 East 64th Street, New York.

Telephone: Regent 4-1381

(Summer: Mt. Kisco, N.Y. Telephone: Mt. Kisco 4752)

JOHN CLARKSON JAY, Norfolk, Conn.

Telephone: Norfolk 322

PETER JAY, Havre de Grace, Md.

Telephone: Churchville, Md. 3822

#### OFFICERS

##### *President*

\*MARY RUTHERFURD JAY, 200 East 78th Street, New York.

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ALEXANDER DUER HARVEY, 1175 Park Avenue, New York.

Telephone: Lehigh 4-3039

Rev. WILLIAM DUDLEY F. HUGHES, State Street, Portland, Me.

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Mrs. PETER AUGUSTUS JAY, 1611 29th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Telephone: Decatur 8345

\*SETH LOW PIERREPONT, Ridgefield, Conn.

Telephone: Ridgefield 17

OVER

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*Honorary Vice Presidents*

JOHN JAY IDE, Hotel Plaza, New York.

CHAUNCEY DEVEREUX STILLMAN, 136 East 79th Street, New York.

*Secretary*

Mrs. JOHN B. TREVOR, JR., 15 East 90th Street, New York.

Telephone: Sacramento 2-7563

*Treasurer*

\*ALEXANDER JAY BRUEN, 51 East 90th Street, New York.

Telephone: Atwater 9-1982

William H. Graham is the undertaker most used, though there are others in Rye. Address: 1036 Post Road, Rye. Telephone: Rye 129.

The church which the Jay family used to attend is Christ's Church, Rye. Telephone: Rye 1749. The present rector is Rev. Wendell Phillips; home telephone: Rye 94.

The regulations of the Cemetery provide that designs for gravestones and specifications for their foundation should be submitted before execution, to the President or Secretary of the Cemetery for approval.

*How to reach the Cemetery*

The Cemetery is at the end of a lane whose entrance is on the Post Road between Rye and Mamaroneck, and between the residences of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Parsons and Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Devereux. Keys of the gate may be obtained at the small house on the right after entering the lane, also at the office of Lewis and Valentine, 145 Post Road, telephone, Harrison 8-1151, whose nursery is almost opposite the gate, going south. The nearest railway station is Harrison, N.Y.

March 1, 1948.