

## **Mission Statement**

The grounds of our cemeteries are sacredly devoted to the interment and memorialization of the honored dead.

As a manifestation of the respect and affection, which our community bestows upon those who are buried here, it is intended that our cemeteries be perpetually areas of quiet beauty and serenity - to beckon the living as well as to provide repose for the dead.

Our heritage is enriched by the lives and deeds of the men and women who have preceded us. It is, therefore, our goal, as part of the remembrance of them, to maintain permanent records of those whose earthly remains have been entrusted to us.

It is further the goal of Bridgeport Cemetery to provide empathetic and effective service to the citizens of the Bridgeport area in the years to come.

The Bridgeport Cemetery  
P.O. Box 1310  
Bridgeport, WV 26330  
304-842-2641-Office  
304-842-4717-Fax

THE BRIDGEPORT CEMETERY  
P.O. Box 1310  
Bridgeport, WV 26330  
(304) 842-2641

**PRICE LIST**

**LOT SALES**

**FEE**

Lots	\$700.00
Baby Land	\$150.00
Cremation Lots	\$350.00
Foundations	\$000.65 per sq. inch
Deed Transfer	\$ 50.00

**BURIAL SERVICES**

Weekdays	\$650.00
Saturdays and Holidays	\$650.00 + overtime cost
Infants	\$300.00
Extremity	\$150.00
Vault Handling Fee	\$ 75.00
Disinterment's	\$1,500.00

**CREMATIONS**

Weekdays	\$250.00
Saturdays	\$250.00 + overtime cost

**CLOSED ON SUNDAY**

**\*\*\*\*\* Charge \$3.00 for EACH additional chair over the standard 4-chair set-up.**

# **THE BRIDGEPORT CEMETERY**

## **Rules and Regulations**

Adopted by the City Council of Bridgeport, West Virginia on July 8th, 1941

The following rules have been formulated with the fixed purpose of protecting the rights and interests of all the lot owners, of securing good order within the Cemetery, and of preserving and insuring the permanent beauty of the Cemetery grounds. By safeguarding the interests of the Cemetery as a whole, the interests of each lot owner are safeguarded. All persons are required to comply with these rules, copies of which, revised and corrected to date, may be obtained at any time upon application to the Superintendent.

Special cases may arise in which the literal enforcement of a rule may impose unnecessary hardship. The Cemetery, therefore, reserves the right, without notice, to make exceptions, suspensions, or modifications of any of the rules and regulations when, in its judgment, the same appears advisable; however, such temporary exceptions, suspensions, or modifications shall in no way be construed as affecting the general application of such rule.

As used in these regulations, the term "lot" means one or more grave sites; the term "Superintendent" means the persons in active control of Cemetery operations; and the term "Cemetery", where authority is implied, means the City Council of Bridgeport, West Virginia, or any commission, committee, board or other agency that may be authorized by the City Council to exercise its powers, privileges, and duties with respect to the Cemetery.

1. No lot shall be used for any purpose other than the burial of the human dead.
2. The name and address of every lot owner shall be on record at the Office of the Superintendent at the Cemetery. Such records shall be sufficient warrant to the Cemetery in all matters pertaining to the ownership of a lot. In the event of a change of

address, the Superintendent at The Bridgeport Cemetery, Bridgeport, West Virginia, should be notified at once.

3. Upon the decease of a lot owner, his heirs or devisees should immediately file with the Superintendent proof of the new ownership. This is important as no interments can be permitted until such proof is given. Because of the difficulties in determining the persons who may inherit the rights of a lot owner in his lot and in order to avoid serious disputes and inconveniences that may arise subsequent to the decease of a lot owner, it is recommended that the lot owner make provision for the definite disposition of his lot during his lifetime. He may, by will, devise the lot to a named person or persons, or he may, either by will or by deed, convey the lot to the City of Bridgeport in trust, designating the person or persons who may be buried therein.
4. No transfer or assignment of any lots or interest therein shall be valid without the prior written consent of the Cemetery, endorsed upon the conveyance and entered upon the Cemetery records.
5. The Cemetery reserves the right to refuse interment in any lot except on the written authority of the lot owner. In case the lot is jointly owned, the interment of any member of the immediate family of any one of the owners may be made upon his sole written authorization. No person outside the immediate family of the lot owner may be interred in a lot without the written consent of the lot owner or owners who, under no circumstances, shall allow interments to be made on any lot for a remuneration. No protest of interment will be recognized by the Cemetery unless it be in writing and filed with the Superintendent of the Cemetery, and the Cemetery shall in no way be liable for any delay in any interment resulting from such protest or from non-compliance with these rules.
6. Whenever instructions regarding the location of an interment space cannot be obtained or are indefinite or if, for any reason, the grave cannot be opened in the location specified, the Superintendent may open it at such location as may seem best under the circumstances so as not to delay the funeral services. In order to avoid misunderstandings, it is urged that the lot owner or some member of the family come to the Cemetery and locate the grave and orders for location of graves or for any

other work be made in writing. The Cemetery cannot be held responsible for mistakes made when such orders are given by telephone.

7. All interment spaces shall be opened and closed only by Cemetery employees for whom charges fixed by the Cemetery will be made and shall either be paid for in advance or assumed by a funeral director. Notice for opening an interment space must be given at least twenty-four hours in advance of the funeral service. No disinterment, except as provided under Rule 8, shall be made without the written consent of all of the next of kin of the person whose body is to be removed.
8. No interment shall be permitted until the purchase price of the lot has been fully paid. In the event there is default under an installment purchase agreement, then the Cemetery shall have the right, at any time after Twenty (20) days' notice mailed to the owner of the lot as shown on the Cemetery records, to remove to single graves chosen by the Superintendent each of the remains interred in said lot. The Cemetery shall also have the right to remove any memorials that may have been placed thereon.
9. Tents, artificial grass, lowering devices, and other equipment owned by the Cemetery shall be used in making interments. The charge for preparing interment spaces includes the use of such equipment.
10. All grading, landscape, and maintenance work, and improvements on lots shall be done under the direction of the Superintendent and only by employees of the Cemetery, except when the Superintendent otherwise grants permission. Visitors and lot owners are requested not to offer money to Cemetery employees since they are forbidden to accept any fee or gratuity except from the Cemetery and may be dismissed for violation of this rule.
11. If any lot owner desires special work to be done on his lot, such as special planting, repairing and cleaning of monuments, placing and removing of cut flowers, potted plants, wreaths, decorations, etc., the Superintendent will be glad to give estimates of the cost of such work either upon an annual basis or for a particular service. All charges for such special work are payable in advance.

12. No work is permitted on Sunday except as required by Sunday funerals or emergencies.
13. In the future, no fences, copings, hedges, ditches, flower borders, trellises, or other enclosures of any kind, and no benches, settees, urns, boxes, shells, toys or other similar articles shall be placed upon any lot, and if so placed, or in the event present ones become unsightly or detrimental to the uniform beauty of the Cemetery, then the Superintendent shall have the right to remove them.
14. No trees, shrubs, plants, vines, or flowers shall be planted on or removed from any lot except with the permission and under the direction of the Superintendent, who shall have the right to plant, prune, remove, or transplant any trees, shrubs, plants, vines, or flowers upon any lot when he deems it necessary or advisable.
15. Only metal flower receptacles set wholly beneath the surface of the ground may be placed on any lot. All baskets, potted plants, cut flowers, perishable plants, emblems, etc., placed on lots shall be removed as soon as they become unsightly or faded.
16. No grave mounds will be permitted and the established grade of any lot cannot be changed without permission of the Superintendent.
17. Although the Cemetery has no desire to interfere with the individual taste of lot owners concerning monumental objects, in the interest of the Cemetery as a whole the Cemetery reserves the right to prevent the erection of any monument, memorial, marker, or other structure which the Superintendent considers objectionable to the Cemetery. It also reserves the right to refuse to permit the erection of any monumental object on a lot whose owner is in arrears in the payment of any indebtedness to the Cemetery. In certain sections the lots are sold subject to restrictions (summarized in the appendix to these Rules and Regulations) as to size, type, number and location of monumental objects. Therefore, in order to avoid misunderstandings, no monument shall be erected without the written consent of the Superintendent. It is very important that lot owners consult with the Superintendent before selecting

monuments or closing a purchase of the same so as to avoid expensive mistakes or serious disappointments.

18. Granite is the only kind of stone recommended for monumental objects. Marble, limestone, sandstone, terra cotta, and others composed of soft material are not durable in this climate and, therefore, their use is not recommended.
19. No mausoleum, tomb, or vault built partially or entirely above ground shall be permitted on any lot unless the plans therefore have been approved by the Superintendent, and unless there has been deposited in The Bridgeport Cemetery Trust by the person erecting such structure a sum of money, the income from which will, in the judgment of the Cemetery authority, be sufficient for the permanent maintenance of such structure.
20. Foundations for all monumental objects must be prepared by the Cemetery and must be paid for in advance at a charge fixed by the Cemetery. The setting and erection of all monumental objects shall be under the supervision of the Superintendent.
21. The Cemetery reserves the right to care for and repair or to remove any monument or structure which has, through decay, dilapidation, or for any other reason, become unsightly or dangerous.
22. All work in the Cemetery in the neighborhood of a funeral must be stopped during the interment services. No traffic of any kind shall pass the section where services are being held. No strangers will be permitted to gather at a grave where an interment is being held.
23. The Cemetery will take every reasonable precaution to protect all private property of lot owners in the Cemetery from loss or damage, but it distinctly disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control and especially from the acts of thieves, vandals, rioters, and malicious mischief-makers.
24. The Cemetery reserves the right to enlarge, reduce, replant, and change the boundaries or grading of the Cemetery or a section, including the right to modify and change the location of, or remove and re-grade, roads, walks, paths, or drives. The right to lay, maintain, operate, or change water lines, sanitary or

storm water drains, sprinkling systems, gutters, lakes, etc., is also reserved, as well as the right to use Cemetery property not sold to individual lot owners for Cemetery purposes or for anything necessary or incidental thereto. The Cemetery reserves to itself a perpetual right of ingress and egress over lots for the purpose of passing to or from other lots.

25. The Cemetery reserves the right to change these rules and regulations from time to time without notice.
26. All persons are reminded that the Cemetery grounds are sacredly devoted to the interment of the dead and that strict observance of the proprieties due such a place is required whether or not they are specifically embraced in these rules. The Superintendent is charged with the enforcement of these rules and with the general welfare of the Cemetery, and he is authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to preserve the peace and dignity thereof.

New sections will be governed by these same rules and regulations.

## HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRIDGEPORT CEMETARY

Occupying a 55-acre, pleasantly park-like tract of land at the eastern edge of Bridgeport, WV the Bridgeport Cemetery is significant in three respects. It will meet the needs of the area it serves for many years to come. The serene beauties of its landscaped hills are an inspiring sight. And it has an interesting historical background.

Owned and operated by the City of Bridgeport, this cemetery was established as a municipal enterprise in 1939 through the acquisition and consolidation of three existing cemeteries, along with 20 additional acres of land.

The old Baptist Brick Church Graveyard was established in 1770 in conjunction with the first church to be built west of the Allegheny Mountains. The site of the Old Baptist meetinghouse is now marked by a bronze tablet on which is inscribed the history of the church. The first burial in this graveyard of which there is now any knowledge is marked by a hand-hewn stone bearing the date January 18, 1782.

Late Lodge No.63, A.F. & A.M, established the old Masonic Cemetery adjoining the original graveyard in 1895. Also in the same general area, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Cemetery was established in 1913.

Those buried in these grounds now known as the Bridgeport Cemetery are especially representative of the history of our country, for among them are many pioneers and early settlers and veterans of all our wars since and including the American Revolution. Also buried here is the Honorable Joseph Johnson, state legislator and United States congressman and the only governor of Virginia to come from that part of the Old Dominion that later became West Virginia. Perhaps the most interesting headstone is that of James (Peg) Clemens, 1857-1940, which states: "Rider of Pony Express; Buffalo hunter of the Old West; Pioneer railroader of Texas; Member of the Sioux Indian Tribe by adoption; cousin of Mark Twain."

The original Bridgeport Cemetery Committee appointed by the Bridgeport Town Council in September, 1939, was composed by Dr. W. M. Davis, chairman, Dana H. Gawthorp, secretary-treasurer, Miss Sophie Benedum, Mrs. Jessie Barnes, Carl Workman, J. Dunkin Lodge, J.A. Deegan, H.R. Lawson, George Camp, W. Frank Stout and J.R. Jones. This committee, which was charged with the responsibility of planning and establishing an impressively improved and

enlarged facility, then retained Frank C. Harris, a landscape architect, to supervise the work.

Philanthropist Michael Late Benedum, a native son of Bridgeport, desiring to express his interest in the welfare of his former home town, offered to furnish the necessary funds for this ambitious cemetery project, and it was only by reason of his generous contributions that it was possible to transform this historic site into a beautiful, lasting memorial.

Since 1939, when the task of improving and enlarging the cemetery facilities was commenced, paved roadways providing access to all sections of the cemetery have been constructed. The grounds have been graded to provide proper drainage. As a result of extensive cultivation, the rolling hills of the cemetery are covered with thick, green turf. All sections have been landscaped, including the generous use of evergreens and flowering shrubs. A wall of native fieldstone has been constructed across the front of the cemetery, and the entire boundary has been enclosed with a strong fence. Lines connected to the town's supply have assured adequate water. Also, as completely as possible, accurate records of lot owners and burials have been compiled. Many of the hand-hewn tombstones in the old Baptist graveyard section, the inscriptions on which were becoming illegible, have been reset in concrete bases, together with bronze tablets on which the inscriptions have been fully reproduced, thus insuring their permanence.

One of the most significant events in the development of the cemetery took place on October 13, 1940, when the Masonic fraternity laid the cornerstone of the Benedum Memorial Chapel. This cornerstone was a part of the foundation of the original Baptist-meeting house erected in 1770. The principal speakers at the ceremony were the Honorable Homer A. Holt, governor of West Virginia, Bishop James E. Straughn of the Methodist Church and Michael L. Benedum. Deposited with the cornerstone were various records contributed by fraternal, religious and civic organizations. The town of Bridgeport dedicated the chapel to the memory of Emanuel and Caroline Benedum, the parents of Michael L. Benedum. Designed by Robert Daley, A Charleston, WV architect and constructed of native fieldstone, the building blends naturally into the rustic beauty of its surroundings. The large center room of the chapel provides facilities for funeral and memorial services. Elsewhere there is a superintendent's office, rest rooms and an equipment storage room. The view from the flagstone terrace in front of the chapel takes in the

sloping grounds of the oldest part of the cemetery, the picturesque town of Bridgeport and a backdrop of wooded West Virginia hills.

Thus, through the benevolence of Mr. Benedum and the leadership of civic-minded residents of Bridgeport, the hallowed and historic grounds of the Bridgeport Cemetery have been made into a beautiful shrine in tribute to those who, over the past two centuries, have built this community and developed this area in which we live. Now available is a fitting final resting place sufficient to meet the needs of those who call this countryside home for many years to come.

Since the establishment of the Bridgeport Cemetery through the acquisition and consolidation of property in 1939, some 35 additional acres of land have been obtained for the purpose of expansion. More than half of this acreage has been developed. The remainder is being held in reserve for future development. On the basis of an average of 1,000 gravesites per acre, it is estimated that the space still available within the present boundaries of the cemetery is sufficient to meet the anticipated requirements of the next 150 years.

A unique feature of the Bridgeport Cemetery is the Jewish Memorial Cemetery section, which was formally dedicated at an appropriate ceremony held on Memorial Day, Tuesday, May 30, 1961. This was the first Jewish Burial Ground to be established in West Virginia. Located on a beautiful knoll, it is comprised of 512 gravesites divided into two sections, one the Orthodox Burial Section and the other the Nontraditional Section. Only persons professing the Jewish faith or members of their immediate families may become licensees with the right to be interred in this ground. The offer to provide space for this needed facility was made by the Bridgeport Cemetery Committee in accordance with the wishes of the late Michael L. Benedum, who had died in 1959, and was gratefully accepted by the Jewish community.

All sections of the cemetery are carefully landscaped in keeping with a long range plan of beautification that makes use of various types of plantings to enhance the natural attributes of its graceful slopes.

The perpetual care necessary to maintain the attractiveness of the Bridgeport Cemetery is assured by a trust agreement transacted July 7, 1941, between Michael L. Benedum and the Town of Bridgeport, with the Union National Bank of Clarksburg as trustee. The purpose of this trust is to provide a permanent fund, the income from which will

always be adequate to meet the reasonable costs of maintenance, perpetual care and continued future improvement of the cemetery. Under the terms of the agreement, at least one-third of the proceeds from the sale of burial plots must be turned over to the trustee to become a part of the permanent trust fund. The remaining one-third of such proceeds together with all money received from the operation of the cemetery and all the income from the permanent fund goes into an operating account, which can be used by the Town of Bridgeport only for the care, preservation, maintenance, upkeep improvement and beautification of the Bridgeport Cemetery. Should the operating account ever exceed the reasonable needs for such purposes, the excess may be turned over to the trustee to become a part of the permanent fund. Also, the trustee is authorized to accept and administer, as a part of the permanent fund, any gifts, devises, donations and bequests, which anyone may desire to make. This trust agreement has worked out well and, as a result, the Bridgeport Cemetery, although still being further developed, is in excellent financial condition. Hence, each present and future lot owner is assured that whatever he pays to the cemetery, whether for his lot, for services rendered or for any other reason, will be used exclusively for cemetery purposes.

General supervision of the management and operation of the Bridgeport Cemetery is under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Director and the Superintendent of the Cemetery.

In addition to the Benedum Memorial Chapel with its facilities for indoor memorial and funeral services, the cemetery has acquired the most modern burial equipment available.

For a reasonable charge, the cemetery will furnish to any lot owner who desires it, either upon an annual basis or for a particular service, special care, such as special plantings, the cleaning and repairing of monuments and the placing and removing of cut flowers and wreaths. Also for sale at small cost, including installation, the cemetery has an approved type pf metal receptacle for cut flowers, which rest wholly beneath the surface of the ground.

Burial lots varying in size from single gravesites to large family lots can be purchased. The prices of lots, which vary according to size and location, are very reasonable because the cemetery is operated on a nonprofit basis. If anyone interested in obtaining a lot is unable to pay the full price at the time of purchase, arrangements can be made for installment payments. All inquiries

pertaining to the purchase of lots should be directed to the superintendent of the cemetery.

The wisdom of providing a carefully selected family burial estate prior to the time when it is actually needed should not be overlooked. In this way, a prudent and farsighted person lessens the burdens, which attend death and protects him and those near and dear to him from some of the difficulties, which can result from failure to make provision against the inevitable.

The City of Bridgeport cordially invites the public to visit the cemetery in order to gain a fuller awareness of the peaceful quality and distinctive beauty of this final resting place-a fitting memorial to those who are interred here and to our faith in an eternal and ever-greater future.

## Cemetery Definitions

As used in these Rules and Regulation, the following definitions are set forth:

**Burial Space:** the ground space stipulated in the cemetery intended or used for the individual interment of human remains.

**Cemetery:** an area of land together with the various improvements and embellishments thereon dedicated to the burial, entombment, and memorialization of the human dead. Specifically, reference is made to Bridgeport Cemetery, belonging to the City of Bridgeport.

**Cemetery:** refers to authority and means City of Bridgeport or an appointed agent acting on their behalf.

**Columbarium:** a structure, either freestanding or part of another building, containing niches for the inurnment of cremated remains.

**Contractor:** any person, firm, or corporation, other than an employee of the cemetery, erecting or repairing any memorial, delivering any material, or performing any work in the cemetery.

**Cremains:** the ashes that remain after cremation of a corpse.

**Crypt:** a space in a mausoleum or lawn crypt, which is designed to receive a casket.

**Decorations:** object of a decorative nature such as, but not necessarily limited to natural or artificial flowers, wreaths, candles, pin wheels, hangers, balloons, flags, or toys which may be placed on graves or memorials.

**Disinterment:** to dig up or remove from a grave or tomb, exhume. It does not include relocation of remains from a temporary location to a place of permanent burial.

**Inter:** to place in a grave or tomb, bury.

**Interment:** is the disposition of human remains by burial in the earth, entombment in a mausoleum or inurnment in a columbarium.

**Interment Right:** the inheritable right to interment in a specified grave space, mausoleum crypt, or columbarium niche.

**Inurnment:** to enclose in an urn.

**Lawn crypts:** burial vaults, either single or double in size, placed underground prior to the actual burial.

**Lot:** a particular area designated by map numbers and location within the cemetery consisting of a fixed number of grave spaces with burial rights.

**Lot Owner:** the owner of burial rights.

**Marker:** any memorial lying flat on the ground; generally set flush with the level of the turf.

**Mausoleum:** a building housing above ground crypts.

**Memorial:** any monument, marker, tablet, name plate, or structure placed upon or in any place of interment or elsewhere in the cemetery for the purpose of identification or in memory of a deceased person or persons.

**Monument:** any memorial set upright or perpendicular to the grade consisting of two or more pieces.

**Niche:** a compartment, as in a columbarium, for holding urns of cremated remains.

**Owner:** the owner of burial rights.

**Perpetual Care:** keeping the established sod in good condition, free of weeds and debris, keeping markers flush with the turf and cutting the grass at proper intervals to insure the areas neat appearance forever.

**Right of Sepulcher:** the inheritable right to interment in a specified grave space, mausoleum crypt, or columbarium niche.

**Sepulcher:** a place of burial; tomb.

**Slab:** a flat stone or bronze on granite memorial covering the entire grave.

**Tomb:** grave.

**Urn:** a vase on a pedestal used for preserving the ashes of the dead after cremation.