Historic Elmwood Cemetery

African American Heritage

The partially wooded, somewhat hilly expanse of land near Vernor and Mt. Elliot that was incorporated in 1846 became the popular burial ground for blacks, said historian Norman McRae. “When you consider that in 1910 Detroit had a population of 300,000 people but only 5,000 were black. There weren’t that many of us here. Those who were, were buried in Elmwood.”

Listed here are some of the prominent African Americans buried in Elmwood.