Business Visionaries

Elmwood Cemetery is the final resting place of many Detroit leaders who spearheaded great businesses. They were owners, presidents, inventors, and directors. They were visionary, smart, persistent, influential and passionate. Highlighted here are some of the business people who had a significant impact on growing Detroit into one of the most dynamic cities in the world.
James D. Standish (1849-1917)
Hazel Dell, Standish

Bernhard Stroh (1882-1982)
Section Q, Lot 9
Founded Stroh Brewery, a Bohemian-style pilsner, in 1850. Adopted heraldic lion emblem from the Kryeburg Castle in Germany and named brewery after Lionel’s Head Brewery. It started as a basement brewing operation and was sold door-to-door.

Martha Jean Steinberg (1930-2000)
Section U, Lot 63
Owner and manager of WQBR radio. Influential broadcaster for 37 years. Initial investor in Detroit’s MGM Grand Casino. Founder and minister of the Order of the Fisherman Ministry.

David Albert Molitor (1866-1959)
Section N, Lot 6
Civil engineer who mastered difficult work throughout the country and Europe, especially bridges and waterways. Designed sluices and dams of the Panama Canal. In 1896 he surveyed and drew the map of Elmdwood Cemetery. Author.

Thomas Berry (1829-1917)
Section T, Lot 48

Cameron Waterman (1878-1955)
Section 2, Lot 71

Truman Newberry (1864-1945)
Section W, Lot 2

Joseph Campau (1769-1863)
Section W, Lot 4
Large landowner. Merchant. First Detroit real estate promoter who built and sold or rented homes. In 1863 his real estate holdings were valued over $10 million.

James McMillan (1838-1902)
Section L, McMillan Mausoleum
Businessman, philanthropist and politician. U.S. Senator 1869-1902 where he chaired Senate Park Improvement Committee and was dealt with the reimbursement of the National Mall. One of the founders of Michigan Car Co. for manufacture of freight cars. Formed Detroit Car Wheel Co., Baugh Steam Forge Co., Detroit Iron Furnace Co., and Vulcan Furnace Co. President of Palisade, South Shore & Atlantic Railway. Interested in shipbuilding and transportation companies and director of several banks. President Detroit Board of Park Commissioners and member of Detroit Board of Estimates. Contributed significantly to establish a hospital in Detroit.

Hiram Walker (1816-1899)
Section A2, Lot 45

Joseph Berry (1839-1907)
Section A2, Lot 32
Co-Founder Berry Brothers Varnishes Co. which became the largest varnish manufacturer in the world. Interests in lumber, industry, banking, Large landowner - his home alone had 15 acres of extensive gardens and greenhouses.

Ernst Kern (1845-1901)
Section A2, Lot D
Founded in 1883 as Ernst Kern Dry Goods specialized in imported fabrics, laces and ribbons. Several expansions led to a 10-story building encompassing 200,000 sq. ft. and becoming Detroit’s first department store, employing 500 associates. Kern’s pioneered mail-order service to out-of-state customers.

Charles DuCharme (1818-1873)
Section A, Lot 52

Christian H. Buhl (1812-1894)
Section A, Lot 110
Industrialist and businessman, starting as a hatter and then fur trader. Part owner of Buhl & DuCharme hardware firm, two iron work businesses, connected with several railroads. Co-founder Michigan State Bank, Founded Detroit Copper and Brass and the Peninsula Car Company.

Invested heavily in plank road expansion. Major patron of the arts. Served as Detroit Mayor 1860-1861.

Theodore DeLong Buhl (1844-1907)
Section A, Lot 110

Arthur H. Buhl (1878-1935)
Section A, Lot 110
President Buhl Land, Buhl Malleable, Buhl Stamping, Stanley Co., Griswold Land Co. Vice president Detroit Copper & Brass Rolling Mills Co. Director of many businesses including railroads, banking, and manufacturing concerns.

John Pearson Clark (1808-1888)
Section A, Lot 167
Builder and owner of several lake passenger steamers. Fisherman, lumberman, boat towing business. Large landowner including several small islands in SE Michigan. Started Clark’s shipyard which still stands. Investor in many manufacturing concerns.

Oliver M. Hyde (1804-1870)
Section A, Lot 96
Hardware and foundry owner. Manufactured counter scales, marine engines and steamboat hardware. Owned Saginaw savmull. Philanthropist. Detroit Mayor in 1854 and then from 1856-1857. Also served as Collector for the Port of Detroit.

Eber Brock Ward (1811-1875)
Section A, Lot 86 (pictured above)

Henry B. Ledyard (1844-1921)
Section A, Lot 79
President Michigan Central Railroad and Union Trust Co. Rebuilt miles of track to eliminate curves. Rebuilt bridges. Began using long trains (increased from 30 to 80 cars) to lessen shipping costs. Expanded terminals near industrial parks. Director People’s Sure Bank.

George B. Russel (1846-1915)
Section A, Lot 3
Organizer & 1st Medical Chief of Harper Hospital. Bt the first iron producing furnace in Detroit. Extensive interests in navigation, railroads, and industry. Fluent in five languages.

George H. Russel (1847-1915)
Section A, Lot 8

Henry Russel (1852-1920)
Section A, Lot 3
President Olds Motor Co. and Cass Farm Co. Vice president and general counsel of Michigan Central Railroad. Director of many companies.

Don Davis (1938-2014)
Gallery A, Level C, Crypt 1
Founder, Chairman and CEO of Michigan's only African American owned bank, First Independence Bank. Grammy award winning music producer and songwriter.

Clyde Hopkins (1913-2014)
Garden Plaza, Lot 12
Engineer. Oversaw renovations to Cobo Hall, Detroit City Airport, and the Belle Isle Bridge. Managed Detroit’s demolition program.

Eugene W. Lewis (1870-1954)
Lakeview, Lot 11