

## Riverdale Cemetery Association and Temple Beth El of Niagara Falls, NY

### Cemetery Association

The Riverdale Cemetery Association was established in 1896 as a perpetual care cemetery at 5605 Old Lewiston Rd, Lewiston, NY. With the exception of a hedge along its frontage with Old Lewiston Road and a fence separating it from an environmental remediation site to its south, there are no walls or fences around the Cemetery. There are no walls, fences or other markings separating Riverdale Cemetery from the grounds of the adjacent Gate of Heaven Cemetery and Holy Trinity Cemetery.



Riverdale Cemetery is separated into irregularly shaped, numbered sections. These are further organized into (mostly) rectangular, numbered Lots. The rectangular lots contain 8 – 10 burial sites arranged in two rows. Non-rectangular Lots have space for fewer burial sites. The Lots are not marked or otherwise delineated on the ground in any way, but are recorded in detail in the Cemetery Office.

Burials are clearly laid out in rows across each Section, but the Cemetery Office does not assign numbers or other identifiers to the rows.

### Temple Beth El

In 1905, Temple Beth El purchased 51 Lots in Section 1 of the Cemetery. This constitutes approximately 1/3 of the Section, at the eastern end of the section, furthest from the Cemetery Office. The purchase contract is between the Riverdale Cemetery Association of Niagara Falls, NY, and the Jewish Reformed Synagogue of Niagara Falls, NY, known as “Temple Beth El.”

Because the Cemetery does not assign numbers or other identifiers to the rows in Section 1, the indexer submitting this index to JOWBR has assigned row numbers, beginning from the eastern-most end of Section 1, which is one Lot wide at that point, and continuing through Row #21. Burials in the Temple Beth El portion begin in Row 5.

For reference if needed, the following Lots comprise the acquisition of Temple Beth El, as listed in the 1905 contract a copy of which was provided by the Official Historian of the Town of Niagara, NY:

22, 32, 33, 43, 44, 45, 46, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 115, 118, 119, 120, 121, 129, 132, 133, 134, 141, 142, 143

Together the contract says they constitute 18,363 square feet of land.

Lot 91 was reacquired by the Cemetery 16 January 2009.