

Oregon's early Chinese laborers and merchants

Thousands of people traveled by ship from southern China to the United States in the mid-to-late 1800s. Many performed the most arduous tasks of building the Pacific Northwest's infrastructure and economy, and were underpaid for their work. Over 1,000 of these laborers and, later, Chinese families were buried here at Block 14 – the historic Chinese section of Lone Fir Cemetery.

Many of the men buried at Block 14 helped build Oregon's railway system and the seawall along the Willamette River in Portland.



The first Oregon Hospital for the Insane was located between SE 9th and 12th avenues and today's Belmont and Hawthorne streets. Its founder, Dr. James Hawthorne (also buried at Lone Fir), became known for benevolent care practices unprecedented at the time.

Residents of Oregon's first asylum

It is believed that more than 200 patients of the Oregon Hospital for the Insane, the state's first psychiatric hospital, were laid to rest in various areas of Lone Fir Cemetery, including the eastern part of Block 14. Asylum patients included people who lived with mental health conditions, experienced physical disabilities, were impoverished, did not speak English or had no one to care for them.

