

**Origin of Campo Cemetery**

Colonel Asa Thompson Oliver, from Austin County (Waller, Texas), boarded a ship in New York and arrived in Rio de Janeiro on September 20, 1866. From there, he traveled to Santa Bárbara d’Oeste, where he purchased a farm in the area known as “Campo.” On February 19, 1867, his wife Beatrice Oliver and their three children arrived at the port of Rio de Janeiro and proceeded to their new home in Santa Bárbara d’Oeste. Mrs. Beatrice contracted tuberculosis and passed away on July 13, 1868. At that time, cemeteries belonged to the Catholic Church, not to the municipality as they do today. Therefore, the local priest prohibited Mrs. Beatrice’s burial in the municipal cemetery.

Following a Southern custom, Colonel Oliver buried his wife on his land, fencing off the area to prevent animals from disturbing the grave. Shortly thereafter, his two daughters, Ingianna and Mildred Oliver, also succumbed to tuberculosis and were buried beside their mother. During this period, little Henry Bankston also died near Santa Bárbara, and his family wished to bury him in the village’s small cemetery. However, they were denied permission by the church because the child had not been baptized.

With no other options, as others passed away, their families requested Colonel Oliver’s permission to bury their deceased on his land, next to his family. Colonel Oliver then allocated one hectare of his land for the burial of the North American community. In 1871, a chapel was built to serve the three Protestant denominations: Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist.

Campo Cemetery is the site of the founding of the 1st Baptist Church of Brazil, as well as the 1st Methodist Church of Brazil. It is also the site of the 1st Presbyterian Church of the Southern Synod (from the Southern U.S. states). Additionally, immigrants requested missionaries from the three denominations to come from the U.S. to the colony. These missionaries were responsible for the development of these Protestant religions in Brazil. Thus, Santa Bárbara d’Oeste can be considered the birthplace of the Brazilian Protestant movement.

In 1974, the cemetery received a visit from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, during which his wife, Rosalean Carter, found the grave of her great-uncle. Mr. Carter gave a brief speech next to the monument commemorating the 100th anniversary of North American immigration (erected in 1967).

The cemetery is oriented East-West because it is believed that when Jesus returns at the dawn of a new day, the souls will rise and look toward Him.



Former U.S. President Mr. Jimmy Carter



100th Anniversary Monument of the Baptist Church



**Guide to Visiting Campo Cemetery**



Municipal Public Utility: Law 705/1968 of March 27, 1968  
 State Public Utility: Law 16,435 of June 6, 2017.

Dear Visitor,

This leaflet aims to assist you in your visit to Campo Cemetery and to present the historical and cultural elements that make the site special.

**Brief Account of North American Immigration to Santa Bárbara d’Oeste and Region**

The history of Campo Cemetery is part of the broader history of North American immigration to Santa Bárbara d’Oeste and the surrounding region. Therefore, it is important to provide a summary of this event.

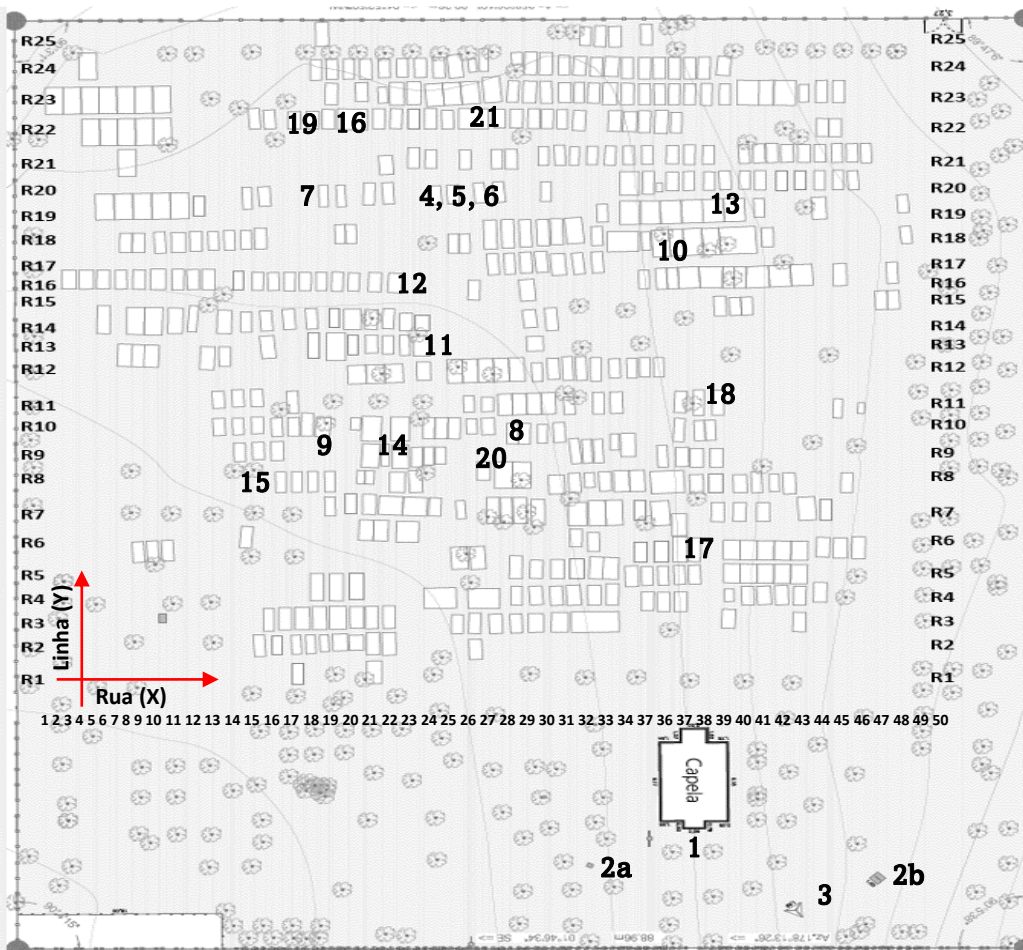
At the end of the American Civil War, Colonel William Hutchinson Norris (a senator and lawyer from the state of Alabama) and his son Dr. Robert Cicero Norris arrived in Brazil on December 27, 1865, and on February 16, 1866, in the Santa Bárbara d’Oeste region, São Paulo. Upon arrival, they purchased the Machadinho farm.

Following the success of their initial crop, Colonel Norris sent a letter to his family in Selma, Alabama, inviting them to come to Brazil and to encourage friends, neighbors, and other relatives to emigrate as well. Thus, on May 23, 1867, 26 families from Alabama arrived from the U.S. aboard the ship Talismã. The success of the Norris family became known to other potential immigrants in the U.S. as well as to those already living in other colonies. Unfortunately, the other colonies did not achieve the same success, leading their colonists to move to Santa Bárbara d’Oeste, large cities, or even return to the U.S.

Between 1866 and 1890, the number of families in the SBO colony increased significantly, with the region becoming known as Villa dos Americanos, later as Villa Americana, and upon its emancipation, as Americana. Its progress was so notable that on August 27, 1875, the Americana Railway Station was inaugurated in the presence of Emperor Dom Pedro II, built to meet the demands of Americans for the transportation of their agricultural production. After 1890, only Protestant religious missionaries came to assist in the development of Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian religions in Brazil.

The colony was composed of American immigrants from nearly all southern states, with the largest concentration coming from Texas, Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Georgia. Despite North American immigration to Brazil being one of the smallest among other migratory waves, its contributions profoundly altered Brazilian society, and their impact can still be felt today.

The figure below shows the distribution of graves and the sequence of the streets to facilitate identification. To locate a grave, start counting from the left side of the chapel, where you will find the 1st street of graves, R1(1.), and the 1st grave (.1). The grave's identification will then be (1.1), and in the last street, the nomenclature will be 25.50.



- 1) **CAPELA (Memorial Chapel):** The 1st chapel (wooden) was built in 1879, the 2nd chapel (brick) in 1903, and the current one in 1962. It is used for occasional services and funerals. The musical organ dates to 1893.
- 2a, 2b) **Baptist Church Monuments:** Recognition of the site as the 1st Baptist Church in Brazil and the 100th Anniversary Monument of Baptists in Brazil.
- 3) **Masonic Monument:** A tribute from the William H. Norris Masonic Lodge to the Masons buried in the cemetery, founders of the 1st York Rite Lodge in Brazil (November 12, 1874).

- 4) **Beatrice Elizabeth Tait Oliver (20.25):** Colonel Oliver's wife was the first to be buried in the cemetery.
- 5) **Inglianna e Mildredd Oliver (20.26 e 27):** Colonel Oliver's daughters. Observe the angel and rose designs on the gravestones.
- 6) **Asa Thompson Oliver (20.24):** The owner of the Campo Farm donated the land for the establishment of the cemetery. He was from Texas.
- 7) **W.S. Wise (20.18):** Great-uncle of Rosalean Carter, wife of former President Jimmy Carter.
- 8) **Robert Porter Thomas (12.28):** Founding Pastor of the Baptist Church.
- 9) **Arthur Ezel (11.15):** The iron fences were used to protect the graves in case any animals entered the cemetery.
- 10) **Sarah Catherine Mac Fadden (18.37):** This gravestone illustrates the religious symbolism preserved in the cemetery. At the top of the gravestone, there are three "points": The peak represents God, the left point represents Jesus, and the right point represents the Holy Spirit. Look around and identify the various forms of this symbolism.
- 11) **Eunice Providence Ratcliff (14.29):** Wife of the founding pastor of the Baptist Church.
- 12) **Henry Bankston (15.22):** She was the second person to be buried in the cemetery.
- 13) **Harvey Hall (18.40):** Donated land for the construction of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Americana.
- 14) **Sarah Fenley (11.19):** This gravestone features another distinctive characteristic of Campo Cemetery. It includes inscriptions in English, mostly Bible verses.
- 15) **Eliajth Quillen (09.13):** Founding Pastor of the Baptist Church
- 16) **Col. William H. Norris (22.20):** Responsible for the organization of the Santa Bárbara d'Oeste colony, SP. He served in the Mexican War of 1843 and was Grand Master of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Alabama (1861-1863).
- 17) **Albert G. Carr (07.38):** Confederate soldier. His gravestone came from the U.S. and is an official American military gravestone. Approximately 35 veterans of the Civil War are buried in the cemetery. Some are marked with an iron cross "CSA".
- 18) **James E. Baird(11.38):** Founding Pastor of the Presbyterian Church
- 19) **Isabella Norris Whitaker (22.19):** The only gravestone of its kind in Brazil, the letters "FNOZBTKC" are an abbreviation of John 12:15 in English: "Fear Not, Daughter of Zion, Behold, The King Cometh." It indicates that she was part of a female paramasonic organization from the U.S.
- 20) **Samuel Milton Pyles (09.26):** Founding Pastor of the Baptist Church
- 21) **Dr. Cícero Jones (22.25):** Physician for the poor and one of the leaders of the movement for the emancipation of the city of Americana.
- 22) **Judith Mac Knight Jones(23.44):** Historian, author of the book *Soldado Descansa*.
- 23) **Thomas Alonso Keese (24.29):** He was the president of the Republican Party of SBO and the 3rd intendat (mayor).

*Adapted from the book Tombstone by Betty Antunes de Oliveira and the material organized by Nanci Padoveze. Prepared by Marcelo Sans Dodson.*