Final resting place of Warner Oland

Virginia M. Cumming

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14. 1867 city directory of Moline, Rock Island County Historical Society collection.
17. Bussman.

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Final resting place of actor Warner Oland


Warner Oland is best known for his role as the Chinese detective Charlie Chan.

He was married to a wealthy Bostonian, the artist Edith Gardener Shearn. Among their many houses was a historic farmhouse in the Southville section of Southborough. Upon Oland’s death in 1938, he was buried in the town cemetery. The marker for his grave was originally the doorstep to the Oland’s Smoke Tree Farm on Gilmore Road, which he and his wife bought in 1930.

Seeking an escape from the cacophony of California, Warner and Edith Oland had discovered Southboro, where they could spend their vacations painting and taking photographs.

The house they bought and renamed was known as the Mathews-Burnett house, as Joseph Burnett, an early flavor manufacturer was born there in 1820. He was a leading citizen in his home town where he was held in very high esteem by his fellow townsmen.


Thanks to Virginia M. Cumming, Southboro, Mass, for the interesting information on Oland’s grave!