

ITHACA, NEW YORK
Cornell University

Requiescat in pace, Barbara McClintock

– Kass, LB

There are at present 74 tributes on the “Find A Grave” website for maize geneticist and Nobel Laureate Barbara McClintock (1902-1992; <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=7687923>). The link indicates that McClintock was interred at the Huntington Rural Cemetery, Huntington, Suffolk County, [Long Island] New York. Friends, Colleagues, and admirers have left birthday greetings among other messages. The first notes were posted in 2003 and the most recent was for her birthday in June 2016.

When I contacted the cemetery (12 July 2010), in hopes of paying my respects, I was told there was no record of Barbara McClintock being interred at this cemetery. Most of the “Find A Grave” weblinks show memorial stones for each person’s grave. The weblink for Barbara McClintock shows only images of McClintock, but no memorial stone. Images of the memorial stones of her parents, Thomas Henry McClintock (1875-1963) and Sarah H (1876-1960) are displayed for the Long Island National Cemetery, East Farmington, Suffolk County, New York (Thomas: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=82680044>; Sarah: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=82680043>).

Note that the gravestone spelling for Sarah H McClintock might be in error. Her name is recorded elsewhere as Sara (Keller, 1983 *A feeling for the Organism*, and in various published accounts), even though census records also report the spelling as Sarah.

John Baumer (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=mr&MRid=46546970>) a sociologist from Texas, posted Barbara McClintock’s “Find A Grave” link on 15 July 2003 (Find A Grave Memorial# 7687923). There is no proof, however, that McClintock is buried in the Huntington Rural Cemetery on Long Island, New York (There is no plot number or GPS coordinates, or marker transcription provided, as there are for her parents’ graves). Archivists at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where McClintock worked in the last years of her life, have no documentation for where McClintock is buried.