

## Park Hee Byung

b. 1871 – 10 June 1907

Interned 12 June 1907 at Riverside, Denver, Colorado in Block 12, Lot 3, Section 83

Park Hee Byung's past and present Headstone epitaph's tell his story

Original Epitaph: 1871 – Born in Kangwon-do, Korean; 1894 – Graduates from Royal English Academy; 1895 – Studies at Kolya University in Japan; 1897 – Studies at Roanoke College, VA with Prince Yi Kang; 1899 – Manager at Wonsan Gold Mine at Youngbyun. Establishes Shinsung Academy in Shinehun. Recruits young patriots and sends them to Denver. 1905-6 – Special envoy to Mexico to investigate Korean slave laborers. Ordained a missionary by Union Theological Seminary. Established a dormitory and employment office in Denver to assist young patriots arriving from Korea. Leads independence movements for his native county. Establishes the foundation for the Provisional Government in overseas of Republic of Korea. 1907 – Dies a mysterious death at age 37.

The original headstone was sent over from Korea. It was replaced with the existing headstone that is here today.

You can view the original headstone, under the listing of Hee Byung Park, on Find A Grave, at:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=park&GSbyrel=in&GSdyrel=in&GSst=7&GScty=256&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=6921505&df=all&>

Present Headstone Epitaph: Korean Patriot in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Park Hee Byung we, the Korean Society of the Denver area, now recognize his as the founding father of Korean immigrants in Colorado. During the height of the Japanese occupation of Korea, Mr. Park was a true patriot and leader in the Korean Independence Movement.

Mr. Park studied modern ideology in both Japan and the United States of America. As a government official, he served as a translator at the Unsan Mine in Korea. He eventually sent many Koreans to work as laborers in the Denver area.

Mr. Park arrived in Denver in 1906. He started the Korean Independence Movement organizing Koreans living in the United States to influence the U.S. government to recognize the Independence of Korea.

See pictures of recent headstone below.



