

Green Cemetery



Description

Green Cemetery is located in the Northwest quarter of Section 19 of Marion Township, at the northwest corner of Pingree and Vines Roads. The cemetery is approximately two acres in area and contains 1024 platted grave sites. At this time there are 305 known burials. The lot sizes are all nominally four feet in width and of various lengths, typically 24 to 37 feet in length. Consequently, there are not a consistent number of graves per lot. The length of the lots depends upon the row (east-west lines of lots) where the lot is located. In some instances (such as lots 70 and 94) the lots are longer than they have been platted. This is because over the years, more burials are recorded in a lot than there actually are graves platted for a lot. There are also typically four-foot-wide walkways between lots, both north and south, as well as east and west.

The north side of the cemetery, containing Lots 5 through 18, has no known burials. This is because these lots fall on the side of a steep hill. This slope has become overgrown with brush and trees. The township records indicate that some of these lots have been sold, but there is no record of any burials.

The headstones at the top of the hill on the west side of the cemetery and those stones north of the drive lane, appear to be in straight rows, more or less. These are the older graves and were probably set at a time when some sort lot markers existed. However, the graves on the side of the hill farther east and those south of the drive lane are more recent and appear either run parallel with the slope of the hill or parallel with Pingree Road. Thus, the headstones for these graves do not line up with the others on the west and north sides of the cemetery. The transcription of this cemetery has the graves listed in each lot from north to south.

History

It is unknown when Green Cemetery was platted and by whom, but the oldest headstone is of John F. Person from April 27, 1837, age 2 years old. This is the oldest headstone in Marion Township. It is unknown if Person was actually buried at the time of his death, but Daniel Person did purchase property in Section 24, Iosco Township on April 23, 1836 (Ellis 257). The next oldest stones are for Chauncey Davis in 1838 and Asahel P. Rounds in 1839. There are a couple of headstones also from the 1840's.

On April 20, 1842, a warranty deed was signed granting land from Joseph and Emerancy Walker of Marion Township to the 1st Burial Ground Society of Marion and Iosco for a consideration of five dollars (Liber 23, Pages 555 & 556).

On October 18, 1847, Joseph Walker sold his property in Section 19 to A.M. Green excepting land for a cemetery (Liber 17, Page 103). Adolphus M. Green would own this property around the cemetery until his death in 1869 (Charboneau 313). He and his wife Eleathear are both buried in this cemetery. Undoubtedly, the cemetery is named after them.

A crude map was produced by R.E. Long on August 11, 1921 (Long). Long would later serve as Livingston County Surveyor in 1928. This map shows a very basic layout of the lots and provides dimensions. This is the framework for the map of Green Cemetery included with this transcription. This map also has lot owners labeled on each grave. This is the earliest known record of lot ownership kept by the township and is the source for the names of lot owners included on the cemetery transcription.

On September 24, 1925, the Marion Township Board of Health formally accepted the cemetery from the Marion and Iosco Burying Ground and Society, for one dollar consideration (Liber 153, Page 553). The temporary sexton appointed was Fred Moore. In the deed, Roy Ellsworth was the chairman and Ray Miller was the secretary of the Burying Ground and Society. Other members of the society listed were H.J. Maycock, O.V. Backus, Wm. Horwood, S.H. Moore, Ora Hanes, James Smith, Susan Vines, Mrs. Emma Miller, Edna Webb, May Putnam, Phillip Smith, W.B. Miller, Lloyd D. Miller, W.B. Clark, F.T. Horwood, Fred Moore, and Earl L. Ward.

In 1925, the township started a ledger of burials in the “West Marion Cemetery,” However, the cemetery is now known as Green Cemetery has remained under the ownership and maintenance of Marion Township since it was deeded in 1925.