

Lakeside Cemetery



Description

Lakeside Cemetery is located in the Northeast quarter of Section 5 of Marion Township, just south of Burkhart Road and on the southeasterly side of Norton Road. The cemetery is five and one half acres in area and contains 384 platted lots and about 2630 platted grave sites. At this time there are 1067 known burials. There are three sections to this cemetery. These sections are not numbered, but instead represent different time period of burials. The oldest graves are in the section farthest west, containing Lots 1 through 153, as well as Lots 256 and 257. The next section is in the middle of the cemetery and contains graves that are more recent than the western section. This section contains Lots 154 through 255, as well as Lots 258 and 259. The section farthest to the east has the most recent burials and contains Lots 260 through 384.

The lot sizes vary in size depending primarily on the section where they are located. In the western section, the typical lot size is 8 feet wide by 16 feet long, containing 4 graves each. There are also lots in this section that are 4 feet wide by 24 feet long, each containing 6 graves. Finally, in the western section there are several lots near the south and east sides that are irregular in shape and contain an irregular number of graves. The walkways between lots are typically 8 feet in width east and west and 4 feet

between lots north and south. The south edge of Lots 117 and 144 contains a unique retaining wall constructed entirely of field stones.

In the middle section of the cemetery, the typical lot size is 9 feet wide by 24 feet long. There are some irregularly shaped lots near the south end of this section that contain an irregular number of graves. The walkways between lots are typically 9 feet wide between lots east and west and 4 feet in width north and south. In addition, at the south end of the section there are the lots numbered 240 through 255. These lots fall on the side of a steeply wooded hill and contain no grave markers. There is also no record at the township of there ever being any owners of these lots.

The eastern section of the cemetery contains lots that are typically 18 feet in width by 24 feet in length. Each lot is divided into halves, an east half and a west half, both 9 feet wide. Each "half" contains 6 graves. Some lots have been platted smaller than the typical lot, but still maintain rectangularity of dimensions. There are no platted walkways between lots, but most of lots 265 through 377 are reserved for a road. This section of the cemetery was surveyed and platted by Lyle Munsell in December of 1954, and the original concrete markers remain at many of the lot corners (Munsell "Plat").

The headstones in this cemetery appear to line up consistently with the cemetery as platted. There are a few exceptions, as shown on the included map, but for the most part the burials are laid out in an orderly manner. The transcription of this cemetery has the graves listed in each lot from north to south.

History

Rial and Mary F. Lake purchased property in Section 5 of Marion Township in 1836 and 1837 (Ellis 352). The oldest two headstones inscribed in the cemetery are for Mary C. Lake on October 5, 1840 and Flora A. Lake on October 21, 1840, both daughters of Rial and Mary F. Lake, and ages 5 and 1 year respectively. There are several headstones in the cemetery from the 1850's, including those of Rial and Harriet Lake in 1851. In 1854 an American Revolutionary War veteran named Lemuel Monroe was also buried here.

On September 12, 1859 a deed was signed that transferred the property of Rial Lake from his estate to George Lake, excepting a burying ground belonging to the dowry of Mary F. Lake (Liber 37, Pages 214 & 215). The North Marion Burying-Ground Corporation was incorporated on December 31, 1864, and the officers then elected were Elijah F. Burt, President; Frederick W. Munson, Clerk; Samuel M. Yerkes, Treasurer; and Henry E. Avery, Sexton (Ellis 357). On March 24, 1866, Mary F. Lake, Frances R. Lake Munson, F.W. Munson, Helen E. Lake, Henry F. Lake, and George B. Lake, heirs of Rial Lake deeded the land for the cemetery to the North Marion Burying Ground Corporation (Liber 41, Page 221). This deed also reserved the right of the heirs of Rial Lake for burials in the southeast corner of the cemetery, in an area 36 feet by 63 feet.

It is unknown when the western sections of this cemetery was surveyed and by whom, but the township has possession of an old map of "Lake Side Cemetery" that shows the layout of Lots 1 through 250, with someone else adding lots 256 and 257 later on. Most of the lots are labeled with their owners' names. 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

In the Livingston County Republican-Press, a county-wide travelogue was published and contains the following entry describing the cemetery and an apparently destructive fire:

On M-155. Picking up M-155 at the south end of Howell we drove along the shortest of all state trunk lines continuing to the Lake school house and passed the Lake cemetery. Recalling the past beauty of the evergreen and well kept woods as we knew them a few years ago, a little disappointment turning into grief sort of climbed [up] the back bone. But knowing the [?] people in that community we [?] ourselves that fire's rage might some day be erased and the Lake cemetery resume its permanent glory among the most beautiful of rural burying grounds in the county ("Following" 7).

The D.A.R. transcribed this cemetery in the 1940's. In that transcription is a description of the cemetery including the following paragraph:

This cemetery is one of the most interesting to be found in the county and the graves of a number of pioneer families, intermarried and otherwise related are grouped in a circle at the extreme end of the ground, overlooking the lake (I: 76).

This author has not found any stones located in a circle in the cemetery. The D.A.R. is most certainly describing the Lake and Munson families at the south end of the old western section, but the stones are all arranged in a regular pattern of rows.

On October 6, 1936, Marion Township formally accepted the cemetery from the North Marion Burial Ground, for one dollar consideration (Liber 182, Page 60). Once again, the heirs of Rial Lake were reserved an area 36 feet by 63 feet for family burials.

In 1926, a ledger was begun of burials in the "Lake Cemetery No. 2," However the cemetery is now known as Lakeside Cemetery and has remained under the ownership and maintenance of Marion Township since it was deeded in 1936.