

A short history of the Pinckney "Protestant" Cemetery

On April 6, 1853 James M. Stansbury sold an acre of land to the Pinckney Bury Ground Association for \$50. The land was located in the southeastern part of section 22 of Putnam Township, on the south side of the old Unadilla Road, later called Main Street in the Village of Pinckney.

The bury ground committee consisted of Alvin Mann, Leonard Noble, Furman G. Rose, Joseph Able and William A. Dryer. The rest of this southeast corner was sold by Stansbury to James M. Eamn in 1856 and acquired by D. Charles Haze in 1864.

Dr. Haze platted the Haze subdivision of Pinckney which included all the lands on both sides of Main Street, aka M-36 highway, and added enough land to the cemetery to enlarge it to about 5 acres. This part is called the Haze Addition.

It appears that the Haze family took over the administration of the cemetery and that after Dr. Haze died, his wife, Oracy, with her daughters Hattie Decker and Luella Haze sold lots and had the cemetery mowed and cared for. In 1906 Mrs. Haze sold the land in this area to Dr. Hollis L. Sigler, some 16 acres for \$400.

Most record books are no longer available, either lost in a fire or taken by individuals that didn't think it was important to keep them together, it seems that there was a cemetery committee from at least 1923, originally under the supervision of Percy Swarthout, the local mortician. The Sexton at that time was Wales Leland. The secretary /treasurer was Lulu Darrow.

A book started in 1955 by the Pinckney Cemetery Association states that land was bought and added to the cemetery for \$500. This was divided into 500 lots. This group was headed by Don Swarthout, the mortician. Blanche Martin was the Secretary/Treasurer was appointed in 1932. In 1956 the Association added five trustees with Floris Clark as sexton.

More land was added in 1969 when James Lamb, the mortician became President of the Pinckney Cemetery Association. IN 1975 the association turned over the cemetery monies and its operation tot eh Village of Pinckney.

Originally, there was no legal description of the cemetery property, but we know that the cemetery included the "old cemetery", the Haze

addition as well as all the new land acquired by the association. In later years, the Village purchased some land from the Pinckney elementary school grounds and established a new section.

The Village established its own cemetery board with Mrs. Penny Lamb as the Chair. Loy Bond, DPW Director for the Village of Pinckney took over the grounds maintenance and Mr. Harold Devine served as Sexton.

The Cemetery is currently being overseen by a Cemetery Board that reports to the Village Council. The Board consists of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a Secretary. The Secretary position is mandated to be held by the Village Clerk. Maintain is currently supplied by the Village of Pinckney Department of Public Works.

In 2009, the first Columbarium was purchased and placed near the Mill Pond area of the Cemetery.

The Cemetery Board continues to work diligently to make sure that the cemetery provides the most well maintained and respectful cemetery environment. They continue to strive for the most accurate records for historical purposes.

The Board is currently seeking Historical status with the State of Michigan.

Excerpt from History of Pinckney, Milton Charboneau