

History of Northfield Macedonia Cemetery

In the early settling of Northfield Township there were several burial grounds. The largest of these was at Brandywine, on the south side on a hill overlooking the falls. Others were at Little York, on the Macedonia Methodist Church grounds and at the corner of 82 and South Boyden Road, where Northfield Presbyterian Church now stands.

In 1842, a vault was built and located on the north bank of what is now the Northfield Macedonia Cemetery.

In 1847, one and one-half acres was acquired from the Lemon family. It was located at the corner of Route 631 and Route 16 which is now Olde Eight. This land was chosen because it was high and dry. It was given the name of Chestnut Hill Cemetery, because there were so many big, old chestnut trees on the land. Folks would go to visit the graves of their loved ones and take home bags of chestnuts to roast in their fireplaces. In the early 1900s a blight hit all of the chestnut trees through Ohio; thus the trees in the cemetery died too. Between July 1918 and April 1919, the name was changed to Northfield Macedonia Cemetery.

On April 3, 1893, a vote was put to the settlers to obtain more land. There were 133 for and 14 against.

They lost no time, and on April 7, 1893, a levy for \$1,500 for cemetery use was passed. In 1894, three acres were purchased from Andrew Graham, and \$549.58 was spent to grade the land.

In 1896 a well was drilled and a pump bought. Also a deed book was purchased to record lot owners. In 1897, the first sexton was hired. His name was H. T. Gilbert. He was paid \$25 a year. For this amount, he cared for the hearse, repaired the harnesses, dug graves at \$3 per grave, made his own collections and cleaned up the debris and rubbish in the cemetery.

In 1897 Elmer Truby also was hired to toll the church bell for each burial. For this he was paid 50 cents each time. In the mid-1800s, several small parcels of land were either purchased or donated to the cemetery.

In 1890, bodies were moved from other grounds to the cemetery.

In 1894 the town fathers found that caring for the cemetery was too much for them, so they called on the women of the area to form an association. Mrs. George Bishop was elected president, and Mary Darling was elected secretary. There were 16 ladies present, and each was assessed 25 cents per year dues. Any men interested in becoming honorary members were assessed 50 cents. Their duties were to beautify the cemetery by planting flowers, shrubs and trees and keeping the weeds down. Since they needed more than the dues money, they held bake sales, suppers, ice cream socials, etc.

In 1913 they found they still needed more money so they came upon a plan to sell endowments. An endowment entitled the owner to have an endowment marker placed on the gravesite and flowers planted for Memorial Day. Also, the graves were weeded during the summer. This was included for a one-time fee of \$100 per gravesite. There are now 76 endowed graves in the cemetery.

In 1898, a receiving vault was built at the amount of \$1,400. It was built of Northfield stone and is still standing. It was remodeled in 1959 into an office and meeting room for the trustees. Also in 1898, a board fence was built around the south and east borders.

In 1906, another well was drilled and pipes laid throughout the cemetery. In 1908, the hearse house was moved from Northfield Village to the cemetery. The hearse was disposed of in 1924.

On Jan. 15, 1908 the first record of trustees for the cemetery were elected by town officials, and a meeting was called. Trustees were chosen from each of the four boards of trustees of the townships. Each year, this group would leave and

another be appointed. Monies for trustee use came from each of the four villages. They are assessed per capita each year.

The trustees adopted rules and regulations as followed: Price of lots was to be \$10 for a double lot and \$5 for a single lot. All graves must be at least 5 feet deep. Sunday burials were discouraged. No rapid driving was allowed. Drivers of carriages at funerals must remain quietly with their teams during ceremonies.

In 1918, 8.156 acres were acquired from Martha Graham, bringing the cemetery to its present size of 14¾ acres. A road was put in from the northeast corner to connect with the drive back of the present office.

In 1914, Mr. and Mrs. George Bishop presented a plan for improving the cemetery. A fund of \$3,000 was matched by the Bishops. They also paid for half of the iron fence to replace the wooden one. The large iron gates with the stone posts at the entrance to the cemetery were given by Mrs. Bishop. They are a replica of one of the gates at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1928, the Cemetery Association erected a tablet in memory of soldiers of the War of 1812. It is east of the office at a point of a triangular bed between the two driveways.

In 1953, the trustees passed a ruling that all coffins must be enclosed in concrete vaults.

In 1956, a tornado hit Northfield Center and did much damage at the cemetery. Huge trees were unrooted, as were large monuments from graves. It took several weeks to reset the stones and clean up the debris. Some scars are still visible.

In 1959, electricity was brought into the office building underground from Route 631.

In 1961, a service building was built at a cost of \$4,200 to house the machinery used for the cemetery.

In 1971 the association dedicated a flag, flagpole and light. Also a monument was erected in memory of the early settlers whose remains were moved from Brandywine.

In 1995, a monument was built to honor all of the area service men and women who served in foreign wars. Ronald Seidel spent many months collecting names and planning the monument.

In 1996, vandals overturned 39 gravestones. Some were not able to be restored.

In 2002, the county paid for reconstruction of the roof of the office building.

Some burials took place in the cemetery without markers on the graves. The earliest marker was that of Abram Cramer, Sept. 8, 1812, 35 years before the land was dedicated as a cemetery.

Northfield Macedonia Cemetery is the oldest graveyard in the area. To date there are 2,500 open spaces in the cemetery. About 1,600 of those already have been sold. There are about 60 burials per year. The cemetery is only open to residents of the four villages.

April 2005



CEMETERY TRUSTEES SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE BOARD IN 1908

Charles W. Felt, president

1/15/08 - 3/9/12

L.M. Dalrymple, secretary

1/15/08 - 5/15/13

A.S. Neal, president

3/9/12 - 5/17/13

W. Beamey, president

3/9/13 - 5/6/16

6/1/18 - 5/4/20

M.A. Van Horn, secretary

5/17/13 - 3/19/24

E. W. Saxe, president,

5/6/16 - 6/1/18

H. A. Cochran, treasurer

5/6/16 - 6/1/18

J. M. McKea, treasurer

6/1/18 - 5/4/20

E. H. Carter, president

5/4/20 - 5/12/22

Thomas F. Lasher, treasurer

5/4/20 - 5/14/24

Frank Townsend, president

5/12/22 - 5/14/24

Ed. Carter

5/14/24 - 6/21/26

L. J. Wright, secretary

3/14/24 - 5/14/24

C. F. Sentar, secretary

5/14/24 - 7/13/25

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Miss Bradley, treasurer

5/14/24 - 4/4/27

J. V. Pajan, secretary

7/13/25 - 8/21/26

David L. Grimm, president

6/21/26 - 10/23/28

F. H. Carter, secretary

6/21/26 - 10/23/28

Mrs. Cuyler, treasurer

4/14/27 - 10/23/28

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3/1/2005

and

secretary

10/23/28-4/14/32

A. Hufner, president

10/23/28 - 6/2/30

E. G. Smith, president

6/2/30 - 5/9/32

A. T. Collin, treasurer

6/2/30 - 5/9/32

Mr. Honey, president

5/9/32 - 10/10/34

T. B. Burroughs, treasurer

5/9/32 - 5/8/36

A. R. Nesbit, secretary

4/14/32 - 6/10/37

Howard Graham, president

10/10/34 - 7/1/35

Frank Wiltshire, president

7/1/35 - 6/10/37

and secretary

6/10/37 - 6/4/40

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A. A. McConnel, treasurer

5/8/36 - 1/23/46

E. M. Fell, president

6/10/37 - 6/4/40

W. A. McDowell, president

6/4/40 - 3/28/44

Samuel Ayars, secretary

6/4/40 - 6/5/47

Elwood Waters, president

3/28/44 - 6/5/52

Glen Wright, treasurer

1/23/46 - 6/5/47

and secretary

6/5/47 - 1/18/54

Cyrus Eaton, Jr. treasurer

6/5/47 - 9/16/47

J. Bank, treasurer

9/16/47 - 5/23/50

Archie Milani, treasurer

5/23/50 - 8/20/51

Edward Hunt, treasurer

8/20/51 - 1/18/54

Edward Hunt, treasurer

8/20/51 - 1/18/54

Herbert O. Holbrook

2/26/52 - 1/18/54

Mr. Keaver, president

1/18/54 - 5/25/55

Mr. Hayams, treasurer

1/18/54 - 3/31/54

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Mr. Lowry, treasurer

3/31/54 - 5/25/55

and president

5/25/55 - 1/12/58

Jack E. Chambers, Sr, Clerk-Treasurer

5/25/55

Oliver Ocasek, chairman

1/12/58 - 3/2/55

1/1/50 - 1/1/61

Earl F. Smith, chairman

1/2/59 - 1/28/59

George O. Pnychon, chairman

1/28/59 - 1/1/66

Paul Grims, chairman

1/1/61 - 1/1/64

Harold Knepper, chairman

1/1/62 - 1/1/64

John Barron, chairman

1/1/64 - 1/1/65

Lewis Wilcox, chairman

1/17/65 - 9/25/65

Lorn Ash, chairman

1/1/65 - 1/1/67

SEXTONS THAT HAVE SERVED FROM 1892 TO 1967

Please note: This is not the complete list compiled by John Hudgeon. The text which was copied to produce this Internet document was very faded. Ten Sextons are missing.

H. T. Gilber, 1892 thru 1908

Florin Seidel, 1909 thru 1912

W. E. Martin, 1912

J. L. Ritche, 1913, 1914, 1917 thru 1920

William Grossman, 1915, 1916

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Please note: In his 1967 history of the Northfield Macedonia Cemetery, John Hudgeon compiled a list of Northfield Veterans of wars from the War of 1812 through the Korean War. Since 1967, Ronald Seidel, through a great deal of research, has updated that list of veterans. Mr. Seidel's list is also on this web site, and therefore in the interests of completeness and accuracy, the 1967 veteran's list of Mr. Hudgeon is respectfully omitted from our web site.

REFERENCES

Record of transfer of deeds, Summit County Court House, Akron, Ohio:

Volume 14, page 75, 1847

Volume 45, page 27, 1862

Volume 71, pages 469-470, 1870

Volume 127, page 508, 1881

Volume 127, page 510, 1881

Volume 130, page 244, 1882

Volume 209, page 167, 1894

Probate Court Docket #5487, #20 Real, 1918

Minutes Book of Northfield Township Trustees, 1892-1907

Minutes Book of Chestnut Hill Cemetery Trustees, 1908-1919

Minutes Books of Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery Trustees: 1919-1948; 1948-1961; 1961-1967

Minutes Book of Ladies' Cemetery Association

Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery Records

Rules and Regulations for Chestnut Hills Cemetery, printed by N. R. Brown, June 5, 1897

History of Summit County Ohio, 1881, edited by William Perrin

<http://www.hson.info/CEM.htm>

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Volume 397, page 147, 1910