



The first public cemetery was located at the south end of Madison Street in the southwest corner of the present Webster Park. The first burial within the "Old City Cemetery" is believed to have been Phebe Lane in 1839. The exact number of burials made there has not been fully documented but present day estimates are around 500.

By 1861 it was evident that more space was needed and the 'city fathers' began looking for another area. Land located at the corner of High Street (now Maple Grove) and Cadmus Road was purchased from Samuel Pittenger. The new cemetery followed a design that would be artistic. The locks of land were arranged in shapes of circles, crosses, ellipses, and a gateway was put at the west entrance way. The "New Cemetery" was formally dedicated on September 29, 1867. Eliza A (Durling) Harris was "the first tenant at our new village cemetery".

For thirty years, burials and reinterments were concurrently performed at both cemeteries. The last purported burial in the Old Cemetery" was Ezariah J Parmelee of the 4th Michigan Infantry in 1897. Members of DeGoler G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Post No.110 decorated civil war graves at both cemeteries up until the late 1880's. Around the 'turn of the century' the "Old Cemetery" began its descent into neglect and the "New Cemetery" its ascent to prominence. Pinpointing a date for the name, Maple Grove cemetery has been so far, futile. Trinity Episcopal Church records and death certificates bear the name, as early as 1875.

Through the years many men have served as the sexton of the cemeteries and some kept better records than others. These men also performed the opening and closing of graves, perpetual care of monuments, and grounds maintenance. Since opening graves was difficult during cold weather, it was deemed a receiving vault was needed to hold the bodies until the ground thawed. In 1884 a Gothic style receiving vault was built at the west entry. It was designed by C.F. Matthes who also designed the G.I. Thompson House, the Thompson Savings Bank, and the Bank of Lenawee in Adrian. The building has a 16' x 16' inside perimeter surrounded by a 14 inch wall with a 2 inch air space. In 1894 it was 'finished off' with an interior locker and a reception room provided with a stove.

In 1899 the Federal government donated 2-8" mortars and 16-8" shells for use in the Civil War soldier's lot. Shipped from a New York armory, these war artifacts were inexplicably removed in the late 1950's. Their whereabouts are a matter of speculation. As Hudson prospered and population swelled, deaths increased. In 1926 a 36-acre farm with house and barn was purchased at 793 N. Maple Grove Avenue. The house was remodeled for use by the cemetery's superintendent and the barn was sold to Guy Lydamore who intended on moving it. Thus, present day sections A, B, G, H and J, came into being.

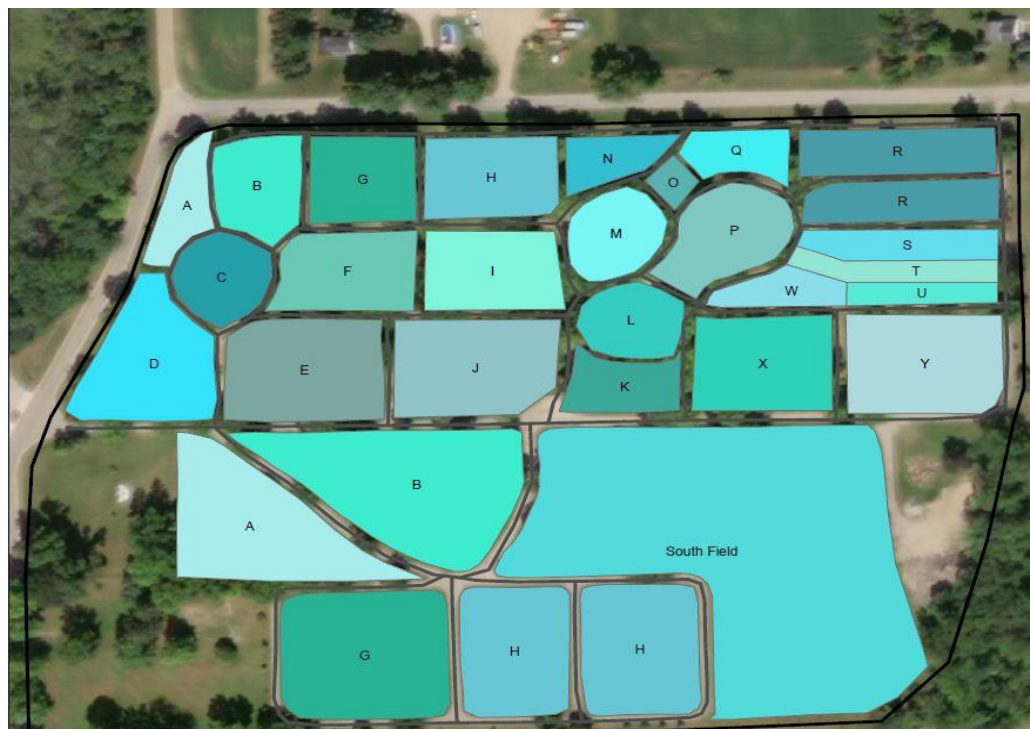
In 1938 the Old Cemetery received a visit from the cemetery researcher - Harriet Cole Bowen of Adrian. Under the auspices of the Dorothy Wolcott Barnum Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, she read and recorded inscriptions on extant gravestones. She recorded 145 gravestones and published her findings. Deemed by elected city leaders to be more suitable as a recreational park, the cemetery was deconstructed in 1958. Remaining gravestones were placed in a memorial grouping at block J in the Maple Grove Cemetery.

On Memorial Day 1941 a new entrance gate funded by the heirs of Artemus Cooper was dedicated. Featuring two, eight foot high pillars of crab-orchard quartzite the Post-Gazette declared it, "of a beautiful and dignified design in keeping with the hallowed grounds up to which it stands." The north pillar reads, "In Memory of Artemus W. and Addie M Cooper, Presented by Pearl Cooper Eddy, Hazel Cooper Waldo, Floyd Ray Cooper, Cecile Cooper Joseph, 1941. On the south pillar is inscribed a favorite verse of Mrs. Cooper's - "I am a Child of God His Life is My Life". Also, in the summer of 1941, the Work Projects Administration (WPA) funded the labor and material costs for underground water lines, above ground spigots, driveway resurfacing and general beautification.

In 1971, the city approved a new plat of ground for burials that was designated Block O and is now recognizable as a small grouping of new stones, surrounded by old stones.

In 2001, through the generosity of William G. Thompson, the cemetery was partially enclosed by an architectural grade, perimeter fence valued at \$45,000. Nearly 3/4 of a mile long, it has black, anodized aluminum rails and finials connected to capped brick posts. The last alteration to cemetery property was the demolition of the superintendents' home in 2008.

Burial history flows from the west to the east and then to the south in the cemetery picture seen below. An imaginary, horizontal line bisecting this picture would place the most recent burials at the southern half of the cemetery. The oldest are in the northwest corner.



GRAVESTONE READINGS

Maple Grove Cemetery

In 1941, Harriet Cole Bowen of Adrian surveyed Maple Grove Cemetery and published her findings under the title, Gravestone Records of Lenawee County, Michigan, Volume IV. Her survey was presented as a reading of gravestones by block identifier. Specific lot numbers within a block were not listed and never intended. In 2010 a modern survey was conducted by Michael & Diane Mills of Hudson. The intent of their effort was to document post 1941 burials within old areas and newer areas of the cemetery, to verify the accuracy of the 1941 survey and to create a modern day database.

Old City Cemetery

In 1938, seventy-one years after the opening of Maple Grove cemetery, Harriet Cole Bowen recorded 145 gravestones still "in place" at the Old Cemetery. In 2009, research to identify the current location of the gravestones commenced and remains ongoing. The results to date are listed within this document and they represent an intriguing story about cemetery history. Sixty-five of the gravestones seen in 1938 are missing. Five have been recovered from the backyards of homes near present day Webster Park. Within this publication is a helpful map, which shows gravestone locations within 1958 Blk J. These are Old City Cemetery stones that are becoming illegible.

Brown Cemetery

In 2010 a survey of extant gravestones was made by Diane Mills and compared against earlier surveys performed in 1942 by Harriet Cole Bowen and in 1971 by Jack Northrup. Hazel Pray-Monahan researched museum archives and presented evidence of unmarked burials. Together the marked and unmarked graves form a new database of burials within this Hudson Township cemetery. (The early residents of this area were isolated from the City of Hudson by a dense band of timber necessitating a neighborhood burial ground.) This cemetery is maintained by the Hudson Township supervisor.