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News-Record

THE OLD GRAVE YARD.

How It Is Cared For And a List of The Occupants.

A former Freeporter wants to know what condition the old graveyard is in, if there are many graves in it yet, and how it is cared for. The place is in good condition, being one of the best kept in the state. It is in charge of the Cemetery Board, and is cleaned once or twice each summer, has a good fence enclosing it, and there are about one hundred graves that can still be identified.

Entering from Fourth street the first on the left is that of Elizabeth Wilson, who died in 1862. A good marble stone marks the grave. Just beyond and near the corner a neat monument marks the resting place of an infant son of J. S. Patterson, now of Leechburg. The next is a modest little stone which tells the passer by that the body of Othello, infant son of W. M. Piper, aged 1 year rests beneath. Not much wonder the child died young.

Continuing along the side next the school house tomb stones can be found, Mrs. S. P. Moorhead, who died in 1851, Abner Breneman, 1841, Mrs. James Clawson, 1844, Christiana and Harriet McDonald, 1841, and Rebecca in 1850.

Isaac Haws 1850 Hannah R. McVittie, 1843, and then the Peter E. Weayer lot with his wife, who died in 1851, six children at different periods; Absalom, who led his company at the battle of Stoneriver, and died in 1864. Near by the grave of Dr. D. M. Boreland, who ceased to practice in 1848, but whose name is carried yet by some of our citizens. James Rupp is next in 1858, Bessie, daughter of R. M. Janes, 1853, and then the Truby's, Nancy 1841, Samuel 1852, George W., 1853.

Continuing down the South side we find Mrs. Andrew Easley, 1839, Stephen Mehaffy 1846, John Congleton, 1853, and then what was once the finest monument in the yard, now lying on the ground, but the inscription still plain, telling that Mrs. S. D. Karns died in 1847. Two Dike children, date obscure, and another Elizabeth Wilson, 1835.

Here we get into the Weaver section with their quaint old markers of gray sandstone, some of them richly carved and well preserved; David 1849, Samuel, 1818, George 1838, Jacob 1841, Henry E., same date are those still legible. Mixed in with the Weavers we find Alexander Given 1827, Mrs. Robert Houghton, 1830, David Mellon 1850, Elizabeth Ross 1846, John Keever 1833, and Nancy, his wife, four years later.

Mary Rupp and two others of same family in 1832, William Henderson 1832 and Margaret Critchlow, 1848, Christiana Smythe 1854, Andrew Patterson, 1832, John Megraw 1847, George Vickers, 1848, and an Elliott in the extreme lower corner, date not legible. Turning back we find two children of G. W. Syphax in 1856-59. Mrs. Jacob Kuhn 1855, Henry Kuhn, 1852, Levi Varner, in 1850, and auld Robin Hill in 1859. The stone of the latter has fallen down and it is not certain that it is near his grave. He left no children, but a good farm went to his heirs, and they ought to have kept his grave green. The stone of a niece, Jane Elliott, who died in 1854, is also lying flat. Near the center and behind a tree is that of Rebecca Osborne, who died in 1852, aged 20. Close by two children of T. J. McWilliams were laid in 1856, William Putney and two children in 1850.

In the same locality stands the best stone in the grave yard. It is only common sand stone, but the lettering is clear as when erected, to the memory of John H. Weaver in 1830. Those of James Sproull and Jane his wife, standing since 1821 are almost as good.

The next is that of an old Revolutionary hero, Captain John Craig died in 1850, aged 97, and his wife Mattie, in 1825, aged 69. Harrison Cain, in 1850, Mrs. Jerry Murphy in 1849, Elizabeth McGinnis in 1839 and Andrew in 1847, Mrs. Noah Lovel and child in 1857, Daniel Singer 1849, Elizabeth McKee, 1834, James Bole, Sr., 1836, aged 84, Mary Bole, 1836, aged 82, James Bole, Jr., 1854, aged 73, Robert McIlwain, 1845, Thomas Anthony, 1847, H. Wingard 1835, Mary Forbes, 1852, Dr. J. A. Donaldson 1849, Rebecca J. Bar 1856, James Harbison 1845, Jane Harbison 1846, Mary Hilliard 1855.

Very close to these last lie the dust of a couple who helped make history here a century ago. John Harbison, who was a celebrated Indian fighter, and Massey, his wife, whose capture by the redskins near what is now McKean Station, on the Valley road, ought to have a monument to mark their graves but the exact spot is unknown. Uncle Ben. Harbison showed their graves to the writer, when he was a boy, but the mounds have evidently disappeared, and he can only approximate the place now.

William Bitts died 1848, Anna M. 1850, Mrs. James McGraw 1851, James, son of Simon Shoop 1859, William A. Paintor, 1844, H. W. McClain 1839, H. H. Alter 1860 and Lucinda, 1851, Mary Galbraith Alter 1862. This last has a handsome granite stone erected by her son in recent years. Rebecca Ann Wilson 1855, and close to the fence on the north John Logan, who cut his throat in the old Fullerton factory in 1849.

He was one of a club of Agnostics and wanted to try another world. W. T. Atkinson 1855, John Varner 1856, George Clawson 1852, Samuel Galbraith 1850, child of Thomas Cain 1857, Josephine Ray, 1839, Nancy Haymaker 1843, W. B. Gibson 1848, and among the last the grave of the man who gave the ground to the Borough. James Armstrong was laid to rest in 1859, at the ripe old age of 86. Not only the burying ground, but that where the United Presbyterian church stands was donated by him, and he ought to be remembered for what he has done. Sophia Armstrong died in 1842, Thomas in 1854, and good old Rev. Richard in 1859, aged 84. We remember very well to have seen him sit in the pulpit in the old Methodist church, and some of his quaint sayings caused not a little amusement.

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