

## SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CEMETERY

Location: Springfield Township, later Woodlawn, still later under Lincoln Heights.

History: Henry and Mary Tucker withdrew from the Carpenter's Run Baptist Church by letter for the purpose of starting a new Baptist Church. The church they started in 1815 was the Springfield Baptist Church. This church was built just to the south of their home on the east side of Wayne Avenue in Woodlawn. The church was a large white frame building with a large church yard. The back end of the church yard was used by the early settlers as a burying ground. Many of these settlers were buried under the lush green grass of the church yard.

By the 1840's, the town of Lockland had developed. Most of the congregation of the Springfield Baptist Church, at that time, lived in Lockland. Hence when the old frame church needed to be replaced it was the choice of the people to relocate in Lockland. The name of the new church building built in Lockland was the Lockland Baptist Church. The old Springfield Baptist Church yard on Wayne Avenue with its cemetery became known as the Old Baptist Burying Grounds.

This cemetery remained until the early 1940's when the U.S. Government built the Valley Homes Housing Project. Lincoln Heights - the housing project - was built on top of the cemetery.

I, Bill James Cook, visited the cemetery shortly before it was destroyed. My father, who was with me, pointed out the stones on the graves of two of his family connections: Maj. Thomas Gordon Sortor and Tom's wife - Jane Sutphen Sortor. Many of the other grave stones were still standing at that time in the high grass and brush of the old cemetery.

The lost of this old cemetery was a great lost to people interested in the early history of Hamilton County.

Two of the early settlers known to be buried in Springfield Baptist Cemetery:

1. Maj. Thomas Gordon Sortor

B. Dec. 7, 1758

D. Mar. 26, 1833

( Tom came to Ohio from N.J. in 1810. He was the son of John Sortor -1732 to 1769 and Epenetus Gordon - 1732 to 1821. )

John Sortor was the son of Jacob & Catherine Sortor.

Epenetus Gordon was the daughter of Thomas and Margaret Gordon.

2. Jane Sutphen Sortor

B. Mar. 6, 1763

D. July 4, 1833

( Jane was the consort of Maj. T. G. Sortor. She was the daughter of Arthur Sutphen and Jane Van Meter. )