

MILL CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY

Location: This cemetery of the very early settlers of Hamilton County was located just north of the "point" which is found at the meeting of Oak and Chester Roads. There were about fifty graves here marked by plain field stones still visible in the early 1900's.

History: The cemetery came into being because of the killing of a scouting party of five men from Wayne's Army. As the main army was moving northward, a scouting party working the area to the army's east was attacked, killed and scalped on this site. The next day scouts sent out to look for the missing men found the bodies. However, as they were busy burying the bodies on this spot one of the "dead" men showed a flicker of life. Although left for dead and scalped by the Indians, a young man by the name of James Burns seemed to return to life the next day. This was in 1789.

Burns was taken to his mother's home in Penn. where he spent several years recovering from his experience with death. As he recovered he was filled with the desire to build a church in the wilderness where the white men and the Indians

could find peace and worship God together. This fatical idea took hold of all the members of the little Presbyterian Church where Burns worshiped. Their zeal resulted in hauling red bricks all the way by wagon across Penn.; floating them in the wagon beds down the Ohio River to Cincinnati and moving the bricks by oxcart over Wayn's Trace to the site along an Indian Trace to the graves of Burn's four dead buddies. Here a red brick church was built in the wilderness. The cemetery behind the church was started by the four graves of the murdered army men marked with rough field stones. Now through the 1790's and early 1800's this cemetery was use to bury poor squatters and wanders killed by Indians or disease in the early days. By 1840 when the old church was torn down, Oak Road had long since came into being. The road which followed the old Indian Trace had to go around the church and this accounts for the "point" at this location in Oak Road. There were about fifty graves all marked with nothing but rough field stones at the time the church was demolished in 1840. Since the church was built in the wilderness in 1792 before there were roads in the area and demolished by 1840, many people never knew a church stood there and thought in later years that it was an Indian cemetery.

Gov. Morrow came to the Northwest Territory with James Burns and the men from his Penn. church to build the Mill Creek Church and was a charter member. What little written history remains of this church comes from the papers of Gov. Jeremiah Morrow. James Burns founded the Burns family which later lived in Wyoming and gave Burns Avenue its name.

