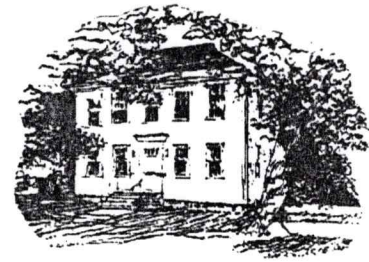


IMAGES

... then and now

From The Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge

Old Gravestones: Local Treasures

When Indian Hill was a farm community in the 19th century, it was common practice to bury the deceased on family property – in a special location on the back forty acres. Backyard cemeteries were located on knolls, under shade trees, or near property lines. Depending on family circumstances, graves were marked in a various ways, including wooden crosses, plants, rocks, or tombstones.

Time has taken its toll. Many family graveyards have disappeared; those interred are lost to the ages. Small family lots have become overgrown with vegetation – briars, brambles, and honeysuckle. As real estate changed hands, old plots were often neglected and not maintained by new owners. After several generations, relatives were forgotten and their final resting places were ignored. Wooden markers disintegrated. Headstones and footstones deteriorated due to weather conditions. Acid rain, pollution, and tree leaves caused damage and disintegration. There were



no paid caretakers for family plots, thus there was no regular maintenance after one or two generations.

Cemeteries near churches generally received better care and were tended on a timely basis. Sometimes, however, a church closed its doors. The Little Miami Baptist Church, also referred to as Mill Run Church, was located at the east end of Old Indian Hill Road. It contained 41 nineteenth century headstones, which were abandoned for decades. Fortunately, these graves were saved. Some were reinterred to Greenlawn Cemetery in Milford, and others were incorporated in the columbarium at St. Thomas Church in Terrace Park.



In recent years some residents of Indian Hill have located old gravestones on their property. These have been discovered on Rockhill Lane, Miami Road, Old Indian Hill Road, Cunningham Road, and in the Camp Dennison Green Areas. In some cases, it is uncertain whether the stones were originally on the property, or whether they were transported there. Some stones show evidence of vandalism and breakage. Residents have left the burial markers undisturbed and contacted the Indian Hill Historical Society to document their existence. Granite markers have been photographed, recording the deaths of a 26 year old bride, a pioneer settler, a 4 year old daughter, and a Spanish American War veteran.

Knowing where these burial sites are and chronicling their inscriptions preserves the memory of those who lived and labored locally in a bygone era. Though progress cannot be stopped, and the past cannot be changed, village residents can conserve what they find in their yards, thereby creating a testament to Indian Hill's antiquity.

Please telephone 891-1873 to document a local gravestone.

