

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Small Cemeteries of Indian Hill

The two largest cemeteries within Village limits are located at Armstrong Chapel and Indian Hill Church. But there are also several less well known graveyards. In the 19th century, it was common practice to bury the deceased on the family property. Backyard cemeteries were often located on knolls, under shade trees or near property lines. Family circumstances influenced how graves were marked – whether by wooden crosses, plants, rocks, or tombstones.

Sometimes several families would arrange to create a group burial ground for their dead. Over time, some of these were forgotten after the families moved or died out. Small lots became overgrown with vegetation – such as briars, brambles, grass, and honeysuckle. As real estate changed hands, old plots were neglected by new homeowners. Wooden markers disintegrated. Headstones and footstones deteriorated due to weather conditions. Acid rain, air pollution, and tree leaves caused damage. And at small cemeteries, there were no paid caretakers, thus no regular maintenance after one or two generations.

Cemeteries near churches generally were tended on a schedule, however sometimes a church closed its doors. The Little Miami Baptist Church (also called the Mill Run Baptist Church) was located at the east end of Old Indian Hill Road. Its cemetery was abandoned for decades. But removals of the remains of 41 pioneer graves occurred, and reinternments occurred at Greenlawn Cemetery in Milford.



Miami Road Cemetery



Old Indian Hill Road Cemetery

site. So in the past 30 years, three have been lost.

Some other tombstones have been discovered by residents. Usually these are single or a set of two markers. Places where they have been found include Miami Road, Rockhill Lane, Old Indian Hill Road, and Cunningham Road. In some cases, it is uncertain whether these markers were originally on the properties or whether they were transported there. Some stones show evidence of breakage and wear. Residents have left the burial markers undisturbed and contacted the Indian Hill Historical Society to provide evidence of their existence. The markers have been photographed, thereby recording the deaths of a 26 year old bride, a pioneer settler, a 4 year old daughter, and a Spanish American War veteran.

Chronicling these burial sites preserves the memory of those who lived and labored locally in a bygone era. Village residents who conserve gravestones in their yards are documenting Indian Hill's antiquity.

Small cemeteries still exist in or near Indian Hill Village. Some of these are not accessible to the public as access to them is through private property. One that was authenticated in the 1970s near the Old Christian Church at Greenacres Foundation has been obliterated as its tombstones were stolen by vandals. The Quayle Cemetery is in a remote Green Areas location overlooking Miamiville. Its 15-20 markers have suffered degradation over almost two centuries. The Jones Cemetery can easily be visited. Located at 6200 Drake Road in the Indian Hill School District's Transportation Department parking lot, right in front of the office building, it now contains five headstones of Jones family members dating back to the 1850s. Records at the Indian Hill Historical Society state that in the 1980s, there were eight stones at the



6200 Drake Road Cemetery