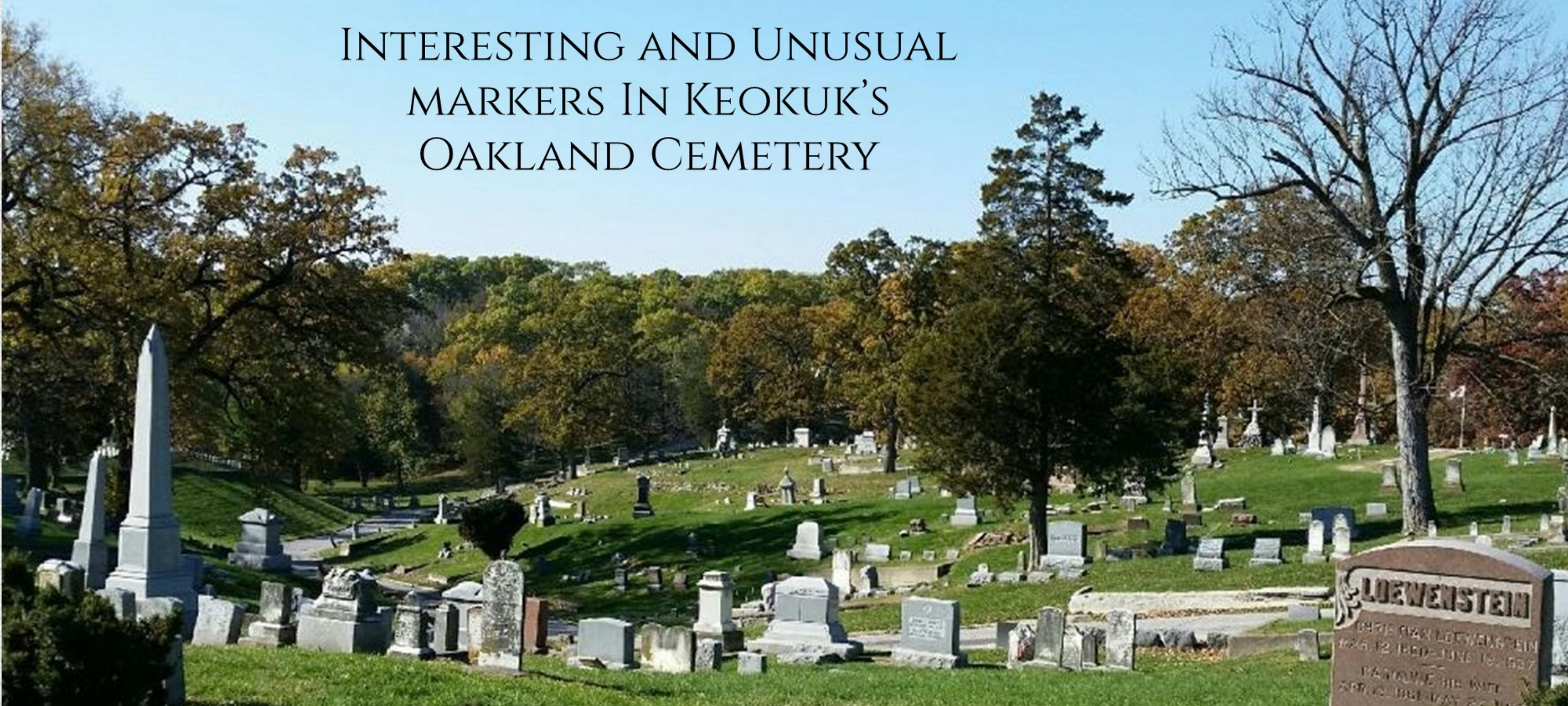


STORIES IN STONE

INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL
MARKERS IN KEOKUK'S
OAKLAND CEMETERY



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2nd and Blondeau

Prior to the 1850's, burial grounds existed at various locations throughout the city. One of these was on the southeast corner of 2nd and Blondeau.

Many of the burials at Blondeau were victims of the cholera epidemic in 1849 and 1850. It also served as a cemetery for the Catholic Church.

During a 1918 cellar construction project, two skeletons were discovered. The two were buried side by side and were assumed to be husband and wife. The remains were reinterred at Oakland Cemetery.



12th and Des Moines

Another burial ground also existed at the southeast corner of 12th and Des Moines. When Oakland was established as a cemetery, these grounds ceased accepting new burials. The city put out a call for any friends or relatives with loved ones buried here to arrange for reinternment at Oakland.

A 1910 construction project uncovered an additional 5 skeletons. After a short investigation to rule out foul play, the remains were then moved to Oakland.



5th and Timea

One more burial ground was also reported to have existed at the northwest corner of 5th and Timea as a final resting place for many who died of cholera.

This has been suspected but never fully confirmed.



Turner Family Cemetery, rural Keokuk

Additional burials have been found throughout the city and just outside of the city limits.

These are reminders of days gone by when citizens kept their deceased loved ones nearby in family cemeteries or individual church yards.

The cemetery shown here is for the Turner family, Annie Turner Wittenmyer's family. It is just off Johnson Street Road outside of Keokuk.

The Valley Whig.

THE DES MOINES VALLEY WHIG
IS PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING.

For 311 MAY 29, 1851.\$1 50

CEMETERY MEETING

There will be a meeting of the citizens at the City Hall, Saturday night, to consult in reference to a cemetery.

Our citizens are generally aware that the City Council recently purchased forty acres of land for the purpose, and are now willing to surrender it to a company, to be laid out and improved by private liberality and enterprise, if the citizens prefer that course.

The question of providing a cemetery for our place is one which addresses itself with great force to the best sympathies of our nature, and the reputation and welfare of the city alike require prompt and efficient action in the matter.

We hope that the citizens will turn out to the meeting, and that such measures may be adopted as will secure the enclosing, and laying out these grounds without unnecessary delay.

As Keokuk expanded, a need began to grow for a common burial ground.

On May 29, 1851, *The Des Moines Valley Whig* put out a call for a meeting of citizens to gather for a discussion about establishing a cemetery.

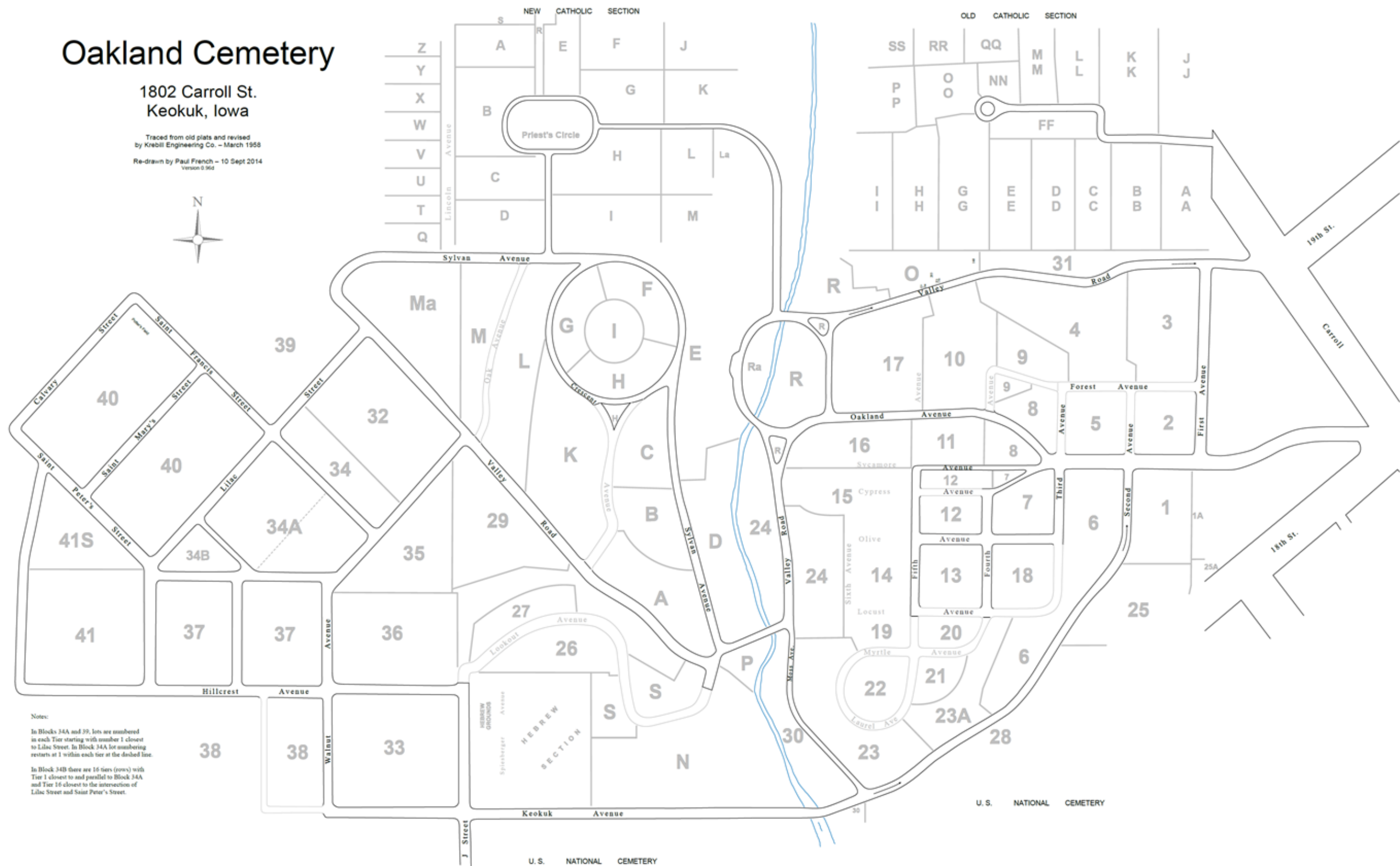
This meeting resulted in the 40 acre land purchase being established as a city cemetery.

Oakland Cemetery would later include Catholic and Hebrew/Jewish sections and would find a neighbor in the national cemetery established in 1862 by President Lincoln.

Oakland Cemetery

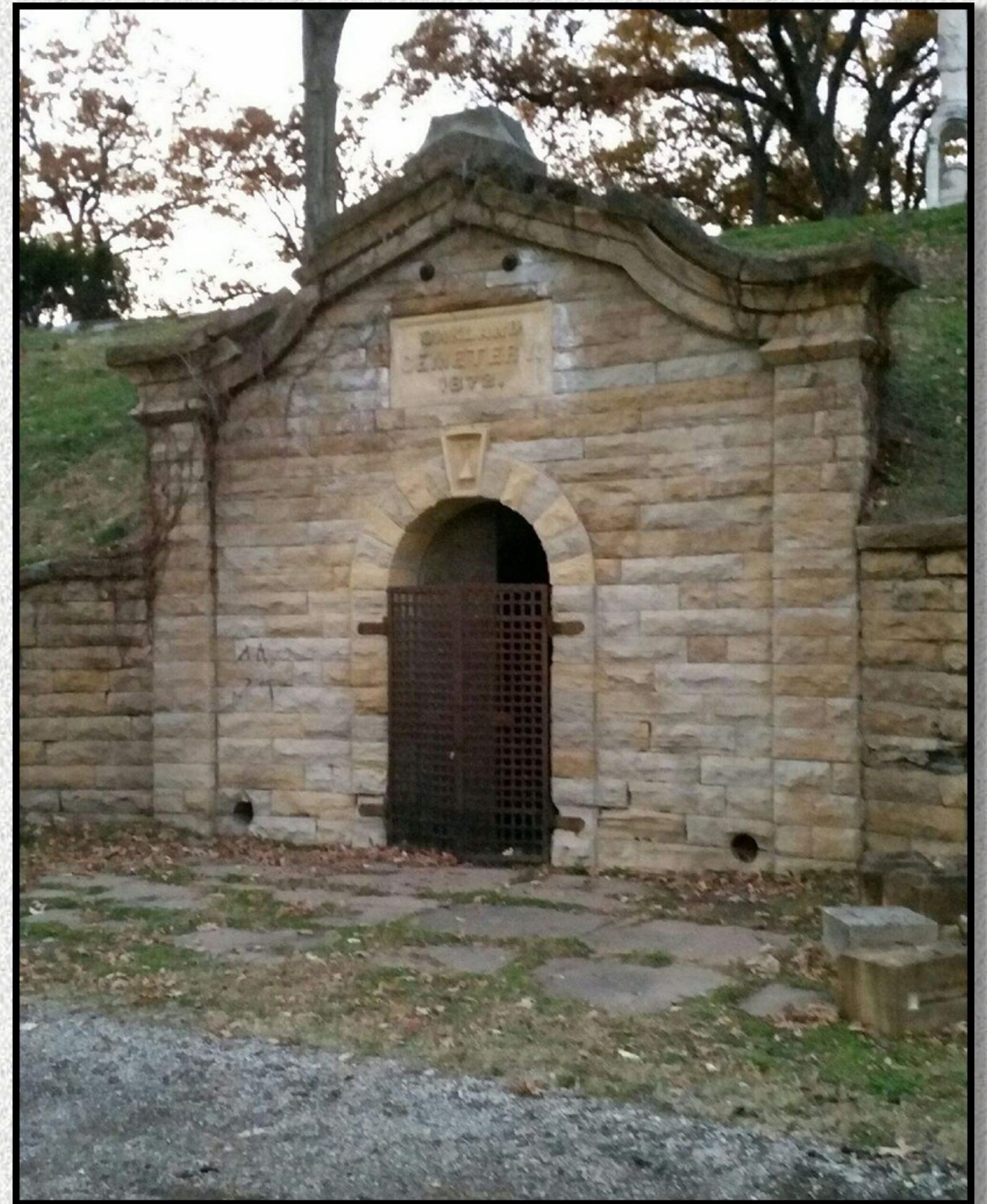
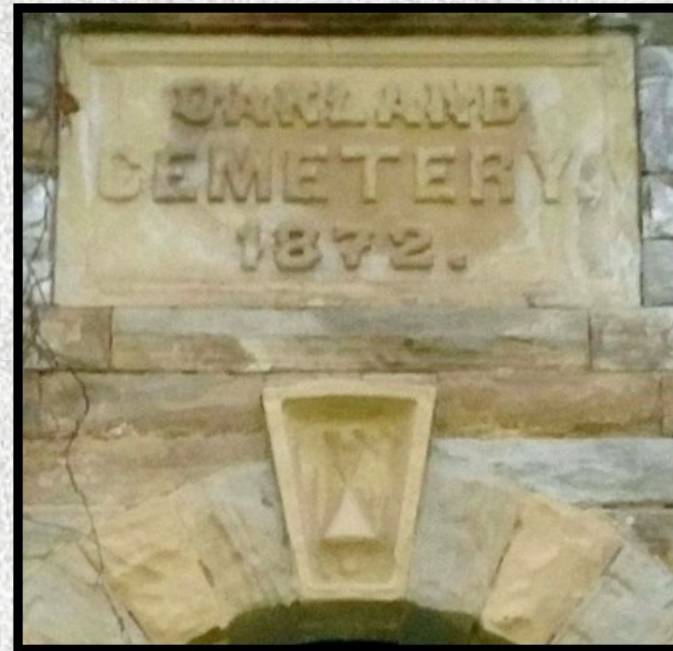
1802 Carroll St.
Keokuk, Iowa

Traced from old plats and revised
by Krebill Engineering Co. - March 1958
Re-drawn by Paul French - 10 Sept 2014
Version 0.96d

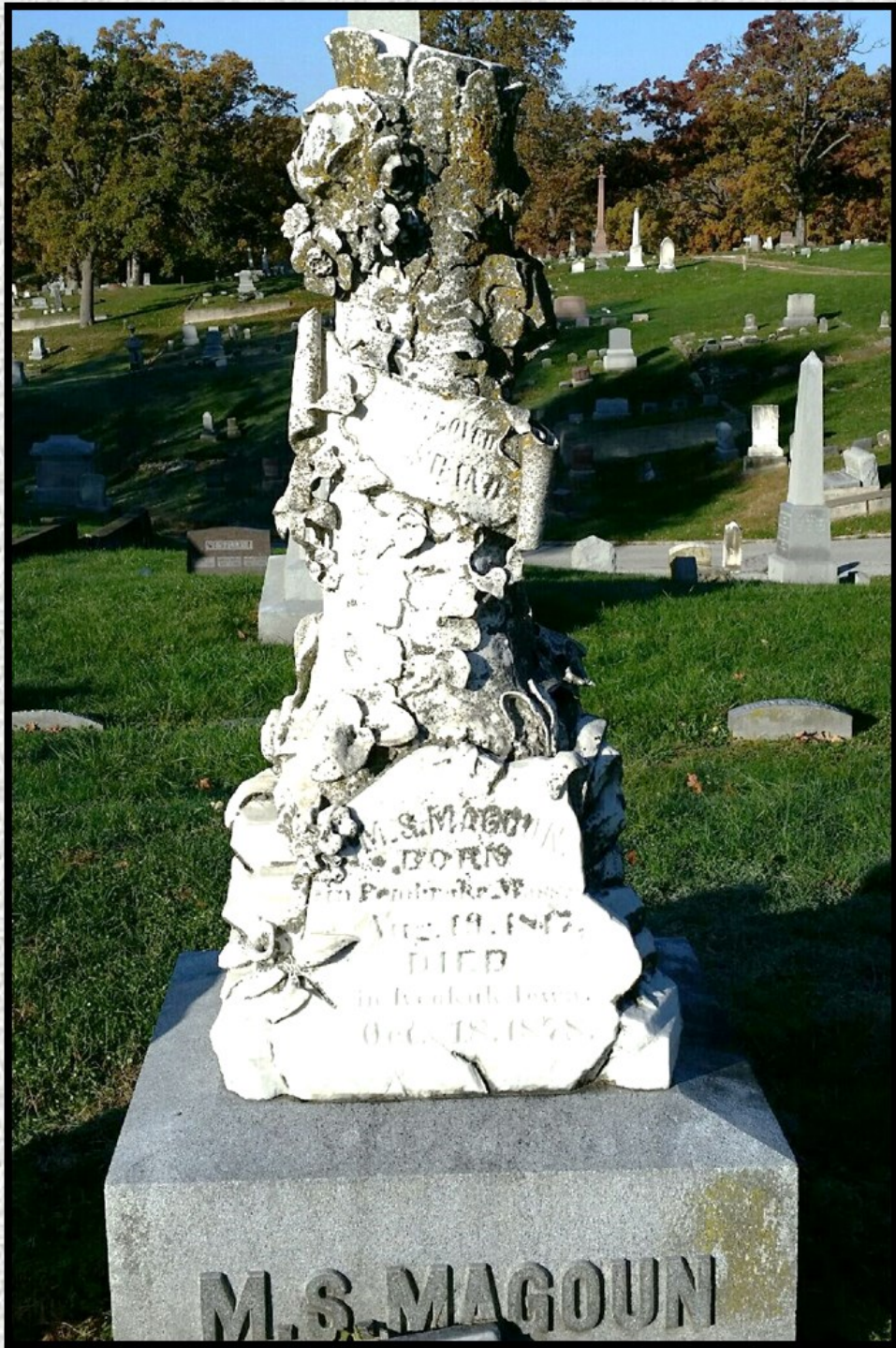


Over the years, several plot maps of the cemetery have been completed. One map was completed in the 1930's and another in 2007. This rendering by Paul French is the most recent, completed in the fall of 2014. The file can be shown with lot numbers as well to easily locate the anticipated location of a burial or memorial.

Oakland's City Vault



The city vault was used as a resting place prior to final burial. This could have been during winter months when the ground was too frozen to dig properly or while a permanent burial space was being otherwise prepared. The vault is no longer in use and has fallen into disrepair. It is at the bottom of the cemetery where the creek bed can be found. Vaults have also been used to prevent grave robbing.



M. S. Magoun
Born August 19, 1817
Died October 18, 1878

Block 25

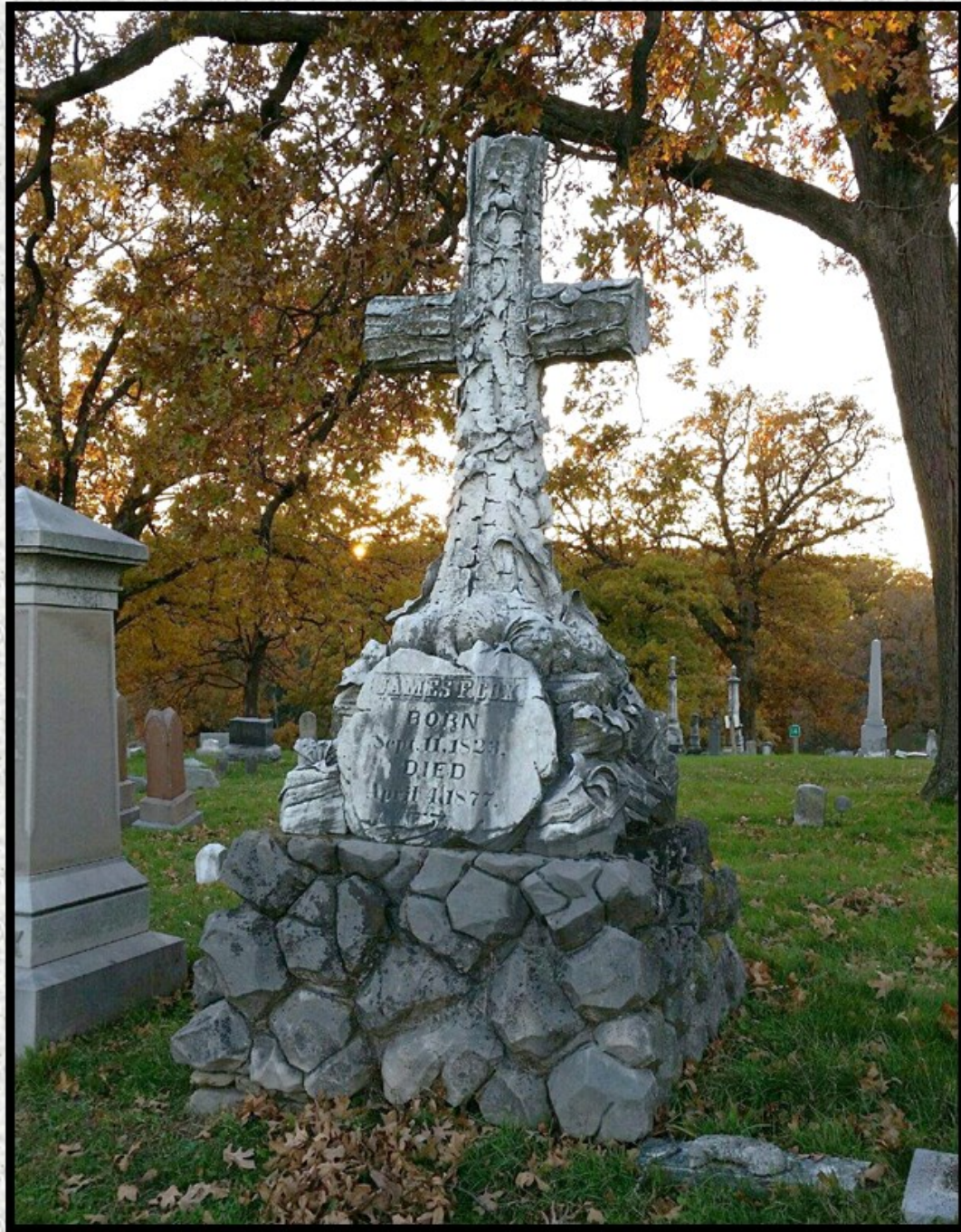
Keokuk, Ia. April 28 th 1879 <i>The Estate of M. S. Magoun</i> To CITY OF KEOKUK, Ia.	
To 5 mos' vaultage in Vault of Oakland Cemetery of Keokuk @ \$2 ⁰⁰ per mo. Recd Payr. from G. H. White J. W. Delaplain Clerk of Council	\$10.00

KEOKUK MARBLE WORKS. Keokuk, Iowa, Oct 17 th 1879 <i>Mrs E. Magoun</i> BOUGHT OF BEN. BAWDEN & SON. —MANUFACTURERS OF— ☉Monuments, Tombs, Grave Stones and Mantels.☉ Also Agents for the Celebrated Scotch Granite Monuments. ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO. Main St., Bet. Second and Third.	
To one set of marker to the grave of M. S. Magoun Received payment Benj Bawden & Son	\$25.00

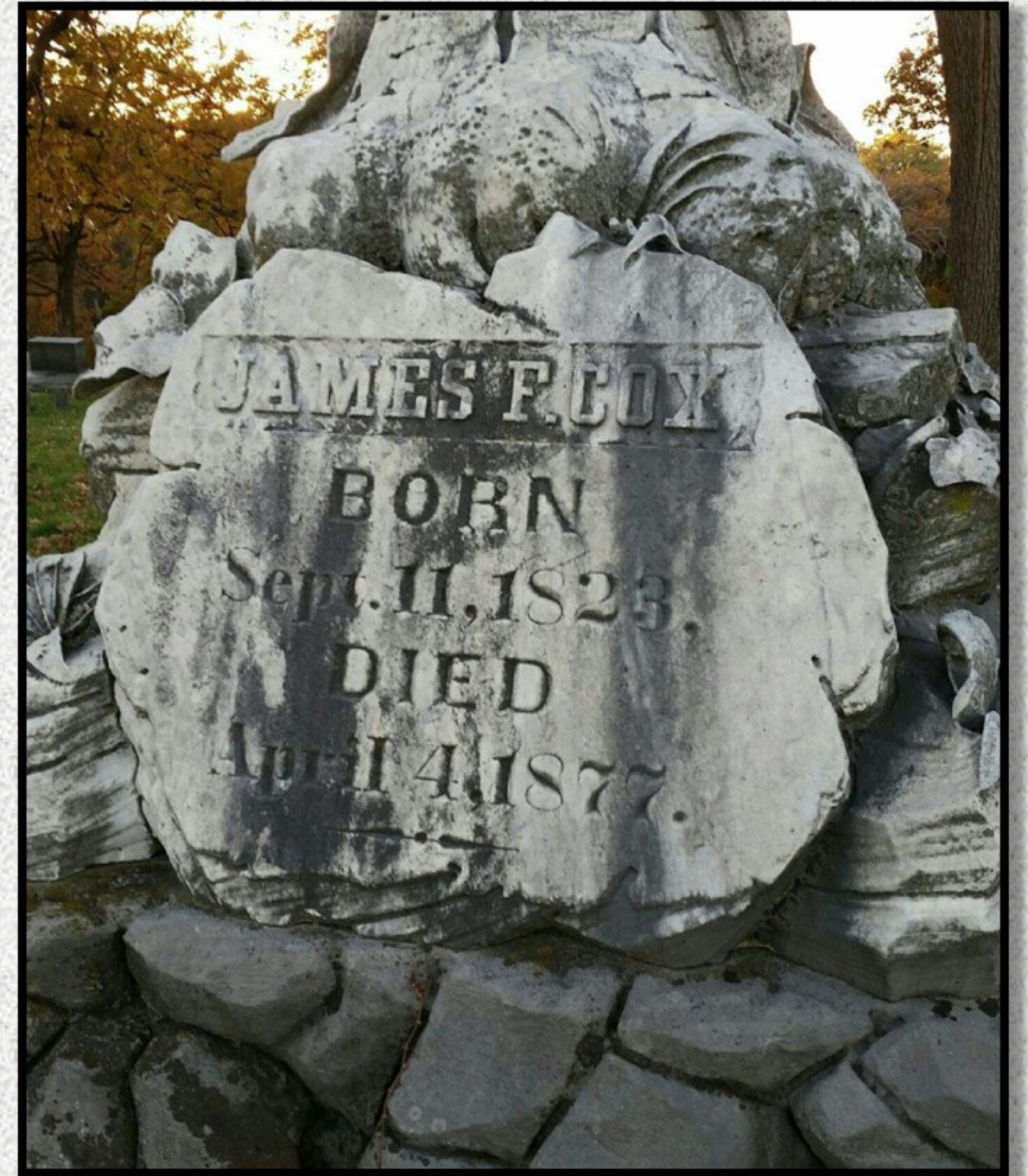
The top of the stone for Mathew S. Magoun reads “my beloved husband.” The entire upper portion is carved with a nature theme and scrollwork. Magoun was a lumber dealer and operated a very successful business in the area. The two receipts are for his grave stone and vaultage. Magoun’s body was held in the city vault for 5 months at \$2 per month for a total of \$10. (which in today’s equivalent of \$48 per month or a sum of \$237. However, modern day cost for vaultage would be much higher. Vaulting is not as common in present day due to the solutions now available for the cold weather burials previous generations faced. Mathew’s wife, Emily, was buried for a total cost of \$250 in 1891.

James F. Cox

Born September 11, 1823 and Died April 4, 1877



Block 13



James F. Cox served as secretary on the Iowa Insurance Company's board of directors.

This stone is incredibly detailed in the design of the base as well as the intricacy of the carved cross and botanic elements.

Connable monument

Block R

Inscription reads

Albert E. Connable, 1850-1936

Rose F., his wife, 1852-1942

Ira W. Wills, 1866-1934

Saidee Connable, his wife, 1873-1967

Ira W. Wills, Jr., 1906-1927

Franklin A. Connable, 1880-1934

Franklin Connable, Jr., 1920-1927

Henry Stephen Brown, 1875-1955

Lucille Connable, his wife , 1877-1957

Albert E. Connable was a farmer in Hancock County. His father, Albert L. Connable, was a founding businessman in Keokuk.

Rose F. Connable (Albert E.'s wife) was celebrated for her involvement in the Montibello Floral Society of Hamilton as well as her talents for public speaking and philanthropy.

Ira Wills (son-in-law of Albert E.) was the president of Kellogg-Birge & Co.

Franklin Albert (son of Albert E.) was the president of Hot Well Co. in Houston, TX and was involved in real estate.

Henry Stephen Brown was a dentist in Los Angeles, California.

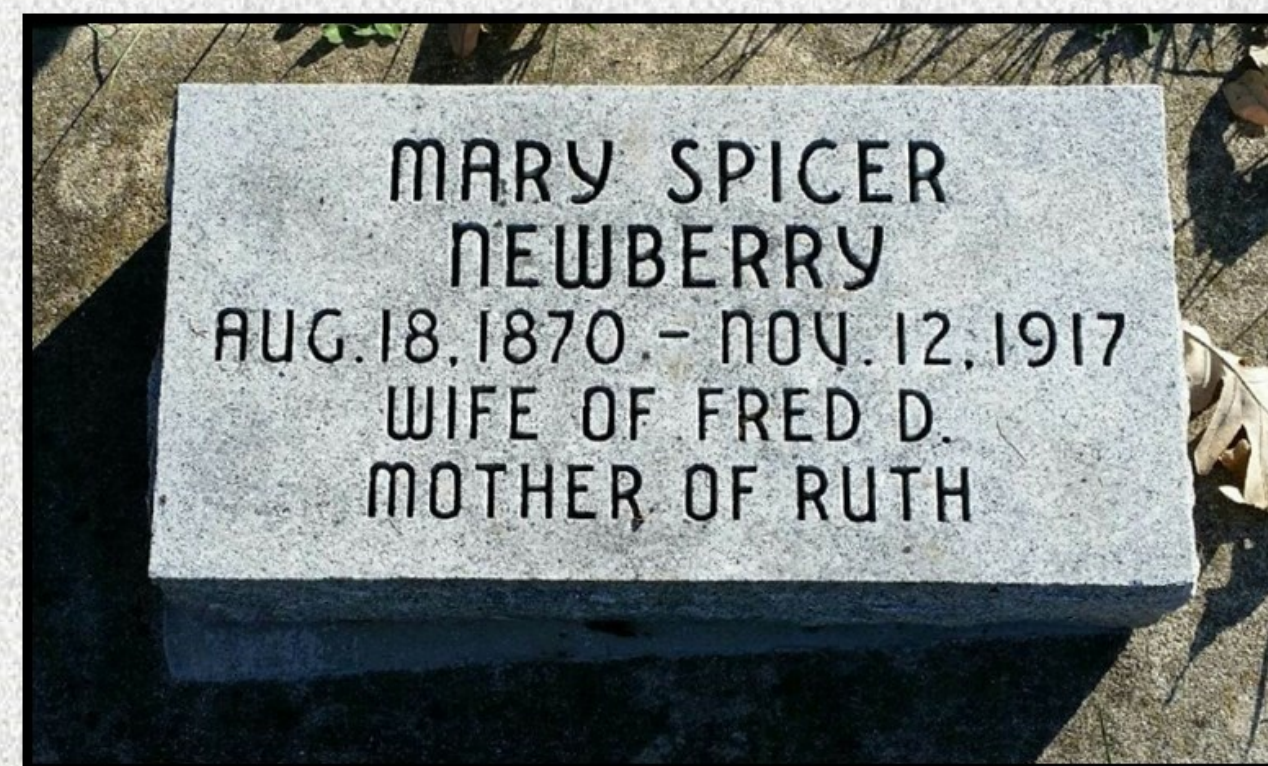
Lucille and Saidee were daughters of Albert E. and Rose and were both described as ladies of charity and grace in their circles.





Mary Spicer Newberry
Born August 18, 1870 and Died November 12, 1917

Block 5



Mary Spicer Newberry was the wife of Fred D. Newberry, a collector of antiques who was well known throughout the state. The Roosevelt chair was made of Osage orange wood from the Newberry farm and was a part of his collection at one time. It is now housed at the Keokuk Public Library.

The prior purpose of Mary Spicer Newberry's unique marker is unknown, but one of the rumors surrounding it is that it was placed out of spite by Mary's husband as she was not fond of his collection.



Antonia Maly Steyskal
Born Bechyně, Bohemia
circa 1832
Died October 3, 1886

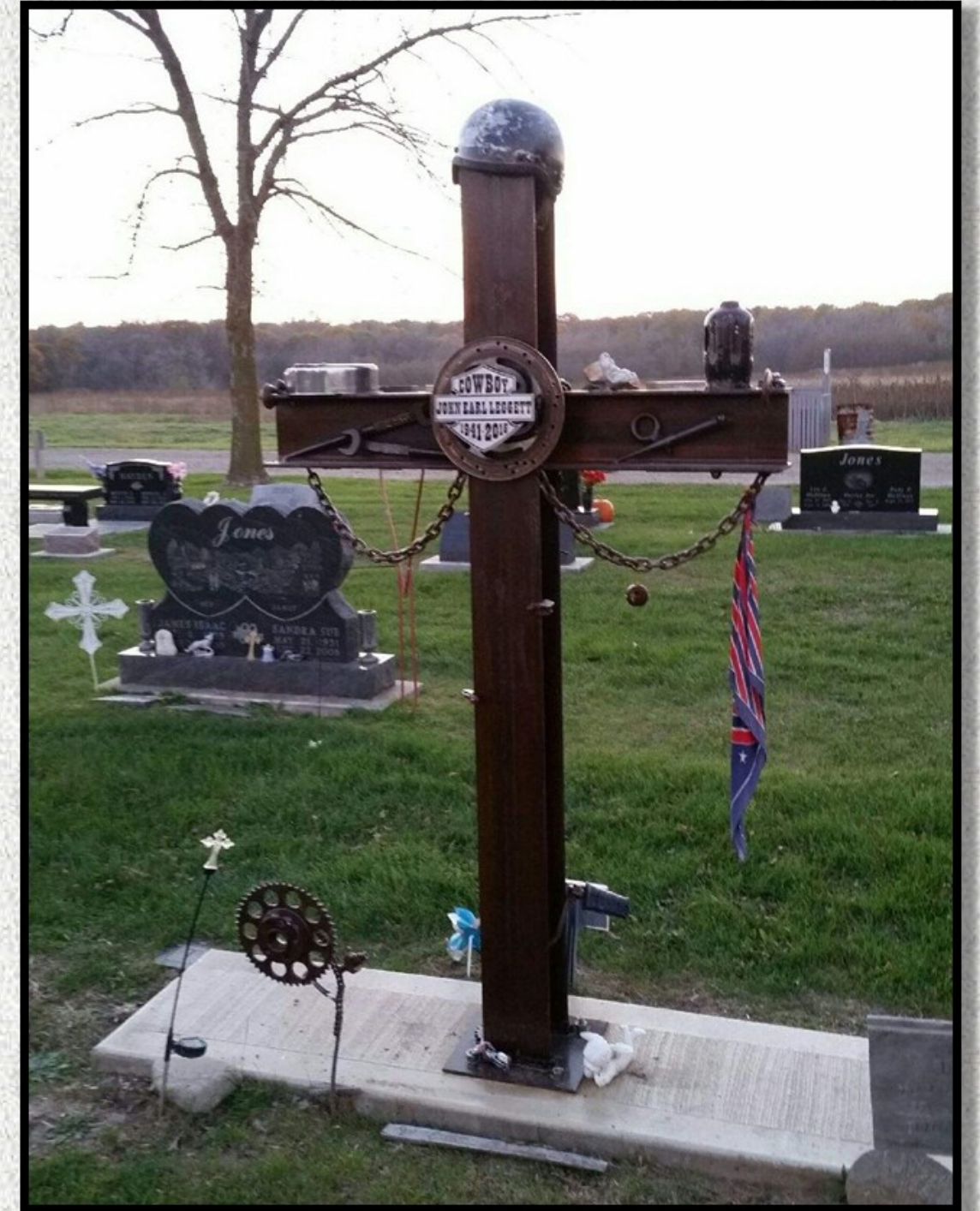
Inscription reads
Antonia Maly, native of Bechy's
In Bohemia. Wife of A. Steyskal
Died October 3, 1886, aged 54 years

Old Catholic Block LL

Antonia Maly Steyskal was born in Bechyně (pronounced bah-ken-yah) Bohemia, circa 1832 and died October 3, 1886. The inscription on her metal grave marker reads "*Antonia Maly, native of Bechy's In Bohemia. Wife of A. Steyskal Died October 3, 1886, aged 54 years*"

John Earl “Cowboy” Leggett

Born March 27, 1941 and Died January 27, 2016



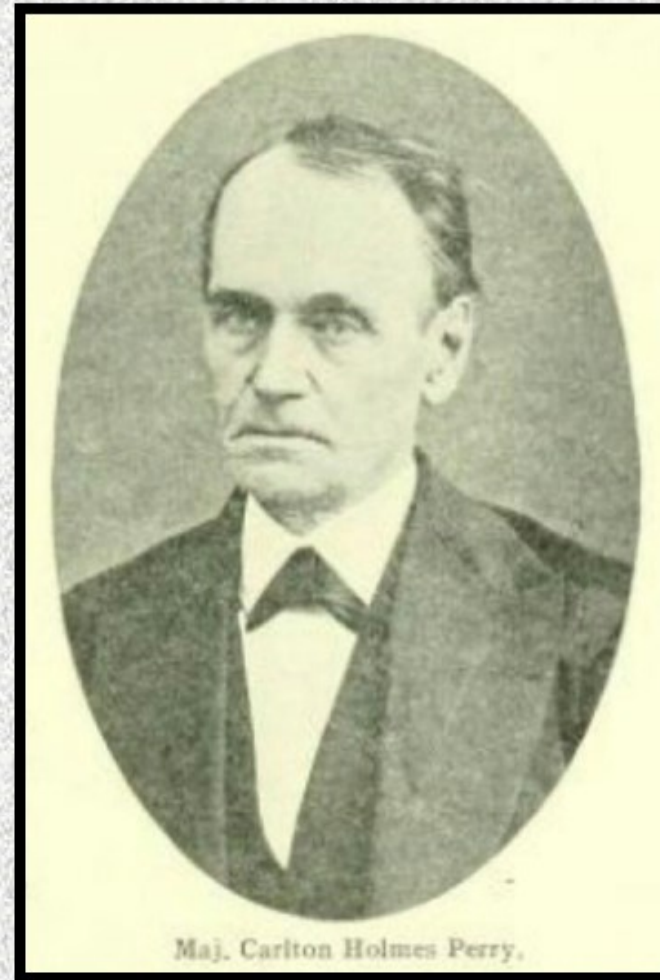
Block 41

John Earl “Cowboy” Leggett was a US Army veteran and a union iron worker until his retirement in 2001. With a passion for motorcycles and his work in the iron industry, his monument appears to be a fitting structure.

Major Carlton Holmes Perry & Family

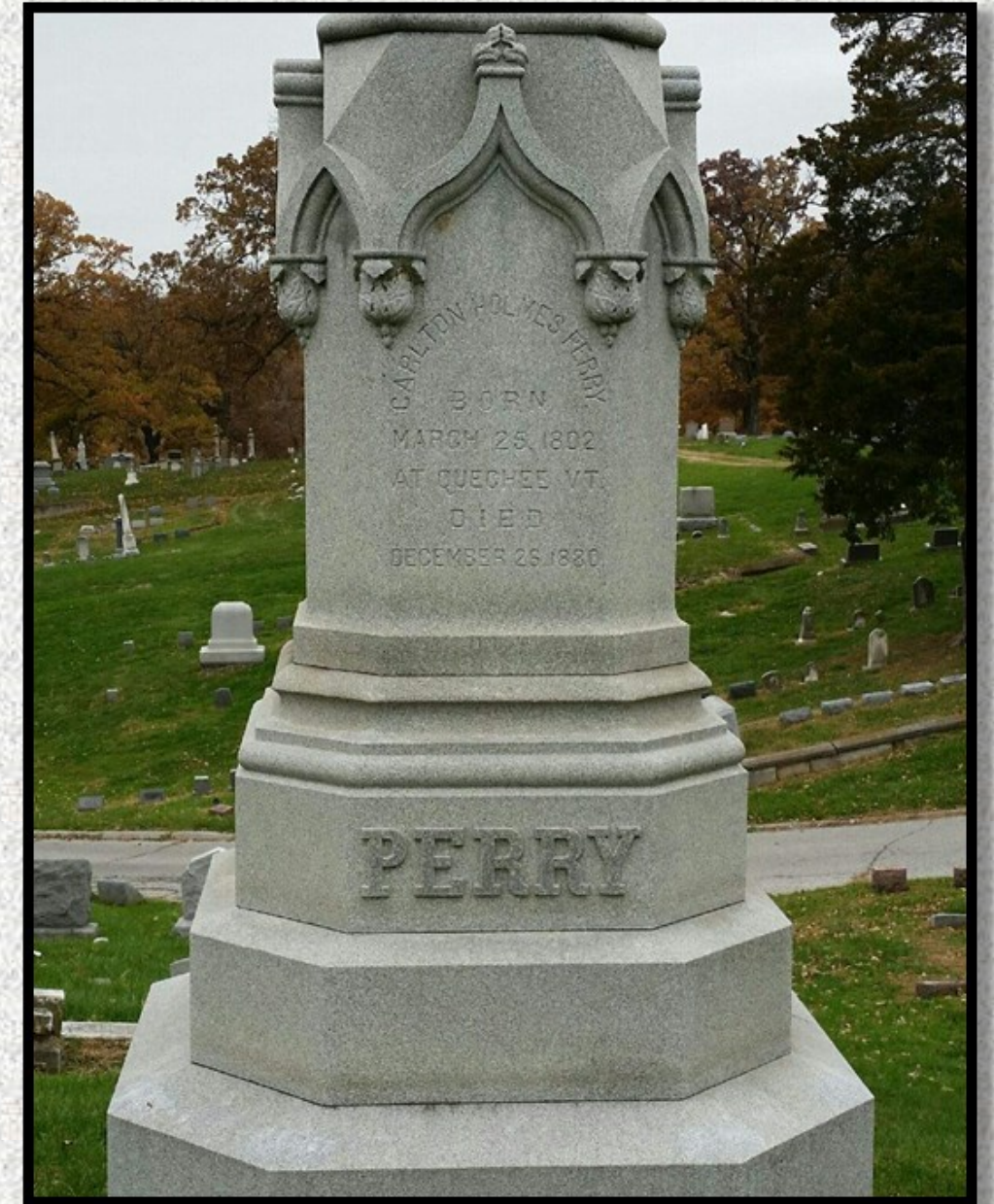
Carlton Holmes Perry, March 25, 1802 to December 26, 1880

Adopted daughter Sadie Wolcott Perry, January 21, 1851 to February 7, 1917
and is buried with the Holmes biological daughter, Katherine Wolcott Perry in Capri, Italy



Maj. Carlton Holmes Perry.

Block 25



Carlton Holmes Perry was an educator prior to his arrival in Lee County in 1841. Upon his arrival, he was engaged in many business interests around town and owned various properties. He would later become affiliated with building the Keokuk, Des Moines, and Minnesota Railroad and served as president of the Keokuk Library Association in 1874 and 1875. He had two biological children with wife Elizabeth Ann Wolcott (Howard and Kathryn). The couple adopted Saidee Wolcott who was the daughter of Arthur Wolcott and Sarah Ann Morrison.

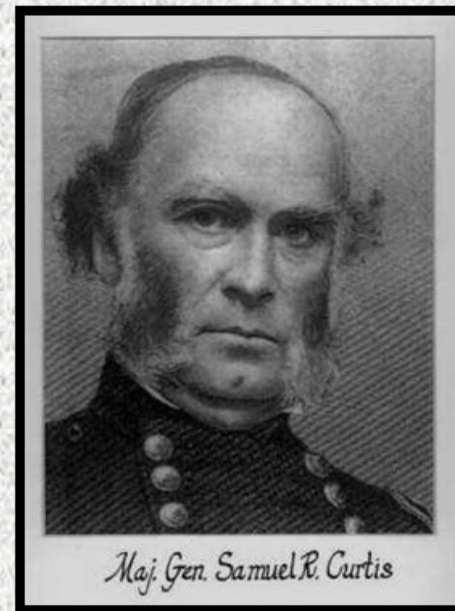
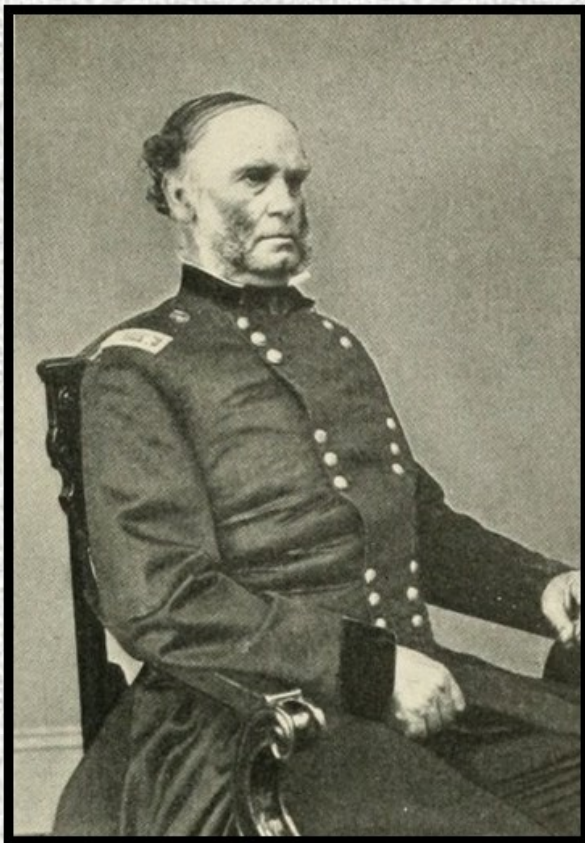
Samuel Ryan Curtis

February 3, 1805 to December 26, 1866

Belinda *Buckingham* Curtis

January 6, 1812 to February 3, 1888

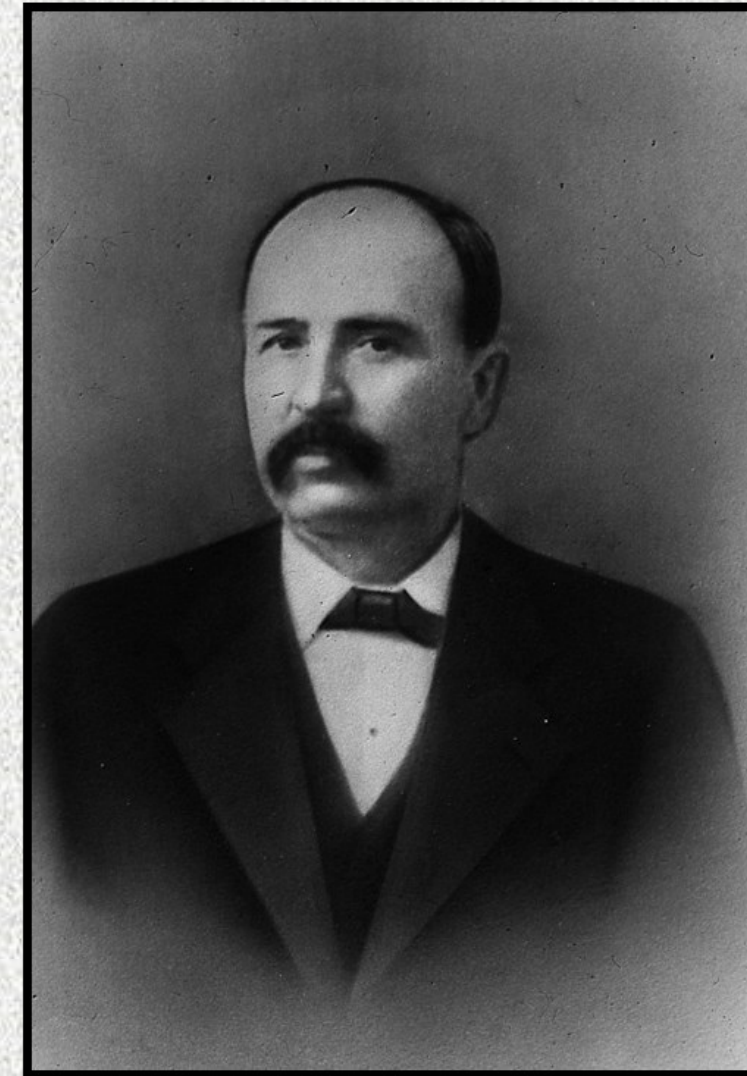
Many of their children are
also buried at the family lot.



Block 6

This enclosed family plot is the resting place of civil war Union Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis and his wife, Belinda *Buckingham* Curtis. Their children are also buried here. Curtis served in many military positions throughout his life and was appointed to congress prior to the civil war. After the war, he was commissioned to help negotiate with Plains Indians and would later aid in overseeing the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. A statue of Curtis can be seen at Victory Park on the Keokuk riverfront. The statue had originally been placed at the corner of 3rd and Main but was later moved to the Victory Park.

J. C. Hubinger



Block 17



J. C. Hubinger began his working life as a baker. With his brothers, he developed a formula for elastic starch and opened the J. C. Hubinger Company. His influence in Keokuk extended to railways, power plants, telephone services, a vast amusement park and an impressive and sprawling estate. By 1900 however, with a dwindling income he was forced to sell out. Hubinger died in a boarding house at 616 High Street at the age of 57. At this time of his death, he carried a personal wealth of around \$50,000, just 10% of his wealth a decade before (current exchange would be a decrease from 13 million to 1.3 million). Still not exactly pocket change, but a massive difference from his formerly extravagant life and generous giving.

Harriet Angeline Martin Cook
Birthdate unknown
Died December 14, 1847

Block 2, lot 7

Harriet was possibly buried at the 12th and Des Moines cemetery as her death took place in 1847, prior to Oakland being opened as a burial ground.

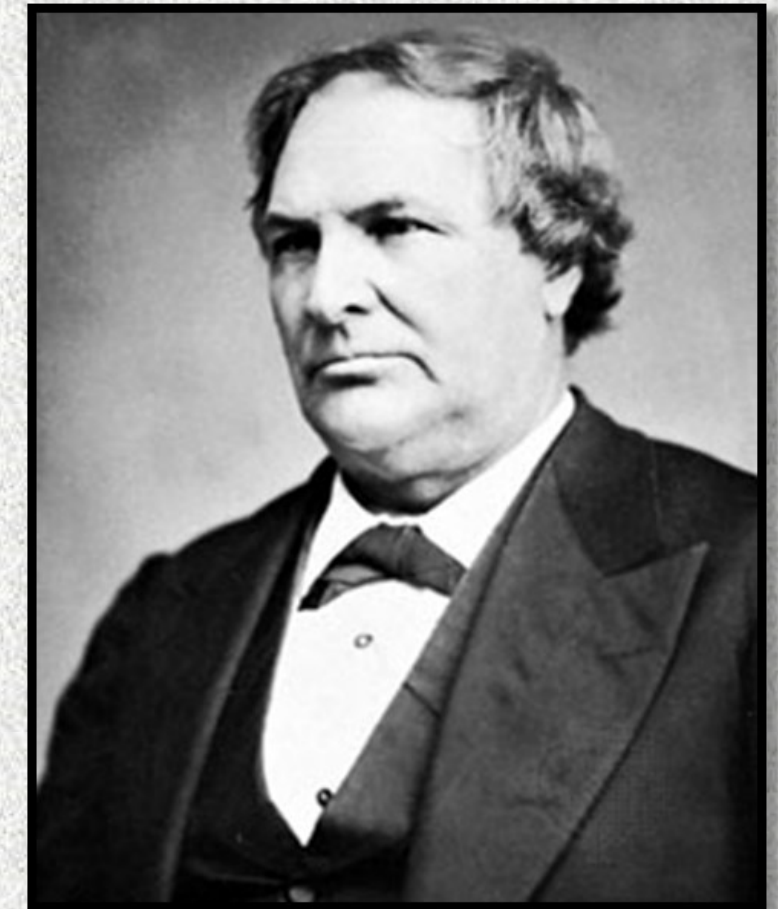
The symbol of a weeping willow can be understood to indicate immortality as willow trees grew quickly and were relatively hardy. The “weeping” symbolism can also be representative of the grief felt by the bereaved.

Harriet herself remains somewhat of a mystery. As her marker indicates she was the “wife of” J. H. Cook. She would not have been on the 1840 census as her own line, but would have been counted as a female in the house of her husband (or father if she was not yet married to J. H. Cook). With that in mind, any additional information about Harriet likely remains lost to the past.





Samuel Freeman Miller And Eliza Miller



Block 18, lot 6

Samuel Freeman Miller was admitted to the bar in 1847 and was a lawyer in Keokuk. He went on to serve as a US Supreme Court Justice, nominated by Abraham Lincoln. Miller's home at 318 N. 5th has been occupied by the Lee County, Iowa Historical Society since 1965. Miller is buried here with his second wife, Eliza Winter Miller. His first wife Lucy L. Ballinger Miller is buried nearby.

Chimney pipe grave markers



**Jerry Bresnahan
Grace Marie Phillips
Johanna Fitzpatrick**

Block LL

These unique markers appear to be granite from a distance, but upon further inspection, they are chimney pipes.

Jerry Bresnahan may have been the brother of Grace Phillips (wife of John Phillips) and Johanna Fitzpatrick (possibly wife of Pat Fitzpatrick). There are no dates or other information on these markers aside from the names. The lack of information makes a connection difficult to prove.

Priest's Circle Mid Catholic Section



Very Rev. Thomas O'Reilly, V. F. 1844 to 1909 – inscription reads “pastor of St. Peter’s Church for 35 years, apostle of Iowa parochial schools, earnest advocate of total abstinence. May he rest in peace.”

Rev. Maurice Howard – born at Thomastown Co., Limerick, Ireland January 4, 1813. Ordained a priest November 1, 1842. He served as priest for 45 years and died while he was a pastor at St. Francis de Sales church.

The iron fence around Rev. Howard’s memorial is rather interesting in itself and is in relatively good condition considering that it is nearing or at least 130 years old!



Mary Anna Lanigan
Died 7-12-1861



Mary Benedicta McHugh
Died 12-22-1864



Rev. Jacobum Orth
Born September 1, 1818
Died October 26, 1897

Center Loop, Old Catholic Section



SISTER MARTINA MURPHY
DAUGHTER OF CHARITY
AUGUST 7, 1854
OCTOBER 26, 1935
65 YEARS VOCATION



SISTER CATHERINE MAHONEY
DAUGHTER OF CHARITY
MARCH 17, 1849
NOVEMBER 4, 1880
7 YEARS VOCATION



Mary Agnes Journet
Died 3-4-1861



Mary Aimie Burke
Died 12-12-1866



Mary Louisa Swartz
Died 11-3-1864



Mary Gabrielle Rice
Died 12-28-1861



Mary Cecilia Creed
Died 12-28-1881



Mary Frances Clagett
Died 7-26-1865

Sister's circle is comparable to priest's circle in the mid-Catholic section, several sisters are buried together in the old Catholic section. At one end, is a memorial for Reverend Jacobum Orth, priest of St. Mary's. The inscription on his monument reads "A Priest Faithful and True, The Chalice of the Lord, His Salvation and Protection."

Those who died during the 1860's are suspected to have died of "consumption" or tuberculosis. If that is the case, it is likely that they developed the disease while working in one of the civil war hospitals. In close quarters, the disease spread very, very rapidly. Services for Mary Gabrielle Rice and Mary Cecilia Creed were conducted together and were written about as "one of the largest ever seen in the city."



Charles Riffley

Born August 27, 1837

Died August 23, 1891

Ann E. Riffley

Born May 2, 1838

Died March 2, 1901

Block 1

Charles was born in Germany and Ann in Kentucky. He served in Company A, 30th IA and later marched with Sherman. Later in life, he was an alderman for the 5th ward. Ann was part of a Lee County pioneer family, having arrived here in 1840. She was married to E. J. Hamlett in 1850 and had three children. She married Charles F. Riffley in 1860. Ann was described as a sweet and patient woman.

His stone has a handshake and the Oddfellows symbol. Hers appears to be a flower.

Crane Family



Block 5



Obadiah M. Crane



Nancy (Branson) Crane

William (d. Aug. 1921)
George A. (d. Dec. 11, 1880)
Nancy (d. Nov. 1870)
Obadiah M (d. Feb. 1852)

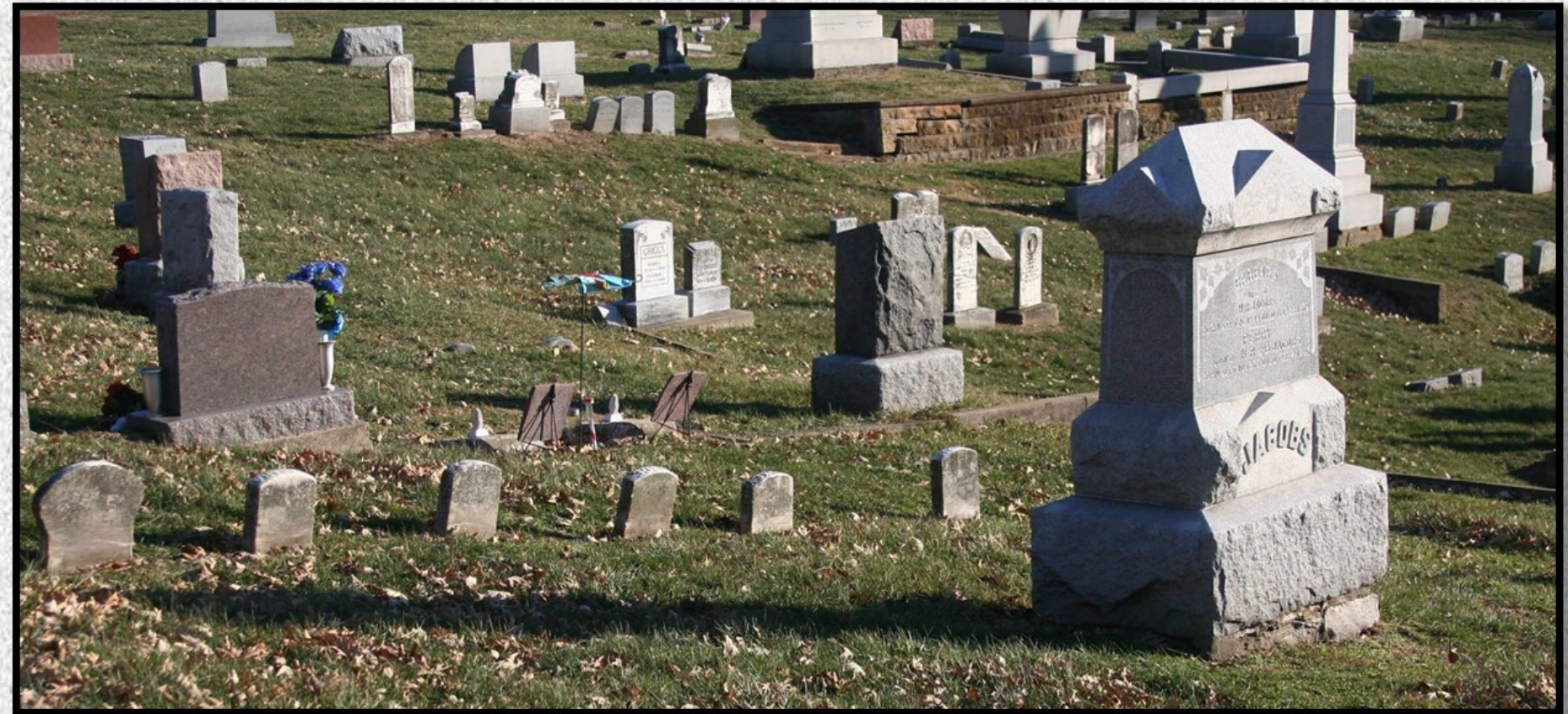
Ellsworth (Knights Templar)
(d. Aug. 27, 1931)
Sarah Belle (d. Jul. 4, 1960)
Ruth (d. Jan. 1990)*

William (WWI soldier, d. in France, Dec. 1918)*

Obadiah, Sr. was the family's patriarch. He would have been among the earliest arrivals of residents to Keokuk and was living here in 1850 with his son and daughter in law. George's stone bears a Masonic square and compass with flowers. Nancy is the wife of Obadiah, Jr. who remarried and is buried in California. Ellsworth and his wife Sarah were married in 1891. Ruth and William are children of Ellsworth and Sarah. Ellsworth and Sarah had another daughter, Hazel. In the foreground is a marker for Elizabeth Fassett and her infant who died in 1852.

Jacobs Family

Block 1



H. Rickey, 1846-1930



Barbara, 1844-1879



Alice, 1844-1911



Perry, 1875-1897



Carrie, 1868-1934

While not especially remarkable in design, this family plot is quite interesting. Each family member had their own individual marker to match the others and the family had a large marker for the whole family with relationships and dates for each person. It wasn't designated as a family plot with a border or marking, but it's quite a nice memorial. Henry Rickey married Barbara. She died in 1879 and he then married Alice. Perry and Carrie are children of H. Rickey and Barbara. Another daughter, Anna is also buried in Oakland with her husband Harvey Beach. H. Rickey would take a third wife, Francis Turner, in 1914.

Rickey came to America from Holland at the age of 7 and made a life here. The Jacobs family ran a grocery business throughout their life in Keokuk with many members of the family included in the business.


A. Vockrodt

August 19, 1829 to February 7, 1878

DAILY GATE CITY.

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 1, 1874.

**PREMIUM
CREAM ALE,**
MANUFACTURED BY
A. VOCKRODT,
Keokuk, Iowa.
P. O. BOX 582.



APPROVED BY
MANY DOCTORS
TO BE THE
THE HEALTHI-
EST AND BEST
DRINK FOR FAM-
ILY USE.

Orders may be left at R. Heiser's, Main street, be-
tween 8th and 9th streets. marl-3m



Block 8

Christian Adolph Vockrodt was born in Germany in 1829. He arrived in the US in 1855 and established himself as a brewer in Lee County shortly thereafter. This ad for his ale brewery states that his “premium cream ale...is approved by doctors to be the healthies and best drink for family use.” Sounds good! His wife Dorothea and their son Rudolph Adolphi are also buried at this location. Dorothea died in 1899 while Rudolph was a mere 10 years old at the time of his death in 1869. Rudolph died of “congestion of the brain,” stroke, head injury, meningitis, or small pox could all lead to such a cause of death.

The Cole Family

John H., Leulia W., Ora Belle, Iva Cole Carter, and S. Chandler Carter



A literal family stone

Block C

John H. was the superintendent of the Keokuk-Hamilton bridge. He died in 1924. His wife Leulia died in 1940. S. Chandler Carter was in the lumber business. He was married to Iva (Cole) Carter who died 1972. Ora Belle Cole, a teacher, died in 1971. The photo shows her in 1896 at Keokuk High School. Iva and Ora were daughters of John H. and Leulia. It appears that the family took several trips to London over the years, and visited Canada as well. The dates of travel were always near Ora's birthday and only started after father John H. Cole passed away in 1924.

Based on their obituaries, the women of the family were extremely close to one another and often visited one another at their homes in various parts of the country. They also appear to be incredibly socially connected. Leulia was a founding member of the Benevolent Union as well as several other charitable and social organizations in Keokuk.

Raplee

**Uriah
(1808-1878)
And
Letitia A.
(1813-1881)**

Block 3



Uriah was born in 1808 in New York, his wife Letitia in 1813. He died in 1878 and she passed on in 1881. These stones are so symmetrical with exception of the last name at the bottom. Also of note is the period after “Raplee” on Uriah’s stone. This was often a part of written language at the time of Uriah’s death. These stones also have great detail about the lives they memorialize with regard to personal and life details.

Uriah was a baker in Keokuk according to the 1860 federal census and seemed to do fairly well for himself and his family through his profession.



Thomas Donovan
Cathrine Donovan

Thomas Donovan died October 6, 1856. Several sources are conflicting on his birthdate and age. As best can be determined, he was born around 1849/1850 and died at the age of about 7. The plaque indicates a birth of 1819, but this may not be accurate...especially considering the spelling of 'Cathrine' (unsure of the relationship to Thomas) and the misspelling of Dowling on Mary's plaque. Errors seem to be common at this lot.

Mary Olive Dowling died August 20, 1859 at the age of 2 years, 6 months, and 10 or 19 days (broken stone). She was the daughter of T & M Dowling. Her death was the result of burns of some sort. At the time of her death, she was residing in Hancock County, IL. A search for an obituary is absolutely futile as such a thing simply didn't exist, certainly not for a child.

Block KK



Mary Olive Dowling



Fulton Children's Plot

Block 5

These stones belong to the children of Harry and Nancy Elnora (Patterson) Fulton. 4 sons and a daughter.

Charles died Oct. 13, 1851 · Albert H. died Jul 27, 185_ · Harry S. died May 18, 1854 · Maggie D. died Sep. 19, 1856 · Willie D. died Oct. 9, 1864, age 11 months, 18 days.

This family was clearly full of tragic deaths of children. This plot is a reminder that so many children didn't live to adulthood. The sleeping lambs and the draped stones are symbolic of grieving after the loss of a child. Two other children lived to adulthood, Nancy and Ida. They are buried near their siblings.

This family was not connected to Fulton Street. Fulton Street was named after a street in Philadelphia, a favorite location of Isaac Galland, plotter of Keokuk in it's early days.



Block 6



Frank C. and Jesse Ruddick

Sons of William and Martha Ruddick

Frank was born March 1, 1861 and died March 15, 1865, just two weeks after his fourth birthday.

Jesse was born October 2, 1869 and died July 20, 1878 at the age of 8 years, 9 months, and 18 days.

Take note, Frank and Jesse were brothers, but never met. The archway of their grave marker is a symbol for the gateway to heaven. The marker would have been placed after Jesse's death, so the question is...was Frank without a marker for 13 years? Did he have another marker before this larger one was established for both boys?

William and Martha are buried in Columbus, Indiana.

Kilbourne Family



Block 8



Each side has engravings similar to this one – a name, birth and death date, and often a second name, relationship, and dates. David, Harriet Rice, Emma L. H., Harriet E., George E., and Augusta Wells Kilbourne are buried at this family plot.

David and Edward Kilbourne were among the earliest pioneers and laid out the town of Montrose. David would go on to become a mayor of Keokuk. His son, George Erskine Kilbourne married Augusta Wells. The family would be known as a leading influence in society, politics, and business of the 1800's and early 1900's.



**Thomas and Annie
Ryan**



Block KK

These two stones are plain but quite symbolic. They belong to Thomas and Annie Ryan, both natives of Kilkenny, Ireland. Thomas was a stonemason who lived from 1827-1880 (he died of consumption) and Annie lived from 1829-1892. She was likely a homemaker. Her obituary states that her funeral was well attended as many in the community were very fond of her.

While these stones are not exactly remarkable, and are at best, barely readable, they are the perfect reminder that not all stones are impressive, unusual, or high-profile. The majority of Oakland's permanent residents are "average citizens" who passed through Keokuk during their lifetime. So many stones may be forgotten over time, "lost to the elements," broken, or somehow damaged.



Block 25



Block 2



Block 1

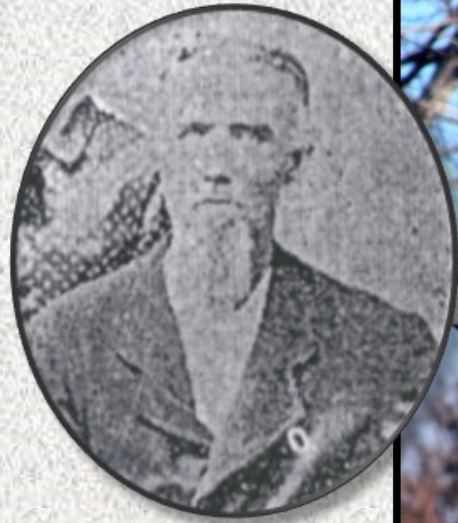
Urn topped markers

These were not necessarily a symbol of cremation but rather an acceptance of death. A draped urn is a symbol of sorrow and guarding of the deceased. It shows the division between life and death and is one of the most common cemetery symbols.

Hale – Oscar Cutler Hale and Susan D. Rix Hale – Oscar was highly involved in business in Keokuk, partnering in iron and steel manufacturing companies, organized Rix, Hale, & Co. (banking). He later worked with various banks in the area and was an investor in many stock and loan companies. Susan no doubt lent a name to the Rix side of her husband's banking association.

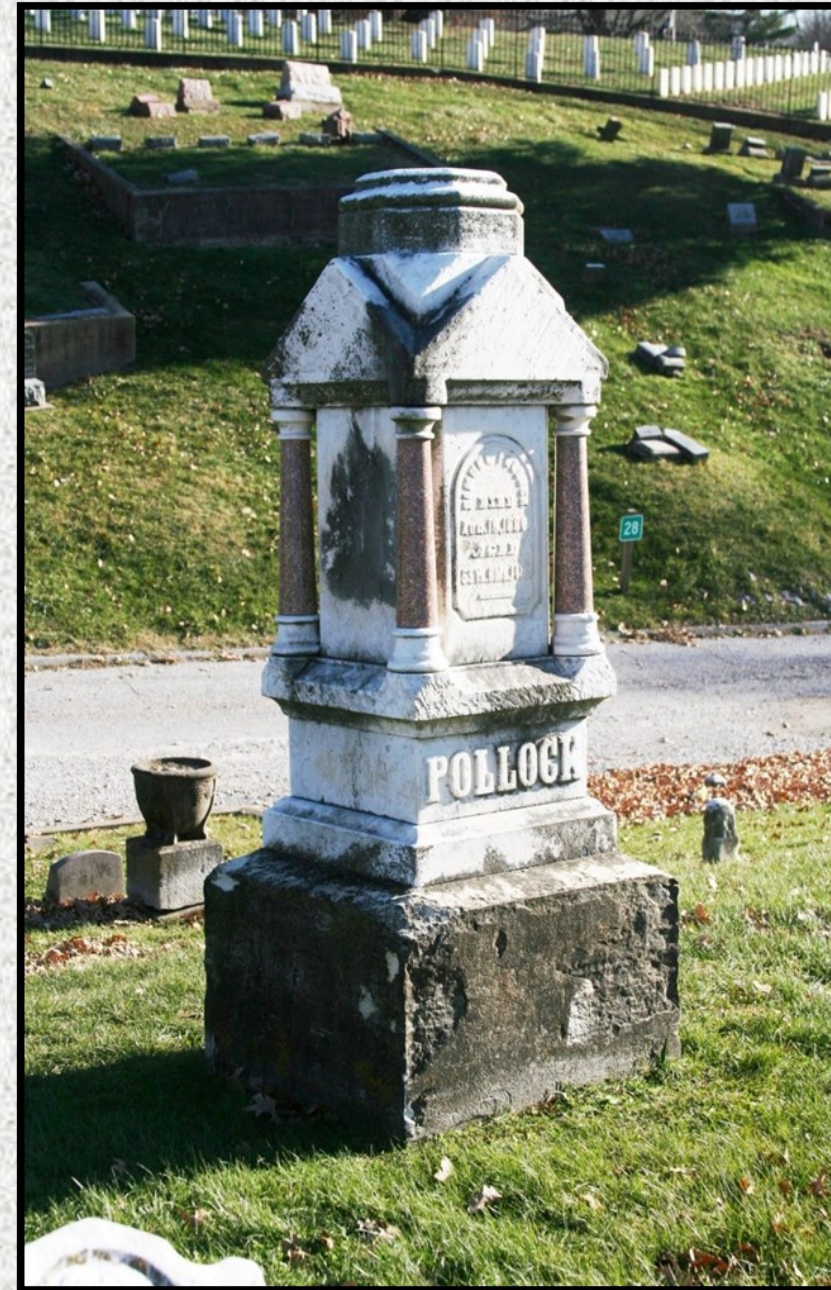
Hinman – Elizabeth & Mary, twins of B. B. (Botsford Bennett) & E. (Ellen) E. Hinman. They were born July 13, 1850. Elizabeth died July 21, 1851 and Mary on September 13 of the same year. Also Lott Hinman, born and died March 14, 1853. B. B. Hinman assisted in the building of the First Methodist Episcopal church located at what is now the 300 block of Exchange and was later a superintendent of the Chatham Square Methodist Episcopal Church Sabbath school. The Hinmans were also the parents of Ida Hinman, feminist, journalist, suffragette and temperance activist. Amos Hinman, memorialized on the reverse of the stone, was B. B.'s father.

Wappich – William Sr., Stephanie (wife of William Sr.), and their children William, Jr., and Julia. Their other daughter Henrietta, is also buried in block 1. She was the first wife of baker Jacob Schouten. William Sr. was listed as a "capitalist," a man who lived on the income provided by ownership in land, stock, etc. or by loaning money to others. However, in his younger years, he was a baker.



Block 3

Bartlett And Pollock Family Plots



Block 6

These stones are among many in Oakland which carry names of parents and their younger children.

H. D. and Sarah Bartlett are buried at this lot with several of their children. Melissa A. was nearly four years old and died June 16, 1854. James Henry died three days later, just a week shy of his second birthday. Ida Bell was about 18 months old at the time of her death in September of 1857. H. D. was a deputy marshal in Keokuk and would have assisted in grave digging for Oakland, specifically in potter's field.

The Pollock family plot includes father Samuel who died at age 55 in 1880 and two children, Zella who died at the age of 4 years in 1863 and Harvey who died at the age of just 6 months in 1855. Samuel was a grocer in Keokuk and built the family a fine home at 326 S. 6th. After his death, his widow resided there until 1887.

Huiskamp Family Plot

Block 30



This interesting plot belongs to the Huiskamp family. It is surrounded by a border wall which is engraved with the family name at the front. At the back is a bench where one could sit during visits to the cemetery. It was not uncommon for family and friends of the deceased to picnic at a gravesite, especially surrounding the anniversary of a death or at particular holidays. The structure of the Huiskamp plot would have no doubt made this easier and more welcoming. It is worth noting that several Huiskamp children are buried in this area. Many Huiskamp family members of later generations surround the larger center.

The Huiskamp family, of shoe manufacturing fame and other ventures, contributed a large amount toward the construction of the original library building, thus leaving a legacy of learning and leisure for future generations.

Nichols Family Plot

Block 23



The Nichols family has a plot similar to the Huiskamp family “just down and across the street” in the valley of Oakland. Jonathan W. and wife Drusilla are interred here, as are their children, including an infant son. J. W. was listed as a head electrician and later was involved in establishing the local telephone company. His wife and other family members also participated in providing telephone service, specifically Bell service, to the Keokuk area.

Martin

Block G



James and Margaret Martin and their children Lizzie and Gracie

JAMES MARTIN,

The finest line of Staple and Fancy

GROCERIES,

At the lowest prices. A specialty made of Fresh Eggs, Butter and other country produce. Fruits and Vegetables in season. Cor. 5th and Johnson.

many years. When James Martin bought the property on which this tree stands he conceived the idea of gaining some good therefrom and ever since his estblishment has been known as the Elm Tree Grocery. It was a taking name and its adoption resulted in profit to the concern. Mr. Martin began life in years ago Keokuk as a clerk and finally embarked in business for himself. He had a struggle to get upon a safe basis but by hard work succeeded. He owns the fine three story brick in which he does business and has a prosperous trade. The stock is of the best and patrons numerous. At leisure seasons of the year Mr. Martin, who is a great lover of horseflesh pays some attention to turf matters. He always has a good horse for pleasure driving and usually throws the dust in the eyes of the other fellows.

The Gate City.

Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

shape form." MAY 8, 1884.

The Old Elm Tree.

The old elm tree standing on the corner of Fifth and Johnson streets has protected thousands of people from the rays of the sun in the heated terms for

James and Margaret Martin’s stones are on the left and infant daughters Lizzie and Gracie are on the right. James was a grocer in Keokuk. The elm tree on the grocery store advertisement mirrors that on the grave markers for Gracie and Lizzie. Perhaps coincidence, perhaps intentional.

Gracie died on November 13, 1873 at the age of 3 years, 7 months, and 20 days. Her sister, Lizzie, died just over 4 months later on March 27, 1874 at the age of just 2 months. As with the Ruddick brothers, the siblings never met.



**Bernard
Slavin**

**Old Catholic
KK**



Bernard Slavin died August 16, 1874 at a boarding house in Keokuk where he had been residing since his relocation to Keokuk not long before his death. His will states that \$1,500 of his estate was to be reserved and spent for the construction of his memorial at the Catholic Cemetery. There was some controversy at the time of his death over who would take care of his arrangements. He was a resident at a boarding house and in his will provided a sum of \$3,000 to the wife of the boarding house owner. Prior to his arrival in Keokuk, he resided at Oskaloosa and was seemingly not connected to the boarding house owners. This all makes his will sound a bit suspicious!

Cemetery Symbolism



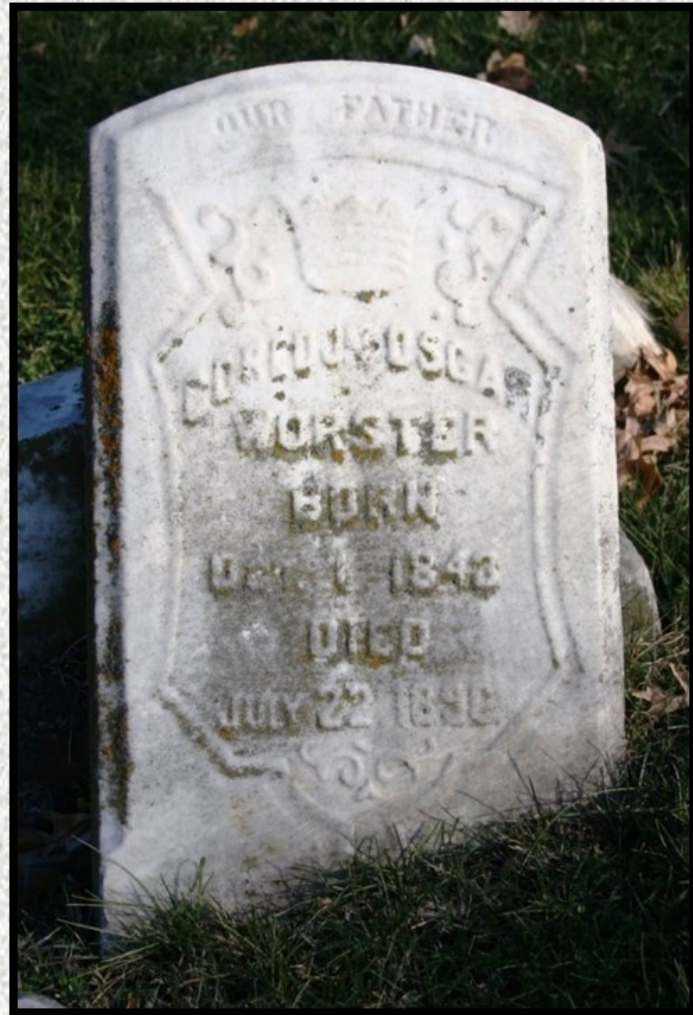
Block 6



Block 8

From left to right:

- ♦ Catherine Mapel – born May 23, 1799 and died July 11, 1873 (her stone bears an angel with crossed arms). In 1820 she married Jacob Mapel in Ohio. Jacob was a farmer in Lee County according to the 1850 census. Ancestry.com indicates they may have had at least 11 children. The photo is of Catherine's husband Jacob.
- ♦ The next stone has a laurel wreath symbolizing a triumph with an inverted torch symbolizing the extinguishing of life. There also appears to be crossed swords which indicate a death in battle. The name and dates are now unreadable.
- ♦ The third stone almost appears to read as another Catherine, perhaps a relative of Jacob Mapel or former stone for Catherine, but the rest is unreadable.
- ♦ Isaac J. Price born March 1822 and died November 1, 1855. The finger pointing up indicates a sudden death and the soul bound for heaven. Had this been an inverted pointing finger, the indication would be that God is pulling the soul from the person toward Heaven. Isaac died of typhoid fever at the age of 33. An obituary for Isaac states that he died "without the comfort of his wife and children nearby as they were away visiting her family."



**Coredon Oscar & Augusta S. Worster
Block 25**

These stones belong to Coredon Oscar Worster (born October 1, 1843 and died July 22, 1896) and his wife Augusta S. Worster (born March 29, 1837 and died May 4, 1883). Mr. Worster went by Oscar throughout available records. He served in the Civil War in Iowa and Missouri divisions. He died of what is thought to be a stroke while waiting for a train in Montrose.

John Carver, a miller, could possibly have been the father of Charles H. Carver. The symbol of wheat on his stone could indicate his trade. It is also indicative of his having lived a long and fruitful life. According to his stone, he was born in 1788 and died in 1877 – a long life indeed given the times he lived through!

Charles H. Carver - born January 17, 1849 and died September 2, 1875. son of John & Margaret B. Carver. Brother was a physician. The family came to Keokuk in 1857. The last directory to show Charles H. Carver indicated his employment as a clerk, but doesn't mention where.

John Carver

**Charles H. Carver
son of John & Margery**

Block 1



Hezekiah Jones



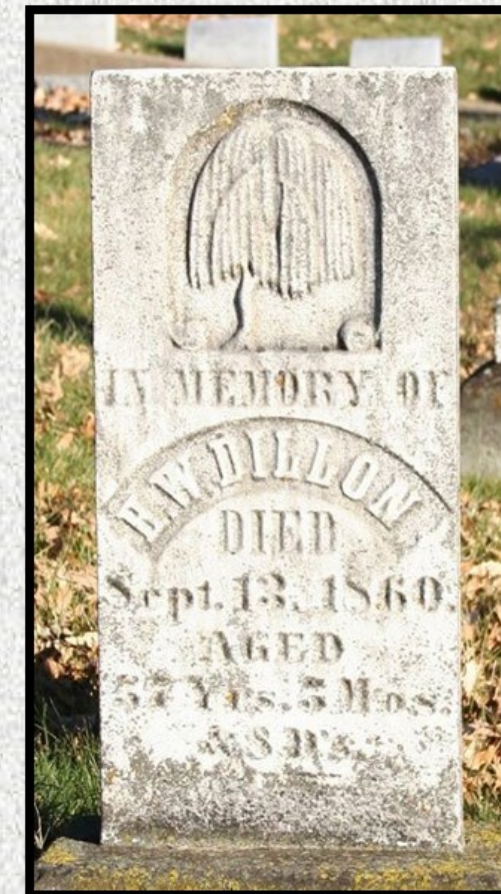
Sarah Jones



Benjamin K. Jones



H. W. Dillon



Dr. James J. Brice



Block 2

Roses could have been a symbol of a life cut short as in the case of Hezekiah Jones who died of pneumonia on January 31, 1870, age 31.

In the case of Sarah Jones, whose stone also bears roses, a strong bond between two people is indicated by joined rosebuds. This symbolism was often used for a mother and child who died at approximately the same time. However, I can find no record of a child who may have been buried with her. Sarah was the wife of E. H. Jones (Hezekiah's brother. She died December 26, 1863 at the age of 23 years, 9 months, 18 days.

The willow tree was a symbol of loss and mourning; Benjamin K. Jones died August 16, 1851 at age 39. Benjamin was the father of Hezekiah and E. H., father in law to Sarah.

Another stone bearing the willow tree is that of H. W. Dillon. He died September 13, 1860, age 57 years, 6 months, 8 days. The 1860 census indicates he may have owned a boarding house in Keokuk.

A depiction of Jesus on a stone indicated being the stone belonging to person of faith; Dr. James J. Brice died September 6, 1861, aged 51 years, 6 months, 10 days. His stone appears to read "Dr" but the city directories all indicate he was a merchant. Could it possibly be "Mr." instead of "Dr."?

Block 6

Fraternal Organizations



**William Oldenburgh,
Oddfellows
Block 6**



**William Dillon,
Masons
Block 6**

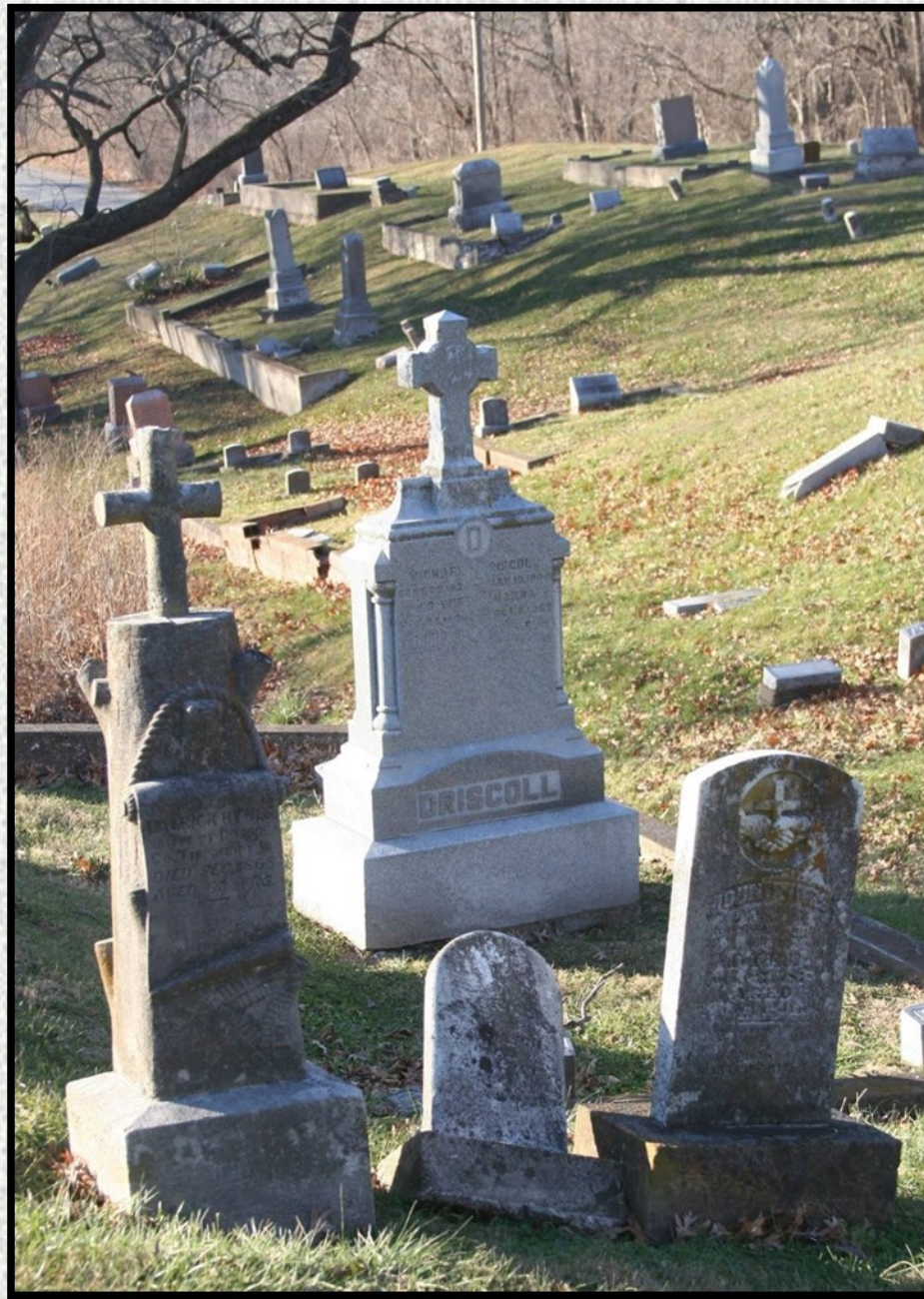


**Charles Allen,
Knights Templar
Block 8**



**John Carter,
Masons & Oddfellows
Block H**

- William Oldenburgh was born October 22, 1832 and died September 17, 1902. The FLT in linked chain denoted membership in the Order of the Odd Fellows (FLT standing for friendship, love, and truth). William and his wife Belle resided at 102 Concert. He was a steamboat engineer.
- William Dillon died September 3, 1878. He worked as a clerk according to the 1860 census. Another William Dillon is listed in the 1870 census. However, it is indicated that he cannot read or write and he is listed as a laborer, so likely not the same man as the one named in the 1860 record.
- Charles Allen served as a deputy county clerk until just before his death in 1880. He had previously served as a justice of the peace and occasional acting coroner. His wife, Adelia R. Talbot Allen was born August 14, 1835. She succumbed to cancer in February of 1892.
- John Carter died October 9, 1872. Very little information is available about Mr. Carter. Given the construction and design of his memorial, it seemed likely to find an abundance of information about him. However, the only John Carter shown in Keokuk at the time of his death is employed with Carter Bros lumber and finishing materials company. There is a John Carter working as a farmer in Farmington in 1856 but it cannot be determined if they are one and the same.



Hynes And Driscoll Families Block NN



Patrick and John Hynes were natives of Roscrea, County Tipperary, Ireland. Patrick died in September of 1868 at the age of 83 years. A mortality record shows his occupation at time of death was as a dock worker on the canal and cause of death is listed as intermittent fever. His son Felix had the very unique grave marker placed for him. This may be one of the most unique stones in Oakland cemetery. Having been carved to look like a tree, there is a cross protruding from the top and a scroll hung on one of the branches. The rope detail is incredible as are the ferns growing from the bottom. There is also minimal tilting of the stone or the base. The first picture looks askew, but the marker stands nearly spot on upright. There is no indication of who's marker stands between Patrick and John. It has become illegible and there are no records placing a burial between the two. John died October 27, 1878 at age 20 years & 4 months. His sister Margaret had his gravestone placed.

Behind the Hynes is the Driscoll family plot. Buried here are Michael and his wife Johanna. Michael was born Sep. 29, 1820 and died May 19, 1904. Johanna was born May 20, 1826 & died Oct. 6, 1902. Their son, Michael, Jr is also buried here. He was born September 12, 1850 and died September 23, 1935. Timothy Driscoll and his wife Ellen G. Driscoll are in the plot here as well. Timothy was born December 16, 1848 and died May 6, 1915. His wife Ellen lived from February 23, 1861 to June 23, 1924. The border surrounding the Driscoll family plot could have two purposes: one to establish the area as a final resting place for the family and the other, to keep the hillside from sliding down and disturbing the burials. Both are simultaneously possible.



Graham And Comstock

This family plot is the resting place of

- ♦ Martha M. (Coyle) Graham (March 13, 1820 to August 1, 1887)
- ♦ William C. Graham, Sr. (January 21, 1809 to November 18, 1898)
- ♦ William C. Graham, Jr. (April 16, 1844 to January 17, 1849) who was likely moved to this cemetery from another early Keokuk cemetery.
- ♦ Helen Marie Comstock (circa 1841 to April 12, 1914) was a daughter of William and Martha M. (Coyle) Graham. She married Gilbert Comstock of stove manufacturing fame. She traveled often and was a woman of great philanthropy and service to the communities where she lived. Helen was described as a “woman of the greatest charm and a delight to the eye.” She died at the age 73 years in Pasadena, CA.
- ♦ Mary A. Morrison, daughter of C. S. & I. N. (August 10, 1858 to March 27, 1860)
- ♦ Kate V. Morrison, daughter of C. S. & I. N. (February 21, 1860 to July 19, 1862)

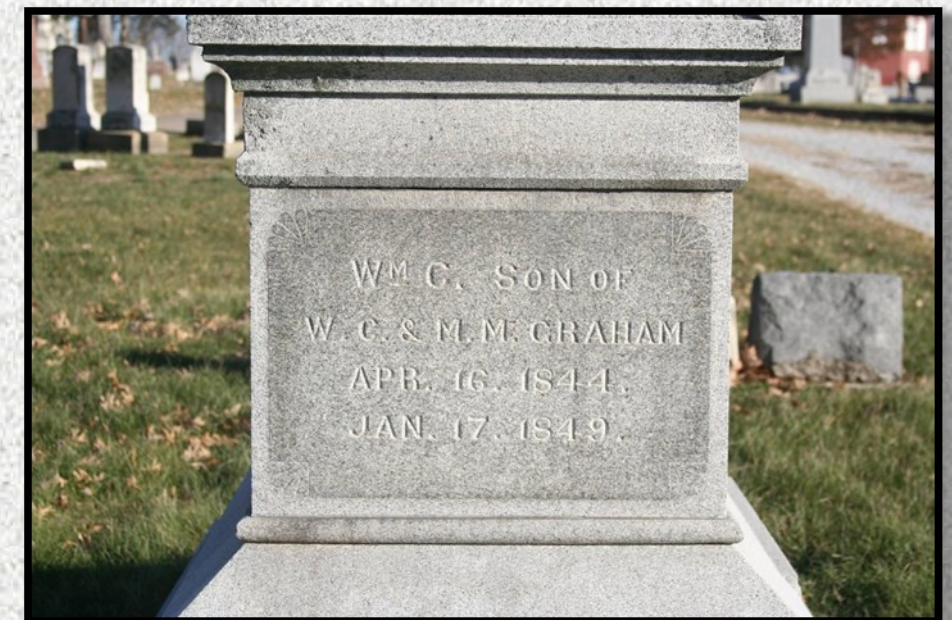
Mary and Kate’s lives overlapped by a mere month and a few days
The two girls were great nieces of William (granddaughters of William’s brother John)

The fourth side is blank as is the space below Helen Marie Comstock’s name.
Her husband is buried elsewhere, but searches have yielded no results.

The Graham family was originally from Virginia and moved to Keokuk in 1847. William Graham is the namesake for Graham Hospital in Keokuk’s past. William’s brother John was one of the first mayors in Keokuk.



Block 8



Bregenzer

Fred (1871 to 1911) and
Nellie (1868 to 1954)
Fred's untimely death was caused from
an on the job incident involving his
employment with the railroad. His wife
Nellie died much later of natural causes.

Mid Catholic C



Block 1

Bertram

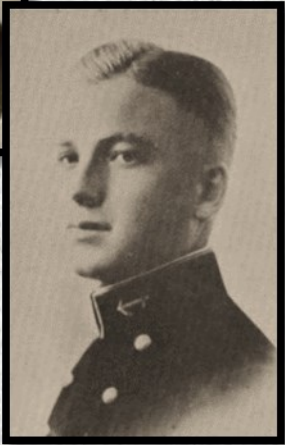
This stone marks the graves of William, Minna (short for Wilhelmina), and Pauline. Pauline was the only child of William and Minna. William and Pauline were both medical doctors. Pauline was among the first women to practice medicine in Keokuk having graduated from Keokuk College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1890. The elder Dr. Bertram served as the city physician of New Orleans from 1853 to 1858 then a surgeon and medical director for the U. S. Army before coming to Keokuk in 1876. Pauline was often seen wearing pant suits around town, an oddity for women in her lifetime.



Block 24

Joy

Belle (1866 to 1917) first wife of Clyde and mother of Ralph
Carol (1899 to 1920) son of Clyde
Clyde (1867 to 1951) family patriarch
Ralph (1891 to 1919) son of Clyde and Belle
Dorothy (1886 to 1932) second wife of Clyde
Clyde Royal Joy was a prominent businessman in Keokuk and beyond. His residential legacy is currently visible at 816 Grand Avenue, now the Grand Anne Bed and Breakfast.



Block L

Ida was the wife of G. I. Snider (born December 26, 1861 and died August 18, 1948). Ida was born April 10, 1858 and died September 10, 1911. Ida Snyder (with a Y) married George Snider (with an I) in Keokuk on May 8, 1884. The Sniders farmed in rural Lee County.

Sample Family

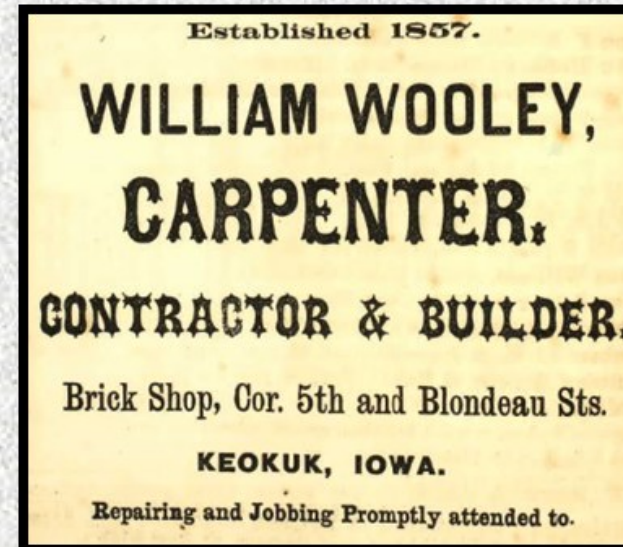
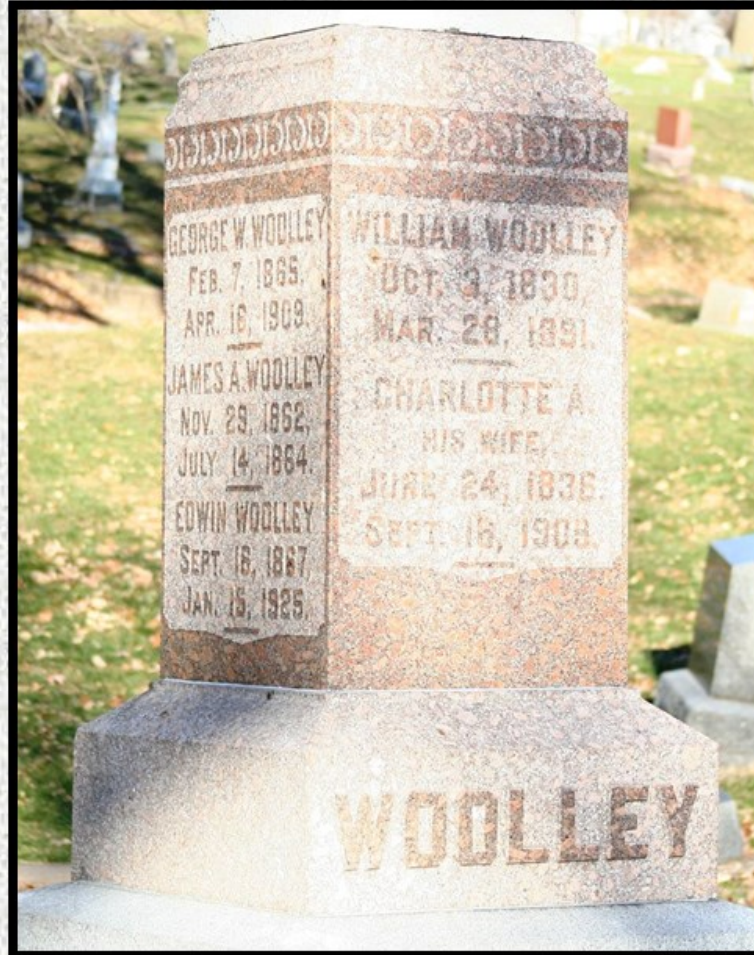
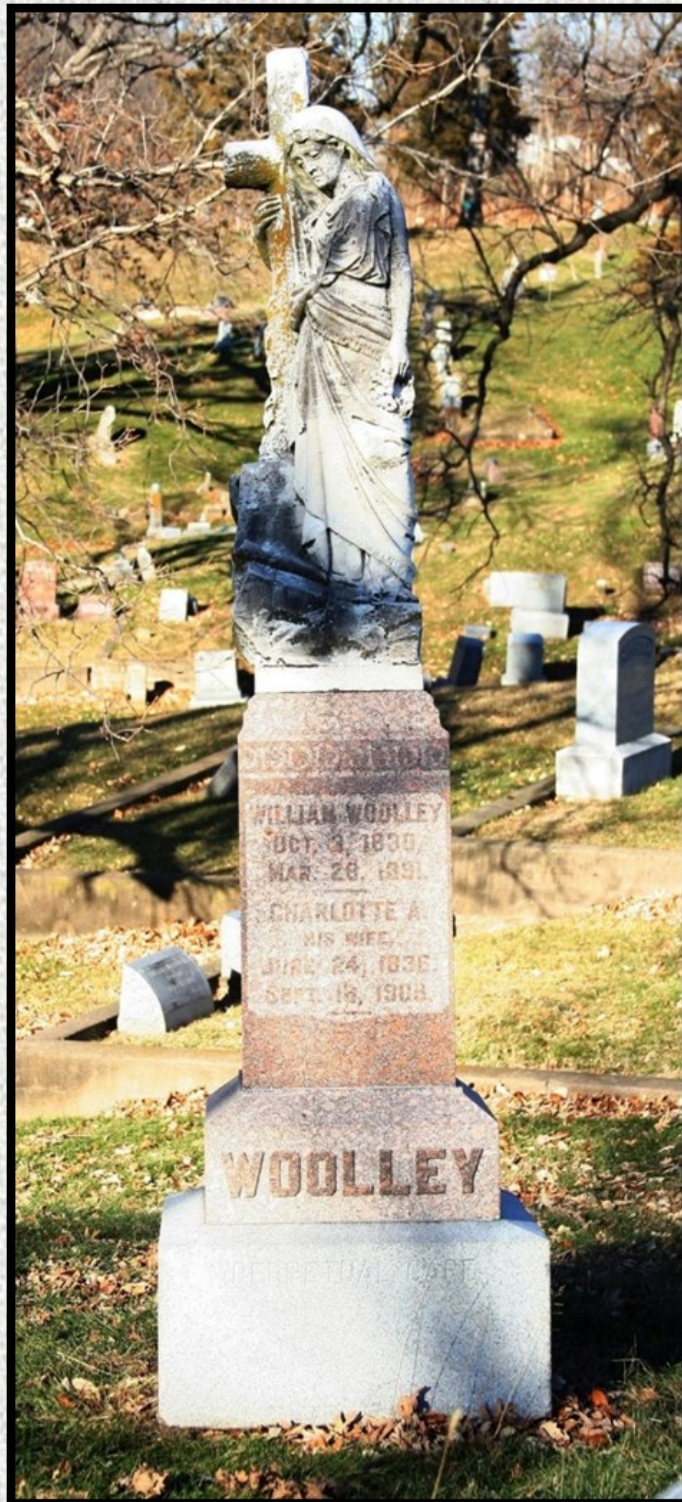
Block E
On top
of the
hill

21 or more members of
the Sample family
buried in this family plot
or memorialized within
it's structure.



Esther Jeffreys Sample is among the earliest deaths in the family. She was Hugh W. Sample's first wife and mother of Samuel and William. She died July 28, 1850 at the age of 35 years and 8 days. Hugh Sample was among the earliest mayors of Keokuk. The Sample family home at 205 N. 2nd was constructed in 1859 and has maintained a beautiful presence in its 159 year lifespan. In 1950, the monument was subject to vandalism which knocked down a bust of Hugh Sample having stood in the center of the marble structure. The bust has since been completely removed from the family plot.

Wooley Family Plot



Block 9



William Wooley, born October 3, 1830 and died March 28, 1891
Charlotte A., wife of William, born June 24, 1836 and died September 16, 1909
Frank M., son of William & Charlotte, born October 24, 1858 and died May 13, 1926
J. Arthur, son of William & Charlotte, born January 10, 1873 and died January 12, 1928
Albirdie, wife of J. Arthur, born December 10, 1874 and died February 9, 1958
George W., son of William & Charlotte, born February 7, 1865 and died April 16, 1909
James A., son of William & Charlotte, born November 29, 1862 and died July 14, 1864
Edwin, son of William & Charlotte, born September 16, 1867 and died January 15, 1925

William was a carpenter and his sons continued the family business. The Wooley contracting and building company was charged with construction of the Westminster Presbyterian Church parsonage, the Thomas Allyn and Thomas Ranson residences on Blondeau, as well as the Wooley's own family homes. Edwin was listed as a game warden in 1920 and brother J. Arthur was a foreman at a packing house. George W. would go on to be a railroad clerk in St. Louis and Frank was employed as a painter.



Elder, Birge, Irwin, & Hershey Block 6



It is worth noting that perpetual care does not mean “forever and ever personal grave tending.” Rather it is indicative of a groundskeeper to maintain the area around the grave, mowing and general upkeep of the cemetery as a whole, not just the specific plot.



Photos courtesy of Anne Bulmer Brewer and John McDermott via Ancestry.com and Find-A-Grave



Photos:

Bottom left to top right

-Elizabeth S. Irwin

-Joshua E. Elder

-Katherine S. Birge and her children, Lucy, Edwin “Ted,” Katherine (center) holding Joshua “Jot,” and Charles (future father of Julia)

-Lucy Kellogg Birge

-Charles Pitkin Birge

Joshua E. Elder (1864-1940) served as a mayor of Keokuk, a postmaster, a railroad executive, & later as a county food administrator. He married Katherine K. Birge (1869-1930) daughter of C. P. and Lucy (Kellogg) Birge. Elizabeth S. Irwin (1873-1962) was married to Joshua for only 9 years before his death. They were married September 12, 1931. At this plot, there is a marker for Julia Kellogg Elder Hershey (October 19, 1927 to July 29, 1999), granddaughter of Joshua and Katherine Elder. There is no connection to the Hershey chocolate family. Julia’s memorial marker at Oakland reads “Ashes abiding in Memorial Garden, First Unitarian Church, St. Louis. Courage and let the future trouble you no more. –Homer”

Charles Pitkin Birge (1835-1903) was a leader in organizing the Keokuk & Hamilton Water Power Company. He was also a part of the Kellogg-Birge family of wholesale grocers. Birge was a driving force behind the development of the public library and contributed to other service organizations. He also contributed property which would become the Benevolent Union home. Birge also placed a sizeable fountain in Rand Park in 1901 which stands today among a variety of flower beds and grasses.

Lucy Kellogg Birge (1832-1909) married Charles Pitkin Birge in 1867. Her obituary states that she had been working with her beloved flowers when she was stricken ill. She took to her bed and never recovered. Charles Pitkin and Lucy Kellogg Birge’s son, Charles P. Birge, Jr. (1861 to 1864), is also laid to rest at the family plot.



Children of Barent A. & his first wife (name and burial unknown)

- Horace—born circa 1840 and died April 4, 1928
- Barent A., Jr. (1)—Jan. 24, 1842 to Nov. 24, 1845, age 3 years, 10 months
- Almira – Aug. 10, 1844 to Dec. 12, 1845, age 1 year, 4 months, 2 days
- Thomas S. – Feb. 19, 1846 to Feb 15, 1847, age 11 months, 26 days
- Frank – Feb. 14, 1848 to April 11, 1849, age 1 year, 1 month, 27 days

children of Barent A. & Margaret E. (Steele):

- Beulah E. – Sep. 19, 1850 to Sep. 2, 1865, age 14 years, 11 months, 23 days
- Katie – Sep. 21, 1852 to Feb. 13, 1853, age 4 months, 22 days
- Edward L. – Apr. 6, 1854 to Jul. 13, 1864, age 10 years, 3 months, 7 days
- George W. J. – Oct. 23, 1856 to Jan. 23, 1860, age 3 years, 3 months
- Hattie R. – Feb. 22, 1858 to Feb. 2, 1860, 1 year, 11 months, 10 days
- Barent A., Jr. (2) – April 1, 1861 to 1935

Williams Family, Block C

Barent A. Williams was born September 1808. He would go on to become a merchant in Keokuk and was affiliated with a stove and tin company. Barent A. and his first wife would have 5 children, only one of whom would live to adulthood. Their son, Horace, would follow his father in keeping up the family business.

Between 1848 and 1850, Barent A. would wed a second time. Together with his second wife, Margaret E. Steele, 6 children would be born, only one living to adulthood, Barent A., Jr. (2).

In October 1872, Margaret filed for divorce. The divorce was granted and Barent was ordered to pay alimony in the amount of \$5,000. She also retained possession of their home and possessions, including one cow. Part of this settlement would become the subject of a lawsuit after Barent’s death just 3 short months after the divorce was finalized. He died of a bacterial skin infection on January 1, 1873 at the age of 64 years, 3 months, and 6 days.

In his will, Barent A., Sr. had left all of his property to his son, Horace, to carry on the business. However, the divorce complicated matters. A lawsuit was filed and Margaret was awarded the settlement after several legal battles.

After Barent’s death, Margaret and Barent A., Jr (2) would remain in Keokuk. By 1880, Margaret had taken on a boarder, Augustus F. Stroebel, a stove maker and tin worker. By 1885, Margaret and Augustus were married and were residing with Ms. Emily Magoun (widow of previously mentioned Mathew S. Magoun). At some point in their later years, Margaret and Augustus journeyed to west where they are buried with Barent, Jr. (2) and his family near Eugene, Oregon. They died in 1916, 1935, and 1939 respectively.

Horace is also buried at Oakland’s block C with his family, including two sons. One of the sons was also named Barent A.. He was born in 1874 and died of typhoid dysentery in 1884.

Barent A., Sr’s first wife remains unknown.



Many thanks to those who helped prepare this program through photos, information, and feedback.

May we always remember those who have come before us now resting in a city of grass and stone, those permanent residents of our cemeteries. Theirs are the past lives which have built our cities, and each of them has a story to tell.