

XIV
CEMETERIES AND GRAVEYARDS

Gen. John Tipton, Indian agent, was up river taking care of the 1828 payment. A messenger arrived, from Logansport, stating that Mrs. Ursuline McKeen was dying. Where was she to be buried? Tipton sent his brother-in-law, Major Dan. Bell, back to choose a site for a graveyard. He chose what is know as Spencer Square, between 9th & 10th, Market & Spear sts.. Mrs. McKeen didn't die then, but one of the Smith family did and was buried there later that year.

Gen. Tipton was also burnied there as well as a son of Major Bell, who died while a cadet at West Point Academy. His monument was of sandstone, in the form of a hollow square. It was held together with stone molding and covered with slabs of sandstone. It was 5 ft. high and 2 ft. square and looked solid. It was located on the SS of the cemetery, in the Van Metter lot. Van Metter married Bell's daughter.

Feb., 1841, the City passed an Ordinance for the purchase of a burial ground from the Tipton estate. It began at a point, adjacent to the Fort Wayne Road (Spear st.,) about 19 chains(1254 ft.) bearing 77°E from the NE corner of the Addition to the City, laid out in 1840, E parallel with the road and then south to form a square of about five acres.

This was authorized by the Probate court in Aug., 1840. "It was to be a burial ground forever." It cost \$275. Atty. John S. Patterson, Pres. of the Board, and Wm. Hubbel, City Rec., signed the Ordinance. It was part of the Administrator's Add.. The Administrators had been Atty. Spear S. Tipton, Chauncy Carter and Col. Jordan Vigus. It would have been about 467 ft. on a side. It isn't a square in 1972.

April, 1846, the graveyard was fenced. They started to cut down the trees, but a storm of protest saved a few. In Sept., 1846, it was platted into lots.

July, 1847, monuments, trees and ornaments had been effaced, injured, mutilated or destroyed. An Ordinance, 7-6-1847, said-"that every person who shall touch, cut, break, write upon, deface in any manner whatever, injure any stone, evergreen, shrub, tree, flower, shall be fined \$5 to \$25." Any person could make a complaint to the Mayor in writing. The actual owner would be a competent witness.

The Mayor, at City expense, had erected a board, with these words-"A fine of \$25 for touching any ornament in the City Grave Yard." The Mayor could offer a \$25 reward for the detection and conviction of a guilty person. Jacob Bemisdarfer was Mayor.

Collins S. Vigus, the City Recorder, announced that all Grave Yard lots, not paid for by 3-1-1855, would be sold again. There was a Sexton for the graveyard and he and he alone was to dig graves. Owners of lots could dig on their own lots. A fine of \$5 for non-compliance. The Sexton was to repair the Graveyard and the City Treas. was to pay for it. Charges were \$2 for an adult's grave and \$1.50 for a small one. The Sexton was to report the names of all buried the past month to the Recorder. The Recorder was to keep a record of same in a book for such purposes.

James Coffee was appointed Sexton. He lived in the first house west of the Graveyard as of 3-3-1855. He must have been the first Sexton.

The City Graveyard was too small. The Council dickered with parties for ground north and east of the City. It then purchased twenty-four acres of the Henry Thomas farm. This was on the Chicago Road. It was purchased of John H. Thomas and Sandford Thomas.

The body of a child was buried in a shallow grave, at night, without being registered, the week of July 7, 1855.

Thos. S. Dunn proposed laying out some land, S of John Long's farm, on the County road past the race track, which was the N bank of the Wabash river, 2 miles east of the City. (If auther figures this correctly, this would be in Marleton Hills Addition and timber is still standing in 1972. It was high, rolling and timber standing.

The Council on Mon., 9-8, arranged for the survey and the sale of lots. They paid \$3000 for the 24 acres. It was to be paid in 3, 12 and 24 months. They bought it 9-1. Dunn went ahead with his plans. Otis B. Gunn was in the Mayor's office and he platted the new cemetery.

Benj. W. Peters, attorney with Hudge Biddle, died 5-23-1857. He was the first to be buried in the new place. July 18, 1857, they hadn't mowed the old graveyard for that year and was in bad condition.

Nov. 7, 1857, the new graveyard was called Mount Hope. The City Atty. was instructed to look into the title of the ground deeded to the City by Sandford Thomas. It was said that Mrs. Henry Thomas had a lien on it for an annuity.

Thos. H. Wilson asked for a City order for the note he held for the cemetery in the amount of \$700. Another person, in Ohio, said he would wait another year for his \$1000 plus 10% interest.

Citizens' meeting was held at the school house on Little Deer creek, in Tipton tp., 1-2-1858 at 2 PM, to elect three trustees to aid in getting a deed and improving John W. Thomas' Burying ground, on Little Deer creek, in Tipton tp..

The week of 3-20-1858, Adam Smith was appointed Sexton of Mt. Hope. (I believe Adam Schmidt.)

The Graveyard committee and the City Engineer instructed to renumber lots in Mt. Hope, starting with #1. The week of Nov. 6, 1858, the City Treasurer was instructed to pay \$1000 on the debt for Mt. Hope.

The Cemetery committee was to subdivide 25 lots and sell them for \$3 to \$6. This was the week of 1-22-1859. They cut some new roads through in May. A new map of the Graveyard was presented to the Council in July. The Council ordered 100 stone posts for the corners.

Jan., 1860, it was unlawful to occupy Mt. Hope before the lots were paid for. (You can't die unless your cemetery lot is paid for!)

April, 1860, part of the new cemetery was leased to James Henry, who lived across the street from it, on the Chicago Road. July, 1860, part of it was sold at \$100 an acre.

GRAVEYARDS

Grable's Cemetery	1879, Bethlehem Tp.
Kline's Graveyard	1879, Boone Tp.
Stone School Cemetery	1874, Clinton Tp.
Miller's Cemetery	1879, Deer Creek Tp.
Miami Baptist Cemetery	1878, Miami Tp.
Odd Fellows' Cemetery	Nov., 1878, the first burial; just north of New Waverly.
Harper's Graveyard	1879, Noble Tp.
John H. Thomas' Cemetery	Before 1857; on Little Deer Creek, Tipton Tp.
Bethel Graveyard	At least 9-27-1844 in Clay Tp.
Sprinkle Cemetery	1-17-1859, two miles west of Dalton; next to Sprinkle ME Chapel; Tipton Tp. or Washington Tp.; Ind. 218 in 1972.