



Lake County Cemeteries - Explore Their Stories & More

As the winter snow melts away, and the budding wildflowers of spring appear, it's a perfect season to enjoy a peaceful walk among the gravestones. Burial grounds in the early days of the **Western Reserve** had back stories as numerous as the pioneering settlers who were arriving by the late 1790s. These stories became important chapters in the early years of what would, by 1840, become Lake County. In Mentor, an 1854 *Painesville Telegraph* interview with **Jeanette**

Munson recounted the story of early settlers ensuring that the neglected overgrown family burial grounds of their New England church yards would not occur here.

In 1897, Painesville newspapers reported that the “**Old Burying Grounds**” on Washington Street in Painesville would give way to the construction of the future **Harvey High School**. The graves of those buried would be relocated to **Evergreen Cemetery**. In time, Evergreen was so unique and known for its natural beauty that weekly walks and picnics became a practice. A donated cemetery property in **Concord Township** was made with the proviso that the donor's sheep could graze there, perhaps the first known mention of our county's original service department? **Perry's cemetery** had a vault to store bodies until the spring thaw made grave digging possible. Today's look back into local lore and history examines some of our county cemeteries, both big and small, farm versus public and abandoned / closed versus active. Let's explore a few of their stories.

Mentor Mentor Cemeteries

Mentor Municipal Cemetery -

In early 1854 a meeting was held at a District Schoolhouse on Hopkins Road to organize a cemetery association. Some notable Mentor names attending were **Thomas Clapp, James Dickey, Nathan Corning, Stephen Hart, Martin Sawyer** and **David Hopkins**. From that meeting ten acres of land situated on the Jackson Road lot of **Amasa Cobb** and continuing to David Hopkins Corners were purchased for \$400. Officially recorded by December of the same year, the original burial site was in use by March 16, 1855.

Ironically the first to be buried was none other than Amasa Cobb. Famed **Western Reserve architect Jonathan Goldsmith** also rests there.

The years 1858-1859 came and another need arose. A two-story school site construction at the intersection of Mentor Avenue and Center Street was approved. This forced the original gravesites to be relocated to a new **Mentor Cemetery**. In 1876, a nearby peach orchard south of the cemetery become home to a



new school that was in use through 1937 when it became the first Mentor Police Station. In time that building was razed, and the Mentor Cemetery grew to 60 acres, of which just over 40 are in use today.



In Section 17, the monument of horticulturist **Richard Bosley** pays tribute to his extraordinary accomplishments as an automotive visionary.

A short walk over to section 14 and one will find the resting place of **Melvin E. Wyant**, a noted commercial grower whose roses and 30 patents were known throughout the country.

Section 1 is the burial site of **Ashbel Munson**

whose Jackson Street home still stands. Sections 1 and 9 find the name **Parker**, Mentor's first family whose long history had footprints in the local Methodist Church, postal, school and militia entries.

*Booth Cemetery
Burridge Cemetery
Button Cemetery
Carpenter Cemetery
Daniels Cemetery
Hanna Lot Cemetery
Harmon Farm Cemetery
Keyes Cemetery
Mentor Headlands Cemetery
Mentor Lagoons Cemetery
North Mentor Cemetery
St Huberts Episcopal Church Scattering Garden
Wheeler Family Cemetery*

The street names of **Reynolds, Munson, Sawyer, Parker** and **Garfield** are familiar to most locals. A self-guided field trip and cemetery foot tour awaits any local history buff. Here are but a handful of notable community residents found on the premises.

Section 15 is the resting place of the **Garfields**. While the Presidential Home of James A. is located nearby, President Garfield is not buried in Mentor. It is the grave of his son **James R.** who established the first Mentor library. **Abram Garfield**, a noted architect and designer of the Oliver summer home, or **Wildwood**, is also found there. "Gramma G" (**Eleanor B. Garfield**), the first and only women to be elected mayor of Mentor, is interred there as well.



Kirtland Kirtland Cemeteries

Blish Road Cemetery

Known today as King Memorial Road, the former Blish Road site housed a cemetery on its eastern side for notable residents of the Little Mountain area. **John Reynolds**, survivor of Valley Forge and his kin may be found there. Other notable family names interned include **Johnson**, **Hubbard** and **Fox**.



Beal Cemetery

East Kirtland Cemetery

East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church Memorial

Jeduthan Ladd Cemetery

Johnson Family Burial Ground

Kirtland North Cemetery

Kirtland South Cemetery

West Kirtland Township Cemetery

Kirtland Hills

Saint Andrew Episcopal Church Columbarium

Painesville Painesville Cemeteries



Evergreen Cemetery

Evergreen is the older of Painesville's two burial grounds, its history dates back to 1859 when Painesville began to acquire properties from four local Western Reserve families: **Little**, **Blackmore**, **Cook** and **Frazier**.

The picturesque burial ground was established on March 17, 1860. Its location on the corner of Casement Avenue and Main Street, unique design and natural beauty led residents to walk the grounds weekly or picnic there. When the graves from the "Old Burying Grounds" were relocated there in 1897, additional land was purchased. Expansion occurred again in 1937.

Today, the cemetery includes 34 acres and is the final home of over 18,700 community

residents. Prominent Painesville names from the past found in **Monument Row** or other sections include **Young**, **Pratt**, **Canfield** and **Holcomb**. Charles Pratt owned a dry goods store, served as trustee to the iconic Congregational Church and was a founding member of the

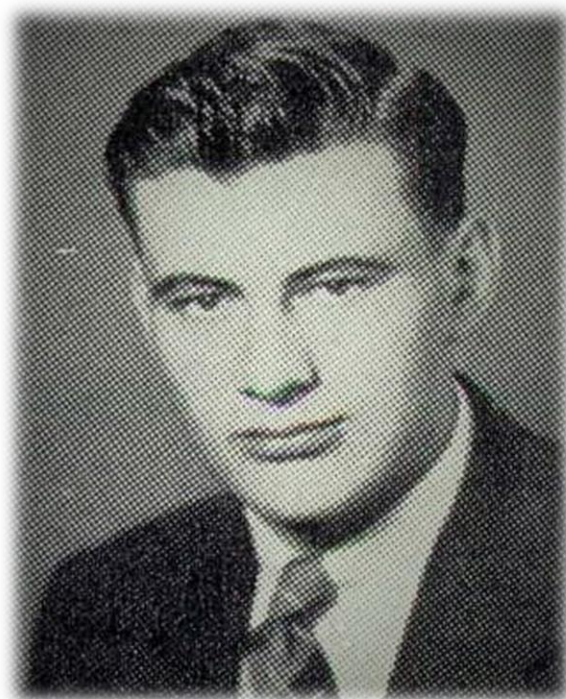




local Board of Education. Some residents may still recall his Walnut Avenue toothpick factory on the hill.

Evergreen's most notable pair may be **General Jack and Francis (Jennings) Casement**. He was a Civil War officer who defeated **Stonewall Jackson** in battle and was a primary builder of the **Transcontinental Railroad**. His wife Francis was part of the **suffrage movement with Susan B. Anthony**. Other cemetery notables include **Gladys Gibson** who saved many in the 1929 Cleveland Clinic Disaster; **Thomas Harvey**, educator and grammarian; **Abraham Skinner**, an American Revolutionary War veteran; as well as **Samuel Huntington**, early **Supreme Court Justice and Governor of Ohio**. Not to be forgotten are two black Civil War veterans, one a Medal of Honor recipient, and lastly the **Windeckers**, founders of **Diamond Alkali**.

*Anderson Family Cemetery
Blair Burying Ground
County Home Cemetery
Eddy Cemetery*



*Fay Road Cemetery
Flynn Cemetery
General Edward Paine Memorial
Gordon Cemetery
Kniffen Road Cemetery
Mentor Avenue Cemetery
Murray Family Cemetery
Painesville Pioneer Cemetery*



Riverside Cemetery

Edward Binden died aboard the Edmund Fitzgerald.

*Saint James Episcopal Church Columbarium
Saint Mary Cemetery
Samuel Huntington Family Cemetery
Trowbridge Cemetery
Washington Street Cemetery
West Bank Cemetery*

Concord Concord Cemeteries

Concord Township's cemeteries share the brownstone and marble headstone stories of **Wilson**, **Messenger**, **Huntoon**, **Stickney** and others. There lie Civil War survivor **George Winchell** and Spanish-American War casualty 21-year old **Wade Adams**.



*Anderson
Burial
Ground
Button Farm
Cemetery
Concord
Township
Cemetery
(Concord
Cemetery /
Pine Hill
Cemetery)
Eddy Burial
Ground
Fay Road Cemetery
Gordon Farm
Cemetery
Hoose Diemert*

*Cemetery
Huntoon Cemetery (Stickney Cemetery / Gray Cemetery)
Keyes Cemetery
Mentor Avenue Cemetery
Murray Burial Grounds*



Eastlake

*S. E. Roberts Cemetery
Sheehan Farm Cemetery*

Fairport Harbor

*First Street Cemetery
Third Street Burial Grounds
Zion Suomi Lutheran Church Cemetery*

Grand River

Grand River Public Cemetery

Leroy Leroy Cemeteries

Brakeman Cemetery

Paine Road Cemetery

Williams Cemetery

Madison Madison Cemeteries

Brewster Family Cemetery Centerville

Dock Road Cemetery

Fairview Memorial Park

First Congregational Church Cemetery

Hitchcock Cemetery

Isham Cemetery

Madison Memorial Cemetery

Middle Ridge Cemetery

Eliabeth Stiles was a Civil War spy.

South Ridge Cemetery

Turneys Corners Cemetery

W. T. Baster Family Cemetery

North Madison

North Madison Cemetery

North Ridge Cemetery

South Madison

Northeast Leroy Cemetery

South Madison Cemetery

Perry Perry Cemeteries

Call Road Cemetery

Lemuel Ellis Cemetery

Narrows Road Cemetery

Palmer Cemetery

Parmly Cemetery

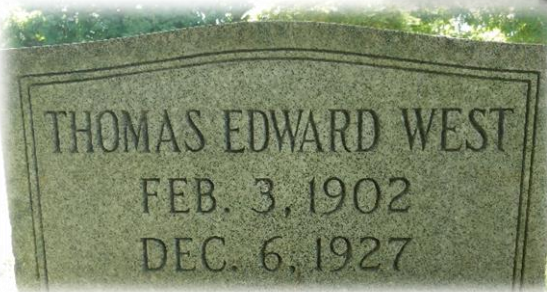
Perry Township Cemetery

Thomas E. West was tragically murdered by his wife Velma.

South Ridge Cemetery

North Perry

Mayers Woods Cemetery





Waite Hill

Waite Hill Village Cemetery

Waite Hill's 22-acre rural cemetery, featuring split rail fences and horse pastures, include the sites of the **Waite, Otis, Hobart, Tyron** and **Tinkham** families.

This graveyard is also the resting place of the brilliant and accomplished **Judge Florence Ellinwood Allen** who won a seat on the **Ohio Supreme Court** in 1922. She was the first woman to serve on "any state's supreme court," and it happened just 2 years after women finally won the right to vote.



Wickliffe

*Chardon Road Cemetery
Lloyd Cemetery
Mosher Cemetery
Wickliffe Village Cemetery*

Willoughby Willoughby Cemeteries

*Grace Episcopal Church Memorial Garden
Joplin Cemetery
Plains Pioneer Cemetery
Willoughby Memorial Gardens
Willoughby Pioneer Cemetery
Willoughby United Methodist Church Columbarium
Willoughby Village Cemetery*

The poignant story of the Girl in Blue was a lingering mystery.
Woolsey Cemetery

Willoughby Hills

*Maple Grove Cemetery
Nash Cemetery
S O M Road Cemetery*



Willowick

Griffith Disaster Burial Ground (Mosher Farm)

A historic marker denotes the area where the steamship **G.P. Griffith** burned offshore of Willowick on June 17, 1850. The site of the mass grave, where 24 women, 47 men and 25 children were buried, gradually succumbed to the lakefront's annual erosion. Unmarked, the cemetery grounds site became the home of **Willoughbeach**, a local amusement park. Lost to time, this former site is now a local park located at the corner of Lake Shore Boulevard and Bayridge Road.

Kennedy Cemetery



There are so many other cemetery notables that could be shared if time and space permitted. The names and legacies of many county settlers and generations are repeated in Leroy, Madison, Perry, and Willoughby/Willoughby Hills gravesites. One can walk through the hallowed history as you explore these public, private or abandoned sites. Visit www.lcgsohio.org/cemeteries or [Find-a-Grave](#) and plan your own springtime stroll through time.



Submitted by. Dan Maxson

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