



Dedicated to the Preservation of Wyandotte's Oldest Surviving Landmark

Wyandotte Oakwood Cemetery Association

Restoration...Preservation...

For Wyandotte's Oldest Surviving Historical Landmark Biddle & Ford Ave. (Northline)

P.O. Box 553.....Wyandotte, MI 48192

The Cemetery has weathered another winter. [Its 146th] Although, did you know that in addition to the Clark graves from 1826 there were three Classon children buried there in 1864. Those burials were five years before the Cemetery was officially registered with the State of Michigan.

The Board met in April and it was a pretty solemn meeting. It seems we have reached a 'tipping point' in the restoration process. First and foremost is the drainage problem. We have a newspaper clipping from 1882 that describes how the lot owners were objecting to the standing water. John P. Clark had a channel dredged to the river. The article states that 'the drainage is now perfect'. The channel to the river is visible on the 1896 birds-eye view map. However, since that time the various chemical companies have filled in the channel cutting off the drainage. We have asked BASF for help but it is not able to help at this time. The Board now will request proposals from various civil engineering firms for a plan to fix the drainage. Once we know the cost we will attempt some community fund raising to get back to the 1882 status. Isn't it odd that we have to go back in time to know we can move forward with restoration?

Next, there are many of the old stones that need restoration. For example, the three CZADZECK family stones have all fallen off their bases. They are still legible but it is only a matter of time until they sink into the mud. Does anyone know a descendent of this family who might be able to restore these stones? Please reply to PO Box 553 or to kschroeder1@wyandotte.org.

On a more positive note, the database has been updated. We have found five new burials for UNKNOWNs that probably went to the potters field graves on the west side. Two were drowning victims found in the river. "downriveroakwoodcemetery.org" Our thanks to SOLO WORLD PARTNERS for funding our web site.

American Legion Post 217 needed information about a WWI veteran buried in Oakwood. We presented the Past Commander, Ed Gorecki, with the information we could obtain. Ed will make arrangements to have an honor guard conduct a ceremony that was originally scheduled to take place 93 years ago. The veteran's name was Michael Doyle.

Past Commander Ed Gorecki attended a Cemetery Board meeting and we discussed plans for a memorial for all veterans buried at Oakwood. More next month.

The Memorial Day clean up will be Saturday, May 9 at 10 AM. Michael White and the Wyandotte Students will be there. The Nightmare Hearse Club is coming. We hope that members of the community and the WOCA will attend. Remember, bring your own tools!

Sincerely, The WOCA BOARD