### HISTORY OF THE NORTHFIELD-MACEDONIA CEMETERY

## **COMPILED BY**

#### JOHN B. HUDGEON

1967

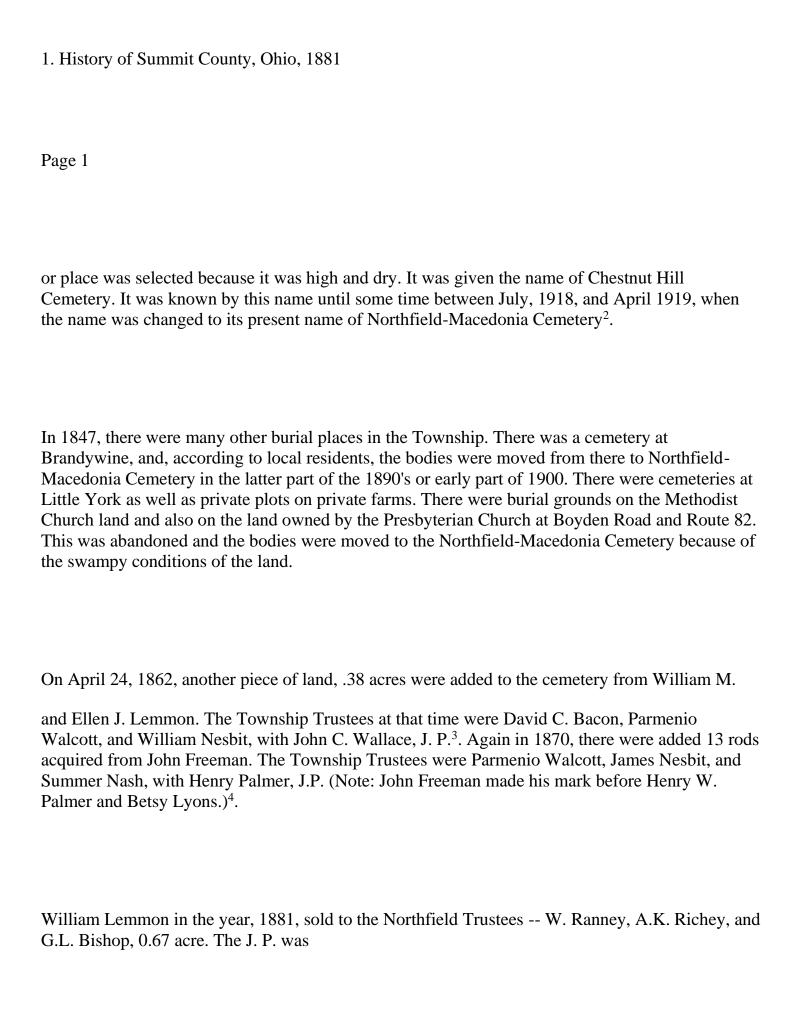
Unfortunately for the purpose of the modern historian, the early settlers of Summit County and especially Northfield Township left no written record of their experiences -- only meager accounts contained in letters and recorded in journals have been left to give succeeding generations an idea of what took place in the early settings of the Township. This we find

true in regard to the history of the Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery.

History tells us that the first settlers in Northfield Township were Isaac Bacon and family who came from Massachusetts in April, 1897. He built his log cabin on a spot that is now Route 631, about one mile west of County Highway 16.

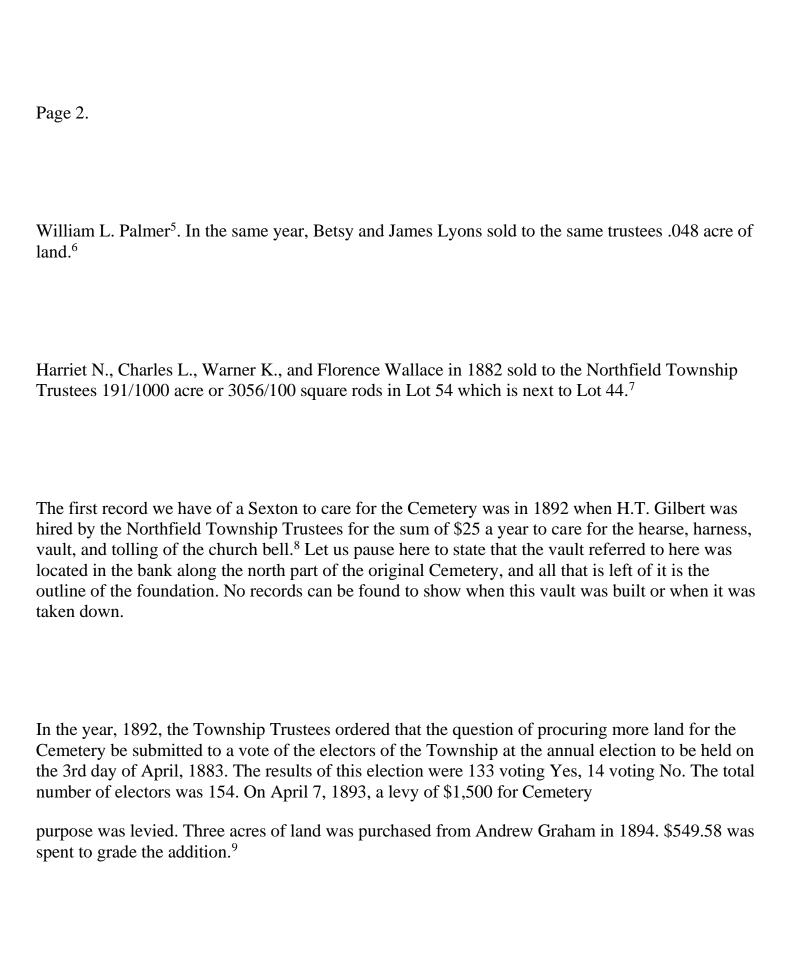
The next family to arrive was that of Jeremiah Cranmer in June, 1810. Records show that Mr. Isaac Bacon died November, 1812, and was buried on the banks of Tinker's Creek<sup>1</sup>.

There seems to be some disagreement as to when the first burial in the now present Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery took place and who it was. There are no records available. We find that the marker with the oldest date to be that of Abram Cranmer (9-8-1812). This was 35 years before the land was deeded for cemetery use. The record of transfer of deeds, Summit County volume 13, page 75, year 1847, shows that 1.5 acres were acquired for cemetery use on August 28, 1847, from William and June Lemmon. The Township Trustees at the time were David Bacon, Charles H. Johnson, and Elyah Stores. George Lille was J. P. The 1.5 acres were located in Northfield Township, Number 5 in the eleventh range of Township in the Connecticut Western Reserve, in the State of Ohio, and which is also in the County of Summit and is known as being a part of Lot 44. This spot



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- 2. Minutes book of Cemetery Trustees, 1908-1919.
- 3. Record of Transfer of Deeds, Summit County, Vol. 45, page 27, 1862.
- 4. Record of Transfer of Deeds, Summit County, Vol. 71, page 469-470.



- 5. Record of transfer of Deed, Summit County, Vol. 127, pp. 508-509, 1891.
- 6. Ibid. Vol. 127, p. 510.
- 7. Ibid. Vol. 130, P. 425, 1882.
- 8. Minutes of the Northfield Township Trustees, 1892-1907.
- 9. Ibid., and Record of Transfer of Deed, Summit County, Vol. 209, p. 267, 1894.

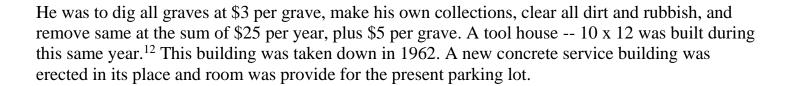
In the fall of 1894, a meeting of the citizens was called to meet in the Town Hall to discuss the matter of forming an association for the Improvement of the Cemetery as it had been overgrown with weeds and brush. Initial steps were taken, and Mrs. George Bliss was elected president. Miss Mary Darling was elected secretary. On October 18, 1894, another meeting was called in the Town Hall for the completing of this organization and to plan ways and means. At this meeting, 16 women were enrolled as members and paid of fee of 25 cents each. It was decided at this meeting to enroll men as honorary members by having them pay a fee of 50 cents. Thus was born the Ladies' Cemetery Association and have in the past, as now in the present, been a great influence in the improvements in the Cemetery. In 1913, this group was incorporated as an organization but not for profit. This group became responsible for the money entrusted to them for endowment purposes. <sup>10</sup>

On May 9, 1896, it was resolved by the Township Trustees that a well be drilled and a pump be purchased for it. This resolution was carried out. At this time, L. Holtzhauer was appointed to hire men to clear the weeds from the Cemetery.<sup>11</sup>

In 1896, a deed book was purchased and from this book is found the first record of cemetery lots.

In 1897, Elmer Truby was hired to toll the bell for each death for the sum of 50 cents each. H.T. Gilert was engaged to care for the hearse, vault, and to see to the selling of lots. He was appointed Sexton for the Cemetery.

- 10. Minutes book of the Ladies' Cemetery Association.
- 11. Minutes book of the Northfield Township Trustees, 1892-1907.



Bids were received and a contract was awarded to W. P. Thompson of Macedonia in 1898 to build a receiving vault according to plans and specifications drawn by architects Lehman and Schmidt. This contract was in the amount of \$1,400 (the lowest bid). A committee was appointed consisting of H.H. Sage, A.K. Spafford, and M.W. Stanley to oversee the construction of this building. This building was built of Northfield stone and is still standing. It was remodeled into an office and meeting room for the Township Trustees in 1959.<sup>13</sup>

In 1898, it was decided to clear the rubbish and have a board fence built "beginning at the end of the board and wire on the east side of the cemetery, thence running North to corner slope, then west to stone, thence southwest to stone at north line of the old cemetery grounds".

The Township Trustees appropriated \$50 to the Ladies' Cemetery Association to be used to purchase a windmill and equipment for well.

On August 27, 1906, bids were accepted and a contract awarded to M.A. Dempsey for drilling a well at the Cemetery at a price of \$1.25 per foot and furnishing 3 5/8 pipes. The well was drilled at a depth of 20 feet.

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The hearse house was moved in 1908 from its site in the village to the Cemetery. The hearse was disposed of in 1924 by order of the Township Trustees<sup>16</sup>.

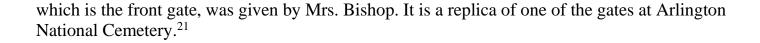
The first record of a Cemetery Board of Trustees elected by the officials of the townships and villages that can be found are in the minutes of a meeting called to order on January 15, 1908, with Charles W. Fell, president; L.M. Dalrymple, secretary; and H.E. Chamberlain, treasurer<sup>16</sup>.

In 1910, land was again purchased to add to the Cemetery. At this time 1.37 acres were bought from James Lyons. 18

In 1918, 8.516 acres was acquired from Martha Graham bringing the Cemetery to its present size of 14 3/4 acres.<sup>19</sup>

The road was put back in from the Northeast corner of the Cemetery to connect with the drive back of the present office in 1914.<sup>20</sup>

Mr. and Mrs. George T. Bishop presented to the Cemetery Trustees in 1919 a plan for improving the Cemetery. This plan was accepted by the Trustees and they raised a fund of money and labor in the amount of \$3,000 which was matched by Mr. and Mrs. Bishop. The improvements were made. The Bishops also paid for half of the iron fence which now encloses the Cemetery on two sides. The large iron gate with the stone posts at the corner of Route 631 and County Highway 16, and



Barberry hedges were planted in trenches on both sides of the drive from Route 631 to the office, but were removed in 1928. In 1928, the Ladies' Cemetery Association rested a tablet in memory of the soldiers of the War of 1812

- 16. ibid
- 17. Minutes Book of the Chestnut Hill Cemetery Trustees 1908-1919.
- 18. Record of Transferral of Deed, Summit County, 997, Volume 387, page 149.
- 19. Minutes Book of Cemetery Trustees, 1908-1919.
- 20. Minutes Book of Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery Trustees, 1919-1948.



On September 3, 1960, a contract was entered into with Weldo Product Company to repair 840 feet or 105 sections of the iron fence along County Highway 16. This fence was taken down and all new rails, top and bottom, were put into place.
Robert Karle Construction Company was given the contract on July 29, 1961, to build a service building of concrete block for the sum of \$4,200.25. <sup>25</sup>
The oldest rules and regulations for Chestnut Hill Cemetery were printed by N.R. Brown of Macedonia and adopted by the Northfield Township Trustees on June 5, 1897. Some of the highlights of this booklet were as follows:
22. Minutes book of the Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery Trustees, 1919-1948.
23. Ibid
24. Minutes book of the Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery Trustees, 1948-1961.
25. Minutes book of the Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery Trustees, 1961-1967.

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"A Sexton be employed beginning the third Monday of each April, and who shall have charge of the receiving vault, open and close all graves, collecting \$3 from such parties for compensation for said graves, and removing surplus dirt to the dumping grounds. The price of lots shall be \$10 for a double lot, and \$4 for a single lot to the residents of the Township and double price to non-residents. All graves shall not be less than five feet deep. The Trustees desiring to discourage "Sunday funerals" as much as possible will not permit the removal of bodies from the receiving vault for internment on Sundays, unless for good and sufficient reasons. No rapid driving will be allowed and vehicles must be kept strictly within limits of the driveway. Drivers of carriages at funerals will be required to remain quietly with their teams during the ceremonies. No horse may be left in the Cemetery unhitched or without an attendant.

I wish to thank all who helped me in any way in getting this little history of Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery. I hope that the Cemetery may continue to have the support of the citizens of this community and retain the standing that it now holds in the Cemeteries of this State of Ohio.

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# CEMETERY TRUSTEES SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE BOARD IN 1908

Charles W. Felt, president

1/15/08 - 3/9/12

L.M. Dalrymple, secretary

1/15/08 - 5/15/13

A.S. Neal, president

3/9/12 - 5/17/13

W. Beamey, president

3/9/13 - 5/6/16

6/1/18 - 5/4/20

M.A. Van Horn, secretary
5/17/13 - 3/19/24

E. W. Saxe, president,

5/6/16 - 6/1/18

H. A. Cochran, treasurer

5/6/16 - 6/1/18

J. M. McKea, treasurer

6/1/18 - 5/4/20

E. H. Carter, president

5/4/20 - 5/12/22

Thomas F. Lasher, treasurer

5/4/20 - 5/14/24

Frank Townsend, president
5/12/22 - 5/14/24

Ed. Carter

5/14/24 - 6/21/26

L. J. Wright, secretary

3/14/24 - 5/14/24

C. F. Sentar, secretary

5/14/24 - 7/13/25

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Miss Bradley, treasurer

5/14/24 - 4/4/27

J. V. Pajan, secretary

7/13/25 - 8/21/26

David L. Grimm, president

6/21/26 - 10/23/28

F. H. Carter, secretary

6/21/26 - 10/23/28

Mrs. Cuyler, treasurer

4/14/27 - 10/23/28

and

secretary

10/23/28-4/14/32

A. Hufner, president

10/23/28 - 6/2/30

E. G. Smith, president

6/2/30 - 5/9/32

# A. T. Collin, treasurer

6/2/30 - 5/9/32

Mr. Honey, president

5/9/32 - 10/10/34

T. B. Burroughs, treasurer

5/9/32 - 5/8/36

A. R. Nesbit, secretary

4/14/32 - 6/10/37

Howard Graham, president

10/10/34 - 7/1/35

Frank Wiltshire, president

7/1/35 - 6/10/37

and secretary

6/10/37 - 6/4/40

A. A. McConnel, treasurer

5/8/36 - 1/23/46

E. M. Fell, president

6/10/37 - 6/4/40

W. A. McDowell, president

6/4/40 - 3/28/44

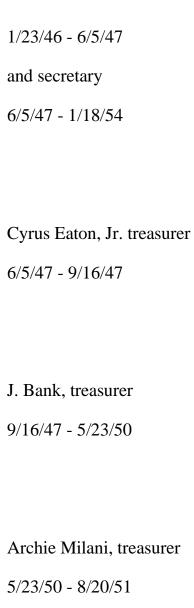
Samuel Ayars, secretary

6/4/40 - 6/5/47

Elwood Waters, president

3/28/44 - 6/5/52

Glen Wright, treasurer



Edward Hunt, treasurer

8/20/51 - 1/18/54

Edward Hunt, treasurer

8/20/51 - 1/18/54

Herbert O. Holbrook

2/26/52 - 1/18/54

Mr. Keaver, president

1/18/54 - 5/25/55

Mr. Hayams, treasurer

1/18/54 - 3/31/54

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Mr. Lowry, treasurer

3/31/54 - 5/25/55

and president

5/25/55 - 1/12/58

Jack E. Chambers, Sr, Clerk-Treasurer

5/25/55

Oliver Ocasek, chairman

1/12/58 - 3/2/55

1/1/50 - 1/1/61

Earl F. Smith, chairman

1/2/59 -1/28/59

George O. Pnychon, chairman

1/28/59 - 1/1/66

Paul Grims, chairman

1/1/61 - 1/1/64

Harold Knepner, chairman

1/1/162 - 1/1/64

John Barron, chairman

Lawie	Wilcox	chairman
Lewis	WIICOX,	Chamman

1/17/65 - 9/25/65

Lorn Ash, chairman

1/1/65 - 1/1/67

# **SEXTONS THAT HAVE SERVED FROM 1892 TO 1967**

Please note: This is not the complete list complied by John Hudgeon. The text which was copied to produce this Internet document was very faded. Ten Sextons are missing.

H. T. Gilber, 1892 thru 1908

Florin Seidel, 1909 thru 1912

W. E. Martin, 1912

J. L. Ritche, 1913, 1914, 1917 thru 1920

William Grossman, 1915, 1916

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Please note: In his 1967 history of the Northfield Macedonia Cemetery, John Hudgeon compiled a list of Northfield Veterans of wars from the War of 1812 through the Korean War. Since 1967, Ronald Seidel, through a great deal of research, has updated that list of veterans. Mr. Seidel's list is also on this web site, and therefore in the interests of completeness and accuracy, the 1967 veteran's list of Mr. Hudgeon is respectfully omitted from our web site.

## REFERENCES

Record of transfer of deeds, Summit County Court House, Akron, Ohio:

Volume 14, page 75, 1847

Volume 45, page 27, 1862

Volume 71, pages 469-470, 1870

Volume 127, page 508, 1881

Volume 127, page 510, 1881

Volume 130, page 244, 1882

Volume 209, page 167, 1894

Probate Court Docket #5487, #20 Real, 1918

Minutes Book of Northfield Township Trustees, 1892-1907

Minutes Book of Chestnut Hill Cemetery Trustees, 1908-1919

Minutes Books of Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery Trustees: 1919-1948; 1948-1961; 1961-1967

Minutes Book of Ladies' Cemetery Association

Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery Records

Rules and Regulations for Chestnut Hills Cemetery, printed by N. R. Brown, June 5, 1897

History of Summit County Ohio, 1881, edited by William Perrin

Volume 397, page 147, 1910