



Oak Grove Cemetery Tour  
June 18, 2024 – 7:00 PM  
White Lake Area Historical Society



This area was used as a burial ground as far back as about 1856 but did not become a recognized cemetery until the mid-1870s. In 1875 Montague township voted to spend \$300 for the cemetery. The land was purchased from Henry Staples. In October 1877 arrangements were made to layout and fence the cemetery grounds in a proper shape. It was officially surveyed and plotted out in 1878.

In November 1877 it was given the name Oak Grove Cemetery. Before that time, it appears it was simply referred to as the Montague Cemetery.

The oldest headstone in the cemetery dates back to 1856 and is for a 5-year-old boy named Frank Murden.

In August 1910 the ladies of the Cemetery Improvement Association met with the Town Board and submitted their plans and specifications for the improvement of the cemetery and asked for an appropriation to assist in defraying the expenses. The Town Board voted for \$100 to be turned over to the Association. The improvements were along a practical line. A gasoline engine and force pump were to be installed. A pavilion on the grounds was used for the pump house. The grounds were then piped, and water provided for sprinkling.

An auction sale was announced in the paper in September 1910 with proceeds going to the Cemetery Association. Through the generosity of a public-spirited citizen many fine items were going to be put up for action at the Montague Opera House on October 1. Some of the items were: 6 upholstered chairs, 5 rockers, 2 fine couches, 2 small tables, a bookcase, a dining table, a china cupboard, 2 Buffalo robes, barrel churn, and other items too numerous to mention.

Although Auctioneer W. E. Osmun had one of the slowest and unresponsive bidding crowds in his experience on the auction block, everything was sold out. The great surprise came when the proceeds were counted and found to total nearly \$150. The articles sold were donated to the Montague Cemetery Association by Mrs. A. W. Dowling. The proceeds will assist them in carrying out their contemplated improvements at the cemetery.

In November 1910 a letter of explanation was printed in the paper advising that the Association had paid for 2,123 feet of pipe for carrying water from whatever source is decided on. Some suggested extending the water main from the village. Others advised the use of a gasoline engine. During the winter months the ladies were going to continue to investigate and decide which way was best. In April 1911, the officers from the previous year (1910) carried over for this year. Dues for the coming year will be \$.50.

In 1912, after much thought and careful consideration, the ladies of the Association decided that for this season the water at the cemetery would be free to all those who wish to use it. They wanted everyone to improve the lots under their care and using water as needed will no doubt show that the cemetery can be improved. Those who used the water were encouraged to carefully close the valve after use so as not to drain the tank dry. The sexton will run the engine between the hours of 3 to 5, when the pressure will be better.

A request was made for people to donate extra tulip, hyacinth and narcissus bulbs which would be used toward beautification of the cemetery. The bulbs were to be planted by Mrs. Hawks.

In June 1915 the Montague Cemetery Improvement Association reported on the work that had been done in the cemetery to get it ready before Decoration Day. Men had worked to grub out lilac and sassafras shrubs and other objectionable growths. Leaves were raked up and burned and the debris removed.

In September 1915, The Montague Cemetery Improvement Association asked to have the cooperation of all lot owners in eradicating bunchgrass from the cemetery lots. Those wishing to have the association do the work, at a very moderate cost, were to contact Mrs. Anna W. Dowling with their request.

A meeting was held by the Cemetery Association on April 22, 1920, for the purpose of election of officers, paying of dues, and to discuss plans for the building of the vault. There was no listing of officers elected as in the past, or any information on the vault.

The purpose of a Receiving Vault is to temporarily store dead bodies in winter months when the ground is too frozen to dig a permanent grave in a cemetery.

On 14 October 1920 it was announced in the paper that the building of a Receiving Vault would be started at the cemetery at a cost of \$1,700, with financing by the Ladies Cemetery Improvement Association.

A news article the following week called for additional contributions to be made to meet the expenses of the vault, despite a generous gift from Mrs. Elizabeth Row of Lansing. This explains why her name is the only individual name to appear on the plaque, along with the group name, when it was placed on the building upon its completion in 1920.

It's not known how much her donation was, but we do know who Mrs. Elizabeth Row was. And the connection is with Mrs. Anna Dowling. She was born Anna Wilson (1848-1920) and in 1875 she married George E. Dowling (1839-1896). Anna had an older sister Elizabeth Wilson (1843-1929) and in 1863 she married Samuel H. Row (1840-1909) and they lived in Lansing. As both men were deceased by 1909, that left the sisters single ladies free to visit each other often. Anna seemed very involved in the cemetery project, and I think her sister Elizabeth became interested as well and supported her sister's efforts with a generous gift to the project.

On 22 March 1923 it was reported that Mrs. Marie Moritz died at her home in Maple Grove. Her body was placed in the cemetery vault until a more favorable time for burial. In April 1926, Mrs. H. P. Rogers' body was placed in the vault at Oak Grove Cemetery, according to information in her obituary. There were certainly others during and after that time as well, but they were not reported in the paper.

A mausoleum was built at Oak Grove Cemetery.

On 19 February 1959 it was announced that final arrangements were recently completed with the Montague City Council, which voted unanimous approval, for the construction of a community mausoleum in Oak Grove Cemetery.

By June the sale of the crypts in the mausoleum were progressing well. Construction of the mausoleum got underway in mid-September. George Dillabaugh, Mayor of Montague, turned the first shovel of dirt. Gerald Proctor, construction engineer, designed the mausoleum. Keith Construction Co., under the direction of Keith Boltze, local contractor, built it.

The original goal was a 72-crypt mausoleum. Local interest was so high that 36 more crypts were added to the blueprints. The sale of the crypts paid for the construction of the mausoleum. A picture of the newly completed 108-crypt mausoleum appeared in the Montague Observer on 24 December 1959.

In September 2023, fund raising efforts were begun by the City of Montague to secure \$25,000 needed to make significant repairs to the Receiving Vault and provide financial support to preserve the building for the next 100+ years.

## Gravestone Symbols and Their Meanings

- ANCHOR** – a symbol of hope, or the deceased was a seaman.
- ANGEL** – a guide to Heaven.
- ARCH** – symbolizing a triumphant entry into Heaven or victory over death.
- ARROW** – symbolizing mortality or martyrdom.
- BEEHIVE** – symbol of abundance in the Promised Land or piety or domestic virtue or faith.
- BELL** – a symbol of religious faith or religion.
- BIRD** – a symbol of eternal life, spirituality, Messenger of God, or peace.
- BOOK** – a symbol of the Divine Word or the deceased's lifetime accomplishments.
- BURNING FLAME** – a symbol of eternal life or resurrection.
- BUTTERFLY** – a symbol of resurrection.
- CELTIC CROSS** – a symbol of faith and eternity.
- CIRCLE** – a symbol of eternity, life never ending.
- CLOUDS** – a symbol of the Divine abode, Heaven.
- \*CROSS** – a symbol of faith and resurrection. Many military markers, in particular for Veterans of World War I, have a cross etched into the gravestone.
- CROWN** – a symbol of glory of life after death.
- DOVE** – a symbol of love, purity, resurrection and/or the Holy Spirit.
- EAGLE** – many gravestones of Civil War veterans were engraved with images of eagles.
- FINGER** (pointing downward) – a symbol of calling the earth to witness.
- \*FINGER** (pointing upward) – symbolizing the pathway to Heaven or the deceased found Heavenly reward.
- FISH** - symbolizing spiritual nourishment, faith, or deceased was a Christian.
- FLOWER** – a symbol of immortality.
- FLYING BIRD** – a symbol of rebirth.
- GARLAND** – symbolizes victory over death.
- GRIM REAPER** – a symbol found on many early gravestones, meaning the inevitability of death.
- HANDS** (clasped) – a symbol meaning farewell and the hope of meeting again in eternity.
- HARP** – a symbol of hope.
- HEART** – a symbol of love, devotion, joy, and/or mortality.
- HOURLASS** – a symbol of the swift passage of time, as in the shortness of life on earth.
- \*LAMB** – a symbol meaning innocence; used primarily on an infant's or a child's gravestone.
- LILY** – a symbol of purity and/or chastity.
- MYRTLE LEAVES** – a symbol of undying love and/or peace.
- OAK LEAVES** – a symbol of faith and virtue and/or endurance.
- \*OBELISK** – a symbol quite popular during the 1880's through the 1930's, meaning rebirth, connection between earth and Heaven.
- \*OLIVE BRANCH** – a symbol of peace, forgiveness, one's humanity.
- OPEN GATES** – a symbol of afterlife and the deceased's soul entering into Heaven.
- PYRAMID** – a symbol meaning resurrection, eternal life, enlightenment, spiritual attainment.
- RAINBOW** – a symbol of union, fulfillment of the promise of resurrection.
- ROPE CIRCLE** – a symbol of eternity.
- ROSE** – a symbol of love, victory, triumph, and/or purity.
- SCYTHE** – a symbol of a life cut short, death, or the final harvest.
- SHEAF OF WHEAT** – a symbol of old age, a fruitful life.
- SHROUD** – a general symbol of mourning, but it may also symbolize a parting of the veil between this world and the next.
- SKULL** – a symbol used in the early to mid-1880's representing mortality and or penitence. A winged skull meant that the deceased ascended into Heaven.
- SLEEPING CHERUB** – a symbol of innocence used primarily on an infant's or a child's gravestone.
- SWALLOW** – a symbol of motherhood, the spirit of children, or a symbol of consolation.
- SWORD** – symbolizes the deceased's military service.
- SWORDS (CROSSED)** – symbolizes that the deceased died in battle.
- TREE** – a symbol of life, knowledge, the fall of man through sin, or human frailty.
- TREE STUMP** – symbol of life interrupted.
- TRUMPET** – symbol announcing the resurrection of the deceased's soul entering into Heaven.
- URN** – symbol for the soul, immortality or penitence.
- WHEEL** – symbolizes the cycle of life, enlightenment, spiritual power.
- WREATH OF ROSES** – a symbol of Heavenly joy and bliss.

Map Location	Name
1	Scott Alijah Krueger
2	Edith Clark Prindiville
3	Daniel Rand Calkin
4	Malcom Hendrie
5	Job Sargent
6	Capt. James J Dalton
7	Eveline, Nellie, Baby Boy Deneau
8	Angeline B Hawks
9	Deacon Abner Bennett
10	Frank Murden
11	Cpl. John Herren
12	Brian Eugene Dawson
13	Henry Moritz
14	Joseph Alexander Sadony

<https://maps.muskegoncountygis.com/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c658adba636c49fbac2e3b984d519734>

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Montague,+MI/@43.4174138,-86.3758131,17.5z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x881bdd94e2fd749d:0x293e1d4e13cef678!8m2!3d43.4166772!4d-86.357013!16zL20vMHZmcjc?entry=ttu>

**1**  
**Scott Alijah Krueger**



Teddy Bear - Newer design for a baby/child

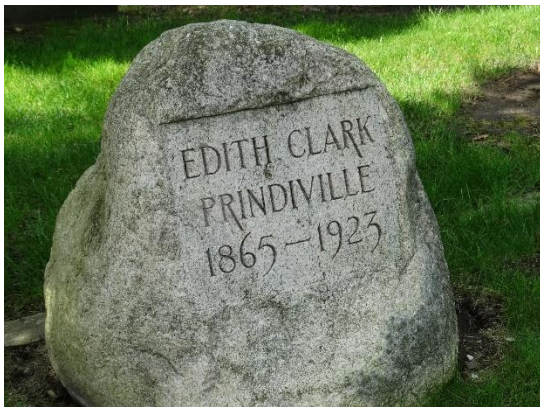
Scott Alijah Krueger was born 30 September 2005, to Alicia Alfrejd and Scott Krueger. He lived in Twin Lake with his parents and sister and sadly passed away there on 19 February 2006.

He is survived by his parents, sister, grandparents, great grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins and several great-aunts and great-uncles.



## 2

### Edith Clark Prindiville



Edith Clark (ne Avichouser) Prindiville was born in Port Dover, Ontario, Canada on 9 February 1865. She married Redmond Spencer Prindiville in Chicago in 1892. Since about 1911 they had spent their summers at their home on the lakeshore and during the past few years she had lived there all year

around.

She had gone to the garage to get her car, as she had planned to spend time with a friend. When she did not return to the house before leaving, Florence Cockerill, a girl who was staying with her, went to the garage and found her lying by the car. She died on 5 May 1923.

123-1-3

## Daniel Rand Calkin

### **\*Tree Stump Tombstone - History**

In 1890, Joseph Cullen Root founded Woodmen of the World (WOW), a fraternal benefit organization, the purpose of which was to make life insurance affordable to everyone. From 1890 until 1900 the policy included a tombstone. For adults the stones were made to look like tree stumps and came in a variety of styles and heights. For children a stack of three logs was typical. Members could select from a variety of headstones offered by the Organization. Plans would be sent to a stonemason near the cemetery where the Woodman was to be buried.

The stump was decorated with a variety of symbols of WOW including axes, mauls (a heavy wooden headed hammer used to drive wedges when splitting wood) and other woodworking instruments. Often you may see a dove of peace with an olive branch. The WOW motto, Dum Tacet Clamet ("Though silent he speaks."), on a round medallion is used quite often. Sometimes the phrase "Here Rests a Woodman of the World" is carved somewhere on the stump. During the 1890s the price of the tombstones increased enough that from 1900 until 1920 members had to buy a \$100 rider on their life insurance policy to receive a tombstone. Unfortunately, production costs continued rising and the wonderfully unique tombstones were discontinued in the 1920s.

Additionally, beginning in 1902, Sears Roebuck & Co. had a Catalogue of Memorial Art in Granite and Marble. And you could select different headstones & monuments from the catalogue.

A 4-foot tree stone went for as little as \$28.75 plus 6 cents per character for engraving the name and date. Shipped from Vermont and would arrive in 4-6 weeks. Freight by rail was relatively inexpensive.

Sears Roebuck & CO. stopped selling headstones and monuments in 1993.



## Tree Stump Tombstone

Daniel Rand Calkin was born 20 October 1837 in New York. He married Esther M. Finney (1843-1898) in Iowa in 1868. They had 5 children. Daniel was a much-respected citizen and fruit raiser. He had developed a very promising orchard adjoining the Terrace Hill fruit farm owned by his brother I. S. Calkin. He was a member of the G.A.R. Daniel died 1 August 1895 at the age of 57 years.

Esther M. Finney was born in Elizabethtown, Essex County, New York, on 14 October 1843. In 1868 she moved with her family to Iowa where she married Daniel Calkin. They came to this village around 1893. She was a member of the M. E. church and was president of the Ladies Aid Society at the time of her death. Mrs. Calkin died at her home on 6 April 1898. She was survived by two daughters and three sons.

100-2

## 4

### Malcom Hendrie



Obelisk

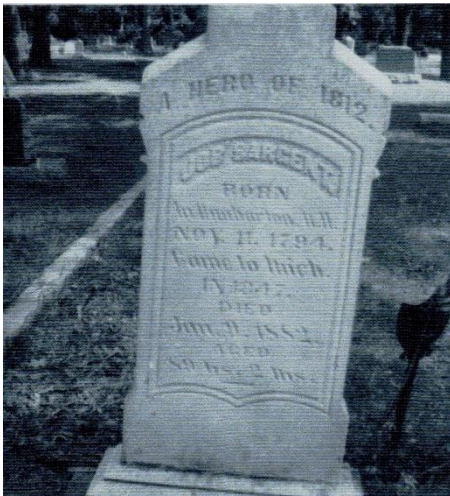
Malcom Hendrie was born 7 September 1844 in Kirkincullack, Scotland. He came to this country at the age of 20 years. In September 1867 he married Mary McVicar at New York City. They had 6 children while they were married. He came to Montague from Muskegon with J. D. Wilson and together they established the Montague Iron Works in 1870. Malcom died 9 August 1888 at this home in Montague at the age of 44 years.

Mary McVicar was born on 11 February 1849 in Scotland. She died in Grand Rapids on 6 October 1914.

79-2-4



**5**  
**Job Sargent**



Job Sargent was born 11 November 1794 in Dunbarton, Merrimack County, New Hampshire. He served in the War of 1812. When he mustered out, he came to the White Lake area where he had been given a very large land grant to homestead. He built a log cabin and a blacksmith shop in 1817 which he operated until 1850 and which was located just north of the intersection of Eilers & Sikkenga Roads.

His son Nathan followed in his footsteps and set up a blacksmith shop where the Weathervane is located.

Job married Sarah Carr (1796-1838). They had 9 children.

He died 9 January 1882.

76-4

## 6

### Capt. James J Dalton

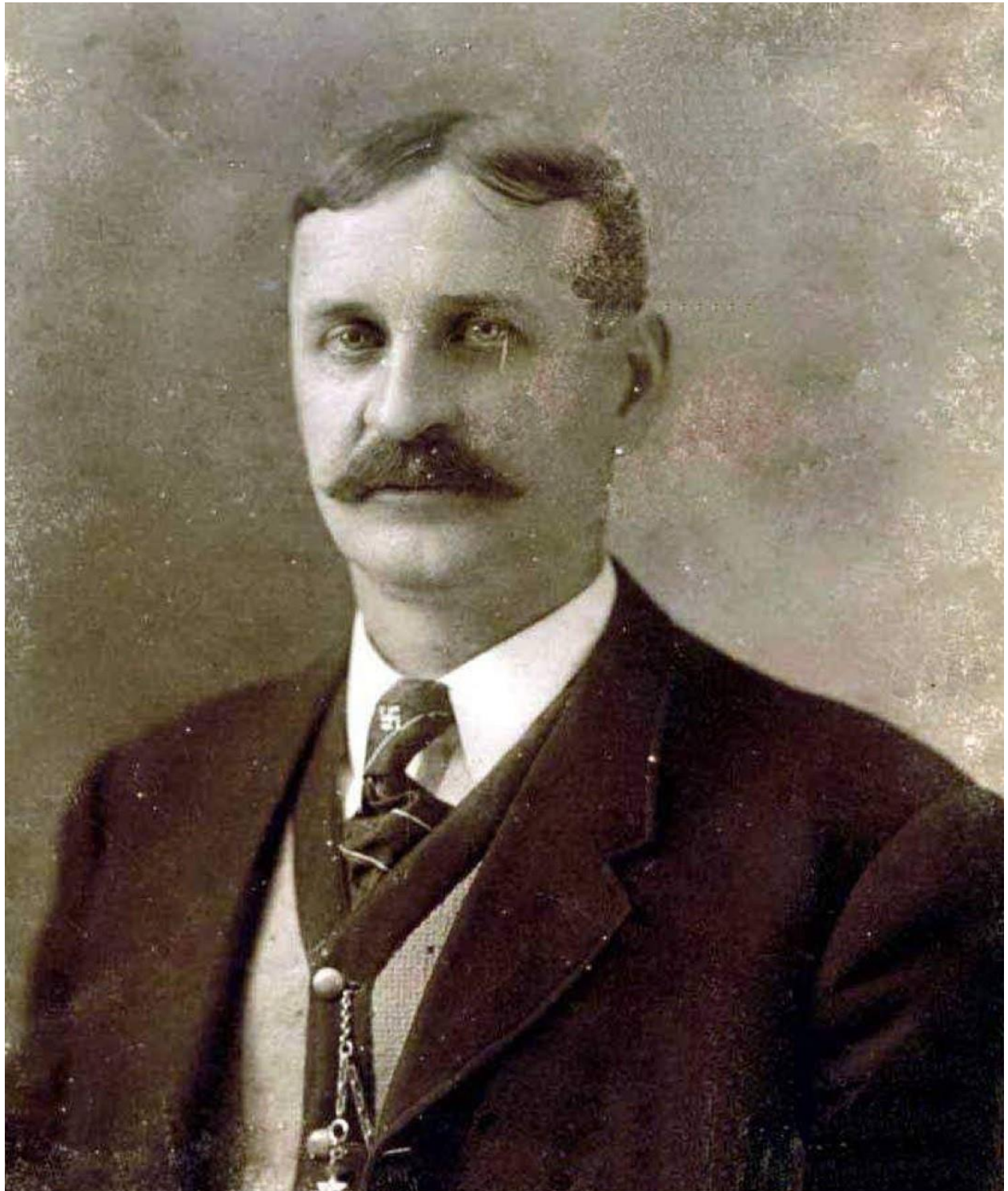


Obelisk with Cross

A member of a prominent early family, Capt. James J. Dalton was born 15 November 1825, in County Roscommon, Ireland. He immigrated to the US in 1834 with his family, settling first in St. Joseph and then near Grand Rapids where they built a sawmill. In 1846 Capt. Dalton and his brother Edward came to White Lake and built the Silver Creek mill. He married Emily S. Burrows around 1860 and they had three children. He died 23 March 1885 in Montague at the age of 59 years.

Emily Sarah Maud Burrows was born 20 September 1840 in Wisconsin, one of seven children of Amaziah and Candace (ne Frary) Burrows, another prominent citizen of the area. After Capt. Dalton died, she moved to Aberdeen, Washington where she lived with her daughter. Emily died there on 1 October 1937.

56-1-3





## 6a Mary Burr



CEMETERY: Oak Grove Cemetery  
SECTION: 1  
BLOCK: 33  
LOT: 2  
PLOT: 1  
LOCAL PLOT ID: OAK GROVE-  
ORIGINAL-033-2W-001

GIS PLOT ID:61-21-571-001-033-002-  
001-7  
BURIAL INFORMATION  
DECEASED FIRST NAME: MARY  
DECEASED LAST NAME: BURR  
GENDER: Female  
AGE: 27  
DATE OF BIRTH: (M/D/Y) // 1856

DATE OF DEATH: (M/D/Y) // 1883

The trustees lodge bought a group of plots. The group disbanded in 40's. The city may have reclaimed some of the lots. Two are filled but with no names. One might be owned by the city. Mary was the nanny of the next site we will visit.

There doesn't seem to be many historical records for the subject. Found a Mary Burr in the 1880 census working as a housekeeper for the Moses Burk family in Shelby.

Mary Burr was born 4 Nov 1856, possibly in Michigan. She died 26 February 1883 at the age of 26 years. She was the hired girl/nanny for Peter & Marie Deneau. She perished along with three of the Deneau children: Nellie, age 5 years; Evie, age 4 years; and Baby Boy, age 8 days)

I was not able to find any report of the fire in the local paper that might shed more light on Mary or the accident.

7

**Eveline, Nellie, Baby Boy Deneau**



Finger Pointed Up (Finger has since been broken off)

Deneau siblings: Eveline (1878-1883), Nellie (1877-1883) and 8-day old Baby Boy Deneau (1883-1883).

They were three of eight children born to Peter and Marie Deneau. Tragically, they perished, along with their Nanny, Mary Burr, in a house fire on 26 February 1883.

4-4-W3

8

## Angeline B Hawks



Rose and Lamb

Angela B. Hawks (1876-1877) & Robert Hawks (1867-1869). Two of eight children of Thomas Hawks and Angeline Harder. Daughter Angela died of Scarlet Fever. Robert died of Congestive Chills or malaria.

4-28

## Deacon Abner Bennett



Obelisk

Deacon Abner Bennett was born on 22 June 1799, in New York.

He was the county's first black lay preacher who came from Canada and was appointed leader of the White Lake area Methodist Episcopal Church in 1853 at the Mouth settlement. From his farm near the Old Channel, he spread the gospel throughout the pioneer settlements of western Michigan which included small congregations from as far north as Little Point Sable, as far south as Muskegon, and possibly as far east as Newaygo.

He married a woman named Mary Ann, and it is believed that they had two children: a daughter Julia A. (1828-1871) and a son (George (1834-?)).

Abner died on 3 September 1879 at the age of 80 years.

Mary was reportedly a former servant of President James K. Polk. Another item mentioned that she had been an extensive traveler in her younger days, having been a ladies' maid for the wife of the Captain of a Merchant Trader on the Atlantic for five years, visiting many European ports at the time. Another item that appeared in January 1885, indicated that she was 61 years old. When Mary died on 11 April 1899, she would have been about 74 years old.

49-2-W1



10  
Frank Murden



Lamb

Frank Murden was born 20 October 1850, the son of Benjamin Franklin and Gertrude Ann (ne Solomon) Murden. According to records, however, the plot was not purchased until 1878. B. F. Murden was the first minister to move into the new Ferry Presbyterian Church parsonage, both of which were completed in May 1875. A son William died in February 1877 and a daughter in March 1878. Mrs. Murden died 21 December 1888 and a large group of family friends followed the remains to their final resting place - location unknown. Benjamin died in Montague on 14 April 1891, but his burial location also remains unknown.

60-4-w1/2

## 11

### Cpl. John Herren



Cpl. John Herren was born in Bern, Switzerland. He married Magdalena Baumann (1830-1901) in 1848 and they came to America around 1851. They first settled in Calument before coming to Montague and settling in the Claybanks area. They had five children. Records indicate he was born in 1833, when he enlisted in the military on 13 August 1862 and served in Co. F, 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry. He was imprisoned on 4 June 1863 in Frying Pan, VA. He was released and recaptured on 4 March 1864 near Richmond, VA. He died of disease while imprisoned at Andersonville Prison on 30 July 1864.

He is actually buried in Andersonville National Cemetery in Macon County, Georgia.

## 12

### Brian Eugene Dawson



This is not an old tombstone, but it certainly is a nice place to sit and reflect on the life of Brian Eugene Dawson.

Brian was born on 22 May 1953, in Shelby, MI to Robert Dawson and Zella Wade. He grew up in Ferry, MI, being raised by his loving grandmother, Louise Dawson.

He married the former Patti Ann Seaver in Whitehall on 26 October 1974. He was head of Parks and Cemetery for the City of Montague for close to 20 years in which he took pride in keeping the city beautiful. Brian was passionate about his first car, a 1968 Shelby Ford Mustang GT 350. He also enjoyed running and traveling with the family. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family, especially the grandchildren. Brian passed away on 3 April, 2014 at the age of 60 years.



13  
Henry Moritz



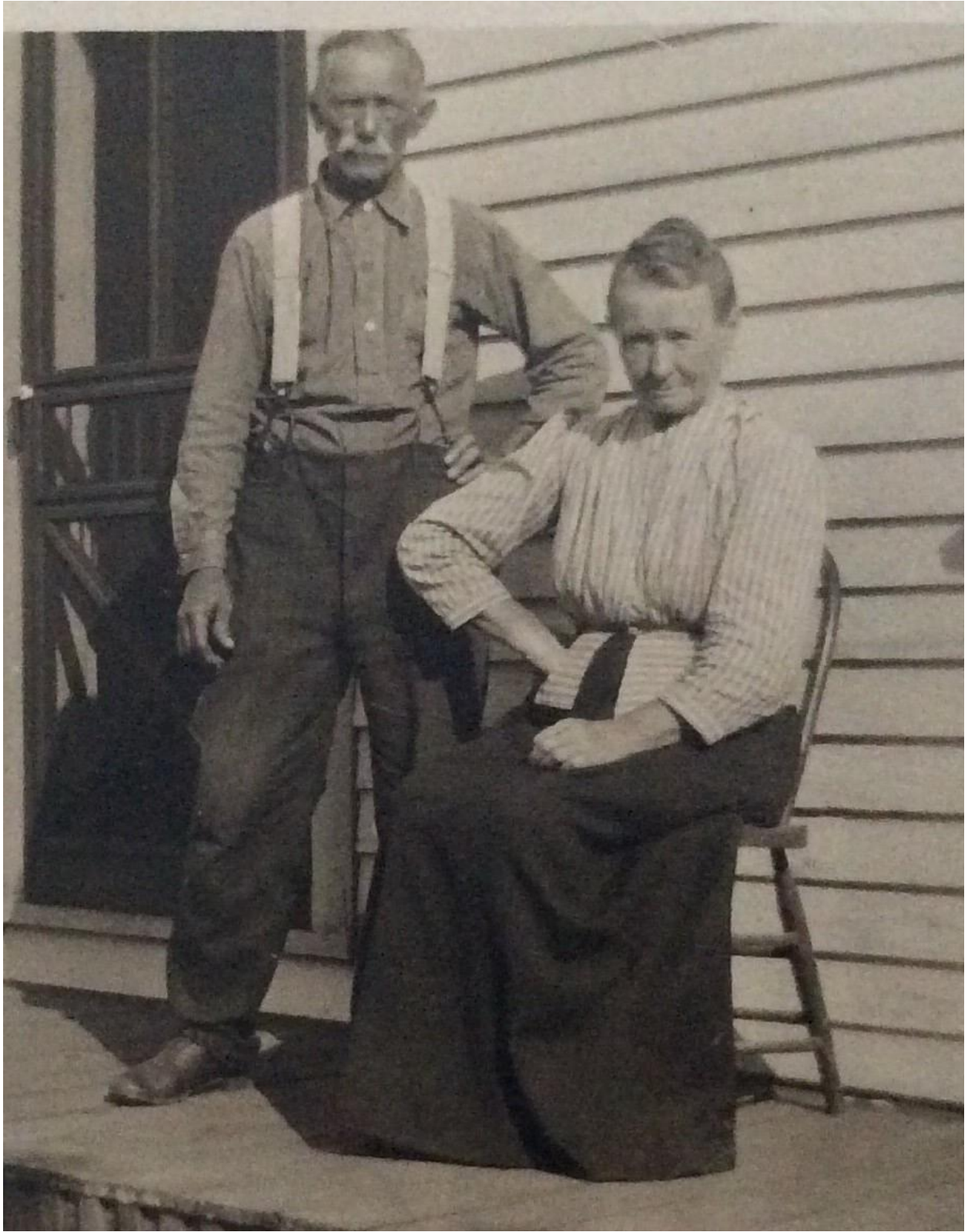
Cylindrical gravestone is sometimes called a Bolster.

Henry Moritz was born in Uelzen, Germany on 7 March 1847. He came to the US in 1868 & married Maria Staudinger in Manhattan, NY on 14

March 1869. They moved to Illinois where he worked as a carpenter. They came to White Lake in 1902. Henry died 14 September 1918 at his home in Maple Grove.

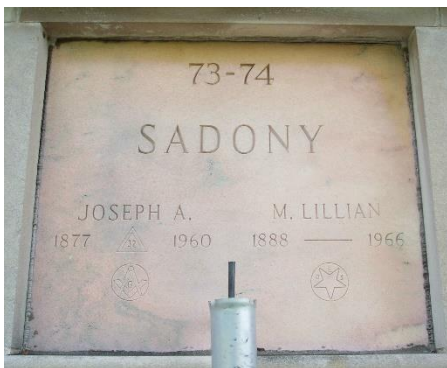
Mary was born in Munich, Germany on 26 January 1847. She came to the US on 2 October 1868. She died at her home in Maple Grove on 15 March 1923.

115-4



## 14

### Joseph Alexander Sadony



#### Mausoleum

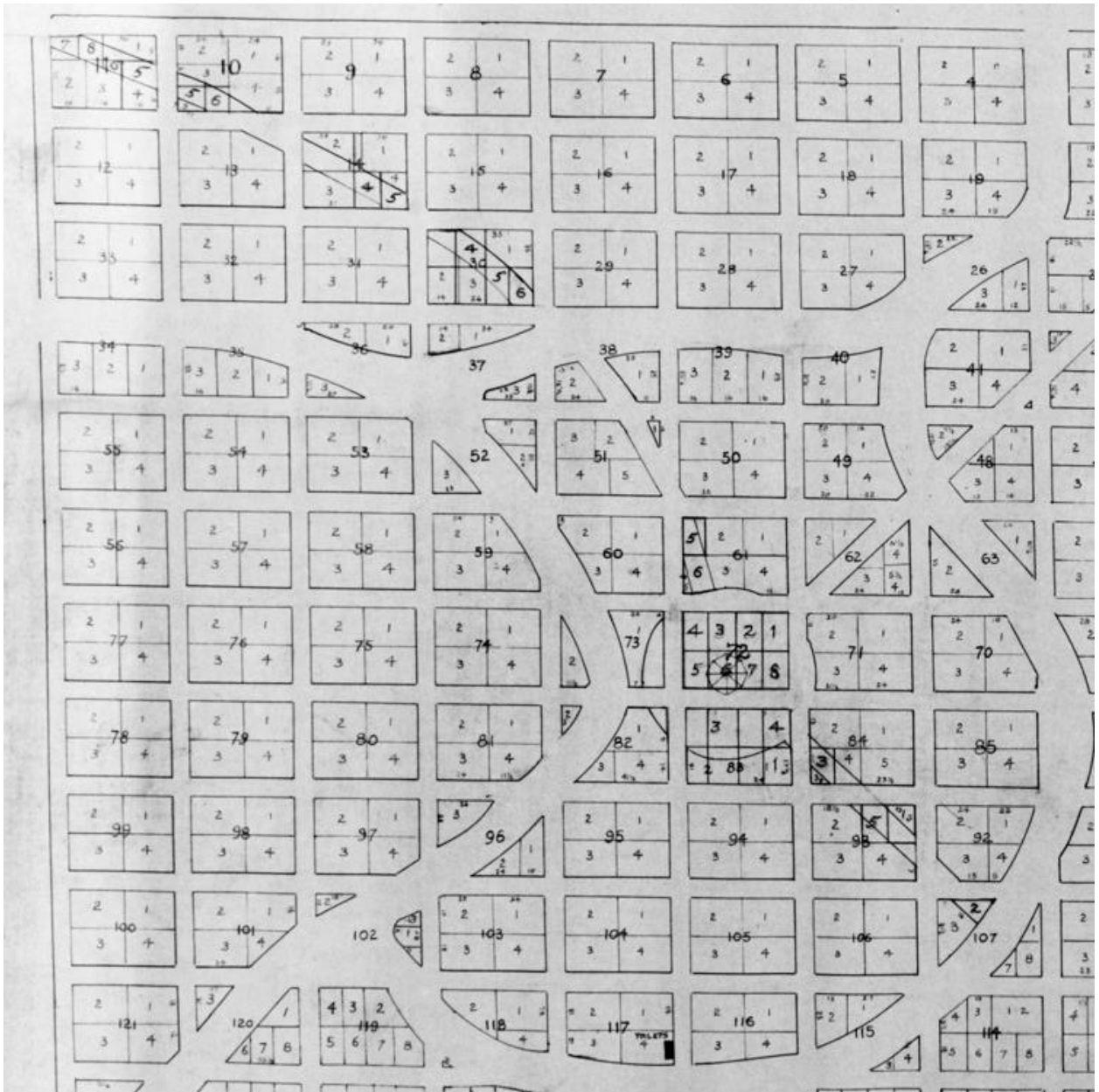
Joseph Alexander Sadony was born 22 February 1877 in Montabaur, Germany, and came to the US as a child, living in Kalamazoo and Chicago. He discovered what he claimed were his own "psychic" abilities early in his childhood and when living in Chicago, he used them to aid the local police in solving many crimes. He married Mary Lillian Kochem on 3 July 1906 in Wisconsin. They moved to Montague in 1907 where they created an 80-acre estate known as "Valley of the Pines" and had two sons. In 1948 he wrote "Gates of the Mind: The Proven Psychic Discoveries of Joseph Sadony".

Mary Lillian Kochem was born in Kentucky on 19 September 1888. She was a life member and past matron of the Montague Chapter No. 404 of the Eastern Star. She died in Muskegon on 27 December 1966.





**Map from 1877**  
 Notice the road coming in from the north west  
 Also the toilet in section 117



**Map from 1877**

**Notice the road coming in from the north west  
Also the toilet in section 117**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ULT 1		Carron	Deto Kennedy	Deyman	Fay	P. Fitzgerald		
2	Bushey	C. LaBarge	Mr. Chrenberger	B BRUNING	L. Snyder	Thomazin		
3	Teidzhiseru	M. Hormes	P. Riley	Kelley	J. Smith	H.E. Carlton		
4	Monarovic	L Drohan	T. Gaynor	J Nepomock	W.A. Benjamin			
5	F. Schira	Mrs P Whalen	L. LaBarge J. Cola	J. Mason	W. Spliedt	M. Lynch	R. Rein	
6	Decker	T. Halley	Bridget Hayes	B. Eilers	E.M. Eilers	J. Dalton	Wm. Becker	
7	F Ostler	Harry Gill	H. Molesberger			J. Sanford		
8	Waskernugel	Hollbrook	John Foley	CHURCH				
				LOTS		C. Sanders	Mrs Powers	
9		Wm Uganski	P. Fitzgerald	Anna Whalen	Ed Whalen	J.P. Whalen	W. Murray	
10		CARLSON J Riveley	A. Bux	Barth Whalen	Maurice Downey	James Whalen	J. Murray	1 Soldier 2 Graves
11								Sullivan

Shows the Catholic Cemetery with names