

Bridge Cemetery

As you approach Bridge Cemetery your first thought that might be “Why Bridge?” The cemetery is on a ridge top far from any bridge. It is situated beside a church, Bridge Church of Christ. The names reflect the history of the church and cemetery. Both indeed at one time were located near a bridge across Bean Blossom Creek about a mile north of their present location. When Lake Lemon was built in 1952 the rising water would have inundated the church; and the cemetery, which stood on a low hill nearby, would become an island, accessible only by boat. So the church and cemetery were moved to their present location, but the names were not changed.

The community of Fleener was in its heyday in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Fleener was located about a half mile north of the bridge, and many residents of the village worshiped at the church by the bridge. The original church was built in 1881 and a new building was constructed on the site in 1927.

Only a few of the stones near the church in the present cemetery actually date from before 1952. Most of the 140 burials in the old cemetery were moved to other cemeteries, especially Peasant View Cemetery a short distance to the northwest. *County Cemeteries of Monroe County* list all stones from the old Bridge Cemetery as well as the current cemetery. Most of the stones in this well-maintained cemetery have death dates later than 1952. Many of the last names on the new stones are the same as those in the old cemetery, e.g. Fleener, McClary, and McClung.

The most prominent old stone in the new cemetery is for Michael and Rebecca Fleener, who were both born in Washington County, Indiana and died in 1898 and 1892. Other prominent stones commemorate Isaac and Elizabeth Hartssock and James and Nancy McClary.