

Silas Chandler Cemetery

The Silas Chandler Cemetery register shows 14 burials, all members of the Chandler family. Most prominent is Silas Chandler (1828-1910), a veteran of the Mexican War. Also buried in the cemetery are Silas' father William (1794-1880), mother Margaret (1802-1897), and wife Elizabeth (1836-1905). A grandson of Silas, Aaron Shields, died in France in WW I. His mother, Mary Ellen (1873-1936), is buried in the cemetery.

The cemetery is located within the Hoosier National Forest on a ridge top north of Lake Monroe near the long-disappeared village of Gent. A sign on Gilmore Road marks the dirt road to the cemetery. The story of that road and the gradual invasion of the cemetery by the surrounding forest was the topic of a newspaper article in the Herald-Times in 1980. The cemetery had been neglected for many years and was rapidly disappearing as trees grew in the area. Marjorie Mayrose, a great granddaughter of Silas, visited the cemetery and felt it should be restored. After a long ongoing battle with the township trustee, the work was finally done, including installation of a fence, at a cost of \$7632! Maryrose said the thing that finally got action was a letter published in the Hot Line column!

Apparently maintenance of the cemetery did not remain a high priority. Three years ago I located the cemetery after a bit of searching down the almost invisible road. Trees have fallen on the fence and the cemetery is once again becoming overgrown with vegetation. This spring I revisited the cemetery and discovered a marvelous transformation. Fallen trees had been removed and the fence had been repaired. The undergrowth was gone and all was neat and tidy. The most remarkable addition was a roofed kiosk with a placard listing burials and a neatly prepared genealogic history of the Chandler family complete with references to the information source. We owe special thanks to descendents

of the Chandler family for their work in maintaining this historic cemetery.