

Cemetery of the Month – September: Garrison Chapel Cemetery

Garrison Chapel Cemetery, established February 27, 1933, rests along the western edge of Garrison Chapel Road in Van Buren Township. It is also adjacent to and on the north side of Garrison Chapel United Methodist Church. A large monument at the gravel road entrance to the cemetery boldly announces the name and establishment date. A few hundred head stones are placed on the north side of the narrow road and a stand of woods is behind the stones, marking the western boundary. The burials in this area are all fairly recent, certainly since 1933 but primarily all later than that. The latest interment, as of early August and awaiting the placement of a stone, is that of Jarrod M. Tayloe, "JROD", Feb.22, 1989-July 30, 2012.

There is more than ample room in the area for several hundred future burials including on the south side of the gravel path where presently there are only about half-a-dozen gravestones. The actual burial area is treeless, well-maintained, and in mid-July was still sporting several flags and flower arrangements from Flag Day and possibly even Memorial Day. Interned here are several veterans of WWII as well as a few of WWI, the Korean War and Vietnam. One of the headstones indicates that the deceased was a master-sergeant and veteran of both Korea and Vietnam. A particularly interesting monument that caught this viewer's eye was a large round stone on a rectangular base on which was carved in cursive simply one word: Rick. Above that name, just above the "i" is a small oval color photograph of a young boy. Walking behind the headstone one finds that Rick was 13-year old Richard Scott Shields, March 1956 – August 1969.

Historically speaking the more interesting portion of the cemetery is north of the entrance monument, situated among several large old pine trees. Here there are stones dating from the 19th-century, including a few that have fallen and several that are so weathered the names cannot be easily determined. There are also more recent, 20th-century gravestones but none of the 21st. There are few war veterans in this section with one major exception: one of the leaning somewhat weathered stones is for Charles Ison, Company I of the 82nd Ind. Infantry – a civil War veteran. While the stone clearly says "Ison" the Adjutant General's Report (Terrell) on the Indiana Civil War recruits and volunteers lists a Charles Isom of White Hall, mustered Aug. 27 1862 and mustered out June 9, 1865. According to the gravestone he was born in 1834 and died in September 1918.

There are several Isons in this part of the cemetery that includes late 19th century lives and deaths, as well as a number of Isom stones for both 19th and mid-20th century. Other frequently occurring family names include Hendricks, Rice, and Taylor