

Cemetery of the Month – September: Clear Creek Cemetery

Clear Creek Cemetery in Perry Township is on South Rogers street, adjacent to and east of Clear Creek Church. Originally established by the church in mid-19th century it is now owned and maintained by an independent organization, the Clear Creek Cemetery Association. At present the cemetery consists of 40 acres, 20 of which hold about 7000 graves. The other 20 acres are maintained as open field thus providing plenty space for future growth. The oldest section is immediately next to the church and holds the graves of most of the original founders of the church. The two oldest grave stones are for William T. Mathers who died in 1838 and James Mathers, 1839, but as the Mathers family owned the property at that time and the Christian Church did not have an actual building until 1847, it is doubtful that this was yet the Church cemetery. It is the Mathers family that gave the land for that church building and thus for the cemetery.

There are at least ten Civil War veterans in this oldest section, as well as one Mexican War veteran and even one Revolutionary War vet. The latter was William Mathers, a member of the Pennsylvania militia. Born in 1746, he died in Monroe County in 1844. Many of the grave markers are for Dillman, Guy and Mathers family members. One of the Dillman markers in fact is a large metal structure. Several of the graves in this area are of local stone cutters who carved their own markers.

Of particular interest in the newer part of the cemetery is the area for a Pet Cemetery, established about 2004. Not yet heavily occupied it nevertheless has four or five double graves for two pets from a family.

The entire cemetery is very well maintained with regular mowing and clean up contracted by the CCC Association. There are a couple of broken stones in the older part and quite a bit of weathering of the stones but the grounds are close to immaculate, including some nearby large old shade trees.