

## PLEASANT VIEW

Located in Benton township, Section 21 (in the north part of the township, in what used to be Marion township), the cemetery is at 7700 Anderson Road, a mile north of Lake Lemon. Longitude 86 25 01.7 Latitude 39 17 04.4. GPS coordinates are E 550268 W 4348517.

At one time, visitors to the Pleasant View Cemetery must have enjoyed a delightful view of the county from atop a hill on Anderson Road. Today, even winter's bare trees are enough to limit the view and create a sense of near-seclusion. No sign remains of the Pleasant View Church, which existed back when this site was located within Marion Township, Monroe County (as documented on the 1895 and 1905 plat maps) before it was combined with Benton Township.

This cemetery is known for its striking, life-size doughboy monument, which memorializes two brothers who served during WWI, but it also contains a variety of more contemporary monuments that reflect the lives and personalities of those buried there. If you visit the cemetery, see if you can find a bass, teddy bear, tractor, and 18-wheeler carved into different headstones. Also keep an eye out for a quote by Galileo mysteriously placed by the front gate.

This active cemetery, maintained by a mother-daughter volunteer team, is in excellent condition. Landscaping is well maintained and several of the older stones, including the doughboy, have been repaired. The earliest grave - that of Margaret Riddle - dates from 1862 and the most recent burial was late in 2011.

As in many cemeteries, this ground contains many reminders of sad stories and past challenges. Some family plots contain grave after grave of children who were born and died during the same year. Other graves remember a mother and her young child who died on the same day and a couple who missed celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary together by one year. Military graves remember those who did not return from war.

However, this cemetery also remembers families, such as the Riddles, who lived and died in this community for generations; a couple who grew old together and died within months of each other; and men who returned from military action to be reunited with their families. A large percentage of the existing graves were marked with flowers, flags, keepsakes, candles or coins. A stroll through this cemetery in any season, any weather will provide you glimpses of our shared human history. For more information about Monroe County Cemeteries, consult the Cemetery Files at the Genealogy Library at the Monroe County History Center or contact the Cemetery Committee at [genealogy@monroehistory.org](mailto:genealogy@monroehistory.org).