Silas Chandler Cemetery
Salt Creek Township, Monroe County, Indiana

Cemetery Sign

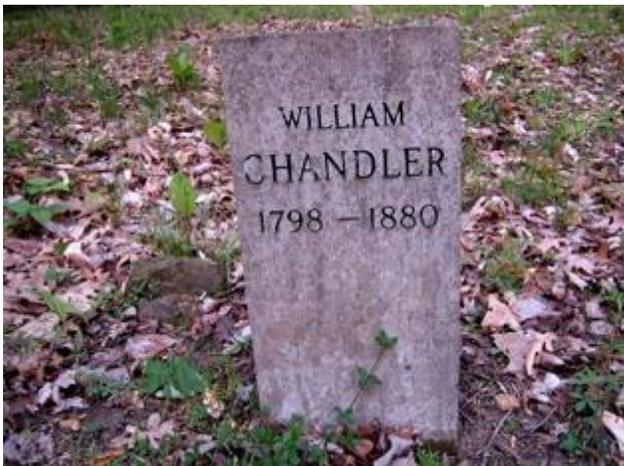
Silas Chandler Grave Marker

View before rennovations two years ago

Long view of the cemetery today

Silas & Elizabeth Chandler grave marker with
carving
Silas G Chandler, 1828-1910 Age 82
Elizabeth Chandler, 1836-1906 Age 69

Cemetery Coordinates: 86 22 31.2 39 05 11.9

In Section 35. Drive 8 miles east of Bloomington , or 8 miles west of Nashville, on
SR 46. Turn south on T.C. Steele Road. Approximately a quarter mile south of the
T. C. Steele historical site turn right onto Gilmore Ridge Road. Keep right on
Gilmore Road where the road forks. After 1.5 miles, turn left on Deckard Ridge. (
You will see signs for Salt Creek Estates.) Follow Deckard to Forest Street. There
is a sign for Chandler Cemetery, about 1 mile down Forest, on the right.

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.

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.