

Clover Hill cemetery, Harrodsburg, Indiana

On the north side of Harrodsburg on Gore Road is the beautifully maintained Clover Hill cemetery. As you walk around the east side of the cemetery you will see examples of stone carving expertise, including carvings in the form of squirrels, tree stumps, flowers and books. Large, hundred year old trees line the driveways providing much needed shade in the Indiana summer and add a calm beauty to the cemetery. To the west side of the caretaker's garage you will see the oldest part of the cemetery where many of the town's first residents are buried. Look around to find gravestone carvings of tree stumps, hats and eggs in bird nests. On the west side of the cemetery is the newest section. Throughout the cemetery you will find the gravestones of our veterans. The Clover Hill cemetery is a busy place with relatives constantly tending the graves of their loved ones and Mark Watson, the caretaker, carefully tending the cemetery grounds and stones.

Much has changed since the cemetery was first started, including the local place-names. Harrodsburg was originally known as New Gene or New Jane. Ruth Seeley Heath's book *Years of Glory* suggests that the name Hardscrapple was briefly used until Harrodsburg stuck. The road by the cemetery was the Dixie Highway before it was Gore Road. The Dixie Highway road system connected the Midwest to the South.

In May 1854 Alex Sutherland sold the land where the cemetery is to George Stipp, except "one-fourth of an acre where my wife is buried." The records for the cemetery were burned in a fire at an unknown date, and since some burials may be no longer marked with a stone or have a legible stone, only a guess can be made from the remaining stones. The earliest burial with a legible stone is Mary Urmey in July 1853. The first ten burials are shown below. From the names, it does not appear that the cemetery started with a single family, but with various townspeople.

Mary Urmey, 15 Sep 1851 – 27 Jul 1853

Martha "Patsy" (Koontz) Sutherland, 29 Jul 1814 – 9 Nov 1853

James Speaks, unknown – 6 Sep 1854

James B. Speaks, unknown – 18 Sep 1854

John B. Speaks, unknown – 23 Sep 1854

Elizabeth "Betsy" (Stipp) Rogers, unknown – 16 Nov 1855

George Brookshare, unknown – 19 Aug 1856

Joseph Streaan, 4 Nov 1784 – 4 Sep 1856

John Stipp, unknown – 24 Mar 1857

Infant Trogdon, 13 Oct 1858 – 13 Oct 1858

Ralph Willis, current Grand Secretary Indiana for the Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias (<http://www.pythias.org>), kindly looked through past records. He found that the Knights of Pythias

Lodge at Harrodsburg (Mystic #23) for the first time listed in their semi-annual report of June 30, 1898 a cemetery of 2.5 acres valued at \$450. The Knights of Pythias established cemeteries throughout Indiana for the convenience of the members and were open to the public for burials. The cemetery in Harrodsburg became the Knights of Pythias cemetery. By 1898 well over 250 people were already buried in the cemetery. At some point it was called the Harrodsburg cemetery. In 1945 when the cemetery was transferred to the care of the Clover Hill Cemetery Association, the cemetery was renamed to the Clover Hill cemetery. Most of the cemetery has been documented and gravestone pictures placed on findagrave.com. The Monroe County Historical Society and the Clear Creek Township Trustee Assessor, Thelma Kelley Jeffries also have copies of the documentation.

Many cemeteries are lost due to neglect, but due to the foresight of Harrodsburg residents, the Clover Hill cemetery is not one of them.