

## **Keller Cemetery Van Buren Township, Monroe County, Indiana**



Jason Mysinger & John Walters  
using the tripod to set a stone  
Photo taken by Schmeltzer 10-16-2010



Cleaning a grave marker  
Photo taken by Schmeltzer 10-16-2010

Coordinates: 39° 05' 34.2", 86° 40' 21.0"

Near Stanford. The cemetery is on private property. Please contact the Cemetery Committee, township trustee, or landowner before exploring. The cemetery contains 51 Known graves with the earliest date identified on a stone being 1817.

The most notable aspect of this cemetery besides its historical beauty is that it is the burial ground for Jesse and Mary Tarkington, the great grandparents of Booth Tarkington, noted Indiana author, and grandparents of Joseph Tarkington, noted Methodist circuit rider preacher during the establishment of Methodism in Indiana. Other names included in the cemetery register are: Catron, Donley, Dudley, Freese,

Gardner, Grabill, Harden, Harmon, Holder, Jeffrey, Keller, Meredith, Moore, Morgan, Reeves, Smith, Travue, Walker, Whaley and Woodward.

Keller Cemetery is located in a woodland setting northwest of Stanford. Almost half of the stones need some repair or stabilization. Corner posts are in excellent condition but the fence needs repair or replacement. The MCHC Cemetery Committee has worked with neighbors, the Van Buren Township Trustee, Rita M. Barrow, the landowner, the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, and others to “clean the yard”. It was the site of our workday for 2010 with professional restorers John and Mickey Walters and more than 20 wonderful participants cleaning, resetting, restoring and stabilizing more than 20 tombstones. We need additional funding to complete the restoration. Anyone interested in assisting with this project should contact Lou Malcomb or Robert Dodd, co-chairs of the MCHC Cemetery Committee, in care of [genealogy@monroehistory.org](mailto:genealogy@monroehistory.org)

**Read more about it:**

In addition to the cemetery files at the Genealogy Library, Monroe County History Center, see: Autobiography of Rev. Joseph Tarkington, One of the Pioneer Methodist Preachers of Indiana with introduction by Rev. T. A. Goodwin, D.D. Cincinnati: Press of Curtis & Jennings. 1899.

<http://www.archive.org/details/cu31924029472150>

Kimbrough, David L. Reverend Joseph Tarkington, Methodist Circuit Rider: from Frontier Evangelism to Refined Religion. Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1997.