FORGOTTEN CEMETERIES OF MADISON COUNTY

by Mary Westerhold

Madison County is over two hundred years old, covers 741 square miles, and, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, contains over two hundred cemeteries. Online sites such as findagrave.com and free databases on the Illinois State Genealogical Society's web site confirm the number of cemeteries.

Many of these cemeteries are small. Some consist of only a handful of graves or even just a single grave, while others are old neighborhood burial grounds with several tombstones still standing. But all of them proudly guard the memory of those who settled in this area.

They may be hidden away in undisturbed woods or in the middle of a farmer's field and only visible when the trees shed their leaves or the crops have been harvested. Others are known and cared for by nearby landowners or family members who still come to pay their respects. Some are hidden in plain sight and are passed daily by motorists who have become so

The site of this Whiteside Cemetery marker at SIUE is familiar to many students, but few know its story.
(Westerhold)

accustomed to seeing them that the tombstones are just part of the landscape. Others sit behind neat fences in parking lots or between houses in a subdivision leading the curious to wonder who is buried there and what is their story.

As more land is cleared and developed with homes and businesses, many of these cemeteries are rediscovered. They are frequently marked with a new fence that surrounds the remaining tombstones. Strangers often leave flowers to honor the dead that are buried there but unknown to them.

The stories of the people buried in these quiet and nearly-forgotten places are many and varied. Many of them came to Madison County with high hopes of a bright future that included building a home for their children and even perhaps leaving them a legacy. For some, that dream came true. For others, death came too early and the survivors were left to continue the dream. Only a few of the stories can be told here, but they serve as a reminder that those stones mark more than a forgotten burying ground.

REMINDER
The Historical Museum
Remains Closed
for Renovations

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The Archival Library is
open regular hours.

Archival Library Spotlight

By Mary Westerhold, Archival Research Manager

Researching Cemeteries

Before visiting a cemetery to take photos or just to find Great-Grandma Harriet's tombstone so you can leave flowers, it is always a good idea to do as much research as possible on the layout of the cemetery. In addition to the cemetery books published by the Madison County Genealogical Society, the archival library has older inventories, photos, and occasionally plats of a cemetery.

The photo files can be extremely helpful especially since tombstones can become unreadable or even disappear because of the weather (including wind that causes limbs and trees to fall), vandalism, and even just an accumulation of dirt and leaves over many years. A black and white photo from 1960 could be the only evidence that your Great-Grandma Harriet's tombstone ever existed!

Tombstone of Sarah Darnielle at Atkins Cemetery .
(MCHS)

Plats and printed inventories of small cemeteries are especially helpful. Published inventories are often completed by walking row by row through a cemetery. They can lead you directly to the stone you are seeking or at least help you find the area where the stone should be located. Plats are equally important and provide the same row by row information, but are much harder to come by.

The Archival Library is always looking for photos, plats, and inventories of cemeteries in Madison County to add to its collection. If you have any to share, please bring it to the archival library, and the staff will scan or copy it. Your contribution will then be available to help others seeking information on their families.

Museum Spotlight

By Jenn Walta, Curator

The museum has a few items that some might consider "creepy," including postmortem photographs and the child's coffin shown here. The coffin was made by George Doerr (1847-1920), a German immigrant who opened a Bethalto undertaking establishment in 1874. Although not formally trained in embalming methods (developed during the Civil War), Doerr's services included traveling to the home of the deceased to prepare the body and building a coffin to be used for burial.

Coffins are different than modern caskets. Coffins were usually plain and tapered at the head and foot whereas caskets are rectangular boxes with more ornate features.

George Doerr, as was typical of a 19th century undertaker, built and sold furniture in addition to coffins. He also owned a hardware business and livery stable, so could present a complete package for mourners that included rental of a horse-drawn carriage as well as the sale of suits, robes and pallbearers gloves.

George Doerr was considered one of Bethalto's first modern funeral directors.

This unused childr's coffin was donated by Ruth Doerr of Bethalto. Mrs. Doerr was married to the grandson of George Doerr, who made the coffin. (MCHS)

"Undertaker" will soon be an obsolete word. What was once known as an undertaker, is now a "funeral director." *Alton Evening Telegraph*, June 23, 1894

Recent MCHS News

Clara Barton to Visit MCHS

On Sunday, March 19, MCHS will celebrate Women's History Month with a visit from Clara Barton (1821-1912). Glen Carbon resident Barbara Kay provides a "first person" account of Barton, relaying the inspiring story of her work as a Civil War nurse who founded the American Red Cross and spent most of her life in service to others.

A retired educator, Kay portrays numerous women important to the history of America, including Martha Washington, Mary Todd Lincoln, Dolly Madison, Molly Brown and, our guest for this program, Clara Barton.

The program is free and open to the public. (Seating is limited.)

Barbara Kay as Clara Barton is pictured here.

MADCOHISTORY.COM TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE

Several weeks ago the MCHS website crashed and unfortunately could not be revived. A new website is being built at the same address by MCHS Board member Tallin Curran. Most of the features of the old website, including a calendar, membership application and past newsletters, should be available by April 1. Until then, events and other MCHS news will continue to be posted on the Society's Facebook page and in local newspapers. A press release will be sent out when the website is again available for browsing.

New Staff Member Welcomed

Mary Z. Rose was recently hired as an Assistant Curator, replacing Casey Weeks. She will be working with Curator Jenn Walta, processing objects for the museum, creating and researching exhibits, and providing assistance to the Archival Library staff as needed. She has volunteered two days a week at the Archival Library for the last year and recently processed a collection of over 300 items from the Paddock family. Welcome, Mary!

New and Renewing Members

Mid-December - February ◆ Thank you for supporting MCHS!

$500 Elijah Lovejoy
Roger & Evelyn Wiebusch

$250 Edward Coles
Mike & Cindy Reinhardt

$100 James Madison
Susan Buckley
City of Edwardsville
Barbara Crowder & Larry Taliana
Mike & Susan Featherstun
Joe & Kathy Gugger
William & Anna Haine
Robert Madoux
Dr. Robert Malench
Kerry N. Miller
Jo Ann Nabe
Joan & Tom O'Saben
Robert & Sandra Schwartz
Six Mile Regional Library District
Carol Wetzel

$50 Family
Tom & Donna Bardon
Donna Bisset
Robert Clouse & Mary Bade
Pat & Lynn Bury
Gary & Pat Coffey
Alvin Diebert
Sid & Jane Denny
Christopher & Pamela Farrar
Murray & Mary Harbke
Tina Hubert

David & Rita Jenkins
Thomas Kelahan
Larry & Betty Krapf
Ted & Joy Lotz
Jack and Janette Minner
SJ & Emily Morrison
Greg and Joan Mudge
David Novak
Joni Peters
Nick & Cheri Petrillo
Glenn & Mary Pizzini
Paul & Barb Pizzini
Katherine Rapp
Kathryn Scheibal
Marlene Shaw
Edward W. Small
Luther & Charleen Statler
Kevin & Donna Wendel
Joyce & Bob Williams
Bob & Sue Wolf

$35 Individual
Diane Anderson
Emogene Beck
Thomas Blixen
Deborah Caulk
John Celuch
Joann Condellone
Joan Evers
Viva Fisher
Patty L. Freymuth
Kathryn Genczo
Mae Grapperhaus

Don Halbe
Hayner Genealogy & Local History Library
Charlotte Heeren
Mary Heeren
Bernie Hellmann
Cheryl Eichar Jett
William Kaseberg
Monica Kempland
Rosalynn Kessler
John Klueter
Vivky Kruckeberg
Candace Ladd
Judith Leo
Virginia McCall
Dan McGuire
Phyllis Metcalf
Missouri Historical Museum Library
Linda A. Mizell
Lois Noto
Sharon Petty
Michael Picchioldi
Joann Southard Reitz
Patricia Rudloff
Diane Schrader
Vickie Sheridan
Margaret Simons
Stella Smith
Meg Solon
St. Clair County Historical Society
Joyce Taff
Sarah Turner
Sharon Whittaker

GRUVER-GIFFORD CEMETERY

One of the easiest forgotten cemeteries to spot sits behind a white vinyl fence in the parking lot near Bella Milano restaurant in Edwardsville. Frequently referred to as the Gruver-Gifford cemetery, this burying ground is also known as the Tetherington or the Shaffer Cemetery. The names for these cemeteries are usually derived from the names on the headstones (Gruver & Gifford) or former property owners (Tetherington & Shaffer).

This cemetery has been inventoried several times with the earliest inventory showing six individuals named on five tombstones. Today only two headstones remain - one for Henry & Catharine Gruver and another for Sarah Gifford. A few footstones with only initials also remain and by using earlier inventories, these can also be identified.

The headstone for Henry and Catharine Gruver is in several pieces and lying flat on the ground. Using previous inventories and photos, the inscription can be deciphered as

"In Memory of HENRY GRUVER, Died Jan 8, 1826, Interred in Butler Co O., AGED 36 Yrs 4 Mos 25 Ds; CATHERINE, Wife of the above, Died July 15, 1841, Aged 41 Yrs. 4 Mos. 8 Ds." From this information, it is clear that only Catharine Gruver was buried here.

Henry Gruver and Catharine Shaffer were probably married in Pennsylvania. Sometime after their marriage they moved to Butler County, Ohio where Henry died. It is believed they had at least four children, two daughters, Mary and Catharine, and two sons, David and Daniel. Only Daniel traveled with his mother to Illinois, probably in the company of the Shaffer family. The Shaffer family owned the ground where the cemetery is located and where Catherine is buried.

The only other headstone still standing is that of Sarah Floyd Gifford, wife of D. N. Gifford. The stone is intact, well preserved, and easily readable. There is also a footstone for Sarah, with only the initials "S. M. G."

The 1850 census finds Sarah living with her parents, Josias and Elizabeth (Randle) Floyd, and two siblings. By 1860, Sarah was the oldest of six children ranging in age from 18 years to six months. Other members of the household are five-year-old Elizabeth Randle and Dennis and James Lane, aged 17 and 14. On Feb 9, 1864

Sarah M. Floyd married Darwin N. Gifford and 19 months later, she was dead. After Sarah's death, Darwin continued to live with his in-laws, working as a farm hand. On Dec. 13, 1871, Darwin married Mary Wright and eventually moved to Christian County, where he died in 1900. Perhaps in remembrance of his first wife, one of their daughters was named Sarah.

The above photographs of Catherine Gruver's tombstone illustrate the importance of recording the information in cemeteries as soon as possible. The picture on the left was taken in 2006 when the inscription could still be read. The photo at right was taken in 2017.

(Westerhold/Reinhardt)

Previous inventories also list tombstones for Elizabeth F. Clawson, age 38 years 10 months, wife of B. C. Clawson, and their son, Joseph, age 1 year 10 days. Both died in 1868, Elizabeth in June and Joseph in October.

In 1856, Benjamin Clawson and Elizabeth Foster were married in Lawrence County, Arkansas. In 1860, they were still living in Arkansas with two children, William, 4, and Sarah, 2. The date of their arrival in Illinois is unknown, but by 1866 the family included two additional sons, Benjamin Jr. and Tilman.

Benjamin now had four young children in his care with the oldest a twelve-year-old son and the youngest under the age of three. He did what most widows and widowers did at the time and placed the children in various households until he remarried in 1873 and all were again together. Eventually he moved to Missouri, with his son Tillman, where Benjamin died in 1909.

At first glance, the gravestone of Sarah Gifford (at left) appears to have weathered the years well, but since this photo was taken in 2014, the stone is no longer freestanding. It is leaning against a tree. The marker includes the inscription, "Thus passes away the glory of this world ."

(Westerhold)

Cook Cemetery

Cook Cemetery, pictured here, is an easily visible cemetery located off IL Route 162 near Anderson Hospital in Collinsville Township. It is surrounded by a low wall and contains monuments for the Cook and Marshall families.

The property was owned by the Cook family when the cemetery began. The earliest burial is for James T. Cook, age 2 years, 6 months, 13 days, son of John A. and Lucinda Lemen Cook. James is the first of eight Cook children buried here along with John and Lucinda. Each child has his/her own tombstone but in addition, there is a large monument that lists the names, birth and death dates of all eight children. This monument was erected much later, possibly by the oldest surviving son.

John A. Cook married Lucinda Lemen in 1836. Lucinda was the daughter of Rev. James Lemen, Jr. She first married Samuel Bowman in 1830, but he was killed in the Black Hawk War. They had one son, but by 1836 when Lucinda married John Cook, there is no mention of him, and it is presumed that he died as an infant. John and Lucinda eventually settled on farm ground that surrounds the location of the cemetery and began a family of their own. They had a total of 12 children over the next

20 years and eight of them were buried here. Four children, Cyrus L., Sarah Prudence, Laura Lucinda, and Charles Fremont, survived to adulthood but only Laura married and left a daughter to survive her. Cyrus, Sarah and Charles are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Edwardsville while Laura Lucinda Cook Primm is buried In Atlanta, IL near her young son.

The family of John Cook's sister is also buried at Cook Cemetery. Mary A. E. Cook married Richard P. Marshall in Virginia in 1831. Their first three children, Henry, John, and Sarah, were born in Virginia. By 1837, the family had moved to Madison County where their fourth child, Richard, was born. Five more children were born before 1850. One daughter, Mary, lived just 14 months and is the second child to be buried in Cook Cemetery. The 1850 census showed eight children in the family, ranging in age from 18 to two years. In the ten years between 1850 and 1860, the Marshall family had one additional child, but lost five children. By the time Richard Marshall died in 1875, he left a wife and four children, John, Sarah, Richard, and Julia, all of whom were married. Mary went to live with her daughter Sarah and her family in Marine Township until she died in 1882. She was the last burial in this cemetery.

Gerke Cemetery

A lone tombstone stands in a field in St. Jacob township. It marks the graves of Dr. Henry Christian Gerke (1773-1842) and his son Philip Gerke (1811-1847).

Dr. Gerke was born in Germany and first came to the United States in 1824. He returned to Germany but came back to Illinois in 1831 bringing his oldest son William with him. Henry Gerke purchased land near St. Jacob where he lived with William. In 1832 William married Lavina Blakeman, the daughter of Curtis Blakeman of Marine.

Dr. Gerke's wife Maria was not interested in leaving Germany. Finally, in 1834, she and their youngest son, Philip, came to the U.S. but stayed in New York for 18 months. Philip had previously trained as an artist in Rome and Munich and she felt there were more opportunities for him in New York than in Illinois. Eventually they traveled to Illinois and Philip set up a studio in St. Louis.

A few years prior to his death in 1842,

This grave stone in Gerke Cemetery marks the graves of Henry Christian Gerke and his son Philip.

(Marilyn Sulc)

Dr. Henry Gerke dug his own grave on his farm in St. Jacob Township and lined it with brick. He also began dividing his real and personal property with specific instructions as to the distribution of the 3,000 acres he left to his son Philip. The oldest son, William, died before his father, in 1840, and was buried in the Marine Cemetery.

After his father's death, Philip married Bertha Staffelbach, despite his mother's strong objections to the marriage. Within four years Philip was dead of typhoid fever, leaving a pregnant wife and one young daughter. Philip's mother never forgave him for disobeying her. He was buried near his father on the farm. Maria Gerke remained bitter about the marriage and according to family legend it was the reason she was buried in Marine Cemetery and not near Henry and Philip. In addition, in her will she provided for William's son and his children with generous sums while leaving Philip's two daughters only five dollars each.

FRICKENSTEIN CEMETERY

Another easy to see cemetery is near the entrance to the Gettysburg Estates subdivision off Goshen Road in Edwardsville. There is a small area enclosed by an iron fence and within that enclosure are three tombstones - F.W. Frickenstein 1800-1865; Eliza Varner b. 19 Aug 185_, d. 19 Oct 1860; and Julia Varner d. 20 Jul 1857.

The property where the cemetery is located was originally deeded to Madison County by Mary and Ignatius Riggin to be used "as a burying ground forever." The two Varner children buried there are both children of Joel J. and Nancy Murphy Varner. At the time the children died, Joel and Nancy, who was Mary Riggin's aunt, were living on the Murphy homestead just east on Goshen Road. Joel and Nancy Varner had nine children and six survived to adulthood. One more child, Jacob, was very young when he died and is probably also buried in this cemetery. It would be unusual for a local burying ground to contain only three graves.

The 1892 Atlas of Madison County shows that Rudolph Frickenstein owned the property surrounding the cemetery. He immigrated to the United States via the port of New Orleans in 1860. Within a few years he was living in Madison County and buying land. He farmed the ground around the cemetery until he retired to Edwardsville in the early 1900s and his son took over the farm. The Frickenstein house and barn remained on the property until the development of Gettysburg Estates. The tombstones were also there although well hidden among the undergrowth of weeds and vines.

Who was F. W. Frickenstein? It is presumed that he is Rudolph Frickenstein's father. Birth records in Germany show Rudolph's father was Frederick Wilhelm Frickenstein. Rudolph's mother died before he came to the United States, so it is probable that his father immigrated with his son and died within a few years of his arrival.

WHITESIDE CEMETERY

On the top of a hill on the campus of SIUE stands an obelisk that marks what is left of the Whiteside cemetery. It is easily visible in the winter and early spring before the grasses grow. During the summer and early fall the tall grasses nearly hide the cemetery. One smaller tombstone is still standing and pieces of other stones are also nearby. In July 1979, the Youth Conservation Corps cleared the weeds and undergrowth from the cemetery and erected a fence. The newspaper photo of that event shows either several smaller stones or foundations from other stones.

The large monument (pictured on page 1) contains the names of William B. Whiteside (d. 1835), Sarah Whiteside (d. 1833), Elizabeth Claypoole (d. 1867), and Sarah Swigart (d. 1835). The small tombstone (pictured at right) is for the infant son of Wm. and C.C. Reddish, d. 1866.

No one knows when the Whiteside obelisk was erected but the death date of William Whiteside is incorrect on the tombstone. Probate papers state William died "on or about" Nov. 18, 1833, and since the court records are dated 1834, the 1835 date on the tombstone is obviously incorrect.

William and Sarah (Raine) Whiteside were husband and wife. Elizabeth Claypoole and Sarah Swigart were their daughters.

William Whiteside was one of several family members who were early settlers of St. Clair and Madison County. He was a sheriff in Madison County for many years and also a Captain of one of the companies of U.S. Rangers. He married Sarah Elizabeth Raine in 1798. It is believed that they had ten children and only lost one child in infancy which is remarkable for that time period.

Sarah (Sally) Whiteside was first married to Robert Reynolds with whom she had three children. They divorced and she then married George Swigart in June 1834. Their marriage was a brief one with Sally dying in December 1835.

Elizabeth Whiteside married Jacob Judy, who died in 1850. A few years later she married Dr. John Claypoole of Fort Madison, Iowa. The Claypooles continued to live in Fort Madison where John died in August 1866. In John's will, he left Elizabeth the house and lots in Fort Madison along with money, shares in a bank, and most of his personal property (excluding "the brown mare and covered buggy"). Elizabeth died in September 1867 and in her will gave money to her surviving Whiteside siblings and also provided money for a "suitable grave stone and a fence of substantial material to enclose my remains." This brings up the question of whether Elizabeth was actually buried in Whiteside cemetery or if the inscription "In Memory of" means just that and Elizabeth was buried in Fort Madison.

The final tombstone is weathered and barely readable. Previous inventories state that the headstone is for Elvin Reddish, who died Feb. 8, 1866, the 11-day-old son of Wm. and C.C. Reddish. Other histories state that Elvin had a twin brother who died at birth and was buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Granite City. Why Elvin is buried here remains a mystery as no known relationship exists between the Whiteside and the Reddish family.

Ballard Cemetery

The three tombstones shown here in the parking lot of an apartment complex are all that remain of this cemetery. They are remarkably well preserved and surrounded by a fence. According to a letter from Bob Lange in the files of the Madison County Archival Library, the Lange family once owned and farmed the land surrounding this cemetery. He stated that there were three headstones visible, lying flat in the ground in a patch of wild strawberries near a cornfield. He noted that four or five additional graves were probably also there.

The headstones mark the graves of Washington and Elizabeth Thornhill Ballard and their daughter, Elizabeth Ballard Shaffer.

The younger Elizabeth Ballard was born Jan. 8, 1822, the eighth child of Washington and Elizabeth Ballard. She married Alexander Shaffer on June 13, 1839. Their children, Washington and John A. Shaffer, were enumerated in their grandfather's (Washington C. Ballard) household on the 1850 census, aged 6 and 3 years. Like many women of the era, Elizabeth probably died in childbirth when John A. was born about 1847.

Elizabeth Thornhill was born in Virginia in 1784, the daughter of Henry Thornhill, a private at the Siege of Yorktown. She mar-

ried Washington Ballard in 1802. They had at least nine children with the older children born in Virginia and at least one child born shortly after they arrived in Illinois, about 1825. Not only did Elizabeth and Washington Ballard raise their own children, they also often had grandchildren living with them. Elizabeth died in 1855, at the old age of 71 years.

Washington Ballard was one of the early Methodist ministers in Madison County serving the original Bethel Church south of Edwardsville and later became one of the founding members of St. John's Methodist Church in Edwardsville.

After his wife Elizabeth's death, Washington Ballard was married Sarah Fields in 1856. When he died in 1870 at the age of 88, his record was inscribed on his tombstone "For 50 years a faithful Minister in the M.E. Church".

Photographing Tombstones

Before visiting a cemetery to take photos, there are several things to consider. Never assume you will return to a cemetery or that the tombstones will still be standing and readable.

Permissions
Obtain permission to enter the cemetery if it is on private property.

Equipment Needed
♦Camera, with extra batteries, extra memory cards
♦Small garden shears to trim away weeds and grass near the tombstones
♦Cheap paint brushes for removing debris from crevasses in the tombstones
♦Spray bottle of WATER ONLY
♦Paper towels or wipes

♦Gardening gloves
♦Notebook and pens or pencils or electronic tablet (Such as an iPad). ALWAYS record the information on the tombstone even if you take a photo.
♦Mirror to reflect additional light onto the tombstones
♦Gardener knee pads
♦Sunscreen, insect repellent, first-aid kit

Photographs to Capture
♦ Front gates of the cemetery
♦ Overview of the cemetery
♦ Headstones - one or more up close and at the same level as the tombstone (kneel down if needed).
♦ Surrounding headstones - especially if they are additional family members.

Guest Author
Mary Westerhold

Mary Westerhold loves cemeteries. That doesn't mean she has a macabre streak in her, it just demonstrates her love for history and the preservation of the past. She also recognizes that every grave is personal to someone and deserves respect.

Westerhold has spent many years discovering, recording and photographing cemeteries, primarily in Madison County, and often gives programs on "forgotten cemeteries" to various organizations. This work has enhanced her service as past president of the Madison County Genealogical Society and as a current member of the Illinois State Genealogical Society Board and the Woodlawn Cemetery Board.

It also allows her to better serve patrons at the Madison County Archival Library where she has been the Research Manager since December 2006. She is currently also serving as the Interim Director of the Madison County Historical Museum.

MCHS is grateful for her willingness to provide content for this issue of the MCHS News. All photographs used here are hers unless otherwise noted.

Mary Westerhold

MARY'S RESEARCH TIP

The symbolism and initials of organizations found on tombstones are often puzzling. Symbols on modern tombstones tend to be more personal, such as an image of a hunter or a car. However, the older tombstones frequently have weeping willows, a chain with a broken link, a hand pointing upward, various flowers, and also initials of organizations that may not be as well-known as they once were. A simple Google search of "cemetery symbolism" returns several good websites with images and explanations. In addition, a search of your local library's catalog using the same term will result in several books on the subject. The meaning of the symbols can offer an additional insight into the life of the deceased or what the death meant to the family left behind.

Below are examples of symbolism used in graveyards.

Chain with a Broken Link
Family unity is broken

Lamb
A child's grave; innocence

Male & Female Hands Clasped
Represents matrimony

Rose
On a child's grave, it is usually just a bud; It can also represent a brief life.

Hand Pointing Up
The pathway to heaven or heavenly reward

Angel Praying
Asking for God's mercy on behalf of the deceased.