

GOODFARM CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

An article in the Chicago American, some time in the spring months of 1953, told of an epidemic of Cholera in Chicago beginning in the month of April 1854 and of its rapid spread so that by the month of May people "were dying like flies."

By early July 1854, this epidemic had reached Goodfarm community. We are informed that the early settlers told of an entire family, husband, wife and child dying from it ^{that they} and were buried on their farm, also of others being buried near their homes.

With this condition facing the early settlers, they felt the need of a permanent burial place. In the year of 1854, fifteen men, mentioned in a deed, chose the plot now known as the Goodfarm Cemetery.

We now come to silent witnesses by memorial markers, placed in east central part of cemetery: George C. Burkhart--July 30, 1854, Leonard Pfeifer--Aug. 19, 1854, Marie Fisher--Sept 2, 1854, Marie M. Racher & Margaretha Racher--Sept. 4, 1854, also indications that there were several other burials in same location possibly at same time as above.

For the foregoing we have no records, but the memorial markers mentioned above and the story as told by the first settlers. Our first records begin in Aug. 1855, when S. M. Sindell in a warranty deed to Leonard Fisher et al, dated the fifth day of Aug. 1855, showed that a parcel of ground in S.W. corner of S. $\frac{1}{2}$ of S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ was deeded by S. M. Sindell and wife to following named persons, the grantor retaining an equal share with the others: Leonard Fisher, George Haag, Leonard Meier, George Pfeifer, Frederic Burkhart, Christian Burkhart, George Simantel, Jacob Racher, Christopher Krug, George Burger, George Kepplinger, John Klughart, Adam Fox, Martin Hoffman. From the time of this recorded deed we have no records until the year 1865, a book called No. 2 having been lost, leaving 10 years without records.

In the very beginning space for burial was taken side by side as needed, a custom brought with these settlers from Germany. But this did not continue very long for in the records of 1865 it states that part of the cemetery grounds was divided into lots and numbered and that the charter members obtained by chance or choice a family lot.

From this time on we have records of annual meetings for most all years. In

the year 1898 it was determined that the annual business meeting be held on the first Monday in June each year. This date has been continued to this time. The records disclose the gradual growth and improvements as the planting of hedge for fence, later fencing, hitching posts, tiling, driveways, etc. The expenses for improvements were met by sale of lots and special assessments to each lot owner. At first lots sold for \$5.00, and adult single graves for \$1.00 and children single graves for 50¢, and by a gradual increase the lots sold for \$20.00 by 1898.

In the year of 1897 we find the first record of an effort to keep grass cut and lots trimmed. This work was left to the lot owners, each to take care of his own lot but this did not prove to be very satisfactory. In 1911, under the supervision of C. M. Baker, the project of leveling and preparing the ground so that lawn mowers could be used was begun. In 1928 the sale price of lots was adjusted so that they included perpetual care and those who already owned lots could purchase perpetual care for their lot.

In 1938 we purchased and added 72 feet of ground on north side of cemetery, making 45 more lots available ~~at that time~~, a tool shed was built and lanes were graveled. A bequest of \$1000.00 from John Racher made this addition and improvements possible. Provisions have been made for enlarging by adding additional ground space on north side again when needed.

From the records beginning in 1865, we find the following men have served as trustees of the association: G. B. Krug, Martin Hoffman, Geo. Simantel, John L. Meier, Leonard Fisher, S. M. Sindell, Fred Burkhart, Leonard Hoffman, George S. Burger, Martin Burger, Sr., John Schrotberger, William Pfeifer, William Hoffman, Elmer Gantzert, Martin Burger, Jr. The last three are the trustees of the present day, 1954.