



HICKORY GROVE CEMETERY

HICKORY GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ORIENTATION PACKAGE 2024

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HICKORY GROVE CEMETERY

- PLEASE HONOR THOSE INTERRED HERE WITH RESPECTFUL CONDUCT •
- PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASS •
- PLEASE DO NOT LITTER •
- RECEPTACLES ARE AVAILABLE FOR CEMETERY DEBRIS ONLY •
- PLEASE LEASH & PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG •
- GLASS IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE CEMETERY •
- ALL MONUMENTS & PLANTINGS MUST BE APPROVED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION •
- HGC WILL BE CLEARED OF ALL DECORATIONS TWICE A YEAR •
- HGC MAY REMOVE ANY ITEMS IT DEEMS WARRANTED WITHOUT NOTICE •

HISTORY OF HICKORY GROVE CEMETERY

The Hickory Grove Cemetery currently stands as one of the oldest cemeteries in Northeastern PA.

The historic burial ground, formally established in 1807, not only contains the final resting places of village residents, but also holds a section dedicated to the former runaway slaves who established communities in Waverly during and after the Underground Railroad movement.

Additionally, the graveyard contains an area featuring eight of the thirteen soldiers who voluntarily served the country during the Civil War.

Hickory Grove remains a significant part of the region's local history and serves as both an active burial ground and preserved link to the past.

The Hickory Grove Cemetery began with a gentleman by the name of Elder John Miller; Miller, a 32 year old preacher moved to Waverly, then known as Abington Center, in 1802 from Upstate New York and built a log cabin home along what is now known as Miller Road.

From his home, Miller established the First Baptist Church of the Abingtons and held meetings in the homes of members until a formal site for the First Baptist Meeting House was erected in 1821. In 1807, the cemetery was officially established in the village by Miller on a portion of his 326 acre farm. In 1847, the tract was then enlarged and Elder Miller donated another acre and a half parcel towards its development, and the Cemetery Association was organized. The location was then formally named Hickory Grove Cemetery, and chartered in 1883 due to the large grove of hickory trees surrounding the area.

The first board of trustees for Hickory Grove were village residents: Thomas Smith, Dr. Andrew Bedford, Nicholas Reynolds, Reuben Sherman, Nathan Sherman, John Stone, Norman Phelps, Isaac Sherman, Leonard Batchelor, and James Stone. In 1875, the cemetery was expanded again when an additional half acre was purchased from village residents Charles and James Tinkham.



In 1883, a lot was purchased for the burial of Civil War soldiers from Waverly; land was purchased again following World War I by the Joseph Bailey Post American Legion for the internment of its members. Subsequent land purchases were made throughout the 20th century as well as efforts to beautify the property. The Hickory Grove Cemetery is located along Miller Road and is currently featured on the Waverly Community House's Destination Freedom Map. Many of the village members represented on the walking trail are also buried in the cemetery including: Dr. Bedford, Leonard Batchelor, and Rodman Sisson.

Hickory Grove is one of the oldest known cemeteries associated with African Americans in Northeastern PA. The cemetery is the burial ground for many fugitives from slavery who came to the area via the Underground Railroad in the mid-19th century. By the end of the 19th century there were 75 former slaves in Waverly. The grave sites of the freeborn residents and former slaves who later went on to join battle in the Civil War are all located in Row 5.

The Hickory Grove Cemetery is a complex cultural landscape encompassing and representing many elements of both national and local history. Since 1807, the location has withstood the test of time and remains commemorative of both individuals and historical time periods within the United States.

MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS OF HICKORY GROVE CEMETERY

Mission Statement:

The mission of Hickory Grove Cemetery and its Board of Trustees is to honor the memory of those who have chosen our hallowed grounds as their final resting place. We will strive to create a dignified and respectful environment for those who visit our Cemetery to honor the memory of friends and loved ones.

Our facilities will be maintained with the highest standards of care so that the memories of those interred may be visited in comfort and dignified respect.

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Hickory Grove Cemetery Board of Trustees is to serve the residents of Waverly and its environs with a place of burial that provides a peaceful and well maintained setting.

We will strive to expand the capacity of the Cemetery, both with respect to burial sites and interment options. We will endeavor to provide information systems that will enable easy access to burial location, and to maintain in the future our high standards of care for the entire Cemetery.

We will exercise due diligence in administering the HGC Endowments Fund, and will develop creative ways to sustain this Fund through programs such as gifting and fund raising.

Our vision is for a Cemetery that will be properly maintained and properly administered so that its future sustainability will be ensured.

BURIAL & INTERMENT OPTIONS OF HICKORY GROVE CEMETERY



- **BURIAL LOTS:**

Hickory Grove Cemetery offers full service burial options. The Cemetery has 12 distinctive burial areas with lot sizes of 10' x 10' and 10' x 15'. Multiple adjacent lots may be purchased.

- **CREMATION:**

Cremain Burial - Cremated remains may be buried in smaller plots or interred within a family member's full sized plot.

Columbarium - A columbarium is a structure with inbuilt niche spaces that store cremation urns. This final resting place may be a wall, room, or standalone building on Cemetery property.

Scattering Garden - HGC is researching the option of creating a scattering garden as a section of the cemetery set aside for the spreading or broadcasting of cremated remains that are removed from their container and can be mixed with or placed on top of the soil or ground cover or buried in an underground receptacle on a commingled basis and that are nonrecoverable.

Within this future endeavor, HGC would permit family members to purchase small memorial plaques to honor the memory of the deceased, also providing family members with a legal and appropriate place to disperse the ashes of a loved one.

- **GREEN BURIAL:**

A potential future endeavor of Hickory Grove Cemetery, should the community support it, would dedicate a portion of the Cemetery to sustainable practices & protocols that conserve energy, minimize waste, and seek to bury without impediment: no toxic chemicals, no embalming, no liners or vaults, using biodegradable containers, whether caskets, shrouds or nothing at all.

ENDOWMENT & DESCRIPTION OF HGC FINANCIAL STRENGTH & INTEGRITY

HGC is managed by a volunteer board of eleven trustees and a paid staff of two part time staff, one serving as secretary and bookkeeper, the other supervising maintenance of the cemetery. Grass cutting, grave digging, tree and road maintenance are contracted out to third parties.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires that cemeteries keep aside 15% of all lot sales for the purpose of maintaining them in perpetuity. As such, Hickory Grove keeps a separate account for this permanent fund. In addition HGC has established a significant endowment over the last several decades for the purpose of assuring its financial stability.



HICKORY GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION RULES & REGULATIONS 2024

Rules and Regulations of the Hickory Grove Cemetery and prices for burial spaces and services are set by the Board of Trustees of the Cemetery and become effective upon approval by the Board of Trustees of the Cemetery.

The Cemetery may, and it hereby expressly reserves the right, at any time, with or without notice to lot owners, to adopt new rules and regulations or to amend, alter and/or repeal any rule, regulation and/or article, section or paragraph in these Rules and Regulations.

Special cases may arise in which the literal enforcement of the rule may impose unnecessary hardship. The Cemetery, therefore, reserves the right, without notice, to make exceptions, suspensions or modifications in any of the Rules and Regulations when, in its judgment, the same appear advisable, and such temporary exceptions, suspensions or modifications shall in no way be construed as affecting the general application of such.

A. GROUNDS

1. The grounds shall be open to the public daily during daylight hours.
2. No special events shall take place on Cemetery grounds except with the consent of and in coordination with the Board of Trustees.
3. No person or entity shall be allowed to perform any work within the Cemetery without permission from the Cemetery.
4. All traffic shall enter and leave the Cemetery through the main gate, other than gates that are opened for funerals.
5. Water is made available for the sole use of lot owners from May 1st through Labor Day.

B. LOTS

1. Sale of lots will be handled by the Board of Trustees and Secretary. The price of lots shall be in accordance with the current fee schedule. Fifteen percent (15%) of the sale price of lots shall be transferred to the Perpetual Care Fund, and the balance of Eighty-five percent (85%) shall go to the budget of the Cemetery for operations.
2. The owner of interment rights hereunder may dispose of same by will or, should the owner die in testate, such interment rights shall pass according to laws of this State governing intestacy provided, however, the Cemetery shall not be bound by such transfers unless and until an exemplification of record of same has been presented to it and such change has been recorded on the books and records of the Cemetery. Any plot, crypt or niche in which there are no burials, entombments or inurnments may be transferred to a new owner, providing the original Certificate of Ownership is submitted to the Cemetery together with proper transfer agreement, upon payment of transfer fee in accordance with the Cemetery's established schedule of charges.
3. In the event of loss or destruction of a Certificate of Ownership and upon the presentation of a written request, accompanied by a properly executed affidavit by all the owners, including intestate heirs, setting forth the circumstances of the loss or destruction and indemnification for the Cemetery, the Cemetery will prepare a duplicate Certificate from its records.
4. Lot owners are prohibited from allowing interments to be made on their lots for compensation.
5. Lot owners wishing to sell or transfer purchased lots to other individuals must coordinate such transaction with the Board of Trustees, so the Cemetery records are adjusted, and the appropriate Deed issued. Repurchase of lots are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.
6. If a lot owner sells or transfers title to his or her lot, as provided by these regulations, he or she must pay any and all indebtedness due the Cemetery before such transfer of title will be allowed.
7. All lot owners are required to notify the Cemetery of any change of address. All notices, including regulation changes, shall be sent to the last recorded address and such notices shall be deemed adequate.



8. In the event of a dispute regarding the location of lots, the survey maps of the Cemetery shall take precedence and be the controlling factor in a decision.

C. INTERMENT AND FUNERAL REGULATIONS

1. Interments into a lot are restricted to those entitled to burial therein according to these rules and regulations.
2. The fee for grave openings shall be in accordance with the current fee schedule. In the event of unusual circumstances, additional fees shall be based on hourly costs. Current fee schedule may be obtained from the Board of Trustees upon request.
3. The fee for grave openings shall be paid in full not later than the time of the funeral.
4. All grave openings shall be done by the Cemetery, and the location shall be determined by arrangement with the Board of Trustees.
5. All burials including cremations must be made of approved non-degradable materials.
6. Vaults shall be at least standard approved sizes, and at least 5 feet underground.
7. All foundations shall be installed by the Cemetery, and shall be paid for in accordance with the current fee schedule. Foundations shall be paid for per square inch in accordance with the current fee schedule. Size of the foundations shall be governed by the size of the stone subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.
8. The fee for cremation interment shall be in accordance with the current fee schedule and the procedure the same as for grave openings.
9. The Cemetery has the right to postpone lot openings and interments during winter months, in the event of inclement weather or other conditions beyond its control.
10. The Cemetery shall be in no way liable for any delay in the interment of a body where a protest to the interment has been made or where the rules and regulations have not been complied with.
11. The use of one grave space shall be limited to interments as follows unless otherwise permitted by the Cemetery:
 - a) One adult burial, or
 - b) One adult burial and two urns of cremated remains, or
 - c) Three urns of cremated remains
12. No disinterment will be allowed without permission of surviving family, the lot owner, the Cemetery and the proper authorities, or by Court order. In addition, all disinterment's shall be done only with a State or other legal permit provided by a licensed undertaker and only upon payment of all costs in advance.
13. The Cemetery shall in no way be liable for any container, receptacle or urn of cremated remains placed in any lot, crypt or niche. All burials including cremations must be made of concrete or other approved non-degradable materials. A permanent type of urn or vault is required for ground interment of cremated remains. The scattering of cremated remains over a family lot is prohibited.

D. REGULATIONS FOR FLOWERS, DECORATIONS, TREES & SHRUBS

1. All flowers, decorations, and plantings are at the discretion of the Hickory Grove Board of Trustees and may be removed at anytime without notice.
2. Hickory Grove Cemetery grounds will be cleared of all decorations twice a year: Beginning March 1st and October 1st.
3. Receptacles are provided from April through November for disposal of used flowers and waste. There is no dumping of trash, used flowers or waste other than in receptacles provided for that purpose.
4. Fresh flower arrangements are permitted without notification to the Hickory Grove Board of Trustees, and must be in non-breakable containers. Artificial flowers are not permitted.
5. Annual and perennial flowers may be planted around the base of monuments without notification to the Hickory Grove Board of Trustees.



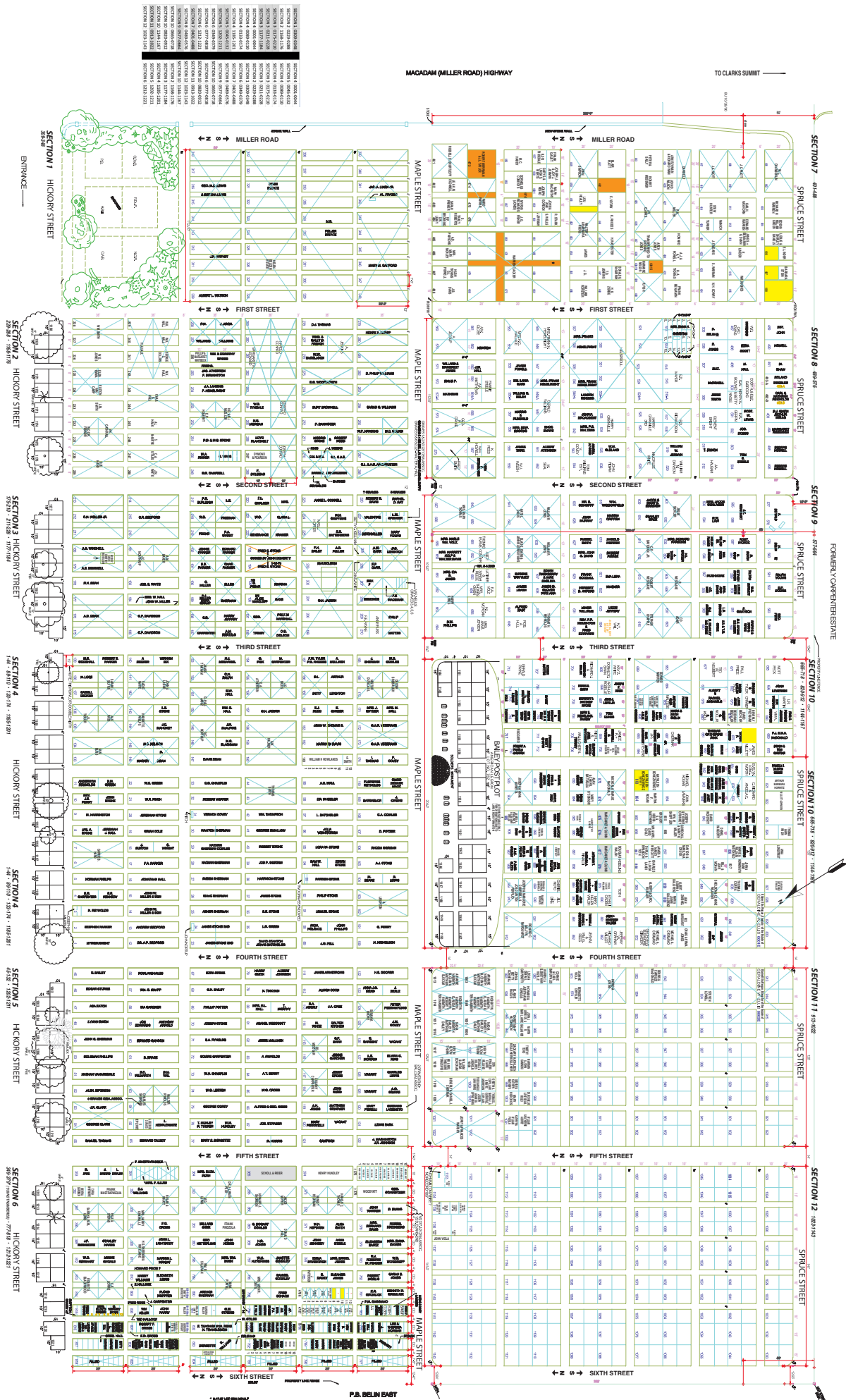
6. Balsam grave blankets, pine boughs, and wreaths are permitted as winter decorations from November 15th to March 1st.
7. Flags are permitted on graves for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Flag Day, and Veterans Day. Only flags permitted are the Stars & Stripes & service organization flags, 12" x 18" maximum size. It is illegal to remove Veteran's flags on gravesites. Any damaged or deteriorated flags are subject to removal by Hickory Grove Cemetery without notice.
8. Devotional lights are permitted upon approval of the Hickory Grove Board of Trustees and must be properly maintained at all times. Any damaged or deteriorated devotional lights are subject to removal by Hickory Grove Cemetery without notice. Plastic is not a permitted material for devotional lights.
9. Trees and shrubs are placed throughout the Cemetery by the Cemetery for overall beauty and serenity of the grounds. Permanent landscaping plantings including trees, shrubs and perennial flowers are permitted only upon approval by the Hickory Grove Board of Trustees. Any plantings, or decorations not approved by Hickory Grove Board of Trustees may be removed without notice.
10. The following are NOT permitted in Hickory Grove Cemetery: glass ornamentation or containers, displays, designs, decorative flags, shepherd's hooks, bird houses, stand-up decorations, fencing, enclosures, decorations in trees or plantings.
11. Hickory Grove Cemetery has the right to trim any trees, shrubs, flowers, or other plantings which encroach upon other lots.
12. Hickory Grove Cemetery is not responsible for the upkeep of any trees, shrubs, flowers, plantings, or decorations, permanent or temporary, and may remove any and all objects that violate Hickory Grove Cemetery's rules and regulations.
13. Hickory Grove Cemetery is not liable for any flowers, plantings, or decorations removed or lost by any cause.

E. REGULATIONS FOR MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS & MARKERS

1. All monuments, memorials, and markers must be approved by the Hickory Grove Board of Trustees prior to installation. Hickory Grove Cemetery has the right to reject any design.
2. All monuments, memorials, and markers must be within the lot property lines established by Hickory Grove Cemetery. Upon selection and purchase of a plot, and prior to interment, Hickory Grove Cemetery will locate the (4) physical corners of the plot and mark with stakes.
3. A dimensional sketch is required for approval of all monuments, memorials, and markers, including but not limited to: plot and marker size, materials, colors, foundation location, inscriptions, engraving, text, fonts & lettering, and permission of the person having burial rights to the grave to be marked.
4. Monument foundations are the responsibility of the monument company. They should contact Hickory Grove Cemetery to obtain foundation requirements and the fees associated with plot layout. Inspection of the area prior to placement of concrete or gravel is also required.
5. Monuments, memorials, and markers may not exceed one-half of the width of the lot or a six feet maximum width, and five feet maximum height, including the base, except as approved by the Hickory Grove Board of Trustees.
6. Corner markers are permitted and must be installed at grade level by agents of Hickory Grove Cemetery only.
7. Any and all fees due on a lot, including installation of any monuments, memorials, and markers, must be paid in full prior to installation.
8. Hickory Grove Cemetery has the right to remove any monument, memorial, marker, or foundation that inhibits an interment or disinterment without notice to the lot owner.

F. PERPETUAL CARE

1. The care of endowed lots will include cutting the grass, keeping the lots clean, regrading and seeding when necessary and keeping all monuments, head stones and markers in proper alignment at all times. The care will not include repairs to or maintenance of any mausoleum or vault to be erected on an endowed lot.





John Mason

Born into slavery in Md.

Enlisted as
Private in 22nd
U.S.C.T.

Maimed by a
gunshot wound
to his hand, at
Petersburg

*Buried at Hickory
Grove Cemetery*



Early white supporters who are interred at Hickory Grove



Rodman Sisson,
UGRR



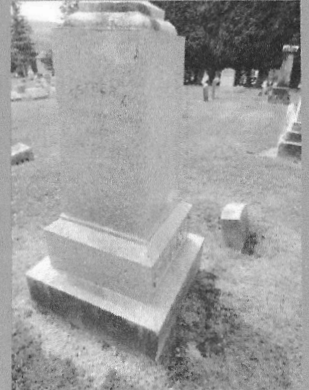
Leonard Batchelor,
UGRR



Stephen Tillinghast,
UGRR



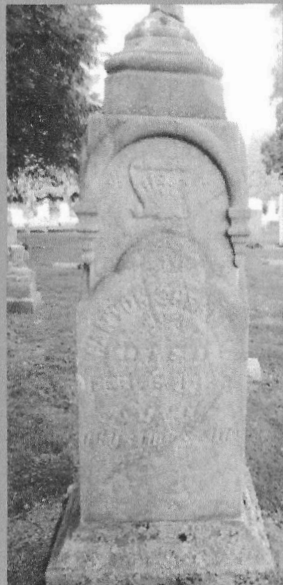
John Stone, UGRR



Esther Stone, UGRR



Nicholas Reynolds,
UGRR



Wanton Sherman



John G. Fell, UGRR

Charles
Bailey,
UGRR
*at Shoemaker
Cemetery,
Dalton*





Later white supporters who are buried at Hickory Grove



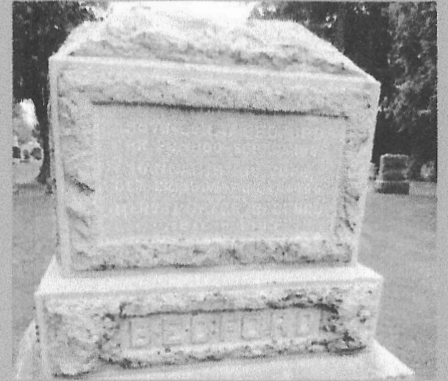
Dr. J.C. Miles



William E. Rice



B. M. Green



Dr. Andrew Bedford



Dr. N.C. Mackey



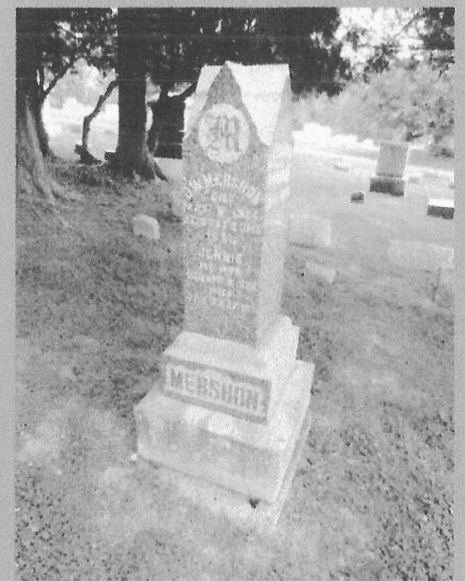
Richard H. Holgate



Norman Phelps



Benjamin E. Cowles



John W. Mershon



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