

Volume 101 November 2020

9030 Forestview Lane N. Maple Grove, MN 55369 763-494-5983 Open 2nd Sunday of the month

Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society

OFFICERS

President: Al Madsen

Vice President: Caroline Schaefer

Secretary: Joyce Deane

Treasurer: Patty Reuter

Newsletter Editor: Pat Ruffing

Web page designer: Steve Briggs

<http://www.maplegrovehistory.org>

Purpose: To collect and preserve information and artifacts and to educate the community of the history of Maple Grove, MN.

Regular



Events

Open House:

The Maple Grove History Museum hosts an open house on the second Sunday of every month from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Monthly Meeting: The third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the History Museum. Anyone with an interest in history is welcome to join us!

Quarterly Newsletter:

Feb. 2021 Plagues, pandemics, diphtheria, flu, TB Sanitariums, polio, – what is your family's story?

May 2021 If your house could talk—history and interesting facts, happenings, colors and furnishings

Ox Cart site and territorial downtown Maple Grove:
15310 Territorial Rd (0.7 mi. w. of Fernbrook Lane N. Maple Grove, MN.

Pierre Bottineau House : Elm Creek Park Reserve:
12400 James Deane Parkway, Maple Grove, MN.

4 History Display Cases at M.G. Government Center:
12800 Arbor Lakes Pkwy N. Maple Grove, MN.

January: Annual dues

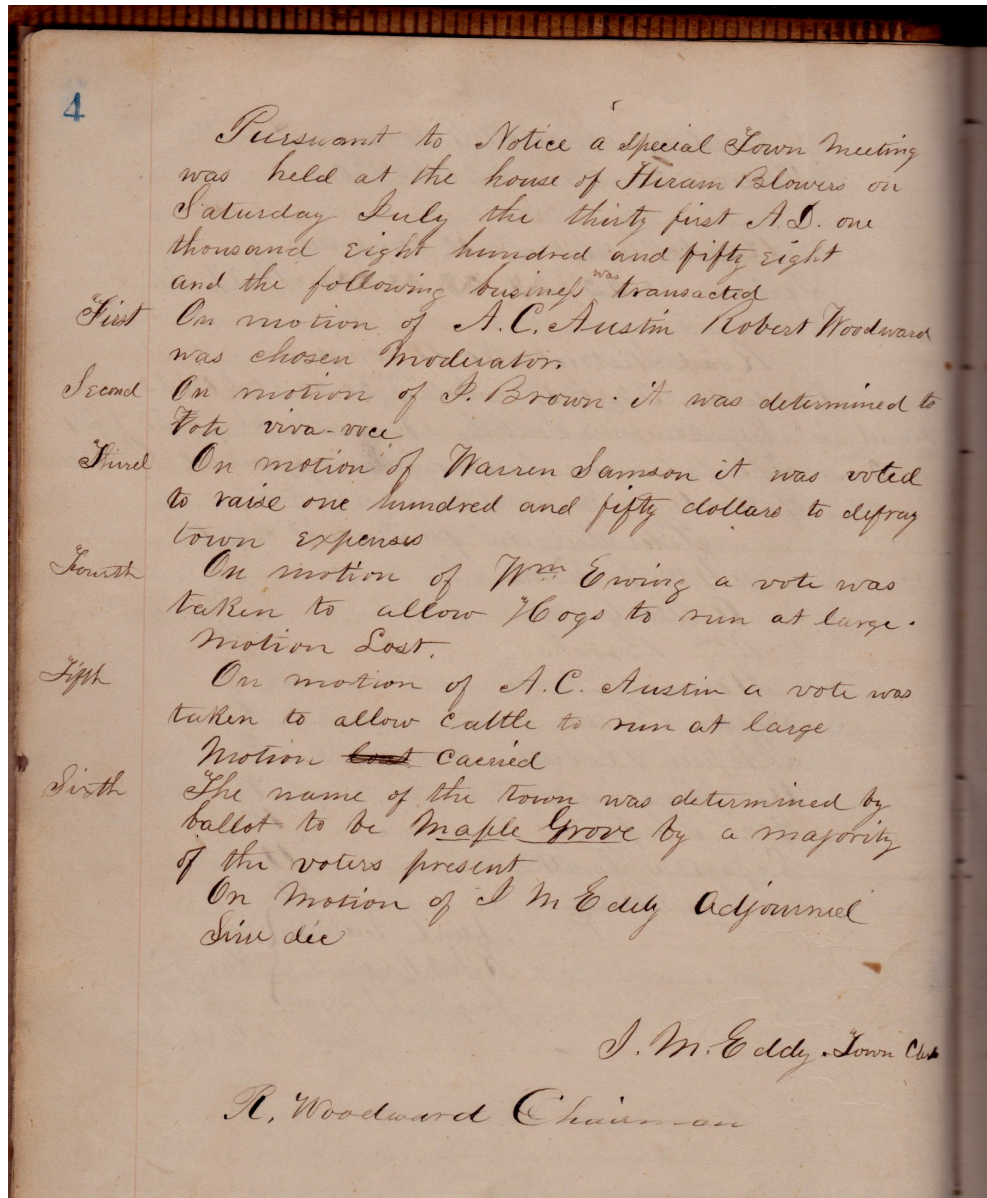
October: Election of officers at regular meeting



Burial Sites for the Founder Fathers

Using the Special Town Meeting minutes, the Research Group transcribed the minutes, researched the original signers and went hunting for the burial plots in Maple Grove cemeteries. Here's what we "dug up."

MAPLE GROVE IS NAMED



Special Town Meeting minutes of July 31, 1858

Pursuant to Notice a Special Town Meeting was held at the house of Hiram Blowers on Saturday July the thirty first A.D. one thousand and eight hundred and fifty eight and the following business was transacted.

- First On motion of A.C. Austin, Robert Woodward was chosen Moderator.
- Second On motion of Jeremiah Brown it was determined vote viva voce (by voice vote).
- Third On motion of Warren Samson it was voted to raise one hundred and fifty dollars to defray town expenses.
- Fourth On motion of William Ewing a vote was taken to allow hogs to run at large.
Motion lost.
- Fifth On motion of A.C. Austin a vote was taken to allow cattle to run at large.
Motion carried.
- Sixth The name of the town was determined by ballot to be Maple Grove by the majority of the voters present.
On motion John M. Eddy adjourned Sine die (indefinitely).

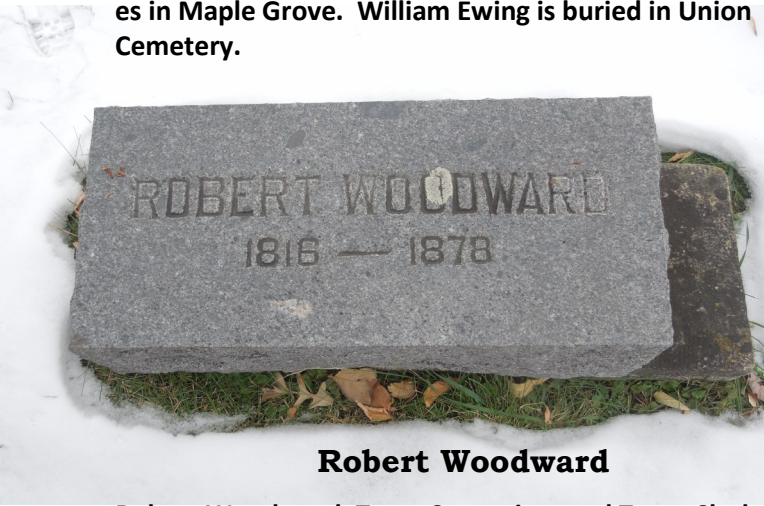
J. M. Eddy Town Clerk

R. Woodward Chairman



William Ewing

William Ewing served in the Union Army and fought in the Civil War. He was one of the surveyors of the Maple Grove township. As a soldier in the United States Army, he was granted a military warrant for 160 acres. He owned land in Section 10 and built one of the first houses in Maple Grove. William Ewing is buried in Union Cemetery.



Robert Woodward

Robert Woodward, Town Supervisor and Town Clerk, owned land in Section 9.

Robert Woodward is buried at Weaver Lake Cemetery.

Hiram Blowers

In 1863, Hiram Blowers sold a wooden structure for use as Maple Grove's first town hall. He owned acreage in Sections 10 and 15. He relocated to and is buried in Michigan.

Adin C. Austin

Austin, Town Supervisor owned land in Section 5 and is buried in Minneapolis.

Jeremiah Brown

Jeremiah Brown, Town Supervisor, owned property in Sections 10 and 15. Brown is buried in Michigan.

Warren Samson

Warren Samson made the motion to raise \$150 to bear the cost of town expenses. He was married in Michigan and moved to Maple Grove, where he owned property in

Section 13. In the 1860 census, his occupation was a merchant. He moved to New Jersey and was found in the 1870 census. His occupation shows he was a tailor. He died and is buried in New Jersey.

John M. Eddy



Eddy Family Headstone

John Eddy also served in the Union Army and fought in the Civil War. He moved from New Haven, CT. to Maple Grove in 1856. He was Maple Grove's first Town Clerk, Treasurer and Assessor. John Eddy married Mary Evans. They were the first couple to be married in Maple Grove. John and Mary Eddy are buried in Rush Creek Cemetery.

John Eddy Military Memorial



The MGHPs Research Committee: Mary Moyle, Karen Brajdich, and Rosie Guidl

Did You Know ?

There are 8 Cemeteries in Maple Grove, Minnesota according to

www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/USA/Minnesota/Hennepin-County/Maple-Grove?id=city_74557

Advent Peace and Remembrance Garden
Brooklyn and Maple Grove Union Cemetery
Immanuel United Methodist Cemetery
Lord of Life Lutheran Church Memorial Peace Garden
Maple Knoll Cemetery
Rush Creek Cemetery
Saint Patrick's Cemetery
Weaver Lake Cemetery



Rush Creek Cemetery

(also known as Maple Grove Cemetery)

Territorial Rd, ½ mile west of Fernbrook Ln N

Avery Levens

“Clifford Levens, son of Avery and Blanche Levens was a casualty of the war. His monument was shipped by freight to Osseo. The stone was in a wooden crate. My dad was commander of the legion post. He was called to pick up the monument when it was shipped by the government... we had hauled several loads of materials to the cemetery when we put the stone on the coaster. Dad pulled the wagon while I walked behind and held the crate to keep the wagon from tipping.

That evening Mr. Levens came to our house. Dad and Mr. Levens spent the evening setting the all white stone.

By James Weber
From Will the Chicken
be with Grandma? P273

St. Walburga's Cemetery is located in Fletcher. St Walburga Roman Catholic Church is one of the oldest Catholic Churches in Northwest Hennepin County, founded in 1857. The original church & cemetery was on County Road 117.



Bill Mowing the Cemetery

“This story is about a farmer that was hired to mow the cemetery across the road from my house. In the early days the



cemetery was mowed once each summer with a team of horses and a sickle bar mower...in spring they would burn the accumulated grass and leaves. The cemetery would be black until the next rain, and then the grass would turn green like a mown lawn.

This was a late summer day. Bill arrived with his team; they were good-looking team of white horses. Cemeteries have a lot of stones. In the days of long grass, the stones were tall, but some were not as tall as the grass. There were also flag markers for GAR and the Women's relief Corps.

The mowing began, he hadn't travelled very far when he hit the first obstacle---SOB...SOB again .. was repeated several hundred times before the mowing job was completed. ...my entertainment was over. By James Weber

From Will the Chicken be with Grandma? P.85

“ The Sun Will Come Up Tomorrow”

By Joyce Deane

When I was 9 years I attended my first funeral – my Grandma Scherber. The wake was the Friday evening at a funeral home in Osseo which was operated by John Evans and Benny Dahlheimer. This was adjacent to Evans Furniture Store on Main Street.

The next morning the Funeral Mass was at St. Walburga's in Fletcher, MN. Usually, I had visited my Grandma when I walked home from school, and that had been the case that week. I was sad. After Mass we processed to the cemetery in Fletcher. Final prayers were read and the casket was lowered into the ground. I was sobbing so hard. My dad put his arm around me and said, “The sun will come up tomorrow, Joycey.” I think of that frequently when I attend many funerals now; however, now caskets are not lowered, until the family leaves the area.



St. Paul's German Lutheran Cemetery

8603 Jefferson Hwy North, Maple Grove, MN

According to their website: "St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Osseo began in 1865 as The Evangelical Church of Osseo with 12 members gathered by St. John's Lutheran, Corcoran, MN as a sister congregation. It's Constitution was adopted in 1867. In 1890 St. Paul's became a member of The Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States, now known as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

St. Paul's established this cemetery in 1866 for its membership. It adjoins the north end of a public cemetery, Brooklyn and Maple Grove Union Cemetery. The two cemeteries appear to be one with a mutual fence around the perimeter. The church continues to maintain the cemetery separately."



Look at red arrows— Brooklyn & Maple Grove Union Cemetery on left and St Paul's on the right .

Brooklyn & Maple Grove Union Cemetery

8597 Jefferson Highway N

"This cemetery consists of 108 family lots and, adjoins St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery to the north, and is surrounded by property zoned industrial by both the cities of Maple Grove and Osseo. Across the highway is Brooklyn Park."

This cemetery was created on January 8, 1862 by an association as the "founders were part of a family clan that had organized Maple Grove Township 3 ½ years earlier, and included relatives in Brooklyn Township. President Lincoln had called for troops in April, 1861, and at the time of organizing the cemetery some men, such as DeWitt Smith in the First Minnesotans, was fighting, and others were in process of enlisting in the Civil War as Union soldiers. Hence the cemetery's name Brooklyn ~ Maple Grove Union Cemetery.

The first burial was the daughter of Hiram Blowers , Lovina Ewing, wife of William, who was buried in her father's lot while her husband was soldiering. William Ewing, a founder of the cemetery, is buried in the first lot with his third wife, Diadema Brown Champlin- widow



Tree carving in St. Paul's Cemetery

<https://www.findagrave.com/user/profile/48405112>

of Davis Barnes Champlin, who like DeWitt Smith died as a union soldier in Tennessee.

There are several other soldiers buried in Union Cemetery and many early civic leaders of Osseo—a village which did not officially organize until 1875. The earliest members of the Hartkopf clan are also buried in this cemetery. Many pioneers who had purchased family lots, abandoned their claims and moved on west or back to Michigan.

A Scandinavian community established south of the cemetery, and much of the activity in the cemetery association during the mid twentieth century was by members of the Swedish Lutheran Church. After WWI, the name of the cemetery was referred to as American Cemetery; in 1969 a civic group installed a flag and conducted a dedication ceremony. In 1990, a fence was installed around the cemetery except on the north side where the cemetery adjoins the cemetery of St. Paul's Lutheran Church."

Information provided by Brooklyn and Maple Grove Union Cemetery Association, June, 2011 on their web page.



After WWI, the name of the cemetery was referred to as the American Cemetery.



101st Avenue N. - one block east of Troy Ln N.

Immanuel United Methodist Church is located on the west side of County Road 101 (Brockton Lane) in Corcoran and the Cemetery is on the East side in Maple Grove.

There is very interesting history of Immanuel United Methodist Church on their website.

“Three years after Minnesota became a state, Maple Grove Immanuel Evangelical Church began in 1861 with 18 members... Even years before, circuit riders held camp meetings and services in homes in our area. The life of a circuit rider preacher was difficult and dangerous, riding horseback through mud, swollen streams, heavy woodlands and wetlands. In 1857, 20-year-old August Huelster, a circuit-riding preacher arrived in the Maple Grove area. His circuit was 400 miles. The first year he traveled over 3000 miles and preached two hundred times. He began the ministry of Immanuel when he baptized 4 children in 1859 and preached to about 30 adults.



Candidates for the ministry were quite often asked three questions: “Have you had a conversion experience? Can you preach? Do you have a horse?”

A log church was built in Maple Grove in 1864... The services were all in German until 1922. For many years it was voted that every member family would deliver 2 loads of wood to the parsonage at the beginning of the winter. In 1946, the Evangelical Church denomination merged with the United Brethren to become Evangelical United Brethren. Then in 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren joined with the Methodists.” In 2011, Immanuel celebrated 150 years of ministry.” <http://immanuelumc.church>

The Advent Peace and Remembrance Garden
9475 Jefferson Highway N

The Advent Peace and Remembrance Garden is a landscaped area in the northeast corner of the Advent Lutheran Church campus. It includes an outdoor columbarium. The Garden reflects a tradition in the Christian Church of interring human remains within the Church walls or courtyard.

St John’s Lutheran Church Cemetery

9141 County Rd 101

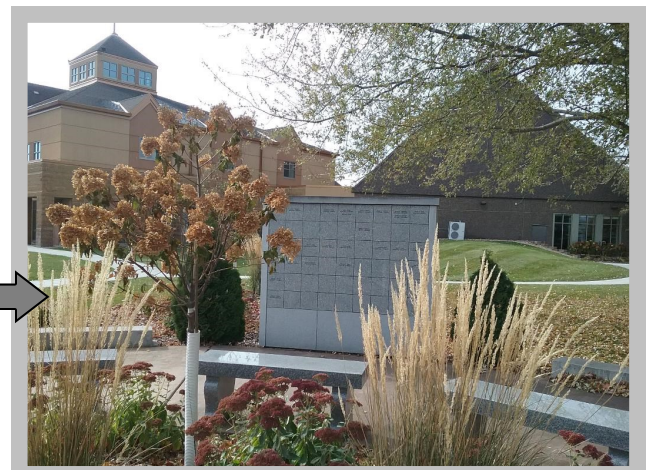
The Congregation was officially organized in April of 1864. In June of 1864 a donation of 10 acres was given to have a church built. Part of this land was designated for a cemetery.



Even though the cemetery is located in Corcoran, across Hwy 101 is Maple Grove. Many residents of Maple Grove have been or are members of St. John’s. Church records show that Dorothea Louise Unke (a Maple Grove resident) was the first to receive Christian burial in the Cemetery.

Today the cemetery has several hundred burial plots with additional property yet to be plotted. These plots contain many veterans-Civil War, WWI, WWII (including a young man killed in action), Korean War and many other veterans. It includes infants, toddlers, and children, young and old. Those who lost their lives to major diseases- diphtheria, flues, polio, pneumonia, cancer, old age or whatever.

The cemetery has provided a final resting place for 156 years– June 1864 to the present in 2020.
by Caroline Schaefer



The Niggler Cemetery



The cemetery is located at 125 West Broadway in the southwest corner of Osseo

The Niggler Cemetery “was established in 1868 by the Freie Gemeinde. (German for “Free Community” or “Free Thinkers”) According to the Blatter, a newspaper of the period, the Gemeinde in Osseo consisted of twelve men with Moritz Schwappach as secretary. They were interested in religious freedom and established the cemetery.” www.findagrave.com/cemetery/82894

The Osseo chapter of the *Freien Genmeinde* purchased the original land from Osseo resident Peter La Valle. Additional land was later donated by Rudolph Niggler. In 1918, the name of the cemetery was changed from “Freie Gemeinde Cemetery” to “Niggler Cemetery” to recognize Niggler’s generous land donation.

The Niggler Cemetery Association is known to have existed as early as 1917, with George Keifer as its President.

In 2018 the Niggler Cemetery celebrated their 150th Anniversary of serving the Osseo-Maple Grove area.



BERTHA RODECK
FIRST PERSON BURIED IN CEMETERY
BORN: OCTOBER 16, 1861
DIED: AUGUST 12, 1868

See grave stone and sign Bertha Rodeck was the first person buried in the cemetery on August 12, 1868
<http://www.nigglercemetery.org/about/>



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Cemetery 93rd Avenue North at Highway 169

“The cemetery of the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church Community is located in the city of Osseo in the north-west corner of Hennepin County, Minnesota, just to the east of the church on 93rd Avenue North.

Both the parish and the cemetery have been in existence for over 150 years. As the parish grew, built, and expanded (now in its fourth church building), the cemetery has quietly grown from one section (in the northwest corner of the cemetery) to fourteen sections. There are about 4,000 gravesites in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, of which about 3,500 are occupied. The earliest one we can see today is dated 1874.”

Maple Knoll Cemetery "Old Fish Lake Cemetery"

8585 Rice Lake Road

“Rice Lake is a historic lake. Indians found it suitable for establishing their mounds. Also, an encampment of these people was discovered and remains shown to raise corn and perhaps some root crops. It seems to have been a village site. When the freeway was planned and some excavating was done for a road bed, artifacts were unearthed. That led to more discoveries, such as the Indian mound at the rest area as well as the yard at Woodland Mounds apartment building.

The east shore of Rice Lake has a cemetery, namely Maple Knoll, but at one time sported the name "Old Fish Lake Cemetery." A tiny white church also once occupied a space on the edge of the cemetery.”

Dorothy Rice Lake - Maple Grove Memories
by Dorothy Schoenmann
(Osseo/Maple Grove Press 2004)





Lord of Life Lutheran Church Memorial Peace Garden

7401 County Road 101

The focal point of the Memorial Peace Garden are granite columbarium units which accommodate more than 100 urns each. Scattering of ashes may also be done at Lord of Life's Memorial Peace Garden. "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25) is engraved on the tower wall in the Memorial Peace Garden.

Their website states that "Lord of Life began as a mission congregation in the summer of 1978. The first worship service was held at Cedar Island Elementary School. Pastor Paul Hammarberg, mission developer, was also Lord of Life's first called pastor. The charter membership consisted of 412 members.

In January of 1982, Lord of Life moved to 6900 West Fish Lake Road. ..In 1996, Lord of Life began using Rush Creek Elementary School at the corner of Highway 101 and 89th Avenue as a worship and Church School site. The Rush Creek site enabled Lord of Life to expand its outreach efforts into the fast-growing areas of western Maple Grove and Corcoran.

In 1998, the congregation purchased 31 acres of land at the intersection of County Roads 101 and 10. The present church facility was completed in 2001 The lighted cross tower was completed in 2003 and in 2008 the columbarium and Memorial Peace Garden were completed at the base of the tower."

St Patrick's Cemetery

13000-19199 Bass Lake Road

Today, on Bass Lake Road, a lonely St. Patrick's Cemetery sits bereft of the Hennessey Hill School and the small log St. Patrick's Church that



was built in 1860 on the homestead of Thomas and Bridget Duffy Murphy (who had bought his homestead from a French Canadian settler Pascal Pottienne who had quit his claim.) The "Hennessey Hill" Cemetery and School were named for the Daniel and Mary Hennessey family on whose property it was located. Murphy and Hennessy properties adjoined to each other with the cemetery in the middle (see article in Nov 2005 newsletter by Lori Sweeney Mooney- "King' County Irish in Maple Grove). Many Irish settlers including members of the Gleason, Dolan, Hennessey, Donahue and Devery families are buried there. One wonders, if the transformation of the area from the quiet countryside of a few years ago, to the nonstop traffic and pop up housing developments of today, are disturbing to those "who rest in peace!"

According to an article in the September 2015 Maple Grove Magazine: "The first burial on the property occurred in 1875. In the middle of the cemetery stands one of the largest sugar maple trees in Hennepin County. There is also an interesting story behind it because of the Donahue family. Annie Donahue was born on August 27, 1881 and died on September 23, 1882. Her parents could not afford a stone to mark the grave, so they had a maple tree planted there in her memory. That tree continued to grow and became the centerpiece of the cemetery, with many of the earliest graves situated around it... Although the old maple is showing signs of stress from large-limb breakage around 2011, its canopy remains healthy and it still has gorgeous colors in the fall.



As for Annie Donahue, a tombstone was eventually placed at the base of the maple tree for her. It is now barely visible on the east side as the roots of the tree planted to memorialize her now embrace the stone."



16501-16699 89th Ave N,

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/83788/weaver-lake-cemetery>

A Cemetery, a Picnic and the Squirrel.

Rush Creek Cemetery, a beautifully kept and nurtured resting place of the Maple Groves departed. Kudos to the person/persons who keep it so lovely.

Visiting Cemeteries had always been a part of my growing up experience. Our cemetery was and is Mound cemetery in Brooklyn Park. Several generations rest there now. In the late 1920s Great Grandma Mary came all the way from Pennsylvania to join her son and family in Minnesota. Mary was a gossip monger, in a good way, or so she thought. Every day she would walk around the neighborhood gathering bits and pieces of info and half truths then go home and bore her daughter in law my Grandmother Clara to death with all her news. In 1935 Mary passed. The night before she did she asked her son, my grandfather Barney, to pack her trunk because her father was coming to take her to the railroad station in the morning. In the morning Great Grandma Mary had gone. Now Mary rests in Mound Cemetery under that big old pine found to the right a bit down the road from the main gate. That big old pine was brought back as a sapling from up north and planted by her son my Grandpa. That same tree, now huge, shelters the whole family plot.

Grandma Clara, Mary's daughter in law, was the next to leave us. Grandma Clara had been a mover and shaker in the neighborhood. If you had a problem that could be solved over a good strong cup of coffee with lots of sugar and real cream you went and saw Grandma. If someone was sick in the neighborhood Grandma went to see you. According to my Mom, also now resting at Mound, Grandma Clara never spread tales. Unlike you know who from the previous generation.

In 1947 Grandma Clara took up residence at Mound and that was when our family began semi weekly visits. On those Sunday afternoons Mom would pack a picnic lunch. She and Dad would pile us all into the car and off to Mound we would go. We would first stop at the family graves. While there Mom and Dad would water the flowers while we kids would quietly walk through the cemetery down to that little stone lamb we all knew and loved. We would stand around and speculate about who that little person buried there might have been. When our time there was finished we were encouraged to visit stones that looked interesting and report on who the oldest stone belonged to. Visits to the cemetery were never sad for us but instead were like a step back into the areas early history.

But wait, before I go, remember those picnic lunches my Mom would pack? Sure enough, back in those days, one left the cemetery and drove just a bit to the right, and just over a little bridge and there was the Creek, a wonderful place to pull off and have a picnic. We would wade in the water,

watch out for leaches, and eat until we were full. Then back into the car and another Sunday came to a close.

In 1949 Grandpa Barney left us and took up residence next to his beautiful wife at Mound. Barney had loved poetry, singing, reading, building a home, worked 35 years for the railroad and later owned his own machine shop. A very versatile busy fellow.

In the following years several others of the family passed and became permanent Mound members .

In the Spring of 1999 Mom joined her family there. Mom always had a great sense of humor. During her years with us Mom had a love hate thing with one of her back yard squirrels. We would stop by her home where she would be looking out her kitchen window and say look at him, little pig, eating the bird seed again. Sure enough there was Mr. Mouthful staring in the window at her munching away. I hate that squirrel she would say. However as we were leaving she would always say "Hey on your way out throw some peanuts for the squirrel would you?" We always did.

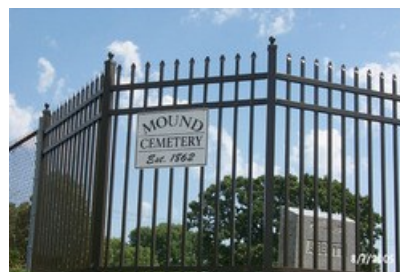
Now when I journey back to Minnesota, visit Mound and the family resting there, I always carry a few peanuts to throw for a squirrel or two and quietly whisper "See ya later Mom."

Mound was and still is our family cemetery and so when I view the online photos of Maple Grove's Rush Creek Cemetery, a feeling of tranquility and quiet beauty surrounds me and I am at peace. By S. Hopkins

Cemetery Location
3515 69th Avenue
North
Brooklyn Center,
MN 55429



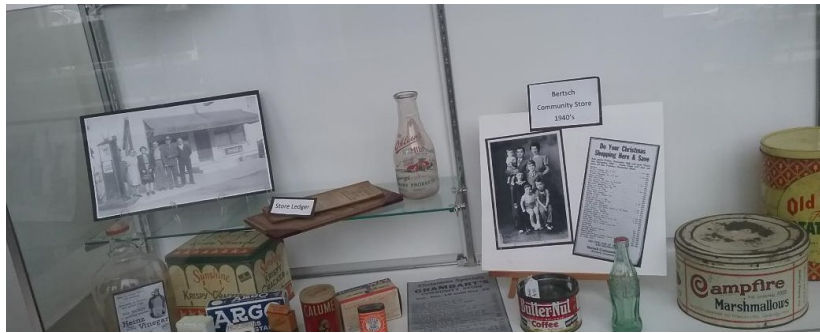
Mound Cemetery was established as a cemetery in 1862 by farmers and lumbermen who moved here from New England. It has grown from a 2 acre cemetery surrounded by farmland to 17 acres surrounded by suburban, multicultural neighborhoods. From the Cemetery website 150 Anniversary in 2012.



Find a Grave Cemetery: #82850



Farms of Maple Grove



Country Stores of Maple Grove



Baking in the Olden Days

Current Displays at the Maple Grove Government Center



Vintage Minnesota Christmas Cards

MAPLE GROVE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

City of Maple Grove Government Center
12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove MN 55369-7064

MEMBERSHIP FORM

(renewable each January)

Annual Membership (tax deductible)

- \$15 Individual/Senior
- \$30 Family
- \$100 Supporting Member

I am interested in helping with

- Writing article
- Historic site maintenance
- Displays
- Educational Programs
- Publicity
- Cataloging artifacts
- Calling

NAME _____

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EMAIL _____

