

In the north east corner of the cemetery is the Deck family stone. Joseph and Jennie Niklas, husband and wife, are buried here with Jenny's parents and brother. They were both killed in a violent crash when a train hit the car they were driving in. A 1928 article from the Chicago Englewood Times gives some details on the horrific accident, including the fact that three other lives were lost, two of them little girls.



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Starting with the John Fulton Sr. family arriving via covered wagon in 1837, the Fulton family has since continued to be prominent members of the Tinley Park community. Clarence J. Fulton, great grandson of John Sr., was the last official caretaker of Bachelors Grove Cemetery.

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The infant daughter stone, pictured right, sits on the west side of the Fulton family stone and belongs to Marci May Fulton who died in infancy. The grave has become a popular pilgrimage spot and is always decorated by small trinkets left by visitors.



Bachelors Grove Cemetery



Self Guided Tour
Presented by:
The Path to Bachelors Grove



Bachelors Grove Cemetery
143 St. and Midlothian Turnpike
Midlothian, IL 60445

GPS- N. 41* 37.854
W. 087* 46.216

The last official burial in Bachelors Grove was that of Robert Shields. His remains were laid to rest in the Shields family plot marked by the stone pictured left in 1989.



Underneath a tree south of the Fulton monument is the only remaining headstone left on the Warren family plot belonging to Mark Warren and his wife Amazetta.

Marks brother, Richard Warren, a Civil War veteran is also buried with his family here. Captured in 1864 and held at notoriously harsh Andersonville POW camp, Richard was never the same after the war and died of tuberculosis in 1875 at only 31 years old.

The rumor that Al Capone used the quarry pond at Bachelors Grove as a body dumping spot is another popular BG Legend.



During prohibition gangster activity was on the rise. Local news articles from the 1920's do tell of mobster shootings and mayhem in the area, but no proof of a body being discovered has ever surfaced.



On the north side of the cemetery you will notice the very large gray granite stone bearing the Fulton family name. The Fulton's were one of the first families to settle in what is now known as Tinley Park.



Left: Hulda and John Fulton Jr. with their children, Minnie, Bert and Luella. Three of the five pictured here are buried in Bachelors Grove under the stone pictured above.



1 When visiting Bachelors Grove one must strictly abide by the "sunup to sundown" hours of the F.P.D.C.C. The area is highly patrolled and officers strictly enforce the rules. Enjoy exploring Bachelors Grove and please visit with respect.

Bachelors Grove Cemetery is nestled in the rich greenery of Cook County Forest Preserves. The burial grounds has earned the reputation as being one of the most haunted places in America.



Looking beyond the veil of urban legend, you will also find a rich history. Members of several pioneer families instrumental in founding area suburbs are buried in Bachelors Grove.

As you begin your walk down the path that leads to Bachelors Grove, to the left, as you pass by the cabled off entrance, is the area where the Schmidt farm house (pictured left) stood.



The first legal documentation of Bachelors Grove was in 1864 when Edward Everden sold his land to Frederich Schmidt. The deed excludes the one acre of land that had been designated as a cemetery. The Schmidt family owned and operated the land surrounding the cemetery as a working farm until 1924 when it was sold to the Cook County Forest Preserves by Frederichs widow.

2 In October of 1959 pranksters set up road flares to redirect motorists traveling on the Midlothian Turnpike into Bachelors Grove Cemetery. When police arrived at the scene confusion and commotion ensued as no one knew why they were there. During the chaos, someone locked the gates trapping all inside the cemetery. A professional had to be called in to cut the lock. Two months later police were baffled when the 500 lb, 14 ft wide gate disappeared overnight without a trace in a matter of 6 hours between officer patrols.



Immediately right just through the cemetery entrance is the Patrick family stone (pictured left) or "the mysterious moving stone" This stone changes location in the cemetery frequently and without leaving a trace of any human hand having moved it.

A bit further east you will see the base for the Moss family stone (pictured right). Thomas Moss and his first wife Elizabeth are buried here. Thomas's story is one of the more tragic tales in Bachelors Grove.

In his lifetime Thomas lost three wives, one having died three days before their one year anniversary. Out of 15 children only seven of them survived infancy. Thomas lived for 20 years after his last wife's death but never married again.



3 The "Madonna" stone (Pictured left) sits just inside and west of the cemetery entrance. It is the center of one of the most popular

legends associated with Bachelors Grove. A ghostly woman in white has been sighted in Bachelors Grove multiple times in the past 50 years. Some accounts tell of a wailing woman who seems to be searching for something or someone, in others the woman carries an infant in her arms. While patrolling the area late one night, two local officers are documented as having seen the misty figure of a woman carrying an infant. The Madonna reference became popular in 1991 after the image of a woman sitting on the quilted headstone was captured by a popular Chicago paranormal investigative team. The photograph has been examined thoroughly by many and considered to be legitimate. This photo quickly became one of the most well known "ghost" photos in the world. People travel far and wide to pose for a picture on this now famous stone.

Brochure Created by
The Path to Bachelors Grove

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thepath tobachelorsgrove@hotmail.com