

MOUNT PULASKI'S CEMETERY WAS MOST THOUGHTFULLY PLANNED

REFLECTIONS

(By H. J. Wible)
(May 24, 1934)

Reflecting a town's character, is the attitude of its citizens.

Among these various attitudes Mount Pulaski has a very outstanding one.

It is the sanctuary of its dead.

For Mt. Pulaski's cemetery is beautiful—

Carrying with it a feeling of peacefulness and gratitude that swells into a justifiable pride.

Too many places of this nature are sadly neglected and reflect very much against the standard of the community.

This statement may seem rather absurd but in nine out of ten cases is true.

"You can judge the standard of a community by its cemetery."

A community that has no interest or pride in the final resting place of its loved ones, is a poor place in which to live.

While the community as a whole is to be commended for this splendid spot—

The officers of the association are the ones who are to be most highly commended for their time and energy spent in looking after this sanctuary.

One has but to mount to the top of the hillside and watch the setting of the sun:

Bringing with it the shadows of evening as night falls:

To have some unexplainable feeling come over him that is a combination of humbleness, gratitude and awe.

Humbleness—that in the scheme of life, man is so insignificant, and is here but a comparatively short time;

Gratitude—that those who have passed on are at rest and their little mound of earth is so beautifully kept;

Awe—that the setting of the sun typifies our own life with the shadows portraying the gradual drawing to a close of life that has run its course.

A visit to this hillside and sanctuary occasionally is well worthwhile.

May Mount Pulaski citizens ever have cause to be proud of its beautiful cemetery, as they will have this coming Memorial Day.

Logan County Created In 1839

Logan county was created by Legislative Act of Feb. 15, 1839. The first regular county election in the new county occurred April 1, 1839, the same being a special election provided for under the act of organization. The vote resulted as follows:

For Sheriff: John Deskins 155; John Lucas 153. Deskin's majority, 2.

For Coroner: George B. Lucas, 167; Samuel Musick 139. Lucas' majority 28.

For Clerk of Commissioners' Court: Stephen Moore, 162; James Sapp 147. Moore's majority 15.

For Recorder: Jabez Capps 169; David Smith 136. Capps' majority 33.

For County Commissioners, (3 to elect): John Shoup 223; Elijah Vansandt 169; Robert Downey 139; Peter G. Cowardin 127; Geo. W. Turley 134; Ezekiel Bowman 115.

For Surveyor: Thomas R. Skinner 310, no opposition.

For Probate Justice: Michael Mann, no opposition.

Beautiful Burial Grounds Platted About 120 Years Ago

(By Paul E. Beidler)

The Mount Pulaski Cemetery, located in the north part of the city, on rolling terrain, was platted about 120 years ago, after the town was founded in 1836.

The story goes that one of the founders, Jabez Capps, owned the land and suggested that it be used for a Seminary. He was misunderstood, and soon burials were made there, and Mr. Capps joined with his friends in making the cemetery a good one, and established on a legal basis.

Not many of the present residents of the city know that for a long period of time the only entrance to the cemetery from uptown, was on North Marion Street, and that the central driveway extended north to the Elkhart-Mount Pulaski road. This driveway was bordered with trees and in years to come grew into very large trees, especially cedars. Burials were made on both sides, extending a half block to the east and a half block to the west. For years a maple grove stood at the south end of the cemetery, on the east side, and here many memorial programs were given. Before the turn of the century this grove of trees was cut down, and burials made there.

It became necessary for more burial room, so the apple orchard to the east of the original burial grounds, was purchased and now in this year of 1961 nearly all graves have been taken. The slope on the south end of the cemetery was next added, but only part of its being used for burial, the remainder used as a park, where a flag pole now stands, and Memorial Day programs held.

So many burials being made the past few years, it became necessary to purchase land to the west of the old cemetery. Before this was done there was a hedge fence the entire length of the property, and next to it was a road from the Elkhart road, connecting with Marion Street. The new addition was soon put to use, and several hundred burials have been made there.

You may be surprised to know that Mount Pulaski cemetery now contains 20 acres of ground, and is officially taken care of by the Mount Pulaski Cemetery Ass'n. Before that the care of the cemetery was in the hands of the City of Mount Pulaski. At any rate, the cemetery has always been kept in a condition that the citizens of Mount Pulaski could be proud of. Hundreds of people at the time of the 1961 Memorial Day program on May 30 gathered at the cemetery as usual and decorated the graves of hundreds upon hundreds of loved ones, including parents, members of families other relatives and friends, and veterans of the several wars. The cemetery at the time of Memorial Day always presents a beautiful scene, looking like a vast sea of flowers.

For many years, as was stated earlier, entrance to the cemetery was made at the North Marion Street gate, but for the past 60 years, the North Washington St. road has been the main entrance to the cemetery.

Not only have hundreds of local people been buried in Mount Pulaski cemetery, but many from the areas of Latham, Chestnut, Beason, Springfield, Decatur, Lincoln, and other central Illinois points. Others who were born in this area, and moved away years ago, and died in their new homes, have been brought back here for burial.

PRESENT OFFICERS

The officers this Sil-Tennial Year are:
Louis F. Sams, President
E. K. Connolley, V. President
Kenneth Connolley, Secretary
A. W. Schaffnacker, Treasurer
Other board members are Gene Clear, Lloyd Arnold and Walter Schafer.

New Addition Has Pleasant Setting

(Aug. 25, 1932)

New Part of Cemetery Will Provide 1700 Lots

Much interest is being shown by the people in the activities and improvements being made by the Mt. Pulaski Cemetery Association at the beautiful old Mt. Pulaski Cemetery, located in the north part of the city.

In 1921 the Association purchased 10 acres of ground from the Renner farm, lying west of the old part of the cemetery, to be opened up when occasion required it. During the intervening years the land has been rented and farmed. But now members of the association realize that the time is fast approaching when the new addition will be needed, as the cemetery proper is fast being taken up with graves.

The work now being done on the new addition is platting the ground, building roads, landscaping and doing the necessary

tiling. A force of men with 15 teams, tractor and scraper, have been engaged in this work for a couple of weeks under the direction of two of the trustees, Edward O. Mayer and William Beckers. The addition will provide about 1700 lots, it is said, the lots along the east side to be platted first.

One of the beauty spots in the new part will be the circular driveway in the center of the grounds to which all drives will lead. Other landscaping contemplated will eventually make the new part of the cemetery a very fitting addition to the present burial grounds, which is known for its beauty and excellent upkeep.

While no definite date is obtainable, the old part of the cemetery was opened in the years following 1840, just a few years after Mt. Pulaski was founded in 1836 by Jabez Capps. During the Civil War period by an act of the Legislature, the cemetery came under the control of the City of Mt. Pulaski and continued thusly until the year 1919,

when it was taken over by the Mt. Pulaski Cemetery Ass'n. organized under the Laws of the State of Illinois. The members of the association have always taken keen interest in the betterment of the cemetery, and deserve credit for doing their duties well, and the people generally are very appreciative of this fact.

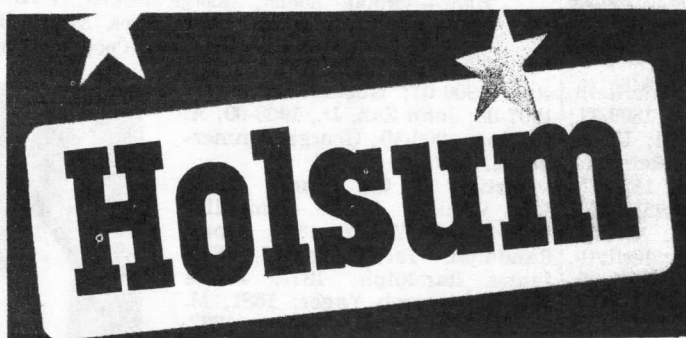
It should also be mentioned that the city has graveled the last four blocks of North Washington street, more than half of which passes along the east side of the cemetery, and it is an improvement that was greatly needed.

The present officers of the association are as follows: William Beckers, president; George Rupp, vice-president; Mrs. Anna E. Eminger, secretary; H. V. Wynd, treasurer; and the trustees are, William Beckers, George J. Smith, Harry B. Capps, Edward O. Mayer, George Rupp and H. V. Wynd.

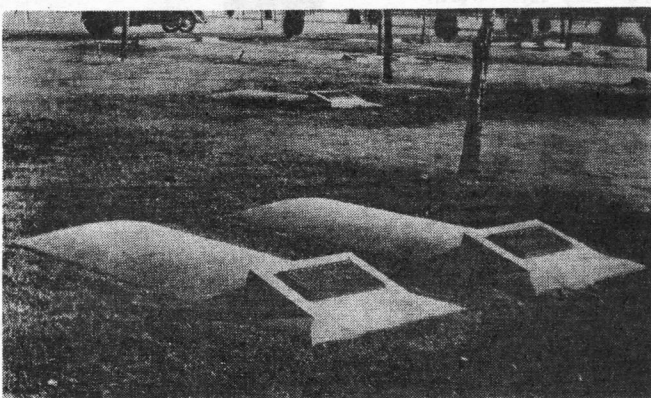
Welcome to Mt. Pulaski next week, as you come to help us celebrate our 125th birthday.

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