DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – WAUCEDAH CEMETERY

NW ½ of Section 23, Town 39 North, Range 28 West
Waucedah Township, Dickinson County, Michigan

The Waucedah Cemetery is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, cemeteries in Dickinson County, Michigan. It has suffered badly from neglect, and when the members of the Dickinson County Genealogical Society met there on September 27, 1980, there were only eight stones left.

Even several years ago, stones could be seen from the county road which runs past the cemetery. Nobody seems to know exactly what has happened to the stones that were there. Some of them may have been removed to other cemeteries in the county. Others may have disappeared due to theft or breakage.

The Dickinson County Genealogical Society has been unable to find any records of the burials made in the Waucedah Township Cemetery. It is owned by Waucedah Township, but no burials have been made there for many years. It is possible that the use of the cemetery ceased after the Norway Township Cemetery opened.

If anyone knows of a burial in the Waucedah Township Cemetery which is not listed below, please contact the Dickinson County Genealogical Society, c/o Dickinson County Library, 401 Iron Mountain Street, Iron Mountain, MI 49801.

The Dickinson County Genealogical Society read the tombstones in this cemetery on September 27, 1980. This cemetery is inactive.

CHRISTOE, Ione, daughter of **E. Christoe**; b. 9 Jan. 1900; d. 14 Feb. 1900; "Darling We Miss You."
CONNER, Rachel E., daughter of **J. & M. Conner**; d. 1 July 1889; age 9 ms., 19 ds.
DAVIS, JANE, daughter of **C. & S. Davis**; d. 28 Jan. 1890; age 12 ys., 5 ms., 1 d.
ROOT, MORRIS W., d. 23 Aug. 1889; age 26 ys., 9 ms., 9 ds.
ROOT, MAURICE W., son of **M.W. & E. Root**; d. 22 Jan. 1890; age 10 ds.; "At Rest"
ROOT, Winnie L., daughter of **M.W. & E. Root**; d. 6 May 1891; age 4ys., 2 ms., 7 ds.
SEYMOUR, Annie; b. 21 Sept. 1888; d. 23 Aug. 1889
SEYMOUR, Willie; b. 3 Apr. 1886; d. 18 Nov. 1889
SEYMOUR, Minnie; b. 18 Nov. 1891; d. 25 Apr. 1892
[The tombstone for the above three children notes the following: "Children of **E. & M. Seymour**" all on one stone with lettering on three sides.]
SWITZER, Margaret A., wife of **W.S. Switzer**; d. 9 Apr. 1891; age 46 ys., 17 ds.; "She was a kind and affectionate wife, a loved mother and friend to all."

THE LOST CEMETERY
By Florence Trestrail
August, 1975

One summer day, quite by accident, our family discovered the Waucedah Township Cemetery! It was likely the oldest cemetery in Dickinson County of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

We were headed for lunch at Beaver Pete's, a barn converted into a novel eating place. Our son and his family from Wisconsin were with us, and we wanted to take them to someplace quite different. Our trip turned out to be more interesting than we had planned!

As we were traveling along on U.S. 2 that fine summer day, our attention was drawn to a small wooden sign attached to a post alongside a road which read: Waucedah Township

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Cemetery. And, although there was no cemetery in sight, our curiosity was aroused and we turned off onto the narrow, grassy road on the right.

Traveling in a few rods there were still no gravestones in sight! However, we did come upon a plot of ground with a square of iron fence around it with only a sagging open gate leading into it.

All that remained of what must have been a family burial plot was a clump of lilac bushes and bunches of tangled grasses. The gravestones had all disappeared…our three grandsons' eyes were wide with wonder! A mystery?

Climbing back into the car, we decided to follow the narrow, grassy trail we had been on which only led to a winding hilly area of trees…still no gravestones!

Turning back to retrace our steps, we noted a small lane leading up over a rather steep grade and there it was…"the lost cemetery.!"

We found some very old stones dating back as far as 1870, representing the gravestones of about six families. Some were broken and others hard to read, moss-covered and eroded with time! Many were graves of children, giving us pause to wonder what childhood diseases may have befell them.

Some families may have removed the gravestones of their loved ones to place them in another burial grounds. But these are the ones we found:

Family 1: Root

Morris W. Root – Died 23 Aug. 1889
Aged 26 yrs. 9 mos. 9 days
Footstone: M.W.R.

Maurice W. Root – son of **M.W. & E. Root**
born January 22, 1870
aged 10 days
Epitaph: "At Rest"
Footstone: M.W.R.

Winnie L. Root – dau. Of **M.W. & E. Root** died May 6, 1891
aged 4 yrs. 2 mo's. 7 dys
Epitaph: "Sleep on and Take Thy Rest"
Footstone: W.L.R.

Family 2: Davis

Jane Davis, Dau. of **C & S Davis**
Died Jan. 28, 1890
Aged 12 yrs 5 ms & 1 day
(large stone broken in half)
Footstone: J.D. (small white marker)
[photograph of this stone in scrapbook]

Family 3: Seymour

Children of **E & M Seymour** (four-sided stone with lettering on three sides; no surname on this stone, but close to it is a flat stone reading "Children of E. & M. Seymour")
Annie born 21 Sept. 1888
died 23 Aug. 1889

Willie born 3 Apr. 1886
died 18 Nov. 1889
Minnie born 18 Nov. 1891
died 25 Apr. 1892
Footstone: no inscription

Family 4: Conner

Rachel E. Conner Daut. Of **J & M Conner**
Died July 1st 1889 Aged 9 mo. 17 days
Footstone: R.E.C.
[photograph of this stone in scrapbook]

Family 5: Christoe

Ione Christoe Dau. **E. Christoe** B. Jan. 9, 1900; D. Feb. 14, 1900
Epitaph: "Darling We Miss You"
(broken – tall, rounded top)
Footstone: I.C.

Family 6: Switzer

Margaret A. Switzer Wife of **A.S. Switzer**
Died Apr. 9, 1891
Aged 46 yrs. 17 days
Epitaph: "She Was A Kind and Affectionate Wife A Loved Mother and Friend to All"
(tall stone on a steep knoll)
Footstone: M.A.S.