

Bath Center Cemetery—A History

The first burial here reportedly was in 1812. The land was from the original Connecticut Western Reserve. In 1817 a committee of Jason Hammond, John Holmes, and Moses Latta gave the Ezekiel Williams Trust and Abby Williams \$1 for the building of a meeting house and a burial ground. Expenditures from cemetery funds were noted in Bath Township Board of Trustee minutes in 1875 and again in 1879. In 1890, Bath Center Cemetery was specifically mentioned in the minutes authorizing care and mowing for \$15 a year. In 1905 the Historic Town Hall was built on the 3.43 acres that includes this cemetery. In 1916 the Bath Center Cemetery Association was given “full control of the care of the Cemetery at Bath Center.” They set fees for lots and met to review cemetery affairs. In 1940 a sexton was hired to care for the cemeteries in Bath. Bath Township has upgraded the appearance of the site with a new gateway, plaque, and landscaping.



Bath Center Cemetery Receiving Vault

In 1912 the trustees levied a tax to collect \$1200 to build a vault. The vault’s purpose was to hold bodies during the winter for burial after the spring thaw. The following year, a Cleveland architect was commissioned for plans and W.B. Thompson’s bid was accepted to build the vault for \$1450. In 2001, David Kridler was hired to do basic restoration on the receiving vault for \$9300. For more information on Bath Center Cemetery, contact: Sexton Karen Beres at 330.666.4007.



Acknowledgements

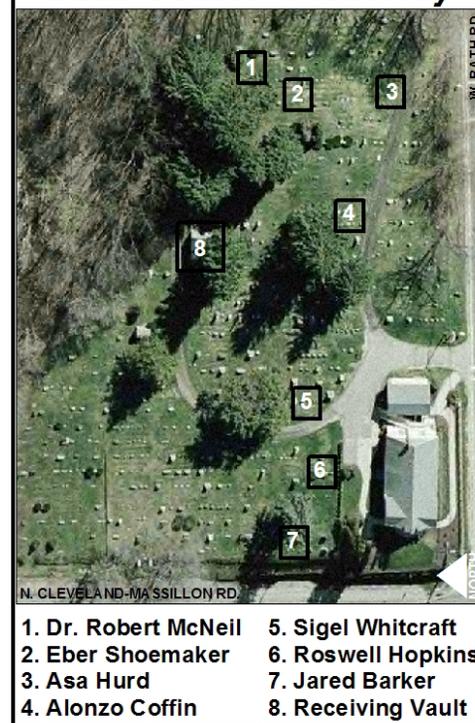
Bath Township
Bath Township Historical Society
Bath Township Museum
Cemetery Tour Committee
Sam’s Club

Brochures of this and other
Bath Township tours are available at:
www.bathtownship.org

Bath Center Cemetery Historic Tour

Bath Township

Bath Center Cemetery



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|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Dr. Robert McNeil | 5. Sigel Whitcraft |
| 2. Eber Shoemaker | 6. Roswell Hopkins |
| 3. Asa Hurd | 7. Jared Barker |
| 4. Alonzo Coffin | 8. Receiving Vault |

Located at
Bath and Cleveland-
Massillon Roads
in Bath Township, Ohio

Robert McNeil (1812-1857)

Born in Chester, PA, Robert grew up on a farm in Bath, one of 7 children. He married Jane Fulton, who lived across the road. When not farming, he took odd jobs to pay for his education so he could become a doctor. He became a practicing doctor in northeast Ohio. He was a member of First Congregationalist Church and a township trustee.

Eber Shoemaker (1873-1955)

Eber Watson Harris was adopted by his Uncle Jacob and Aunt Eleanor Shoemaker when his mother died a few weeks after his birth. The family operated a 123 acre farm on Bath Road where he lived his entire life. He married Lillian Miller (1875-1945). They had 5 children. Eber served on the school board and as a township trustee. They were charter members of Bath Grange.

Asa Hurd (1805-1883)

Asa was born in Canondagua, NY. He and his wife



Sarah (1810-1883) came to Bath and in 1837 bought 145 acres of land at the southwest corner of Bath

and Hametown Roads; an area which became known as Hurd's Corners. They sold some of the land and began farming. The Hurds had four children. Asa left the farm, house, other buildings, and possessions to Sarah.

Alonzo Coffin (1816—1883)

Alonzo was born in Manchester, NY and moved to the Western Reserve in 1818. His family lived in several locations. As a boy he learned about working at and operating a mill. Alonzo moved to Bath and bought the Ghent woolen mill in 1860 which had been built in 1832 and still stands. He was married to Maria Bateman (1817-1859) and had three daughters.



In 1866 he married Mary Howey.

Thinking he could be more successful, Alonzo sold the Ghent mill in 1875

and moved to Akron. Not as successful as he'd hoped, Alonzo's health declined and after his death he was returned to Bath for burial.

Sigel Whitcraft (1862—1934)

Sigel started working in his father's general store at 15 and inherited the business at 26 when his father died. He was proprietor of the store for 57 years and was postmaster. Fire destroyed Whitcraft's store in 1912 but it reopened a year-and-a-half later. It still stands, is in the same family, and is now a contemporary furniture business called Garth Andrews.



Roswell Hopkins II (1872—1962)

He was married to Ossie Pierson Hopkins and lived on Granger Rd, opposite the mill dam. He operated a sawmill which had water and steam power. He owned the first automobile in Bath and helped organize Ghent Christian Church, was a member of Knights of the Maccabees, the school board and was justice of the peace.



Jared Barker (1861—1947)

Jared Barker was born and raised in a log cabin on Yellow Creek Rd. He was a farmer, owned a gristmill and sawmill. He was married to Almira Myers (born 1862) in 1883; they had 4 daughters and one son. He served as township trustee, was Summit County Sheriff from 1902-1906, County Commissioner from 1915-1917. In 1907 he developed a state of the art dairy farm in Portage County and served as president of the Milk Producers Association before retiring to this home on Yellow Creek Rd.

