

Old Indian Cemetery - Pioneer Cemetery United Brethren Cemetery

Side 1: When Ottawa was founded and populated by some of the first white men and women of this region, most of the area surrounding the town site was covered with dense vegetation and muck from the Great Black Swamp. Living here was hard work and took its toll on even the hardest of the settlers to the region. Many died from fevers and ague, and many died from accidents trying to clear the area to become what is now rich farmland and the site of thriving industry. Of necessity, land had to be set aside for the burial of these casualties of time and hardship, and when, in the mid-1830's, John Huber died, it fell to Stansbury Sutton's father to select a site to receive the body.

Side 2: He selected the place known as the old "Graveyard" (Old Indian Cemetery), north of the Tawa run", the Pioneer Cemetery, on the north side of Tawa. Many burials followed and included some of the most prominent people amongst the early settlers, Ridenours, Adgates, Rows, and Galbreaths, among many others. At least two veterans of the War of 1812 are buried in this cemetery.

At some point, the date is not certain, the United Brethren church in Ottawa began using the Pioneer Cemetery as ground for burials from their sect. The Pioneer Cemetery came to be known around this time by the third of its formal names, the United Brethren Cemetery.

Burials continued to be performed at the Pioneer Cemetery up through the end of the 1800's. The last two burials were from the United Brethren Church. One in 1910 and the last known in 1937.

Proposed Ohio Historical Marker



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