Oak Hill Cemetery

Finding Aid Prepared by Eric Spall, 2017; updated July 2019; updated September 2019

Provenance

The Oak Hill Cemetery Association deposited this collection in the Lebanon Public Library as a permanent loan on October 26, 2017. Items from accession 2019.35 donated by David Carney on July 8, 2019. Provenance of Series X-XI is unknown (at the library prior to 2019). Series XII provided by Libbe Hoogveen in 2012.

Scope and Content

This collection contains records from the Oak Hill Cemetery Association in Lebanon.

Series I contains records of each burial in the cemetery; the records are organized numerically by interment number. For the most part, these records are chronological by date of interment. Most of the interment dates are relatively soon after the date of death so researchers can usually find records using dates of death. However, some of the graves at Oak Hill are re-interments from Lebanon’s old cemetery (also known as Cedar Hill Cemetery and James Hill Park). Because the records are sorted by interment number and date of interment, dates of death are not useful in locating re-interment records.

Series II contains a ledger of deeds to burial plots.

Series III contains the daily journals maintained by the cemetery superintendent. Many of these entries include reports on the weather and descriptions of graves dug and other labor performed around the cemetery.

Series IV contains guest books used at open house events.

Series V contains a volume of Oak Hill Cemetery Association stock certificates.

Series VI contains the loan agreement between the Oak Hill Cemetery Association and the Lebanon Public Library.

Series VII contains indexes that were detached from their corresponding volumes. VII.A contains only one page, but the remainder of the index is in the corresponding volume.

Series IX contains the programs from the dedication of the Powell Chapel (September 28, 1930), the second annual Oak Hill and St. Joseph memorial services (September 22, 1940)
Oak Hill Cemetery, Lebanon, IN From 1872 till 2000, A Listing of Those at Rest
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Series

I. Interment Records, 16 vols., 1872-July 2008 (interment nos. 1-14,542)
II. Plot Deeds, 1 vol., 1870s-1920s
III. Daily Reports, 28 vols., 1900-1901, 1903, 1905-February 1920, 1921-1953
V. Stock Certificates, 1 vol.
VI. Permanent Loan Agreement
VII. Indexes
   A. Interment Record, 1922-1934 (partial)
   B. Interment Record, 1934-1947
VIII. Correspondence
IX. Programs
X. Tours
XI. Powell Chapel Restoration
XII. Oak Hill Cemetery, Lebanon, IN From 1872 till 2000, A Listing of Those at Rest
XIII. Miscellaneous

Background

Lebanon’s Oak Hill Cemetery was established in 1872 in response to the overcrowding of Lebanon’s old cemetery (later known as Cedar Hill Cemetery and then, after 1954, James Hill Park). Owned and operated by Samuel Rodefer, it was originally known as the Rodefer (or Rodefer's) Cemetery. The Oak Hill Cemetery Association was formed in 1899 and purchased the cemetery from Rodefer.

Oak Hill contains the burial sites of many well-known citizens of Lebanon and Boone County. These include Samuel Ralston, governor of Indiana from 1913-1917, Luther Rice, the engineer in charge of construction of the original Ferris Wheel, and Henry Ulen, owner of an internationally known construction company and founder of the town of Ulen.

Sources

Our Heritage in Oak Hill Cemetery, Lebanon, Indiana, Since 1872. [n.d.]

Access Restrictions: None

Related Holdings: Books: Hoogeveen, Libbe. Oak Hill Cemetery; Our Heritage in Oak Hill Cemetery, Lebanon, Indiana, since 1872; Photographs-Cemeteries; Vertical Files: Cemetery-Oak Hill
Preferred Citation: Oak Hill Cemetery, Special Collections, Ralph W. Stark Heritage Center, Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon, IN.