1. Statue of Union Soldier, “Billy Yank”
2. George E. Flumerfelt
3. Calvin H. Greene
4. The Reverend William H. Collycott
5. Captain William Price
6. Almon Mack
7. Sarah H. Harris
   Elsie Shoemaker Horton (unmarked grave)
8. Nathaniel Baldwin
9. Dr. Cyrus Chipman
10. Colonel John Frank
11. Uriah (Uri) Adams
12. Alexander Graham
13. Seneca Newberry
14. Jonathan Plkley
15. Hosea B. Richardson
16. Joanne Linsalata
17. Homer Wing
18. Arthur E. Collins
19. Lysander Woodard
20. George W. Vanderwenter
21. William P. Everett
22. Receiving Vault
23. John J. Snook
24. Frank Russell
25. White Pine Tree - Michigan Sesquicentennial
26. Zachariah C. Boberitz
MOUNT AVON CEMETERY

HISTORY

When the village of Rochester was first platted in 1826, one acre of land from Lot 13 was set aside for a cemetery. This burial ground was named Mount Avon Cemetery, also called Rochester Cemetery. This was the first platted cemetery in Oakland County. Because of its historical significance, the Michigan Historical Commission in 1979 placed Mount Avon Cemetery on the State Register of Historic Sites.

The first burial in the newly platted cemetery occurred in February 1827 and was of Mrs. Eliza Scioycemaker Horton, wife of George Horton, a soldier of the American Revolution. However, other individuals had been buried in this area before platting. Three persons were buried in the Old Ground in 1817, the year that the first settlers came to the Rochester area.

From the original one acre, the cemetery has grown through five additions (1853, 1875, 1904, 1930) to its present 22 acres. The original Historic Acre is in the northeast corner. The streets bordering the cemetery are Wilcox, Third, Taylor, First.

Veterans of all U.S. wars (including the "Toledo War") are buried in Mount Avon Cemetery. Annually on Memorial Day the Daughters of the American Revolution and Veterans organizations place American flags on each veteran's grave.

When the Board of Health purchased the First Addition in 1853, it authorized the erection of a fence to keep out straying cattle. To quote from the Burial Book Minutes of May 21, 1850, "Resolved that all Horses, Cattle, Sheep, and Hogs (not excluded from running) be at large within the enclosure of said Burying Ground."

A stroll through the cemetery makes the walker conscious of the history of Avon Township and Rochester. Buried here are early pioneers who cut the forests, cleared the land, and became prosperous farmers, mills workers who used the water from Rochester's three streams to grind grains, saw trees, and weave wool from farms, merchants, inventors, and workers on the railroads and D&H who hastened the development of the town. In the latter half of the 19th Century, three colleges in the area stimulated intellectual development.

For researchers interested in tracing ancestors, the following sources are available at the Rochester City Hall.

DAR Records - Gathered in the 1920's by DAR members walling in the cemetery. Important because burial records prior to 1879 were lost.

Burial Books - From 1879 to present.

Burials in Mount Avon Cemetery, 1817-October 15, 1981. Typed manuscript of the Rochester Historical Commission, based on individual cards compiled by the Commission.

Mt. Avon Cemetery - Publication of the Pontiac Area Historical and Genealogical Society. Information to August 15, 1987. May be purchased from the Society. Computer printouts may be viewed at the City Hall.

KEY TO MAP


2. GEORGE E. FLUMERFELT, b. Oct. 4, 1863, d. May 9, 1910, 46 years. Sec. 2-10. He was President of the State Savings Bank of Rochester which was located in the Masonic Building at the northeast corner of 4th and Main. He served on the village council. As a man of means, he owned two farms and lived in a large frame house in Rochester which is now the Potere Modest Funeral Home. His son William filled tank cars with water from public mains, sent the cars to Wayand for bottling, and then sold the popular "Rochester Pure Spring Water." Perhaps the iron in the water was salubrious to purchasers.

3. CALVIN H. GREENE, b. 1817, d. Oct. 31, 1898, 81 years. Sec. 2-041. Mr. Greene started a correspondence with Henry D. Thomas in the 1850's. At Mr. Greene's request, Thomas had the first photograph taken of himself, the famous Mabham Daguerreotype now in the National Portrait Gallery. A copy of this portrait hangs in the Rochester Hills Public Library, the gift of an anonymous donor.

4. THE REVEREND WILLIAM M. COLLYCOTT, b. 1870, d. Aug. 4, 1957, 86 years. Sec. 2-026. A greatly admired Methodist minister, the Reverend Collycott spent most of his ministry here. His beautiful voice and guitar playing were much appreciated. He served for five years in Calumet before coming here in 1915. In 1921, he helped bring unemployed workers from Calumet to work in Rochester's mills. Many of these workers were Cornish and their descendants are still living in the area.

5. CAPTAIN WILLIAM PRICE, d. Dec. 17, 1857, 57 years. Sec. 1-108. A native of Kentucky, Captain Price came to Macomb County in April 1823. He married Sally Axford (d. June 19, 1878, 70 years), daughter of the Honorable Samuel Axford, development of the Macomb County Probate Court. The couple moved to Avon in 1830. "In the spring of 1837, he purchased the Henery property in Stony Creek, including the farm, gin-mill, and carding mill, which he operated for 12 or 15 years." Joseph W. Price purchased the mill after Captain Price died. He was the first Avon Township supervisor.

6. ALMON MACK, d. Jan. 20, 1885, 79 years. Sec. 1-157. Mr. Mack lived in Rochester in 1830 and opened a store. He was the second township supervisor and later a state legislator. Almon's father, Colonel Stephen Mack, was the founder of Pontiac, and also the father of 12 children, including three sets of twins. Colonel Mack's wife, Temperance, was an aunt to Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet, and she became an esteemed Member of the Church. Colonel Mack started a flouring mill on the Clinton River in Rochester in 1823.

7. SARAH H. HARRIS, b. May 8, 1841, d. Nov. 2, 1871. Sec. 1-146. Sarah was the first wife of Samuel Harris, Rochester's Civil War hero. Their daughter Fannie (1860-1862) and son Edward (1870-1871) are buried beside their mother. Samuel Harris moved to Chicago in 1872, but returned frequently to Rochester for reunions with his comrades.

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16. Jeanne Ulmsbata
17. Homer Wing
18. Arthur E. Collins
19. Lindywood Woodward
20. George W. Vandraventer
21. William P. Everett
22. Recieving Utal
23. John J. Snaok
24. Frank Rusel
25. White Pine Tree - Michigan Sesquicentennial
26. Zachariah C. Bebezhrt
In 1926 the Graham family farm on Crooks Road near Auburn was sold and the remains from the Graham Cemetery were removed to Mount Avon and Perry Mount Park in Pontiac. Arthur had been first settled in 1829. On May 3, 1829, his second wife (id. Oct. 29, 1882), his son James and four daughters were reburied in the Old Ground of Mount Avon Cemetery.

13. SENECA NEWBERRY. b. Dec. 23, 1802, d. May 13, 1877. Sec. OG-9. He came to Rochester in 1826 and was the first merchant in Rochester. He was a member of the First Constitutional Convention of Michigan and a delegate to the Second Constitutional Convention. After statehood in 1837, he was a state senator. Lively Town reveals that “it is said that sometimes customers would find him lying on some blankets on the counter, and he would draw out in getting, ‘If you want anything, I’ll get up; if you don’t, I won’t.’”


15. HOSEA B. RICHARDSON, b. 1802, d. Oct. 30, 1880. Sec. OG-13. In 1844, Hosea Richardson built a wool carding and cloth dressing mill on Paint Creek. This was a great incentive for pioneer women before who, among countless chores, had to spin their wool and weave their cloth. In early agricultural Rochester most farmers had sheep whose wool they took to the Richardson Mill to be combed and made into yarn. The mill was then sold to Charles and William Chapman and became the Western Knitting Mills. Mills were important to the early economy of Rochester.

16. JOANNA LINSALATA, b. 1822, d. 1996, 73 years. This famous artist lived in Chicago, N.M., and Lake Orion. Her work reflects “a deep love of American Indian culture as well as of feminism and expression.”

17. HOMER WING, b. 1892, d. May 26, 1919. Sec. 2-061. During World War I Private Homer Wing, Company A, 310th Engineers, was sent to northern Russia in September 1918. Even though WWI ended on November 11, 1918, his Expedition kept on fighting. On May 25, 1919, six months after the Armistice, Homer Wing died in a railroad accident in Russia. His remains were returned to Rochester where on November 8, 1919, he was given a hero’s funeral. Marching in a funeral procession were 225 school children, 30 soldiers in uniform, the Mothers’ Service Club and the Red Cross. The American Legion Post is named for him.

20. ARTHUR E. COLLINS, b. Jan. 6, 1842, d. Jan. 8, 1899. Sec. 2-178. As Sergeant Major of the 22nd Michigan Infantry, Arthur Collins fought and was wounded at Chickamauga, captured and sent to Andersonville. While in captivity, he had joined the 15th Michigan which marched as the 22nd Michigan Infantry. Arthur Collins fought and was wounded at Chickamauga, captured and sent to Andersonville. While in captivity, he had joined the 15th Michigan which marched as the 22nd Michigan Infantry, and was later released from Andersonville before the war ended.

21. LYANDER WOODWARD, b. Nov. 19, 1817, d. Jan. 24, 1880. Sec. 2-190. Lyander Woodward has the unique distinction of having two streets in Rochester named for him. He was instrumental in forming Detroit and Bay City. Lyander Woodward was elected to Congress through Rochester, and was his first president. The coming of the railroad made Rochester a thriving community. Mr. Woodward’s daughter, Eunice Woodward Parker, (b. 1855, d. Feb. 13, 1933, 77 years. Sec. 2-190 left her estate for the building of the public library.

22. GEORGE W. VANDERVENTER, b. 1829, d. March 20, 1909, 82 years. Sec. 3-120. He was an early president of the Village Council in 1878. He was a merchant, carriage and wagonmaker, and the inventor of a patented corn planter. His house at 404 West Third St was built about 1835.

23. WILLIAM P. EYRETT, b. 1842, d. 1886. Sec. 3-460. Eyret lived in the Civil War Company A, 22nd Michigan Infantry and the Rochester Grand Army of the Republic. Post No. 375 is named for him. The Women’s Relief Corps of this post raised the money for the Billy Yank statue. His name is misspelled twice on this monument at the base of the statue and on the base plate; his name is given as Eyret. He was wounded at Chickamauga and imprisoned at Andersonville.

Receiving Vault: This 19th Century building stored bodies in the winter until the ground became unfrozen. Present technology has made the purpose of this edifice obsolete.

24. JOHN J. SNOOK, b. 1842, d. March 19, 1923. Sec. 2-206. Mr. Snook was known as the Post Laureate of Oakland County and the State of Michigan and Gladys M. Hervey in the Rochester Hills Public Library. As a young man he was served in the 22nd Michigan Infantry in the Civil War. On his 70 acre farm north of the corner of Godfrey Road and Avon Road, he grew berries and fruit, raised stock and was a general farmer. His tombstone bears the words: "Thinker, Teacher, Farmer, Poet, Author."

26. FRANK RUSSELL, b. May 15, 1848, d. Dec. 2, 1912. Sec. 2-224. During the Civil War as “a 14-year-old runaway from home soldier, Frank Russell was captured, spanked on the rear end by a knowing enemy, sent back home through the lines with the good advice to go back home, which he didn’t take.” Frank was the grandson of Frederick and Elizabeth (Quinn) Russell, Dollaratin of Rochester. Frank was the grandson of William Russell and married to Rachel T. of Rochester. In that year with John Hersey, he opened the Hersey-Russell Sawmill on Paint Creek, the first mill built in Avon Township.

27. WHITE PINE TREE. In honor of Michigan’s Sesquicentennial the Rochester Historical Committee planted a white pine, the State Tree, on Flag Day, June 14, 1987, in the Veterans’ Section near the rear of the Mausoleum.

28. ZACHARIAS C. BOEBERTZ, b. 1879, d. Aug. 19, 1966. 85 years. Sec. 5-149. Mr. Boebertz was the first employee to transfer from the Civil War Company in 1907. At one time the farm owned 700 acres. In 1931, the farm owned 200 acres and 25 buildings. There were 350 employees. Anti-sen was produced for diphtheria, tetanus, smallpox, scarlet fever, blackleg virus and other diseases. Mr. Boebertz was a charter member of St. Andrews Catholic Church. He is known for his beautiful voice and public service. St. Andrews Church was on the southwestern corner of Walnut Blvd. and Third Street.