

MULLINVILLE CEMETERY HISTORY

The cemetery plot was laid out in the 1880's, but there were no funds for development. Burials were made helter-skelter. The Twentieth Century Federated Club undertook the responsibility of making improvements in 1935. First they contacted all families who had a loved one buried there, soliciting funds to pay for a well and windmill. This effort was successful, and they planted the first tree. Other clubs added trees from year to year. A native stone fence is on the north end of the cemetery. Next, they secured permission from county officials to circulate petitions to bring a vote to the organizing of an area cemetery association. This project resulted in the surrounding townships joining Mullinville and the Hillcrest Cemetery Association was formed.

In 1935, Raymond Brown started caring for the cemetery. In 1936, the NYA boys under the supervision of Stewart Aldrich did further work. In 1942, Roy Liggett was hired as Sexton of the cemetery. He cared for the cemetery until his death in 1968. His son Dale Liggett took over his father's work. Later, Don Liggett became Sexton and served 12 years. In 2008, Don's son, Derry Liggett, became Sexton.

In 1954, a building was remodeled to be used as a restroom or chapel. Over the years, the need arose for a new building and shop. In 1999, Wilbur and Stella Miller donated funds for this new building. The PTD Federated Club donated funds for the registry/directory building and also flags for the veterans' graves. As of 2021, there are over 140 veterans in the cemetery.

Originally, the board of directors of Hillcrest Cemetery was composed of the township trustees and mayor of the city in the cemetery district. Those persons were: Lyle Rader, Nathan Hayse, Harold Sherer, Donald Douglass, William Keener, and Steve Kirk.

A transfer of the cemetery property was found in the records in 1903. This transfer was by F.W. Sparling, then probate judge, and was transferring the property from the original Mullinville Townsite Co. to the City of Mullinville. A new Price Addition is on the west side of the cemetery plot. It is 200 feet wide and 840 feet long.

The first known grave was James W. Zimmerman in 1886.

By 2013, many of the original trees were dying. The Cemetery Board started a "Living Memorial Tree" fund where patrons could donate money to buy a tree honoring their loved one. Many new trees were planted through that effort.