

MS-366

**Harrison Township Cemetery Association/
Greencastle Cemetery Records**

**Special Collections and Archives
Wright State University Libraries**

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Introduction

The Harrison Township Cemetery Association Greencastle Cemetery Records were donated to Special Collections and Archives at Wright State University on October 13, 2005. Additional items were donated on October 31 of the same year. The donator was James Kitchen of Medway, Ohio. Estella Kitchen, James's mother, originally maintained the records. The quantity of the donation was 3 boxes or 6 linear feet. There are no restrictions to access of the collection.

The collection contains hand-written and typed documents of burial plots and grave records, maps, financial reports and receipts, deeds, ledgers, meeting minutes, photographs, and correspondence. The records are about the New and Old Greencastle Cemeteries, burial grounds of some of the founding members of Dayton. The entire collection is paper documents with the exception of a few photographs.

The Harrison Township Cemetery Association Greencastle Cemetery Records span in date from 1868 to 2005. The majority of the collection covers the period between the 1940s and the 1980s.

The Harrison Township Cemetery Association Greencastle Cemetery Records are organized into 3 series:

- Series I: Administrative Records
- Series II: Financial Records
- Series III: Burial Records

Historical Sketch

In 1849, Simon McClure donated three acres of land to Henry Shoup to build a church and burial ground. A one-story church was erected on that plot of land the same year. The burial ground would soon be come to known as Greencastle Cemetery. Greencastle Cemetery's name comes from the "Greencastle Circuit," the United Brethren circuit to which the original church belonged. The cemetery is located within Montgomery County, Ohio, in Harrison Township, on the east side of South Broadway between Miami Chapel Road and Nobel Avenue.

Old Greencastle Cemetery is most likely the oldest cemetery in Dayton. The earliest dated tombstone found in the cemetery was inscribed in 1817. Even before the church was erected, the land may have been used as a family graveyard. However, few of the graveyard's records prior to 1913 exist as many of the cemetery's records, graves, and gravestones were destroyed during the 1913 Dayton flood.

Old Greencastle Cemetery is the resting place of Otis and Ida Wright, brother and sister of the famous Orville and Wilbur Wright. Also within the cemetery are buried Civil War soldiers and a special section reserved for children from the Montgomery County Ohio Children's Home, which was open from 1867-1928.

In 1944, a new cemetery was opened called New Greencastle Cemetery. New Greencastle Cemetery is located at 2045 Nicholas Road in Dayton, Ohio. Thus, Old Greencastle Cemetery became inactive except for those who already had plots but continued to have transactions of the trading of cemetery plots well beyond the 1940s. Meanwhile, New Greencastle Cemetery continues to be an active cemetery today.

Scope and Content Note

The Harrison Township Cemetery Association Greencastle Cemetery Records document not only the burial records from the 1800s but also provide insight into the financial and business methods of cemeteries from the 19th and 20th centuries. This collection would also be beneficial to those seeking information on the genealogy of families.

Series I: Administrative Papers

These papers contain a basic overview of the Harrison Township Cemetery Association's Greencastle Cemetery as well as the related Montgomery County Ohio Children's Home. Included in this series are maps detailing where graves are located within the cemeteries as well as the overall land plots with surrounding street names. There is also a copy of the constitution of the Harrison Township Cemetery Association originally documented in 1869. A Civil War mortar placed within the Old Greencastle Cemetery gained some acclaim from the community, and there is a small amount of information about it as well as photographs taken of its installation. There are also handwritten notations concerning the graves of soldiers and widows within the cemetery.

Series II: Financial Records

The bookkeeping records contain all records found pertaining to the running of the cemetery. These include financial records, ledgers, and board minutes from meetings. The financial records give a detailed account of how much was paid for cemetery lots, labor services, grave markers, and supplies for the cemeteries over the years, the earliest records starting from the 1860s. The board meetings have detailed information of what was discussed within yearly meetings for the Harrison Township Cemetery Association. These not only documented the decisions and the board members involved but also some financial information.

Series III: Burial Records

The burial records papers are the largest series in the collection. It lists every grave on record, organized between the Old and New Greencastle Cemeteries and also by section. Records have been found from sections A through L, with some divided between adults and babies. These records were documented from the 1940s to the 2000s. One can also find general information about Greencastle Cemetery, similar to material in Series I, within these records, but the information is attached to larger sections of burial lot lists. This series would be invaluable in researching family history.

Container Listing

Series I		Administrative Papers	
Box	File	Item	Date
1	1	Old Greencastle Cemetery History	1979-1982
	2	Greencastle Cemetery's Civil War Mortar	1984-1997
	3	Constitution & Minutes of Harrison Township Cemetery Association	1909-1934
	4	Maps & Layouts [some items located in Oversize Location #74, File 7]	1936-2003, undated
	5	Harrison Twp. Cemetery Association Minutes	1945-1955
	6	Harrison Twp. Cemetery Association Minutes	1955-1966
	7	Harrison Twp. Cemetery Association Minutes	1966-1971
	8	Harrison Twp. Cemetery Association Minutes	1971-1981
	9	Soldiers Found, Sections 1-2-3	Undated
	10	30 th OVI – Allan Watton, Soldiers	Undated
	11	Widows of Soldiers	Undated
	12	Montgomery County, Ohio Soldiers	1986
	13	Indigent Soldiers	Undated
Series II:		Financial Records	
1	14	Ledger #2, pages 91-116	1914-1918
	15	Ledger #2, pages 117-136	1918-1920
	16	Ledger #2, pages 137-174	1920-1924
	17	Ledger #2, pages 175-210	1924-1929
	18	Old Greencastle Cemetery Ledger #3	Apr. 4, 1928-Dec. 27, 1938
	19	Old Greencastle Cemetery Ledger #4	Dec. 28, 1938 – Dec. 2, 1944
	20	Old Greencastle Cemetery Ledger #5	Dec. 2, 1944 – July 1, 1992
	21	Ledger book worksheets	1991
	22	Comments and Additions to Volume 1 Ledger	Undated
	23	Harrison Township Cemetery Association Deeds	1955-1988
	24	Court Case Record	undated
2	1	Funeral Financial Records	1868-1912
	2	Financial Records	Jan. 1, 1946-Feb. 18, 1948
	3	Financial Records	Feb. 23, 1948 – Nov. 25, 1949
	4	Financial Records	Dec. 2, 1949-June 27, 1951

Series III:		Burial Records	
Box	File	Item	Date
3	1	Cemetery Inscriptions, Old Greencastle Cemetery	1997
	2	Grave Records, Old Greencastle Cemetery	1980-1986
	3	Burial Records, New Greencastle Cemetery	1941-2003
	4	Index of Reserve Graves	Undated
	5	Alphabetical List of Descendents in Cemetery Records, Old Greencastle Cemetery	Undated
	6	Race list	Undated
	7	Burial Lot Correspondence	1952-1993
	8	Section A	1966-1970
	9	Section South of A & M & N & AA	1975-2003
	10	North of Section B & OAP Section A	1952-1973
	11	Section C & Section South of C & Section B	1960-1986
4	1	Section C – Children (6 & 5 ft. vaults, 4 ft. box)	1959-1977
	2	Section D	1952-1976
	3	Section 8 (Rows 1-8) Adults & Section E babies	1946-1950
	4	Section E babies	1951-1957
	5	Section F	1951-1970
	6	Section G	1949-1991
	7	Section G & New Section	1949-2001
	8	Section H	1949-1991
	9	Section I	1966-1998
	10	Section J	1964-2003
	11	Sections I & J	1964-1989
	12	Sections K & L (Old Greencastle)	1969-2000
	13	Sections K & L (New Greencastle)	1969-1996
	14	3 ft. on stillborns & 3 ft. boxes – Section C	1957-1977
	15	Babies stillborn, continued.	1969-1977