

**MS-366: Harrison Township Cemetery Association / Greencastle Cemetery Records**

**Collection Number:** MS-366

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

**Dates:** 1868-2005 (bulk 1940-1989)

**Creator:** Harrison Township Cemetery Association

**Summary/Abstract:**

The collection contains handwritten and typed documents of burial plots and grave records, maps, financial reports and receipts, deeds, ledgers, meeting minutes, photographs, and correspondence. The records pertain to both New Greencastle Cemetery and Old Greencastle Cemetery, which are burial grounds of some of the founders of Dayton.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 6 lin. ft.

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

**Restrictions on Use:**

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Description of item, Date], MS-366, Harrison Township Cemetery Association / Greencastle Cemetery Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

**Acquisition:**

The collection was donated to Special Collections and Archives on October 13, 2005. Additional items were donated on October 31, 2005, and February 17, 2006. The donors were James and Ann Kitchen of Medway, Ohio. Estella Kitchen, James's mother, originally maintained the records.

**Processed by:** Processed by Elizabeth Ash, March 2008, and Lynda Kachurek, April 2008

**Revisions:** Finding aid revised to DACS by Lisa Rickey, October 2016.

**Arrangement:**

The collection is arranged in three series:

Series I: Administrative Papers

Series II: Financial Records

Series III: Burial Records

**Biographical/Historical Note:**

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 on the east side of South Broadway Street, between Miami Chapel Road and Noble Avenue, in Dayton.

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.

Both cemeteries are located in areas that were formerly part of Harrison Township, before those locations were absorbed into the City of Dayton.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Subject Terms

### **Subjects (General)**

Cemeteries -- Ohio -- Montgomery County

Montgomery County (Ohio) -- Genealogy

## Collection Inventory

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Series I: Administrative Papers</b>			<b>1909-2003, Undated</b>
1	1	Old Greencastle Cemetery History	1979-1982
1	2	Greencastle Cemetery's Civil War Mortar	1984-1997
1	3	Constitution & Minutes of Harrison Township Cemetery Association	1909-1934
1	4	Maps & Layouts [some items located in Oversize Location #84, File 1]	1936-2003, undated
1	5	Harrison Twp. Cemetery Association Minutes	1945-1955
1	6	Harrison Twp. Cemetery Association Minutes	1955-1966
1	7	Harrison Twp. Cemetery Association Minutes	1966-1971
1	8	Harrison Twp. Cemetery Association Minutes	1971-1981
1	9	Soldiers Found, Sections 1-2-3	Undated
1	10	30 <sup>th</sup> OVI - Allan Watton, Soldiers	Undated
1	11	Widows of Soldiers	Undated
1	12	Montgomery County, Ohio Soldiers	1986
1	13	Indigent Soldiers	Undated
<b>Series II: Financial Records</b>			<b>1868-1992, Undated</b>
1	14	Ledger #2, pages 91-116	1914-1918
1	15	Ledger #2, pages 117-136	1918-1920
1	16	Ledger #2, pages 137-174	1920-1924
1	17	Ledger #2, pages 175-210	1924-1929
1	18	Old Greencastle Cemetery Ledger #3	1928 Apr. 4 - 1938 Dec. 27
1	19	Old Greencastle Cemetery Ledger #4	1938 Dec. 28 - 1944 Dec. 2
1	20	Old Greencastle Cemetery Ledger #5	1944 Dec. 2 - 1992 July 1
1	21	Ledger book worksheets	1991
1	22	Comments and Additions to Volume 1 Ledger	Undated
1	23	Harrison Township Cemetery Association Deeds	1955-1988
1	24	Court Case Record	undated
2	1	Funeral Financial Records	1868-1912
2	2	Financial Records	1946 Jan. 1 - 1948 Feb. 18
2	3	Financial Records	1948 Feb. 23 - 1949 Nov. 25
2	4	Financial Records	1949 Dec. 2 - 1951 June 27

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