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*Cover Photo: David B. Shepard's mausoleum, the
first built at Oakland Cemetery. With the earth
mounded up behind it, the mausoleum violated
neither the spirit nor the intent of the cemetery's
policy concerning burials. This and all other photo-
graphs in this issue are by Jim Fridley, staff
photographer for the Ramsey County Historical
Society.*

Oakland Cemetery: 'A Safe and Permanent Resting Place'

By Robert Orr Baker

'A Burial Ground'

"A short year hence and the frame of our already gigantic village will attain the magnitude of a city. Streets already laid out will be crowded with buildings and new streets will be laid out. Those who wonder at the growth of St. Paul during the past year, will be astonished at its growth next year. A world of capital and population is ready to roll in as soon as the ice moves out of the river. We hear notes of preparation for removal to the healthful climate and productive soil of Minnesota from every quarter. Healthful as it is here, beyond parallel on the face of the globe, free from every symptom of bilious diseases, without a solitary disease that may be in any way considered incidental to our region, we shall nevertheless, in the course of nature have to bury friends and in our appointed time shall ourselves die and be buried. It is important then that the citizens of St. Paul make arrangements to buy an ample burial ground. Say 40 acres, at a convenient distance from our town."

James M. Goodhue, author of this editorial in the *Minnesota Pioneer* for March 13, 1850, would himself fall heir to the neglect of his town, which turned a deaf ear to his plea. He was buried in a field among a grove of trees in what was thought to be a graveyard, but in years to come his family and friends would search in vain for his grave.

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Gatepost guarding the entrance to Oakland Cemetery at Jackson and Sycamore streets.

Again in May, 1851, to the almost 2,000 residents of St. Paul, John P. Owens, editor of the *Minnesotian*, also addressed an appeal for a town cemetery, stating that, "it was an utter disgrace to St. Paul with all her sense of improvement and public enterprise that it had no place to bury the dead."

One must pause and wonder why the community's leaders were so preoccupied with establishing a town cemetery. One reason perhaps stems from a comment Benjamin Franklin made several generations earlier: "I need only to visit the graveyard of a community to know the character of the people."

But another explanation lies in the Victorian attitudes and sentiments of the 19th century. Announcements of the availability of lots spoke of "a safe and permanent resting place"

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Oakland Cemetery's present chapel, built in 1924 to replace an earlier structure erected in 1883.

for the dead. A cemetery offering interment in "park-like surroundings properly maintained" had become a point of civic pride and a mark of culture for a city. The *Daily Pioneer and Democrat* commented that, "Burial grounds and cemeteries of all other places should show the fostering hand of care and the flowers and shrubs growing there are but the mute but beautiful and eloquent witness of the appreciation felt by the living for those of kindred ties who have gone before."

FINALLY, THE MOVEMENT toward those park-like surroundings grew out of a general concern, by mid-19th century, for improving the urban landscape, for creating more livable cities as rapid industrialization destroyed the pastoral past. It was the beginning of the transmutation of the landscape architect into the city planner. As cities grew, their cemeteries, once on the edge of town, were enfolded into the city proper and into the general planning for urban growth.

All this, however, was light years removed from the first burying ground for soldiers and settlers living in the vicinity of what eventually would become St. Paul. This was the military graveyard at Fort Snelling, established in 1819 by Colonel Henry Leavenworth upon the bluff where the reconstructed fort now

stands. For the settlement founded twenty years later downstream from Fort Snelling, burial practices at first were more informal and fragmented than those at the military post. St. Paul's first graveyard was located close to what is now Minnesota Street and Kellogg Boulevard, on ground given to Father Lucien Galtier, who built the little log Chapel of St. Paul, by Vital Guerin and Benjamin Gervais. When these "two honest farmers," as Father Galtier described them, presented him with the land for his chapel, they also gave him enough acreage from their adjoining farms for a garden as well as a graveyard.

Years later Father Galtier wrote that, "On the first day of November, 1841, I blessed the new basilica. This church remained dedicated to St. Paul and I expressed the wish to call the place by no other name. St. Paul as applied to a town or city was well appropriated, this monosyllable is short, sounds good and is understood by all Christian denominations."

Following the custom of the time, the little churchyard became the burying ground for its parishioners. The first burial recorded there was made on August 22, 1841, when the body of Cecile Labissoniere was interred by Father Galtier, "in the ground destined to become a

cemetery" — a cemetery not yet consecrated, however.

AS THE TOWN GREW, so did the graveyard. To prevent overcrowding in the Catholic cemetery, the townspeople cast about for a second burying ground. An oak-covered bluff north of town was designated as a site where Protestants and "strangers" could be interred. Known as Jackson's Woods or the Jackson Street graveyard, this area around Valley, Olmstead, Thirteenth, and Jackson streets can be seen today, its slopes still covered with trees. One early historian commented that, "... while it was used as a burial ground it was not owned for that purpose and those who laid away their friends did not own the lots." By 1850 still another site was in use. This was in the fields around what was to become Tilton, Iglehart, and St. Peter streets, land that today is covered by Highway 94.

Before long, however, the Catholics also needed a second graveyard. The ground chosen at Western and Marshall avenues (later occupied by St. Joseph's Academy) remained the Catholic burial ground until 1866 when Calvary Cemetery on Front and Victoria streets was consecrated by Bishop Joseph Cretin. In 1851, a group of parishioners of Christ Episcopal church gave the church a tract of land "in the rear of St. Paul, north of Jackson's Woods," for use as a cemetery. Still, the need seemed to be for a cemetery that would serve the entire town, and the editor of the *Minnesota Pioneer* was again inspired to inquire, "When will the President and Town Council of St. Paul make the purchase which ought to be made immediately of about forty acres for that purpose?"

AT LAST RESPONDING to these appeals, a group of prominent Protestant ministers, including the distinguished divine, the Reverend Edward Duffield Neill, founder of the House of Hope Presbyterian Church and Macalester College, met at Market Street Methodist Church in 1852. They called for the appointment of a committee of citizens to examine locations for a public cemetery, suggest laws for the government of a cemetery association, and solicit passage of a bill by the 1852 legislature providing for the purchase, government and control of a cemetery.

Perhaps to assist the committee which subsequently was appointed and to emphasise St. Paul's lack of organized burial practices, the *Pioneer* published an account of the burial of one of the town's most distinguished citizens, Henry L. Tilden, secretary of the council of the territorial legislature, "in the dooryard of his residence."

Grave of Alexander Ramsey, first president of Oakland Cemetery Association.

As the result of the committee's activities, the Oak Hill Cemetery Association was formed with the Reverend John Gillian Rihaldaffer of Central Presbyterian Church as its president. Eighty acres surrounding the present intersection of Front and Western avenues in St. Paul's North End were purchased from C. W. W. Borup, the Indian agent and banker. Although advertisements were placed in the newspapers early in 1852 for the sale of lots, it is certain that few bodies were interred there. Since the organization of Oak Hill Cemetery Association apparently did not satisfy the townspeople, a new call went out for a meeting on May 31, 1853, at 7 o'clock at the Court House, "for the purpose of taking definite and final action in relation to a town cemetery," according to the *Minnesota Pioneer*.

Following this meeting, a new group gathered Saturday morning, June 24, 1853, to form the Oakland Cemetery Association. Alexander Ramsey, the first territorial governor of Minnesota, was elected president and John E. Warren, who later would become mayor of St. Paul, was named secretary.

THE PUBLIC WAS NEXT informed that the association had selected "as suitable ground for its purpose forty acres of rolling oak grove land nearly two miles from the river landing, far enough to be difficult of access and with little probability that the hum of

Henry Hastings Sibley's marker, not far from that of Ramsey, his old friend but political rival.

industry would ever disturb its rural quiet." So much for foresight. The land was purchased from the Reverend Benjamin F. Hoyt of the Market Street Methodist Church for $40 an acre, and financed at annual interest rates of between 24 and 36 per cent. The association described the land as "beautifully situated, undulating and platted with groves which would be laid out in a handsome plan into burial lots, with the proper avenues and walks", and announced that it was "prepared to dispose of lots to all who desire a safe and permanent resting place for their dead."

To accentuate the "public" aspect of the new cemetery, the town marshal was authorized to "select lots in the new cemetery suitable for the use of the city" for the poor. The city paid $240 for the ground. Ramsey County's needs apparently were determined to be a bit more substantial. The Board of Ramsey County Commissioners purchased one acre for $300, and their plots have since been known as the "County Acre."

Since the new cemetery was just beyond Jackson's Woods where many burials already had been made, friends and relatives of those interred there without the formality of purchasing a lot were now asked to come forward and identify them, else their remains would be removed to a common grave. Because poor families were still burying friends and relatives

in the County Acre without the knowledge of county authorities, the county commissioners soon forbade burial there without approval of the Supervisor of the Poor.

The initial plat of the cemetery provided for ten acres to be platted into grave sites which would be sold for fifteen cents per square foot. A portion of this area was to be set aside for a chapel and vault where bodies could be stored when the ground was frozen. The cemetery was soon enclosed with a high board fence which cost $700. A portion of the unoccupied ground was then rented out as a sheep pasture to provide income until the land was needed.

AT FIRST, FENCES or cribs were placed around each grave, according to the prevailing custom, but these became unsightly. They also were inconvenient for workers engaged in beautifying the grounds and their use was discontinued. Rules were laid down as to the use of grave markers, monuments and grave decorations, plants, bushes, and shrubs.

Access to the cemetery in the early days was over rutted and muddy roads and across the ravine created by Trout Brook — filled today with the railroad tracks that run along north of the state capitol. This access was a perennial problem that the cemetery's boards struggled with off and on for many years. When General Henry Hastings Sibley was elected president of the Board of Trustees on June 6, 1869, he gave access to the cemetery the highest priority and appealed to the citizens of St. Paul for their support. Emphasizing that the cemetery, "although a public institution had never made a call upon the public for contributions," he noted that, "the roads and fences were in a decidedly disagreeable and dangerous condition." The local press seconded his plea: "It is disgraceful to the city, that the roads leading to the cemetery should have so long been left in the impossible condition in which they are found after each rain. It is a marvel that serious accidents have not more frequently occurred to funeral processions wending their way through mud holes and gullies to the resting place of the dead, and we trust that our saintly city will no longer remain justly chargeable with being so engrossed by worldly affairs, as to forget its duty to the departed."

THE RICE STREET ROAD, which passed a short distance to the west, was the principal thoroughfare to the cemetery and it generally was not only dangerous but at times virtually inaccessible. William Pitt Murray, a St. Paul mayor, once recalled that a body was being taken to the cemetery in a wagon, the village

not yet having attained to the dignity of a hearse. As the procession was climbing the bluff, the coffin slid off the wagon to the muddy ground.

Thus, when the city fathers announced that the Rice Street Road would be graded, the news was received enthusiastically by Oakland's board members. In order to take advantage of the Council's action, the Board purchased a strip of land sixty feet wide extending along what is now Front Street from Rice Street directly east to the cemetery's gate, then facing Sylvan Street.

Meanwhile, Elias F. Drake, entrepreneur and railroad builder and one of St. Paul's leading citizens — influenced, we hope, by the need for improved roads — offered to extend Jackson Street through his property in Jack-

son's Woods. Until this road could be built, however, the gateway to the cemetery was moved to the corner of what is now Sycamore and Sylvan streets. It was not until 1875 that Jackson Street was opened up and graded all the way to the cemetery. The city authorities at that time also took action to abate the nuisance of dead animals, refuse matter, and garbage being thrown anywhere along Jackson. With the completion of Jackson Street and its bridge over the railroad tracks, the entrance to the cemetery was changed for the last time, and a granite gateway was erected at the Jackson Street entrance to the cemetery.

An 1860 Act of the Minnesota Legislature required that actuaries of cemeteries keep careful records of interments. Oakland's carefully preserved records are testimony that this

The family plot of Henry Mower Rice, one-time Indian agent and later United States senator.

requirement was met, except for those burials which had taken place before the Association was organized. Throughout the years these unmarked graves would be turned up by the spades of workers on street and road-building projects, the remains would be transferred to a new site and a record made of available identification. It was during the grading of Jackson Street, through what once had been the graveyard in Jackson's Woods, that a number of bodies were uncovered and their remains removed to Oakland. Only one was identified and that by the badge of his lodge.

THE ASSOCIATION had the support of the community. The *Daily Pioneer and Democrat* commented with approval on September 12, 1856, that, "From a statement of the affairs of the Oakland Cemetery Association published in our paper it will be seen that great efforts are being made to pay off the indebtedness of the association in order that the proceeds from the sale of lots may be expended in beautifying and embellishing the cemetery grounds, and to enable them to do this, and make attractive the spot where repose the remains of our honored dead, our citizens are called to come forward and aid the good work. To this appeal we trust they will respond in an effective manner."

By 1864, the secretary of the Association was recording a new era. The individual lot owners were showing more interest in the management of the Association, the cemetery itself was assuming a definite and characteristic appearance, and a general disposition was seen for adorning family plots with shrubbery and other symbols of affection for their honored dead. That year, also, the nearby graveyard established in 1851 by Christ Episcopal Church was merged with Oakland. The vestry of Christ Church conveyed to Oakland twenty acres which today form the cemetery's southwest corner bounded by Sycamore and Sylvan streets. Oakland then purchased another ten acres lying between the two graveyards. The Board also approved a plan to enclose the entire grounds with a high board fence.

During the first years lots were sold, the cemetery maintained them and beautified the surrounding area in a park-like manner. However, this type of care was not considered adequate by some people. In 1868 a request was made and an amount of money proffered for the perpetual care of a lot. The board considered the request, then responded by drawing up a contract between the Association and the individual lot owners that assured "perpetual care" of lots and graves for all time. Under the contract, still in force today, a percentage of the total cost of a lot is allocated to an endowment fund for the perpetual care of that lot. The remaining money from the sale of a lot goes into the general fund for the operation of the cemetery. Interest earned by the endowment fund, which is managed by the First Trust Company of St. Paul, also is applied to the perpetual care of the lot. Since 1868 the system of perpetual care has been the basic policy for the maintenance of the cemetery.

ONE SUCH CONTRACT, dated 1908, reveals just what was expected of the cemetery right up until Gabriel's trumpet heralded the

Celtic cross marking the graves of Anton Ruben Dalrymple and his wife, Josephine Russell Dalrymple.

ALTON RUBEN DALRYMPLE
OCT. 20, 1853 — FEB. 15, 1901
JOSEPHINE RUSSELL DALRYMPLE
AUG. 16, 1865 — FEB. 26, 1901

end of the world. A sum of $400 was to be paid to the cemetery as an endowment upon the death of a lot-owner. The cemetery was to invest and reinvest this amount at the highest available interest rate, and the interest was to be used for the decoration of specific graves. The contract continues: "It is not expected that the interest to be derived from the sum of $400 will ever cover the expense of unusual decoration, but it is expected that it will provide for at least three (3) flower plants to be placed at each grave, perpetually from early Spring until destroyed by frost in the fall of the year.

"It is my desire and direction that my wife's grave have special care and consideration, even though it might deprive other graves of the same decoration. I desire and direct that an Iron Vase filled with flowers be maintained at the head of my wife's grave during the proper season of the year and at least six other flower plants be maintained in the shape of a cross or other appropriate design on her grave in addition to the vase."

Perpetual care presents an interesting study in economics. A lot measuring 7 x 3 feet and bought for 15 cents a square foot, or $3.15, in 1853, requires the same maintenance as the lot purchased today at a cost of about $250. On both lots part of the purchase price, usually 20 per cent, is allocated to the endowment fund for perpetual care. Twenty per cent of $3.15 yields 63 cents, but that 63 cents is not allocated for maintenance — only the *interest* on 63 cents. Thus if the interest rate averaged 8 per cent over the years, that 63 cents would yield only slightly more than 5 cents a year for the actual care and maintenance of the lot. Similarly, on a 1980 lot purchased at $250, twenty per cent, or $50, would go to the endowment fund and this would yield **only** $4 at an annual interest rate of 8 per cent. With constantly increasing costs for both personnel and equipment, it is evident that the gap between cost of the lot and cost of its perpetual care has widened to the point where maintenance costs far exceed the income from the endowment fund. Obviously, other sources of income must be found.

In 1868 the Grand Army of the Republic inaugurated the custom of strewing flowers over the graves of the Union soldiers, following the gesture two years earlier, on the nation's first Memorial Day, of the women of Columbus, Mississippi, who decorated the graves of both the Confederate and Union dead. It was not until 1873, however, that Decoration Day,

Unusual marker at the grave of Charles E. Flandrau, early Supreme Court justice.

as it was known then, was observed at Oakland. On that day all horses and vehicles were prohibited from entering the cemetery grounds. In anticipation of great crowds, the president of the cemetery board requested a detail of police to maintain order. Each year since then Memorial Day has been observed at the cemetery with public demonstrations in remembrance of the nation's war dead and the firefighters of St. Paul, as well as the general beautification of graves by friends and relatives of those who lie there.

THE CENTER FOR Memorial Day activities is an area called "Soldier's Rest," created in response to a request from Acker Post Number 21, Grand Army of the Republic. Members of the post, named for William Acker, a St. Paul pioneer who commanded Company "C" of the First Minnesota Regiment and was killed at Shiloh, asked the Oakland Cemetery Association to donate ground for soldiers' graves. Oakland responded by setting aside a group of lots dedicated to the free burial of honorably discharged soldiers who had served in the Civil War and for whom no burial arrangements had been made. This was "Soldier's Rest," and all its graves are marked by the United States government and identified by monuments erected by the Grand Army of the Republic.

"Soldier's Rest," with headstones that are copies of the boundary markers or mile stones of the ancient world.

In the late 1870s the Quartermaster's Department of the United States Army requested information from Oakland on soldiers who had died in the service of their country and were buried within the cemetery. This was followed in 1879 by a notice that headstones would be provided for soldiers' graves. This practice continues today. On May 26, 1980, a memorial service was held for a militiaman, Private Frank Donley of the St. Paul Light Cavalry, who was killed in a skirmish with the Chippewa Indians near the Sunrise River in 1857. A headstone was placed on his grave. After the Spanish-American War an entire block was set aside for the free burial of soldiers of the Civil War, Spanish-American War, and any subsequent war of the United States who died in military service or were honorably discharged.

The gradual development of the cemetery made it imperative to begin construction of an all-faiths chapel on the land set aside for it, and the severity of the winters required a receiving tomb for temporary placement of the dead until the ground thawed in the spring. Thus it was that in 1864 certain lots were set aside for construction of a chapel and vault. It was not until 1883 that the Association had the funds to build a mortuary chapel with a basement that would serve as a vault for nearly 300 caskets. This met the needs of the cemetery until 1924 when the present chapel and vault were built. One of the technological advances in the mortuary field was the inclusion of a hydraulic lift set into the stone floor of the chapel for lowering a casket to the vault below.

SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION in the 1850s, the Board of Trustees had emphasized the park-like environment the cemetery would eventually attain. It was only natural, then, that they would examine critically the work of a Chicago landscape gardener who had been asked to present a park and boulevard plan to the St. Paul City Council. Horace William Shaler Cleveland was by all accounts the foremost landscape architect and engineer of his day. His plan recommended parks at both Lake Como and Lake Phalen, the preservation of a city lookout on the Mississippi, the use of Wabasha Hill for future public buildings, the laying out of spacious radiating avenues, and the building of a great interurban street. He foresaw the merging of Minneapolis and St. Paul into one city, and he planned a river boulevard that would connect them. From his office in Chicago he planned and directed public and private landscape projects throughout the Midwest. Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, dean of Minnesota historians, would say of him: "To him landscape gardening was not merely decorative art but an adaptation of the natural features to the necessities of human occupation and use. What he proposed was design in harmony with the character of the situation with beauty resulting from the convenient and graceful adaptation of the natural features to the object of its creation."

Oakland's Board of Trustees engaged Cleveland to landscape the cemetery's grounds at a cost of five dollars per acre. His survey embraced the entire eighty acres. His sketch showed every drive and avenue laid out in accordance with the topography of the ground. He was empowered to superintend the work in

Zion Cemetery, added to Oakland Cemetery in 1904.

Monument marking the grave of Norman Kittson, pioneer fur trader and partner of James J. Hill.

accordance with his plans, which have continued today to be the basic beautification plans of the cemetery. After he completed Oakland, Cleveland laid out Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota campus.

While these improvements were being made and the trustees were coping with a wide variety of problems, a member of the 1891 Minnesota Legislature introduced a bill that would authorize the city of St. Paul to vacate Oakland Cemetery, remove all bodies from it, and make it a public park. Happily, the bill died in committee but the question remains, what motivated this legislator to do this?

AS WAS CUSTOMARY elsewhere, St. Paul's citizens looked upon the cemetery as sort of a city park. In fact, due to its continued use for recreation purposes, the superintendent was instructed to issue permits only to lot owners and their families for the use of that new-fangled vehicle, the bicycle. A further restriction was imposed — the allowable speed was not to exceed five miles per hour.

President Sibley's annual report to the lot owners in 1891 stressed the Board's success in enhancing the beauty of the grounds and the hope that the cemetery would make "a most attractive resort for the lot owners and the public." He went on to congratulate the general public on the "extraordinary good health of the citizens of St. Paul as shown by a decreased death rate notwithstanding a large increase in population."

However, a cloud was to appear on Sibley's horizon. Frank Dana Willis, secretary of the Association, was instructed to file with the proper authorities a protest against granting a license for a saloon near the entrance to the cemetery. In 1873 the Board had firmly stated its position in such matters, resolving that, "The condition of the approaches no less than the state of the grounds in such localities is generally regarded as a fair test of the refinement and taste to which the citizens of the particular community interested have arrived." From August 13 to September 2, 1891, the issue was in doubt until Alderman Pat Conley entered the fray during a meeting of the City Council. The *Pioneer Press* extolled his contribution:

"For some time past there has been a scheme on foot to establish a saloon close to the entrance of Oakland Cemetery. The only thing in the way of the projectors was the matter of a license and, strange as it may seem, the greatest stumbling block in the way of getting a license was Alderman Pat Conley. Conley said that while he was really a saloon man he could not for one moment tolerate the idea of permitting a saloon to locate at the

Bronze eagle topping the monument to Major George Quincy White.

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The "Angel of Death," also known as "The Dark Angel," located near the entrance gates.

entrance to the cemetery, for there rested the dear ones of thousands of people."

ADDING TO THIS recognition, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution thanking Alderman Conley. In the last few years, Alderman Conley's voice has been missed and we now have two saloons on Acker Street, on the northern corners a block from the entrance to the cemetery and forming a sort of gateway to the gateway.

By the late 1870s the question of private family vaults, fast becoming popular in the eastern United States, was an issue the Board had to face. From the beginning, the Association's policy had been to deny requests for above-ground burials because of the closeness of the cemetery to the city. The general attitude of the community was influenced by the prevailing medical opinions concerning burial grounds and graveyards. In those days the fear of contagion was very real.

The Family Physician, published in 1848 by W. Beach, M.D., found its way into the homes of the city and informed its readers that cemeteries poisoned the air, which even though "diluted by the atmosphere and spread over a large extent of the country, was a fruitful source of disease, decrepitude and death." It further commented that it was a detestable

practice to bury within cities, as the air would be extremely fetid and unhealthy in cemeteries and being inhaled would be injurious to weak and delicate persons. Beach quoted a Mr. Walker, a London surgeon writing in his *Gatherings from Graveyards,* who recorded "a great number of cases, some of which ended fatally, in order to show the malignant influence of inhumation in city burial grounds." Adding to this unsettling reading was the almost perennial appearance of cholera, small-pox, "spotted fever," typhoid fever, and consumption. It was not until fifty years later that medical judgment and experience would change public opinion as to the causes of disease and free people from the fear of night air, miasma, wind-born contagion, and noxious vapours.

IT WAS BECAUSE of these fears, then, that all burials up to 1876 had been in the ground. Eventually the question of allowing the building of vaults would have to be considered.

In 1892, David Shepard, one of city's most distinguished citizens and a construction engineer who built the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, asked permission to built a mausoleum. While this would clearly violate the rule, he was able to persuade the Board that he would personally plan and direct construction to the Board's satisfaction. He built a mausoleum with a sunken floor and mounded the earth around it to a level of more than six feet so that all the vaults were underground, thus violating neither the spirit nor the intent of the policy.

This first mausoleum at Oakland is of special interest because Shepard left a manual of instructions for its care and maintenance. Here are some of his instructions:

"For repair use only English Portland cement; for cleaning the bronze doors when soiled use only powdered rotten stone or pumice stone and wash clean with pure water; to clean the marble use only Castile soap and every Spring the entire exterior should be washed clean with soap of Sapolio applied with a stiff brush and rinsed with clear pure water."

In an admonition to his heirs, Shepard stated that no pains or costs had been spared in the construction of the mausoleum and that it had his daily personal supervision during the entire period of construction, from April to December, 1892. The Shepard mausoleum in its beauty and simplicity of design has influenced the construction of many more that now grace the grounds. Still, the fear of con-

Memorial to firemen killed in the line of duty.

Memorials and the monuments they inspired have played a great part in the cemetery's history and have furnished the grounds with important works of art. With the nation at war and the victory of Manila Bay fresh in their minds, the people of St. Paul met at Oakland Cemetery on May 11, 1898, to dedicate a monument to Major George Quincy White, a founder and organizer of the Loyal Legion whose members were veterans of the Civil War. A companion of the Legion, the Most Reverend John Ireland, made the dedication "in a pure, noble eloquence remindful, under the circumstances, of an Athenian orator addressing the Greeks in the open air. And the rare atmosphere of the spot was even purified by the white watch towers of the dead signalling hope and immortality from amid the trees round about, and by the innocent flowers, nature's flag of truce, clustered upon the greenward of the grave." The monument, which is still standing, is a broad column of gray Vermont granite twenty-four feet high. It supports a granite globe and above it a bronze war eagle, about to swoop, stretches wide his wings. The white column, unique in the Northwest, suggests the Victory Monument at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Archbishop Ireland, himself a veteran of the Civil War in which he served as chaplain of the Fifth Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers, delivered his address standing near the top of a little hill between color bearers holding upright, furled and draped with crepe, the flags of the Loyal Legion and the Grand Army of the Republic.

There are three other public memorials within the cemetery. Mrs. Edward A. Webb, wife of the founder of Webb Publishing Company in St. Paul, gave the cemetery a beautiful bird fountain which has been placed in the center of the grounds. In 1868 the Firemen's Association of St. Paul purchased six lots for the burial of members who were killed while fighting fires. The number of lots for this purpose has increased in the passage of time. In 1890 the Board of Fire Commissioners appointed a committee to inquire into placing memorials to firemen at Oakland and at Calvary cemetery. The design selected was submitted by William A. Van Slyke, to whom the contract was also given. Cast in bronze, depicting a lifesize fireman holding a child in his left arm as if rescuing it from the flames and a lantern in his right hand, the statue was placed in the center of the firemen's graves. As Van Slyke, who at that time was a member of the St. Paul City Council as well as

tagion persisted for some time and at one point prompted the cemetery Board to inquire of the Board of Health as to the wisdom of permitting the disinterment of a body, the cause of death of which had been smallpox. The Board of Health assured cemetery representatives that there was no health risk in doing so. It was not until June, 1905, that approval was granted for the erection of mausoleums with crypts wholly above ground. First to be built under the new rules was a burial vault for Dr. Arthur Gillette, founder of the hospital for crippled children in St. Paul which now bears his name.

the Fire Department committee, was a wholesale commission merchant, we have no knowledge of the author of the design or of the artist who created the statues. Suffice it to say that they are beautiful examples of bronze statuary and are centers of interest at both cemeteries. It is worthy of mention here that no other city in the United States has duplicate statues in its principal cemeteries.

ALL THE EXPRESSIONS of memorial art can be found at Oakland, from the simple Grecian type of head stone, a copy of the boundary marker or mile stone of ancient times, to the Renaissance stones crowned with classic pediments. There are curved and molded Colonial forms, Celtic crosses — Irish and Iona — obelisks, shafts, and Athenian temples. Interspersed among these classic designs are the baroque and the modern, with angelic figures in various postures of benediction.

In 1964 the Board of Trustees authorized the construction of a public memorial, a marble base supporting a granite centerpiece showing Christ as a shepherd with the Twenty-third Psalm inscribed on both sides of the centerpiece.

Within Oakland are buried six governors of Minnesota who lie among other prominent citizens of St. Paul, many of them contemporaries and friends. Near the graves of Alexander Ramsey and Henry Hastings Sibley lies the body of Harriet Bishop, one of the first school teachers in Minnesota. A.G. Bush of Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, lies not far from Governors William Marshall and William R. Merriam. Governor Winfield Hammond and Norman Kittson, a pioneer fur trader and agent for the Hudson's Bay Company, lie near the grave of William Crooks, railroader and Civil War general. A short distance from the grave of Senator Henry Mower Rice, one-time Indian agent, lies Robert C. Harper, who was born in 1799 and died in 1903, having lived in three centuries. Governor Willis Gorman, who commanded the First Minnesota Regiment of Volunteers during the Civil War, is buried near the Bigelows, Charles and Frederick, not far from Archie Jackson, all three of them presidents of St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company. Their graves are scattered throughout the cemetery, lying among those whose earthly honors and attainments were less, but who lived their lives in the same hope of immortality and heavenly glory.

In 1867 the congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church purchased a five-acre tract which adjoined Oakland on the north and east and fronted on Jackson Street. The church dedicated the tract for cemetery purposes. However, the prices charged the lot owners were so low that no provision could be made for future maintainance of the grounds. Realizing this, the church made overtures to Oakland in 1892 for a union of the two cemeteries. An agreement was reached in 1904 which included the perpetual care of all of Zion cemetery and it now forms an integral part of Oakland. Ten additional acres were purchased in 1907. This extended Oakland's northern boundary to Magnolia Street and created a total area of one hundred acres.

There are other milestones in the cemetery's history. The action of the cemetery superintendent in 1913 indicates a man with a desire to keep abreast of the times. In 1912 he had prevailed upon the Board to purchase for his use a first class Concord buggy pulled by a matched pair. A year later this was replaced by a Ford touring car costing $630. This later luxury was not to be long enjoyed, for in 1918 the Board decided that the automobile should be sold and the services of the chauffeur dispensed with. While elsewhere the automobile was steadily replacing the horse, the Board was not about to engage in the precipitate action of its 1912 predecessors. No sir!

Bird Fountain, one of four public memorials within the cemetery.

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Grave of Amherst H. Wilder, St. Paul entrepreneur who created the estate that became the Amherst H. Wilder Charities.

The Board appointed a committee to inquire into the feasibility of replacing the horse with power equipment. The committee's subsequent report gave them the best of two worlds — the recommendation that they purchase a Fordson tractor, retain one horse, and dispose of the team of horses. Apparently the Board was not convinced that the automobile was here to stay, or they wished to hedge their bets, for it was not until 1934 that they decided that the services of a horse and teamster were no longer required.

THE CEMETERY'S downtown office, which had been opened — complete with the most modern equipment, a telephone — in the halcyon days of 1902, was closed in 1918 and the entire business operation conducted from the cemetery. On April 27, 1964, another milestone was reached, and the apogee of the machine age attained. Since the beginning of Western civilization the grave digger had been a part of the labor force. Now, on that evil April day, with the purchase of a tractor-digger combination for $5,534, the grave digger's labor was held for naught. The machine could do his job faster, better, and cheaper and, no longer needed, his classification vanished from the categories of labor.

In 1970 James W. Moore, the manager of Oakland Cemetery, attended a conference of cemetery managers in New Orleans where new concepts of burial within wall and lawn crypts were presented. These ideas were receiving widespread acceptance. Crypts provided an alternative to underground burials, which many people desired; they were less costly; they had the beauty of a mausoleum; they required less space, thus allowing more graves within a cemetery, and they were more efficient because they needed little ground care. Consequently, the cemetery's Board of Trustees arranged for the construction of 864 wall crypts, 112 niches and 988 lawn crypts, an action approved by the many people who have since purchased crypts.

The passage of time has brought other changes. In the necessary planting and re-planting of trees as part of the beautification of the cemetery, the Board in 1924 negotiated with the city to purchase some of the elm trees which were being planted throughout St. Paul. By 1933 a tree tally recorded 200 elms in the cemetery. Another 200 elms were included in a further planting of 717 more trees. The following year, 785 elms of various varieties were planted, and in 1935 an additional 100 elms were distributed throughout the cemetery. By 1938, according to the president's report, the cemetery had more than 30,000 trees with more than 1,000 of them varieties of elm. Thus when Dutch elm disease began its destructive march through St. Paul during the 1970s these trees had to be removed and replaced at great cost to the cemetery.

SINCE ITS BEGINNING Oakland has been subject to the solicitous care of the leading citizens of St. Paul. The Association consists of lot owners only. The trustees, who serve without pay, are elected by the lot owners and control the operation of the cemetery. In this moral stewardship are to be found many other names, in addition to those of Alexander Ramsey and Henry Hastings

Sibley. Peter Berkey, who came to St. Paul in 1853, opened a livery stable, served in the state legislature and in city government as alderman, finally attaining to the presidency of the National Bank of St. Paul, devoted thirty-eight years to the cemetery as a trustee. Others were Judson Bishop, Civil War general and railroad builder; General John Sanborn, who became a federal judge; Augustus Larpenteur, a pioneer merchant; Parker Paine, founder of the First National Bank of St. Paul; Amherst H. Wilder, entrepreneur, who created the estate that became the Amherst H. Wilder Charities; and Henry Mower Rice, United States senator and one-time Indian agent.

Today the roster of trustees still carries old family names. The current president, Roger B. Shepard, Jr., is the great-grandson of David C. Shepard, the grandson of David C. Shepard, Jr., and the son of Roger B. Shepard, Sr., all of whom were trustees. This family has served continuously since 1893. George C. Power, Jr., is the grandson of his trustee grandfather, whose term on the Board began in 1907. Albert W. Lindeke, Jr., a past president of the Board, is the namesake of two trustees whose family service to Oakland started in 1912. Augustus Clapp, III, bears the same name as his father who served as president in 1952.

The Weyerhaeuser family has given generously of the time of its family members since 1922. In 1946, long before the emphasis was placed on women's liberation or the participation of women in the affairs of the community, the Board elected Mrs. Rudolph M. Weyerhaeuser to its membership. She has been succeeded by Mrs. Walter Driscoll, Mrs. Arthur Dodge, Mrs. John Parish, Mrs. William Fobes, and Mrs. Reuel Harmon, each one in turn making a significant contribution to the operation of the cemetery.

WITH THE ELECTION of Robert Schoenrock as secretary, the Board of Trustees recognized a relationship with a family which, in four generations since 1898, has served the cemetery in the placement of markers and monuments — William Schoenrock & Sons, whose place of business is across Jackson Street from the cemetery.

Oakland has in the past used support groups within the community to accomplish a particular task or to achieve a special goal. Thus it was quite natural that in 1970 the Articles of Incorporation were changed in order to establish a group which would be interested in the cemetery and supportive of its efforts. The Board of Associates thus created with a membership of from nine to thirty persons has provided in the first decade of its existence considerable assistance as well as a pool of dedicated people to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

Stone marking the grave of Elias F. Drake, who owned Jackson's Woods.

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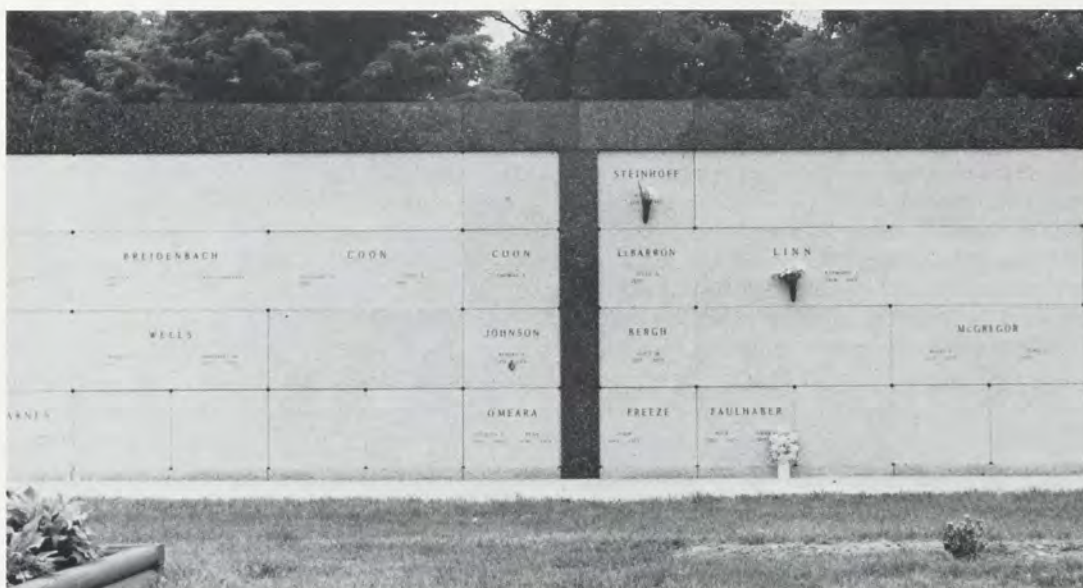
Wall crypts, built in the 1970s.

As 1980 nears an end, Oakland Cemetery continues the unfolding of the founders' plans — a public institution for all faiths, providing park-like surroundings in an eloquent witness of the appreciation felt by the living for the dead. The cemetery is as colorfully individualistic as the American life it reflects once was, and it provides an intensely personal experience and expression, as contrasted with the regimented and standardized veterans' cemeteries whose impact has been felt by community cemeteries since World War II. Oakland is a record of and a repository for an important part of the history of the city and the county.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In researching this article, the author used the records of the Oakland Cemetery Association and the St. Paul newspapers.

THE GIBBS HOUSE

at 2097 West Larpenteur Avenue, Falcon Heights, is owned and maintained by the Ramsey County Historical Society as a restored farm house of the mid-nineteenth century period.

The Ramsey County Historical Society was founded in 1949. Its chief function is to collect and preserve the history of the city and the county and share that history with the people who live here. The Society is the county's historian. It preserves those things from the past that are the community's treasures — its written records through the Society's library; its historic sites through establishment of the Irvine Park Historic District and its successful efforts to help prevent destruction of the Old Federal Courts Building, now Landmark Center. It shares these records through the publishing of its magazine, brochures, pamphlets, and prints; through conducting historic sites tours of the city, teaching classes, producing exhibits on the history of the city, and maintaining its museum on rural county history. The Gibbs Farm Museum, the oldest remaining farm home in Ramsey County, was acquired by the Society in 1949 and opened to the public in 1954 as a museum which would depict the way of life of an early Minnesota settler. In 1966 the Society moved onto the property a one-room rural country schoolhouse dating from the 1870s. Now restored to the period of the late 1890s, the school is used for classes, meetings, and as the center for a summer schoolhouse program for children.

Society headquarters are located in Landmark Center, an historic Richardsonian Romanesque structure in downtown St. Paul, where it maintains the center's only permanent exhibit, a history of the building during the seventy-five years it was the federal government's headquarters in St. Paul.