

METHODS OF STUDYING CEMETERY HISTORIES

The headstones are the most important source of data, relating names and dates. If the inscriptions are easy to read, simply copy them in an orderly manner making sure to include all the information provided. To facilitate reading badly eroded or soiled stones, a researcher will need these supplies: paper, lots of pencils, white chalk, a rag or two, a small scrub brush, and some aluminum foil. First try using a stick of chalk by rubbing the length of the chalk across the surface of the stone, making sure not to color the depressions of the engraving. Excess chalk dust may be removed by gently swatting the stone with a rag. Another approach is to cover the hard to read inscription with aluminum foil and depressing it into the letters and numerals of the writing. A small scrub brush can be used to remove obscuring lichens or dirt. Care must always be taken not to damage or deface the stone in any manner and to leave it in a decent state of appearance. Once all of the information has been transcribed, type it as soon as possible.

The history of the cemetery's ownership can be ascertained with land records. However, when difficulties arise, other county court records may be helpful including civil and criminal court proceedings, and probate court information. Location histories are another information source. Many county histories have been reprinted and frequently these editions contain a recently compiled index. Cemeteries are often discussed in township history sections.

Federal census records, especially for 1850 and later, are helpful in establishing the birth state of persons not listed as well as their relationships. Indices to these census records are often available. If your area has not been indexed, go through the township of interest

page by page including surrounding townships, if necessary, to obtain a good sampling of the people interred in the cemetery. Using all of these sources of information, you should be able to develop a cemetery's history which will be both interesting and accurate.

REFERENCES

- Carr, William R. 1981.** Vascular plants of Bigelow(Chuckery) Cemetery State Nature Preserve in northern Madison County, Ohio, p.128. *In* Ronald L. Stuckey and Karen J. Reese, eds.
- King, Charles C. 1981.** Prairies of the Darby Plains in west-central Ohio, p. 108. *In* Ronald L. Stuckey and Karen J. Reese, eds.
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- Historical sources of reference are the *History of Madison County, Ohio*, and the *History of Union County, Ohio*, both published by W. H. Beers and Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1883; Volumes 3, 5, 38, 43, and 45 of the *Madison County, Ohio, Deeds; Military Survey Book I of Madison County, Ohio*; the *Seventh Census of the United States, 1850*, U.S. Bureau of the Census for Madison County (Microfilm M432, roll 706) and Union County (Microfilm M432, roll 736) available from the National Archives and Record Service, Washington, D.C.; and the *Cemetery Location* book, which contains Works Progress Administration (WPA) records, available in the Madison County Recorder's Office, London, Ohio.**

VASCULAR PLANTS OF BIGELOW (CHUCKERY) CEMETERY STATE NATURE PRESERVE IN NORTHERN MADISON COUNTY, OHIO

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Bigelow Cemetery has long attracted botanists and students from The Ohio State University, as well as other interested individuals, to its striking assemblage of now uncommon species of prairie plants. King (1981a) has discussed the flora, geology, and history of the area surrounding Bigelow Cemetery, the Darby Plains, and he (1981b) has also investigated the distribution of royal catchfly which occurs in Bigelow Cemetery. As a cemetery dating back to the nineteenth century (Overton, 1981), it has escaped the plowing and grazing that have eliminated much of the native flora from the surrounding farmlands. Although "weedy" nonindigenous species occupy portions that are periodically mowed by township caretakers, patches of prairie species surround tombstones and line fencerows out of a mower's reach.

In anticipation of the acquisition and dedication of Bigelow Cemetery as a state nature preserve, a flora and vegetation map of the site was compiled to serve as an available reference for any future management study. The following checklist of vascular plants was prepared from collections made during this 1978 study as well as from earlier herbarium records. Incorporated were species from a previous list developed by Edgar N. Transeau, John N. Wolfe, and Gareth E. Gilbert of the Department of Botany, The Ohio State University. Species not native to Ohio are indicated by an asterisk (*) on the checklist. Species previously reported from the site, but absent in 1978, are indicated by two asterisks (**). Species native to Ohio, but not native to the cemetery are appropriately noted in the list. Nomenclature is according to Weishaupt (1971).

GYMNOSPERMAE

- **Pinus nigra* Arnold
**P. sylvestris* L.
Tuja occidentalis L. (not native to the cemetery)

ANGIOSPERMAE

MONOCOTYLEDONAE

GRAMINEAE

- Agrostis alba* L.
Andropogon gerardii Vitman
**Bromus inermis* Leyss.
**B. tectorum* L.
**Dactylis glomerata* L.
**Elymus* sp.
**Festuca elatior* L.
**Lolium multiflorum* Lam.
Muhlenbergia schreberi Gmel.
**Phleum pratense* L.
**Poa pratensis* L.
**Setaria glauca* (L.) Beauv.
**S. viridis* (L.) Beauv.
Sorghastrum nutans (L.) Nash
Triodia flava (L.) Smyth

CYPERACEAE

- Carex davisii* Schwein. & Torr.
C. sparganioides Muhl.
Carex sp.

¹Current address: 2115 South Linden Avenue, Alliance, Ohio 44601.

LILIACEAE

- Polygonatum canaliculatum* (Muhl.) Pursh
Smilacina racemosa (L.) Desf.
Smilax herbacea L.
 **Yucca* sp.

DIOSCOREACEAE

- Dioscorea villosa* L.

DICOTYLEDONEAE**CORYLACEAE**

- Corylus americana* Walt.

FAGACEAE

- Quercus imbricaria* Michx.
Q. macrocarpa Michx.

ULMACEAE

- Celtis occidentalis* L.

MORACEAE

- **Morus alba* L.

SANTALACEAE

- ***Comandra umbellata* (L.) Nutt.

POLYGONACEAE

- Polygonum cristatum* Engelm. & Gray
P. pensylvanicum L.
 **Rumex crispus* L.

CHENOPODIACEAE

- Atriplex patula* L. var. *patula*
Chenopodium album L.
C. standleyanum Aellen

AMARANTHACEAE

- **Amaranthus hybridus* L.

PHYTOLACCACEAE

- Phytolacca americana* L.

PORTULACACEAE

- Claytonia virginica* L.

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

- Silene regia* Sims

RANUNCULACEAE

- Anemone canadensis* L.
Anemonella thalictroides (L.) Spach
Delphinium tricorne Michx.
Thalictrum revolutum DC.

CRUCIFERAE

- **Brassica nigra* (L.) Koch
Cardamine douglassii Britt.

ROSACEAE

- Fragaria vesca* L.
Geum canadense Jacq.
Prunus sp.
Rosa carolina L.
R. setigera Michx.
Rubus sp.

LEGUMINOSAE

- Desmodium canadense* (L.) DC.
D. paniculatum (L.) DC.
Gleditsia triacanthos L.
 **Medicago lupulina* L.
 **M. sativa* L.
Psoralea onobrychis Nutt.
 **Trifolium pratense* L.

OXALIDACEAE

- Oxalis europaea* Jord.

GERANIACEAE

- Geranium maculatum* L.

POLYGALACEAE

- ***Polygala senega* L.

EUPHORBIACEAE

- Euphorbia corollata* L.

ANACARDIACEAE

- Rhus radicans* L.

CELASTRACEAE

- Celastrus scandens* L.

VITACEAE

- Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (L.) Planch.
Vitis sp.

VIOLACEAE

- Viola palmata* L.
V. sororia Willd.

UMBELLIFERAE

- **Daucus carota* L.

CORNACEAE

- Cornus racemosa* Lam.

PRIMULACEAE

- Lysimachia lanceolata* Walt.

APOCYNACEAE

- Apocynum cannabinum* L.

ASCLEPIADACEAE

- Asclepias syriaca* L.

CONVOLVULACEAE

- Convolvulus sepium* L.

LABIATAE

- **Lamium purpureum* L.
Monarda fistulosa L.
 **Nepeta cataria* L.

SOLANACEAE

- Physalis longifolia* Nutt.

SCROPHULARIACEAE

- **Verbascum thapsus* L.

ACANTHACEAE

- Ruellia humilis* Nutt.

PLANTAGINACEAE

- **Plantago lanceolata* L.

RUBIACEAE

- Galium aparine* L.
G. triflorum Michx.

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

- Sambucus canadensis* L.

COMPOSITAE

- **Achillea millefolium* L.
Ambrosia artemisiifolia L.
A. trifida L.
 **Arctium lappa* L.
Aster pilosus Willd.
A. sagittifolius Wedemeyer var. *drummondii* (Lindl.) Shinnars
A. simplex Willd.
 **Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop.
 ***Coreopsis tripteris* L.
Echinacea purpurea (L.) Moench
 ***Helianthus grosseserratus* Martens
H. strumosus L.
Lactuca canadensis L.
Ratibida pinnata (Vent.) Barnh.
Rudbeckia hirta L.
 ***Silphium terebinthinaceum* Jacq.
S. trifoliatum L.
Solidago rigida L.
 **Taraxacum officinale* Weber
 **Tragopogon pratensis* L.

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- . **1981b.** Distribution of royal catchfly (*Silene regia*) with special reference to Ohio population, p. 131. *In* Ronald L. Stuckey and Karen J. Reese, eds.
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Prairie Slough in Madison County, Ohio

A prairie “slough” with *Spartina michauxiana* (= *S. pectinata*) and *Asclepias incarnata* bordered by willows. (Undated photograph by Robert B. Gordon. Original in the possession of R. L. Stuckey.)