

## How the Cemetery Was Started

Presented by Annette Gebert at Summer Fest, 2012

All ground that is now the Pleasant View Cemetery was once owned by the G.A. Colby family. The Colbys, some of the first settlers in Hartley, gave farm ground to the town for a cemetery. The part farthest north was given first, and they completed the transaction with the remainder to the south in 1888. A copy of the deed shows that Mary E. Colby gave some ground to the south and east. In successive years, records show that George and Agnes Toner gave the city land that lies to the east of the first part of the cemetery.

In the following years, Annie Patton sold a parcel of ground for \$200.00 in 1943 and another parcel in 1944 for another \$200.00. The last recorded ground, seven acres, was acquired in 1960, from A.W. Stahly and Maebelle Stahly for \$1.00.

**The Following Articles are from *The Hartley Reporter*, *The Hartley Journal*, and *The Hartley Sentinel***

**-March 28, 1895--**Tool shed has been added, notable improvement as it has been needed for a long time

**-April 05, 1900--****Beautify the City of the Dead**

We hope there will be a large attendance at the cemetery association meeting at Mrs. Frank Kelly's this afternoon. The object of this association is certainly most commendable, and should meet with every encouragement. While we do not desire to get the reader into a strain of hopelessness, nevertheless, those who populate what has been appropriately named "THE CITY OF THE DEAD" should not be lost sight of, because it is a place where we will sooner or later locate. As we now write, there are beautiful and touching scenes and some sad and sorrowful ones—which memory brings vividly to the minds of us all.

**-July 04, 1900--**Mr. Madsen is doing a wonderful work in the cemetery. A better man could not be found to do this important work. He is faithful every hour of the day, and everything is kept neat, and the improvement in the appearance is great. The Ladies Cemetery Association deserves much credit for what they have done in bringing around so many changes for the better. It takes lots of money to keep a cemetery in proper shape and the city council has done well in beautifying the grounds and by the assistance of the ladies, they have brought order out of chaos, until now our people have good reason to be proud of their cemetery.

**-August 16, 1906--**The work of tiling the Hartley Cemetery has just been completed by the association under the management of Peter Swenson, who realized the long felt need of draining Hartley's otherwise beautiful cemetery, had the work at heart and has managed it in a matter very satisfactory to all. The ladies of the association deserve credit for the effort put forth by them to have the work done now. In addition to the \$300.00 deposit in the bank, the contributed money from other sources to the amount of \$22.32, make a total of \$322.32, given by the Ladies of the Cemetery Association.

The amounts paid for digging ditches were as follows: 243 rods at \$1 per rod = \$243.00; for 18 rods at \$.35 per rod = \$6.30 for a total of \$249.30

Paid for filling ditches--\$741/2 rods at 10 cents per rod = \$7.45; 681/2 rods at 20c per rod = \$41.15; Paid for hauling tile, \$7.00; Paid Floete Lumber Company. for tile \$99.65; Total amount of expenses; \$397.10. Total amount of funds on hand \$322.32, leaving a balance of \$74.78 to be provided, and which sum the town council voted at a meeting held Monday, August 6, to pay from the city treasury, and thereby discharge the remaining indebtedness of the association.

**-October 10, 1910--The City of the Dead, from *The Hartley Journal***

Next to the organizations of our public churches and schools, which are instituted for the living, and incidentally to prepare men and women, not for living right, but also to prepare them for death, next to these, and lying close to most of our hearts, is the City of the Dead. Hartley's cemetery and that noble association which is keeping it up, the Ladies Cemetery Improvement Association of Hartley.

This association was organized November 23, 1899, the object being to improve and beautify the cemetery at this place. This association is duly organized and presided over by a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and five directors, which at the present time are as follows: President, Mrs. P. Litler; Vice President, Mrs. E. B. Steece; Secretary, Mrs. G. Medland; Treasurer, Mrs. S. A. Smith; Directors, R. A. Woodard, Charles Westfall, E. B. Steece, Mrs. D. MacDonald, and Mrs. J. T. Conn.

The association has paid out for the improving and beautifying the cemetery since its organization, the sum of \$2040.75. This has paid for the beautiful fountain, placed the fine large gate, bought and planted the grand shrubbery, beautiful flowers, all the tiling and fencing, and many other minor things.

The association is entirely undenominational and our citizens are right royal. Once a year a bazaar and dinner is given at the I.O.O.F. Hall, which is the event of the season for good fellowship and a jolly time.

Last week, a three night benefit was given at the Lyric which netted the association \$41.00, when those grand illustrated lectures "Behind the Bars" and "Around the World in Ninety Minutes" were presented to our people, which are conceded by all to be one of the best shows and lectures ever pulled off in Hartley. Miss Margaret Lehmann donated her services as ticket seller for the house, Ed Miller and John Silverthorn their services as ushers, Geo. Lehmann, proprietor of the Lyric donated \$7.50 to the association from his share of the proceeds.

On Wednesday night of next week, October 16, Mr. Lehmann has generously offered to run a special feature for the benefit of the Cemetery Association and donate one half of the proceeds.

For the 16<sup>th</sup>, the ladies of the association will sell advance tickets for this special occasion at only 10 cents each, and it is hoped that the public will purchase generously and we hope that every member of their respective families attend.

This is a public affair, worthy the hearty moral and financial support of every citizen and when Mr. Lehmann is generous enough to put on a special and then give one-half, and the ladies willing to get out and do the work, every man, women and child in and around Hartley should not only purchase a ticket, but actually attend and show their loyalty to so worthy an object. Remember the date, Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> and make no other plans.

**-May 9, 1913--**The Hartley Cemetery was quite busy last week planting trees and enlarging the cemetery, a strip of ground the length of the cemetery east and west and the width of two lots on the north side. The society paid \$138.25 for 3,000 pounds of evergreens of various kinds, which were placed in the cemetery last week and will add to the beauty of it.

**-February 19, 1914--**225 people served dinner = \$51.25; 129 people served dinner = \$32.25; Mrs. Wilbur Johnson won the silk quilt, Mr. W. C. Hand won the carpet sweeper. Total Receipts were \$1283.00. \$550.00 will pay toward a receiving vault leaving a remaining cost of \$750.00. As soon as spring opens in good shape, the matter of a chapel will be taken up and it is hoped that enough more money may be raised to erect and finish the chapel this year.

**-Feb.16, 1916--Financial Report, Cemetery Association**

Paid Geo. Rector for building vault	\$850.00
Cost of Cement Block for chapel	316.68
Cost of Plans and Specifications	40.00
Hartley Lumber-lumber and windows	542.30
Floete Lumber-lime, stucco and cement	102.70
O.E.Horst--metal lath, ceiling and hdwe.	93.07

H.L. Failing--hardware, tin work	64.01
Cost of sand and gravel	53.00
Coordes Drug Co.-- paint	7.75
L.A. Hopsillon--painting	22.00
Hoper and Son--blacksmithing	3.40
H. Year--steel I beam	9.00
John Roy--carpenter work	265.00
W.F. Friday	200.00
Dray work	31.65
For extra labor	17.50
Total:	\$2629.06

It will probably require \$50.00 more to finish the painting and a few other small jobs. All monies received by the C.A. have been deposited in the German Saving Bank as fast as received and the amount has been overdrawn to the amount of \$340.00; for which the finance committee has given their note. Hoping the next bazaar will clear this note and have something more toward seating in the chapel.

The Association wishes to thank Peter Swenson for his liberal donation, having furnished the material and paying all costs of the driveway from the gate of the chapel. This surely is a great improvement and cost him close to \$400.00.

*R.A. Woodward. Chairman, Finance Committee*

**-April 14, 1918--City Council Meeting**

On motion, J.H. Jones was appointed as cemetery caretaker on the basis of \$100.00 a month; said caretaker to provide all help necessary in properly taking care of the cemetery and to include remaining surplus ground from new graves and is at all times to be governed by the cemetery committee.

**-May 9, 1918-** The Ladies of the C. A. met at the home of Mrs. Geo. Rector to decide to buy a horse drawn mower for the cemetery. Motion made and seconded to buy the mower--\$59.85. It was also decided to dedicate the chapel on Decoration Day.

**-Jan.13, 1921--Financial Report 1906-1921**

1901--Tiling cemetery	\$359.23
1910--New fence and labor	305.15
1911--Tent	37.50
1913--Work on chapel	302.50
1914--Chapel	472.50
1915-16--Chapel	1862.41
Given to bank to pay on chapel, including interest	343.35
1917-Chapel	63.98
Chairs for chapel	136.25
1918-Setting of stove and tank	3.25
Mower	59.85
Labor painting fence	68.60
1920-Coal for chapel	5.15
Labor, painting chapel	157.90
Paint for chapel	111.60
Coal and tile for cistern	10.60
Cistern	140.50
Total	\$492.25

**-Bank fails April 1920:** Paid out ½ of deposits

**-October, 1922--**Cemetery Sexton-William Roos--Salary, \$1083

**-January, 1925--**Income \$807.78 Expenses \$600.00

**-February 29, 1928--**Ordinance #103 was adopted--Care of cemetery cost of lots full lot \$130.00; ½ lot \$65.00--Three members of town council will be on the cemetery committee

**-April 28, 1938--**Salary of Sexton-\$1083; Betterments-\$36.00; Misc. \$46.25; Perpetual Care \$437.50=\$1603.25

**-Sept. 18, 1954--**All roads leading into the cemetery have been paved along with paving of the road leading to the cemetery from town. Cemetery roads have also been paved so any part of the cemetery is assessable by a paved road.

Down through the years the caretakers have been many and all have done an excellent job of repairing roads, planting and trimming trees, mowing and keeping the monuments in good condition. They, along with the Ladies Cemetery Improvement Association and volunteers have made the Pleasant View Cemetery one of the most beautiful last resting places in Northwest Iowa.