

LYONSVILLE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

2021 NEWSLETTER

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To reach a member of the Board, please call our Secretary, Judy Birmingham at 630-325-3208 or for financial questions, our Treasurer, Michael Belletete at 630-455-6170 and leave a message. Thank you.

Lyonsville Cemetery

6871 Joliet Road

**Indian Head Park, IL
60525**

Email:

info@lyonsvillecemetery.org

Website:

lyonsvillecemetery.org

(To access the cemetery, enter off Joliet Road through the church parking lot.)

Historic Lyonsville Cemetery, at the corner of Wolf and Joliet Roads in Indian Head Park, has been the final resting place for many of the area's founding families, friends, neighbors, and others since 1833. We are proud to have veterans from every conflict from the War of 1812 through Vietnam, including two unknown soldiers from the Civil War. We are a nondenominational cemetery and all are welcome. While Lyonsville Cemetery is located in the midst of suburbia, the volunteer Cemetery Board works to maintain the look and nostalgic feel of a rural cemetery.

The Cemetery is organized under the Illinois Cemetery Act to exist in perpetuity and in trust for the benefit of the grave owners and is administered by a volunteer board of trustees. The Illinois Comptroller's Office oversees Lyonsville Cemetery and performs an annual audit of our financial records. We are pleased to note we have always been found to be in compliance with State regulations.

We encourage you to join us for an upcoming board meeting. Whether you have a loved one interred at Lyonsville, would like to know more about becoming involved in our preservation efforts, or are simply interested in the history of the Cemetery, we extend an invitation to all to attend any of our board meetings.

2022 Board Meeting Schedule (all meetings begin at 7:00 pm)

Tuesday, February 8th

Tuesday, May 10th

Tuesday, August 9th

Tuesday, November 8th

As meeting dates and location sometime change, please send us an email regarding your interest in attending so we can provide you with the location of the meeting and keep you aware of any changes.

UPDATE ON ACCESS ACROSS CHURCH PROPERTY: Although the Cemetery is located behind Lyonsville Congregational Church, the two are entirely separate legal entities. As mentioned in our last two newsletters, the Lyonsville Congregational Church continues to consider options for the direction of the Church and potentially their property. As this newsletter goes to the printer no decision has yet been finalized.

Regardless of what entity may ultimately own the Church property, both real estate law and the Illinois Comptroller's Office ensure that visitors will always have the right to cross the property and access the Cemetery.

NEW LYONSVILLE CEMETERY WEBSITE AND EMAIL

Website: <https://lyonsvillecemetary.org>

Email: info@lyonsvillecemetary.org

We have a new website address and email! We are excited, and look forward to your thoughts and input. Please update your email address books to our new email. Please keep checking throughout 2022 as we will be adding upcoming events and news items, grave/plot maps, Self-Guided Tours (Veterans; founding and oldest graves), and archival items for genealogy and history. We welcome any of your own genealogy, history, or memory items you may want to share.

HISTORIC DESIGNATION STATUS

The Cemetery is currently pursuing an updated historic status designation, drawing on its established documentation with the State of Illinois. As we undertake the review with rigor, we are in contact with experts who specialize in historic cemeteries in the Chicago area and Illinois, State and national Route 66 organizations, and Illinois and national historic and heritage corridor organizations and agencies. These are key partnerships in ongoing stewardship of our unique positions in local, Chicago, State, and national heritage and identities. Lyonsville Cemetery has a distinct role in the region, and we are mindful of our responsibility to our past, present, and enduring future.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION ROBERT E. COULTER, JR. POST 1941

In the days before the Memorial Day ceremony, local Boy Scouts place a flag on each of the over 100 graves of veterans we have in our cemetery records. On Memorial Day morning a purposeful, slow motorcade approaches: police escorts, motorcycles, and then the transport filled with veterans from multiple eras appears. A solemn assembly, a stillness, a rifle salute, and mournful taps are played. Then, a welcomed respite as veterans and active service members sip hot coffee and take time to refuel (Lyonsville is only one of several cemetery stops on their journey). Before and after the ceremony, the attendees and the American Legion enjoy refreshments and baked goods provided by board members and friends. "Lyonsville sure knows how to put on a spread!" we hear. It is a very nice remembrance



and we are delighted that attendance at the annual event continues to grow each year. The 2022 ceremony will take place on Monday, May 30 and begins at approximately 10:00 a.m., although arriving by 9:45 is encouraged as the American Legion sometimes arrive early. If you live in the area or are visiting that weekend, we look forward to welcoming you to the ceremony.



DECORATION DAY: A LYONSVILLE CEMETERY TRADITION

This annual Memorial Day tradition anchors our year at the Cemetery in many ways, and we are humbled to take part. It becomes even more humbling when we realize Lyonsville Cemetery has been a part of this long-established ritual going back to Decoration Day and the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R., Civil War Union veterans). While we do not host “bicycle races and baseball games” as reported in a *Chicago Tribune* article from 1895 (see image below: Chicago, Illinois, 31 May 1895), we take particular note that then, as now, veterans visited our Cemetery, if not in the same manner. It was called “Decoration Day” because G.A.R. graves were “decorated” with flowers: “...School children furnished a profusion of flowers to be distributed, the latter being picked up by the veterans on their march to the Lyonsville Cemetery where “the Ira (sic) McClintock Post 667” of the G.A.R. held a ceremony. Imagine, a column of G.A.R. soldiers marching down Wolf Road, flowers in hand, and showering the Capt. Hiram McClintock headstone in blooms. A solemn procession, indeed. We encourage you to visit Hiram McClintock (Lot 53, Grave 5)—and the over 100 other veterans’ graves (War of 1812-Vietnam)—and learn more about their service and sacrifices (see our “Self-guided Tour of Lyonsville Cemetery” map and guide, soon to be on our website). We are continuing to compile short service-record vignettes of the veterans in our Cemetery from publicly available sources via the National Archives as a part of our ongoing commitment to memorialize them more than once a year. (Of course, if you, your family or friends have any you would like to share, we would be grateful.)

Graves Decorated at La Grange.

Decoration day was celebrated in La Grange with G. A. R. exercises in the morning in the neighboring cemeteries, bicycle races and baseball games in the afternoon, and a patriotic program under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in the evening. There are twenty soldiers buried in the cemeteries around La Grange, but at only one of them was the ritual of the G. A. R. solemnized. Detachments of Ira McClintock Post 667 were, however, sent to two other cemeteries to strew flowers over the graves of the dead heroes there buried. The school children furnished a profusion of flowers to be distributed, the latter being picked up by the veterans on their march to the Lyonsville Cemetery.

VETERANS REMEMBRANCES

Days grow shorter, darker in an Illinois winter. That much hasn’t changed over the last 175 years. These are the months when we gather in, tell stories, and—if we are lucky—listen to more than we tell. We at the Cemetery are fortunate to be able to hear many; a few of which we share in the Newsletter.

Don't we wish we asked more questions of those we have lost? As we gather in this winter, we invite you to listen: listen to family and friends who have served or serve. If possible, interview and record their stories. It may be there are letters, diaries, or other remembrances and stories you have of relatives who have already passed. The Library of Congress (LoC) American Veterans History project was founded in 2000 to help the public to gather those stories. The Library of Congress provides a toolkit on how to conduct interviews; and archives, preserves, and makes accessible those narratives. LoC currently collects through the Iraq War (2002-2011). For more information, see: <https://www.loc.gov/vets/about.html> or contact your local public library who may be able to help in the process.

THANKS!

We would like to extend a thank you to Arthur Bielby who, in response to our last newsletter, provided clarification of a name handwritten on a 1918 photo (adding Jane/Jean Bielby where there is a question mark under a name "Janice"). We welcome any additions, corrections, questions, and stories!

FINANCES

The Lyonsville Cemetery Association is a recognized tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(13) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, contributions to the Cemetery are tax deductible. We receive no local, state, or federal financial support and rely on the income from our Perpetual Care Fund (Care Fund) and gifts from individuals and estates to support our work. As always, we are extremely grateful to our donors. Since November 2020 until the printing of this newsletter, we have received donations from the Belletete, Bielby, Both, Bottger, Bradley, Burkett, Joynt, Knollmann, Kruc, Kuehn, McHale, Meile, Newell, Owen, Persche, Richel, Sallman, and Stallard families. Many of these families are regular contributors and it is wonderful to see their names again. We sincerely appreciate the generosity of everyone who remembers the Cemetery when making charitable gifts and in their estate planning. Each gift matters and helps support our work to maintain and enhance the beauty of our grounds.

Our Care Fund principal is restricted by the State and audited by them annually. Care Fund income is used to care for and maintain the Cemetery. Our primary expense is mowing and trimming of the grounds. Annually, we also address various projects such as removal of trees that have died, planting of new trees, removal of hostas and other plants that have spread beyond the immediate area of a headstone, and fence repairs. Beginning in 2020 we began a project to repair and restore some of our historic monuments. Despite the pandemic we are happy to report that, since it was outdoor work, the project made great progress. That project is discussed in greater detail below.

Our volunteer Board works very hard at keeping Lyonsville Cemetery looking beautiful. Our meetings are open and our meeting calendar is listed on page one of this newsletter. You are always welcome to attend to learn more about our activities. Again, we hope you consider the Lyonsville Cemetery Association when making charitable gifts and in your estate planning.

HEADSTONE REPAIR PROJECT

In the Fall of 2019, Christine Hillmann, owner of Chris's Cemetery Preservation, Inc., made a presentation to the Board on the repair and restoration of headstones. The Board contracted with Christine to repair headstones. During 2020 and 2021, Ms. Hillmann and her team cleaned, straightened and in some cases, literally pieced together a total of 72 stones. Based on the success of the completed projects, we have contracted with Chris's Cemetery Preservation, Inc. to repair an additional 32 headstones, which will take place in the Spring/Summer of 2022. We encourage you to take a drive through the Cemetery to view the work. A few before and after examples are below.



AVAILABILITY OF GRAVES AND PRICING

Grave plots are still available at Lyonsville. They can be purchased individually or in adjacent multiples.

The cost to purchase a single grave is currently \$850. A single grave may contain one full body burial, a combination of a full body burial and an ash inurnment, or two ash inurnments. Full body burials are arranged in conjunction with funeral homes. The Cemetery charges \$1,100 to open and close a grave for a full body burial and \$400 to open and close a grave for an ash burial.

There is also a specially-designated section for Ash Burials (Lot 307). In this section, an \$800 fee includes the purchase of space for two ash inurnments. The charge for opening and closing a grave in this lot is \$400 per burial. Please note that all burial pricing is subject to change dependent upon weather conditions.

Lyonsville Cemetery **does not** permit "green" burials.

GENTLE REMINDERS FROM THE CEMETERY BOARD

Since this newsletter is the main communication with you, we would like to remind you of the following:

- Do not drive off the designated roadways within the cemetery. We recognize the possibility that another vehicle could potentially block your path. Please ask the other driver to move their vehicle rather than driving around it. There are very old unmarked graves near the roadways and they can easily collapse under the weight of even the smallest car.
- Limit plantings to annuals or perennials that are not invasive or spread. Plants such as some types of hostas spread outside the immediate gravesite where they were planted and create groundskeeping issues. The Cemetery Board has the right to remove plants and bushes that are overgrown or aggressive to the headstone and/or grave.
- The cemetery provides hoses and watering cans at the watering stations. Please make certain to turn off the water after using it and remove any jugs or containers you might have brought with you.
- We ask that you do not bring flowers in vases containing water to avoid mosquito infestation.
- If you visit with a canine companion, please pick up after them.
- Benches - At this time, the Cemetery Board has decided that we are not adding additional benches to the cemetery.
- **REMEMBER:** Artificial flowers and other decorations are removed from the cemetery by December 1st of each year. Christmas wreaths and decorations are removed February 1st. If you wish to reuse your Christmas decorations but cannot remove them by that date, please email info@lyonsvillecemetery.org to make other arrangements.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, PLEASE REPORT ANYTHING THAT NEEDS ATTENTION
TO THE CEMETERY BOARD. WE NEED AND WANT TO KNOW!

Thanks for visiting the cemetery and we appreciate your cooperation and help in keeping the cemetery beautiful.

HAS YOUR CONTACT INFO CHANGED? ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO OUR MAILING LIST?

Please complete the form below and return it to the address below or
email the information to:

info@lyonsvillecemetery.org

**Lyonsville Cemetery Association
6871 Joliet Road
Indian Head Park, IL 60525**

Name: _____

Please check your selected category and print information. Thank you!

- Please update my address:

- Please remove me from the mailing list.

- Please add the following individual(s) to the mailing list:
