

First Lobo Baptist Cemetery History

The First Lobo Baptist Cemetery is the only church owned and managed cemetery in the township, although at one time it had separate trustees. The separate trustees were in place from 1836 – 1848 when it was "Edward's Cemetery".

In 1848 First Lobo Baptist Cemetery was transferred from the Edwards Family to the trustees of First Lobo Baptist Cemetery. The deed for the cemetery was issued in 1850 and registered in 1851 although burials had taken place as early as 1836. The deed transferred one half acre of land in Lot 12 Con. 3 from John Edwards to the trustees; George Alway, Jeremiah Edwards, and Deacon Richard Edwards. The site was to be used for a chapel for the support of public worship and for a burial ground. In 1869 a new church was built on the present site and the cemetery operated under a separate board of trustees. Over the years the condition of the cemetery deteriorated. In 1936 the trustees organized a bee and the grounds were leveled and the undergrowth cleared. Donations were received and placed in a trust fund, the interest from which would be used to cover maintenance costs. In 1961 the trustees requested that the church assume management. The request was granted and in 1963 the church purchased an additional one third acre along the west side of the property for future expansion. By 1976 a new fence and gates were needed on the third concession. With an assist from the township in clearing some old stumps, the task was completed. Later that year the township helped in the repair and straightening of some tombstones that had been damaged by vandals. The oldest stone marks the grave of Sarah, wife of George Alway, who died in her 36th year in 1836. The following year 30 year old Salome, wife of Henry Edwards (native of Somersetshire, England) was buried here.

In the intervening years, much work has been done to locate broken and buried tombstone pieces. These broken pieces have been re-attached on the original bases or put on a concrete backer and a collage made of the pieces with names, dates of birth and death, and a portion of the original inscription. A new area for cremains has been set aside, as well as a scattering ground.

The First Lobo Baptist Cemetery is now a well maintained resting place of some of Lobo's earliest pioneers.

Note; The text in italics is quoted from the book; "The Heritage of Lobo 1820 – 1990", written by the Lobo Township Heritage Group, published 1990.