

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. JACOB'S CEMETERY

The Cemetery is located on the west side of Starke County Road 500-W about a mile west and a half mile south of the town of North Judson.

SS. Cyril & Methodius parish was officially designated as a parish in 1881. Prior to the first assigned Pastor of the Parish, which was considered a "mission church", the parishioners were served by Father Dominic who came every other Sunday by horse and buggy from Wanatah to say Mass and serve the parishioners.

The Cemetery was dedicated and blessed by Father Frerick C.F.P.P.S., a Priest who also traveled to North Judson from Wanatah

The original cemetery comprised slightly less than two acres was donated in 1885 to the parish of SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church by parishioner Jacob Jachim. At its beginning the cemetery had a road, basically a wagon track, around all sides with an east-west road and a north-south road crossing through the center of the area. The cemetery is situated at an angle to the County Road because it was laid out along the road which at that time was only a wagon trail. When the County constructed the road, now Starke County Road 500-W, it was straightened according to the county plat.

Prior to the establishment of St. Jacob's many deceased Catholics were buried in the town cemetery known as "Pioneer Cemetery". After St. Jacob's cemetery was established, some obituaries in old local newspapers referred to it as the "Catholic Cemetery" and some referred to it as the "Jachim Cemetery". Although no specific documentation has been found it is possible that following the death of Jacob Jachim in 1917, the cemetery was named "St. Jacob's Cemetery".

Over the years the cemetery has evolved and currently comprises about 5.73 acres which is divided into nine sections. Sections 1 through 5 constitutes the primary burial area containing 2,182 graves. Section 6 is reserved for the maintenance building and Sections 7 through 9 comprise the west expansion area containing 1300 graves providing a total of 3,482 graves.

Section 1 contains 281 graves, Section 2 contains 625 graves, Section 3 contains 643 graves Section 4 contains 297 graves, Section 5 contains 336 graves, Section 7 contains 297 graves, Section 8 contains 520 graves and Section 9 contains 483 graves.

In identifying the Sections there is a sign installed at the beginning of the section Each section was given a name by the Cemetery Board. Section 1 is Guardian Angels. Section 2 is Holy Family, Section 3 is Saint Joachim, Section 4 is Saint Therese, Section 5 is Saint Joseph, Section 7 is Saint Anne, Section 8 is Saint Michael, Section is Saint Francis.

Grave Rows are numbered beginning from the front (East end) and proceeding West. Graves are numbered from right (North fence) to South and each Section is numbered separately from an other Section.