

A History of McCafferty Cemetery provided by the McCafferty Cemetery Association

This is an old cemetery dating its beginning on November 29, 1841 when John M. Butterfield and his wife Susan, of Bruce Township, sold the Union Society of the Township of Bruce for \$50.00, a one acre piece of land 13 rods square, off the SE corner of the E ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 22 in Bruce Township. This is Section A of the Cemetery.

On April 14, 1914, George W. and Nellie E. McCafferty, of Romeo, sold the Union Society of the Township of Bruce the parcel, 13 rods square, lying directly west of Section A. This is Section B.

The name was changed to McCafferty Cemetery Association on February 18, 1920. Two more acres, lying north of Sections A and B, were purchased June 27, 1940 from James and Bertha Burleson and David and Lillian Davis. This area is Section C and D.

About 1928, Edward F. Fisher, of Detroit, purchased a large tract of land in Sections 17, 28, 19 and 20 of Bruce Township. About 1930 he obtained permission to make a lake by damming the stream which crossed the property and to remove the old cemetery which was there.

The Cooley Cemetery, a pioneer burial ground, was located on the SW ¼ of the SW 1.4 of Section 17. According to history this area was known as Cooley's Corners, first settled by Samuel Cooley in 1831. (MPH 26: 547, 1985) it was the practice in pioneer days to use the log school houses for religious meetings, and burials were made behind them. Perhaps this may account for the location of this cemetery.

A group of men were hired by Mr. Fisher to move all the bodies from there to cemeteries of relatives' choices. A few graves had no stones, and were unknown, so these remains were taken up and interred along the west fence of McCafferty Cemetery.

The Fisher land was eventually sold to Ford Motor Company and is now the Ford Proving Grounds.

McCafferty Cemetery is beautifully kept by the Association. Many lovely old trees shade the older part. The original iron fence, with its decorative gate, fronts Section A.

On May 12, 1986 the McCafferty Cemetery Association adopted a resolution conveying the McCafferty Cemetery, by warranty deed, to the Township of Bruce.