

## INTRODUCTION

THE HISTORY OF THE CEMETERY DATES BACK TO 1863 WHEN EZEKIEL AND MARY BURROUGHS TRANSFERRED LAND TO THE TAMAROA MASONIC LODGE #207, A.F. & A.M. FOR USE AS A CEMETERY. MATTHEW FOX DEEDED FIVE ADDITIONAL ACRES IN 1903. IN THE BEGINNING, THE CEMETERY WAS ACTUALLY CALLED THE MASONIC CEMETERY. THE LODGE MANAGED THE GROUNDS UNTIL THE 1950'S WHEN THE VILLAGE OF TAMAROA TOOK OWNERSHIP. IN 1974, CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPROACHED THE VILLAGE OF TAMAROA TO PURCHASE THE CEMETERY. THE TAMAROA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED AT THIS TIME.

SEVERAL GROUPS HAVE MAINTAINED AND MANAGED THE CEMETERY THROUGH OUT THE YEARS WITH COUNTLESS HOURS OF HARD WORK AND MANY FINANCIAL DONATIONS. THE CEMETERY SURVIVES BECAUSE OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE CARE AND CONCERNS ARE FOR THE CEMETERY. WE ALL MUST STAY VIGILANT TO ENSURE THE CEMETERY WILL STAY MAINTAINED AND FINANCIALLY STABLE FOR YEARS TO COME.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE WRITTEN BY PAST MEMBERS WHO WERE THOUGHTFUL ENOUGH TO PROVIDE US WITH THIS INFORMATION.....

## THE CEMETERY HISTORY

Submitted by Carl C. Jones  
Editing and Additions by Orville E. Pyle

The Cemetery at Tamaroa, Illinois was conceived by Tamaroa Masonic Lodge Number 207, A.F. & A.M. The original survey was plotted in 1863 and in 1903 one Brother M. Fox deeded five acres more land on the north side of the property to the Lodge, thus forming the present day acreage.

The original entrance to the Cemetery was on the east border of the property due to the fact that the Illinois Central Railroad ran on the west.

In 1928 the Lodge asked the ICRR to provide a crossing and they willingly did so within a few months time thus opening the west entrance to allow traffic from the Highway to enter the Cemetery. The ICRR willingly maintains this crossing yet today.

It has always been a problem to keep groups of people interested in a project of such a nature which the Lodge had entered into - the maintenance of the property. As the years passed by some of the interest began to wane relative to the upkeep - more and more people became less interested and the property began to take on a look of neglect as to mowing and growth.

It must be noted, however, that the Cemetery was never in a state of total disarray because many families with relatives there did clean and mow individual lots quite regularly.

One man who deserves a lot of praise for getting the renovation in motion was the late Dr. S.S. Marshall, a Tamaroa dentist, who was President of the Village Board of Trustees. Dr. Marshall was elected along with his slate of Trustee candidates (The Improvement Party) by an overwhelming majority on 19 April 1949. The Trustees elected were Lawrence (Rusty) Knapp, Ray Nickens, Frank Glenn, Stanley Marlow, and Frank George. Elected Clerk was Wayne (Hamie) Jackson. Dr. Marshall appointed the Board as a committee to look into the immediate problems in regard to the Cemetery clean-up with Trustee Stanley Marlow serving as the Chairman of the committee and as the Board representative and liason person.



When Stanley took the oversight there was one dilapidated and out of-date-map, some broken tree limbs all over the place and some prairie grass as high as all but the tallest monuments. 63 of the lots had concrete fences around them and after obtaining permission from the owners most of them were removed within a two year period. These concrete bars were used for rip-rapping the creek that flows thru the east side. Crawfish holes were in abundance and they were eliminated.

Within a short time the Cemetery began to take on an entire new look with weeds being cut, grass mowed, old fences being torn out, tree limbs removed and in general a genuine clean-up of the area including roads, which at that time were still dirt. All of this came about with an abundance of volunteer labor and machinery under the supervision of Chairman Marlow and the dedicated hours of his own time and energy.

A new tool house was built when Leonard Keller was the caretaker and was in use by Memorial Day 1949. This was erected from funds raised from a play staged by Dr. Marshall, Chairman of the Tamaroa Dramatic Club. The play was titled "Three Taps at Twelve" and was held at both the Pinckneyville and DuQuoin High Schools. The players were Evalyn Riead, James Trigg, Helen Stalker, Charles Willis, Townsend Blanchard, Karl Marlow, Doris J. Keene, Frank George and Bess George.

Lawrence Taylor used his welding shop facilities to fabricate the metal sign which stands at the west entrance.

On 31 May 1949, which was also Memorial Day for that year, a Rededication Ceremony was held. Newspaper records state that as many as 2,000 people were in attendance for the ceremony wherein a symbolic transfer of title was made by Mrs Herbert Doolittle (Bess Woods) - (Herbert was the Lodge Secretary) transferring the land from the Masonic Lodge to the Village of Tamaroa. A formal deed was executed in 1956 and corrected in 1957 whereby more complete information was shown.

In 1951 a municipal water line was installed into the Cemetery and in 1990 this line was extended thus making water available at most places.

While donations of money were being sent and solicited, the funding was still a major problem; hence the origination of the Tamaroa Cemetery Ladies Aid Society. Without the dedicated efforts of these committed ladies to the project the Cemetery might not be in as good a financial condition as it is today.



It would be a very dedicated and admiring situation if it were possible to list all the names of the people involved in getting the clean-up work started and also to be able to list all the names of the wonderful women involved in the quilting, bake sales, raffles and all sorts of fund-raising events for which full credit should go; however, with the possibility of omitting just one name, it remains better to just say "thank you to a very dedicated group of individuals who were intent on seeing this great project get off to a good start".

One of the primary funding projects for the Cemetery was the annual chicken-fry and bazaar held on the Grade School grounds each summer. In 1950 this group of people all merged their efforts and talents for this annual affair and it became quite well known throughout all of the area. The Ladies Aid also had their year's efforts of quilting labors displayed at the stand where bingo was played, with each person battling to win one of the quilts - which reflected many hours of hand stitching; and it could be the culmination of an evening spending quarters and dollars when proud winners walked away with one of these choice prizes in their possession, many of which have been handed down from one to another over the ensuing years.

Again, for a project with the enormous input from people to make something of this dimension work successfully, it would be prohibitive to try and recall all the names of the dedicated people involved. It can be stated, however, that Stanley Marlow was the untiring leader of the project and to this day he is remembered as the one who acted as coordinator for the group of untiring workers who freely gave of their time and money to put the project to the reality that is enjoyed to this day.

This annual fund-raiser continued with great success and with the combination of the dinner, the Ladies Aid contributions and donations from interested parties from all over the country, the financial investments began to show a positive gain for operational funds relating to upkeep of the Cemetery. In 1970 it was decided by all involved, due to the passing of some of the dedicated workers, other families leaving the area, and a general change in the climate of the country, to consider the idea of discontinuing the annual dinner, which was done. The ever loyal Ladies Aid however, continued to hold their quilting session each week, and several times each year to have a bazaar and bake sale with the proceeds going directly to the investment funds of the Cemetery, which amounted to several hundreds of dollars each year.



The Ladies Aid did their quilting in the basement of the now defunct Community Church while the Church was still active; and upon the demise of the Church it was donated to the Cemetery and sold by Mr. Marlow to a private individual, thus more funding for the investment portfolio was added to the ever-growing account of the Cemetery. The Ladies Aid, now without a building to house their quilting gear and supplies, were told by the Masonic Lodge that they were welcome to use the dining room facilities (first floor) of the building to still conduct their quilting meetings, have bazaars and bake sales, store their equipment and continue without interruption for their most worthwhile efforts.

This plan worked very well for all concerned until 1987 when the Lodge Hall suffered a fire of devastating dimensions. The Lodge sold the burned-out building and leased another smaller facility without enough room for the quilting equipment; thus came about the demise of a wonderful group of women known as the Tamaroa Cemetery Ladies Aid Society.

Backing up just a little bit from the demise of the Ladies Aid Society to the year 1970, the Cemetery was the recipient of a very generous bequeath (\$31,000) from one Lena Rhodes of Tamaroa, and this also added to the ever growing funds available for investments and income being produced from them for the money being spent for hired maintenance workers. The paid workers that were employed at the Cemetery were: Hosea Harris, Sr; Eddie Naliborski; Eddie George-part time; Jimmie Woodside; and Richard Kurtz. These men worked at different intervals of time during the years. Grave openings were conducted by Hosea Harris, Sr and his sons and yet to this day Mr. Harris' son Steven and his sons take care of all the grave openings.

Looking back a bit to 1956 it seems that the deed from the Lodge to the Village was not complete and so in 1957 another deed was made showing the authority for executing it and listing the names and titles of the officers signing it.

This arrangement continued to be the line of function for the administrative powers relative to the Cemetery until 1974 when the Cemetery leaders approached the Village and requested the purchase of the Cemetery which was to be later named the Tamaroa Cemetery Association. The Village agreed and for a very nominal sum of one dollar the title of ownership was transferred to the newly organized Tamaroa Cemetery Association.

In 1974 the Tamaroa Cemetery Association was formed. Illinois law provided that six or more persons could present to the Secretary of State a petition to organize a Cemetery Association. This was done and the instrument was recorded in the Perry County Recorder's office in Book 295, Page 97, in November 1974. Those signing the petition and thereby becoming Trustees were

Stanley M. Marlow; Richard W. Haines; Nelle Smith; Elsie Feltmeyer; Howard Edie; Lawrence Taylor.

This newly formed Board organized in this manner:

President	Nelle Smith
Secretary	Stanley Marlow
Treasurer	Lawrence Taylor
Trustee	Howard Edie
Trustee	Richard Haines
Trustee	Elsie Feltmeyer

This dedicated group of people continued to manage the affairs of the Association for several years.

Smith died in 1980

- replaced by Dr. Herbert Chapman

Taylor resigned in 1983

- replaced by Carl Jones

Feltmeyer term ended in 1986

- replaced by Janelle Huggins

Edie died in 1987

- replaced by Louise Trigg

Marlow resigned in 1988

- replaced by Marilyn Chapman

Haines resigned in 1988

- replaced by Orville Pyle

In 1992 Marilyn Chapman died and to fill this vacancy the County Board appointed Lisa Chapman-Zettler for the unexpired term.

As resignations, illness and death began to take its toll on the original Trustees it was obvious that something must be done to insure the continued managing and operation of the project involved; thus new Trustees were appointed to fill in the vacancies as they came about. Trustees are nominated by the Association and must be approved by and appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The term is six years.



When the Village took over in 1949 Stanley Marlow was placed in charge and continued to oversee the operations till his resignation in August 1988. The enlarged scope of his duties plus a deteriorating health situation caused this resignation and the Board was reorganized at that time with the several responsibilities being divided among the members:

Dr. Herbert Chapman	- President
Janelle Huggins	- V.P. and Bookkeeper
Carl Jones	- Treasurer and Project Manager
Louise Trigg	- Recording Secretary

Marilyn Chapman succeeded Trigg as Recording Secretary after she was appointed to the Board.

From the beginning of the Board, meetings were held annually. The 1988 reorganized Board began meeting quarterly and an annual report continues to be sent to all interested persons. The Association maintains an accurate system of bookkeeping and all records are available to interested parties for examination at any time.

It is the goal of the Board of Trustees to continue operating the Association with prudent management of funds and group discussion before investments are considered, fully realizing that the funds entrusted to their management is nothing more than monies that have been generated down through the years by donations from a group of loyal dedicated people, all of the fund raisers that were held in the past, and from the more than generous bequeaths that have been directed to the Association.

At present the Association still employs one full time Sexton with year around responsibilities to the Board. The Association carries full workman's compensation insurance to protect the investment portfolio in case of an accident to the Sexton, pays State of Illinois Unemployment tax and Social Security tax on him. The Board also carries liability insurance in the event an accident or injury may occur to some individual visiting the Cemetery.

The books of the Association are audited each year by Certified Public Accountants to verify the income and expenditures, and to advise as to proper accounting procedures.



LEGAL DOCUMENTS FILED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE:

BOOK L, Page 487, dd 20 July 1863. Deed dd 9 July 1863  
Ezekiel Burroughs and Mary A., his wife to Tamaroa Lodge  
No. 207, A.F. and A.M. Consideration of \$308.00  
- seven and seventy-one hundredth acres, a part of the NE  
1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 29, township 4-1, bounded by a  
line beginning at the NE corner of Farrels ten acres (23 rods  
North of the SE corner of said quarter-quarter section) and  
running 330 feet north, thence West 1040 feet to a stake  
situated 100 feet east of the centerline of the Illinois  
Central Rail Road, thence southerly parallel to said railroad  
333 feet to the north line of the Farrels 10 acres, thence  
east 1050 feet to the place of beginning.  
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BOOK O, Page 622, dd 28 July 1863.  
Plat of the Cemetery  
= = = = =  
BOOK 46, Page 574, dd 25 March 1903. Deed dd 21 March 1903  
Matthew Fox and Eliza Fox, his wife, to Tamaroa Lodge No.  
207, A.F. and A.M. Consideration of \$375.00  
- beginning on Section line between Sections 28 and 29 at  
a set stone 5 12/100 chains south of the 1/4 section corner,  
run thence West at right angles and parallel to Section line  
fourteen and 50/100 chains to the East line of Right of Way  
of I.C.R.R., thence South three and 21/100 chains along the  
RR right of way to the Northwest corner of A.F. & A.M.  
Cemetery, thence East fourteen and 97/100 chains along the  
North line of Cemetery as found, to section line, thence  
North three and 59/100 chains on section line to place of  
beginning containing five and 42/10000 acres for cemetery  
purposes as per plat attached hereto, situated in Perry  
County in the State of Illinois.  
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BOOK 191, Page 234, dd 8 December 1956. Deed dd 30 Nov. 1956  
Tamaroa Lodge No. 207, A.F. & A.M. to Village of Tamaroa.  
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BOOK 296, Page 699, 10 April 1975. Deed dd 9 April 1975  
Village of Tamaroa to Tamaroa Cemetery Association.  
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BOOK 296, Page 701, 10 April 1975. Instrument dd 9 April 1975  
Village of Tamaroa Ordinance authorizing transfer of  
land to Tamaroa Cemetery Association.  
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BOOK 296, Page 705, 10 April 1975. Petition dd 31 March 1975  
Petition of Tamaroa Cemetery Association for annexation  
of Cemetery land to the Village of Tamaroa.  
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BOOK 296, Page 707, 10 April 1975. Ordinance dd 9 April 1975  
Village of Tamaroa Ordinance annexing the Cemetery land  
to the Village of Tamaroa.



THE TAMAROA TIMES  
Friday, January 27, 1928

I.C. Would Build Crossing at Cemetery

At the request of some of the business men a few months ago, the Illinois Central railroad company agreed to put in a grade crossing north of town; to give access to the cemetery from the hard road.

A petition was filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission, and the case came before the Commission at Springfield last week. H.L. Farmer was called before that body to show cause why the petition should be granted, and we trust that his evidence was presented in a creditable manner, as the crossing would be a great help to people going to and from the cemetery. It will be a convenience in good weather and a necessity in bad weather. A decision is expected from the Commission within a few days.

The railroad company proposes to build a road for one way traffic, approximately eight feet wide, from the hard road to the western boundary of the cemetery, and without cost to the people of the community. The Illinois Central is to be commended for its favorable action in the matter.

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THE TAMAROA TIMES  
Friday, June 8, 1928

New Crossing at Cemetery Opened

To attend Memorial day exercises at the cemetery last week the people drove their cars up the hard road and entered the place over the new railroad crossing. The trip from Main street can now be easily made in two or three minutes.

The crossing is the gift of the Illinois Central to our people, and while it is a time saver in good weather, and will thus be appreciated, it will be doubly appreciated in bad weather, making it possible to reach the cemetery when the dirt road is impassable, as is often the case in winter and early spring.

The crossing is over four railraod tracks, and is not merely a place to cross, but was constructed with the same care and the same material used as in the Main street crossing in town. Cinders and rock were used to make the fill between the tracks and the hard road.

Several months ago a committee from the Masonic lodge, which owns the cemetery, went to Carbondale and asked for a crossing. The railroad company readily agreed to put in one, entirely at its own expense, but the matter had to be given a hearing before the Illinois Commerce Commission, and this caused some delay. The case came before the Commission in January. The railroad made no protest, acting in accord with the wishes of the petitioners. Some time later the Commission issued an order for the work.

The Illinois Central is to be commended for its action. The people of Tamaroa and vicinity feel deeply greatful to the company for its interest in the matter.

# TAMAROA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES

STANLEY MARLOW NOV. 1974	RICHARD W HAINES NOV. 1974	NELLIE SMITH NOV. 1974	LAWRENCE TAYLOR NOV. 1974	ELSIE FELTMEYER NOV. 1974	HOWARD EDIE NOV. 1974
MARILYN CHAPMAN DEC. 1988	ORVILLE PYLE NOV. 1988	HERBERT CHAPMAN DEC. 1977	CARL JONES DEC. 1983	JANELLE HUGGINS DEC. 1986	LOUISE TRIGG DEC. 1987
LISA CHAPMAN- ZETTLER DEC. 1992	BRIAN MORROW FEB. 1995	LISA MAPLE JAN. 2018	CATHY YOUNGMAN MAY 1998	MARILYN TAYLOR JAN. 2010	DIANE VALENTINE JAN. 2011
JEFFREY BROCAILLE MARCH 2005		JOHNIE LEONARD JAN. 2020		JEFF HARRIS JAN. 2020	