

Source: Cemeteries of Sarasota County Florida A Record of Births, Deaths, and Burials  
Compiled by The Genealogical Society of Sarasota  
Copyright © 1992, 2007

.....

## **Sarasota County Florida Cemeteries - Locations and Descriptions**

### **BEE RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDENS** (4826 McIntosh Road, Sarasota, near Proctor Road)

Memorial plaques are on the outside wall of the church. The first death date is 20 July 1981.

### **CALVARY REFORMED CHURCH OF VENICE GARDENS** (1600 Banyan Drive just south of Center Road, South Venice)

The first death date is 3 Jul 1975.

### **FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CEMETERY** (5700 Palmer Boulevard, Fruitville, at Bacon Avenue.)

The cemetery was established in 1887 on a portion of land deeded as a gift to the Friendship Baptist Church by the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company of Scotland. The deed was granted through the efforts of J. Hamilton Gillespie, prominent in Sarasota history. Early settlers Charles and Martha Tatum Reaves were living on their farm north of Fruitville Road near Simmons Avenue. When Gillespie arrived in Sarasota he was invited to the Reaves home where he found Martha unable to control her grief over the loss of her second son in less than five years. Near the home were two little graves, constant reminders of her loss. Gillespie suggested that the little settlement should have a cemetery and on 5 May 1887 the handwritten deed to the property arrived with the official wax seal of Scotland. The graves of the two babies were moved to the new cemetery and it is believed that they were the first buried there. The first death date is 10 Dec 1881.

### **GALILEE CEMETERY** (On the east side of Washington Blvd , Sarasota, south of Myrtle St)

Given by William Van Dame to the black community. The first death date is 1932.

### **GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** (400 East Field Street, Venice, off Avenida del Circo)

### **GULF PINES MEMORIAL PARK** (3 miles south of U S 41 on the east side of Route 776, Englewood)

Earliest grave: 1914

### **HOPEWELL MEMORIAL PARK** (East of Interstate 75 on the south side of Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, between Santo Dr. & Tora Rd.)

A sandy path leads to five acres part of which was once Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church property. It is one of the oldest cemeteries in this section and additional property there was owned by the Wallace family. All the Wallace graves are inside a fenced-in section and the family, in 1950 gave the rest to the county for the purpose of establishing a public burial ground. Three acres for access were given by Mr. Turner of the Hi-Hat Ranch. Some of Sarasota's

earliest families share the ground with paupers and indigents. Sometimes referred to as the 'Wallace Cemetery' or the 'Pauper's Cemetery', it is only recently that records of indigents have been kept. The first burial was on 2 Sep 1890.

### **LEMON BAY CEMETERY**

(On Indiana Avenue (Route 776), Englewood, just south of Church Street.)

Since 1890, deceased pioneer settlers have been laid to rest on this sandy ridge. The land for the cemetery was deeded to the citizens of the Lemon Bay area on 10 May 1900.

### **MIAKKA (MYAKKA) CEMETERY**

(About 10 miles east of Interstate 75 on Route 780, turn south at: Verna Road on Myakka Road for one mile.)

Indians were still living in this area when the first settlers arrived. The deep pine forests were rich with game, the nearby Myakka River supplied them with fish. Pioneers felled the tall trees used in building their cabins and barns. Following the Civil War, the Homestead Act and the railroad industry opened up vast sections of the country, including this area of Florida. The first burial was on 24 January 1894.

### **NOKOMIS CEMETERY**

(Formerly known as JESSE KNIGHT MEMORIAL CEMETERY)  
(East of U S 41 and across the railroad tracks on Colonia Lane, Nokomis)

Jesse Knight, with his wife Rebecca, came to the Venice area in 1886 accompanied by their children and 300 head of cattle. As the area grew, the need for a school was realized by Knight and he donated a one acre site for the school; which also served the early settlers as a church on Sundays. Many of the services were conducted by Knight who was an unordained Methodist minister.

As the community grew, Knight saw the need for a separate church building and on 22 October 1903 he donated a half acre for the church building and one acre for the cemetery plot. While owned by Knight, this site had served as a cemetery since the 1880's when the area was known as Venice. In 1904 the cemetery was known as the Venice Cemetery and the church was known as Knight's Chapel. This was the first cemetery in the Venice area and is owned and maintained by the Venice-Nokomis United Methodist Church. The first burial was on 3 August 1888.

### **OAKLANDS/WOODLAWN CEMETERY**

(One short block north of 10th Street via Orange Avenue before the railroad crossing, is brick surfaced 10th Way. At the end of this are wrought iron gates which lead to the cemetery.)

The first burial was on 10 April 1905. Woodlawn (also known as Pepper Hill) is part of Oaklands Cemetery. It covers about three tenths of an acre and was deeded by the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company to a group of black residents as trustees.

### **PALMS MEMORIAL PARK**

(5200 Fruitville Road, Fruitville, at the corner of Honore Avenue)

Palms Memorial Park is the newest cemetery in Sarasota County. The first burial was in 1945.

### **RED ROCK (HANSEN) CEMETERY**

(Quail Drive west of Camino Real is a private road. The cemetery is surrounded by private yards about fifty feet from: Quail Drive west; of the house at 1411)

Nature has claimed this small family cemetery which is among stately live oak trees. The first burial and only visible stone is that of Capt. Peter Hansen who died on 23 March 1885. It is the

resting place for the two early Sarasota families for whom Roberts Bay, Roberts Point, Hansen Bayou and Ocean Boulevard were named.

### **PINE SHORES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDEN**

(At the intersection of Elmwood Avenue and Ridgewood Street, Sarasota From U S 41 Upper Elmwood Avenue on the west leads to Pine Shores Presbyterian Church)

The Memorial Prayer Garden is across from the church Brass plaques on a central marker list the names The earliest memorial is dated 3 December 1967

### **ROSEMARY CEMETERY**

(Central Avenue and 9th Street, Sarasota)

Rosemary was the original town cemetery, starting in 1886 when the town of Sarasota was platted by the Scottish firm: The Florida Mortgage and Investment Co. The oldest grave is that of Tom Booth, one of the original colonists who died on 17 March 1887. In 1903, the cemetery was deeded to the city by John Hamilton Gillespie. Mr. L. H. Cunliff purchased a lot from the city for \$15.00. In 1910, he complained that he had been cheated as his lot was only worth \$10.00. The city compromised by selling him a second lot for only \$5.00.

Many of Sarasota's pioneers who were important in the town's development are buried here. Most of the surnames are Scottish or Scotch-Irish. Some of the older tombstones are handmade and often decorated with sea shells embedded in the cement to form crosses, flowers, hearts and starbursts. The first burial was on 12 March 1886.

### **SAINT ANDREW UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MEMORIAL GARDEN**

(6908 Beneva Road, Sarasota)

Names and dates are on a plaque at the rear of the sanctuary. Cremains are buried under a tree in the yard but there are no markers outside. The first death date is 1968.

### **ST BONIFACE COLUMBARIUM**

(At 4615 Midnight Pass Road on Siesta Key)

The first death date is 1921.

### **ST FRANCIS MEMORIAL GARDEN**

(At Church of the Redeemer, Episcopal, 222 S Palm Avenue, Sarasota, at Ringling Blvd)

The first death date is 27 October 1966.

### **ST JOHN'S CHAPEL CEMETERY**

(Formerly known as 'Peter Crocker Memorial Park')

(On the north side of Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, just east of US 41)

Deeded by the Florida Mortgage and Investment Co. to Peter Crocker, Trustee and others in 1901. The original name was "St. John's Chapel Cemetery". In 1951 new trustees were named by the Circuit Court and for a period it was "Peter Crocker Memorial Park". First death date is 5 July 1907.

### **ST NATHANIEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDEN**

(0 8 miles north of US 41 at 4200 S Biscayne Drive, North Port)

The first death date is 14 January 1978.

### **ST WILFRED'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDEN**

(Wilkinson Road, Sarasota, east of Beneva Road)

The first death date is 24 November 1974.

### **SARASOTA MEMORIAL PARK**

(5833 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.)

When Sarasota was still a small community, two undertakers bought a number of acres for a cemetery. They applied for a permit which was denied because no one was buried there. Waiting until a man died, they had the body buried on the land. They again applied for a permit and certified that there was a body buried there. This time the permit was given.

Later, when US Route 41 was to be constructed, the body was in its path. It was moved to a spot near the middle of the cemetery and a plaque placed on the grave. The first interment was of Edward Bonapart "Bone" Hogan on 10 July 1945.

There are people buried here who died before the cemetery was established, but they have all been moved in from other places. The first of these died on 31 July 1882.

### **SUNNYSIDE MENNONITE CEMETERY**

(Beside church at 1001 Honore Ave , Fruitville, 2 miles south of Fruitville Rd)

The first death date is 20 Sep 1973.

### **TATUM RIDGE CEMETERY**

(On Kennedy Lane, Fruitville, at Tatum Ridge Baptist Church)

First burial: Lucy Tatum 18 November 1826-25 January 1890.

### **TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM CEMETERY**

(Circus Boulevard, Sarasota)

This is the only Jewish cemetery in the county. It now covers approximately two acres, but the total owned is 8.5 acres which can accommodate requests for burial of non-members from congregations in other counties which require plots for their members. The first interment was on 26 August 1934. The first death date is 5 July 1907.

### **VANISHED GRAVES**

North of a small creek across from the old Luke Wood house about 100 yards from the intersection of U S 41 and 301 two Civil War veterans were buried

The two headstones were carried away and no one knows where they are or what became of them. The first burial was of Edwin B. Staples who lived from 1842 to 1879. He was a Massachusetts Major, 4th Cavalry, in the Civil War. The second was of Colonel Joseph Woodruff who lived from 18 February 1821 to 21 September 1883.

### **VENICE MEMORIAL GARDENS**

(1950 Center Road, Venice, toward the eastern end of Center Road)

It is the only cemetery in Venice. The first interment was in 1943.

### **WHITAKER CEMETERY**

(1232 12th Street, Sarasota. Owned and maintained by the DAR and adjacent to the Sara De Sota Chapter House)

William Henry Whitaker was the first permanent white settler in Sarasota County. As deaths occurred in this pioneer family, burials were made on the east side of the home in the area which is now North Tamiami Trail and 12th Street.

In the 1930's the Whitaker family deeded the cemetery to the DAR with the understanding that any lineal descendants of William and Mary Whitaker and their spouses could be buried there as long as space remained. There are 85 plots but only 39 graves as of January 1992. The first death date is 13 April 1879.