

PREFACE

Greenlawn Cemetery, located at Offnere and Grant Streets, is the only public cemetery in Portsmouth, Ohio. It incorporates several smaller cemeteries and covers about 40 acres.

The first graveyard in Portsmouth was on the east banks of the Scioto River, but repeated flooding convinced the city council to purchase land elsewhere for a new cemetery. The first area of Greenlawn was laid out in 1829, the sections now known as #23, #24, and City. Sections were added a few acres at a time until the present size was attained. Most of the bodies were moved from the old graveyard to Greenlawn in 1830.

Burial records from 1872 to the present are available at the main office, near the Offnere St. entrance. No records before 1872 survived the office fire that year; however, for a time, records of Greenlawn burials were published~ and researchers can check microfilm copies of the old newspapers at the Portsmouth Public Library.

When the Scioto County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society voted to list the earliest inscriptions from Greenlawn, it was decided to copy every stone with death dates 1900 or earlier, and their apparent spouses. All markers in the mausoleum were listed.

Vandalism has been a regular occurrence at Greenlawn for many years. Every effort was made to decipher stones that were broken or weathered, but many inscriptions are indicated as questionable. The stones were listed in physical order by rows or plots, section by section, throughout the cemetery.

A section map will help researchers locate a stone more quickly and determine possible family relationships.

Jean Seeley, Caryn~. Shoemaker, and Julie S. Bowles donated great amounts of time to see this project finished. Members of the society who assisted were Elizabeth Bandy, Virgil and Marguerite Ramsey, Pearl Fraley, Pearl Henson, Dolores Schoonover, and Esther Duewel. Ruth Klopp listed about 1100 stone inscriptions about thirty years ago, and her list was used to compare questionable names and dates, and to supply information about stones missed or now missing. (See Addenda.)

None of the workers will deny the inevitability of errors. The group welcomes corrections or comments, addressed to the Scioto County Chapter of O.G.S., Post Office Box 812, Portsmouth, Ohio.

Portsmouth, Ohio
April 1985