

## EVERGREEN CEMETERY QUICK HISTORY & INTERESTING FACTS

- Previous to 1852, the Village of Manitowoc had a small cemetery at N 8<sup>th</sup> & Park Streets.
- 7/30/1852 – Because of an outbreak of cholera, the Village of Manitowoc purchased 10 acres from Benjamin Jones for a larger cemetery. The bodies from the original cemetery were eventually moved to the Evergreen Cemetery property.
- 5/11/1853 – 1<sup>st</sup> burial was Judge Jeremiah Colby (the son-in-law of Benjamin Jones). “Jerry” Colby was the 1<sup>st</sup> lawyer to settle in the county, the first ever Manitowoc County judge, & the 1<sup>st</sup> postmaster.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sexton or caretaker was John Leykom
- 8/1870 – 43 more acres were purchased. Today, there are 79 acres divided into 26 sections.
- 1878 – the Sexton House was built so the caretaker could live at the cemetery & monitor what was happening. The last Sexton to live in the house was Louis Norteman who retired in 1983. Louis’ daughter was married in the cemetery. The City now leases the house to the Dramm Corporation.
- 1891 – a button factory was established by Ferdinand Heyroth in what is now part of the cemetery. Buttons were made from clam shells and are still found occasionally in the cemetery.
- 1914 – Chapel was built
- 11/11/1923 – Soldiers & Sailors monument on the N 18<sup>th</sup> St. boulevard was dedicated
- 5/30/1969 – Eternal Flame in the Soldiers & Sailors monument was lit for the 1<sup>st</sup> time to honor Manitowoc County veterans who served our country & to those who continue to defend our freedom today
- 1977 – City of Manitowoc purchased 27 acres between Michigan Ave. & Waldo Blvd. for \$80,000 from the Rahr Foundation for a future cemetery
- 1985 – 10x4’ granite sign was installed
- 1993 – 6,000 sq. ft. metal storage building built
- 2000 – Communications tower to assist police & fire departments built on cemetery property
- 2007 – 1<sup>st</sup> columbariums were purchased
- 2009 – Donald & Eunice Dow Memorial Chapel built
- Numbers:
  - Over 29,000 burials,
  - 17,000 markers,
  - 1,100 trees,
  - 350 spigots,
  - 100 trash cans, and
  - 3.5 miles of roads.

