

Introduction

The following pages are the result of a project begun in 2012 to update the records of the Lakeside Cemetery in Lakeview township where my parents and many other relatives are buried. I wanted to provide as much information as I could locate about each person buried in the cemetery. Much of the research was conducted at the Minnesota History Center Library in St. Paul. I looked at birth and death certificates, and old copies of local newspapers, which are housed in the library on either microfilm or in digital format. Birth certificates are available from 1900 in Minnesota and death certificates were first used beginning in 1907. I visited the Carlton county court house in search of birth and death records and the small local history library in the basement of the Villa Vista nursing home in Cromwell. The records of the Lutheran church in Cromwell also provided details about marriages and deaths in the area.

Using those sources, I was able to provide the birth and death dates, the birth location, the death location, the cause of death, the marriage date(s), the parents, the age in years, months and days, the burial date, and the burial location for almost every person buried in the cemetery. I should also note that Margaret Webster who was the cemetery caretaker for many years was extremely helpful in filling in details of information I was lacking. I also created a digital map of the cemetery listing burial locations.

The **Lakeside Cemetery**, sometimes referred to as the Finn Cemetery because 84 people were born in Finland and most of the other people buried there have some degree of Finnish ancestry, was plotted in about 1905. Early records were written in Finnish although the current cemetery register is written in English. The land for the cemetery was donated by the Walli family which has at least 46 family members (last name Walli) buried there.

After completing the Lakeside Cemetery research project, I decided to begin work on the **Wright Public Cemetery** (sometimes called the Swedish Cemetery). Roland (Bud) Olson and Sheldon Larson, current caretakers, willingly provided me access to cemetery maps and we eventually located a cemetery register. The land for the cemetery was donated by Peter Johnson in about 1910. The cemetery map was drawn to scale, by someone with draftsman skills, and is the primary reference tool for the caretakers. In researching burials for this cemetery it was often difficult to determine whether a name on the map meant that person had reserved a lot or if they were actually buried there. A few names recorded on the map remain a mystery as to whether or not someone is buried in that location. I printed a book detailing the Wright Public Cemetery burials in the summer of 2016.

Having completed my research on two of the Lakeview township cemeteries, in the fall of 2016 I decided to begin work on the Lakeview and St. Mary's Catholic cemeteries. (I should mention that there is also a small burial plot with three graves called the Violet cemetery a short distance north of the village of Wright. This cemetery is in Beseman township.)

When contacted, Rick Bradford, who with his wife Patricia maintains the **Lakeview Cemetery** records, shared with me the cemetery maps and cemetery records he has. Unfortunately, the cemetery register has been lost but a cemetery map probably drawn by the same individual who drew the Wright Public Cemetery map is used to record burial and reserved lot details. This cemetery has proven the most challenging of the four to research because 15 burials that are confirmed have no burial location. Also, 42 burials have no tombstone. The first recorded burial was in 1901.

The records for **St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery** are maintained by Jeanne Dahl Smith. She does not have a cemetery register, but has hand drawn maps of burial locations. This cemetery is the smallest of the four and probably has the most complete information. The first burial in the cemetery was in January 1913.

All of the tombstones in the four cemeteries were photographed. These photographs became part of each person's individual record in the four cemeteries along with birth and death information. Just two tombstones found were unreadable.

All burials in the four cemeteries have also been entered in FindAGrave, an online cemetery database with more than 160 million entries. These listings have an identifying number along with birth and death information, tombstone pictures and connecting links to family members. Access to this huge database is free to anyone using the Internet.

To summarize, I am confident that there are at least **977** people buried in these four cemeteries.

- Lakeside has **242** burials
- Lakeview has **366** burials
- Wright Public has **294** burials
- St. Mary's Catholic has **75** burials

Caretakers of each cemetery have a copy of the book detailing burials in their cemetery. These books include pictures of tombstones and reference notes/sources. If interested in purchasing a copy, I can be reached by email at the address below. This book is also available for purchase. Contact me for details.

Finally, there are no guarantees about the accuracy of this information. Information found on birth and death certificates, tombstones, cemetery maps, marriage records, census records and newspaper obituaries was often incomplete, contradictory and/or difficult to read. Variations in spelling were common.

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