



Collection Summary

Title

Woodlawn Cemetery Collection

Date

1865 to 1951

Extent

Digital Only

Name and Location of Repository

Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence (Mo.)

Reference code: MGC 1212-WCC

Processed by: digitized, 2016.

Name of Creator

City of Independence, Missouri

Biographical History

Woodlawn Cemetery, located on Noland Road in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, was founded in 1837 with the purchase of 1.25 acres adjacent to the Stayton Family Cemetery. In 1845 Joseph and Sally Hansbrough sold additional land for use as a grave yard public burials for persons of Jackson County. The cemetery became known as the City Cemetery. In 1853, six acres on the south side of the cemetery was added. That portion was called Saint Mary Cemetery and was used for Catholic patrons. All of the cemeteries were combined in 1922 and named Woodlawn Cemetery. The cemetery now contains 56 acres and over 33,000 graves.

Scope and Content

This collection contains digital images of death registers, burial registers, and lot sales from the early cemetery sections of Woodlawn Cemetery known as City Cemetery and Saint Mary Cemetery in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri.

The register of deaths is a chronological list of deaths recorded by the city clerk from June 1897 to August 1911. Information provided on the registers is particularly helpful for genealogists because Missouri did not begin statewide registration of deaths until 1910. The register lists the name of deceased, race, nativity, place of death, age, marital status, sex, cause of death, name of physician, and burial location. Death information is recorded for those that died in Independence and are buried in City Cemetery as well as those that died in Independence and are buried in another location. Deaths of those who died in another city and are buried in City Cemetery are also recorded.

The burial register is a chronological list of those buried in City Cemetery between June 1897 and May 1918. The register records information about the deceased and the location of their burial within the



cemetery. The register includes name, age (years, months, and days), race, date of burial, sex, undertaker, lot and block number, and any remarks. Additionally a few other pages of burial registers are included. The miscellaneous pages include two transcribed pages for records from 1897 and 1898, two pages from 1898, and an index (the letter D only) from 1899 to 1908.

Records included with the lot sales include various types of documents showing sale and ownership of the plots from 1865 to 1951. Although various records detail sale and payments on lots, it is not a complete list for that period. In 1900, the city compiled an alphabetical listing of lot sales using the information from the old book. At another time, a typed list of lots by deed number was also created. Many miscellaneous records provide additional information about lot ownership in the cemetery. Order of Publications from 1865 and 1866 provides estate information, correspondence during the 1930s attempts to clarify ownership of lots, and a list of lots under perpetual maintenance gives names and lot numbers.

Collection Inventory

System of Arrangement

These records are arranged in 3 series.

Series 1, Register of Deaths, Independence, MO

Item 1, Register of deaths June 1897 to August 1911

Series 2, Register of Burials City Cemetery, Independence, MO

Item 1, Burial register, Jul 1897 to May 1918

Item 2, Burial register, Misc. 1897 to 1908

Series 3, Lot Sales

Item 1, Lots sold and cost, 1865 to 1896

Item 2, Order of Publication, 1865 to 1866

Item 3, Alphabetical list of lot sales created in 1900 from old book

Item 4, Lots by deed number

Item 5, Payments on cemetery lots, 1932-1938

Item 6, Cemetery Lots under perpetual maintenance, 1931 to 1951

Item 7, Misc. correspondence

Rights and Access

Conditions Governing Access

Digital images can be accessed on the Midwest Genealogy Center website.

Physical Access

This collection is digital only.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the Midwest Genealogy Center.

Languages and Scripts of the Material

Materials in the collection are entirely in English.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Jackson County Historical Society.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected for this collection.

Existence and Location of Originals

Originals owned by Jackson County Historical Society.

Notes

The following sources were consulted during the preparation of the biographical history:

- "Woodlawn Cemetery." *Woodlawn Cemetery - City of Independence, Missouri*, 2015, www.ci.independence.mo.us/ParksAndRec/story/1452.