

Pioneer Cemetery

(Also known as Old Indian Cemetery, United Brethren Cemetery.)
(It is located North of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church)

Ottawa, Putnam County, Ohio

Please Note: Any available records are from many different years and leaves one to be very cautious about their accuracy. History states burials continued through the late 1800's. There was a burial in 1910 and in 1937. Both were United Brethren burials. The church may have been disbanded at the time of the 1937 burial.

When Ottawa was founded and populated by some of the first white men and women of this region, most of the area surrounding the town site was covered with dense vegetation and muck from the Great Black Swamp. Living here was hard work and took its toll on even the hardiest of the settlers to the region. Many died from fevers and ague, and many died from accidents trying to clear the area to become what is now rich farmland and the site of thriving industry.

Of necessity, land had to be set aside for the burial of these casualties of time and hardship, and when, in the mid-1830's, John Huber died it fell to Stansbury Sutton's father to select a site to receive the body.

In the Pioneer Reminiscences, Book One, originally published in 1878, Stansbury Sutton writes,

"The first death that occurred in Ottawa Township, was John Huber, an old gentleman who lived in the north part of the township. Judge Cox and myself made the coffin. My father requested to select the place of interment and he selected the place known as the old "Grave Yard", north of the Tawa run".

It is assumed that the property to which they are referring is the site of the Pioneer Cemetery, as no other cemeteries are known to have existed in Ottawa on the north side of Tawa.

Many burials followed, and included some of the most prominent people amongst the early settlers, Ridenours, Adgates, Rows, and Galbreaths, and many others. At least "two veterans of the War of 1812 are buried in this cemetery. It is not known whether veterans of any other armed conflict of the United States are buried at the Pioneer Cemetery. Burials continued to be performed at the Pioneer Cemetery up through at least the end of the 1800's.

As the "Pioneer AKA United Brethren Cemetery", became more crowded, the Pomeroy, or Ottawa, Cemetery was established in South Ottawa on June 12, 1857 under the name of "Ottawa Cemetery". The cemetery is located at the south edge of Ottawa in Section 27. It is on the north side of Williamstown Road, also known as road K-6, and one block east of South Oak St. On March 24, 1858, Dr. C. T. Pomeroy and his wife, Julia, gave the land for \$1.00 to the Ottawa Cemetery Association, which was organized July 3, 1857. Early in this century this cemetery was called the Pomeroy Cemetery. The deed for this cemetery was not filed until July 11, 1878. It is found in volume 30, page 523.