

Veterans of Mt. Hope Cemetery

From the time the cemetery was founded it has become the final resting-place for hundreds of veterans, from the American Revolution to the war in Vietnam. Though all cannot possibly be recorded in this brief time line, all are remembered in our hearts for the sacrifice they have made.

The United States had two armies during the 18th century. The first, a standing army commonly referred to as the U.S. Army, had been authorized by the United States Congress in 1789.

Designated the regular army, it was composed of officers commissioned by Congress and enlisted men who joined for a five year period. In 1792, Congress created a secondary army militia within the various states intended as an auxiliary to the regulars. Congress stipulated three instances where the militia could be called into federal service: to execute the laws of the United States, to suppress insurrections, and to repel invasions. This two-tiered arrangement formed the basis of the American military establishment during the Mexican War.

The American Revolution: 1775-1783

Four American Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in Miami County; Charles Rector is in Mt. Hope Cemetery. The new stone was set in 1976 in honor of the Bicentennial by the 19th Star chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Charles Rector was born March 16, 1761 in Fauquier County, Virginia and was drafted, at the age of 20, under Captain Tapley in Hampshire County Virginia in the spring of 1781. He was sent to Ft. Pleasant on the South Branch of the Potomac under Colonel Joseph Nevel and Captain Teverbaugh. Charles died at the age of 91, on January 1, 1852 and was buried in section 15 lot 1 space 1
*Timeline of the Revolution: October 19, 1781, a miraculous convergence of American and French forces traps Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia, causing him to surrender his British army.

War of 1812: 1812-1815

On June 18, 1812 the United States declared war on Great Britain. In the Mt. Hope Cemetery plat books for section 9 lot 9 space 1 there is an entry for Mr. Cyrus H. Higgins, it reads:

Cyrus H. Higgins, buried July 27, 1866, 1812 soldier, father-in-law of David Armantrout. His military marker reads:

Cyrus H. Higgins
EMERY'S co.
Mass-Mil
War 1812

He was a Private in the Massachusetts militia under Captain J. Emery's Company, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Grant's Regiment, serving at Hampton, Virginia. Emery's Company was organized and fought in a battle in what is now Penobscot County Maine, which at that time was part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Another entry was found for Section 16 lot 2 space 3, it reads:

Joseph Scott Feuiwore

August 4, 1888

Soldier of War 1812

Mexican American War: 1846-1848

When the call came for our men to once again take up arms Captain John M. Wilson raised a company of men from Peru, Indiana and the surrounding counties and left for New Albany, Indiana. One month later they boarded a steamer, the "Grace Darling." At New Orleans, Louisiana they transferred to the "Sophia Walker" until they reached Point Isabelle, near the mouth of the Rio Grand River in Texas where they joined forces with General Zachary Taylor. After a year of battle, with no recorded fatalities, the regiment was mustered out.

Over time many of the military markers in the cemetery have deteriorated leaving us only the record books and plat books for identification. Two of the entries are as follows:

Section A lot 21 space 10

Col. John M. Wilson

March 19, 1876

Section 16 lot 4 space 12

Clement Drouillard

July 2, 1847

Killed in the Mexican War

Civil War: 1861-1865

Once again, Captain John M. Wilson answered the call and on June 19, 1861 Company B, 13th Regiment was formed; leaving Indianapolis, Indiana on July 4th for Rich Mountain, Virginia to join General McClelland's army, where they suffered their first casualty.

In June of 1864 many were mustered out and the remainder were reorganized into Company I, 12'h Infantry under Cornelius Barnhisel and Samuel Barnhisel. That same year they lead their men in the Atlanta, Georgia campaign.

Of those who served our country, 190 never returned to their homeland of Indiana. Mt. Hope Cemetery is honored to have several veterans from the Civil War buried on its grounds. The G.A.R. section (Grand Army of the Republic) was established in their honor.

The devastating effects of the Civil War left not only scars on the land but in the hearts of those who remained to forever mourn the loss of their loved ones, among them was

Nancy Emeline Carpenter:
Wife of Steven J. Carpenter
Born November 30, 1824
Died February 23, 1902

Nancy was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, section F lot 58 space 5, 40 years after her husband's death; on her marker she left a tribute to him, it reads:

Steven J. Carpenter Captain 8th Wis. Light Artillery
Born June 10, 1827
Killed December 31, 1862 on the 3rd day of the
Battle of Stone's River, near
Murfreesborough, Tennessee
Buried on the battlefield in an unknown grave

These closing remarks were taken from Colonel William E. Woodruff, Commanding 3rd Brigade, report on that battle:

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE,
FIRST DIVISION, RIGHT WING,
FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS. Jan. 5, 1863

Lieut. T. W. Morrison,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First Division.

SIR: I have the honor to report the operations of the Third Brigade, First Division, of the right wing, in the five days' battle before Murfreesborough.

" ... Amid the glorious results of a battle won, it gives me pain to record the names of the gallant men who offered up their lives on the altar of their country; but we must drop the tears of sorrow over their resting place, and offer our heartfelt sympathies to their relatives and friends, trusting God will care for them and soothe their afflictions. "

"And here let me call the attention to the conduct of Captain Carpenter. Of the Eighth Wisconsin Battery, who fell gallantly serving his guns until the enemy was within a few yards of their muzzles. He died as a soldier would wish to die, with his face to the foe, in the smoke and din of battle."

"The casualties of the command are small in comparison to the fire they received and service done ... the Eighth Wisconsin Battery, 1 commissioned officer killed, 4 privates wounded, and 9 missing."

The Battle of Stone's River is listed 8th in the 10 costliest battles of the Civil War of which the Confederate forces engaged were 37,739 with 11,739 casualties, and Union forces engaged were 41,400 having 12,906 casualties.

Stone's River National Cemetery Tennessee, established in 1865, holds within its hallowed grounds more than 6,000 Union graves. Captain Carpenter is listed in section L-4605.

Spanish American War 1898-1899

President McKinley wanted to avert war and hoped to settle the Cuban question peacefully. However a series of incidents believed to be carried out by Spain intensified the U. S. feelings that would lead us into yet another war. On February 15, 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine was sunk in the Havana, Cuba harbor with a loss of 260 men. The United States Congress authorized the enlistment of volunteer troops on April 22, 1899, and a United States blockade of Spanish ports was instituted. Then Spain formally declared war on the United States on April 24th.

"Remember the Maine" became a patriotic slogan.

At Mt. Hope Cemetery H. 1. Bearss Drive is named after Brigadier General. Hiram Bearss who won a Congressional Medal of Honor during the war. Other veterans include:

Section M Lot 41 Space 7

Louis Chester Wise

Indiana

CPL COB 45 REGT US VOL INF

Spanish American War

Nov 14 1880 Nov 3 1962

Section L Lot 263 Space 9

Edward O. Brooks

PVT 161 IND INF

Spanish American War

July 7 1877 Dec 14 1943

World War I 1914-1918

Private Edward Charles Gaffrey, U. S. Army, at the age of 22, became Miami County's first casualty. He was killed in action near Epeuds-Aisne, France on July 25, 1918, less than 4 months after leaving his home in Peru. His body was disinterred from a cemetery in France and brought back to Peru in 1921. On his arrival, he was given full military honors and the body laid in state in the rotunda of the Miami County Courthouse, Peru, Indiana.

Private Gaffrey was laid to rest in section Plot 34 space 6 His marker reads:

Edward Charles Gaffrey
15t Miami Co. Boy
Killed in Action
July 25, 1918
Age 22 yr.

The Peru Tribune printed an article, Bicentennial Edition, stating that "because Private Gaffrey mother was an unnaturalized German citizen (according to local relatives) the American Legion Post in Peru was named after Glen Forrest Owens, born September 22, 1889, and killed in action August 31, 1918, when his K Company raided German lines. "

On January 3, 2002, Miami County buried its last WW I veteran, William "Bill" R. Purvis. He had served in the U.S. Army and was given military honors before being laid to rest in section 2WMH lot 341 space 4. While reading the plat book section Plot 9 space 8 reads:

Frederick A. Kader
December 13, 1917

Soldier National Army, died in Camp

World War II 1939-1945

Two men from Miami County were killed at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Ben Bargerhuff, 24, had served 4 years in the U. S. Navy, and William Percy Westcott Jr., served on the U.S.S. Arizona.

Mt. Hope Cemetery is honored to have three Pearl Harbor survivors now buried on its grounds.

Section 2WMH Lot 351 Space 7

Max M. Kistler
CCS U.S. NAVY
World War II
Jun 21 1910 Sep 4 1994

His marker bears the bronze medallion as a Pearl Harbor Survivor and on the back is the CA-38 U.S.S. San Francisco II.

On the December 7, 1941 the San Francisco was awaiting docking for an overhaul, and a number of the officers and men were absent, when the bombs began to hit. Those remaining on board had secured the ship for water tightness and had begun to look for opportunities to fight back. Some crossed over to the U.S.S. New Orleans to man anti-aircraft batteries. Others began using available rifles and machine guns. By 1000 hrs, the Japanese had left and work to ready the San Francisco for action had begun.

Another reads:

Section 3WMH Lot 319 Space 6
James A. Mattox
U.S. Marine Corps
Apr. 20, 1922
Aug. 30, 2001
"Tropic Lightning"
35th Infantry-c-ZS" Division
Pearl Harbor Survivor
Solomon Islands Campaigns
Guadalcanal
Vella Lavella
Luzon, Philippines
Section 2WMH lot 284 space 3
Walter E. Richardson

*Time line ... December 10, 1941, Japanese invade Luzon, Philippines after air attacks destroy many U.S. aircraft on the ground

February 1942, the Japanese bombed Rabaul and were in the Solomon Islands.

August 7, 1942, U. S. Marines land on Guadalcanal to begin a six month period of bitter fighting. They slowly gained the ascendancy leading to the Japanese pulling out on February 7, 1943.

September 1943, the NZ 3rd Division, having regrouped at Gauda canal, landed on Vella Lavella to replace US units and cleared the island of Japanese forces by October 9, 1943.

Survivors of the Battle of the Bulge
Section M

Section 2WMH lot 100 space 3
Theron L. Comer

Mt. Hope Cemetery has become the final resting-place for many former Prisoners of War, as well as a place of remembrance for those missing in Action.

Section 4WMH lot 61 space 3

S.Sgt. Carl V. Rody; who was held as a P.O.W. by the Germans from December 18, 1944 until he was liberated by the Russians on April 23, 1945.

He received the:

World War II Victory Medal
Silver Star
Purple Heart
Good Conduct Medal
American Theater Service Medal
European African Middle East Service Medal

Miami County listed 131 casualties in W.W.II. The Peru Tribune, September 5, 1945, printed a special two-page article listing all those killed, wounded and missing in action.

Korean War 1950 - 1953

The first Miami County soldier killed in action was Pfc. George Myers, 18 years old, died August 11, 1950, just 9 months after enlisting in the service.

Other veterans from the war are:

Red Cross nurses played an important role in the war efforts, buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in section section 9 lot 7 space 1 is Lucy Maloney; who stayed to help with the repatriation of the Korean prisoners.

Vietnam War 1961 - 1975

The Peru Tribune reported that 15 Miami County men died, and over 200 were wounded before the war came to an end; of those, 6 are in the Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Section L Lot 28 Space 6

Ivol M.York

SGT 4th DIV

FEB 3 1948 APR 28 1968

Mt. Hope Cemetery has named one of its 5 streets after him.

The remaining 5 are buried in section 2WMH they are:

Lot 17 Space 6

John Michael Miller

Lot 177 Space 3

Arthur Perry Copland

Killed in Action

Lot 185 Space 2

Michael Jack Moon

U.S. Navy

Killed in Action

Lot 299 Space 5

David Marks

Lot 363 Space 5

Gerald Cooper

The first Miami County casualty was, U. S, Army Master Sergeant Hugh M. Robbins U.S. Army had the distinguished military career of serving in 3 wars: World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. He was killed June 1, 1965 while escorting a Vietnamese minister during an attack.

Mt. Hope Cemetery has 1 veteran listed as serving in 3 wars.

Section 2WMH Lot 187 Space 5

William A. Gochenour

Indiana

M SGT US AIR FORCE

WW II Korea Vietnam

May 1 1922 Apr 27 1972

Memorial Markers in Mt. Hope Cemetery

It is with a heavy heart that we recognize loved ones who have placed memorial markers for those who gave their lives in service to their country and did not make it home. Our prayers are with them.

Section 2WMH lot 351 space 6

In Memory of

Edward L. Mullendore

S/SGT. 398 Bomb Group

Eight Air Force

Born March 15, 1913

Lost in action in Baltic Sea

Sept. 12, 1944

A Tribute to all the Veterans of Mt. Hope Cemetery

It is with deep regret that not every veteran could be listed individually, but to all that have served, the staff and board of directors at the Mt Hope Cemetery wishes to say "Thank you."

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for our veterans, and for their willingness to serve so that our mighty nation can dwell in peace and safety. May they always receive the honor and recognition they deserve. And, bring peace to those who mourn the loss of their comrades.

I pray that our nation would learn to respect as well as acknowledge those who have served their country well.

And, for those who have fallen we pray that the peaceful shadows of the setting sun will rest gently upon their graves.