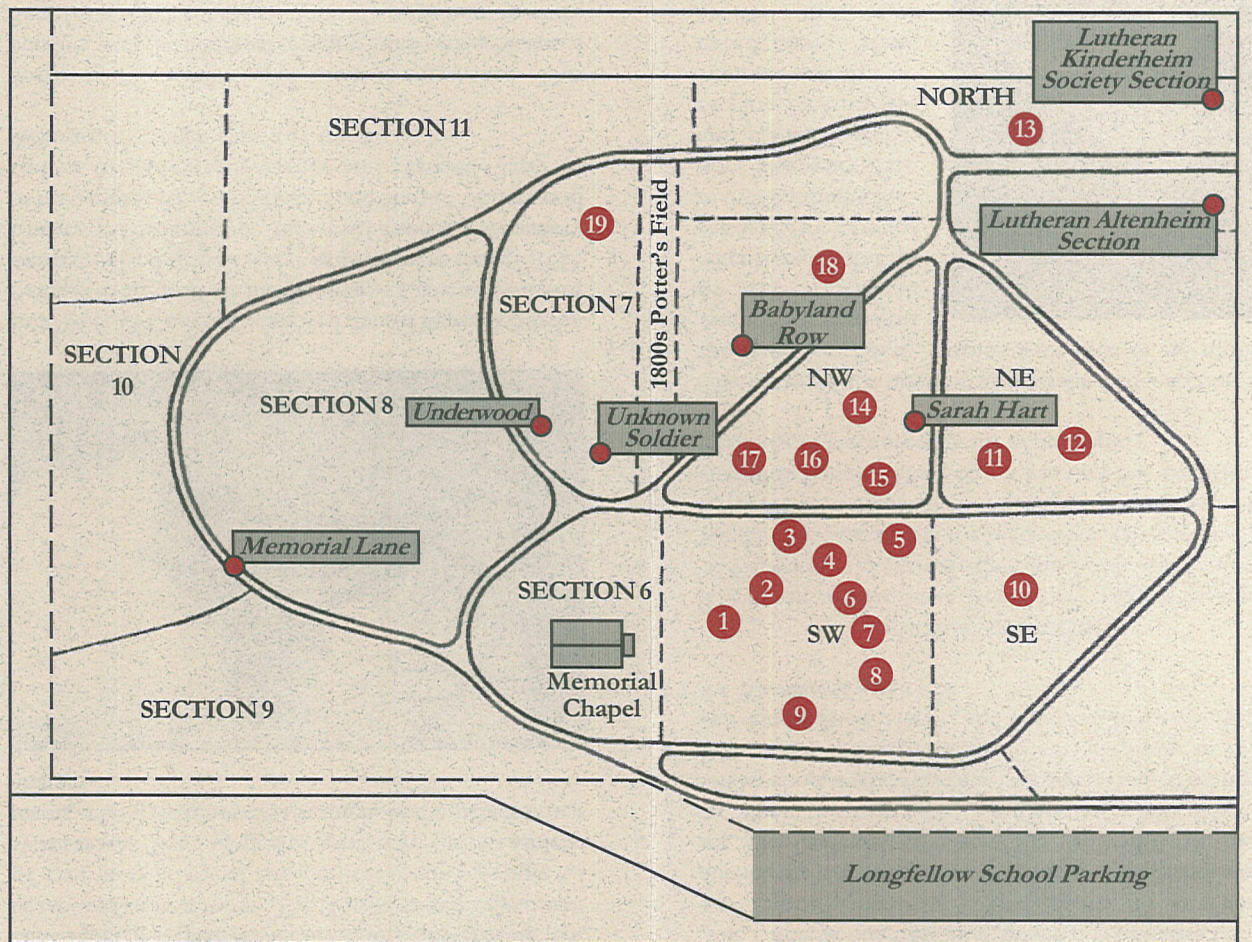
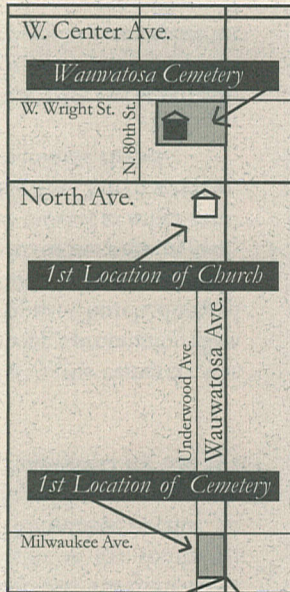


# Wauwatosa Cemetery

2515 Wauwatosa Ave. • Milwaukee, WI 53213  
(414) 258-4910

## SITE MAP AND POINTS OF INTEREST

The Wauwatosa Cemetery is bordered by Wright Street to the north and Wauwatosa Avenue to the east. The cemetery has been at this location since 1866. It is on a seven-acre site, one mile north of the original location. The walking tour includes only a few of the many interesting gravesites to be found at the cemetery. Visitors are encouraged to explore on their own.



### 1 STICKNEY, JAMES AND CHARLES (D. 1904, D. 1906)

The Stickney brothers founded the Milwaukee Pickle Company in 1870 in Wauwatosa. Their pickles were sold all over the country.

### 2 GILBERT, RICHARD AND NANCY (D. 1879, D. 1880)

Arriving in Wauwatosa in 1840, the Gilberts built a log house measuring seventeen by twenty feet. The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa was organized in their home. Richard Gilbert served the church as deacon for the next thirty-five years. During the Civil War the Gilbert home was used as a part of the Underground Railroad.

### 3 GRIDLEY, LEANDER LOT AND MARY ROBERTS (D. 1906, D. 1894)

The Gridleys settled on what was known as the Ludington Farm in Wauwatosa in 1839. Mary Gridley taught school and Leander Gridley established what came to be known as the Gridley Dairy Company, later bought out by the Borden Company of New York.

### 4 WHEELER, LYMAN (D. 1887)

Wheeler came to Wauwatosa in 1836. Trained as a millwright, Wheeler emigrated West from New York to Green Bay. He then walked from Green Bay to Milwaukee along the Old Sauk Indian trail through dense forest. Wheeler's grandfather was an eighth generation American who served in the Revolutionary War, having answered the call to arms in Lexington on April 19, 1775.

### 5 WARREN, JOSEPH A. (D. 1803)

An early settler of Wauwatosa, Joseph Warren helped found the First Congregational Church. Warren moved to Wauwatosa in 1839, one year after his brother Jonathan had moved to the community. A carpenter by trade, Warren erected many buildings in Wauwatosa during his lifetime.

### 6 HARWOOD, OLIVER (D. 1867)

In 1896 Oliver Harwood set up the fund used to establish and build Wauwatosa's first public library, which was located at the triangle formed by the present location of Harwood Avenue and Milwaukee Avenue. Harwood Avenue is named for Oliver Harwood.

### 7 HOYT, EMERSON D. (D. 1924)

The first mayor of Wauwatosa and a prominent banker, Emerson Hoyt also served several terms in the Wisconsin State Senate. Hoyt helped to rebuild the village of Wauwatosa after it burned in 1895.

### 8 DAY, DR. FISK HOLBROOK (D. 1903)

One of Wauwatosa's earliest doctors, Dr. Day was Chief Physician of Milwaukee County Hospital. He advocated humane treatment of the sick and insane and promoted many reforms. Dr. Day gained national recognition for his work as an amateur geologist and paleontologist. Dr. Day's home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a Wauwatosa Historic Landmark and a National Historic Landmark.

### 9 FERGUSON, THEODORE J. (D. 1928)

Theodore Ferguson was a founder of the Hawks Nursery Company, established in 1875 in Rochester, New York. Ferguson came to Wisconsin when he opened an office in Wauwatosa.

### 10 MORGAN, JAMES (D. 1840)

James Morgan (born 1748) is one of thirty-seven veterans of the American Revolution buried in Wisconsin and one of three buried in the Wauwatosa Cemetery. After fighting in the Revolutionary War, Morgan became a spy against the Native Americans for five months in Ohio. Morgan came to Wauwatosa in the 1830s to be with his daughter, Margaret Morgan Underwood, wife of William Underwood and the stepmother of the Rev. Enoch Underwood.

### 11 BROWN, SILAS M. (D. 1868)

Silas Brown arrived in Wauwatosa in 1837 and established himself as a farmer. During the winter, he traveled the area burning limekilns for the production of lime, necessary to make concrete, mortar and soften water. Brown established the first limekiln in Milwaukee County soon after his arrival to the area.

### 12 SCHOONMAKER FAMILY

Although not the original owners of the Schoonmaker Quarry, the Schoonmakers owned and operated it longer than any other family in Wauwatosa history. In 1862, the Schoonmaker Reef, located in the quarry, was recognized as an ancient coral reef, the first to be identified in the United States. The site is designated a National Historic Landmark.

### 13 LEFEBER FAMILY (NORTHEAST SECTION)

The Lefebier Brothers opened a dry goods store in Wauwatosa in 1884. The brothers operated their store for 70 years. The second floor of the Lefebier Store was used as Wauwatosa's City Hall and as the offices of the Wauwatosa Cemetery Association for a number of years.

### 14 RIDDLE, THOMAS M. (D. 1869)

Thomas Riddle moved to Wauwatosa in 1835. He eventually purchased the Little Red Store and remodeled it to serve as a grocery store. The only store in the village for many years, it also functioned as a library, Republican Party headquarters and the depot for Wisconsin's first railroad, which ran between Milwaukee and Wauwatosa. The store later became a post office and Riddle served as postmaster. The Little Red Store, built in 1854, still stands at 7220 W. Harwood Avenue.

### 15 HILL, ANNIS AVERY (D. 1885)

Born in Connecticut, Annis Hill was the oldest daughter of Jonathan Avery, who had been a Minute Man and Orderly Sergeant in the Revolutionary War. Annis Avery married Caleb Hill in 1815 and they had eight children. Their oldest daughter married Thomas Riddle and they moved to Wauwatosa in 1835. When Hill was forty-four, her husband Caleb died. She traveled by covered wagon to Wauwatosa where she joined her daughter and son-in-law in 1844.

### 16 CLAPP, REVEREND LUTHER AND MRS. HARRIET (D. 1894, 1895)

Reverend Clapp was the pastor of the First Congregational Church in Wauwatosa. Active promoters of the Underground Railroad, the Clapps were good friends of the Underwoods.

### 17 BLODGETT, ELISHA (D. 1863)

One of Wauwatosa's early settlers, Elisha Blodgett taught school in the community for several years. He married one of his pupils, Abigail Wales, the daughter of Gideon Wales, who walked to Wauwatosa from Madison County, New York. Wales' mission was to carry money to his brother-in-law Benjamin Hart to aid in the operation of the Hart brothers' gristmill.

### 18 DITTMAR, JOHN F. (D. 1911)

John Dittmar, a blacksmith by trade, built the Dittmar-Robertson building in 1897 and established himself in the hardware business. Located at 1417 Underwood Avenue, the building is the oldest extant structure at the five-point intersection, which is the center of Wauwatosa's historic business district. The building continues to function as a hardware store and its original hand-operated wooden freight elevator is still in use, one of the last such elevators in the state. The Dittmar-Robertson building has been designated a Wauwatosa Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### 19 MOSS, JOHN (D. 1916)

John Moss was the founder of the Standard Paper Company in Wauwatosa. He was very active in the Wauwatosa Methodist Church and served as Superintendent of the Sunday School.

## WAUWATOSA CEMETERY FACTS

1. Headstones do not all face in the same direction. Placement of the headstone depends on the wishes of the deceased or the person making burial arrangements.
2. In 1915, the Underwood Memorial, the largest granite funerary monument in Wisconsin (to that date), was installed in the Wauwatosa Cemetery. The stone weighed twenty tons, measured six feet by nine feet with a height of five feet, and required twelve horses, one streetcar, eleven men and six hours to move into the cemetery. The monument resembles a large boulder.
3. An unknown Civil War soldier, who died in November 1863, is buried in the Northwest Section of the Cemetery.
4. Babyland Row, in the Northwest Section, was established in 1939. Young children from families throughout the community were buried together in adjoining plots.

## ADDITIONAL READING

Dr. Reid S. Trulson, "A Radical Abolitionist in Wauwatosa," *Historic Wauwatosa* 106 (1995): 2-6.

*Wauwatosa Landmarks: A Compilation of the First Twelve Landmark Booklets Published by the Wauwatosa Landmark Commission, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin from 1976 to 1993*, Wauwatosa: The Commission, 1994.

Warren E. Roberts, "Investigating the Tree-Stump Tombstone in Indiana." *American Material Culture and Folklife, A Prologue and a Dialogue*. Ann Arbor/London: U M I Research Press.

## PHOTO CREDITS

Photos courtesy of Martha Berg, Art Chadek and from the Collections of the Wauwatosa Historical Society.

fore we cannot fellowship with any who hold slaves, or fellow men but a gross violation of the law of God. There- can slavery is not only an infringement of the rights of our their first actions was to pass a resolution stating "Ameri- ship was strongly committed to abolitionism. One of Wauwatosa and North Avenues for \$2,800. The member- constructed their church at the southwest corner of the Greenfield Baptist Church in 1852. The congregation became the Memorial Chapel, after they separated from The First Baptist congregation built the church, which later

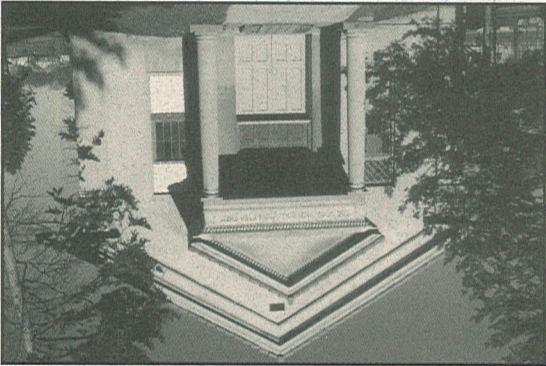
### Features of Interest Memorial Chapel

As in other areas of the nation, public parks were uncommon at the turn of the century. For many years, residents used the Wauwatosa Cemetery as a popular green space for picnics and socializing.

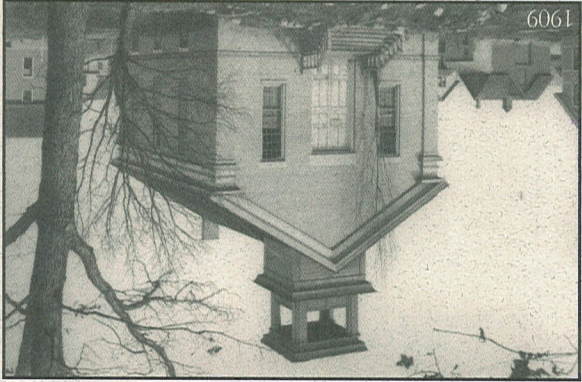
Before even two decades had passed, the cemetery was considered too small for the growing community. Rev. Enoch Underwood, of the First Baptist Church, donated land to relocate the cemetery in 1866. At that time, many of the graves were transferred north to the present cemetery; some graves, however, were moved to other cemeteries. In 1914, the original First Baptist Church was relocated to the cemetery for use as a memorial chapel.

Charles Hart, a pioneer settler of Wauwatosa, established its original cemetery with the death of his wife Sarah in 1841. Sarah Hart was buried on a hill overlooking Wauwatosa Avenue on the southwest corner of Wauwatosa Avenue and Milwaukee Avenue. In 1846, Hart sold the land that included Sarah's burial site for fifty dollars to the village of Wauwatosa for use as a public cemetery.

### Overview



In 1914, F. D. Underwood moved the old Baptist Church/Army to Section 6 of the Wauwatosa Cemetery, where it was remodeled again to serve as a cemetery chapel. F. D. Underwood dedicated the Memorial Chapel to the memory of his parents, Reverend Enoch and Harriet Underwood and to the Reverend Luther and Harriet Clapp of Wauwatosa's Congregational Church.



The high-ceilinged hall on the second floor became a drill hall, meeting hall and gymnasium. The lower floor contained company quarters, locker rooms, officer's quarters, library and shower room. The Army became the center of community social life for the young people of Wauwatosa. The Lightguard sponsored various athletic teams, who were renowned throughout the state for their abilities.

The First Baptist Church was used for over thirty years, until a new church was constructed in 1888. Rev. Underwood's son, Frederick (F. D.), purchased the original church and lot for \$3,000. He had the furnishings removed, the floor leveled and loaned it to the Wauwatosa Lightguard for use as an armory from 1888 to 1914.

Harriet used a closet in their home to shelter fugitive slaves. One such slave was Caroline Quarels who escaped from St. Louis, Missouri to Milwaukee via the Underground Railroad. She eventually made her way into Canada where she lived as a free woman.

ally found praying, pointing, clasp- ing and blessing.

- A lamb on a child's grave represents innocence.
- A pall or cloth covering on a coffin symbolizes one's mortality.
- A shell represents the resurrection and life everlasting.
- Tree stump grave markers, which date from 1890 to 1920, symbolize the end of life. Their broken trunks represent a life cut off, while the branches coming from the trunk often show the number of children born to the couple.
- A weeping willow tree is nature's lament for lost life.
- The wreath symbolizes the victory of death over life.

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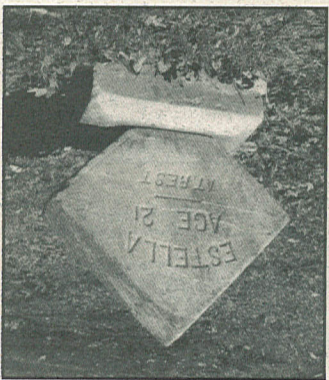
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Donations for the cemetery can be sent to:  
Wauwatosa Cemetery Preservation Fund  
2515 Wauwatosa Avenue  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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with the assistance of:  
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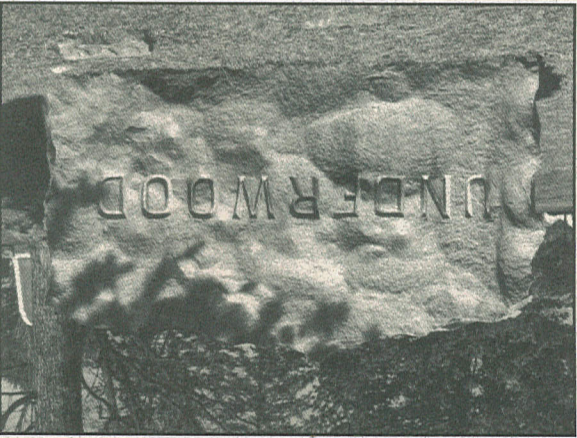


The Lutheran Community also established a section for the burial of elderly citizens with little or no money. Numerous residents of the Lutheran Almsheim, a home for the aged, were buried in the Northwest Section. The potter's field and a small number of plots for Civil War veterans are also located here. Many stones are now topped or have been damaged or removed.

The Northwest Section of the cemetery contains the graves of Wauwatosa's indigent children and elderly. The Lutheran Kindergarten Society, a home for children, purchased a section of land in the northwest quarter of the cemetery for children's burials. This section has very few headstones and those in place are typically quite simple.

### NORTHWEST SECTION

The Underwood Family Memorials (Section 7) Underwood, a schoolteacher, organized the first school in Wauwatosa, located in the Underwood's home in 1839. Rev. Underwood, Harriet and their children are buried in the Wauwatosa Cemetery.

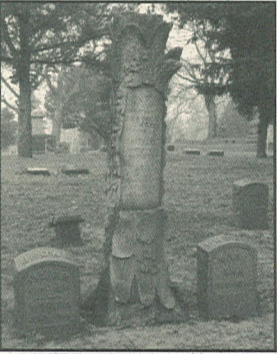


**Hart Family Memorials (Northwest Section)**  
Charles Hart and his brother Thomas Benjamin Hart were influential founding members of the village of Wauwatosa, which was originally known as Hart's Mills. In 1837, the Hart brothers built their Wauwatosa grist mill, the first in Milwaukee County. The Hart's Wauwatosa saw mill was built in 1841. The Hart family owned large amounts of land within the village limits and helped to establish Wauwatosa by selling or donating various plats of land to the city, including the land used for the first community cemetery.

The grave of Sarah Hart, the wife of Charles, was relocated here in 1866. Charles Hart later moved away from Wauwatosa and was buried elsewhere. Charles' brother Benjamin and his wife Nancy Boyden Hart are buried near Sarah in the Wauwatosa Cemetery.

### GRAVE MARKER SYMBOLISM

The tombstones in the Wauwatosa Cemetery have rich symbolism extending beyond the persons whose graves they mark. The symbolism found in the grave markers at the Wauwatosa Cemetery is representative of both regional and national trends.



- Angels symbolize spirituality. They guard the tomb and pray for the soul.
- Figs, pineapples and other fruits represent prosperity and eternal life.
- Flowers represent the frailty of life and severed blossoms symbolize mortality.
- Hands symbolize the human bond. They are usu-