# Fletcher Road Cemetery Raymond Family Cemetery

## **History of the Cemetery**

This cemetery land was originally purchased by James G. Raymond on October 15, 1835 from the U. S. Government as part of a forty acre purchase (NE1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 17). The cemetery was established in 1837 as a family cemetery for the Raymond, Peckens, Ayrs, McLean, and Boyden families. They migrated from the Town of Benton, Yates County, New York in 1832-1834, owned several farms nearby, and were related by marriage. Later burials included German families who were not affiliated with one of the Evangelical or Lutheran churches in the township, and were usually neighbors of the earlier settlers.

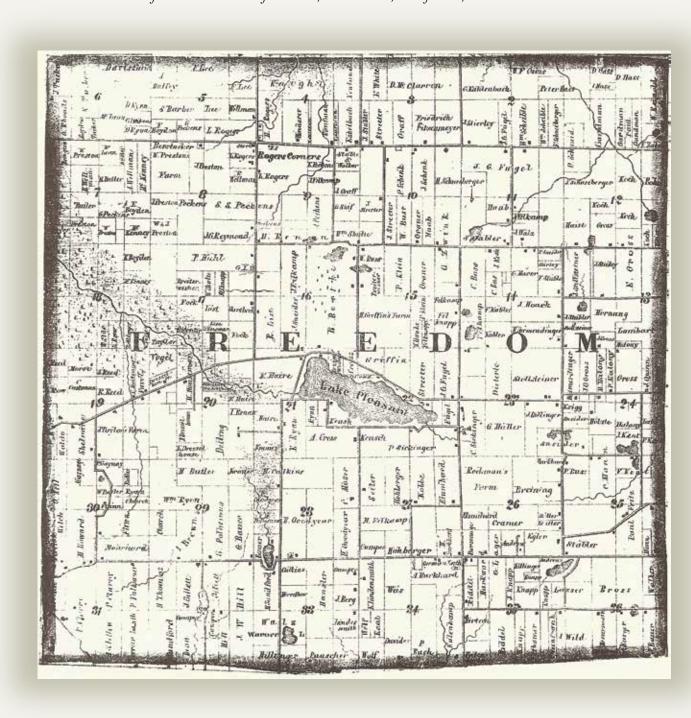
On February 3, 1842, David C. and Julia Ann Raymond, brother and sister-in-law of James G. Raymond, sold the cemetery land as part of an eighty acre sale to Robert Triggs for \$500. How the property transferred from James G. Raymond to David C. Raymond in the 1835-1842 period has not been determined.

On April 2, 1846, Robert and Susan Triggs split off the cemetery as a separate 0.5 acre parcel (9 rods by 9 rods), and sold it for use as a public cemetery for \$1 to Manassah B. Wellman, James G. Raymond and Samuel S. Peckins, acting as Trustees of Freedom Township, prior to the sale of the remaining 79.5 acres of property. On May 14, 1846, Robert and Susan Triggs sold the remaining property to John Huehl for \$700. This property supplemented the 40 acres which Huehl already owned, and was the beginning of the current adjacent Huehl Acres.

The cemetery functioned as a public cemetery without any church affiliation until the last known burial in 1924. The steps leading up to the cemetery were built as a Boy Scout project in the 1970s, led by resident Armin Haeussler.

# 1856 Freedom Township Map

Showing Location of Cemetery in NE Corner of Section 17 and Nearby Farms of Raymond, Peckens, Boyden, and McLean Families



### The Early Settlers

Freedom Township began settlement in 1831 as a result of four actions:

- Congress passed the Land Act of 1820. This bill provided for the sale of public lands in smaller lots and at a lower price than had previously been the case. For the first time, an individual with an average income could compete with wealthy speculators and easily acquire land. Land represented power and a chance to improve one's lot in life.
- The Erie Canal opened in 1825. Now it was possible to journey from the Atlantic to Lake Erie entirely by water. People could more easily and quickly reach the frontier.
- Maps of the previously unknown interior of Michigan were published and distributed in the East, providing critical information to potential settlers and speculators alike. Orange Risdon's 1825 map and John Farmer's 1826 map both showed Freedom Township as a discrete, unnamed "block" for the first time.
- Early in 1825, Congress authorized funds for the creation of the Chicago Road, a military road intended to link the forts in Detroit and Chicago, now known as U.S. 12 or Michigan Avenue. The Chicago Road was instrumental in bringing settlers to Freedom Township. Another route, the Territorial Road, was surveyed in 1829 to service the second row of Michigan counties via Lima and Sylvan Townships, and also helped draw traffic towards Freedom.

Immigration into Washtenaw County progressed slowly through the 1820s, but accelerated significantly after 1830, peaking from 1831-1837 during the time referred to as the "Michigan Fever". This period was marked by rapid land purchases fueled by speculators and a tide of willing immigrants, significant road and infrastructure projects undertaken by the Territory of Michigan, the anti-Masonic movement in central New York State which drove out wealthier merchants, and a "financial boom" powered by wildcat banks in Michigan. Freedom Township experienced its first land patent sale in 1831, and by 1834 virtually all the usable land in the township had been sold.



Jacob Preston, an original pioneer buried in the Waters Road Cemetery, wrote Freedom Township's first history in 1876. He noted that Ebenezer Boyden first bought land in the north part of the township in 1832. In the year 1833 there was a rush of settlers into the township, and the most desirable locations were all taken. Prominent among them were David Raymond, David C. and James G. Raymond; Samuel, Alexander and David Peckens; Richard and James B. Ayrs; and the McLean families. It was Alexander Peckens who moved on April 7, 1834 that the township be named "Freedom", and David C. Raymond served as the first township clerk. In the year 1834, Barbara Bailey, aged 84 years, emigrated by herself from Benton, New York to live her last days with her affectionate daughter Mary and son-in-law, David Raymond. She died in 1845 at the advanced age of 95 years.

Jacob Preston also wrote that "the scarcity of provisions and want often presented a stern visage to the early settlers. In 1833, David Raymond's people drove an ox-team six miles to Lima, to gather string beans and other garden vegetables. It was the girls, I think, for some of the girls managed a team very well. Garden vegetables were precious articles where none had yet been planted. In the summer of 1834 the large emigration of two seasons had exhausted all kinds of provisions very much, and some families suffered. Wolves were a great annoyance to the early settlers of Freedom. Very many times dogs were chased by wolves, the dog running for life, would come slap against the door and have to be let in. In the fall of 1834, James G. Raymond had 20 sheep killed by wolves, in one night, out of a flock of 25, and the dead sheep lay not twenty rods from the house. This was the first night that they lay out of their pen."

The Raymond, Peckens, McLean, Ayrs and Boyden families owned farms generally along Fletcher and Waters Roads in Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 17 in the northwest quadrant of Freedom Township. These pioneers also held several township offices, judicial and educational positions in the first thirty years of the township, as recorded in the surviving township minute books. The Vogel family, arriving in the 1850s, were also neighbors of the Peckens and McLean families.

#### **Cemetery Map and Burials**

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The above map indicates the relative position of marked graves in the cemetery, as noted in the following listing.

**Ayrs, James B. (2-B)**Died July 15, 1848
Aged 72 yrs. & 12 Ds.

Ayers, Jerusha (2-C)
Wife of James B. Ayers
Died Mar. 23, 1838
Aged 59 yrs. & 7m
"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want"

Ayrs, Lodimma (2-A)
Died Nov. 16, 1849
Aged 39 years & 11 days
"My soul cleaveth unto the dust, quicken thou me according to thy word."

Bailey, Barbara (5-A)
Died Sept. 11, 1845
Aged 95 years, 2 mos. & 18 ds.

Boyden, Ebenezer (1-C) died Nov. 26, 1864 Aged 70 yrs.

Boyden, Hannah (1-B)
wife of Ebenezer Boyden
died Mar. 25, 1855, aged 65 yrs.
"Precious in the sight of the Lord
and of his saints."
(Nee Peckins, married Feb. 11, 1835)

**Buss, Albert H. (1-E)** 1886-1924

Hawks, Granville (3-A)
Died Jan. 18, 1857
Aged 54 Y 10M & 23D

Huhl, Adelheid (6-A)
Ehefrau des Johann Huhl
Starb
Den 16 Mai 1863
Alter 59 Jahres und 11 monat
Text 1 Thessalonicher 4 V. 11

Koch, Elisabeth Catharina (7-B) geb. d 11 Nov 1792 gest. d 23 Oct 1864 Text off Joh 11.13

Koch, Ludwig geb. d 15 Mai 1785 gest. d 25 Aug 1844 Text Math. 5.9

McLean, R. (4-A)
Di\_ Mar. 30, 18\_

McLean, Charity Maria (4-C)
Wife of J. R. McLean
And daughter of Archer &
Vilitia Crane
Born July 26, 1819
Died March 7, 1853

McLean, Joel (4-G)
Born June 14, 1824
Died Mar. 13, 1867

McLean, John L. (4-B) Born Apr. 12, 1803 Died Sept. 23, 1839

McLean, Judah R. (4-D)
Born Oct. 14 A. D. 1818
Died Aug. 14, 1863

(Married Mary S. Price Feb. 28, 1856)

McLean, Lewie (4-E)

Son of J. R. & Mary McLean Born Dec. 24, 1856 Went with the Angels Aug. 18, 1863 Bud of Earth to Bloom in Heaven

McLean, Sarah J. (4-F) Wife of J. M. McLean Born Feb. 8, 1825 Died Feb. 3, 1859

McLean, Wm. F. (4-H) Born Sept. 29, 1806 Died Aug. 26, 1863

Peckens, Ada Louise (3-B) daughter of Edward & Caroline G. 1857-1863

Peckens, Experience (1-A)
wife of David Peckens
died Nov. 1, 1846, aged 74
years
"Blessed are they that hear the
Word of God and Keep it."

Peckens, Martha J. (1-D) died Aug. 3, 1838, A 3y 7m 26d Peckens, Maretta (Marietta) A.

Died Nov. 13, 1837, A 33 da's Children of S. S. and Hannah Peckens

Raymond, David (5-C)
Died June 28, 1858
Aged 91 years, 7 mos. & 10 ds.

Raymond, Mary (nee Bailey) (5-B)
Consort of David Raymond
Died March 15, 1856
Aged 78 years & 11 mos.

**Rieger, David (1-F)**Geb. Aug 21, 1834
Gest. Aug. 14, 1904

Siller (?) (8-A)
Heir ruhen \_\_\_ und \_\_\_
Kinder von
F. & M. \_iller

V\_\_\_\_, George (7-A)
Blessed are the dead
Which die in the Lord
George
22 yrs. 6 ms. & 10 ds.

Vogel, Christiana (8-B)
Gattin von \_iob Jakob Vogel
geborne Scherr
geb.d 15 Okt. 1823
gest.d 4 Feb. 1859
Herr, meinen Namen schreib\_ins
Buch des Lebensein! La mich
an deinem Leibe ein Glied an
jenen sein
Vogel, Gottfried

geb'd 24 Sept. 1852 gest'd 19 Marz 1853 Vogel, Albert geb'd 19 Sept. 1857 gest'd 19 April 1859 (1858?) Vogel, Maria geb'd 17 Feb. 1854 gest'd 28 Jan. 1859 Kinder von \_iob Jakob & Christiana Vogel

Minutes of the First Township Meeting, April 7, 1834 annual township meeting held at the ho neryon Griffin in the Township of Freedome ber. B. Maynord ablerk enery, M. Griffin Seputy Clerk e electors Proceded to choos their officers by bo or Supervisor Henery Mr. Greffen for Township Clerk Savid . C. Raymond soften Stateman pol Cornelius Bolho Good Commissioners Samuel, S, Suckens look Inspectors faceb Preston James Fellows Henery, Mr. Griffin Thenery Ini Poster Festus, CA, Fellows and Managras, Times Vewers Alexandra Bekens Manges Townsip James we four feet and half high abon shall take the senses of the Jo Freedom When they take the expen the Judable Property he number of votes taken at the firs anual township Mueting was they Eight

This commemorative marker was purchased and installed in 2012. Funds were derived from donations and the sale of Freedom Township history books, maps and other souvenirs, as part of the Freedom Township 175th Anniversary Celebration held on September 26 and 27, 2009.

Further historical details are available at **www.twp-freedom.org**. Please visit also the Waters Road cemetery on Waters Road east of Rentz Road. More details are also published in the book **Freedom Township – The Early Days, 175th Anniversary, September 2009**.

Artwork by Sue Maher, Moxie Grafix LLC

There are likely several unmarked burials in this cemetery in addition to those listed above.