

GREENWOOD
CEMETERY

PHONE: 317-881-4077

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
BRAD NEMETH
RESTORE OLD TOWN GREENWOOD

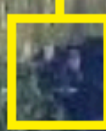
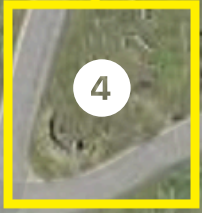
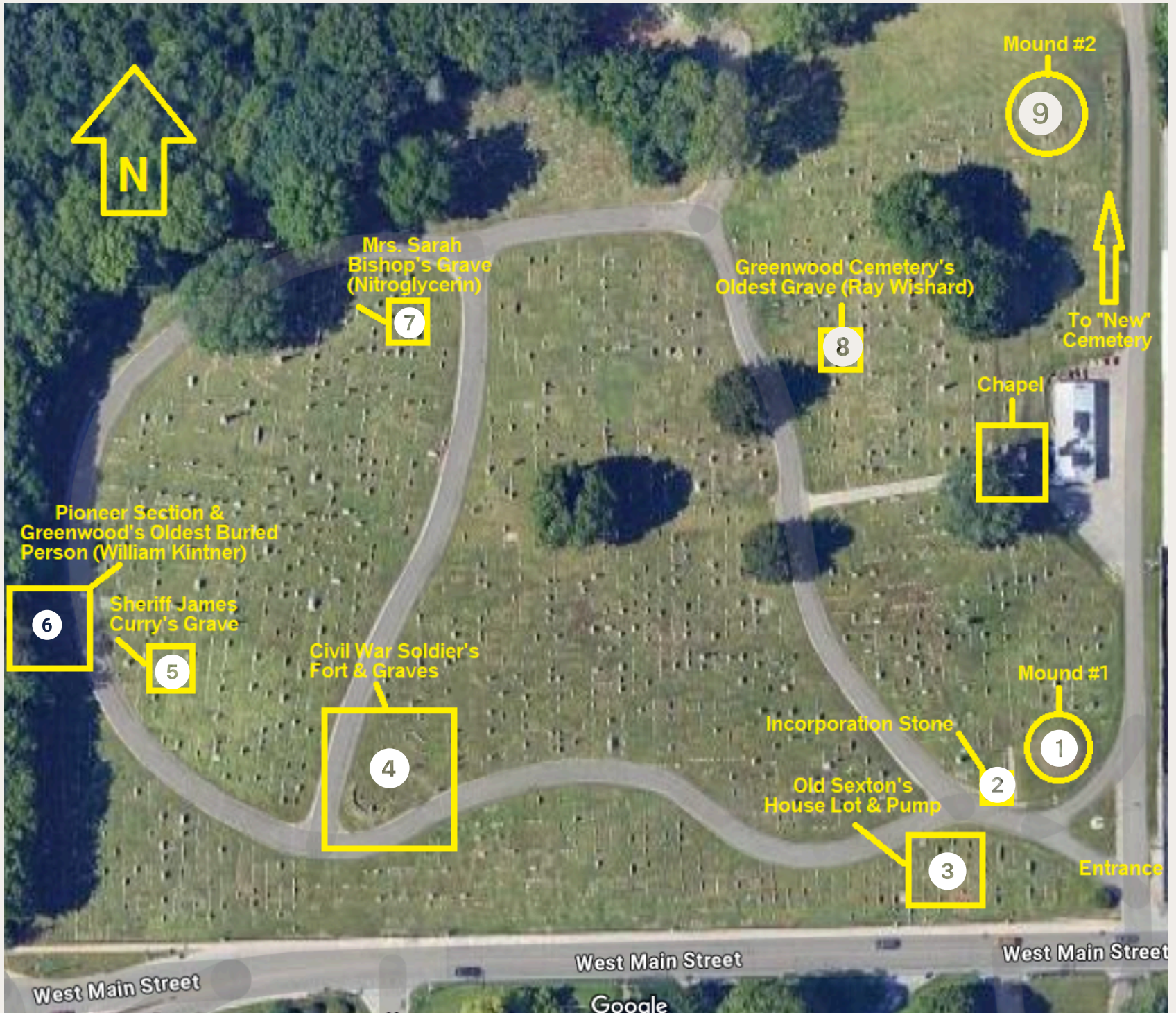


pageafterpage.org/
community-matters

GREENWOOD
CEMETERY

A tour of interesting and
notable graves.





West Main Street

West Main Street

West Main Street

Google

Pioneer Section & Greenwood's Oldest Buried Person (William Kintner)

Sheriff James Curry's Grave

Civil War Soldier's Fort & Graves

Mrs. Sarah Bishop's Grave (Nitroglycerin)

Greenwood Cemetery's Oldest Grave (Ray Wishard)

Incorporation Stone

Old Sexton's House Lot & Pump

Chapel

To "New" Cemetery

Mound #1

Mound #2

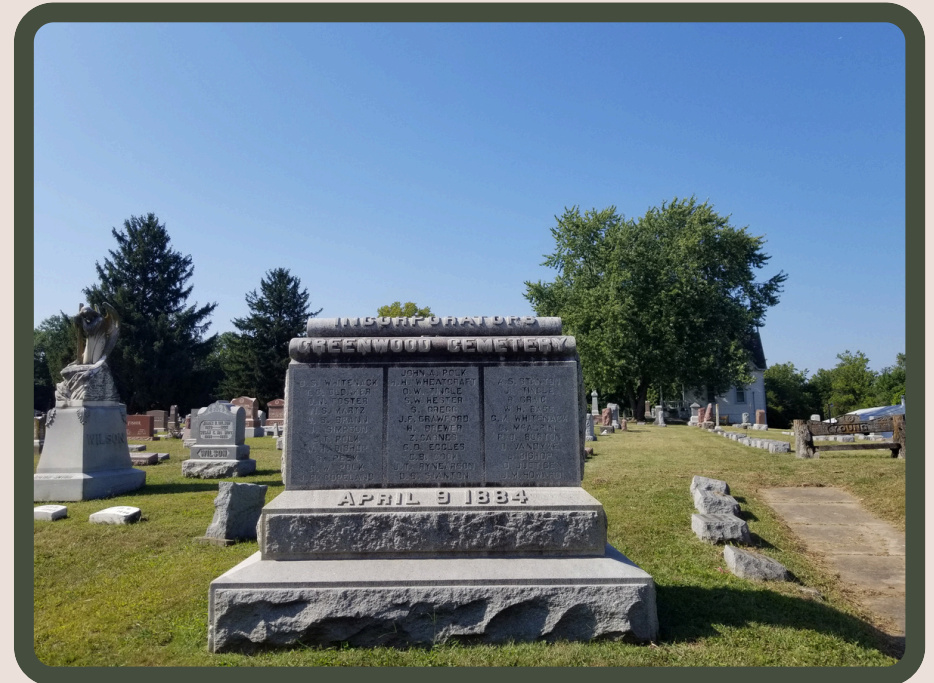
Entrance

1. POLK'S MOUND



Polk's Hill, mound #1, at the entrance to Greenwood Cemetery. George Washington Polk and his wife Mary Embry Polk's gravestone is visible and is also shared with their son and daughter-in-law. Greenwood's perhaps greatest benefactors, James T. Polk and Laura Burdick Polk, founded their cannery on G. W. Polk's land, which became one of the largest canneries in the country during the late 1800s.

2. INCORPORATION STONE



The incorporation stone of all of the incorporators of Greenwood Cemetery near the cemetery entrance, with the Greenwood Cemetery Association being formed on April 9, 1884.

3. OLD SEXTON'S HOUSE LOT & PUMP



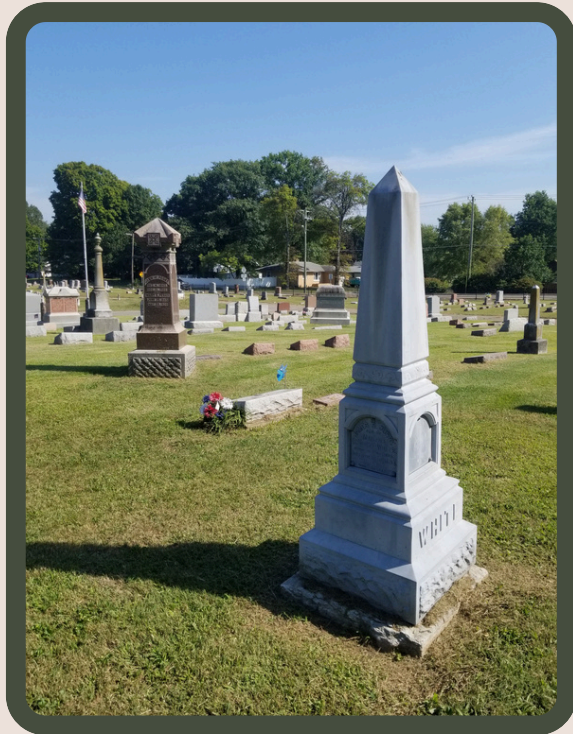
The sexton's house was contracted to N. S. Martz and constructed in 1885 just west of the cemetery's entrance (though it was later torn down, but the house's water pump can still be seen in the cemetery), and the cemetery's gate was also constructed around this time.

4. CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S FORT & GRAVES



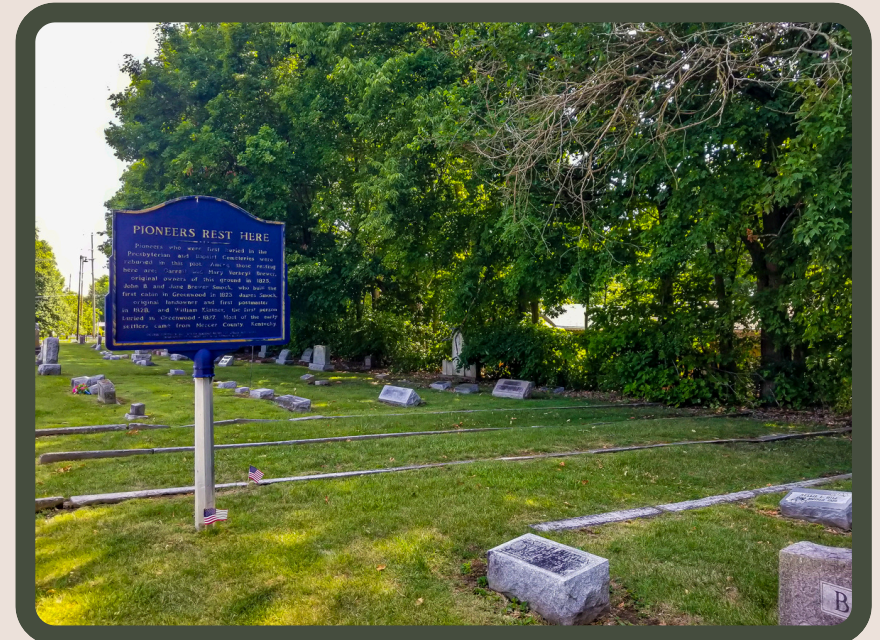
Shortly after the cemetery opened, a soldier's area was also started for Civil War soldiers. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a fraternity of Union soldiers from the war, formed a fort area in the cemetery where the bodies of soldiers would specifically be buried. A large monument fifty feet high was expected to be constructed but was never completed. The soldier's fort still contains a cannon and was decorated every year for many years on Decoration (later Memorial) Day, where there were also long parades from Greenwood to the cemetery and large gatherings at the fort area featuring speakers and music to celebrate the day and remember the soldiers.

5. SHERIFF JAMES CURRY'S GRAVE



Sheriff James Curry's grave. The tombstone itself is not a stone--it is made of metal of some sort and is hollow on the inside. His body was grave-robbed on Christmas Eve 1894 and recovered before the new year.

6. PIONEER GRAVES & GREENWOOD'S OLDEST BURIED PERSON WILLIAM KINTNER



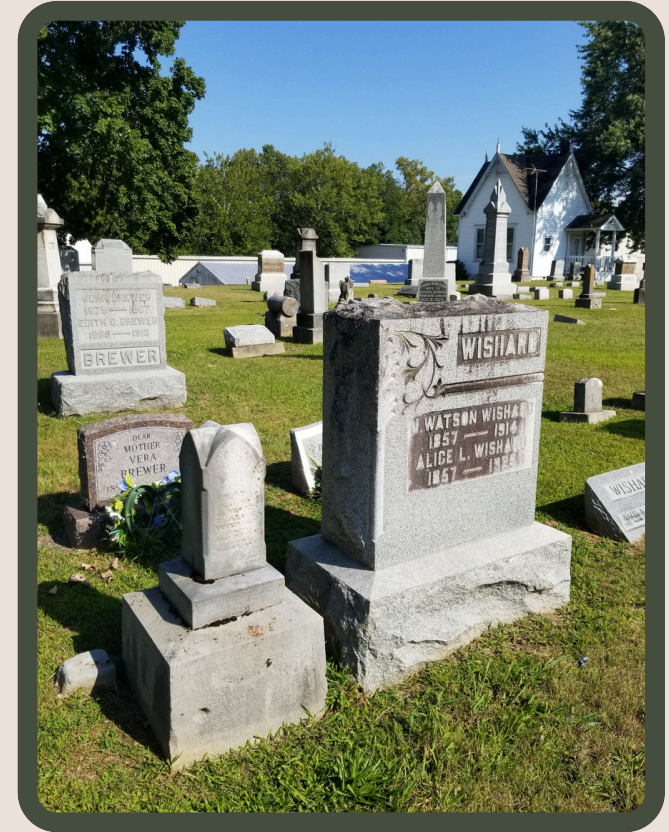
While many "pioneer cemeteries" in Johnson County have been overgrown or even lost, Greenwood was lucky to have the foresight (though some could argue it was greed for land) of its citizens to relocate its earliest European-descent ancestors from both of its church cemeteries to be re-interred in the new cemetery. There is no set figure on how many bodies were disinterred and moved to Greenwood Cemetery, though there were believed to be about 124 pioneer graves moved (the number is probably only for the actual pioneer grave area) and countless more between the era of the pioneers and the opening of the new cemetery in 1884.

7. SARAH BISHOP



Mrs. William (Sarah) Bishop's grave. According to a local newspaper, when she was buried in August 1895, she was buried with nitroglycerin to deter any grave robbers.

8. RAY WISHARD GREENWOOD'S OLDEST GRAVE



Greenwood Cemetery's reputedly oldest grave, that of infant Ray Wishard, buried in August 1884 next to where his parents J. Watson (Wat) and Alice Wishard were later buried.

9. MOUND #2



Other features to mention about the old part of the cemetery include the two large, circular hills at the entrance and then north of the chapel building that are denoted as "Polk's Mound" numbers one and two because the Polk family graves are located on the hills (including the couple considered Greenwood's greatest benefactors, James T. Polk and his first wife Laura Burdick Polk). There is a large stone marker at the entrance to the cemetery denoting the date the cemetery was incorporated and who the incorporators were, including a virtual who's who of Greenwood's citizens from the time.

