

**SUBJECT: Bachelors Grove Cemetery  
Bremen Township, Cook County, Illinois**

*In October 1995 I received a letter from Jan Doan of Claremont, Illinois. She was responding to the announcement that *Where The Trails Cross*, Volume 26:1 would feature Bachelors Grove Cemetery. Although her letter arrived too late to be included in Volume 26:1, I thought that SSG&HS members would enjoy reading it as much as I did.*

My great grandmother Edna Wright Hardy Sanderson was buried at Bachelors Grove in 1907. Her tombstone disappeared about twenty-five years ago. My grandmother Helena Josephine Carlson Hardy was also buried at Bachelors Grove when she died in 1914 but she was removed to the Lutheran cemetery, on 127th Street just west of Crawford Avenue, in the spring of 1955. My grandfather Harry Hardy died December 24, 1954. His children, Alice, Upton, and my father Fred, decided that he would be buried at the Lutheran cemetery on the same lot as his brother Albert Hardy. Bachelors Grove was not what it had been and they did not want to bury my grandfather there.

I am enclosing a copy of Edna Wright Hardy Sanderson's death certificate<sup>1</sup> listing Bachelors Grove as place of burial. I'm also enclosing a copy of my grandmother's death certificate which does not give Bachelors Grove as place of burial but I know she was buried there. I wonder if at one time that cemetery was called Schmidt's? Or did the person who filled out the certificate make an error as to place of burial? In *Where The Trails Cross*, Volume 7:1, page 19, it states that when Edward Everden sold land to Frederick Schmidt in 1864, one acre was set aside to be used as a grave yard. Perhaps Bachelors Grove was also referred to as Schmidt's.

My father, Fred Hardy, lived at the corner of 147th and Ridgeland as a child. The house was still there about five years ago. My grandfather was Upton Hardy but he was always called Harry. My grandmother's brother was Albert Carlson. He lived on the farm just east of my grandfather. Fred Hardy emigrated from Lincolnshire, England, in 1886 with his brother, Albert. Two of their sisters came to the area a few years later.

Edna Wright Hardy Sanderson was born in Sutton St. James Lincolnshire in 1829. She married Henry Hardy in 1851 and gave birth to seventeen children. Thirteen reached adulthood and four removed to Cook County, Illinois. Henry Hardy died in Lincolnshire in 1885. Edna first came to Illinois in 1893 to visit her children and attend the World's Fair in Chicago. She returned to England after three months and married William Sanderson. After his death, she again visited with her children in America in the fall of 1906. She became ill, was unable to return home to England, died here and was buried at Bachelors Grove. I've often thought how sad it was that this lady with so many descendants ended up alone in a cemetery so far from home. And I'm probably the only person who knows she is there! All of her grandchildren are now deceased and I'm the only one of the next generation interested in genealogy. Just last year I discovered a third cousin in England who had spent several years trying to find out what had happened to Edna. He had no idea that she had children in America or that she herself had come for a visit and died while here.

My grandfather Upton "Harry" Hardy married Helena Josephine Carlson on March 3, 1907.

Both were employed at the Midlothian Country Club when they met and married. They had three children before her death in 1914: Alice Hardy 1908-1986; Upton Hardy 1910-1984; and my father, Fred Hardy 1912-1984. When Josephine died she was buried on the same lot as her mother-in-law.

I went to Bachelors Grove Cemetery at least twice a month from spring to fall for many years. My Dad and Grandpa would cut the grass around the graves, trim the hedge, plant and water flowers and, in general, take care of the area. My brother, Glenn Hardy, and I often walked the short distance down the road to where the bridge was out over the crick and play in the crick. Sometimes we could get across on big rocks and logs without getting wet and other times we fell in. My Grandpa's brother, Albert Hardy, had owned a farm across the crick in the early 1900s. When I was going there in the late 1940s and early 1950s, it was forest preserve and no buildings were standing where his farm had been. As children, we were never allowed to go near the quarry on the back side of the cemetery. I remember when the big gate was installed so we couldn't drive down to the cemetery any more. It was always a fun afternoon when we went out there.

My Grandpa moved into Blue Island about 1930 and I was born there in 1940. I moved to southern Illinois after I married in 1964 and have been the editor of our Richland County, Illinois Genealogical Society quarterly for eighteen years. I returned to the area for the funeral of my uncle Upton Hardy. My husband and I took my Aunt Alice Hardy out to Bachelors Grove. We were aware of the vandalism that had occurred in the cemetery and that Edna's stone had been missing for many years. My parents, Fred and Georgia Hardy, had stopped there in the late 1960s and discovered that the stone was missing then. I could, and did, walk to where Edna's grave is. I'm sure I was within a few feet of her grave. The stone of Bernard Deck 1876-1949 was still there and it was close to her grave.

Edna's sons, Albert Hardy and my grandfather Harry Hardy, lived in Blue Island in later years and both died there. Her daughters were Lucretia (Bab) Clarke and Edna Clarke. They married brothers Jack and William Clarke. The Clarke brothers were also from the Village of Sutton St. James Lincolnshire. Lucretia had two children, Harry Clark and Ada Clark Erp. Both died in Midlothian in recent years. Edna had one daughter, Ethel Wilkening, who died in 1993 at ninety-nine years of age. She was the last of that generation.

Edna Wright Hardy Sanderson is one of my favorite ancestors. Her life is most interesting. She did many things that a Victorian woman in England did not do. Even though her tombstone is missing from Bachelors Grove Cemetery, please note for posterity that she is buried there.

Jeannette (Jan) Hardy Doan  
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*<sup>1</sup>Although the photocopy of the Cook County, Illinois death certificate is too dark to reprint here, it does state that Mrs. Edna Sanderson had lived in Illinois 9 Months 10 Days; had died in Blue Island, Ills.; date of burial was Sep 1 - 07; and the place of burial was "Bachelors Grove Cemetery."*

Janice Helge

## Batchelor Grove Cemetery an Addendum

by Brad L. Bettenhausen

The Fall 1995 quarterly of *Where The Trails Cross*, Vol. 26:1, was devoted to my monograph on Batchelor Grove Cemetery. Since its publication, from continuing research and correspondence, additional information has come to light regarding the cemetery and the individuals who were buried there.

Lot 19 (Albert Hardy; page 16) should reflect the following burials:

### Edna Wright Hardy Sanderson

Wife of Henry Hardy and William Sanderson, mother of Albert and Upton "Harry" Hardy and 15 other children; born 20 Nov 1829; died 30 Aug 1907; buried 1 Sep 1907; information provided by Jeanette Hardy Doan.

### Helena Josephine Carlson

Born 25 May 1870; died 3 Mar 1914; buried 6 Mar 1914. She was removed to First Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery on 127th Street in Alsip about 1955 and reinterred next to her husband, Upton "Harry" Hardy and his brother Albert Hardy; information provided by Jeanette Hardy Doan.

Additionally, notice of her death appeared in the *Joliet News* on 10 Mar 1914 as follows: Many friends and relatives were shocked to hear of the sudden illness and death of Mrs. Harry Hardy, who died Tuesday morning after an illness of three days. Mrs. Hardy was suddenly taken ill with mengetis (sic) Sunday morning. Dr. Snider was called and she was removed to the St. Francis hospital, Blue Island, Monday morning, where she passed away the following morning. Mrs. Hardy was a loving wife and mother and was loved by all who knew her. Rev. Mr. Maplesden of Harvey preached a sermon that will be remembered by all who heard it. Helen Josephine Carlson was born at Geneseo, Ill., May 25, 1870, and was united in marriage to Harry Hardy, March 2, 1907, to which union were born one daughter and two sons - Alice Josephine, aged 5 years; Henry Upton, 3 years, and Frederick William, 1 year 8 months. She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband and children, three sisters and three brothers, all being present at the funeral but one brother residing in Bison, Okla. She was laid to rest in the Bachelor Grove cemetery Friday at 2 o'clock.

Lot 43 (Richard Edmund Moss - south ½; page 25) should reflect the following additions:

Laura M.(Moss) McGhee

Born 8 Jan 1887; died 17 Nov 1965; buried 20 Nov 1965.

Robert McGhee

Born 10 Sep 1876; died 31 Jul 1939; buried 2 Aug 1939.

On page 39 of the quarterly, Robert McGhee and Laura M. McGhee were listed as having been buried in the cemetery, but were unable to be located into a burial lot at the time of publication since a family connection had not been made. Funeral home records obtained subsequent to publication revealed that Laura M. McGhee was the daughter of Richard Edmund Moss and Maria H. Farquharson, and that Robert was her husband.

Lot 64 (Emanuel Schroeder, page 34) should reflect the following additions:

Anna Schroeder

Born 24 Sep 1885; died 28 Jan 1890.

Mary Schroeder

Born 24 Sep 1885; died 8 Feb 1890.

These twins were the daughters of Emanuel Schroeder and Ellen Julia Noble. The above information came from family records obtained from Lexy Schroeder.

An additional burial at the cemetery was identified from funeral home records, but was unable to be located into a specific lot as follows:

Emma A. Schmidt

Born about 1885; died about 8 Dec 1964; buried 14 Dec 1964.

Based on the burial lot information, she was most likely buried in lot 4, 24, or 63.

Further review of Ferdinand Schapper's 1917 manuscript *Southern Cook County and History of Blue Island before the Civil War* revealed the following biographical information in volume 2, page 863. Based on the fact that Mr. Turley worked for Francis VanHorn Minard, it would be likely that he was also buried in Lot 17 where Margaret L. Minard (Mrs. F.V.) and their daughter Nellie L. had been buried prior to their removal to Mt. Greenwood Cemetery:

George Turley

Blue Island about 1852

He was a negro fiddler. He, with his fiddle, and Joe Netteau, a Frenchman, with his accordion, played at dances that were given nearly every Thursday evening while the

Rock Island was being constructed through here. Later he worked for Francis V. Minard for years. He died and was buried at Bachelors Grove.

With this information, the number of individuals identified to have been buried in Batchelor Grove Cemetery totals 139. It is still believed that the total number of individuals who had been buried there numbers around 150. Fourteen (14) individuals identified have been positively confirmed to have been exhumed and reinterred elsewhere. Only 19 monuments, markers, or family name stones remain at the cemetery.

Visits to Batchelor Grove Cemetery in October 1996, revealed that vandals had toppled the Shields family monument on Lot 17 since my last visit in June of 1994. Of the large monuments, only the Fulton family name monument now remains standing. I was disappointed to find the lack of maintenance that the cemetery had received during 1996. A large pile of trash (mostly beer cans and bottles) was found near the entrance gate, but on a positive note, it seemed that trash was pretty much centralized at this one location. The grass inside the cemetery had clearly not been cut all season. With this level of attention and maintenance (or more clearly, the lack thereof) being provided by the Cook County Real Estate Management office and the Forest Preserve District, it is no wonder that the vandalism and desecration of the cemetery continues.

My thanks to Kirk Vandenberg, Jeanette Hardy Doan, Lexy Schroeder, John Crumback and Scott Mason who assisted in bringing this additional information to light. I encourage readers to continue to contact me with any information regarding the cemetery and individuals who are (or were) buried there. I would like to supplement my records with copies of obituaries, death certificates, and such other information that may exist relating to the individuals buried there or about the cemetery itself.