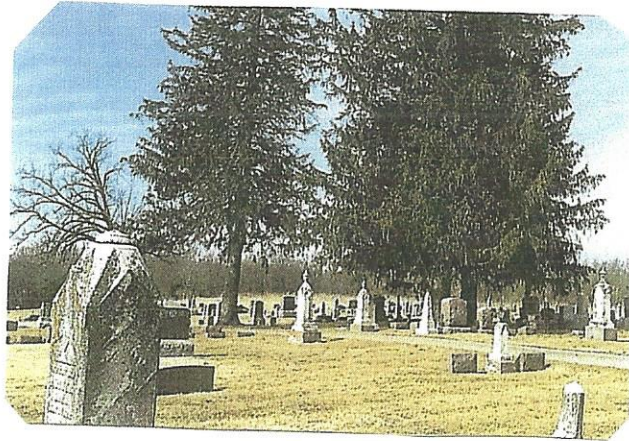


# VIOLA CEMETERY



Hi there! The members of the Viola Cemetery Committee have put together a short newsletter to inform the community of some of the projects that have been completed this past two years. As committee members we would also appreciate your input regarding future projects!

Several projects have been completed using donated funds. For instance we have several nesting pair of bluebirds in donated houses. It's lovely to see them in the spring and summer months.

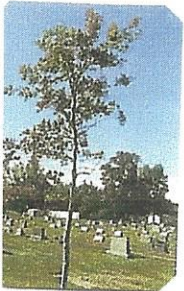
We are planting young trees with money donated – as well as nurturing our own “sprouts”. This is very important as many of our established trees are very old and in a state of decline.

Our cemetery sexton has been repairing many of the older (civil war era) stones, again with funds donated to us. Maintaining the integrity of these headstones is an ongoing process!

If you have walked, driven, or biked the cemetery road, you may have noticed the road improvement. It was graded this past year and is so much smoother – also safer for the walkers and bikers.

Last year Ground Penetrating Radar was utilized to identify many unmarked (“pauper’s”) graves - many at least a century old. It is important that those areas are not re-used. It took several months but some of our committee volunteers researched and walked the cemetery to identify and document all marked graves. At last they have all been properly recorded.

Have you noticed the map? It's very large and contains the names on all the gravestones in the appropriate section of the cemetery. It also has a corresponding book with names listed alphabetically. Our sexton worked long hours to make this a reality, and I personally know of several times that visitors have used it with positive comments.



These are just a few of the improvements made. We have plans for more cemetery upkeep/beautification in the near future and would appreciate the public's input regarding what types of things you would like to see.

A project in the planning stage for this year is an "area of reflection" located in the flat stone section at the front of the cemetery. It will contain a seating area surrounded by plants and flowers and new young trees. This area will also be used by those who wish to have their ashes placed in the cremation stones which will be available. We are very excited about this project and the enhancement it will bring to an otherwise drab section of our cemetery.

Some of these projects were possible because of money donated by Viola residents and friends/family members of people buried here. If you would like to donate to the Viola Cemetery fund, there is a donation box in the cemetery. This box is checked on a daily basis. You may also contact the cemetery sexton or any of the committee members.

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