

ROBB CEMETERY

VAN BUREN COUNTY, IOWA

This cemetery is on a dirt road, about 1 mile south of Vernon, Iowa (former town). It has an iron rail fence. It is located on the present Olson farm (1964). The house on this farm is made of limestone, and is said to have been built by the group of Mormons who stayed in Vernon in the 1840's doing building. It is also rumored that Brigham Young occupied this house for a time. Some books or papers pertaining to the Mormon church were said to have been found in the attic.

The burial ground is on the west side of the road, the house on the east. The cemetery is in deplorable condition. The stones are falling over due to their foundations being undermined by animals. There are huge holes beneath the stones, which appear to lead down into the graves themselves. The entire cemetery is overgrown with reeds and briars. Some of the larger stones are cracking because their bases are tilting. It may be approached by car, by driving through a field..the gate is opposite the farm house.

We were unable to copy the inscriptions from the last six stones on the first trip, as we lacked equipment to penetrate the thick hedge at the back of the plot. The stones were completely invisible until the bushes were cut.

As this cemetery is on what was the original Robb farm, the following excerpt from History of Van Buren County (1878) may be of some value:

Harvey Robb, retired farmer, P. O. Bonaparte, Iowa: Son of James and Isabella Robb; born Dec 10, 1819 in Clark Co, Ky. In the spring of 1820 his parents moved to Jefferson Co, Ind. In 1834 went into Fountain Co. In Feb 1838 Mr. Robb came to Van Buren County and purchased several acres of land in Henry Township, Van Buren Co, of which he stills owns 578 acres valued at \$40.00 per acre. He married Rachel Christy of this county Aug 31, 1843. She was born Spt 8, 1824 in Harrison Co, Ohio. He has followed farming and stock raising, also buying and shipping to some extent. In the fall of 1875 he left his farm and moved to Chicago, where he engaged in the stock commission business at the Union Stock Yards. His health failing, he returned, and located in Bonaparte in 1876. Has three children living: Mary I, now Mrs. G. W. Meredith; Sarah J., now Mrs. W. C. Cackley; Thomas who married Amanda Brewster; all are living in this county and are members of the Presbyterian Church

Cemetery copied in 1964 by
Doris Hatton Armstrong and
Marion Flake Mc Crary

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Excerpt from a poem written by Kate Harrington 1874 for
Old Settlers' Day:

Would see a specimen.....a matchless job
Of nature's handiwork? Take Harvey Robb;
His generous nature, unassuming worth
Can scarcely claim a counterpart on earth.
You'll find more wisdom: he makes no pretense
To erudition; but for common sense,
Plain go-ahead-a-tive-ness, bring yourman,
And prove you have excelled him....if you can.

ROBB: Harvey d. Apr 18, 1885 ae 65 yrs 4 mos 8 dys
Rachel his wife d. Nov 9, 1883 ae 59 yrs 1 mo 21 dys
CAKLEY: Thomas Harvey, son of William and S. J. Cackley
d. Apr 4, 1876 ae 1 yr 4 mos 10 dys
ROBB: James, Jr. ~~Mar~~^{May} 21, 1832 - Mar 7, 1873
Eliza, dau of James and I. Robb, d Apr 15, 1850
ae 15 yrs 7 dys
Isabel, ~~h~~ July 16, 1795 d Jan 6, 1850 ae 54 y 5 m 20 dy
(another stone:)
ROBB: James, Jr. May 21, 1832 - Mar 7, 1873
Eliza, Apr 8, 1836 - Apr 15, 1850
Sarah, Feb 21, 1822 - Sep 4, 1840
Jane, May 5, 1823 - Aug 23, 1845
James, Mar 3, 1792 - Oct 12, 1847
Isabel, July 16, 1795 - Jan 6, 1850

CAKLEY: Sarah, ^Jwife of W. C. Cackley d Oct 21, 1884
ae 37 yrs 8 mos 8 dys
MERIDETH: David d ~~Mar~~^{May} 31, 1856 ae 35 yrs 22 dys
Mary H. dau of D and E Merideth d Mar 16, 1855
ae 6 mos 10 dys
John J. son of D and E Merideth d Mar 5, 1854
ae 1 yr 10 mos
MC CORMICK: Jane dec ~~29~~²² 1771 to Aug 20, 1765 1865
w/o S. N. MCCORMICK
ROBB: Sarah, dau of James and I Robb d Sep 4, 1840
ae 18 yrs 6m 12 dys
Jane, dau of James and I Robb d Aug 23, 1845
ae 22 yrs 3mos. 18 dys