



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Annis Cemetery rejuvenated

BY C.W. LATTIN

Much of the following article was written by my father when he was county historian; this story being published in September 1962.

Do you know that in 1907, the Annis Cemetery on the Riches Corners Road, just east of Mount Albion, was a trackless jungle of briars, locust and myrtle?

At that time a young woman with lots of pep and determination, who had been raised in the neighborhood of Riches Corners, decided it was disgraceful to have an uncared for cemetery. Having a grandfather and grandmother buried there she took it upon herself to see that something was done about it.

First, she went through the cemetery obtaining names from the tombstones in order to find descendants of those buried there who would be interested in helping with this project. This in itself was a difficult job because of the undergrowth. When this much was accomplished, many of the descendants were asked to come to the cemetery on a certain Monday in July and bring available tools with which to work.

A friend who was a shipbuilder and building-mover furnished a capstan which

could pull trees up to six or seven inches in diameter. It was powered by one horse on a windlass. It worked very well and cleared all the larger trees and bushes that could not be grubbed off.

The entire community of Riches Corners and vicinity turned out to clean up this one acre cemetery. Headstones which had to be removed temporarily were carefully put back in their proper places after the ground was leveled and worked all summer to obtain an even and level seed bed. The next summer it was mowed by gifts from individuals and a lawn mower was donated. After that, the Town of Albion prevailed upon to mow and take care of this hallowed ground and it has continued to do so up to the present time.

What my father did not indicate was the fact that the young woman was his mother Sophia Harling Lattin. Nor did he mention that her grandparents names were William and Margaret Walker who are buried there. A memorial to them in the form of a painting of Christ hangs in the parish house of Christ Church. The gate and gate posts at the entrance to the Annis Cemetery were purchased for \$10 in 1907 by my grandmother with donations solicited from the neighborhood.

Our photo taken recently shows the Annis Cemetery and limestone wall which surrounds it.