

9-30-82
**Bethinking of
Old Orleans**

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



Vol IV

BOXWOOD CEMETERY

No. 39

The original 5 and 8/10 acres of Boxwood Cemetery which is located north of Medina on Gravel Road was purchased January 10, 1846. This was paid for by twenty-three men who paid ten dollars each and one woman who paid two dollars, a total of \$232.00 or \$40 an acre. Those subscribers were: Silas Burroughs, Roswell Starr, Wm. Baker, Chandler Farnham, Isaac Burroughs, Simion Bathgate, Elisha Whalen, Orin Britt, Levan Merritt, John Ryan, Isaac Swan, Jacob Bennett, Philip Nichols, Myron Hopkins, Geo. Northrup, Horace Close, Botsford Fairman, Joseph Crary, Caleb Hill, Wm. P. Baker, Christopher Whaley, M.D., John Alcorn, Sylvester Sherman and Miss Emily Bennett. Those men were the leading business men of the Village of Medina in their life time.

At the time of its purchase Boxwood Cemetery was still a forest and had to be cleared, landscaped and laid out into lots. The first person buried there was David Card in 1849. The cemetery however, was formally opened for burial purposes in 1850. By 1915 almost all the bodies from the old Gwinn Street Cemetery in Medina had been disinterred and removed to Boxwood. Actually the oldest burying ground in Medina was a small plot located on the east side of West Avenue across from the Baptist Church. However, at a later time those bodies were transferred to the Gwinn Street Cemetery, only to again be moved. John Weld then built a house on the site of this first cemetery in Medina.

Many years ago there was quite a row about a Medina resident who buried his pet dog on the family lot at Boxwood Cemetery. Charles "Saxie" Simmonds who owned a stove mill on East Center Street had a beloved terrier wick was his constant companion. When the little dog died "Saxie" was struck with real grief. He hired the Mahar Brothers who then ran a hardware and undertaking establishment on North Main Street to make a fine little polished casket for the pet. He then took it down to Boxwood and buried it on his own lot. When this was discovered, many complaints came in to the trustees who finally persuaded Mr. Simmonds to rebury the pet elsewhere which he did in the garden at his residence on Church Street marked with a tasteful headstone.