

~ East Delavan Union Cemetery ~



Docent John Grove

The cemetery was formally established on May 20, 1854 on property originally owned by Samuel Utter. The first burial took place in 1843 after the accidental death of Alexander Utter, who died when the well he was helping to dig on his uncle's property caved in. Other burials took place here prior to the cemetery's formal establishment including Moses and Austin Williams sons of Captain Israel Williams in 1845, Captain Israel Williams in 1846 and his wife, Lavina in 1852.



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Additional property was added to the cemetery through an 1892 gift from Augusta Weyrauch. An interesting observation from the original plat is the creation of a "Potter Field." This is a section of the cemetery that the county owned for the burial of persons who had no family or money for their burial. This long-filled "Potter's Field" is located in the center section of the cemetery behind the grave of Oliver P. Southwick.

There are 209 veterans buried in the cemetery, ranging from the War of 1812 to the Vietnam War. Flags are placed on the graves of veterans by The Veterans of Foreign Wars.

During a tour of the cemetery, visitors should note the longevity of some of the early pioneers and the number of deaths in 1857 as the result of a typhoid fever epidemic. Some of the early tombstones are easy to read while others are undecipherable. The cemetery is administered by a Board of individuals and funded through monies from perpetual care, donations, and investments. The original plat included 170 graves that were to be sold for \$10 per lot. Today the cemetery has over 2,000 burials and unfilled lots. -- *Docent John Grove*