



Mount Vernon

MOUND VIEW CEMETERY

Rules AND REGULATIONS

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RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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History of Mound View Cemetery

According to old records, Mound View Cemetery was established in 1833 by the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio. There were no complete records kept until 1853. The cemetery is named after an ancient Indian mound located in the western part of the cemetery. There are a few stones whose death dates predate 1833, but it is believed they were persons who were moved here, either from the old Presbyterian Church cemetery (which was located on East Chestnut Street) or some other cemetery.

As nearly as can be determined from the early records, the original cemetery consisted of four blocks or sections. There are now 48 sections, 2 family mausoleums, a private underground vault containing family crypts and a private mausoleum containing 200 crypts. At present the cemetery consists of some 41 acres, with several acres to be developed in the future.

It is beautifully situated atop a hill in the northern part of the City of Mount Vernon, has many fine trees and is very well kept at all times.

There are many persons interred here who were important, both to local and national history. A self-guided "Walking Tour" of the cemetery is available at the cemetery office.

LOTS

1. Persons wanting to purchase a grave should call at the Cemetery office, where they will be shown the graves that are available. After the space is selected, no space will be regarded as sold until it is paid in full.
2. If an interment is permitted to be made on a space before it is paid in full, the Director of Public Service reserves the right to remove the body or bodies to a single grave section and to sell such space or spaces to other parties after demand and neglect to pay.
3. An individual can erect no monument or marker of any kind until grave is paid in full, including the perpetual care and until all charges for interment on said grave is paid in full. In the case of spaces sold before perpetual care was included in the price, the perpetual care must be paid on the space before monuments or markers can be placed thereon.
4. If spaces are sold or transferred to another individual, the Cemetery office must be notified so that the Cemetery's records may be changed.
5. The grounds are exempt from taxation and liability of lot owners for debts.
6. Any owner or part owner of a space has a right to give permission, either in person or by written order, for the burial of the remains of others than his immediate family in his space, or portion thereof, as hereinafter directed, but not for money or other consideration or profit.
7. By the general statutes of the State, each proprietor is vested with the ownership of his or her lot in fee simple, but for the sole purpose of interment.
8. Under these statutes and the regulations of the cemetery, the spaces cannot be conveyed without the assent of the Director of Public Service, nor any use, division, improvement or adornment of them be made which they prohibit or may deem improper.
9. The proprietor of a space may dispose of it by will, subject to the foregoing conditions.
10. As a husband is not always an heir-at-law of his wife, nor a wife of her husband, neither will necessarily inherit the lot from the other. To assure the survivor an interest in the lot, both names should be embraced on the deed. If the proprietor dies intestate, the lot will descend to his or her heirs jointly and in equal and undivided shares, subject to the same conditions. The statutes of Ohio in force will determine who the heirs are at the time of death.
11. On the decease of any owner or part owner of a space in the cemetery, the heir or devisees of such decedent are required to file in the office of the Cemetery, full proof of their heirship or proprietorship for the purpose of being recorded in the books of the cemetery. Without such proof and record, the right of ownership or burial of such persons cannot be recognized by the officers of the cemetery.
12. The courts have held that a deed to a cemetery lot represents personal property, not real estate, and that a widow has no dower right therein; but her right of burial in the lot may not be denied.
13. The ownership of a deed to a lot does not confer any right to do plantings or to erect a monument, mausoleum, vase, etc., upon said lot without the approval of the Director of Public Service.

14. As the deed to a space conveys only the right of burial therein, the City retains control and supervision of all lots which have been sold, and it shall be the duty of the Supervisor to enter upon any lot and prohibit, modify or remove any structure, object, improvement or adornment on such lot which may be placed thereon in violation of the rules, or which may be considered objectionable or injurious to the lot or adjoining lots, or to the general appearance of the cemetery.

PERPETUAL CARE

All grave prices now include the cost of perpetual care. However, (for those spaces sold years ago before the perpetual care fund was established) any lot owner desiring to provide for the perpetuation of the family burial plot, and anyone who desires the permanent care of the resting place of the loved ones gone before, may deposit with the Director of Public Service, through the Cemetery office, a sum sufficiently large so that the annual interest thereon will be enough to pay the expenditures necessary for the annual care of such lot. Any space must have perpetual care paid before a monument or marker may be erected on said space.

WORK ON LOTS AND PLANTINGS

1. All grading or improvements on lots, and all excavations for vaults, the laying out of foundations, graves, mowing grass or any other work, must be done by the employees of the Cemetery. If there is a problem with the maintenance of a lot, you should contact the Cemetery office. No person will be allowed to plant on graves or lots without previously contacting the Cemetery office, where the lot owner will be advised of what is allowed and the limitations.
2. The Director of Public Service has no wish to unnecessarily interfere with the taste of individuals in regard to the style of their improvements, but in justice to the interests of the Cemetery, he reserves to himself the right given him by law, of preventing or removing any structure or object which he shall deem injurious to the general good appearance of the grounds, and particularly of the adjoining lots.
3. **All** decorations, whether live plantings, artificial arrangements, veteran flag holders, etc., must be placed at the head (west end) of the grave, no matter where the monument or marker for the deceased person is located. This is necessary so that items placed do not interfere unduly with the mowing. The only exception to this rule is when there is a new burial and grass has not been established yet. A grave blanket may be placed **during the winter months**. (This means **after** we are no longer mowing in the fall.) However, the blanket must be removed **early** in the spring before the grass starts growing. All winter/Christmas decorations must be removed by **April 1st** every year.
4. No planting will be allowed except at the head of the graves; **on the east side of the stone**. If not planted in the correct place, the Cemetery personnel may remove such planting without further notice.
5. All plantings and decorations should be placed on the **east side of the stone; regardless of which side of the monument is etched with names and dates, etc.**. No plantings or decorations on the west side as that area belongs to the graves to the west. Plantings should be no further than **18" away from the stone**, and built-up flowerbeds or rigid borders (wood, concrete, etc.) are **not** allowed. Glass containers, gravel, wire, lava rocks, shepherd hooks etc., are **not** allowed as they present a danger to our workers. No benches/seats unless made of granite/marble and used as a monument. (See Monument, Markers and Headstone—Pg. 10). **NO PLANTS WITH THORNS (I.E., ROSE BUSHES OF ANY KIND, ETC.)** Items placed at the grave should be limited to **5 or less** at a time to keep the area looking neat and uncluttered and should be removed when they start looking weathered. **For our current list of prohibited items, see yellow copy insert. These are also posted in the window of the Cemetery office.**
6. If any tree or shrub standing on any lot shall, by means of its roots, branches, or otherwise, become detrimental, dangerous or inconvenient to adjacent lots or avenues; if it becomes unsightly or for any reason its removal shall be deemed necessary, the Cemetery shall have the right, and it shall be their duty, to remove such tree or shrub or any part thereof, as in their judgment will seem best.
7. **No trees** of any kind will be allowed to be placed on any grave from this date forward (September 1, 1996). Only trees planted by the Cemetery will be allowed, at locations determined by the Cemetery Personnel.

For the safety of Cemetery personnel and visitors, the following items are prohibited to be placed on graves:

- Solar lights – plastic, glass, etc.
- Rocks, gravel, lava rocks, landscape rocks, marbles and stones
- Rigid borders – wood, concrete, plastic, bricks, etc.
- Toys – including but not limited to cars, trucks, balls, etc.
- Glass items – including but not limited to: containers, vases, figurines, trinkets, etc.
- Ceramic items – including stepping stones (upright or flat), crockery, cement, figurines, plaster paris, etc.
- Wire or metal – (excludes Veteran Flag holders placed by Cemetery personnel)
- Statues – including but not limited to bird baths, geese, angels, etc.
- Flower pots and flower pot holders
- No boxes, seashells, baskets, crates
- Balls – including golf balls, baseballs, softballs, etc.
- Built-up flowers beds
- Shepherd hooks
- No benches/seats unless made of first quality granite/marble or bronze and used **as a monument with foundation placed by a monument company**
- No fences or enclosures of any kind
- No plants with thorns – including but not limited to rose bushes, etc.
- No trees or shrubs of any kind are permitted to be planted on any grave
- Handmade markers/monuments of any kind
- Balloons
- Styrofoam
- Flag holders
- Attaching flowers or other items to the monument with twine, string, wire etc. is not permitted

All plantings and decorations must be placed at the head (west end) of the grave on the east side of the stone. No plantings or decorations on the west side of the stone as that area belongs to the graves to the west. Plantings and decorations should be no further than **18” away from the stone**. This is necessary so that items placed do not interfere unduly with the mowing. If not planted in the correct place at the head of the grave, the Cemetery may remove such planting without further notice. Dead or dying plants and deteriorating decorations may be removed and disposed of at the discretion of the Cemetery staff. If you are unable to maintain living plants **frequently**, when grass and weeds are growing up past flowers and plants, they will be removed.

Items placed at the grave should be limited to **5 items or less** at a time to keep the area looking neat and uncluttered and should be removed when they start looking weathered. Any items including artificial flowers that appear faded, weathered or unsightly, can and will be removed by Cemetery personnel as they deem necessary. All fall/winter/Christmas decorations must be removed by **April 1st** every year. Spring and summer decorations must be removed by **October 1st**.

The Director of Public Service has the right to remove any structure or object which he shall deem injurious to the general good of the grounds and particularly of the adjoining lots.

The ownership of the graves does not confer any right to do plantings or to place any **prohibited items** on the grave. The City retains control and supervision of all lots and has the duty to modify or remove any structure, object or adornment on lots which may be placed thereon in violation of the rules or which may be considered objectionable or injurious to the lot or adjoining lots, or to the general appearance of the cemetery.

The Cemetery Supervisor shall be charged with enforcement of all rules and regulations adopted by the Director of Public Service.

Rules subject to change without prior notice.

INTERMENTS AND FUNERALS

1. Parties are advised to apply at the Cemetery office before fixing the time for the funeral, to ascertain at what time the Cemetery personnel can attend to the same in order to prevent delay and confusion at the grounds. Each application will be considered in its turn.
2. When a burial is required, notice must be given at the Cemetery office at least 24 hours before the time of an interment. There are restrictions, particularly for weekend and holiday hours, so the parties in charge of a funeral should apply at the Cemetery office to find out what the restrictions are for those days.
3. If the application is for the interment of someone other than the owner, permission in writing from such owner or part owner or responsible person must be presented.
4. The laws of the State and the rules of the health authorities must be strictly complied with in all cases of disinterment. Owners of single graves, purchasing family lots, may have the removal of bodies made from such graves to the family lot. There will be a disinterment and reinterment charge for said occurrence. The party arranging for said disinterment should contact the Cemetery office.
5. All interments will be subject to the current charges which must be paid at the Cemetery office when the interment is ordered, and no interment will be allowed until the grave and interment charges are paid in full.
6. In the case of qualifying indigents, see the City's "Indigent Burial Policy".
7. Arrangements for funerals must be made so that they are in the Cemetery before 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and before 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays and allowed Holidays.
8. All funeral processions, while within the Cemetery, will be under the exclusive control of the Cemetery personnel.
9. The fees for interment may be learned upon application at the Cemetery office. The base rate is uniform and varies only as extra services are desired. In all cases, the base rate includes the charge for opening and closing a grave, the use of grass and finally, seeding the grave. There are extra charges for the use of the cemetery's tent and chairs.
10. It is a State law that no interment may be made unless the body is accompanied by a burial permit.
11. Interments on Saturday afternoons, Sundays and some holidays are not permitted except in cases of contagious disease, when ORDERED by the Board of Health.
12. Funeral flowers will be removed from the grave at the discretion of the Cemetery personnel, and in no event shall they be left thereon longer than five days.
13. The lots will receive the same general care as the other parts of the lawn.
14. No fence or enclosure of any kind will be permitted on burial lots. The placing of boxes, shells, toys, glassware, baskets, crockery, wire, seats or benches, landscape rocks, lava rocks and similar articles upon the graves or lots is inconsistent with the proper keeping of the grounds and it will not be permitted. If someone wishes to place something on a grave, they should contact the Cemetery office to be sure that it is allowed.
15. Interments or disinterments must be done only by the regular employees of the cemetery.

16. All traditional interments shall be in permanent vaults made of concrete, metals or other material as approved by the City.
17. All persons that are entombed in an above ground mausoleum must be embalmed and placed in a sealing casket unless cremated.
18. There are no restrictions on the type of container to be used for cremations. However, it is suggested that if there is any chance that at some future time, the cremains would need to be disinterred, that they be placed in a durable, non-corrosive, non-deteriorating type of container.
19. Scattering or commingling of cremated remains on a lot or grave is prohibited.
20. We allow more than one interment per grave. However, there may be limitations on the number of interments per grave, either due to insufficient room or due to there not being room for memorialization available for the person to be interred.

MONUMENTS, MARKERS AND HEADSTONES

1. All charges relating to a grave, opening and closing, etc., must be paid in full before a monument or marker is installed. Markers for an indigent interment will be placed by the Cemetery per the City's "Indigent Burial Policy".
2. The laying out of a foundation must be done only by the Cemetery employees. There is a permit fee for this, and it is usually paid by the monument dealer who includes it in his bill to the person paying for the monument. Foundations are done by the monument dealers or whomever they contract with, but they must adhere to our specifications. Orders for laying out a foundation should be given at the Cemetery office at least 7 days in advance.
3. Structures known as footboards or footstones (above ground markers at the foot of the grave) are prohibited as they interfere with the mowing and the opening and closing of a grave.
4. All monuments and/or markers must be of first-quality granite, marble or bronze. Bronze may be used above the grade only if attached to granite.
5. Only one above-ground monument/marker will be allowed per grave and must be placed at the head (west end) of the grave.
6. Granite benches are permitted only if they are installed on a foundation in the space reserved for a monument at the head (west end) of the grave. These benches will be considered a monument and will be subject to all rules applying to monuments.
7. Flush veteran markers that are not used as a headstone and placed at the head (west end) of the grave will be placed at the center of the grave, flush with the ground.
8. After a headstone or monument has been placed, the monument dealer or others must present a written order from the owner before a permit will be issued to remove such stone or make any change upon it.
9. No headstone may be brought into the Cemetery on Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays.
10. Permission must be obtained at the Cemetery office before any monuments may be erected in the Cemetery when the ground is soft, or to use derricks, blocking, runways and other materials, or to attach ropes or chains to trees or other objects.
11. Crating, boxes and packing materials, together with all debris brought in, shall be removed by the contractor and the monument cleaned before leaving the job.
12. Applications for veteran's markers should be made at the Veterans' Service office.

GENERAL RULES

1. Do not touch anything in the Cemetery that does not belong to you. If you have a problem or complaint, go to the Cemetery office, where you will always receive prompt and courteous attention.
2. The Director of Public Service will use reasonable care in engaging competent and experienced employees and in seeing that they do their work with customary carefulness.
3. The Cemetery endeavors to maintain reasonable efforts to protect flowers, trees, shrubs and other property on lots within the grounds, but no responsibility for their protection is guaranteed.
4. No grave will be regarded as sold until paid in full.
5. Children (under the age of 18) will be excluded at any time unless accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for their conduct.
6. Dogs **are not** permitted in the Cemetery, whether on a leash or running at large.
7. No person shall discharge firearms within the Cemetery except at military funerals or Memorial Day exercises.
8. No person with firearms, refreshments or liquors will be permitted to enter the grounds.
9. The use of the roads and paths in this Cemetery as thoroughfares or public highways, either in vehicles or on foot, is prohibited. Violators of this rule shall be considered as trespassers.
10. All persons are forbidden, under penalty of the law, to kill, wound or trap any bird or animal within the limits of the Cemetery, or to remove the young of any animal or remove the eggs of any bird.
11. All persons are strictly prohibited from plucking any plants, whether wild or cultivated, disturbing birds, breaking or injuring any tree or shrub, marring any monument or landmark.
12. There shall be no driving allowed over the lots or upon the lawns under any pretense whatsoever.
13. All persons are forbidden to sit upon monuments, headstones, mausoleums, whether upon their own lot or others.
14. Children must not be permitted to play upon lots or lawns, nor climb upon headstones or monuments.
15. No person shall sit upon or occupy any private lot not his or her own, or belonging to a member of the family.
16. Casual visitors to the Cemetery, who are not members of a funeral procession or party, are forbidden to intrude upon a funeral or to loiter about an open grave, merely to satisfy an idle curiosity.
17. School children, in charge of a teacher, art students, botanists, ornithologists, students of forestry, or others who may benefit from a study of the works of art and nature will be welcomed to the Cemetery. All who propose to make such a visit are requested to call the Cemetery office before going about the grounds.

18. Trespassing upon the grounds of the Cemetery is forbidden. Hours that the Cemetery grounds are open are dawn to dusk. Anyone on the Cemetery grounds except during those hours will be considered trespassing.
19. The Cemetery personnel may expel from the Cemetery any person disturbing its sanctity by noisy, boisterous or other improper conduct or who shall violate any of the foregoing rules.
20. All persons are reminded that the grounds are sacredly devoted to the burial of the dead, and that the provisions and penalties of the law will be strictly enforced.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

1. Admission of vehicles upon the roads of the Cemetery has been permitted as a privilege; it is restricted to those persons who observe the traffic rules adopted by the Cemetery officials.
2. Failure to comply with the rules renders the offender liable to arrest. Habitual offenders may be denied permission to bring their vehicle into the Cemetery.
3. Violators of the traffic rules are subject to arrest on the grounds or may be summoned to the Police Court.
4. The speed of vehicles is limited to a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour.
5. Vehicles are not permitted to turn upon the roads but must go around the section when reversing their direction.
6. Visitors on foot have the primary right to the use of the roads and all vehicle drivers are required to observe their right by careful driving and a strict adherence to the rules.
7. Vehicle operators are also asked to watch out for our Cemetery personnel who may be mowing or trimming or otherwise working in areas of the Cemetery.
8. Funeral processions must obey the traffic rules the same as individual drivers.
9. Heavy trucking in the Cemetery is permitted only in connection with work therein and permission must be obtained from the Cemetery office.
10. Vehicles shall not be driven in high gear up or down steep grades when the roads are wet or icy.
11. Vehicles shall keep to the right side of the road and when stopping shall do so only with the right hand side of the vehicles next to the gutter or lawn.
12. Vehicles going in the same direction shall not pass funeral processions, nor shall the procession be closely followed or joined by persons not members of the funeral party. When meeting a procession, the driver shall stop until the funeral has passed.
13. Drivers of vehicles are cautioned not to pass close to funerals while services are being held. This rule is applicable to Cemetery personnel as well as the general public.
14. Any driver who runs a vehicle upon the lawns, across gutters or anywhere else where damage results, shall be required to make restitution for such damage.
15. The public is reminded that this is a Cemetery, and not a park; that the roads herein are not public highways; that unnecessary use of the roads entails a large expense upon the Cemetery for their maintenance, and that the privilege to drive thereon must not be abused.

NOTE

Under the laws of Ohio, the officers and personnel of the Cemetery have been appointed special Police Officers. They have the power to arrest summarily all trespassers and persons who violate any of the rules and regulations adopted by the Director of Public Service.

The Supervisor of the Cemetery shall be charged with enforcement of all rules and regulations adopted by the Director of Public Service.

All rules and regulations heretofore adopted, which are contrary to or conflict with those herein published, are rescinded and declared void.