

The Early Quincy Cemetery and Mormon Burials

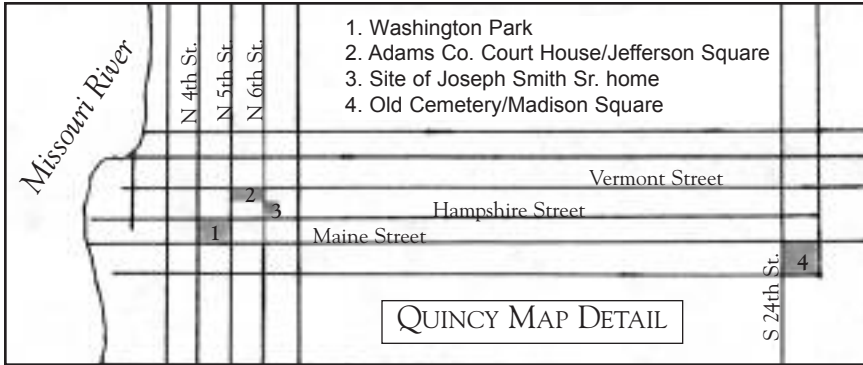
Maurine C. Ward

The first Quincy Cemetery was located on the south half of block 1, now known as Jefferson Square. Today, the County Courthouse stands on the south half of the square. This cemetery was used for nine years from 1826 through 1835. No records can be found from this cemetery. In 1835, ground was purchased for a cemetery on the southeast corner of Maine and Twenty-fourth Streets. Many bodies from the early cemetery were removed to the new area, but many graves could not be identified, so they were not touched.¹

The new cemetery block later became known as Madison Square. In 1888, this block was placed under the jurisdiction of the Quincy Boulevard and Park Association. In April 1891, they petitioned the city council to remove the head-stones and have them replaced flat with the surface of the ground. The city engineer was directed at that time to prepare a plat map, showing accurate locations of the graves. That plat map could not be found when the Great River Genealogical Society printed the cemetery records in 1993.

Burials 3 January 1839 to 14 April 1840

The early burial records of this cemetery in Quincy are found in two books. A copy of the burials from the first book was originally given to the Great River Genealogical Society by Kenneth J. Kirscher, Quincy city clerk, in 1984. The book is difficult to read. It is handwritten, with faded ink, and information is not always clear and legible. This first group of burials, shown below, is from the first book.²



These cemetery records show that there were three distinct sections in the burial ground. The first is identified simply by lot number and north or south. The second area is called “Pottersfield,” probably used for indigent burials. The third section is called “Strangers Ground.”

The following names, with few exceptions, have been pulled from the Strangers Ground burials. Several of the names have been identified as Latter-day Saints who were temporarily residing in Quincy, or in outlying areas of Adams County, after being driven from Missouri. Possibly, many of the others in the Strangers Ground are Mormons also. Some of the dates conflict with other information by one or two years. Some spellings of names are different from the usual spellings found in LDS records. The author welcomes any additional identification or corrections.

The burial records begin 4 January 1838; however, this list starts on 3 January 1839, about the time the Missouri refugees began to arrive in Quincy.

GOOD, Mr., infant of; 2 years 6 months, Quincy, Lot 10, 3 Jan 1839.

STEDMAN, Mr., child of; 4 years 3 months, Adams County, Lot 11, 5 Feb 1839.

UNKNOWN; small grave, Adams County, Lot 12, 12 Feb 1839.

LEE, Mr. Samuel; age 25, Missouri, Lot 13, 27 Feb 1839.

SHURPE, Mrs. Mary; Quincy, Lot 14, 1 Mar 1839.

TUEL, Mr. P., child of; 2 months, Quincy, Lot 15 west, 4 Mar 1839

RANDOW, Mr. F.; 28 years, Quincy, Lot 16, 10 Mar 1839.

Removed; Lot 17.

Removed; Lot 18 west.

MIEN, Mr. John, child of; 3 years 4 months, Quincy, Lot 19 west, 7 Apr 1839.

MACKLEY, Mr., child of; 8 months, Quincy, Lot 18 east, 9 Apr 1839.