

Wheeler Cemetery

By Dave Hallemann



This very hard to find family graveyard is located on a quiet dead end road.

This cemetery was located by Dave Hallemann and Carole Goggin in June 2005. It was probably not include in the original survey as there are no monuments in it. It is found on the Halifax Quadrangle Topographical Map.

38° 7' 19" N / 90° 25' 30" E

This family cemetery, located in T39 R5 S1, is named for Charles Wheeler, who owned the land and is buried there.

This article we are doing a little different. We are starting with the purchase by Charles Wheeler as we are confident there are no other persons buried in this cemetery other than the Wheeler Family.

Our story begins on 4th March 1905. C. S. Wheeler of the City of St. Louis purchases the NE quarter of the SW fractional quarter and SE quarter, of Section 1 Township 39 Range 5, containing 43.40 acres. Also the NW quarter of the SE quarter Section 2 containing 40 acres. Also SW quarter of the SW quarter Section 1, containing 40 acres. And the undivided 1/3 interest of the NW quarter of the SW quarter of Section 1 and the NE quarter of the SE quarter of Section 2, containing 80 acres, for \$1800.⁰⁰, recorded in Book 60 at Page 318.

After owning the land for 12 years, Charles' wife Ella A. Wheeler dies on May 17, 1917 per death certificate. She is the first burial in this cemetery with her grave marked, we assume, with a red granite fieldstone. Her burial site is listed as Plattin, Mo. on her death certificate.

On 1st October 1929, 12 years after Ella death, Charles Wheeler nearing the end of his life prepares his last will and testament, it being recorded in Book 151 Page 454.

Per Death Certificate, Charles S. Wheeler dies 3 months later on 2nd January 1930. He is buried along side of his wife Ella in the family cemetery by Fink Undertaking Company of Festus. His grave being marked with a simple fieldstone; however on a revisit we located a metal funeral parlor marker with no name present on it.

Charles' will is probated on 28 January 1930, with Charles leaving all personal property to his son Walter Willis Wheeler and his wife Lena. Taxes on the land are paid up to the year 1930 by the administrator. Charles gives Walter the land in Section 2, Walter and Lena the use of all the remaining land during their lifetime, and after their death the land is to go to Charles niece, Mrs. Alice Anderson of Crete, Nebraska. A \$1,000.⁰⁰ Insurance policy with the order of Railway Conductors be used to pay off his debt with the Festus Bank and if any remains to go to his son, Walter Wheeler.

23 May 1930 Walter Willis and Lena execute a promissory note on the land to Festus Citizens Bank in the amount of \$933.⁰⁰. Then on 27 May 1930 Walter pays Fink Funeral Home \$150.⁰⁰ for his father's funeral expenses.

On must remember at this time period we are in the Great Depression, it beginning in October of 1929.

29th May 1932 Walter Willis dies suddenly at the age of 58. The cause of death is "verdict of jury natural death". We assume there was an inquest. He is buried in the family cemetery by Fink Funeral Home. His grave is also marked by a simple fieldstone and a metal funeral parlor marker.

Lena not being able to pay the Promissory note, on July 1st, 1933, recorded in Book 114 Page 478 Festus Citizens Bank sells the land on the Post Office steps of Festus. Lena Wheeler, being the highest bidder, for \$500.⁰⁰ buys the land back.

Recorded in Book 124 Page 273 on 1st July 1933, Lena then sells the land in Section 2 to Dan Wegmann for \$500.⁰⁰. Lena retaining her life estate in the section 2 land that the cemetery is located on.

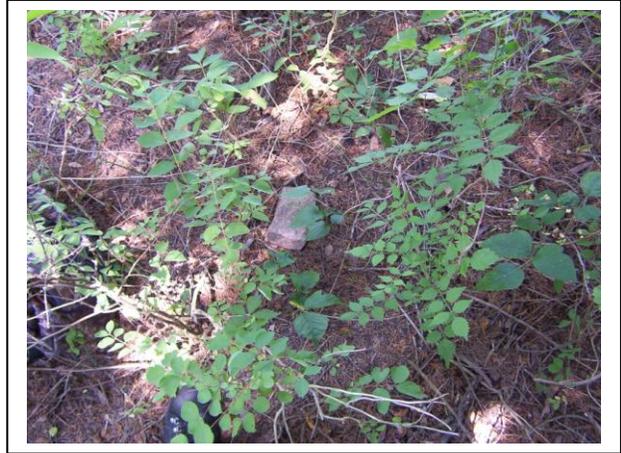
Some point after this date we lose tract of Lena Wheeler. We do not feel she is buried in this cemetery although who knows. She is over 60, has lost her family, the depression is in its height, and may not have anyone to help with the farm work. She may have moved in with relatives or become institutionalized.

The final document we looked at is dated 5th November 1942, recorded in book 144 Page 601, D. W. Wegmann, produces a deed bearing date of 4th November, 1940, from the State of Missouri by Collector, where he purchased at public sale at the courthouse door for \$167.²⁵ the amount due on the SW & SW/SE T39 R5 S1, 128 acres in the name of C. S. Wheeler. We checked tax records for the year 1931 until 1940. None were paid.

With the above information I believe we have shown an "Official" name of

Wheeler Cemetery

is in order for this graveyard.



When we located this hard to find cemetery all that remained was a wire fence around it and a three fieldstones.



On a revisit we located these two metal funeral home markers. We feel these are on Charles S. and Walter Willis' grave as both were buried by Fink Funeral Home

**MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

Do not use this space.

1930 1654

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 County Jefferson Registration District No. 421 File No. _____
 Township Plattin Primary Registration District No. 5376 Registered No. 1
 City Plattin Mo St. _____ Ward _____

2. FULL NAME Charles S. Wheeler

(a) Residence, No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____ (If nonresident, give city or town and State)
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U.S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
3. SEX <u>Male</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (write the word) <u>Married</u>	16. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) <u>Jan. 2, 1930</u>	17. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from _____ that I last saw her _____, 19____, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____	
6. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) <u>Aug 19 - 1849</u>			THE CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Asoplexy</u>		
7. AGE YEARS MONTHS DAY <u>80 4 14</u>			CONTRIBUTORY (SECONDARY) <u>Senility</u>		
8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) (c) Name of employer <u>Farmer</u>			18. WHERE DISEASE CONTRACTED (Duration) yrs. mos. ds. <u>162</u>		
9. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>New York</u>			19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL <u>Family Cemetery 1/14 1930</u>		
10. NAME OF FATHER <u>Mrs. Wheeler</u>			20. UNDERTAKER <u>Frank and Co. Festus Mo.</u>		
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>New York</u>			19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL <u>Family Cemetery 1/14 1930</u>		
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Folly Sumner</u>			20. UNDERTAKER <u>Frank and Co. Festus Mo.</u>		
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>New York</u>			19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL <u>Family Cemetery 1/14 1930</u>		
14. INFORMANT <u>J. E. Rutledge</u> (Address) <u>Plattin Mo.</u>			20. UNDERTAKER <u>Frank and Co. Festus Mo.</u>		
15. FILED <u>11 1930</u> <u>J. E. Rutledge</u> REGISTRAR			20. UNDERTAKER <u>Frank and Co. Festus Mo.</u>		

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

At left is the death certificate of Charles S. Wheeler.

As can be seen Charles is buried in the "family cemetery".

We also know that Ella A., Charles S., and Walter Willis Wheeler are buried here per death certificates.

Ella Wheeler's death certificate shows her being buried in Plattin, Mo. Which is where this cemetery is.

**MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

Do not use this space.

1930 19055

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 County Jefferson Registration District No. 421 File No. _____
 Township Plattin Primary Registration District No. 5376 Registered No. 61
 City _____ St. _____ Ward _____ (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

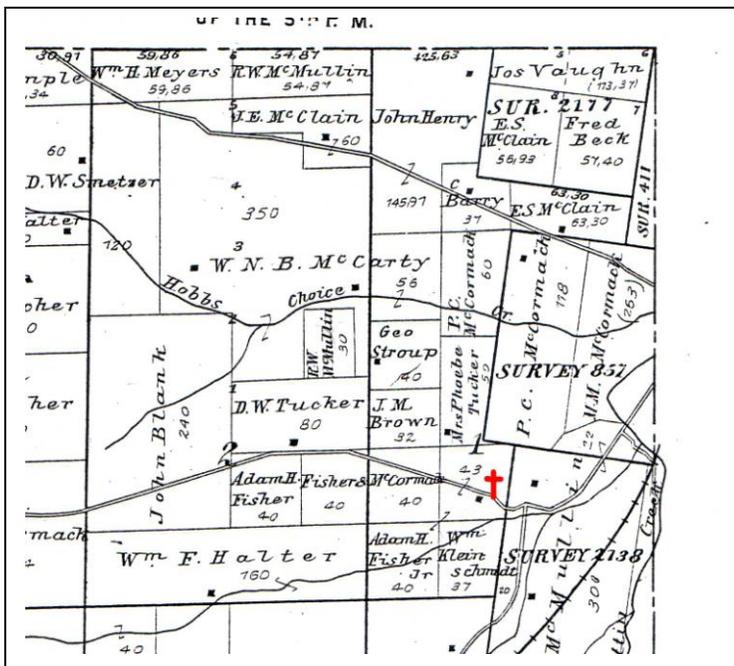
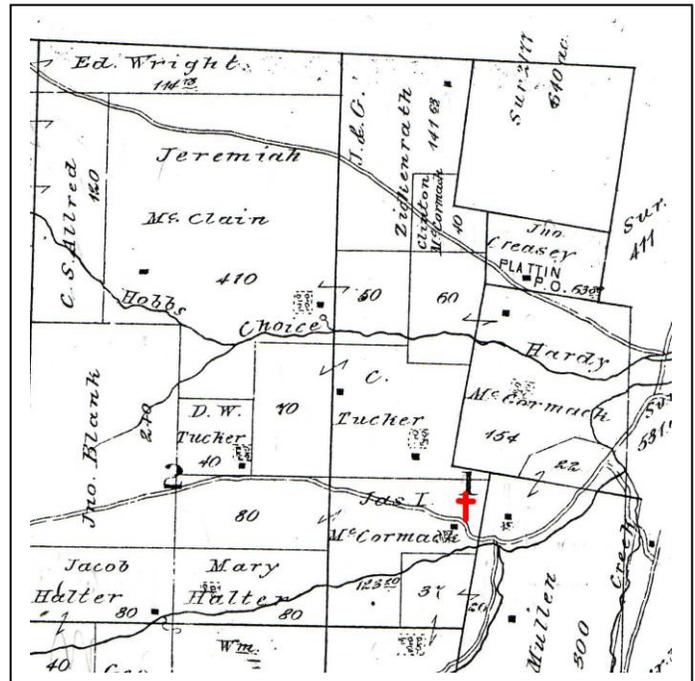
2. FULL NAME Ella A. Wheeler

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
3. SEX <u>Female</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (write the word) <u>Married</u>	16. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) <u>May 16, 1917</u>	17. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from _____ that I last saw her alive on _____, 1917, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____	
6. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) <u>Feb. 8, 1853</u>			THE CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Catarhal Pneumonia</u>		
7. AGE YEARS MONTHS DAY <u>64 3 8</u>			CONTRIBUTORY (SECONDARY) <u>Leg. debility</u>		
8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) <u>Housewife</u>			18. WHERE DISEASE CONTRACTED (Duration) yrs. mos. ds. <u>1178</u>		
9. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Augustburg, N. Y.</u>			19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL <u>Plattin, Mo. May 16, 1917</u>		
10. NAME OF FATHER <u>W. A. Wheeler</u>			20. UNDERTAKER <u>J. S. Boyd, Festus Mo.</u>		
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Mass.</u>			19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL <u>Plattin, Mo. May 16, 1917</u>		
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Jane Sumner</u>			20. UNDERTAKER <u>J. S. Boyd, Festus Mo.</u>		
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Don't know</u>			19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL <u>Plattin, Mo. May 16, 1917</u>		
14. THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) <u>C. S. Wheeler</u> (Address) <u>Plattin, Mo.</u>			20. UNDERTAKER <u>J. S. Boyd, Festus Mo.</u>		
15. FILED <u>May 18, 1917</u> <u>J. E. Rutledge</u> REGISTRAR			20. UNDERTAKER <u>J. S. Boyd, Festus Mo.</u>		

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As can be seen on the 1876 Historic Atlas James T. McCormack owns the tract the cemetery will be located on in the future.

(I have added the red cross to denote the approximate location of this cemetery.)



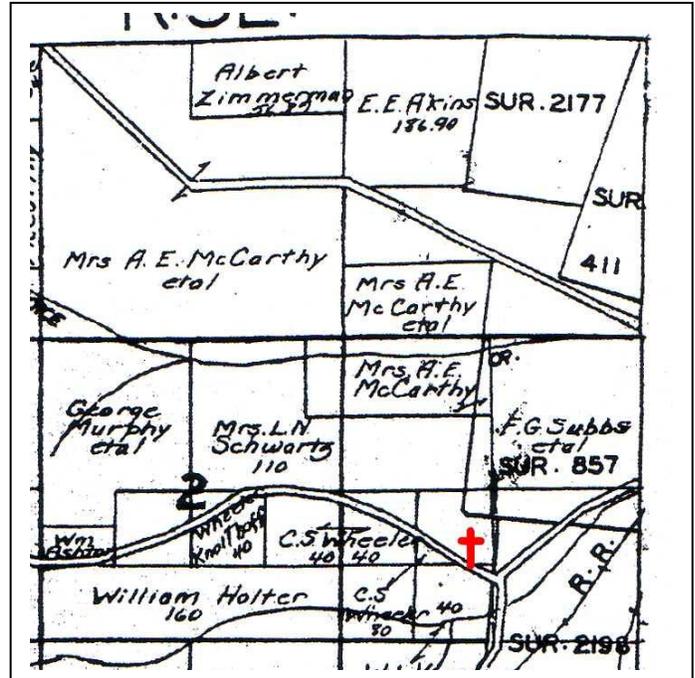
By 1898, Adam H. Fisher owns the land.

(Again, I have added the red cross to denote the location of this cemetery)

Wheeler Cemetery

Finally, on the incomplete 1930 Atlas can be seen Charles S. Wheeler owns 160 Acres of land including where the cemetery is located.

(And again the red cross to denote the location of this cemetery.)



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