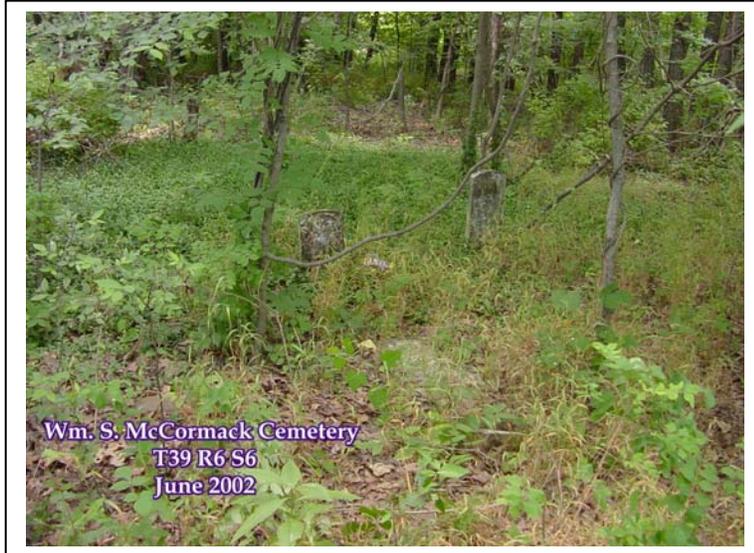


Wm. S. McCormack Cemetery

By Dave Hallemann



This overgrown family plot, is located in T39 R6 S6 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

38° 7' 4" N / 90° 23' 44" E

The family cemetery is named for William S. McCormack. He was a Postmaster for the town of Plattin in the 1880s.

The tract of land the cemetery is located on was first entered into record as Original Land Deed #23566 issued to Mitchell McCormack, for 321.44 acres, on 15th January 1856 for the “West fractional $\frac{1}{2}$ and the West

$\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6 in Township 39 Range 6...”

This tract on which the cemetery is located atop a hill on the property line, is a very historic tract as will be seen in the following documents. Also there seems to be some confusion on the property line, as I *believe*, Wm. McCormack placed his cemetery just across the property line. As can be seen on the 1876 Map, this cemetery sits just west of the home on the Wm. S. McCormack property. Many property owners only guessed at the location of the property line, later when surveys were completed the line may have moved from a few feet to quite some distance. If I am correct in this case, Wm. McCormack thought he was burying on his property in Section 5 however the cemetery was in fact located in Section 6.

In the Original Entries Book 2 located in the Jefferson County Recorder of Deeds Office, we find that Mitchell McCormack first entered this tract as Certificate # 23,566, recorded on November 25th, 1854.

On September 21st, 1866, after having the land for almost 12 years, Mitchell McCormack and his wife Harriet, convey to John L. Marsh of Livingston County, State of Illinois, for the sum of \$20,000.⁰⁰, “...the W fractional $\frac{1}{2}$ & W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7 and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6, Township 39 Range 6, and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Survey 2138, confirmed to Humphrey Gibson Jr., containing in all 481.⁴⁸ acres, more or less, according to the original survey being the same land known as the *McCormack Lead Mines...*”, recorded in Book W at Page 490.

The land now goes through some various buying and selling of interest with John L. Marsh retaining primary ownership. In a deed recorded on June 19th, 1876 John’s wife is listed

as Elizabeth G., then in deed dated February 20th, 1896, recorded in Book 44 at Page 185, John L. Marsh and his wife *Cecil L.*, of Livingston Co., Illinois, and Carrie M. Fleming and her husband Clifford B. of Los Angeles, California, sell to S. T. Waggener and B. C. Berry, for \$5000.⁰⁰, "...70 acres of the S end of Survey 1885 & all of Survey 1856 containing 640 +/- acres; Lots 2,3,4 NW ¼ of Section 5, Lots 3,4 of the NE ¼ of Section 6, and *the SE ¼ of Section 6*; and the W fractional ½ of the W ½ of the NE ¼, the NE ¼ of the NE ¼, and N ½ SE ¼ Section 7, all in T39 R6 containing in all 1388.⁹⁶ +/- acres..."

Last in deed recorded on January 11th, 1911, in Book 70 at Page 201, S. T. Waggener and his wife Ellen; R. F. Berry and his wife Nellie; and Marie F. Berry a single woman, all of Jefferson County, convey to Burdette W. McCormack, for \$1.⁰⁰, "... part of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ Section 6 T39 R6...Beginning on the east line of the Section 6 at a post set 4 chains and 95 links N of the SE corner of Section 6; thence west 62 links, thence N 100 links; thence E 62 links to section line; thence along section line to place of beginning and containing in all (.06) six hundredths of an acre. ***For use only as a cemetery***"

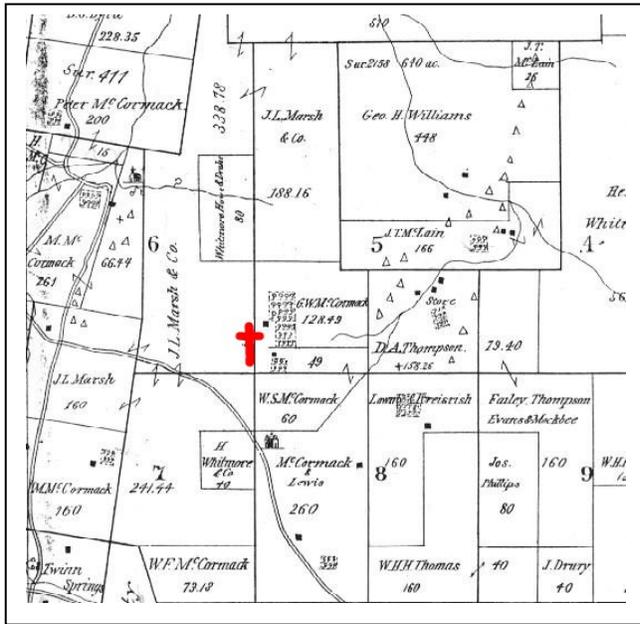
William S. McCormack's probate record # 3186 reveals that Wm. died *about* March 4th, 1907. Heirs were Josephine C., wife, Jefferson County; Lillium K., son, St. Louis; Mrs. Lucy Hamel, daughter, St. Louis; Mrs. Emma Williams, daughter, St. Louis; Burdette, son, Jefferson County. Josephine C. and Burdette were administrators of the estate. Festus Furniture and Undertaking Co. submitted a bill for \$119.⁰⁰ for; 1 couch casket, \$75.⁰⁰; metal lined box, \$35.⁰⁰; 1 burial robe, \$9.⁰⁰.

From McCormack-McMullin Reunion book, "...Mrs. Josephine McCormack died April 1, 1909. She was Josephine Scaggs and was raised on the Isle Au Bois. She was married to William McCormack (Uncle Will as everyone called him) many years ago. She was a consecrated Christian and a member of the Baptist Church since childhood..."

In 1905 William began dividing up his property and deeding it to his various children. The main farm complex he and his wife Josephine deeded to B. W. (*probably Burdette*) McCormack, "...N ½ of the NW ¼ & NE part of the S ½ of the NW ¼ section 8 containing 102 acres, and S ¾ of the S ½ of the SW ¼ of section 5 containing 60 acres..." William and Josephine kept a life estate from the above tract. This deed dated April 29th, 1905, recorded in Book 64 Page 441.

It is unknown if the burial site for both William S. and Josephine C are in this cemetery, as no monuments were found. I could not find any other record of their burial.

The 1880 census show Wm. S., 42 years old, farmer; Josephine, wife, 41 years old, keeping house; Lillium, son, 16 years old, works on farm; Lucy, daughter, 14 years old, at home; Emma, daughter, 12 years old, at home; and Burdett, son, 6 years old.



As can be seen in the picture at left, in 1876 J. L. Marsh & Co. own the property with W. S. McCormack owning the land adjoining the cemetery on the east.

I feel that a mistake was made and the burials were placed across the line on the Marsh tract.

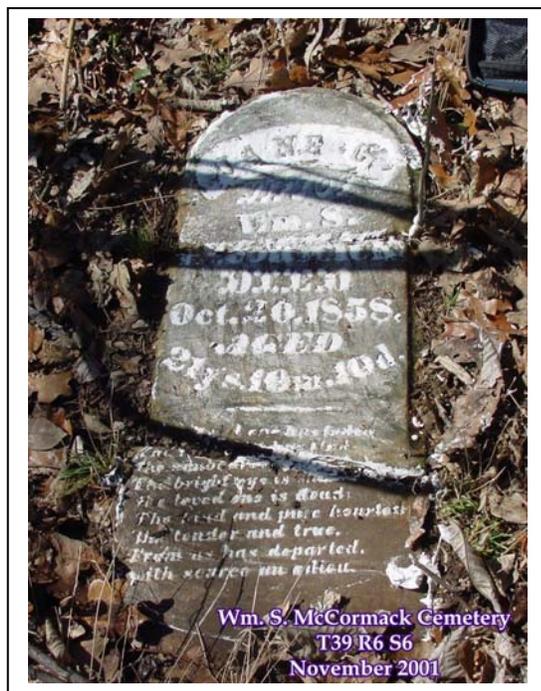
As can be seen, the triangles denote mines.

In 1898 the property where the cemetery sits is now in the possession of Berry & Waggoner as shown by the map at right.

Note the Wm. S. McCormack property to the east of the cemetery with his residence just south in section 5. Platin School just south of the residence.



The following pictures are of the monuments in this cemetery. The clarity of the lettering on the photographs is due the “shaving cream” method.



Jane C.

Wife of
Wm. S.
McCormack

Died
October 20, 1858

Aged
21 yrs. 10 m. 10 d.

“???...the bright eye ??? of the loved one is dead, the good and pure heart (so?) tender and true, from us has departed with scarce an adieu.””

Footstone JCM

(F or P?)erdie S.

Son of
W^m. S. & J. C.

McCormack

Died
May 23rd, 1864

Aged
1 yr. 9 ms. 1 dy.

Sleep on sweet babe and take thy rest, God called thee home he thought it best.

(J. C. listed here, as wife, is probably Josephine C., as Jane C. had passed in 1858)





Infant

Son of
L. K. & M. S.
McCormack

Born
April 23rd, 1895
Died
July 13th, 1895

Rose Bud in Circle with "To Bloom in Heaven" at top

Hope looks beyond the bounds of time, When what we deplore shall rise to full mortal prime, and bloom to fade no more.

(L. K. could be Lillium K., son of Wm.)

Essie A.

Daughter of
L. L. & M. B. Lewis

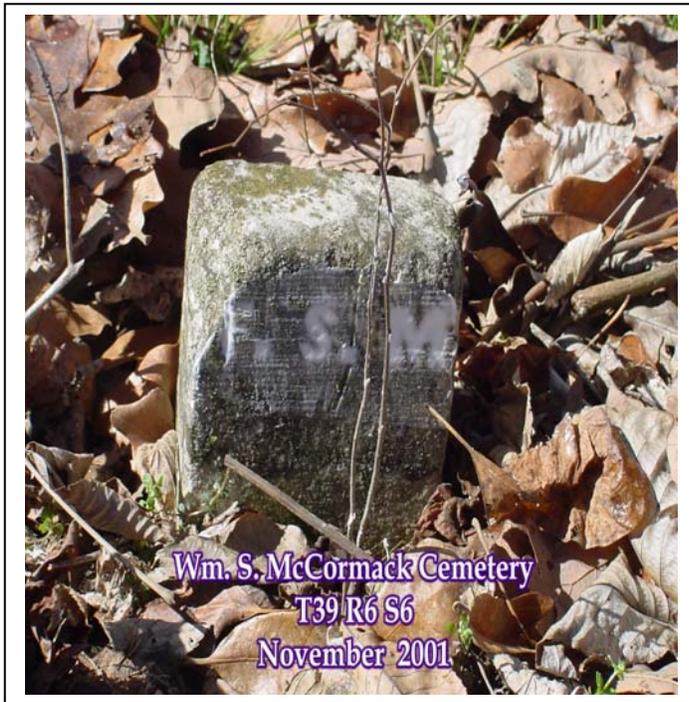
Born
January 16th, 1875

Died
March 8th, 1876

Circle at top with unrecognized design

(The 1876 Atlas above shows McCormack and Lewis as owning the land just to the south in section 8.)

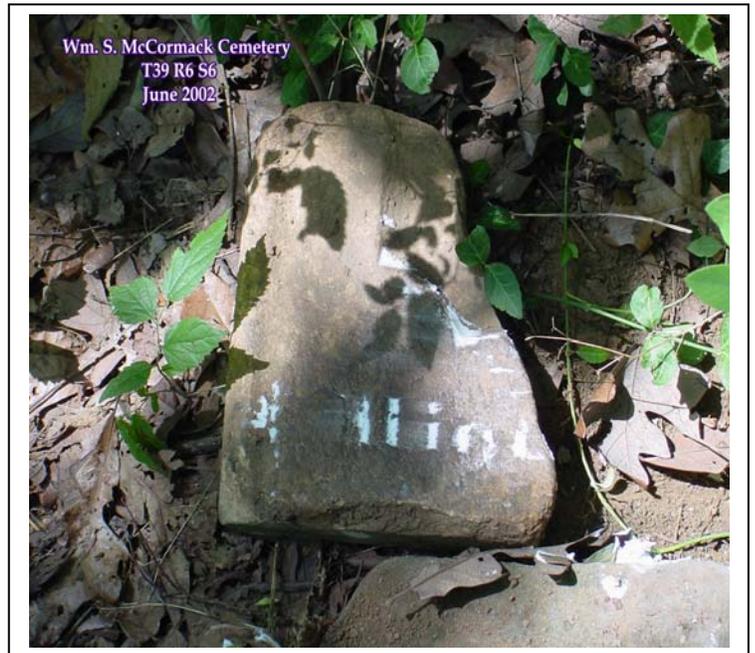




F. S. M.

Footstone with no headstone.

On a revisit in June of 2002 while doing some gentle probing I can across this piece of an unreadable broken monument. It was located at the head the of FSM footstone.



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