

O'Hara Cemetery

By Dave Hallemann



This overgrown cemetery with its broken monuments and fieldstones is located in T40 R5 S23 Survey 1996 on the southern survey line.

38° 10' 33" N / 90° 26' 6" E

Jerry McKee, Becky Gagnon, Chris Payne, and Dave Hallemann, of the Jefferson County Historical Society, recorded this cemetery on 7th of July 2000.

This cemetery had no name associated with it. I have named it O'Hara Cemetery as Monroe O'Hara "excepted" it out of a tract that was deeded to him by Armstrong & Amelia O'Hara,

(could be his parents), and we know Amelia is buried there. It is part of U. S. Survey 1996, which was granted to John Sturgis' Heirs, containing 640 acres with Buck Creek running through it.

The first record I came across was recorded on October 5th, 1831 in book C at page 419, from Chauncey Smith to Ezekiel Dugan and wife Margaret, "...the south part of U. S. survey 1996..."

Next in book L page 494 we find that "...John E. Foster and wife Amelia (Smith) daughter of Mrs. S(?) Sanders of Monroe County, Ill. conveyed to said Amelia by Richard Smith Administrator of the estate of Chauncey Smith, deceased, and attorney in fact for his heirs was acquired by Ezekiel Dugan and wife Margaret..." , sell the tract to Isham Williams .

The tract was next sold to Thomas Fletcher by Isham Williams for \$100.⁰⁰ as recorded in book L page 506, on September 2nd, 1853.

Thomas Fletcher and his wife M. Clara then sell the property to Joshua L. Goza for \$200.⁰⁰, on March 26th, 1857.

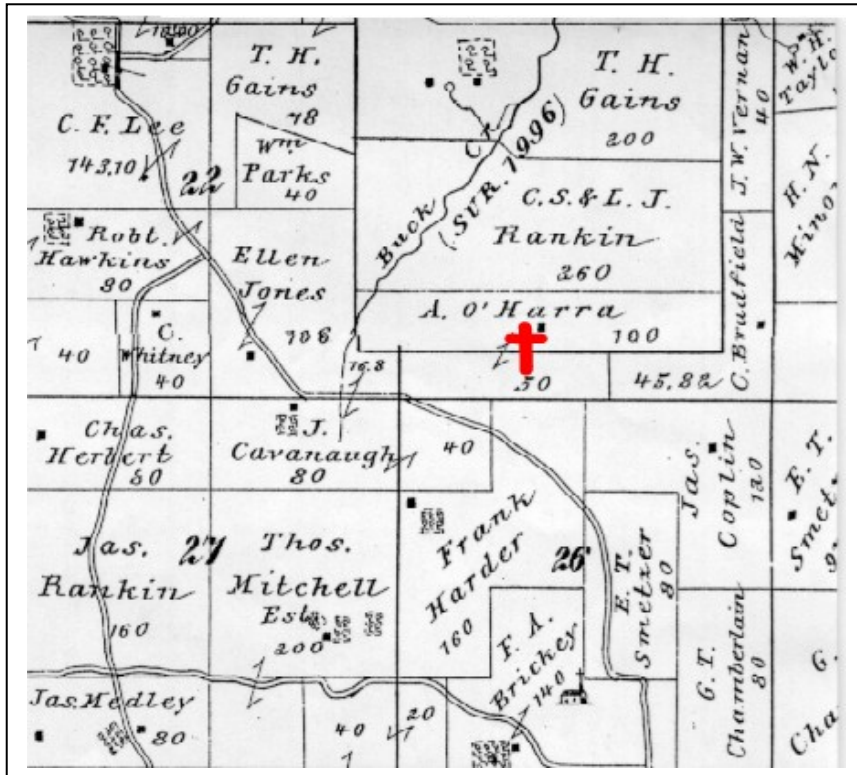
Joshua L. Goza and wife Malinda, quit claim deed the property to Armstrong O'Hara, on December 14th, 1866, as recorded in book W page 787.

In a deed recorded on March 8th, 1880, in Book 17 Page 91 Armstrong O'Hara and his wife Amelia transfer ownership of the property to Monroe O'Hara, for \$800.⁰⁰, "All that part in survey 1996...containing 120 acres...also 50 acres in fractional S½ of section 23..."

By 1883 Monroe, a single person, had moved to Oregon and sold the Missouri property to Jeremiah Kavanaugh for \$300.⁰⁰, as recorded in Book 24 Page 98.

Before selling the property, on January 6th, 1883, as recorded in Book 22 Page 616, Monroe O'Hara, a single person, on Jackson County, Oregon sell to the *County Court* of Jefferson County for the sum of \$5.⁰⁰. "All that tract of land in T40 R5 as follows; beginning at a stone corner on the southern boundary line of U. S. Survey 1996, thence North 8 rods to a stone

corner, thence West 10 rods to a stone corner, thence south 8 rods to a stone corner, thence East 10 rods to place of beginning containing ½ acre for the sole use and purpose of a *public graveyard.*"



As can be seen in the picture at left, in 1876 A. (Armstrong) O'Harra (misspelled should be O'Hara) is now in possession of the property. The cross I added to the photo.

By 1898 George A. Ditch has become owner of this tract. As before I added the cross to show location.



The following persons are listed on the stones in this cemetery;



In
Memory Of
Amelia O'Hara
Born
In Kanawha County, West Virginia
April 11th, 1804
Died
April 8th, 1881

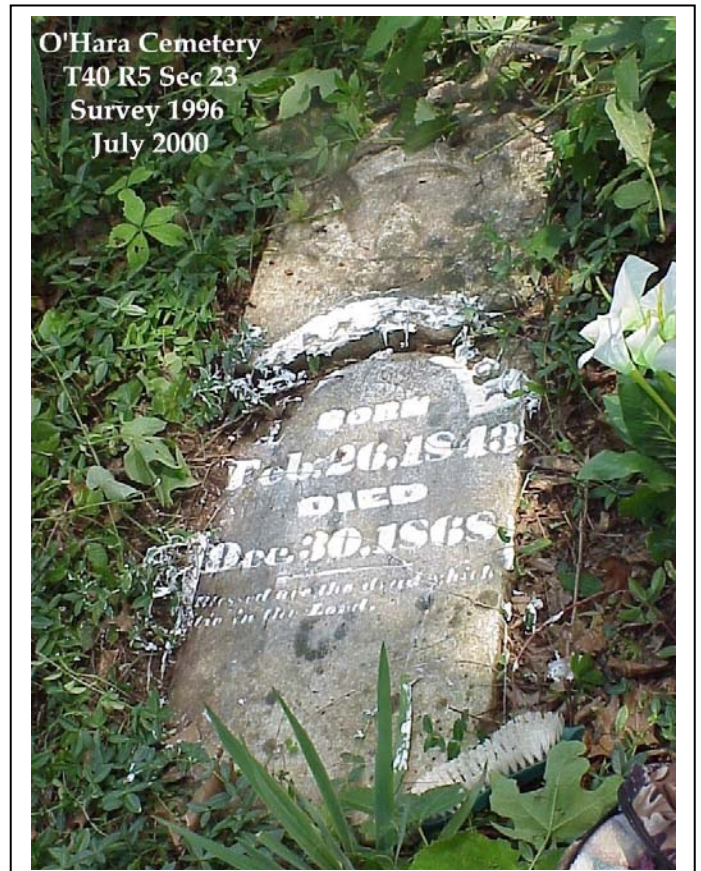
*Tree of Life or Weeping Willow at top of
stone*

As can be seen the name this monument at right, was impossible to read, however *from the property owner* we have this information. This is could be Cook as Thomas S. Cook and wife Sarah sold some of the property, in a nearby section, to Armstrong O'Hara.

Susan ?(C)ook

Born
February 26th, 1843
Died
December 30th, 1868

*Blessed are the dead which lie in the Lord
Praying hands point toward sky on top of stone.*





As can be seen, the name on this broken monument was missing, however *from the property owner* we have this information,

E. Hirsh

Died
October 22nd, 1887

Gone but not forgotten

From Death Records, Jefferson County Missouri, 1883-1892, published by the Jefferson County Genealogical Society;
Zack, James Edward, d. 13 March 1885, M, 28 days, buried O'Hara Cemetery
Zack, ____, 9 January 1886, M, 1 day, buried O'Hara Cemetery

*Copyright © 2000 Dave Hallemann
This article may be distributed in any form as long as there
is no fee charged, it is transferred in its entirety, and the author is given credit.*