

SYMMES TOWNSHIP, HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS



UNION CEMETERY

KERR CEMETERY

WALDSCHMIDT CEMETERY

Effective January 1, 2014

VISITATION

1. Visitors to our cemeteries are welcome. Every courtesy will be extended to cemetery visitors who conduct themselves with appropriate decorum. Please remember that a cemetery is the last resting place of the departed, and the dignity and tranquility of the cemetery must be preserved and protected.
2. Children must be at all times under immediate and strict adult supervision. Children are not permitted to play on cemetery grounds.
3. Pet animals are not permitted in the cemeteries unless they remain confined within the owner's vehicle. The only exception to this rule is animals used to assist visual or hearing-impaired persons.
4. Visitors must enter and exit the cemeteries only through the gates designated for those purposes.
5. No person is allowed to drive, ride or park on any part of the cemetery grounds except on roadways provided. Bicycles and motorcycles are not permitted. The speed limit is 10 mph.
6. Refuse receptacles are provided and so marked for visitors to discard and deposit trash. Your cooperation is respectfully requested in helping to keep the cemetery neat and clean.
7. Absent permission of the Cemetery Sexton, visitors are prohibited from removing flowers, decorations, or other objects from graves other than those of their relatives.
8. All persons are prohibited from plucking any flowers (either wild or cultivated), breaking or injuring any tree, plant, or shrub. All persons are prohibited from defacing or breaking any monument, vault or other structure.
9. The Township is not responsible for any accident which may occur on Township cemetery property. Persons within the Cemetery should exercise caution while walking over the grounds because of irregularities in grading.

PURCHASE OF GRAVES

1. Available cemetery graves may be purchased at 9323 Union Cemetery Road during normal office hours. Purchase of a deed to a grave is not a real estate purchase, but simply a right to bury someone in the cemetery. All land in the cemetery remains the property of Symmes Township.
2. Prices are listed on the Rate Schedule and are subject to change.
3. Residents may purchase up to four graves at Resident rate. Over four will be at non-resident rate. A resident is not permitted to purchase a grave at a resident rate for a non-resident. A non-resident is anyone not residing in Symmes Township.
4. After the purchase of an initial grave, additional grave(s) may be reserved without payment for up to three months.

5. Any lot owner may grant permission, by written order, for the burial of other than immediate family members in his/her lot.
6. Cornerstones are required on two or more graves. They will reflect the owner's initials and lot number and will be set level with the ground.
7. Control of graves may be transferred to the heirs of the deceased, but for continuance of ownership, the heir that has the deed in his or her possession controls the use of the graves. At all times the records maintained by the Township are binding, unless the Board of Trustees determines otherwise.
8. Upon the death of the recorded owner, the control of the unused or undesignated grave(s) shall go to the legally designated beneficiary(s). Proof that a person is the legally designated beneficiary will need to be provided to the Township in a reasonably satisfactory form. If there is no beneficiary, it will follow the natural order of spouse, to children to parents.
9. The Township may, at its discretion, repurchase grave space at the original purchase price, or on such other terms as the Board may approve.

BURIALS

1. A "Burial-Transit Permit" for the deceased person must be provided by the funeral home. The Township may require the lot owner to sign a "Permit for Burial".
2. Funeral arrangements must be coordinated through the Township Office. The Township must be notified a minimum of twenty-four hours before interment. Phone# 683-6644.
3. Interments are done Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No arrivals will be permitted after these times. No funerals allowed on Sundays, holidays or holiday weekends.
4. Charges for services are shown on the Rate Schedule and are subject to change. All charges must be paid at time of interment. No burial will be allowed until the purchase price of the grave and all other fees are paid, except with the approval of the Cemetery Sexton.
5. All interments must be placed in a concrete vault (one piece lid is required). The Township requests the use of top-seal vaults. The size of the container shall not exceed the dimensions of the grave. No "Wilbert-way" set up shall be permitted. Any additional charge associated with a "Batesville" vault set-up shall be the responsibility of the arranging party. The funeral home and Vault Company shall be responsible for the function and safety of this set-up.
6. All inurnments must be placed in a concrete vault deemed acceptable by the Cemetery Sexton. The cost of the concrete vault is included in the opening and closing fee.

7. Only Township employees under the supervision of the Cemetery Sexton are allowed to dig graves.
8. One cremation may be buried in one grave or one full-size grave can hold up to two (2) containers of ashes. Once cremation may also be buried in an occupied grave.
9. The cemetery personnel shall exercise due care in making a disinterment, but shall assume no liability for the damage to any casket, outer container or their contents incurred while making the disinterment or removal.
10. Burial markers are required for all persons buried in Township cemeteries effective January 1, 2014. A deposit of \$250.00 will be charged to ensure that a marker is provided within twelve (12) months after the burial. The deposit can be used toward the foundation charge. If no marker is purchased by the family, this deposit will be used by the Township for a grave marker.
11. Please refer to the "Specific Rules" for the inurnment of cremains within the Columbarium and Memorial Garden.

FOUNDATIONS/MARKERS

1. The cost of a foundation is shown on the Rate Schedule and is subject to change. Payment must be made at the time of order.
2. Foundations must be installed by Township employees. Foundations are placed in line to conform to existing markers. Position and direction of face is to conform to the section in which is located. It is the responsibility of the lot owner or their agent to check with the cemetery as to the proper size and location of the marker.
3. Foundations for new graves are not poured until six (6) months after the burial to allow the ground to settle. Foundations for established graves are poured periodically based on scheduling conditions.
4. Absent the permission of the Cemetery Sexton, no broken or defaced markers will be erected.
5. All grave markers must be commercially marketed.
6. All grave markers must fit the lot or single grave(s) in which they are intended. It is the responsibility of the purchaser or their agent to check with the Cemetery Sexton as to the proper size and location.
7. Vases or urns are allowed upon permission of the Cemetery Sexton. A foundation is required. In ground vases are not permitted in the Double Vault section.
8. The Township is not responsible for damage to monuments, markers, or stones in the cemeteries caused by the ordinary care of neither the cemeteries nor any other accident which may occur on cemetery property.
9. The hauling of monuments or other heavy hauling over the avenues of the cemetery must not exceed a load limit of five (5) tons without permission.

10. All foundations are poured with four (4") inches added to both the length and width. The foundation fee is figured on this adjustment measurement. (For example, the fee for a 12X24 marker would be based on 16X28 dimension) No marker will be permitted in the cemetery without this four (4") inch border. Any new marker installed will be removed until this requirement is met.
11. Markers for the Double Vault section cannot exceed 20X44 in size.
12. Foundations are installed without charge for veterans whose grave stone (or marker) has been provided by the Federal Government. A fee of \$50.00 will be charged for installation of a veteran's marker which has been pre-mounted by an outside vendor.
13. Any inscriptions on a grave marker or monument shall be tasteful and not offensive. The Township reserves the right to reject any such offensive or obscene monument, marker or inscription.

DECORATIONS

1. No planting or any vegetation (flowers or shrubs) is permitted on graves.
2. Funeral flowers will be removed five (5) days after the funeral. Holiday decorations will be removed five (5) days after the Holiday except those placed on monuments or in monument vases. Flowers and other decorations placed on graves are periodically removed for grass mowing and other maintenance. All ground decorations will be removed annually after March 15 in preparation for the first mowing.
3. Arrangements designed for attachment to markers are permissible, but shall be removed without notice when they detract from the general appearance of the cemetery.
4. Boxes, shells, toys, bric-a-brac, and similar objects placed on graves are inconsistent with the proper keeping of the grounds and are not permitted and shall be removed without notice.
5. Glass containers, shepherd rods (hooks), whirligigs, trellises, fencing, etc. are not permitted and shall be removed without notice.
6. The Township reserves the right to prevent the placement of any floral designs, structures, and objects of any kind in the cemetery, if in the judgement of the Cemetery Sexton, they shall be deemed injurious to the general good appearance and maintenance.
7. The Township does not assume responsibility for flowers or other decorations on a grave site within the cemetery. Flowers and decorations must be maintained by the person(s) placing them.
8. Items of food left on a grave shall not be permitted and shall be removed without notice.

9. No decorations shall impede on any other grave, lot, or access area.

BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS

1. Bequests and donations may be made to the Cemetery Bequest Fund. Additional information is available at the Township Office.

MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

1. Cemetery maintenance work and other related labor may be performed only by Township employees or by duly authorized outside contractors. All maintenance work is performed under the supervision of the Cemetery Sexton.
2. The Township shall have the right to remove any tree or shrub situated on any lot that is deemed to be dangerous, detrimental or inconvenient, provided the owner shall first have due notice if possible to locate the owner.
3. Employees of the Township are charged with the responsibility of enforcing cemetery rules and regulations.
4. Anyone violating the cemetery rules and regulations contained herein is subject to loss of visitation privileges and to legal prosecution.
5. Symmes Township shall endeavor to keep the cemetery grounds secure to every extent practical but the Board, any employee or any other agent of the Township shall not be responsible for any items that are stolen or vandalized, other than property owned by Symmes Township.
6. In the event that a Symmes Township employee or agent damages a grave marker or monument, Symmes Township will repair the damage. However, Symmes Township will not be responsible for any article placed at a gravesite, or within the cemetery that is not a grave marker or monument established or associated with the gravesite.
7. Any item placed in the cemetery that is inconsistent with these rules and regulations, or that has not been approved by the Board shall be removed without notice. No signs, notices or advertising of any kind shall be allowed within the Cemetery except those placed by the Township.
8. It shall be unlawful for a person to engage in the activity of geocaching and letterboxing on cemetery grounds.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

In 2003, the Symmes Township Trustees established a Memorial Garden in Union Cemetery to provide another alternative for memorializing cremation. The cremation scattering garden is surrounded by a ground cover garden of purple winter creeper and includes a granite monolith to which individual name plaques are placed. The adopted

Cemetery Rules and Regulations apply to the Memorial Garden as well as the following specific rules:

1. The use of the garden can be arranged as either a pre-need or at-need service.
2. A memorial garden purchase agreement will be issued.
3. A Certificate of Cremation must be provided at the time of scattering. The Township further requires that "Cremated Remains Scattering Authorization" and "Certificate for the Scattering of Cremated Remains" be completed. These two forms will be provided by Township personnel.
4. The cost of the Memorial Garden includes the scattering and an identification plaque on the monolith.
5. The identification plaque shall include the name and date of the deceased and will be uniform in style.
6. The identification plaque will not be ordered or installed until the person is deceased.
7. Decorations are permitted in the designated areas only and are not permitted in the cremation scattering area and shall be removed without notice.
8. Decorations will be periodically removed for cemetery maintenance or when said decorations detract from the general appearance of the cemetery. Glass, pottery, or metal containers, or stands are not allowed at any time.
9. The memorializing of cremains must be under the supervision of Township personnel.
10. The memorializing of cremains will be permitted Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Overtime fees apply to arrivals after the scheduled time – no exceptions. No memorializing will be allowed on Sundays, Holidays or Holiday weekends.

COLUMBARIUM

In 2003, the Symmes Township Trustees erected a columbarium in Union Cemetery. This columbarium was established in order to provide an alternative method of burial for cremation. The adopted Cemetery Rules and Regulations apply to the Columbarium as well as the following specific rules:

1. The following definitions are included to provide clarification of terminology:
2. A maximum of two (2) cremains will be allowed per niche.
3. All cremains must be contained within a suitable container as determined by the Cemetery Sexton.
4. Inurnments are done Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Overtime fees apply to arrivals after the scheduled

time – no exceptions. No inurnments will be allowed on Sundays, Holidays or Holiday weekends.

5. All inscriptions on the columbarium will be performed by Township Personnel or a designated agent. Said inscriptions will be uniform in style. No other inscriptions or decorations of the visible surface of the columbarium will be permitted.
6. Decorations are permitted in the designated areas only.
7. All decorations placed by the columbarium must be tagged with the name of the entombed person on an appropriate tag. Only one decoration per entombment will be permitted. Glass, pottery, or metal containers, or stands are not allowed at any time. Decorations will be periodically removed for maintenance or when said decorations detract from the general appearance of the cemetery.
8. Placing of items using tape, glue stickers or wires is strictly prohibited.
9. The Township may, in its discretion, repurchase a niche at the original purchase price, less an appropriate service charge as determined by the Board of Trustees, or such other terms as the Board may approve.

OPERATION

The cemeteries are operated by the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, under the direction of the Cemetery Sexton. They are operated in conformance with the laws of the State of Ohio, and in accordance with the appropriate principles of good conduct which the Trustees believe should govern the operation of cemeteries.

Cemetery records are maintained at the Township Administration Building, 9323 Union Cemetery Road. Information and assistance regarding burials, deeds, transfers, etc. is available at this office (Phone# 683-6644). Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays). Cemetery personnel can always be reached in an emergency by contacting 677-7000. Cemetery visitation hours are from sunrise to sunset. Any person found on cemetery grounds after closing time will be considered a trespasser.

Any violations of these rules are subject to a penalty consistent with the Ohio Revised Code.

The Township reserves and shall have the right to correct any errors made by the Township employees in making interments, inurnments, disinterment or removals, memorial work, or other related cemetery work. In the event any burial is made in a grave other than the grave in which such remains should have been placed, whether through fault of the Township or otherwise, the Township shall have the right to disinter and transfer such remains to the grave in which they should have been placed.

HISTORY

Symmes Township owns and maintains three historic cemeteries:

UNION CEMETERY – Montgomery Rd and Union Cemetery Road; this cemetery contains graves dating back to the early 19th century, although it has been operated as a Township cemetery only since 1861. Among the historic gravesites is that of Jeremiah Morrow, Governor of Ohio from 1822-1826.

KERR CEMETERY – Lebanon Road

WALDENSCHMIDT CEMETERY – Route 126 in Camp Dennison; this cemetery contains graves dating back to the American Revolutionary War.