

# GREENWOOD CEMETERY'S VETERANS' PARKS AND SPECIAL BURIAL SITES

Over the years the Cemetery Board and various veterans' groups have dedicated certain areas to honor the veterans, both men and women, who have gone to war to protect our freedom. The cemetery was founded in 1875, and the first park, the G.A.R. Circle, was dedicated sometime prior to the turn of the century. Since then, other parks have been dedicated as places to memorialize veterans, both in granite monuments and in our thoughts as we pause to remember those who gave so much to fight for the greater good of all.

## CANNON PARK (ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS THE G.A.R. CIRCLE)

The first mention of this park is in an 1889 dedication of a memorial to the "unknown dead" of the Civil War.



The above monument was donated by the Women's Relief Corp (W.R.C.) to honor the veterans of the Civil War but especially the unknown dead. Lelia Rowan, a wife of a Civil War veteran and a representative of the W.R.C. said in a dedicatory speech on May 30, 1889, that the monument was dedicated "to the memory of these who lie scattered all over the south, quietly, peacefully sleeping under the southern pines,

where war or rumors of war will never more disturb their peace...”<sup>1</sup> The W.R.C. was the auxiliary to the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic). Their efforts were to honor the Civil War veterans and to assist the less fortunate veterans with financial aid and food supplies. Petoskey had a very active G.A.R. chapter (The Lombard Post) and also a very active W.R.C.



The cannon was sent to Petoskey in 1897, the same year the cemetery was incorporated as the municipal cemetery for the City of Petoskey, Resort Township and Bear Creek Township. Instead of the park being for veterans in general it was a park specifically to commemorate the veterans who fought in the Mexican-American and Civil Wars. The Spanish-American War, which took place in 1898, had not been fought at the time of the park's inception.

According to the following information the Cannon was donated through the G.A.R.:

July 5, 1999

Dear Mr. Crawford:

I recently visited the Greenwood Cemetery in Petoskey and was impressed with the care and upkeep of the grounds. I was especially grateful for the care of the Civil War cannon and memorial in the center of the cemetery.

The Memorial Cannon in your cemetery is part of nearly 12,000 that were donated by the U.S. Government, between 1872 and 1916, to local posts of the GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC (G.A.R.) and other patriotic groups for the purpose of display as a veterans' war memorial. They were formally dedicated, by surviving veterans, to serve as "silent-sentinels," in tribute to the memory of all who served and sacrificed

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1 Lelia Rowan's speech, in its entirety, may be found at the end of this chapter.

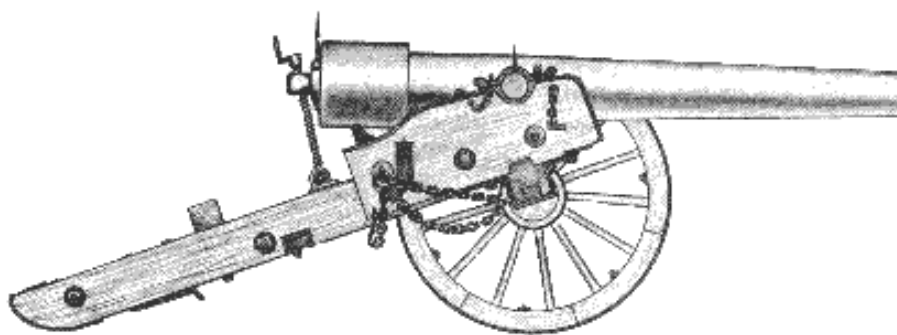
during the American Civil War. In case you are not already aware, we have the G.A.R. to thank for our national observance of Memorial Day, which they initiated on May 30, 1868. Since then, countless communities have traditionally held their tribute to veterans (of ALL eras), near their Civil War Monument. Therefore, these memorials are tied to a community's cultural heritage, as well as its historical heritage.

Unfortunately, less than half remain of all the cannon that were originally dedicated as veterans' memorials. It's estimated that only 5,467 of these cannon survived the "scrap-metal drives" of World Wars I and II. Therefore, the historical value of these cannon and the special significance of the memorial in your cemetery is multiplied.

Records indicate that on November 10, 1897, the U.S. Government granted (from the New York Arsenal) one 30-pounder (4.2") Parrott Rifle to the Lombard Post #170 of the G.A.R. in Petoskey, Michigan, for memorial display. They in turn donated the cannon to the Greenwood Cemetery.

As the successor organization of the G.A.R., the SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR (SUVCW) is proud to maintain their traditions. With your help, we will also be proud to see that the Memorial Cannon in your cemetery is protected and preserved for the education and appreciation of future generations.

Respectfully,  
Douglas R. Armstrong, Chairman  
Department of Michigan Civil War Memorials Committee  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



**Parrott Rifle ~ 30-Pounder  
(Shown on a Siege Carriage)**  
Bore Diameter—4.2"  
Tube Length—11' 4"  
Tube Weight—4,200 pounds  
Projectile Weight—29 pounds  
Powder Charge Weight—3.75 pounds  
Range—2,200 yards



## G.A.R. LOTS

The Lombard Post #170 of the G.A.R. purchased lots in various locations in the cemetery for the use of Civil War veterans who did not have a family lot to be interred on. I am not sure what the requirements or restrictions were for a person to be interred on one of these lots, but I think it shows the patriotism and camaraderie of these veterans of a common war. They purchased a total of 53 grave spaces, which would be enough for more than a quarter of the Civil War veterans buried in Greenwood. Not all of the lots were used, and in 1935, 36 of the spaces were returned to the cemetery to be re-sold. Petoskey's last Civil War veteran died in 1940.

The graves are marked with the standard military marker that shows the name, rank and unit of the veteran. Few of the markers show the date of birth or the date of death, but this is typical of that era.



G.A.R. Plot, Block 56



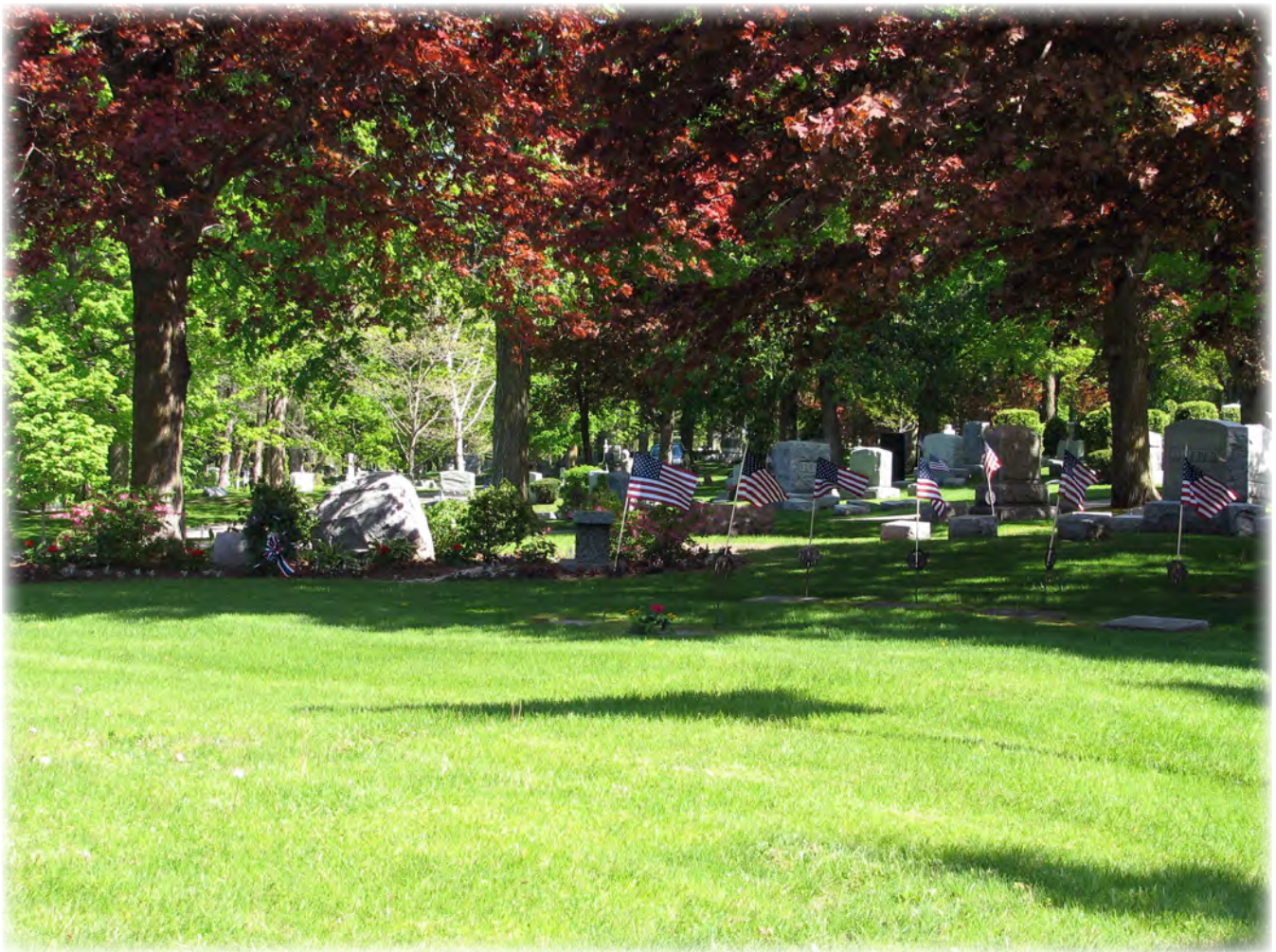
## AMERICAN LEGION PARK

This park is a World War II era park. It is designated for those who died overseas and whose bodies were never returned to this country. It is my understanding that some of the memorials are for men buried in cemeteries in a foreign country and other memorials are for men whose bodies were never found. Markers have been added here since the war, and families still place flowers in the summer—66 years after the close of the war.

The rules establishing this park were set down on October 30, 1946.

Special meeting of the Trustees of Greenwood Cemetery.

Resolved, that a plot in Greenwood Cemetery be set aside and used as a Veterans' Memorial Park. This park to be used as a place for the erection of memorial markers for veterans who died in the service of



American Legion Park

our country in time of war who are not buried in the United States. This resolution constitutes the right of use as stated and is subject to the rules of the Cemetery Board.

Wm. Martz, President  
Chalmers Curtis, Treasurer  
Charles F. Henika, Secretary  
John P. Barney, Trustee

Rules governing the American Legion Memorial Park in Greenwood Cemetery:

1. Markers of uniform approved size and material may be set in the Park provided no burial has been made in any cemetery in the United States.
2. Markers must be 24 inches long by 12 inches wide set so the top of the stone is not more than 4 inches above the surface. The marker shall be gray granite either purchased privately or secured from the U. S. Government. The working to be simple, to-wit - Rank, name and dates and where died.
3. The care and supervision of the Park shall be governed by the Board of Trustees. All landscaping and placing of markers must receive their approval.

On Memorial Day, May 30, 1947, there was an acceptance ceremony held at the park, dedicating this park in perpetuity to the memory of all the veterans who died in World War II and specifically to the local men who died overseas but whose bodies were not returned.

Introduction: Mayor Perry  
Presentation: Mr. Curtis  
Acceptance: Com. Gilman

The Carl O. Weaver Post is deeply grateful to the people of this community and to the trustees of the Greenwood Cemetery Board for this Park, set aside to perpetuate the memory of our fallen heroes. In their behalf I humbly accept it.

Members of the Carl O. Weaver Post No. 194, Department of Michigan, The American Legion, and friends:

We are gathered here today for a grateful and patriotic duty, to dedicate this plot of ground, a perpetual memorial to our comrades who died in their country's service. May we again dedicate our organization and ourselves to the sacred ideals for



Wreath Placed on Memorial Day by the American Legion





which they gave their lives, ever remembering that the American Legion's principal service is for God and Country. The Chaplain will ask the blessing of God upon these ceremonies.

Chaplain: Blessing of Ceremony

In the name of the Carl O. Weaver Post No. 194, Department of Michigan, The American Legion, I now dedicate this memorial. I dedicate it to the memory of those who fell in the service of our Country. Those who gave their lives that Justice, Freedom and Democracy might survive to be the victorious ideals of the people of the world. The lives of those who made the supreme sacrifice are glorious before us; their deeds are an inspiration. As they served America in times of war, yielding their last full measure of devotion, may we serve America in time of Peace.

I dedicate this park, a monument to them, and with it I dedicate this Post to the faithful service of our Country and to the preservation of the memory of those who died that Liberty might live.

As we are here assembled dedicating this quiet little park to those who died in our Country's service, it is fitting that we should also dedicate a memorial within this memorial to one who sleeps on foreign soil, many miles from this, his native land. His sacrifice has made that part of a Pacific Island wherein he lies forever American, and in memory of him, Franklin Harbaugh, Private First Class of the United States Marine Corps, this stone has been erected here in his homeland.

Chaplain: Benediction  
Salute to the dead.

The dedication service was attended by the: Sea Scouts; Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Blue Star Mothers, American Legion Auxiliary, Amvets, DAV, American Legion, VFW, Veterans of the Spanish-American War, members of the Women's Relief Corps, and family members of Franklin Harbaugh. Participants also included a firing squad and a band.

In 1988, the Cemetery and the American Legion chapter of Petoskey took on a project of placing a memorial stone, a bench, a new flagpole and landscaping to continue the tradition of honoring the men and women who fought, and in the case of this park, died for their country.

## TOLL PARK

This park is named in honor of General Isaac DeGraff Toll. General Toll was a distinguished veteran of the Mexican-American War and also a veteran of the Civil War. He donated a piece of property in Petoskey for a veteran's park; when the decision was made to place the park at Greenwood he donated the property for the Lockwood Hospital instead.

This park includes a large monument with the names of veterans who are buried in Greenwood who do not have a marker. Some of them are buried on a family lot but have never had a marker, and others are buried in Greenwood, but we do not know exactly where in the cemetery. This park was established by Greenwood because we believe that everyone's grave should be marked – especially the grave of a veteran.





## VETERANS

There are veterans from numerous wars and those who served in peacetime as well.

War	Years	Veterans
Mexican-American	1846-1848	3
Civil War	1861-1865	200
Spanish American	1898	23
WWI	1917-1918	284
WWII	1941-1945	560
Korean	1950-1953	125
VietNam	1955-1975	46
Persian Gulf	1990-1991	1
Iraq	2003-	2
Peacetime		76
Total		1,320

Not every war has a park dedicated to the memory of those who fought. The Mexican-American War, Spanish-American War, World War I, Korean War, Vietnam, and the Gulf wars do not have an area dedicated to their memory, but each year we take the listing of our veterans to the Cemetery grounds to make sure that each veteran's grave is marked with a flag. Many cemeteries leave their flags out for only a few days after Memorial Day, but we leave ours out until after Labor Day. Throughout the summer my employees straighten the flags and replace broken staffs and torn flags in an effort to honor the veterans.

The only other flags that are allowed in the Cemetery are Michigan State flags and only on the graves of police officers killed in the line of duty. It was a decision of one of the cemetery boards a long time ago to allow flags only on the graves of veterans. When you see a flag in Greenwood Cemetery it is to honor the burial place of a man or woman who offered their life for our country.

I hope that you will take some time next Memorial Day to drive through the Cemetery. Look at the flags that mark the graves of veterans. There are many that have flowers planted by them by loving families, but there are many others that have no flowers and no one to remember them. Maybe you could stop and read their name and say a "thank you" for their time of service.

# THE PETOSKEY RECORD

~ May 30, 1889 ~

## ADDRESS OF MRS. L.M. ROWAN, PRESENTING ON BEHALF OF THE WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS, A MONUMENT TO THE UNKNOWN DEAD.

Commander and comrades of the Col. Lombard Post, In behalf of the Woman's Relief Corps auxiliary to your post, I have the pleasure of presenting you this slight token of our esteem for you, and sympathy with you in all of the exercises of to-day. If our finances had permitted it this column should have been in beauty and value second to none in the state; but we have done what we could feeling assured that the gift would be received by you in the spirit with which it was given; and now we want to say to you that not alone in your hearts are awakened to day, memories of the years gone by. We too are carried back in thought to the days of 01-2-3-4 and 5. We have not forgotten the gathering together of our boys, our husband and fathers, their faces all aglow with patriotism, and with sympathy for a nation in its hour of struggle and great need. We remember well the preparations being made for the going from home of these men who, rather than see the dear old flag trampled upon by the slave holding confederacy were willing to enter the conflict and if need be, die. We remember how the grand true soldier hearts nerved themselves to put aside the ties of home with all its joys and endearments, to look into the faces of wife and mother understanding all too well the sorrows imprinted there, and yet with infinite love for these, in matchless loyalty to their country they did not waver, but scarce had the orator of an assemblage ceased his ever eloquent appeals ere scores of these gallant men and boys ere presenting themselves at the board of enlistment; and amid scenes like these the wild enthusiasm, the cheers and loyal

choruses, there rises before us another, it is the scene of parting; the praying, sorrowing, and sometimes fainting wives and mothers; the sobbing and tears of the loved ones who must remain at home to bear the awful suspense of the coming weeks and months which lengthened into years, and as these thoughts of other days come to us we seem to feel again the mists from the lowering clouds of gloom that gathered all over our beloved land. We seem to see again fathers who hitherto had left no stone unturned that would add to the happiness of their families bidding them along a possibly last farewell. Boys scarcely fifteen years of age; boys whose noble brows all garlanded with genius spake of the great possibilities of a brilliant future, held in the close embrace of mothers whose hearts were breaking; and husbands, brave strong men wipe from their eyes the manly tear, while vainly striving to quell the tumult of sorrow they saw in the faces of wife and children; telling of a speedy home-coming, of a promised furlough, anything that would tend to lessen the awful pain of parting. Scenes like these were at this time transpiring all over our land, for regiments were being mustered in daily, and starting for the field of battle. Some of these "our boys in blue" have returned to us and are here today – thanks to Heavenly Father – are here to tell us of battles lost, of battles won, of tedious marches, of the sickening scenes of prison life. To these our Grand Army boys we would give our warmest love, we would exalt them and hand down from generation the memory of their heroism; and with them to-day



we would pay tribute to our unknown dead; not the dead who were cared for by tender and loving hands; not the dead over whose resting place is reared the shaft of glory, but to those who died uncared for by friends or comrades, who were torn to pieces by shell in the trenches of the forts, who died in the untold agonies of a prison like to Andersonville, where it is said that 12,912 of our soldiers died in less than four months, saying nothing of the thousands who died in the prisons of Georgia and the Caroli-

nas, immediately after their removal from this one. To the memory of these who lie scattered all over the south, quietly, peacefully sleeping under the southern pines, where war or rumors of war will never more disturb their peace, we make this floral offering; and comrades, we feel assured that to-day there is not a loyal heart in all these United States that beats with other sentiments than these: "cheers for the living soldier! tears for the dead!"







Greenwood Cemetery Scattering Garden