

HISTORY OF MAPLE LEAF CEMETERY



John Frostad donated ten acres for the cemetery in 1904. From 1904 to 1930 the cemetery was owned and managed by a group called "The Modern Woodmen of America". Maple Leaf Cemetery was platted and recorded in 1904 by the Modern Woodmen of America.

The first person buried was a baby, M. C. Weidenbach, who died in 1904. The oldest headstone is 1873 for James B. Scott who was disinterred from another cemetery and reburied in Maple Leaf Cemetery.



The large maple tree in the center of the

cemetery was planted in 1906. Theodore Dougliss (grandfather of current Supervisor and former Commissioner Michael Dougliss) and John Frostad cleared the land and planted maple trees along the middle road in 1928.

Ownership was transferred to the Maple Leaf Cemetery Association in 1930. In 1931, the First Addition to Maple Leaf Cemetery was platted and recorded. The Officers of the Association were: President, H. T. Hill; Vice President, C. I. Adams; Secretary, P. O. Custer; Treasurer, Postmaster D. W. Packard. 20 Evergreen, 40 Mountain Ash, and 24 Norway Maple trees were donated by Jack Sullivan, a nurseryman from Everett, and planted in 1931.

The Association on August 26, 1937 dug the first well, near what is now Auvil Road. The total cost was \$147.00.

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COST OF 1937 WELL

Columbia Lumber Co.	Lumber	9.75
Columbia Lumber Co.	Cement & Lime	6.40
Industrial Insurance	Insurance	4.60
Oak Harbor Land Fill	Gravel	6.00
Elliott	Sharping picks	0.75
Joe Arnold	Water Witch	12.00
George Case	Labor	48.00
James Emory	Labor	44.00
James Holeman	Labor	7.00
W. H. Holt	Labor	5.00
J. Riepma	Labor	2.50
H. T. Hill	Labor	1.00
	TOTAL	147.00

The Second Addition to Maple Leaf Cemetery was platted and recorded in 1935.

In 1942, the Association charged \$35.00 for each family lot in the original area, \$20.00 per lot in the Second Addition, and \$100 for single graves to pay for a new water system.

The records indicate that from 1944 to 1956 the group managing the cemetery changed to "Prominent Citizens". That group consisted of C.I. Adams, Harris Custer, Ben Loers, Hank Case, Henry "Couger" Ottesen, and Henry Wickers.

Island County took over the cemetery in 1956. The first Commissioners were Hank Case, Glenn Parson, and George Hanson. They served for twenty years. Currently three elected but unpaid Commissioners of Island County Cemetery District One manage the cemetery. The Cemetery District became a junior taxing district on January 4, 1960.

The block building was built in 1960 as a one-room garage for the equipment and a work area for maintenance at a cost of \$2,300.00.

A second well was dug on January 14, 1963 at a cost of \$1,350.00, which pumped 125 gallons per minute.

In July 1966, Couger Otteson and Hank Case removed the concrete boundaries

from around the family plots to facilitate mowing. On December 12, 1966, two cemetery signs made by Lee Auvil were placed where they are now.

The Navy guns came from Sand Point in 1969 as a result of Couger Ottesen's suggestion to the Navy at Naval Air Station, Whidbey. They had been used as saluting guns at the Naval Air Station Sand Point, Seattle.



On November 10, 1975, the All City Fence Company at a cost of \$4,000.00 put up the chain link fence

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Don Boyer donated the flagpole in 1985. Couger Ottesen with the American Legion providing manpower and Everett Brothers providing the concrete did the installation.

The block building was divided in 1994 by the volunteer work of the three commissioners (George Barton, Michael Dougliss, and Dur Roberson) to provide an office space for the cemetery.

Between 1988 and 1995 the cemetery was replatted by Fakkema, Kingma, and Company at a cost of \$ 30,000 and filed with Island County on June 25, 1995. New maps showing the completely replatted Block and Lots were purchased. Reidentification of family plots, transferring data from the old records into the new format, is an on-going process.

With additions of equipment, including a metal rolling cover for burials (to replace the aging tents), additional storage and workspace was provided with a metal pole building in 1998. In addition, a row of streetlights was added to help reduce vandalism. Also in 1998, Ralph Seefeld of the South Whidbey Genealogical Society audited the entire cemetery to provide data for a genealogical database.

On October 30, 1998, Maple Leaf Cemetery had its first Jewish funeral ceremony for Beverly Doss of Oak Harbor. Officiating were Rabbi Scott Sperling of the Temple De Hirsch Sinai in Seattle.

Henry "Cougar" Ottesen was associated with Maple Leaf Cemetery since 1944, and had been caretaker since 1965. On June 14, 1965, he started mowing the cemetery for \$1.50 per hour. The gravedigger's price was raised from \$9.25 to \$12.00 per grave.

In 1972, the Commissioners authorized Cougar to place his mobile home on cemetery property which he deeded to the Cemetery District in 2001 for use as an office. Cougar's latest project was raising funds for a Veterans Memorial in 2000. Commissioners were elected from 1956 and are listed below. (Prior managers already listed above.)

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Michael Case-Smith has contracted with the cemetery to dig graves and help keep the records since 1979. Ron Forster was hired as the caretaker in 1994 and Michael Dougliss resigned as Commissioner to



become Supervisor in 1998.

In 1999 Ann Abrahamse raised funds to mark many of the unmarked Baby graves and to set aside an area known as Babyland with a memorial marker.

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COMMISSIONERS	
Hank Case	1956 – 1983
Glenn Parson	1956 – 1983
George Hanson	1956 – 1984
Michael Case-Smith	1983 – 1987
Joe Cerrullo	1984 – 1989
Gene French	1984 – 1991
Phillip Neinhuis	1987 – 1993
Gene Suffert	1988 – 1989
George Barton	1989 – 1994
Michael Dougliss	1992 – 1997
Dur Roberson	1993 – 2006
Jim Flowers	1996 – 2008
Jim Smith	1998 – 2010
CARETAKERS	
Henry Cougar Ottesen	1965 – 1997
Ron Forster	1994 -
Michael Dougliss	1998 -

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Island County Property Taxes collected at one-tenth of one mil are in the table below.

1959	594.00
1961	3,236.00
1963	3,200.00
1967	3,000.00
1968	3,000.00
1969	3,000.00
1970	2,600.00
1971	2,000.00
1972	2,141.86
1973	2,459.00
1974	2,751.83
1975	2,379.43
1976	3,791.12
1978	3,635.00
1979	4,000.00
1980	4,024.58
1981	4,371.41
1982	5,041.26
1983	4,779.31
1984	5,991.72
1985	4,656.02

1986	4,979.15
1987	4,553.90
1988	4,714.09
1989	6,176.90
1990	8,213.65
1991	7,826.10
1992	9,316.59
1993	8,343.90
1994	11,500.73
1995	10,158.21
1996	10,983.21
1997	11,915.74
1998	12,756.54
1999	13,580.80
2000	15,075.95
2001	16,405.51
2002	16,217.17
2003	17,253.99
2004	

The earliest price list in the existing records is from 1960.

PRICE LIST - 1960	
Grave, 4' x 8'	90.00
Liner	30.00
Vault	13.00
Open and Close	29.00
Cemetery Fee, previous purchase	10.00
Cemetery Fee, original purchase	8.00
Baby Grave	8.00
Lowering device use	5.00
Marking grave	3.00
Secretary Office previous purchases	2.00