



# Oak Leaves

## Oak Hill Cemetery Association

1705 Mt. Vernon Rd. S. E. • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

*Oak Hill Cemetery is non-profit lot owner association dedicated to preserving the heritage of Linn County, Iowa.*

## Missing from the Landscape – the Limestone Receiving Vault

### *A Brief History of the Structure*

Once located on the hillside above the entrance structure it appears on early maps, and there is one photo known to exist. In January 1879 Board of Director, Mr. John Weare made arrangements to have plans for Receiving Vaults be sent to him from Chicago. A motion was made by the board to build a receiving vault not to exceed the cost of \$1,000.00.

Before the days of Funeral Homes, when funeral gatherings were held in the family home this vault was used when the conditions of the grounds did not allow for immediate burial, (such as wet ground conditions, frost, or snow,) when a funeral was delayed because family members were to be brought in from a distance, or when the ownership of a lot was in question. It was also used to hold the remains of the deceased being transported to another location until the railroad departure time.



### *The Announcement of the Vault*

The Weekly Times Thursday Morning, Oct. 28, 1880

OAK HILL CEMETERY.—Those of our citizens who have not recently visited this “silent city” have but little appreciation of what is being done in the way of beautifying the grounds and in making permanent improvements.

The cemetery association has been actively at work during the summer, and this work is now beginning to show what the future of Oak Hill Cemetery will be. The drives have been graded and are being macadamized, in a most thorough and substantial manner; the ornamental parts of the grounds have been beautified, and a large, substantial and neat public vault is in process of construction.

This vault will be capable of holding twenty bodies, and when completed will be highly ornamental and as substantial as stone and cement can make it. When the season’s work is completed the company will have spent over six thousand dollars on the grounds this year; and this is but a commencement of the work in contemplation. We do not think there is a more beautiful or attractive cemetery in the state than Oak Hill, as, in addition to what the company has done and is doing, a large majority of the private lots have been beautified and the shrubbery well cared for. Everything within the sacred grounds is being well cared for, and when the work now commenced by the company is completed Oak Hill Cemetery will be among the most attractive places in the vicinity of the city.

### *Rules and Charges for Use of the Receiving Vault — 1884*

The owners of lots in the Cemetery who deposit the bodies of their relatives or friends in the vault until the ground or weather is suitable for interment, the following vault charges will be made in addition to the interment charge.

Both the interment charges and the vault charges must be paid to the Secretary in advance of the deposit of the body, who will issue a permit for the same.

#### The use of the vault for each body

One month	\$5.00
Two months	\$8.00
Three months	\$10.00
Each additional month	\$2.00

Strangers will be required to make an additional deposit of \$10.00 (the cost of a single grave) which in case of the selection of a lot will be applied towards payment of the same.

In no case will a body deposited during the winter be allowed to remain in the vault longer than the first day of May following.

The remains of persons dying from disease designated as contagious are not receivable in the vault. Speculation tells us this vault became outdated when the John B. Turner Funeral Home provided this service as well. Another reason the vault removal may have taken place was due to the placement of remains of a person before it was known the cause of death was diphtheria, a contagious disease.