

Graves preserve memory of settlers

The half-forgotten graves of early Farmington's settlers give mute testimony to the town's most important events and its personal tragedies.

The gravestones reflect a combination of high religious aspirations and a few cases of earthly vindictiveness.

In Quaker Cemetery on Gill, part of the Power clan, Farmington's founders are buried. While the focus of the cemetery is on its center cluster of Power plots, two disowned members of the family are buried near the front fence.

They are the daughter of Nathan Power, son of founder Arthur Power and her husband, Huldah and Phillip Brown caused Nathan so much financial worry and emotional strain that when they died they were shunted away from the family.

Power's life was marred by many instances of family death and estrangement. His first wife, Selinda and their five-year-old daughter Minerva died from cholera in 1832. The two died the same day from cholera which invaded the port of Detroit. The city was hard hit by the epidemic. Rural Farmington was slightly affected. Three persons died in Farmington from the disease.

Nathan's son, George, died on December 25, 1832. The 13-year-old died four months after his mother and sister.

All are buried in Quaker Cemetery.

AS THE YEARS PASSED vandals have left their mark on the small cemetery. Overturned gravestones are stacked against a tree trunk near the

cemetery gate. Clumps of sandstone still sticking into the ground mark some of the graves which have been vandalized.

Vandals also have left damage in Utley Cemetery, on Twelve Mile between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake. It is in Utley Cemetery that Patience Utley was buried in 1824 thereby gaining the dubious honor of being the first settler to be buried in Farmington.

Mrs. Utley, her husband Sanford and son Peleg arrived from New York in Farmington after a grueling journey by wagon.

Mrs. Sanford, 52, fell from the wagon as she was alighting. She died shortly thereafter from her injuries.

Her son, Samuel died four years later at the age of 18. They are buried together in a corner of the cemetery which abuts the driveway of the neighboring house.

When the Utley family arrived in Farmington, they were among the first white people in the area. Until then, Indians had inhabited the land.

Two years later in 1826 a branch of the post office was established in the town. It was the sixth branch to be es-

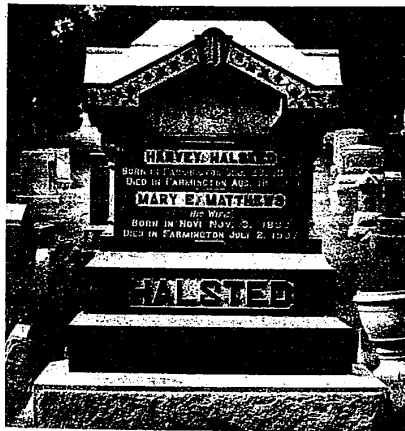
tablished in the county.

MRS. UTLEY'S son, Peleg, died in 1872. He lived to see the town become regarded as one of the most wealthy in the state. At least that's the description afforded to it by a Presbyterian minister stationed in Farmington in 1851.

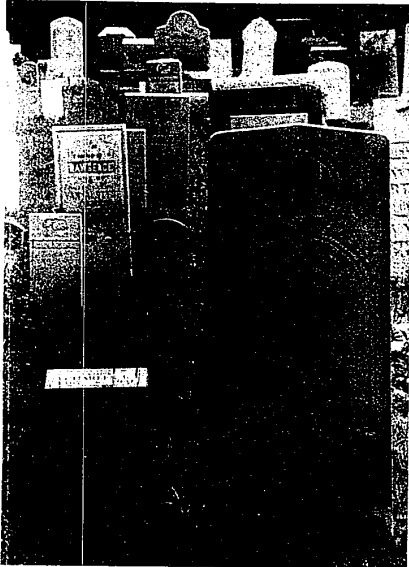
Peleg gave the cemetery to the township. During his lifetime roads were so poor that a 12-mile trip was considered a great undertaking. A semi-weekly stage took travelers to Howell. Every eight to 10 miles along the way, there was an inn to receive visitors after their day's journey. Most stages could get only that far on the poor roads.

Nathan Philbrook saw the need for taverns and established his on Eleven Mile and Power. He died on Jan. 9, 1851. His tombstone in Utley Cemetery tells future generations that Philbrook was 64 years, six months and 27 days old at the time of his death.

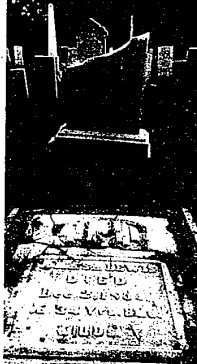
Some in the cemetery claim shorter, less illustrious lives. The grave of Rhoda A., daughter of William and R. Parker stands alone. She died on Sept. 16, (Continued on page 4A)



Two members of the Halsted family, after whom Halsted Road is named, are remembered in Oakwood Cemetery.



Rows of graves in Utley Cemetery give silent testimony to Farmington's history.



Time and vandals have taken their toll on this grave in Utley Cemetery. The representation of the tree of life is typical of 19th century gravestones. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)



Since 1854, two trees in North Farmington Cemetery have stood guard over these three graves. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

AN OFFICIAL Angles tsk-tsk for the Kiwanis International. In a recent news release describing their 54th annual convention, the Kiwanis gushed "Approximately 20,000 persons, including ladies and children, attended the four day event." Angles wonders how the Kiwanis classify women and children. Is family synonymous with accessories? (By the way K-Internationals, that's women, not ladies.)

THE SEARCH FOR a new home for the Eldridge family is still on. Howard and Ruth Eldridge were displaced last week by a fire which destroyed their home. To help, call Farmington Hills administrative assistant Michael Dornan at 474-6115 or the Observer at 477-5450. Angles knows Farmington has a big heart. Here's another chance to prove it.

JUST WHEN WE could go outside again after the SkyLab business the energy crunch makes it too warm for us to stay inside. Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington president James Wibby offers this warm office solution for men. He wants to ban neck ties and coats from all public buildings. Heaven forefend, Wibby isn't suggesting men go around in T-shirts and shorts. There's a difference between being comfortable and being businesslike.

However, he does confess that a promotional stunt for his anti-necktie program could include putting the nefarious tie in the freezer or for warm office hot heads — burning the offending articles of clothing.

Angles wonders if it's this sort of spirit which made our country great. It suggests folding paper fans instead.

INSIDE FOUNDERS: Prince of Peace, Lutheran Church will be serving authentic German food during the festival. This is the third year the church has served its dinner. Dinner will be served from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. on July 26-27. The menu this year consists of sauerkraut, knockwurst, German potato salad, German chocolate cake, apple strudel, rolls, beverages and hot dogs. Credit for the event goes to chef and chairman, Joe Schultz who is assisted by his wife, Marie. Prince of Peace is located on Twelve Mile, one block east of Farmington Road near Crowley's.

Get those running shoes warmed up and ready for the Mini-Marathon on July 28. A 5,000 meter, 10,000 meter and 15,000 meter race will be run beginning at 8:30 a.m. Starting point is the Masonic Temple, adjacent to Oakland, Grand River and Farmington Road. There is an \$8 entry fee. Registration closes at 8:15 a.m. the morning of the races. Plaques will be given to the first through sixth place finishers of each division in each

distance. Patches will be given to everyone who finishes the race. The race is sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department and the Farmington Area YMCA.

MAKE YOUR PICNIC a happy one. Know the common bacteria which can grow on foods and result in food poisoning. Salmonella hides in raw meats, poultry, eggs, fish, milk or products made from these foods. Cook these foods thoroughly then chill them below 40 degrees or keep them about 140 degrees.

Clostridium perfringens is found in soil, dust and warm blooded animals. The bacteria grows in meat and meat products which are held at temperatures between 40 and 140 degrees. Staphylococcus lives on human or animal skin or in throat or nose passages. It grows quickly in custard and creamed fillings, meat, fish, potato or macaroni salads, mixed sandwich fillings and egg dishes. It grows quickly in temperatures between 40 and 140 degrees.

For more information call the Food Preservation Hotline at 1-858-0904.

TIP OF THE ANGLES Topper to Ms. Barbara Majors of Farmington Hills who has been awarded a Madonna College scholarship for \$500 for the term beginning September 1979. She is a transfer student from Oakland Community College where she earned a 3.96 grade point average.

MERCY COLLEGE applications should be in before the August 15 deadline. Fall semester classes are scheduled to begin on Sept. 4, administrators reminded Angles. Three new programs are still open to students: Health Care Administration and Planning, Respiratory Care and Institutional Security. For information call 531-7820.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

To connect with the Farmington Observer see the following numbers:

- Staff — 477-5450
- Delivery — 591-0900
- Classified Ads — 591-0900
- Display Ads — 591-2300
- Legal Ads — 591-2300

MAIL IT TO US

To mail an item to Angles send it to: 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024. Please include your name and phone number. Items become the property of the Farmington Observer. Sorry, photos can't be used.



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