

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP - T8N R9W

Cemetery: ASHLEY CEMETERY

Alternative Name(s): None reported.

Section: 2

Street Address: Ashley Avenue between 10 Mile Road and Heffron Street, Belding, MI

Ownership: Township.

Owner Contact Information: Grattan Township, 11676 Old Belding Road, Belding, MI 48809, (616) 691-8450, FAX (616) 691-8804. Office Hours: M-Th 8:30-12:30, 1:30-5.

Transcriptions: [DAR1928](#) (BJ) , [1995ES](#)-Updated October, 2006

Record Sources: Compendium, Sourcebook (12), DAR.

History: Unknown.

Religious, Ethnic Affiliation: None reported.

Description: Unknown.

Cemetery: GRATTAN CEMETERY

Alternative Name(s): Grattan Center Cemetery

Section: 16

Street Address: Off Belding Road/M-44, just west of Grattan Center, Belding, MI

Ownership: Township.

Owner Contact Information: Grattan Township, 11676 Old Belding Road, Belding, MI 48809, (616) 691-8450, FAX (616) 691-8804. Office Hours: M-Th 8:30-12:30, 1:30-5.

Transcriptions: [DAR1928](#) (RK), [1995ES](#)

Record Sources: Compendium, Sourcebook (10v3,12), DAR.

History: Unknown.

Religious, Ethnic Affiliation: None reported.

Description: Unknown.

Cemetery: MASON CEMETERY

Alternative Name(s): Hart Cemetery

Section: 23

Street Address: Ashley Avenue northwest side of 6 Mile Road, Belding, MI

Ownership: Township.

Owner Contact Information: Grattan Township, 11676 Old Belding Road, Belding, MI 48809, (616) 691-8450, FAX (616) 691-8804. Office Hours: M-Th 8:30-12:30, 1:30-5.

Transcriptions: [DAR1928](#) (BJ), [1995ES](#)

Record Sources: Compendium, Sourcebook (12), DAR.

History: Masonic?

Religious, Ethnic Affiliation: None reported.

Description: Unknown.

Cemetery: SAINT PATRICK'S CEMETERY, PARNELL

[\(View of St. Patrick's Church and Cemetery\)](#)

Alternative Name(s): Parnell Cemetery, Saint Patrick's Catholic Cemetery.

Section: 32

Street Address: East side of Parnell Road, south of 5 Mile Road NE, across from the

church.

Ownership: Religious.

Owner Contact Information: St. Patrick's Church, Grattan Township

Transcriptions: [DAR1931](#) (KJ, TM), [1997ES](#)

Record Sources: Compendium, Sourcebook (11v3,12), DAR.

History: Grattan and Parnell were both leading Irish politicians. Many Irish settled in Grattan township from the 1830s, through the Irish famine years of 1846 - 1852, and continued to settle there beyond that. Many were Catholic, and they founded a church at the corner of 5 Mile and Parnell Road and named it St. Patrick's for the patron saint of Ireland in Catholic tradition. The first St. Patrick's church was erected in December, 1844 in the center of the old section of the present cemetery.

St. Patrick's parish has a school and convent/residence, in addition to the church and cemetery all located at the corner of 5-Mile Road NE, and Parnell Road in Grattan township.

There is no map of the cemetery. The cemetery records were kept in Latin until 1891 or so, and are preserved in a safe, offsite I think. They will access them for specific requests, but do not make them available to the public. Records after 1891 or so are in English, and are kept in the office. They indicated that they are far more readily available. All these records I am speaking of here are the Church records of Baptism (usually within a month or so of birth in Parnell), marriage, and death records. There are other anecdotal items of information on specific records such as witnesses, parents names, etc. in some cases. (T. McCormick, May 2000)

Religious, Ethnic Affiliation: Catholic

Description: The cemetery reading of the tombstones shows that the people buried there are heavily Irish....names like Byrne, Farrell, Branigan, Doyle, Hefferan, etc. (T. McCormick, May 2000)