

Driving Directions for Ancestral Cemeteries in and Around Grand Rapids MI

Pierson Cemetery: *Isaiah and Maryette Huntley*, parents of Florence Huntley Hawkins (Waite), mother of M.E. Hawkins **20775 Cannonsville**

Follow Rt. 131 NE out of Grand Rapids to Pierson. The South County Line/Mile 22 exit is the one before Cannonsville Road exit. Go R/east a short distance on Cannonsville; cemetery is on the left/north side of the road. Huntley graves are towards the east end and on the R/south side of the road that goes down the center.

To reach Grand Rapids Cemeteries from Pierson

Drive down Rt. 131 towards Grand Rapids. Exit on I-96 to the East; exit that at **Plainfield Rd**. Very shortly you will come to **Fuller St.** on the L. Take Fuller south to **Fairplains**.

Fairplains Cemetery: *Florence Huntley Hawkins Waite*, mother of M.E. Hawkins, and her 2nd husband, William Waite; also in that cemetery are several Gordon and Wood graves (they were first cousins of Esther Hawkins Moneysmith).

Fairplains is in the NW corner of Fuller (east side) and Knapp (south side). Diamond is on the west side and Evelyn on the north side. It is huge and difficult to navigate. My impression is that the Waites are on the west side of the curved drive that runs N-S through the cemetery. Plot: **Block H, Lot 68, Space 3**. To get to Fulton Street Cemetery from Fairplains, continue down Fuller to Fulton, turn R/west.

Fulton Street Cemetery: *Jeffrey and Ellis Champlin*, parents of Delilah Porter, plus her brothers Civil War Brigadier Gen. Stephen Champlin and Michigan Supreme Court judge John Wayne Champlin and family members of the latter: Ellen, Carrie, Frederick.

Fulton Street Cemetery (841 Fulton), with Fountain on the north side and Fulton on the south side. "Completely fenced or walled in. Locked gate at entrance but visiting hours posted are 8 am to 5 pm M-F and 9 am to 2 pm on Sat." If you continue east on Fulton, you come to Fuller; take it north to Fairplains.

Greenwood Cemetery: *Harrison Hawkins* who fought three years in the Civil War, father of M.E. Hawkins (**Block H, Lot 68, Space 4**). Also at Greenwood Cemetery are Delilah's sister, Mary Maynard (**Block E, Lot 59, space 2**), her husband, and a son.

Greenwood (1401 NW Leonard), on the corner with Walker Rd and Leonard. The Keeler-Hawkins graves are on the right as you drive uphill from the south entrance of the cemetery on Leonard.

To get to Fuller from Greenwood, continue SE down Walker till it turns into Stocking, continue SE on Stocking till it ends In Bridge. L/east on Bridge, which crosses the river and becomes Michigan Ave. Michigan to College, R/south to Fulton; turn left/east to the Cemetery. Reverse to go from Fulton Street to Greenwood.

Brooklawn Cemetery: *Charles and Hannah Wells*, parents of Roxy Stauffer. Their obelisk headstone is toward the southeast corner.

Brooklawn (3525 Walker Ave. NW) is north of I-96 and just south of the SW corner of Walker Road and 4 Mile Rd. Follow Walker down to Leonard to reach Greenwood, or go from Leonard NW on Walker to reach Brooklawn.

Brooklawn to Chester Township cemeteries:

Follow 4 Mile Road W. With the I-96 Interstate on your left, Walker will bend to the right and come to **Fruit Ridge**; take it R/north. Take it to 12 Mile Road/Cleveland, turn L/west.

Lisbon Cemetery: *Curtis and Hannah Porter*, third great-grandparents to the Esther/Dottie generation and fifth to their grandchildren; their son *George and his wife Delilah* and the *five babies* (of 9) they lost in infancy

Lisbon Cemetery is in Kent County, not Ottawa, on the south side of 12 Mile Road (aka Coolidge) between Fruit Ridge and Kenowa. It is listed as Sparta and apparently does not have a street-number address (for **GPS**).

Brick Farm House: home of the Stauffers when it was new and the site where *Samuel Stauffer* died in the well (or cistern) Nov. 6, 1899 trying to save the life of another. Also the home of *Ferd and Esther Porter* from early in the century until he died in 1944. For many decades now it has been the home of a fruit farmer.

The Brick Farm House is on the east side of 16th street north of Hoover and south of Truman. Address: **23054 16th Street, Conklin MI 49403**

The brick church was Grandfather M.E. Hawkins' first pastorate and where he met and fell in love with Fern Porter, the daughter of the farmer in the brick house down the street where he boarded after coming to the church.

The brick church is on the corner of Truman and 16th Street. Address: **23231 16th Ave, Casnovia MI 49318**

The white house is east of the church on Truman. It was built by *George Porter* shortly before the Civil War, and he lived it in until his death in 1908. It was owned by one family from 1908 to 1968 and by a single family since then.

The white house is on the north side of Truman, east of the church and almost to 8th St. Address: **865 Truman St., Casnovia MI 49318**. In the summer of 2014, the VanOffelins sold the house. They tell us that they told the new owners about these descendants that come around every few years to see the house, and those new owners agreed to () us; however, the first time we tried that, in the 2015 tour, we got no response by phone or at the door. We understand the new owner's name is Will Boluyt and phone # is 616-318-8409 (VanOffelins —phone number: 616-675-5251)

Bennett Cemetery: *Abraham and Magdalena Stauffer* (parents of Samuel), *Samuel and Roxy Stauffer* (parents of Esther Porter); *Ferd and Esther Porter*, parents of Fern Hawkins; also Samuel's cousin *Samuel T. Stauffer*, wife and daughter, and Samuel's younger brother *Noah Stauffer* and wife *Nettie* (obelisk just below Abraham and Samuel).

Bennett is on the east side of 24th Street north of Truman. It does not have a street number but is easy to find.

Wells Cemetery was begun by William P. Wells, brother of Charles E. Wells, the one who first came from Schuyler Co. NY to Michigan, and apparently encouraged other family members to follow, including Charles and Hannah in 1854.

The Wells cemetery is tiny on the SE corner of 16th and Cleveland (aka 7th Street). According to Falon Wells, his descendant, it was originally on William Wells' property, and a number of family members are buried there. It is now surrounded by homes and is accessed through someone's farm, but it is a public cemetery, and the people are reportedly friendly, so it is not a problem. But so far (2015) none of our family has managed to visit it.

From Marlene's and Sonya's to Greenwood Cemetery:

Marlene is at **2606 Rolling Ridge (49534-1344)**, near the intersection of 3 Mile Road and Walker. Take 3 Mile Road R/east to Walker and follow it down to Leonard for the Greenwood Cemetery.

Ray and Sonya Peace in Hudsonville are near the intersection of Baldwin and 148th street. **7328 Pheasant Run Ct (49426-9371)**. The most direct and perhaps fastest route between her place and Greenwood Cemetery is to take nearby Baldwin Street straight E and get on **I-196**. Exit it at Lake Michigan Drive, follow it R/north to Collindale Ave. NW, turn R/north to Leonard; turn R/east. After crossing Walker Street, the entrance to the cemetery is on the left (north side of the street). Goggle says it is a 20-min drive. Or take 148th to Baldwin, turn R/east, the Rt 11/Wilson; turn L/north to 3Mile Road, then R/east again to **Distance between Rolling Ridge and Pheasant Run:** 18 miles; **time: 27 mins.**

Family History Sites in Mishawaka Indiana:

St. Joseph Valley Memorial Park: *M.E. and Fern Hawkins*, grandparents of Esther Gross and Dottie Hoppe; *Don Paul Moneysmith*, their brother who died in a car accident 1964.

This is a large cemetery on the corner of Grape Road (NS) and Cleveland Road (EW). The headstones are flat. The three graves are together on the right side of the entrance road at that corner. **375 W Cleveland Rd, Granger, IN 46530**

Mishawaka City Cemetery: *Jacob and Minnie Moneysmith*, grandparents of Esther Gross and Dottie Hoppe; *Wesley and Mary Squibb*, parents of Minnie; *Mary Burroughs*, mother of Jacob; *Baby (Marjorie)*, daughter of Jacob and Minnie.

This cemetery is on the west side of North Main Street, with a railroad track on its south side and Jefferson Street on its north side. Drive the entrance road almost to the back and, on the left, look for a marble **Moneysmith** headstone.

Hawkins House at 1012 Charlotte Street:

Home of M.E and Fern Hawkins, grandparents of Esther and Dottie, from the 20s when it was built by Fern's father, Ferd Porter, until it was sold out of the family after Dr. Hawkins died in 1956. From it Dr. Hawkins ran Baptist Mid-Missions for more than a dozen years. From it, both their daughters packed up to go to overseas missionary work, and

in that house at least the Moneysmiths and their children furloughed in 1937, 1945, and 1950. To Dottie and me, it has always been “Grandpa and Grandma’s house.”

First Baptist Church:

Grandpa Hawkins was called as pastor of the church in 1920 and for the next 17 years. He saw both his daughters married there, he buried his wife from there, and he and his grandson Don Paul Moneysmith were buried from there.

Battell School:

Though Grandpa and Grandma Moneysmith did not meet until he was out of high school, they attended Battell School as children, and all three Moneysmith children attended the school during their furlough in 1946 when they lived right across the street from the school on the corner of Broadway.

Furlough House at 201 E. Broadway:

In the winter/spring of 1946, our family spent the second half of our furlough living in this house on the corner of Broadway and Sarah. Our refrigeration was an old-fashioned ice box; a man delivered a large block of ice every few days so we could keep milk and other perishable foods cool.

Moneysmith House on 615 Sarah Street:

We just learned the identity and location of this house in 2014. Our dad was born in it and grew up in it. But it is no longer there, neither are any other residences in that block.

Joy Shoty's house: 50838 Old Dover Lane. Joy is a Hawkins descendant through her mother, Agnes, and first cousin to Esther and Dottie. To reach her house from the St. Joseph cemetery: Grape Road that runs N/S past the cemetery connects with Adams Street running EW. Take Adams W from Grape to Fairway Lane, a divided entrance going north from Adams. Turn R/east on Pencross to Old Dover Lane on the L/north.

Directions from Mishawaka to Pierson, MI, NE of Grand Rapids:

Take Main Street south to Ireland; bear right (SW). Follow Ireland to Ironwood, turn L/south to the freeway—Route 20. Follow it going west across the south end of town and up the west side. Route 31 will join; continue on 31 north into Michigan many miles; at one point, it will jog right and then make a sharp left. Take it to I-96; get on it going **north** till I-196 begins and heads north. We will follow I-196 till it intersects with Route 131 in the center of Grand Rapids.

Take 131 L/north out of town to the W. Cannonsville Road exit; turn R/east. Cemetery will be on the left.

At the Sand Lake-22 Mile Road exit, signs may say for Pierson; ignore them and continue to the next exit—Cannonsville.

From Wyoming to Greenwood Cemetery:

Take 28th St. west to Route 11/Wilson; turn R/north ____ m. to Leonard; turn R/east