

# *Cemeteries full of history*

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in 1840. Related by marriage to the Bradfords were the Shepherds, some of whom are also buried in the 20-plot Silvers Cemetery. Others (besides Bradfords and Shepherds) are a John Cole and Louisa Hatfield (wife of F.L. Hatfield), who died in 1856.

No doubt the cemetery was respectfully tended during the lifetimes of the elders of the Bradford family. The last known burial in the Silvers Cemetery was George Bradford, who died in 1876 at the age of 62.

An "intruder" among the plots was a fir tree, whose substantial trunk now supports the broken and displaced headstones. Nearby in a pen is the marker which bears the inscription: "In Memory of M.A. Nerva, Wife of G. Bradford. Born Feb. 16, 1818. Died Jan. 9, 1848."

Only five headstones remain standing in the Silvers Cemetery. Its condition is by no means an isolated case.

OF PARTICULAR note are the stones of a Thomas Bradford (born in 1808) and Jane, his wife. They have relief carvings of a hand pointed toward the sky and a rose.

Family burial places like the Silvers Cemetery went out of style, or, rather, yielded to public ones. With the renewal of the public interest in genealogy, the weather-beaten headstones have become a valuable source for information about the area's pioneers.

Next week: Some Monroe County farm cemeteries.