

Winer Family Graveyard

By Dave Hallemann



This graveyard is located in T43 R3 S12 NW¼ of the SW¼ just off Hilltop Lane in Byrnesville Mo.

38° 23' 27" / 90° 38' 41"

The land the cemetery is located on was first entered by David Manchester, of St. Louis County, Certificate # 4965, 14 January 1836, for the W2/SW T42 R3 S12, containing 80 acres.

15th February 1836, Peter Sullens and his wife Sally, sell to David Manchester 2+/- acres across the river, "...may have the privilege to join his dam to the bank and other uses to protect his abutments of said dam and for use of the mill." Recorded in Book D Page 63. (*This establishes the date of the mill at 1836.*)

15th February 1836, Abraham Hildebrand and his wife Sally sell to David Manchester "E fractional ½ of the SW fractional ¼, T42 R3 S12" for \$325. Document being recorded in Book D Page 62. (*This would make sense to buy surrounding land to raise the crops to mill.*)

18th February 1843, David Manchester and his wife Jane sell ½ interests in the mill and lands to David Gharky Jr. of St. Louis, for \$850, recorded in Book F Page 321.

26th September 1845, David Manchester/Jane, of *County Grant of the State of Wisconsin*, sells his remaining ½ interest in the mill and lands to David Gharky Jr. for \$1000. Recorded in Book H Page 30.

David Gharky continues to acquire additional land near the mill when available. (*This time period is when I believe the mill was mistakenly called Gerky's and Yerky's Mill in some records.*)

11th February 1854, David Gharky sells the mill to Hiram Shaw and Wm. Liggett of St. Louis for \$4200. Transaction being recorded in Book M Page 26.

17th August 1854, Hiram Shaw sells his interest to John E. Liggett for \$4250. Recorded in Book M at Page 202.

8th October 1855, John E. Liggett/Elizabeth of *St. Louis*, sells the mill and property to Charles P. Green for \$5000. Recorded in Book N Page 134.

6th May 1859, John Winer/Phoebe; William K. Winer/Martha; Benjamin F. Winer/Mary A. sign a deed of trust to Charles F. Green for "...NE fractional ¼ west of the Negro Fork River and the W½ of the SW¼ north of the Negro Fork River, T42 R3 S12 containing 81.⁰⁴ acres; Also E fractional ½ of the SW¼, T42 R3 S12 containing 8.⁸⁷ acres; Also the SE ¼ of the NW fractional ¼, T42 R3 S12 containing 40 acres...2 promissory notes, one note for \$3000 payable

one year after date with 6% interest, and one note for \$3000 payable two years after date with 6% interest” Recorded in Book P Page 383.

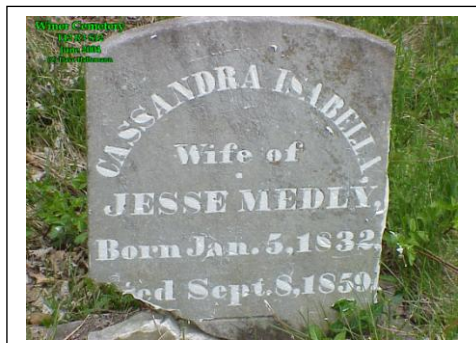
7th May 1859 Charles F. Green sells to John Winer, William K. Winer and Benjamin F. Winer, the mill and property for \$7000, transaction being recorded in Book P Folio 390.

12th March 1861, after defaulting on the first payment of the deed of trust, and after giving 30 days’ notice in the Mo Democrat a newspaper printed in St. Louis, Elias F. Honey Trustee, sells the mill and lands on the courthouse steps to Eliza Green for \$1000.

Our story unfolds in May 2012. A Councilman’s secretary contacted me about a tombstone he had remembered when he was a kid. Another kid took the monument pieces to put



in a fort they had built. He began tracking down the family and located the stones in North St. Louis. Seems they moved with the family. Our councilman went to recover the pieces and wanted to get them back to the cemetery. He asked around the court house and they sent him to me. We met that day and he gave the two pieces to me. Without him going this extra mile this cemetery would not have been corrected as this was the key.



We can see in the above photo not much to go on. However he knew the cemetery it came from so that was a big help. It was in all the records I had ever seen, going back as far as the 1970s, as being called Medly Cemetery undoubtedly from the monument at left.

As can be seen this is the monument for the wife of Jesse Medley. As no other name was known, the name Medley Cemetery was used to identify this graveyard. Let me say here that I will not change the name of a cemetery until I can prove the name wrong, this is what changes

history and without proof I will not do it.

I took the pieces to the cemetery in Byrnesville and put them together. The following is the combined tombstone.



Somehow I didn't see the top part of this monument when I visited the cemetery it in 2004. As one can see the pieces fit perfectly. Mahala Frances is the wife of John Stouse. So could this be a Stouse cemetery? The 1876 and 1898 Atlas' were of no help here. In my records there is a Stow Cemetery across from Northwest School that has Stows, Stouses, Edwards, and Winers in it according to a 1970s recording.

One of the entries is a Mary Church. She is listed as being there; however there is no monument left for her as this cemetery was destroyed in the past. Checking her death certificate I see that she is buried in Winer Cemetery? Her son, James Winer, is listed as the informant. Surely he would know what cemetery his mother is buried in.

I next looked at the census records for various years prior to 1859, the earliest date on the tombstones, and in 1850 I found the below listing:

413. WINER, JOHN H.	32	M	W	FARMER	1200	KY	
MARGARET	31	F	W			MO	
BENJAMIN J.	08	M	W			MO	YES
JOHN	06	M	W			MO	YES
OSCAR N.	04	M	W			MO	
WILLIAM G.	01	M	W			MO	
JOHN	63	M	W	MILLRIGHT		KY	
PHEBE	55	F	W			KY	
WILLIAM C.	21	M	W	FARMER		KY	
CASSANDRA	18	F	W			KY	YES
MAHALA F.	16	F	W			KY	YES
BENJAMIN F.	13	M	W			KY	
WALIHAN, THOMAS	21	M	W	LABORER		IRE	
ADAMS, GIDEON	16	M	W	FARMER		MO	

What immediately grabbed my attention was; Cassandra 18, and Mahala Frances 16. Their ages were correct for the dates on the monuments. And notice the elder John Winer is listed as a *millwright*! This graveyard is a short distance from the old Byrnesville Mill. Still all circumstantial evidence.

Next I went to the deed books at the court house to begin my search.

Luckily Carole Goggin was available to help in the research on this one by checking marriage records. She found the marriage records for Cassandra Winer to Jesse Medly on 26th March 1857, and Mahala Frances Winer to John Stouse, 10th February 1859. This proved these girls were our two stones but not the name of the cemetery.

Next I started tracking the land to see if either a Medly, Stouse, or Winer ever owned it. The results are recorded above at the start of this article.

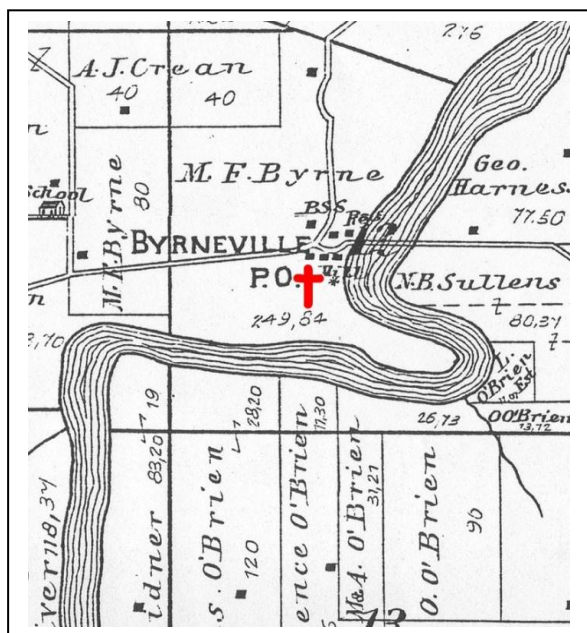
Supporting conclusions;

1. The girls died during the time period that the Winer's owned the mill and land.
2. The girls maiden name was Winer.
3. A Medly or Stouse never owned the land.
4. Although the cemetery is not mentioned in the deeds, this was not unusual when property was sold on the courthouse steps.

With the above evidence I think we can change the name from Medly to the

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As can be seen on the 1876 Historic Atlas, Jos. P. P. Byrne now owns the lands and mill previously owned by the Winer Family.



Per Atlas in 1898, M. F. Byrnes now owns the land. The Red Cross I have added to show the location of the cemetery.

The following monuments were located in this cemetery.



Cassandra Isabella

Wife of
Jesse Medley

Born
Jan. 5, 1832
Died
Sept. 8, 1859

Mahala Frances

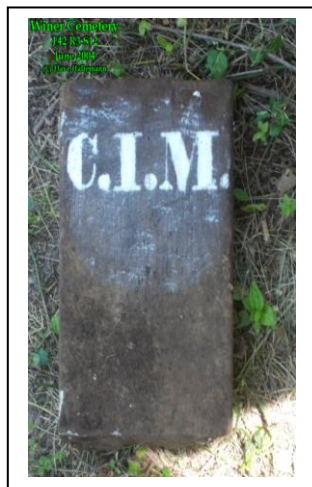
Wife of
John Stouse

Born
June 3, 1834

Died
Feb. 1, 1860



Casandra & Mahala's footstone are shown below.



Unknown

This broken stone was also in the cemetery. There were reportedly 4 graves in this cemetery, however I was not able to verified this.

On a revisit I put the broken (middle section) Mahala's stone on top of the broken base. A perfect fit. So this is the base of Mahala Stouse monument.

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