

Our Cemeteries

It has always been a principal obligation of a synagogue to provide a burial place for its members. When B'nai Amoona was just getting started in 1884 it had no cemetery of its own so it reached an agreement with the originally Orthodox Mt. Sinai cemetery (then known as the B'nai El cemetery) to provide burial sites for its members. But by 1895 Sheerith Israel, the congregation that B'nai Amoona split off from, was disbanding and its assets, including its cemetery, were taken over by B'nai Amoona.

The Sheerith Israel cemetery was a one and one third acre tract of farm land way out in St. Louis County that Sheerith Israel had purchased from Thomas and Eleanor Murphy on October 12, 1871 for \$650. You might be interested to know that this cemetery, acquired just six years after the Civil War, is the small cemetery south of our main cemetery just across Blackberry Lane and is about 14 miles from downtown where most of our members lived in those days. It would have taken about 3 hours by horse and wagon to get to the cemetery. The property was legally described under the United States survey No. 2033 of the Land Grant of the Treaty of Louisiana as a parcel of land, bounded on the North West Corner by a black oak tree eight inches in diameter, extending to a Hickory Tree seven inches in diameter, a Walnut Tree eleven inches in diameter and to an Elm Tree thirteen inches in diameter.

So swiftly did our congregation grow that by 1904 we were running out of burial space. To meet our obligations to provide an orthodox burial ground for our members, we purchased fourteen and one half acres just north of the old Sheerith Israel cemetery from Mrs. Amanda Christy and Mrs. Clementine

Benoist for \$3,300. It is this property that is our familiar B'nai Amoona cemetery today. The entrance gates and chapel at the front of our cemetery were constructed in 1925. In 1927 roadways and walking paths were laid out and in 1929 the stone wall around the cemetery was built.

Today our cemetery is considered one of the most beautiful and well maintained of any in the area. Since 1884 we have kept our commitment to provide a dignified and halachically observant burial round for the entire Jewish community. We will continue to do so from generation to generation.

Lester

Lester Goldman

314-304-1997

lesterhgoldman@gmail.com



Chapel and entrance to the B'nai Amoona cemetery originally constructed in 1925 and refurbished in the 1990s.



From Generation to Generation



Old Cemetery. Pillars (installed 1902) came from the Fagin building that was torn down to make way for the Arcade Building.