

HISTORY OF THE PINCONNING TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES

During the mid 1600's, a band of Chippewa Indians established a village near the mouth of the Pinconning River. The Chippewa's engaged in a fierce battle with the Sauk tribe to win control of the area. The Sauk tribe was driven away, and the Chippewa flourished.

The village gradually became many villages reaching westward along the Pinconning River. The earliest church was a log mission built by the Jesuits as an attempt to Christianize the Chippewa community. It was the first church in Pinconning Township and included the first official cemetery. The Chippewa's had two burial grounds near the mouth of the river and also used burial mounds.

A warranty Deed recorded April 24, 1889 for Section 24 in Pinconning Township shows land purchased for a cemetery by the Trustees of N.E. Indian Church, Pinconning, Michigan. It is believed to be the Indian Cemetery on Maloney Road.

Pinconning Township has a cemetery (Old Cemetery) on the corner of Pinconning Road and Hunter Road. Burials in this cemetery date back to the late 1800's and contain soldiers from the Civil War Period. Michigan recruited skilled Native Americans state wide to form Company K Sharpshooters of Michigan. They fought as Union soldiers during the Civil War. Some are buried here in the Old Cemetery.

During the early 1900's diseases swept through the entire community. Influenza, Typhoid, Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Bronchitis, and Pneumonia wiped out entire families. Many graves remain unmarked/unknown partly due to the rapid rate of death and inadequate record keeping. You will also find several Native Americans buried here along with European immigrants who settled in the Pinconning area.

The community expanded during the early 1900's, and land was purchased across the road to start the "New Cemetery." Records aren't clear on the exact dates, but it is believed the property was used as a "potter's field" before the purchase. Many of the early graves are unknown. The New Cemetery contains burials from former Chippewa Chief's and many Veterans of various wars.

The New Cemetery, located on Pinconning Road, has beautiful towering oaks and ample room for future usage. Many lots are available in this peaceful, woody setting.