

Salem UMC Archives
Finding Aid for
Cemetery Records

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Salem United Methodist Church Archives, 1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63131. Phone: (314) 991-0546. Email eterryhistory@gmail.com Website salemstlouis.com

Creator: Hiram Cemetery

Title: Cemetery Records

Dates: 1853-1956

Quantity: 1.29 linear feet

Language: English

Historical Note

According to Robert Appel's *Salem: Congregations of the Faithful*, Salem's first cemetery "came into existence" around June 4, 1851. The 1854 deed for the Salem Methodist Episcopal Cemetery placed the cemetery along Natural Bridge Plank Road.

On November 13, 1939, members of Salem voted to sell a part of the northwest quarter of Salem's cemetery to Gerling Realty & Building Co. A grocery store was to be built on that land. In 1940, Salem renovated the cemetery's caretaker's home, located at 6812 Natural Bridge Road. Charles and Flora Hanisch served as Salem cemetery's caretakers.

Salem closed the cemetery to new burials in 1953. The cemetery was zoned for commercial use, and the church planned to sell the land. On September 11, 1955, the congregation held a worship service at the cemetery. Following the service, the congregation held a dedication at Hiram Cemetery in Creve Coeur (along Mason Road), which was to become the new burial ground for Salem's members. The following day the Richard Taylor Co. began the transfer of bodies from the old cemetery to the new. It was an enormous undertaking which lasted four months. Salem paid the Richard Taylor Company \$57,750 for the transfer of 983 bodies.

Compiled from Robert S. Appel's *Salem – Congregations of the Faithful: A History of Salem Methodist Church, 1841-1991*.

Scope and Content Notes

Series 2 is comprised of legal documents related solely to Salem's original cemetery, as well as maintenance records from the 1920s through the early 1950s. Series 1 is comprised of documents related Salem's second cemetery, Hiram. Material includes body-transfer information as well as legal documents related to the transfer of bodies and the sale of the cemetery.

Administrative Information

Source of Collection

This material was likely found in Salem's attic. Robert Appel likely ensured that it was kept through the years.

Accruals

Processing Information

Compiled by Elizabeth Terry, 2009-2012

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

There is no restricted material in this collection.

Use Restrictions

Users of the collection must read and abide by the Rules for the Use of Salem UMC Archives Materials.

Users of the collection who wish to use items from this collection, in whole or in part, in any form of publication (as defined in the form) must sign and submit to the Salem UMC Archives a hard copy of the notification of Intent to Quote from or Publish Salem UMC Archives Materials form.

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Collection Contents

Series 01: Salem Cemetery Removals to Hiram

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copies of burial permits produced by Richard Taylor Co. Pages are arranged alphabetically by name, and include new plot location at Hiram Cemetery. 2. Copies of burial permits produced by Richard Taylor Co. Pages are arranged alphabetically by name, and include new plot location at Hiram Cemetery. 3. Copies of burial permits produced by Richard Taylor Co. Pages are arranged alphabetically by name, and include new plot location at Hiram Cemetery. 4. Copies of burial permits produced by Richard Taylor Co. Pages are arranged alphabetically by name, and include new plot location at Hiram Cemetery.

List. List of names of bodies that were transferred from Salem Cemetery to Hiram Cemetery.

Records. Record of removals from Salem Cemetery to Hiram Cemetery. Includes names and lot numbers.

Paperwork and legal documents. Paperwork involving transfer of bodies from Salem Cemetery to Hiram Cemetery. Includes letters, the deed to Hiram Cemetery lots, the Indemnifying Agreement with the Richard Taylor Co., payment notes, the Deed of Trust for the sale of Salem Cemetery, etc.

Series 02: Salem Cemetery

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
2	<p>Paperwork and legal documents. A variety of documents related to Salem's cemetery (the original cemetery on Natural Bridge Road). Includes receipts for payments for the upkeep of graves, a 1915 Deed of Quit Claim, 1870 Deed, copy of 1854 deed, and 1853 Deed.</p> <p>1. Maintenance records 1920s-1930s 2. Maintenance records 1920s-1930s 3. Maintenance records 1920s-1930s</p> <p>Maintenance and documentation. 1936 caretaker's records 1910-1937 list of burials: includes name, age and plot information</p> <p>Maintenance records 1936-1947.</p> <p>Maintenance records 1948-1952.</p> <p>.</p>