

**CRAWFORD COUNTY
TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS**

**MATTS
CEMETERY**

William C. Cuthbertson

Crawford County Genealogy Society

Matts
MATTSS

Matts grave and others

Located SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sect. 32 Twp. 29S Rge 24E

This is about 1/3 mi. W of the SE cor. of above section, on N side of the road. One small stone had been noted many times in a N-S fence (angling slightly to NW) just a few feet N of the fence running parallel to the road; a plowed field to the E and a pasture to the W of said fence. 10-2-1970 we found no trace of the stone, so it has apparently been stolen or destroyed in very recent days.

The farm is the Howard Murphy farm, formerly owned by Henry Mutch. Mrs. Murphy had not yet discovered it was missing, and later made a thorough search, but found no trace of it. She did not recall the name, but had heard a story that a family was traveling in a covered wagon and a young son about 6 years old died. He was buried here and later someone returned and erected the small marker. Mrs. Murphy could not be certain of the above details.

S. E. Smith who grew up in this area recalled his father telling of this grave and it was a son of Mr. Matts who owned the farm. The boy died of hydrophobia.

Land records show Hiram E. Matts rec'd W.D. to SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of above Sect. 32-29-24 from KCFS&G RR on 3-28-1881. This land would be directly W of the "10" where the boy is buried.

11-9-1971: Elmer Mutch, bro. of Hy., recalled his father buying the Murphy farm where the grave is located, when he was a little boy, and seeing his father pay for the farm with paper money stacked on a table. He did not know the name of the person buried here, but said that Matts sounded very familiar, and he thought it was the son of a previous owner of the farm. He said the grave was some little distance E of the fence row where the stone was later kept, the spot where the grave was actually located is being farmed over.

2-8-1972 Mrs. Henry Mutch who lived on this farm years ago did not recall the name on the stone, said it was very worn, but believed it was a child of a family who lived there. She recalled when the new road was graded, her husband was quite insistent that the workmen not disturb the grave.

8-7-1971: Will Holland told that Fred Geier (fa-in-law of Mrs. Jessie Geier of Girard) lived to the corner E and about a mile S, and said an Indian who worked for him at road work died and he helped bury him there. We wonder if there might be more than one grave there?

2-25-1972: Fred Rugel told of seeing this small stone many times when a boy, and could not recall the name or date for certain, but seemed like it was "Howe 1898". He had heard the story that it was a boy who died while the family was traveling through in a covered wagon.

Girard Press of 5-17-1883: died on the 14th of May 1883 in Washington twp. of scarlet fever, the child of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Matts, aged about 1 year.

1880 Cen. Crawford Twp: # 192-205	Matt, Hiram	35 farming	Ind.	Ind.	Ind.
	Hannah	33 wife	k.h.	etc.	
	Emma	13 dau.	at school	etc.	
	Elizabeth	11 dau.	"	etc.	
	Laura	10 dau.	"	etc.	
	Willie	8 son	"	etc.	
	Fleming	4 son	at home	Kans.	Ind. Ind.
	Alonzo	11/12 July son	"	etc.	

Mrs. Velma Green, nee Harr, of Rural Girard, stated that when she was a child, living on the same section of land, there were 3 or 4 stones at this location. So it becomes evident that all of the above stories could be more or less correct.