

INTRODUCTION

Known originally as Oread Cemetery, the Pioneer Cemetery of today lies on a gentle plateau on the far, southwestern edge of a prairie hill grandly named Mount Oread by the New Englanders who founded Lawrence, Kansas Territory in 1854. Waves of settlers began arriving in Douglas County in the summer and autumn of that year, many of them abolitionists and members of the New England Emigrant Aid Society--an organization determined to see Kansas enter the Union as a Free State.

By October of that year, Oread Cemetery had its first occupant: Moses L. Pomeroy, dead from "an Illinois fever...a fine young man, an only son leaving parents and two sisters to grieve (when they learn of it) for his loss."*

"Fever" and similar afflictions took a heavy toll on old and young alike across the mid-nineteenth century Kansas frontier. Today one can still see the evidence in Pioneer Cemetery of young lives cut short in a strange, often harsh land. On several stones epitaphs read like lullabies. Charles and Adeline Duncan buried three of their children here between 1857 and 1859. George B. Sutliff of Fairhaven, Vermont died "Far from home," his stone sent 1500 miles to Lawrence by his parents.

In Kansas, however, "fever" soon became synonymous with violence, so it was not long before Oread Cemetery had its first martyrs being laid to rest with full military honors. In the bitterly cold winter of 1855, Thomas W. Barber was gunned down by pro-slavery men from Leecompton; and, in the early autumn of 1856, a Salem, Massachusetts man named David C. Buffum "was willing to die for the cause of Freedom in Kansas" (as the epitaph on his now missing tombstone once read). Both men were "carried up the hill" and laid to rest. The Territory of Kansas, however, was only just beginning to bleed.

By the early 1860s the cemetery became the burial ground for many soldiers; some were unknown, but eighteen of the Thirteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry have since had their graves marked with military regularity: their stones sturdy and in crisp formation even today. They had been en route to Corinth, Mississippi, near the battleground of Shiloh, in the spring of 1862 when typhoid took its toll as surely as any musket balls could have.

But, it was in the late summer of 1863 that Oread Cemetery had its greatest number of burials: William Clarke Quantrill and his band of 450 Confederate irregulars saw to that on August 21, 1863. Over 200 unarmed men and boys were massacred on that, Lawrence's darkest day. A trench was dug, and as many as 70 men buried in it in the days following the raid. Today, only four stones survive to mark the graves of Quantrill's victims. Many of those originally buried there were moved in 1865 when Oak Hill Cemetery opened east of town.

*(From a letter dated October 5, 1854, writer unnamed, in the Puritan Recorder, Boston. Reprinted in the History of the State of Kansas, p. 314, A. T. Andreas: 1883.

The creation of Oak Hill spelled the demise of Oread, which many residents had found difficult to access and simply too remote from town. Oak Hill was less exposed to the raw winds, less harsh in its pastoral beauty, and more adaptable to a nineteenth-century ideal of the cemetery as a garden. In 1864 there were approximately fifteen burials in Oread. In 1865 there was but one. By the late 1860s and early 1870s only a few burials took place. In 1882, Alfred and Sarah Peake, settlers near Lakeview some 25 years earlier, were buried in the southwest part of the cemetery, marking the end of the pioneer era. No more burials would be made at Oread Cemetery for nearly 80 years.

For many years it had been part of the N. P. Demming farm, and cattle grazed among the marble overgrown with sumac and honey locust. Demming, who according to W. C. Simons, helped Chancellor Marvin plant his famous walnut grove, deeded the cemetery to the City of Lawrence in 1867. But, this transfer only signaled the beginning of years of neglect, primarily because the grounds were so far beyond the city limits of the time. Headstones were the objects of target practice for farmboys as well as objects of theft for fraternity boys throwing a Halloween party.

In 1915, W. C. Simons, longtime owner and editor of the Lawrence Journal-World, wrote an eloquent story about the old cemetery and created the first known inventory, though many of the stones at the time were half-buried and unreadable.

In 1928, under the direction of Lawrence Mayor Robert Rankin, the cemetery was cleaned up, fenced, and officially renamed Pioneer Cemetery, with a memorial quartzite boulder marking the grounds.

A decade later, however, The Lawrence Democrat scolded the city about the poor state of the cemetery: "The council committee on parks and cemeteries should give this hallowed spot of early Kansas history some attention."

Not until 1956, at the recommendation of Chancellor Franklin Murphy (who had "rediscovered" the old cemetery while on a walk west of the campus), was the cemetery deeded to the university and significant steps taken to protect and improve it.

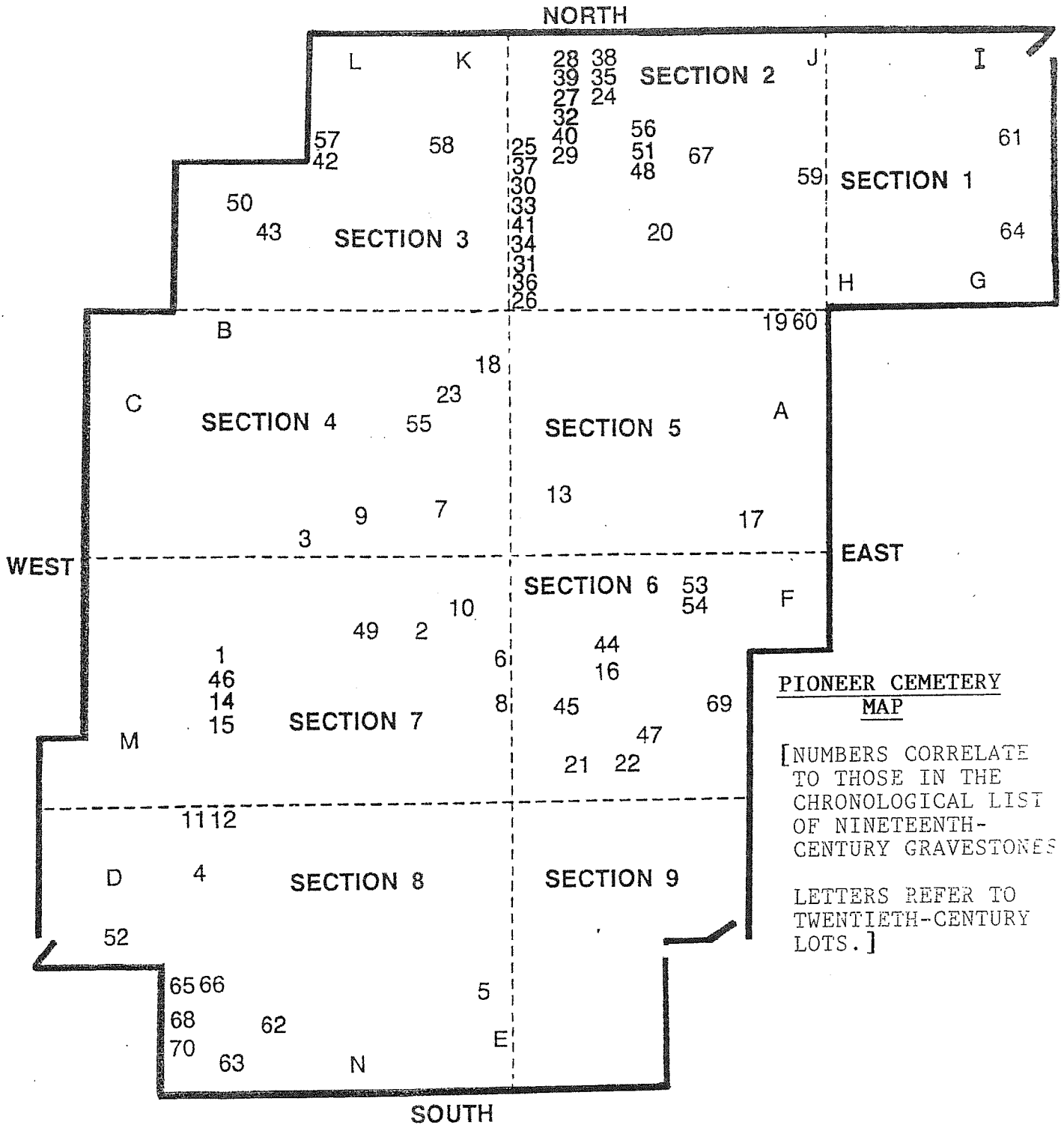
In 1970, the fencing, lighting and landscaping now associated with the cemetery were undertaken with a grant provided by the Kansas University Endowment Association, which now maintains the grounds. All modern interments are conducted through that agency.

Pioneer Cemetery is now becoming surrounded by a university expanding ever westward. Within twenty-five years, what once was a remote, outlying cemetery, will be completely surrounded by new construction on Kansas University's West Campus. It is better protected and maintained now than at any time in its past. However, the old stones of Pioneer Cemetery, marking the graves of many of the earliest settlers in Kansas, continue to show the inevitable effects of time.

It is hoped that this survey will provide a record of what existed and that it will serve as an impetus and guide to restore and protect some of the finer and historically most important stones within Pioneer Cemetery.

TIMELINE

1854	Kansas-Nebraska Act
1854	Lawrence, Kansas Territory founded
1854	Oread Cemetery opens with burial of Moses L. Pomeroy
1855	Murder of Thomas W. Barber
1856	Murder of David C. Buffum
1856	Sack of Lawrence by Sherrif Jones
1859	John Brown of Kansas hanged
1861	Kansas enters Union as a Free State
1861	Ft. Sumter: Civil War begins
1862	Thirteenth Wisconsin Infantry burials
1863	Quantrill's Massacre at Lawrence
1865	Appomattox: end of Civil War
1865	Opening of Oak Hill Cemetery
1865	Re-interments at Oak Hill from Oread begin
1867	Oread Cemetery deeded to City of Lawrence from Deming
1882	Peake burial: last 19th-century burial w/ stone
1906	G.A.R. Monument to the Unknown Union Dead of the Civil War
1915	W.C. Simons inventory and article
1928	Oread Cemetery renamed Pioneer Cemetery
1928	John Oliver stone erected
1956	Kansas University receives deed to Pioneer from City
1960s	20th-century interments begin
1970	K.U. Endowment Association improves grounds
1989	Tombstone Census of Douglas County, Volume II
1996	HMOF commissions survey of Pioneer Cemetery
1997	Barber Monument restoration



**PIONEER CEMETERY
MAP**

[NUMBERS CORRELATE TO THOSE IN THE CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY GRAVESTONES.]

LETTERS REFER TO TWENTIETH-CENTURY LOTS.]

SCALE: $\frac{1}{4}$ " = APPROX. 10'
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " $\frac{1}{2}$ " 1"

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTINGS FOR PIONEER CEMETERY SURVEY
(NUMBERS CORRELATE TO NINETEENTH-CENTURY STONES EXTANT,
AUTUMN 1996)

	Pomeroy, Moses L.*	10 October 1854
1	Campbell, Cornelius	22 April 1855
	Lovejoy, Edith U.	25 May 1855
	Sweezer, Margaret*	26 August 1855
2	Rau, Carl C.	4 November 1855
3	Barber, Thomas W.	6 December 1855
	Corel, Henry**	? 1855
	Corel, Nancy (nee Matney)**	? 1855
	Corel, Will**	? 1855
	Duncan, Willis**	26 January 1856
	Wood, James F.*	24 May 1856
	Buffum, David C.*	17 September 1856
4	Peet, Mary Ann	10 April 1857
5	Killam, Francis	25 May 1857
	Colman, Frank C.**	12 June 1857
6	Duncan, Alfonzo	14 July 1857
7	Nixon, Augustus P.	2 September 1857
	Colman, Samuel C.**	13 September 1857
	McLouth, John B.*	23 September 1857
	Duncan, Charles T.*	2 October 1857
8	McLouth, Frank	6 October 1857
9	Bu..an, Hiram	9 October 1857
10	Duncan, Oeaeleat	29(?) October 1857
	Duncan, Eddie*	20 December 1857
11	Graham, Louisa O. (same as #12)	7 February 1858

12	Graham, Martha (same as #11)	11 March 1858
13	Ritter, Angelina	13 March 1858
14	Blanton, John H.	18 April 1858
15	Blanton, Francis M.	1 May 1858
16	Nichols, Rev. L. H.	28 August 1858
17	Shaw, Henry B.	22 September 1858
	Duncan, Eddie*	12 March 1859
18	Sutliff, George B.	23 June 1859
19	Stearns, Charles Thomas (same as #60)	24 July 1859
	Miner, L.* (Father and infant)	? 1859
	Baldwin, Cary H.*	29 August 1861
	Hutchinson, Walter H.*	11 October 1861
20	Oliver, John	27 October 1861
	Mathews, Mandae*	3 November 1861
21	J.W.M.	?
22	Mathews, J. W.	7 January 1862
	Coat, Lucy Jane*	23 January 1862
23	Godwin, Mary E.	4 March 1862

THIRTEENTH WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

24	Aris, Adam CO. B	18 April 1862
25	Keetar, William CO. A	18 April 1862
26	Whittlesey, Sgt. D. H. CO. A	19 April 1862
27	West, Stephen CO. D	21 April 1862
28	Randolph, Isaac A. F. CO. A	23 April 1862
29	Shields, Louis CO. H	23 April 1862
30	Vandenburgh, John CO. D	23 April 1862
31	Kinney, C. W. CO. G	25 April 1862

32	(P)rice, Edwin CO. F	26 April 1862
33	Plantz, John CO. K	29 April 1862
34	A(c)kerman, Milo CO. A	4 May 1862
35	Smith, Eldridge S. CO. A	5 May 1862
36	Pomeroy, James M. CO. G	6 May 1862
37	Finney, A. T. CO. F	15 May 1862
38	Burton, Harlan, CO. C	21 May 1862
39	Condon, R. C. CO. D	23 May 1862
40	Barnum, G. E. CO. E	20 June 1862
41	Seeley, David CO. H	26 June 1862

END THIRTEENTH WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

SOLDIERS: COMPANIES AND DEATH DATES UNKNOWN

Gillpatrick, R.**	?
Jones, William**	?
Stearns, John**	?
Stevens, Harry**	?

END SOLDIERS

Read, Freddy R.**	30 August 1862
Read, Addie E.**	30 April ?
Baldwin, Clara M.*	14 October 1862
Draper, Benjamin S.*	18 October 1862
42 Hall, Carlos	16 November 1862
43 Busse, Dora	6 February 1863
44 Kenney, Wm. A. (Rev.)	23 April 1863
45 Baldwin, James O.	30 April 1863
46 Hall, James	5 May 186(3)

VICTIMS OF QUANTRILL'S RAID

47	Coat, George W.	21 August 1863
48	Jones, Samuel	21 August 1863
	Griswold, Walter B. S.*	21 August 1863
49	Hay, Chester	21 August 1863
	Sargent, G. H.*	21 August 1863
50	Swan, Louis	21 August 1863

END VICTIMS OF QUANTRILL'S RAID

(Note: Numerous other men were buried in Pioneer Cemetery after Quantrill's Raid, but have since been moved to Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, Kansas.)

51	Jones, Priscilla	18 September 1863
52	Dillard, Delia	1863
	Evans, John T.*	12 April 1864
53	Blakely, John R. CO. F. S.N.Y.H.A.	1 June 1864
54	Blakely, Chas. A.*	31 May 1864
54	Blakely, John, R.*	1 June 1864
54	Blakely, Abraham*	19 December 1864
54	Steele, infant son and daughter of L.S. and L.A.*	?
55	Godwin, Albro	2 August 1864
56	Cunningham, Frances M.	12 August 1864
57	Hall, Freeman	12 August 1864
	Pickens, Laurette*	21 September 1864
58	Speas, Leaner D.	29 September 1864
59	Holtzlander, Lydia	13 October 1864
60	Stearns, Mary Jane (same as #19)	27 December 1864
61	Ahrberg, L. F.	12 July 1865
	Pickens, Dora*	26 January 1867
62	Jones, Samuel	5 February 1868

	Burhans, Carolita M.*	25 July 1868
	Starkweather, Oscar**	1868
63	Berry, John	30 January 1869
	Starkweather, John Noble**	? November 1870
	Holcomb, Jacob S.*	7 June 1871
	Brokaw, E.*	11 March 1872
	Brokaw, T. J.*	14 March 1872
64	Godwin, George W.	30 November 1872
	Godwin, Jennie*	16 November 1873
	Moore, Mary E.**	1872
65	Peake, Alfred (same as #66)	27 February 1882
66	Peake, Sarah (same as #65)	23 September 1882
	Blakely, Hulda**	7 January 1894
67	G.A.R. MONUMENT TO THE UNKNOWN UNION DEAD OF THE CIVIL WAR	1906
68	... Ge...	?
69	"M"	?
70	Fragment of a memorial stone	?

*Asterisk after name indicates stone was included in W. C. Simons's inventory of May 11, 1915, but has since been lost. (Note: in the case of Moses L. Pomeroy, there is no record of a permanent marker ever having been placed at the grave.)

**Double asterisk after name indicates stone is mentioned in another source (i.e. W. L. Hastie's Pioneer Cemetery notes, family letter, newspaper article, Funk Mortuary record, etc.), but has since been lost.

Re-interments from Pioneer to Oak Hill are not included in this chronology. See The Complete Tombstone Census of Douglas County, Volume II, pp. 76-77, for two different lists of re-interments.

NAME OF DECEASED AND DEATH DATE: Thomas W. Barber
6 December 1855

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 3

LOCATION OF MARKER: Section 4

TYPE OF MARKER: Obelisk

DIMENSIONS OF MARKER: Sub Base: 1'4" X 2'5" X 2'4"
Base: 8" X 1'7.5" X 1'7.5"
Body: 2'9" X 1'1.5" X 1'1.5"
Cap: 7" X 1'6" X 1'6"
Obelisk: 4'2" length
7" X 7" tapered to point

TYPE AND COLOR OF STONE: Marble (Indiana?); weathered grey

ORNAMENTAL CARVING: The monument has 5 parts above grade, each meticulously carved. This is the finest and most substantial marker in Pioneer Cemetery. Currently, the obelisk is toppled.

OTHER CHARACTERIZING INFORMATION: THOMAS W. BARBER BORN
Feb.22,1814 DIED Dec.6,1855.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA: A relatively large amount of information exists regarding Thomas W. Barber, primarily because of the events which surrounded his death at the hands of pro-slavery militants from Lecompton, recounted here in the HERALD OF FREEDOM, 15 December 1855, pp. 1 and 2:

"Thomas W. Barber, residing one mile east of Bloomington, was making his way home on Thursday afternoon on horseback, from Lawrence, accompanied by his brother, Robert Barber and his brother-in-law, Thomas Pierson.

Arriving near Mr. Simpson's residence, four miles west of Lawrence, on the California road, they met a party of twelve persons on horseback, who appeared to be making their way to the enemy's camp at Franklin. Refusing to obey the orders to surrender, they were fired upon. One ball passed through the body of Thomas W. Barber, also through the horse of one of the other members of the party. Mr. B. was enabled to ride about one hundred rods; with the assistance of his brother to support him, when he fell, and soon after expired.

An express was dispatched to town by a person who saw the occurrence. The General directed a detachment to be sent for the body, as also for witnesses. Several persons appeared before the Council in the evening, when the above facts were elicited.

Mr. B. was a person of very exemplary character, formerly from Ohio. He was fifty-two years of age, a gentleman of large property, and leaves a devoted wife to mourn his loss. His body will be exposed to the public tomorrow."

[Note: In this same issue of the HERALD OF FREEDOM, the murder of Dow by Coleman also is reported, with great alarm. Both of these murders were a part of what would later be termed the Wakarusa War: the beginning of "Bleeding Kansas". The earliest printed reference to a "Mr. John Brown," is also made here, "an aged gentleman from Essex County, N.Y..."]

The murder of Thomas Barber became a national event; symbolic of the bloodshed that would surely follow over the question of slavery. For the next five years Kansas Territory would be the preliminary battleground of the American Civil War. Shortly after news of Barber's death reached the East, John Greenleaf Whittier wrote an impassioned twelve stanza poem titled the "Burial of Barber", published in The National Era, March, 1856. Two accounts of Barber's funeral may be found in the following books: Kansas; Its Interior and Exterior Life. by Sara T. D. Robinson, Boston: Crosby, Nichols & Co., 1856, Chapter XII, pp. 185-192; and, Six Months in Kansas; By a Lady. by Hannah Anderson Ropes, Boston: John P. Jewett & Co., 1856. [See Appendix.]

A one room schoolhouse in Kanwaka Township of Douglas County, Kansas was built in 1871 and named in honor of Thomas Barber. Its ongoing restoration in Clinton State Park has been a joint project between the University of Kansas School of Architecture and Urban Design and the Douglas County Preservation Alliance. Barber County, Kansas was also named in honor of Thomas Barber.

CONDITION OF MARKER: The Barber Monument, like the Rau grave, is completely engulfed in a large juniper shrub. This, again, has served to protect the marker. Unfortunately, the obelisk has been toppled and the base knocked out of alignment. A repair was made for the sum of seventy dollars by a "local tombstone man" after the funds were raised by Charlie Tucker at an Old Settler's meeting. (W. L. Hastie report, 1939.) This repair seems to have been made with concrete. The monument itself, though fallen, is in good condition. According to Simons, it came from Richmond, Indiana.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION: The base of the Barber Monument needs re-aligning, and the obelisk needs to be reset. This may invite renewed attempts at vandalism, however, as it will make the Barber Monument highly visible at close to ten feet in height. The juniper shrub should be pruned, but not removed, as it is probably at least fifty years old. The planting of an Ohio Buckeye tree would be an appropriate addition to the gravesite, as would a small plaque with the text of Whittier's poem. Indirect lighting might also be considered to further enhance and protect the monument. The Barber Monument, once restored, would be an excellent candidate for the State and National Registers of Historic Places. [See photograph of Barber Monument in 1917 in Appendix.]

DATE OF RECORD: September, 1996

NAME OF DECEASED AND DEATH DATE: George W. Coat
21 August 1863

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 47

LOCATION OF MARKER: Section 6

TYPE OF MARKER: Headstone

DIMENSIONS OF MARKER: 4'6" X 1'6"

TYPE AND COLOR OF STONE: Marble; weathered grey

ORNAMENTAL CARVING: "GEORGE W. COAT" is carved in a recessed, U-shaped frame. Some scrollwork above epitaph.

OTHER CHARACTERIZING INFORMATION: George W. Coat Killed in the
mas-sacre at Lawrence Aug. 21, 1863 Aged 28 Years
2 M's 7 D's.

.....(first line of epitaph broken)
It breaks not friendships chain
Farewell, the faithful hearted
Shall live and love again.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA: George W. Coat was killed at his home
in Lawrence during the Quantrill raid.

Marriage:

W. Coat of Mason Co., Ill. to Elizabeth M. Baldwin, July 1,
1857, in Lawrence by Rev. G. W. Hutchinson.
(HERALD OF FREEDOM, 11 July 1857, p. 3.)
(Information from Katie Armitage, 1996)

CONDITION OF MARKER: Fair; the George W. Coat stone is broken
through the first line of the epitaph. It is set in
concrete, flush with the ground.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION: The Coat stone is one of only four
remaining in Pioneer Cemetery marking the graves of
Quantrill's victims. It should be carefully monitored for
possible theft by Civil War souvenir seekers. Its
concrete base should be monitored for deterioration; and,
the stone reset when necessary.

NOTE: Nearby is the now unmarked grave of Lucy Jane Coat,
daughter of G.W. and E.M. Coat, Jan. 23, 1862. Age 1 year.
Also nearby may be the following unmarked graves:
Benjamin S. Draper, Oct. 18, 1862. Age 13.
E. Brokaw, Mar. 11, 1872. Age 37.
T.J. Brokaw, Mar. 14, 1872. Age 39.
[These four stones were listed in the Simons inventory
of 1915.]

DATE OF RECORD: September, 1996