

# LEHI CITY CEMETERY

**First used: 1871**

**Address: 400 East 1100 North**

**Owner: Lehi City Corporation**

Comparatively few deaths occurred in Lehi's earliest years. Tragically, many of those were children who fell victim to accidents and the host of infantile diseases then prevalent. There were some particularly spectacular deaths in the community. George Winn, Joseph Cousins, and John Carlin were killed in an Indian fight south of Pelican Point in February 1856. Their mutilated, frozen bodies were brought back to town by a posse and buried in a common grave in the old cemetery. Murder victims Jacob Lance (1856) and Sol Langley (1861) were also likely buried in the pioneer cemetery--though details surrounding their vigilante-style killings remain shrouded in mystery.

Harlan P. Swett, twenty-four year-old freighter, was murdered near Saratoga by young Chauncey Millard on 11 December 1868 (see chapter 3). Swett was first buried in the pioneer cemetery then evidently reburied in the new cemetery. His New Hampshire relatives ordered a gravestone from Salt Lake City stonecutter W.W. Player. Enroute to Lehi the sandstone marker fell from the wagon and broke into three pieces. The teamster loaded the damaged stone back onto the wagon and brought it to town. Blacksmith Samuel R. Taylor managed to bolt it together in an iron frame. The headstone remains one of the most interesting markers in the cemetery today.

Another monument with a fascinating background is the headstone of George William Thurmond. This pioneer Lehi school teacher was murdered by one of his students as he was decorating a tree in the Meeting House on Christmas Eve.

In MEMORY of  
G.W. THURMOND

AGED  
28 Years & 7 Months  
Who was shot by an  
Assassin on the eve of  
Dec. 24, 1871 whilst per-  
forming an act of love for  
his scholars & the people.

We mourn him for we miss him  
But more has bitter end  
We loved him for his virtues  
As a Father, Brother, Friend

In addition to burials, the sexton was responsible for maintaining the cemetery--though it was a desolate, boothill-like place in the earliest days. In 1899 the city council authorized funds to install a windmill on the cemetery's small well.

Under the post-World War II administration of Mayor Daryl Fowler, Councilman George W. Leany submitted a long-range cemetery beautification and perpetual care program to Lehi's city council. The \$197.50 per lot for perpetual care raised sufficient revenue for the installation of a cemetery-wide sprinkling system and the planting of lawns.

A stroll through the verdantly peaceful cemetery is like taking a quick course in Lehi history. Bishops David Evans and Thomas Cutler, kingpins in the establishment of our town, lie surrounded by numerous wives and kin (just a stone's throw from each other). James Harwood, George Webb, William Clark, George Comer, and several other legendary figures rest under monuments befitting men of their stature.

Most of those whose remains lie there would be considered "just plain folk." But those thousands of less-well-known names on markers represent an incredible variety of human experience. Sadly, we can only gather bits and pieces about those who shared life and death in our community.

The earliest headstones in the Lehi cemetery were wooden. None of these remain. Most surviving nineteenth-century markers are white marble or brown sandstone. Hundreds of these can be seen. Many were pre-cut, partially inscribed stones shipped from the East on the railroad. Local stonecutter, Arthur Bradder, merely had to inscribe the demographic information and, occasionally, the epitaph. From an artistic standpoint, gravestones sometimes can be intricate and portray important folk art.