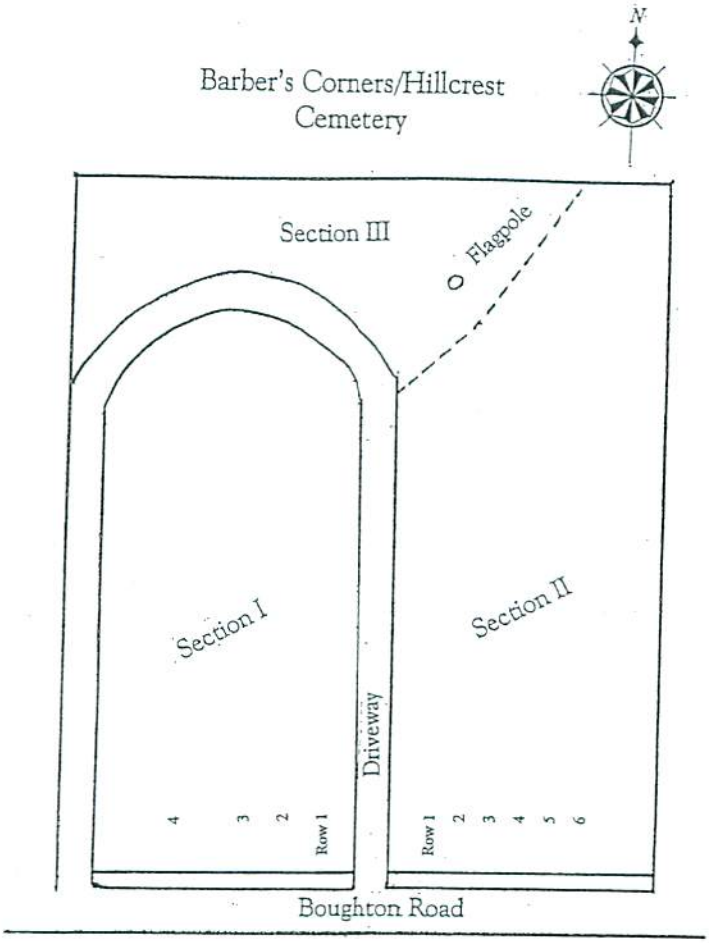
Barber's Corners/Hillcrest
Cemetery



History of
Barber's Corners/Hillcrest Cemetery

Barber's Corners Cemetery, lately called Hillcrest Cemetery, is located in Bolingbrook, Illinois, DuPage Township of Will County, on the north side of Boughton Road, approximately one-half mile east of IL Route 53. The two entrances at the front are not gated, and a U-shaped drive passes through the grounds (see map). The east and north sides have chain-link fencing, the west side is open and unfenced, and on the south side , fronting on Boughton Road, is an ornamental cement wall. On this wall is a bronze tablet inscribed: "In memory of Simeon Alden Wife & Daughters by Mrs. E.S. Brunson their daughter, hoping that future generations will care for their graves, Date 1911."

The original name comes from the location in the area settled by John Barber in the early 1830's. While no town of Barber's Corners ever existed, the general area was well-known by that name. The cemetery's name was changed to Hillcrest in 1959, but the old name persists among historical records. The cemetery is still active, with occasional burials being added. It is nicely maintained and has an overall peaceful and pleasant aspect. Plans are currently in place to increase its area to the west to add additional gravesites, at which time the ownership will be transferred from a private board of trustees to the Village of Bolingbrook.

The earliest burial date found on a tombstone here is July 26, 1835, for Hattie Martin, aged two months, daughter of Hylon and Caroline Martin. There are a number of elegant and elaborate monuments, as well as some unusual ones. There are tall structures commemorating the pioneer families of Hylon Martin, Peter Warden, and John Glover. A rather plain stone honors 104-year-old Olive F. Shepard (1779-1883). Two gray granite markers in the shape of pillows are inscribed simply "Zocca" and "Massaua". There is but one zinc monument but several early native limestone tablets. A number of veterans of both World Wars, Korea, and Viet Nam are here, as well as one fom he Black Hawk War. A huge boulder on the Sprague lot bears a bronze tablet in memory of the pioneer homestead (1838) of Thomas Jefferson Sprague and his wife Lydia Swift Godfrey Sprague. Other original settlers who lie here are Hiram Warren, Hannibal Ward, Shubael Swift, Mrs. Samuel Clifford, and Simeon Alden. Of the older stones very few have illegible areas and there are few instances of broken or toppled stones.

The reading herewith is a complete inventory of the monuments and markers as found as of August 1, 2003. It is inevitable that there are some missing stones. According to the County Clerk's records of deaths in Will County, the following three entries were recorded as burials in Barber's Corners Cemetery, although no stone was found:

Elof **Johnson**, died DuPage Twp., 5 August 1902, age 2 years 3 months 16 days
Sarah **Hallock**, died Joliet, 22 August 1902, age 78 years 5 months 21 days
Charles Bernard **Johnson**, died DuPage Twp., 16 November 1905, age 16 years 3 months 3 days

A list of unmarked burials, which was unknown at the time of this reading, has since been discovered. Permission to include it here has kindly been granted by the DuPage County Genealogical Society. It begins on page 33.

An earlier reading of this cemetery was done by D. Andrew Bale in September of 1988. That reading was proofread and brought up to date by Nancy Bruce Crilly and Shirline Y. Skuban in the summer of 2003. The inscriptions were read from south to north in Sections I and II. The back area, Section III, was read as a continuous group. See the map below.