

#1 Caseville Township Cemetery, St. Roch Catholic Cemetery and Grand Acres Cemetery

Of the 75 cemeteries in Huron County, Michigan, Caseville currently has two. As you are driving north on M 25 and just about to enter the city limits you will see on your left St. Roch Catholic Cemetery and Caseville Township Cemetery, both overlooking the waters of Saginaw Bay. St. Roch Cemetery is owned by the Saginaw Diocese and maintained by St. Roch Parish. As the years go by, many grave markers deteriorate and become harder to read, especially those made of wood with handwritten dates. There are 335 marked gravesites in the cemetery. The earliest death known is of J. O. Conaton who passed on October 13, 1879, and the earliest birth known is of John Kosanski in 1826.

The Caseville Township Cemetery, although much larger, has a similar history. There are 2,041 marked gravesites. The earliest known death was of Robert Smith on May 17, 1862, and the earliest known birth was Ralph McCool in December of 1800.

More information about St. Roch's Cemetery can be found at St. Roch Catholic Church. Caseville Township Cemetery information may be found at the Caseville Township offices. Robert B. LaBelle wrote a book on each cemetery with maps and names of the deceased. Those books can be viewed at the Caseville Historical Museum.

While both of these cemeteries are quite visible, most people do not realize that there was another cemetery in Caseville bounded by Caseville Rd., Legion Drive, East Part Street and M 25. That area was about 26.5 acres and was named Grand Acres. It was planned by C. F. Luckhard in 1930 and later platted by Alfred Herbert. Lots were sold but very few burials occurred and those that did were moved when the cemetery was abandoned due to a high-water table.

We would like to give thanks to Robert B. LaBelle for the wonderful information about these landmarks.

ON A SIDE NOTE:

Grave robbing or tomb raiding is associated with two purposes, valuables and cadavers. It even happened in the community of Caseville, Michigan. As medical schools were established there became a need for bodies to study. In 1870 there was a Dr. S. J. Henderson who had an office and drug store in Caseville. The building had a cellar with a sawdust covered floor. One morning Dr. Henderson's young female employee went to the cellar to get something and came running back up the stairs screaming that there was a man in the cellar. Some men heard her screams and went down in the cellar and sure enough, there was a man, but he was deceased and they recognized him as having just been buried on the previous day. Upon reaching the cemetery they found the open grave. As neighbors began to talk more details were discovered and eventually 3 men were arrested and admitted to grave robbing. They took the bodies to Saginaw in horse drawn wagons where they were transported by trains to medical schools. How did the body get into Dr. Henderson's cellar?