

## Little Prairie Cemetery History

Little Prairie Cemetery, located in the Town of Troy in Walworth County, Wisconsin, is a historic pioneer burial ground established to serve early settlers of the area.

### Historical Foundations<sup>i</sup>

- **Establishment:** The cemetery was first formed in the **early 1840s** after land was donated by the **Ray, Landgraf, and Farnum** families.
- **Official Recording:** It was formally organized and recorded with the Walworth County Register of Deeds in **1852**.
- **Land Expansion:** Adam E. Ray, a prominent early settler, provided a "fine field" for the cemetery in **1860**.

### Notable Burials and Families

- **Pioneer Settlers:** Many of the town's first families are interred here, including the **Ray, Farnum, Landgraf, Baker, Chapman, Olds, Murdock, Chatfield, Adsit, and Harlow** families.
- **Veterans:** The site is a rare location in Wisconsin that contains graves for veterans of several major conflicts:
  - **Revolutionary War:** At least one Revolutionary War veteran is reported to be buried here.
  - **War of 1812:** There are at least two documented veterans from the War of 1812, including **John Leonard** (died 1861).
  - **Civil War:** Numerous Civil War veterans and their families are also buried at the site.

### Community Context

- **Religious Significance:** The cemetery was central to a growing pioneer community that included a **Methodist church** (established 1858), a **Bible Christian lot** (1861), and a **Seventh-day Adventist** society (1867).
- **Active Maintenance:** The cemetery remains well-peopled and is still used today.
- **Genealogy:** Digital records and tombstone photographs for many individuals, such as the **Bigelow, Cameron, and Watson** families, are available through the [USGenWeb Archives](#) and [Find a Grave](#).

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[Town of Troy, Walworth County, WI](#)