

WHO OWNS CEMETERY LOTS

1. The last person to whom a **Deed or Certificate and Agreement of Interment Rights** was given showing them as Grantee on the **Deed/Interment Right**.
OR
2. The last person to whom an **Interment Agreement** was given showing them as the Grantee on the **Interment Agreement**.
3. Cemetery Lots are handled in the same manner as a 40 acre piece of ground or a house would be handled.
4. If someone makes a *lifetime transfer*, we require the **Deed or Interment Agreement** showing the person claiming they own the lot, is, in fact the person who holds the **Deed or Interment Agreement**.
5. If the last person shown on the **Deed** as Grantee or on the **Interment Agreement** is deceased, then whoever is claiming to own the lot must show how it got from the Deceased person's name-to the person claiming ownership.
 - a. If the lot was held with someone as **Joint Tenants**, then the *surviving Joint Tenant* could file an *Affidavit* and show that they now own the lot as the *surviving Joint Tenant*.
 - b. If the lot is held by someone who dies, then an Estate proceeding would establish ownership as the *heir* of the Deceased and the Court proceeding would be the record *evidence* of the new owner(s) of the lot.
 - c. If there is no *survivorship*, ownership such as **Joint Tenancy** or no Estate proceeding, then there is no proof of record title for the cemetery officials to rely upon as to who owns the lot.
6. A person cannot use the following to prove ownership of a lot:
 - a. A *deed* to the parents of the person claiming to own the lot without normal real property estate law.
 - b. A *Will* showing that the Deceased provided in the *Will* that lots went to *heirs* without a *Court determination* of who the *heirs* are.
7. There has to be a *legal Chain of Title* showing how the person claiming title *legally* got the title.
8. Nothing has changed with the switch over from **Deeds to Interment of Agreements**. You still must show a **Chain of Title**

9. Cemetery officials do not determine **Chain of Title**. **Chain of Title** results from how title is held and how title passes.
10. Definition of **Chain of Title**:
Chain of Title: *Successive conveyances, or other forms of alienation, affecting a particular parcel of land, arranged consecutively, from the government or original source of title down to the present holder.*
11. The Cemetery will not let you bury anyone on a lot or to transfer a lot unless you (not your parents) appear on the last **Deed or Interment Agreement** as the owner of the lot.
12. If you have parents who die and they say that you are to have the lots, it is up to you to establish the **Chain of Title** showing that you are the *legal* owner.
13. If you do not understand this memo or if you want to establish your **Chain of Title**, please seek your *attorney* for *legal assistance*.
14. Reference throughout Chapter 115 and Amendment of Ordinance 1999-03 to Deed(s) predates state enactment of Chapter 523I effective July , 2005. Any reference to deeds pre-July 1, 2005 shall be subject to interment rights post July 1, 2005 and City Ordinance is amended to reflect same.

Rates – Effective as of Feb. 2024

Opening and Closing graves

(Charges must be paid ahead for private burial ceremonies)

Vault burial: other than for infants & crematory----	\$565.00
Vault burial: Saturday, Sunday or Holiday-----	\$565.00
Infant burial: [vault or crematory] -----	\$300.00
Crematory: [adult or infant]-----	\$300.00
Disinterment-----	\$1,000.00
Cremation Disinterment-----	\$575.00

Sale of Cemetery Plots; Perpetual Care

See Cemetery Sexton for availability at the physical Cemetery. Payments & paperwork, are completed at Sexton's Office. Recording is completed at City Hall.

Sections	Space	Perp. Care	Filing Fee	Total
ALL	\$400.00	\$100.00	\$10.00	\$510.00

Please make all check payable to City of Shenandoah.

Copies of Cemetery Records

Copies for Proof of Ownership, City Ordinances or burial records are available upon request at City Hall in Shenandoah Iowa. *Charges may apply.*

VISIT US ONLINE-website in progress

WWW.ROSEHILL.CEMSITES.COM

In May 2016, the Rose Hill Cemetery records team based out of City Hall began implementing a Cemetery Records data migration from fragile paper records to an on-line digital data base. For the first time in Shenandoah history, you will be able to access your loved ones burial records from anywhere! We invite visitors to access the beta release of the website. **The data entry process is ongoing.** At this time, you may search from over 25,000 burial locations. Stay tuned for updates.

Meet the Rose Hill Cemetery Board

- Chairwoman-----Rita Oberg
- Recorder-----Cheryl Dreyer
- Board Member-----Leon McEnaney
- Board Member-----Mary Lou Davis
- Board Member-----Terry Engelmeyer

Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of every month located at Cemetery Shop **10:00 A.M [307 Carter St.]**
[Meeting times and dates may be subject to board member availabilities]

**Rose Hill Cemetery
Sexton Tim Akers**

**307 Carter Street
Shenandoah, IA 51601**

(712) 246-2337

rosehillcem@shenandoahiowa.net



**Rose Hill
Cemetery**

Operating under the
City of Shenandoah Iowa
Since 1872

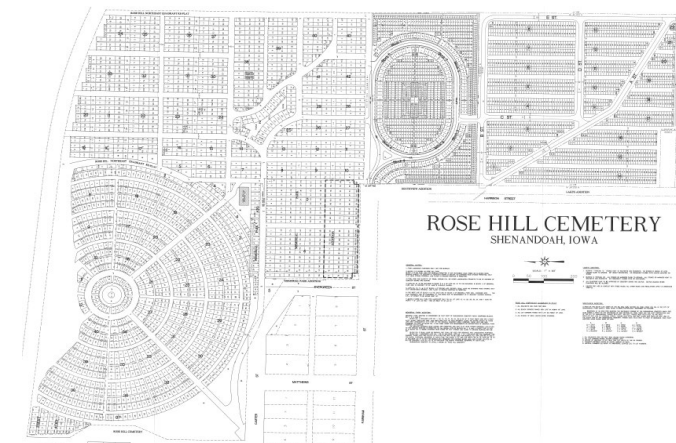
Iowa State Code
Compliant

Rose Hill Cemetery
City Hall Records
500 W. Clarinda Ave
Shenandoah, IA 51601

(712) 246-1213

Be sure to like us on Facebook 
Shenandoah Iowa Rosehill Cemetery
www.rosehill.cemsites.com

Last updated: November 2023



Rules, Regulations & Guidelines

- I. The interment spaces are to be used for interment purposes only and the Purchaser's rights are limited by subject to the Cemetery's rules and regulations as now existing or as amended in the future.
- II. This certificate of interment rights is the owners right to use such lot for burial purposes only, for themselves, their heir or for any such persons as they may chose to admit in accordance with Cemetery Rules and Regulations. Interment rights convey only a right to be interred in the interment space[s] and in no way is any real estate conveyed to the Purchaser. Furthermore, a limitation of two interments [one traditional with vault and one cremation; or four cremations] will be permitted in the interment space, unless specifically authorized by the Cemetery Board. The Cemetery shall only convey developed interment space[s].
- III. Services related to the interment in the interment space[s] are not included in the rights conveyed. The purchase price does not include the cost of the grave opening at the time of burial or any additional fees. These charges will be determined at the time they are purchased and are subject to change.
- IV. The Cemetery Sexton must receive 48 hour notice with certain information prior to any interment. The notice must include the name of the deceased, the deceased birthdate, the deceased's date of death, informant contact information or next-of-kin, funeral establishment [if any] and any other required information. The funeral home handling the arrangements may provide this information.
- V. Purchaser cannot sell or transfer the interment space[s] without consent of the Shenandoah City Council.

- VI. The Cemetery shall use the Purchaser's address for any official notices concerning the interment space. The Purchaser shall notify the Cemetery of any changes in their address.
- VII. Of the total purchase price, ninety dollars and zero cents [\$90.00] for all Sections, shall be deposited in the Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund. Deposits shall be held in an irrevocable trust by the City Council of the City of Shenandoah, Iowa and the interest income from this trust will be used for the permanent care of the interment space[s] and the general care maintenance of the cemetery as a whole, excluding memorial maintenance. These deposits are not refundable in the event of cancelation.
- VIII. The Cemetery will provide Perpetual Care of the Cemetery grounds, which shall include, but is not limited to, mowing of all lots and graves at reasonable intervals, sodding or seeding and filling in sunken graves to lot level, removing dead flowers, raking and trimming trees and shrubbery when necessary. Perpetual Care does not include maintenance, upkeep, or repair of any headstone, monument, marker or flower vase.
- IX. Headstones, monuments or markers that are placed in the Cemetery, remain the property of the individual or family. Headstones, monuments or markers can only be placed under the direction of the Cemetery Sexton before arriving at the Cemetery. The Cemetery shall not be responsible to repair any damaged, vandalism or graffiti that may occur to the headstone, monument or marker. The Sexton shall enforce rules for the use, care, control, management, restriction and protection of the cemetery as necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the cemetery including uniformity, class and kind of memorials, memorialization, structures and placement of all within the cemetery.
- X. Until such time as an interment space[s] as listed above are used, either through burial or installation of a monument, the purchaser may request to substitute other appropriate interment space[s] located within Rose Hill Cemetery. An additional \$10.00 fee will be charged to issue a new certificate. The Cemetery may charge a reasonable fee for additional administrative services.
- XI. Purchaser shall be responsible for all funeral costs, including grave opening and closing fees due at the time of burial. In addition to the purchase/erection of a monument, which are not included in this certificate, or provided by the City of Shenandoah.
- XII. The terms and conditions described herein are binding upon the Purchaser's heirs/successors assign and enforceable only by the Rose Hill Cemetery. Proof of burial rights must be produced at the time of all burials. All burials must be authorized by the Rose Hill Cemetery Sexton before beginning burial procedures.
- XIII. The purchase price shall be paid in full, by cash or check, at the time of plot purchase.
- XIII. No interment of any body other than human shall be permitted or made in the City cemetery.

Monuments and Memorials

1. There shall be one upright stone/marker per burial space uniformly throughout the cemetery and one upright stone per space shall apply to all spaces in the cemetery. Any additional stones/markers shall be laid flush with the ground. Ordinance 115.07-19 is amended to read as above written.
2. There shall be no more than four [4] cremations in any burial space.
3. No monument or grave marker for a single grave space shall exceed the width of the single grave space nor be longer than 36 inches within the 48 inch width of a grave lot.
4. Biodegradable Ash Urn plantings shall be permitted under supervision of the Sexton and complies with cemetery rules.
5. Lot owners and others are prohibited from placing on lots or graves any toys, cases, boxes, globes, shells, cans, jugs, bottles, bric-a-brac of every description, benches, chairs, settees, head-boards or wooden articles of any kind. Any such articles found on the cemetery grounds may be removed at the owner's expense.
6. The Sexton or other authorized employees of the City may enter upon any lot and remove any shrub, plant, ornament, trees or other object which is deemed detrimental to the cemetery or adjoining lots and for the purpose of making any improvements deemed to be advantageous to the cemetery grounds.
7. No fences or enclosures around lots shall be permitted. There shall be permitted one Shepard hook per space and two solar lights per space. *Per Resolution 2017-10*
8. Monuments and grave markers set after August 11, 1999 shall be located at the North end of the North-South burial spaces and at the West end of East-West burial spaces, except as otherwise specified at the discretion of the Sexton.
9. Lot owners shall have the right to cultivate plants within the limit of a one-foot radius of any monument, which plants must not be detrimental to the cemetery or adjoining lots. Owners of lots shall not change the grade of any lot, nor interfere in any way with the general plan of landscaping of the Cemetery.
10. Slabs of any kind will not be permitted as coverings for graves. Surface vaults will not be permitted.
11. The Cemetery publicizes seasonal clean-ups typically early Spring and Mid-Summer. Citizens are responsible for removal of wanted items such as but not limited to, décor, wreathes, flowers, dangling, faded or damaged items in or on the ground. Any remaining items are subject for removal and discarded at the owners expense.
12. Prior to setting any monument or grave marker, the contractor shall contact the Cemetery Sexton and complete the appropriate application form, which shall be provided by the Sexton. The Cemetery Sexton shall inspect and measure the foundation excavation prior to pouring any cement.

History Contempo

Rose Hill Cemetery endures as the exclusive burial grounds for the City of Shenandoah Iowa located in the county of Page. With approximately 16,000 total plots, Rose Hill serves as the final resting place for over 10,000 of our local friends and family members. With gravestones dating from 1871 to the present, our cemetery carries on nearly a century and a half of tradition and culture. Today the cemetery spans nearly 50 square acres of heartland landscaping in the northeast edge of town. Anyone trekking the famous Wabash Trace through Shenandoah will inevitably walk along side the north edge of the oldest Original burial section. Notable identifying landmarks include Waubonsie Park to the North and our large water tower to the South.

Early Beginnings

Ransom A. and Ruth D. Crippen of Corning, Iowa are believed to be the original land owners. The ground was platted May 29, 1872. In 1876, D.S. Lake and William Noble accompanied by A.S. Lake as secretary, assumed responsibility of the cemetery with Ordinance No. 333 on September 27, 1916. Before the turn of the century there were no known regulations for permanent Cemetery record keeping. Correspondingly, there are limited burial records before the 1920's.

The first known burial record was Chloe Caroline Denton who passed April 1871. It is worth mentioning, some dispute the first burial was Carl C. Webster, son of Dr. W.B. Webster, who passed May 21, 1871. Carl C. Webster was the first burial on the southwest corner of Thomas Avenue and Walnut Street where the old Lumber Company was built much later. Any dates before 1871 are Memorials of bodies shipped and interred.

Information compiled by Carol Johnson Ingram-1999

Sections & Additions

The Original section is laid in a unique wagon wheel fashion. There is a wide variety of plot shapes, sizes and some of the oldest burials in Rose Hill Cemetery. In addition to the Original section, over the years there have been 6 section additions. First Addition, Second Addition, Rose Hill Park, Memorial Park, Southview and finally the most recent addition, Lakes, platted in 1993.

Potter's field is located on the extreme northeast part of the Original Cemetery. As of July 1914, Sexton Baldwin said there were 215 graves. 50 of which are the graves of unknown.

In the heart of the Second addition Block 38 Lot 34 & 35 is a quiet plot of land commonly referred to as "Baby Land". Here lies over 30 infant burials of loved ones lost too soon.

Although Memorial Park Addition does not inclusively belong to St. Mary's Catholic Church, it is known as the "Catholic Section" of the Cemetery.

Information compiled by Carol Johnson Ingram-1999

Board Mission Statement

The Rose Hill Cemetery board is led by an all-volunteer board that meets monthly to conduct business and review the routine operations of the cemetery. The board is devoted to the long-term preservation, historical beauty and community enjoyment of Shenandoah's only burial grounds. This group of community volunteers is dedicated to reinforcing a relationship with our community through public education and involvement of the Rose Hill Cemetery.