

## History of Norton Cemeteries

\*\*Other cemeteries may be included because of Norton involvement

Township –established in 1818

Village –established in 1961

City –established in 1969

- 1952      Johnson Corners Cemetery annexed to Barberton
- 1955      All cemetery records destroyed and discarded because of rain storm
- 1959      Purchase of north section of Western Star Cemetery
- 1961      Cemetery Board established in the Village of Norton
- 1974      Contracted out to have entire Western Star Cemetery fenced in
- 1975      Question of burial rights first addressed
- 1976      Veterans of Foreign Wars place Memorial Day flags at war Veteran's graves  
(ongoing practice)
- 1978      Boy Scouts located recorded and filed grave marker information
- 1985      Initiated plan for relocation of stones in Black Plague Cemetery from Bauer farm  
to Norton Center Cemetery
- 1986      Initiated twice yearly clean-up and landscape renewal  
Western Star Cemetery-North section  
Cleared and contoured for water run-off  
Lots for conventional baby land and cremains burial laid out by Surveyor, Fred  
Bliss
- 1987      Western Star Cemetery  
Installed new sign by Walter Graphics Inc., Copley  
Removed historic storm damaged oak tree  
Established first draft of Rules and Regulations
- 1988      Western Star Cemetery  
Rules and Regulations accepted by City Council and opened North section for  
burials  
Norton Center Cemetery  
Removed storm damaged oak tree  
Sign erected by Eagle Scout-Tom Pletcher  
Layed crushed stone path at entrance

- 1989      Western Star Cemetery  
 Lot deed book set up by Bunnell Printing  
 Initiated twice yearly newspaper advertisement for sale of lots  
 Layed crushed stone drive at north edge  
 Welcomed Bacher Funeral Home to Norton City
- 1990      In May, rededicated three Black Plague Cemetery headstones and moved them to Norton Center Cemetery  
 Installed plaques at both cemeteries
- 1991      Cemetery Board opened negotiations with Barberton Design and Review Board to rejuvenate the Johnson Corners Cemetery, burial sight of Abraham VanHyning (d 1826) a Founding Father of Norton
- 1993      In June, publicly rededicated Johnson Corners Cemetery with VanHyning family. Plaque installed
- 1994      Revised Rules and Regulations for burial at Western Star Cemetery
- 1995      Revised Rules and Regulations for burial at Western Star Cemetery accepted by City Council
- 1996-97   Johnson Corner Cemetery rededication of Civil War Veteran Myron T. Wright  
 Black metal fence installed by the City of Barberton
- 1998      Revised and updated Rules and Regulations to include marker size  
New Portage Cemetery  
 Excavated and reset stones (vandalized twice)
- 1999      Norton Center Cemetery  
 relandscaped  
Western Star Cemetery  
 South corner of front ditch put in for parking
- 2000      New Portage Cemetery  
 Most stones reset by Abraham Benevides and the Church of the Latter Day Saints members  
Western Star Cemetery  
 Fence repair and repainted, found some missing stones and re-erected them  
Norton Center Cemetery  
 Fence painted
- 2001      Board (unofficially) received a copy of Cemetery Laws of Ohio  
 Put together information for the "Ohio's Directory of Cemeteries" 1803-2003.  
 Contacted by the Ohio Genealogical Society and the Ohio Township Association

- 2002 Headstone recovered from a Hillier Rd. property with the name of John H. Suttles, 183?. Now resides at the Lahr Haus.  
Possible charter changes during the Amy Addis Administration could have abolished the Cemetery Board.  
Norton Center Cemetery  
Two new stones were placed. One for Ruby (Miller) Schulties and Grace Miller. The other for Magnolia and Horton Miller.  
Records showed that they were buried at different times from 1907-1979 but had no markers.  
Western Star Cemetery  
City crews did a major removal of most of the trees and shrubs. Have to admit that it looks terrible. City has no funds to replace anything but we have a donor that came forward (2004).
- 2003 Black Plague Cemetery (Bauer Farm)  
A group went up to the sight of the cemetery to see if they could locate any new (old) stones or bases.  
Western Star Cemetery  
Placement of stone for Rowena (Young) French, pioneer woman, first to arrive in our area. Bench donated and delivered by George Tomko  
Himelrigh Cemetery  
Began following up with inquiries about this cemetery. Distant family members have come forward. Planning a plaque to be put into place. Did some clean up work and found headstones and bases there.
- 2004 Himelrigh Cemetery  
Sawed out trees and pulled out vines in preparation to turn over a large overturned stone to read the names.  
Norton Center Cemetery  
With donated manure, leaves, paper and perennials, the Twinbrooks Garden Club & cemetery board members extended the flowerbed around the sign.
- 2005 Western Star  
New vinyl sign with black lettering was put in to replace old wooden sign. Twinbrooks Garden Club provided materials and labor and put in new flowerbed around the sign.  
Himelrigh Cemetery  
Norton citizens met at Lahr House and traveled to cemetery for a major cleanup effort.
- 2006 Charter Review Commission votes to merge Parks Board and Cemetery Board. Vote was 6 - for and 0 – against.
- 2007 Himelrigh Cemetery  
Lisa Merrick met with PPG official to look at sight and was given 3 year access to cemetery, on PPG property. The Ohio Genealogy Society researched deed and we know this cemetery is in Barberton City.

In the November 6, 2007 General Election, citizens of Norton overwhelmingly vote to merge Parks & Recreation Board and Cemetery Board. Cemetery Board is abolished.

2008 The new board created to include the abolished Cemetery Board, is now called, Park and Cemetery Board. Lisa Merrick, former Chairperson was appointed as representative for the cemeteries.

Western Star Cemetery Stumps were removed and fill added. Some of the headstones were reset by city workers.

Norton Center Cemetery

Ohio Genealogical Society, Summit County, has identified approximately 30 more names of people buried in this cemetery

2009 Western Star Cemetery - Money raised by Lisa Merrick went towards the purchase and installment by Tom Dayton, of a new bench and three trees that were mulched and had vinca vine planted around them.

Money was also raised to acquire a flagpole, nylon flag and a solar powered light, which were all erected next to the vinyl sign.

While pricing benches at Dayton's Nurseries, Tom offered a used bench for free that was later repaired by Archer Merrick and placed by city workers in the cemetery. Tom also donated grass seed, mulch and fertilizer for the rhododendron.

A plaque was ordered through the Veteran's Administration and installed for William Lampson, Revolutionary War soldier.

Scout Troop #132 spent a day cleaning up and helping to repair and straighten headstones as well as fill low spots with topsoil.

Summit Memorials of Akron, Ohio, repaired a dozen broken headstones, by taking them to their shop and returning them and placing them back into position.

The city spent several days removing dead trees and brush along the south and east sides of the fence.

Johnson's Corners Cemetery A group from the Norton Historical Society and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society met with a reporter for the Akron Beacon Journal about the condition of this cemetery.

Himelrigh Cemetery

A group met to go to this overgrown neglected cemetery in May. A retired atty. did a title search on this cemetery and as it stands the property is in limbo. Efforts will be ongoing to obtain some sort of ownership.

2010 Western Star Cemetery- a headstone was set for indigent Leroy Betts. Anonymous funds paid for a granite marker to be purchased and set.

Norton Center Cemetery- urban forester for our division, Alan Seiwert evaluated the old oak trees and misc. trees with a follow up as to care.