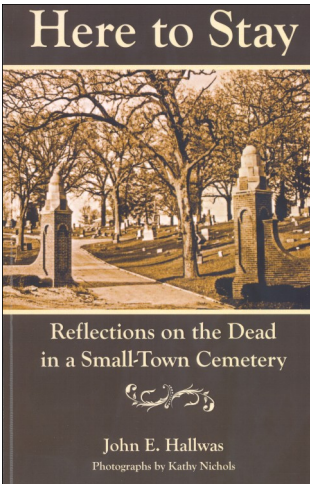


## Cemetery Publication

*Here to Stay* is a broad and compelling look into the lives of past residents of Macomb and McDonough County—presenting the most varied array of small-town folks since Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology* appeared a century ago. But it is much more. The introduction on "Living with the Dead" is an engaging account of both the impact of death in a nineteenth-century town and the social purposes of cemeteries like Macomb's beautiful Oakwood. The biographical sketches of the buried "Permanent Residents" reflect every generation in that corner of America since the first settlers came, in 1830, emphasizing such universal themes as self-realization, social commitment, and the struggle to belong. The four insightful essays in the "Theatre of Memory" section probe into and defend cemeteries as complex cultural sites, which deserve our reflective engagement, historical appreciation, and vigilant preservation. The many arresting photographs by Kathy Nichols demonstrate the aesthetic appeal—and suggest the hidden mysteries—of such an historic cemetery as well.



Price for members and \$12.95 plus \$1.00 tax and \$2.50 shipping. Total \$16.45

That discount price for the \$19.00 book also includes a \$3.00 donation to Friends of Oakwood Cemetery.

Please make checks payable to Illinois Heritage Press and send them to the following address:

Illinois Heritage Press  
P.O. Box 883  
Macomb, IL 61455

Book and membership checks may be sent to the same P.O. Box.

## History of Oakwood Cemetery

Created in 1857, Oakwood Cemetery is remarkably historic. Its founder, William H. Randolph, a former sheriff and state legislator, was the leading Lincoln supporter in McDonough County. On two occasions in 1858, Lincoln stayed at the magnificent Randolph House Hotel, which had just been built, at the same time the hotel owner was creating the cemetery. Several years later, in 1864, Randolph was murdered while serving as the county's Provost Marshal, enforcing the controversial draft law. That was the most noted murder of the century in McDonough County, and his grave was widely revered.

The cemetery was laid out by surveyor Charles Gilchrist, who was later a Civil War colonel and brevet brigadier general. Oakwood was a celebrated burial place for Civil War soldiers, back when Decoration Day in Macomb was a huge annual patriotic festival of remembrance. There are over 300 graves of men who served in that nation-redefining war. Carter Van Vleck, the heroic colonel of the 78<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, who died of a battlefield wound, wrote many letters during the war, which have been published in a recent book. There are also graves of soldiers who served in the War of 1812, the Black Hawk War, the Mexican War, the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Viet Nam War, and more recent conflicts. Among the sextons who managed Oakwood in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the most noted is John Russell, also a Civil War veteran, who later managed Antietam National Battlefield.

With 14,000 burials, Oakwood is by far the largest cemetery in McDonough County. Among the many noted graves are those of early county organizers and Macomb founders James Clarke and James Campbell; several Underground Railroad conductors in the Allison and Blazer families; noted business leaders and community activists like C. V. Chandler and Mary Ewing; crusading humanitarians Rose Jolly and Josie Westfall; early bacteriologist Ruth Tunnickliff, who developed the first inoculation for measles; WIU presidents Alfred Bayliss, Walter Morgan, and Frank Beu; noted Leatherneck coaches Ray Hanson and Stix Morley—to name but a few. In recent times, Oakwood Cemetery has been featured on the PBS television series "Illinois Stories," and historian John Hallwas has discussed its history, cultural significance, and most notable graves in *Here to Stay: Reflections on the Dead in a Small-Town Cemetery*.

# Friends of Oakwood Cemetery

P.O. Box 241, Macomb, IL 61455

<http://oakwoodcemetery.jimdo.com/>





## What is The Friends of Oakwood Cemetery, Macomb, Illinois?

The Friends of Oakwood Cemetery is a non-profit organization with a mission to preserve, protect and promote Oakwood Cemetery, a historic cemetery in Macomb, Illinois.

## What is the purpose of The Friends of Oakwood Cemetery ?

- Supports the upkeep and beautification of the cemetery
- Raises funds for the cemetery, through donations and bequests
- Maintains contact with relatives of those buried at Oakwood Cemetery, through a newsletter and a website and in doing so enlarges support beyond present town residents
- Develops cultural events connected with the cemetery, including tours, monument dedications or re-dedications, dramatic performances, and other events
- Promotes the cemetery as a symbol of community



*The headstone for West Point Cadet John Farwell and his father, Captain G. L. Farwell, was the work of noted sculptor Leonard Volk. The eagle at the top is a depiction from life of Old Abe, the most famous animal of the Civil War.*

## Membership Information

Membership in Friends of Oakwood Cemetery provides the following benefits:

- Bi-annual newsletters, which include historical and genealogical information, along with updates on the work of the Friends group.
- Advance notification of events held at Oakwood Cemetery.
- Opportunities to help provide for the upkeep of the cemetery and to participate in the promotion of it as a historic site.

Circle a membership category:

Annual \$10.00  
Lifetime \$100.00

To join, please complete the form below.

Name

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Macomb, IL 61455

## Donations

Donations to the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery are tax deductible. Contributions by check or through wills and trusts may be made to the Macomb Community Foundation and designated for Friends of Oakwood Cemetery. Make donations payable to:

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