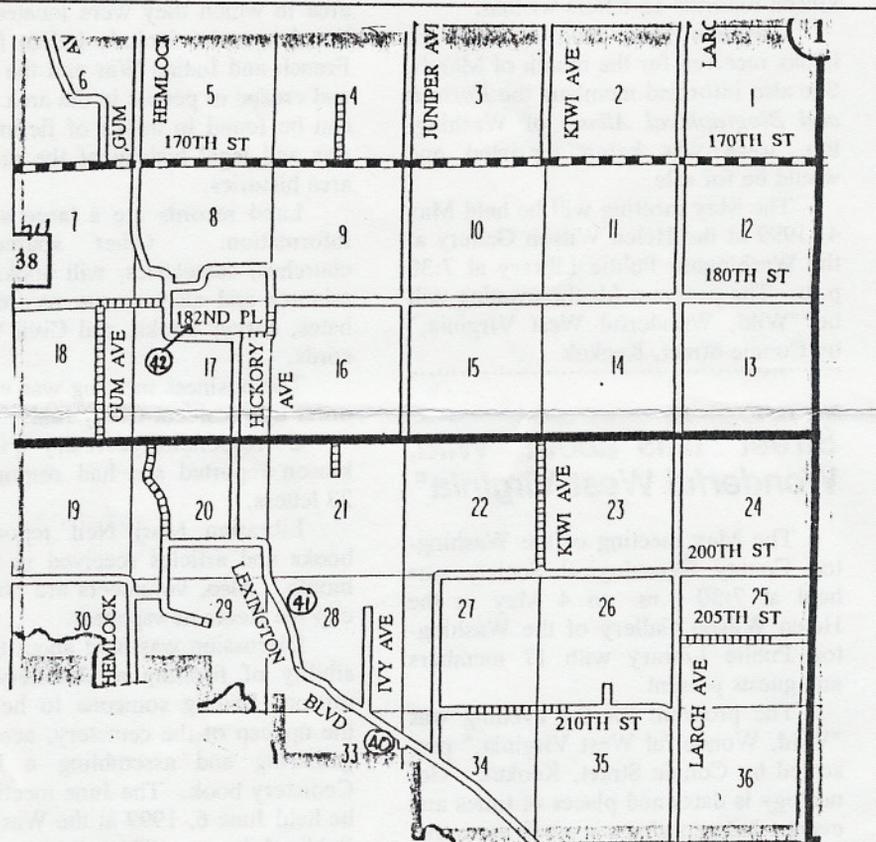


Washington County Cemeteries -- Cedar Township



Cemeteries in Cedar Township, Washington County, Iowa. #40 - Craven (Zion); #41 - Roberts Chapel; #42 - Lexington.

was in the southwest quarter of Section 8, and this became the site of Lexington. It was laid out in 1855, but not officially platted until 1865. The first postmaster was probably John Smith as he was serving in September 1866. He was soon replaced by a disabled Civil War veteran, Sam Gardner.

A newspaper story in August 1867 reported: "Eleven miles from Washington stands the little village of Lexington, built on a pleasant ridge which commands the view of a sweep of farming country as beautiful and rich as the sun shines upon."

A Western Stage Co. time table showed stage lines going to both Cedarville and Lexington: the route through Lexington went on north to Wassonville, and the line through Cedarville went west to Keokuk County.

Lexington was bypassed by the railroads, and steadily declined. The post office closed December 15, 1905. The church remained active until the 1940s, but now all that is left of the once thriving village is the cemetery.

And, only three cemeteries are located in the entire township:

Craven (Zion): Located in section 33. From Washington, go northwest on Lexington Blvd. The cemetery is located on the west side of the road between Juniper and Ivy Avenue.

Robert's Chapel: Located in section 28. From Washington, go northwest on Lexington Blvd. The cemetery is located on the east side of the road between Ivy and Hickory Avenue.

Lexington: Located in section 17. It is in the southwest corner of the loop.

Editor's note: Information is a compilation of materials from Burrell's 1909 *History of Washington County* and Fisher's *In the Beginning There was Land*

Franklin township.

In 1844 the first school house in Cedar Township was built in Section 28. The first child was born to Wm. Hinkson, and the first death was that of his wife, Elizabeth, buried in the Patterson graveyard. The first wedding was that of Newton Smith and Nancy Young.

The township had very few towns. M. D. Story started the town of Cedarville, and he was probably the first postmaster. Exact location of this village is unknown, although it was probably a little farther west than the later village of Lexington as Story's original claim in 1851 was the southeast quarter of Section 7. The Cedarville post office was established in October 1860 and discontinued in May 1863, then in operation again from 1866 to 1868.

A later claim by Story in 1853

Settlement in the Cedar Township area developed later than the rest of the county as settlers were afraid to go where there was no "brush, water and frogs." However, by 1875, it claimed a population over 880. Calvin Craven was the first man to go there. In 1840, he purchased a claim of three cultivated acres, 160 acres of timber somewhere and "all the prairie he wanted" for \$400.

The township was originally defined as Township 75, range 8 and sections 19 to 36 of Township 76, range 8. It was originally composed of what is now Franklin and about half of the territory that now comprises it.

The civil township now corresponds with congressional township 76, range 8, except the southwest corner where a portion of the congressional township is attached to