

## Esther (nee Brenton) and Josiah Lanyon's Life Together

How they met is unknown. Esther was born in St. Merryn Parish and was probably raised there. Josiah was born in St. Allen parish and probably was raised there. The two parishes are about 22 miles apart. From information found in the St. Merryn Church, one or more Lanyons attended the church and perhaps lived in the parish. It is plausible that Esther and Josiah met when St. Allen Parish Lanyons visited St. Merryn Parish Lanyons and attended a church event.

They were married 9 October 1838 in St. Merryn Parish, Cornwall. Shortly thereafter, the young couple moved to London, most likely for Josiah to find work as a carpenter, per birth records letter. Perhaps Josiah also made furniture.

First child, Elizabeth Caroline, born 11 December 1839 in London, UK, per birth document.

Second child, Esther, born 1841 or 1842 in London.

Third child, Kate, born 11 June 1843 in London per birth document.

Fourth child, John Brenton, born 1845 in London.

The young family migrated to Mineral Point, Wisconsin, USA. Most likely to follow Josiah's older brothers William and Simon. Mineral Point was a prosperous and growing mining center.

Fifth child, Mary Jane, born December 1847 in Mineral Point.

Sixth child, Charles Henry, born 1849 in Mineral Point.

Seventh child, Richard Norman, born 27 January 1852 in Mineral Point.

Eighth child, Byron, born 1854 in Mineral Point.

Ninth child, Frederick William, born 1856 in Mineral Point.

Esther was a supporting wife and mother, raising a large family.

Josiah's occupation was shown as a carpenter in London on birth documents. In Mineral Point, Josiah had a furniture business and perhaps was also a mortician.

Esther and Josiah and their fourth through ninth children moved to Englewood, Illinois in 1874. Englewood was annexed into Chicago in 1889.

In the Story of Englewood, 1835-1923, Josiah is listed in the flour and feed business in 1874. In 1923, Josiah's oldest son John is listed in the undertaking business, Charles is listed in the harness business, and Fred is in the decorating business.

Children born in London is explained on pages 2 and 3. Census data for 1860 and 1870 in Mineral Point is on pages 4 and 5. A Pioneer Family Certificate is on page 6. A 1940 newspaper article about the Lanyon family is on pages 7, 8 and 9. Photographs of Esther, Josiah and one of the houses he built are on page 10. Burial information for the Lanyon family is on pages 11 through 17.

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Illinois 60202,  
U.S.A.

A.B.Hills,  
120 Hillcrest Road,  
Orpington,  
Kent,  
England.

3rd March 1981

Dear Mr. Lanyon,

Thank you for your letter, reference research into the family of Josiah Lanyon.

I made a start with the St. Pancras registers, searching at first for the two later baptisms of Kate and John Brenton Lanyon. However, neither of these turned up so I went to the GRO, where I decided to go ahead and buy the four birth certificates which please find enclosed. They give -

1. Elizabeth Caroline. Mothers maiden name given as Bronson. Union Street runs more or less in line with, and just south of, the Thames. I think most of it has been rebuilt, and part of it was called Charlotte Street in 1832 and has since been renamed, so I think it unlikely that no 3 is still standing.
2. Esther. Deverell Street, again south of the Thames near the Great Dover Road - at the time a fairly newly built-up area.
3. Kate. The only one registered in St. Pancras. I cannot trace Melton Place, although Melton Street runs along side the present Euston railway station.
4. John Brenton. Percy Place was newly built in 1845 - it is not shown on the 1832 map - and is part of the late Georgian streets and squares that were being built in this part of London from the 1820s on.

If there is any sort of clue here as to Josiah's work it is that Union Street runs from Waterloo, more or less, where the London & South Western Railway started, to very near London Bridge where the London & Greenwich and the London and Croydon railways started - both were built in the late 1830s. Deverell Street is also close to London Bridge station. Euston was also built in the late 1830s - and Percy Circus is close to Kings Cross station. Thats all a guess of course, but the period was a time of intense railway activity and carpenters would certainly been needed.

The next move was to check the census - this gave

Public Record Office ref. H0107/1065 1841 census  
Parish of Newington, County Surrey,  
Superintending Registrars district - St. Mary Newington  
Registration District - Trinity  
Enumeration District - 4 (book # 2, district 4)

Deverell Street.

Born Surrey?

Josiah Lanyon	age 25	Carpenter J.	No
Esther do	25		No
Elizabeth do	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		Yes
James (Willeux?)	25	Independent	No
Angelina do	25		No
Richard Grange	55	Warehouseman	Yes
Mary do	49		Yes
Mary Theobald	55	Nurse	Yes

I have included all the people living in the house at the time, if only as a matter of interest. Ages of adults in the 1841 census were given to the nearest five years, and parishes south of the river were then still part of the county of Surrey, even though then within the built-up area of London - these places are now of course in the middle of London.

Ref. the marriage certificate of Josiah and Elizabeth - it will not give any more information than you already have.

Anyway, I hope the above meets with your satisfaction. I spent a total of a little less than 2½ hours (40 minutes @ Greater London Record Office (St. Pancras registers), 45 at the GRO and an hour at the Public Record Office) on the searches so my charge is

For my time @ £4.50 per hour	=	£11
For 4 GRO certificates @ £3.50ea	=	£14
		---
Total	=	£25

I enclose also a photo-copy of the map to give you an idea of the location of the various streets involved.

Thank you again for your letter and order, and I look forward to hearing from you again.

Yours sincerely

*Alan Hills*

PTO -

1860 Census, Wisconsin State Historical Society Library, page 478 of Census book for Iowa County, copied August 11, 1979

Schedule 1, page 229, City of Mineral Point, Iowa County, Wisconsin, July 17, 1860

Dwelling Number	Family Number	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Occupation	Value of Real estate	Value of possessions	Birthplace	Attended school	
1186	1176	Josiah Lanyon	46	M		Cabinetmaker	4000	1000	England		
		Esther Lanyon	44	F					"		
		Esther Lanyon	18	F						"	
		Kate Lanyon	17	F						"	
		John Lanyon	15	M						"	
		Mary Lanyon	12	F						Wisconsin	Yes
		Charles Lanyon	10	M						"	"
		Richard Lanyon	8	M						"	"
		Byron Lanyon	6	M						"	"
Frederick Lanyon	1	M						"	"		

1870 Census, Wisconsin State Historical Society Library, page 406 of Census book for Iowa County, copied August 11, 1979

Page 16, Schedule 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward of the City of Mineral Point, Iowa County, Wisconsin, July 19, 1870, by G. W. Bliss

Dwelling number	Family number	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Occupation	Value of Real Estate	Value of Possessions	Birthplace	Foreign Birth of	
										Father	Mother
122	118	Josiah Lanyon	57	M	W	Undertaker	6000	3000	England		
		Esther Lanyon	54	F	W	Keeping house			England	Y	Y
		Mary Lanyon	22	F	W				Wisconsin	Y	Y
		Charles Lanyon	20	M	W	Harness maker			Wisconsin	Y	Y
		Richard Lanyon	19	M	W	Painter			Wisconsin	Y	Y
		Byron Lanyon	17	M	W	Apprentice to Jeweler			Wisconsin	Y	Y
		Frederick Lanyon	11	M	W	At school			Wisconsin	Y	Y
		Bennett Trelove	19	M	W	Apprentice Harness Maker			Wisconsin	Y	Y
123	119	Gilbert B. Maxfield	34	M	W	Journeyman Harness Maker		200	Vermont		
		Carrie E. Maxfield	30	F	W	Keeping house			England	Y	Y
		Byron P. Maxfield	10	M	W	At school			Vermont		Y
		Helen M. Maxfield	8	F	W	At school			Wisconsin		Y
		Carrie E. Maxfield	6	F	W	At school			Illinois		Y
		Edith A. Maxfield	4	F	W				Illinois		Y
		Minnie E, Maxfield	2	F	W				Illinois		Y
124	120	Cyrus Lanyon	31	M	W	Lawyer	1500	1200	England	Y	Y
		Mary J, Lanyon	32	F	W	Keeping house			Wisconsin	Y	Y

# Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

## Pioneer Family Certificate

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society takes pleasure in awarding this Certificate to the following descendant of a pioneer settler who lived in Wisconsin by 1850:

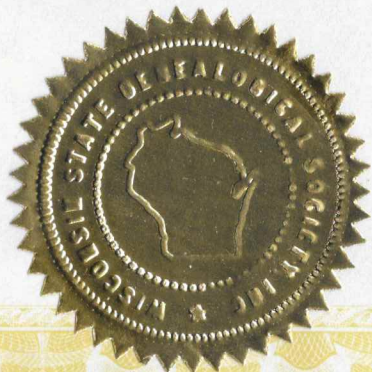
Richard Fred Lanyon

This Certificate is awarded in special tribute to the following ancestor(s) of the above descendant showing the County and the year of arrival, if known:

Josiah Lanyon and Esther Brenton

Iowa County by 1846

Awarded this 30th. day of September 1980 at Madison, Wisconsin



E. Larohn Zabelman  
President

Janet A. Roon  
Director

Southtown Economist, Sunday, November 10, 1940

Page 22, Englewood Golden Jubilee Edition, article

Retyped article from difficult to read copy with *annotations added* by Richard Fred Lanyon in October 2024.

## HISTORY OF HOUSE OF LANYON DATES BACK TEN CENTURIES

Family Coat of Arms Known in The British Isles

Josiah Lanyon Came Here in 1874; Set Up Harness Shop

Much history lies between the four-towered castle which for ten centuries was silhouetted above the town of Lanyon, a French sea harbor, and the Lanyon “House of Seven Gables” at 6565 Ross Avenue.

*It is the town of Lannion in Brittany, France, two-miles inland from the English Channel. I've not been able to locate the four-towered castle on Google maps.*

When Isabella, wife of English King Edward II, left France for England, there were Lanyons with her. A William Lanyon made English history by becoming part of Captain Cook's company and circumventing the little-traveled globe of that area twice by being with Captain Cook when the latter was murdered.

*I've also heard family lore which claimed the first Lanyons from Lannion came across the channel with William the Conquer in 1066. However, no one claimed that a Lanyon showed up in the Bayeux Tapestry.*

Family Motto

Then and now the family motto, as originally engraved on the Lanyon coat of arms, is “Live that you may live.” The Lanyons carried that philosophy with them to America in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and today adhere to it. One Lanyon is present president of the National Bank of Pittsburgh and another branch of the Lanyon family has already made 100 years of Englewood history.

*The Lanyons in Pittsburg, Kansas, were descendants of William Lanyon, an older brother of Josiah, who also migrated to Mineral Point. Coal and lead mining near Pittsburg caused some Lanyons to leave Mineral Point.*

The story of the Englewood Lanyons begins in 1845 when Josiah Lanyon sailed from England bringing to America centuries-old French chairs, love-seats, English cabinets and beds. The ship made its way through the lakes to Milwaukee. Then Josiah Lanyon disembarked and soon made his way to the lead mines of Wisconsin by ox-team.

*Boat travel through the lakes is plausible since the Erie Canal opened in 1825 and the first Welland Canal opened in 1829. Josiah could have been a furniture dealer in London but bringing all that furniture with their four children from London to Mineral Point would be a challenge. Josiah was a furniture maker and dealer in Mineral Point.*

## Josiah Comes Here

Josiah stayed in Wisconsin for some time, but moved to Illinois and about 1874 established a harness shop at 6233 Wentworth ave. and an undertaking parlor next door. He lived with his family in the rambling 15-room home above the store. There his sons, Charles, John B., Fred, Byron and Dick were born.

*It was actually Charles who opened harness shop, having learned his trade in Mineral Point before coming to Englewood. Four children of Josiah and Esther, Elizabeth, Esther, Kate and John, were born in England. Mary, Charles, Richard (Dick), Byron and Frederick were born in Mineral Point, not Englewood.*

Charles Lanyon was operating the harness shop, then located at 6201 Wentworth ave., when his father passed away in 1925. With him passed away the 66-year-old Lanyon Harness and Turf Goods company which had furnished materials for the Washington park and other race tracks.

*Charles continued to own and operate the harness shop until his death in 1925.*

## First Harness Shop

Today the building which housed that first harness shop of Englewood still stands. Brightly stuccoed in yellow-papered bricks, its storerooms hold second-hand furniture instead of the round-topped trunks of multifarious sizes and shapes. Only last year the famous Lanyon Opera House which Fred Lanyon operated was torn down.

John B. Lanyon, Jr., and Lester Lanyon are today running the undertaking establishment which their father, John B., inherited from his father, Josiah Lanyon. In the Lanyon funeral home today there are century-old French chairs brought from England or bought at New Orleans many decades ago. There is a sewing cabinet made by John Lanyon and a harpsichord made into a desk by an old employee.

*I remember visiting the House of Lanyon at 615 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street. It seemed dark and creepy to me as a young child.*

## Lives There Today

John B. Lanyon, Jr., lives today in the "House of Seven Gables" his father had built in 1883 at 6566 Ross ave. There is found the solid walnut bed in which he was born. There also are a rosewood highboy, a marble-topped washstand made in a bureau, an elaborately carved walnut chair and a round, all-walnut table. The Lanyon house is an example of hand-made architecture of a half century ago. Doors, window sashes, cabinets are made and attached by hand. The finely ridged woodwork is gumwood. A parquet floor is the proud handiwork of Josiah's son.

*I also remember this house, briefly visiting there once with my parents, only stepping into the foyer. It was dark and creepy like the funeral home. The house is still there as of 2020, although the seven gables were gone.*

## Built Homes



The three houses next door on Ross st. also were built by John Lanyon as well as several other of the old homes of Englewood.

J. Esther Lanyon, daughter of Lester represents the fourth generation of the family in Englewood. Frances Lanyon, daughter of Dick N. Lanyon, 240 W 61<sup>st</sup> pl., a third son of Josiah, is another granddaughter of Josiah who wears a ring encrusted with the family seal.

*Esther (Toodles) continued to own and operate the funeral business after Lester's death in 1966. Frances and another sister, Elizabeth (Bess), inherited the house and lived there until the 1950s. I remember seeing the ring. I don't know where it is.*



Josiah



Esther



Dick N. Lanyon, son of Josiah and Esther, standing on the front porch. The house was built by Josiah Lanyon after arriving in Englewood in 1874. Englewood was annexed into the City of Chicago in 1889. The house was occupied by children and grandchildren of Esther and Josiah until 1955, when it was purchased by Cook County and demolished for construction of the Dan Ryan Expressway.



House at 240 West 61st Place  
Englewood neighborhood  
Chicago, IL

Burial Information for Josiah Lanyon family and descendants

Cemetery visit by Richard Lanyon on October 7, November 18, and December 15, 2021

Oak Woods Cemetery, 1035 East 67<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60637, 773-288-3800

Burials located in Section D2, Remembrance, Lot 60, northwest quadrant of the lot

Maps on pages 2 and 3, interment data on pages 4 and 5, photographs on pages 6 and 7.

No monuments, headstones or markers on the Lanyon portion of this lot.

Section D2 is at the southwest corner of the Section D oval. See cemetery map on page 2. A paved walkway extends the north-south length of Section D. Another east-west paved walkway separates Sections D1 and D2. A large mausoleum named for C. W. Smith is at the northwest corner of Section D2. From the northeast corner of Section D2, where the two paved paths intersect, walk west 84 feet along the east-west paved path. This point is near a large dark red monument named for Williamson. Then walk south 82 feet along an unmarked and unpaved path between graves, passing a large tree. This should place you at the northeast corner of Lot 60. Walking 15 feet west should place you at the northeast corner of the Lanyon part of the lot. Where Lanyon graves are supposed to be on the left, there are graves for Groggins. To the right are unmarked graves, presumably Lanyons. Since there are no grave markers and some existing gravestones for others may have been dislocated, Lanyon individual grave sites are difficult to locate.



Section Name / Building \_\_\_\_\_

Lot Number / Hall \_\_\_\_\_

Space \_\_\_\_\_

Decedent: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Director: \_\_\_\_\_

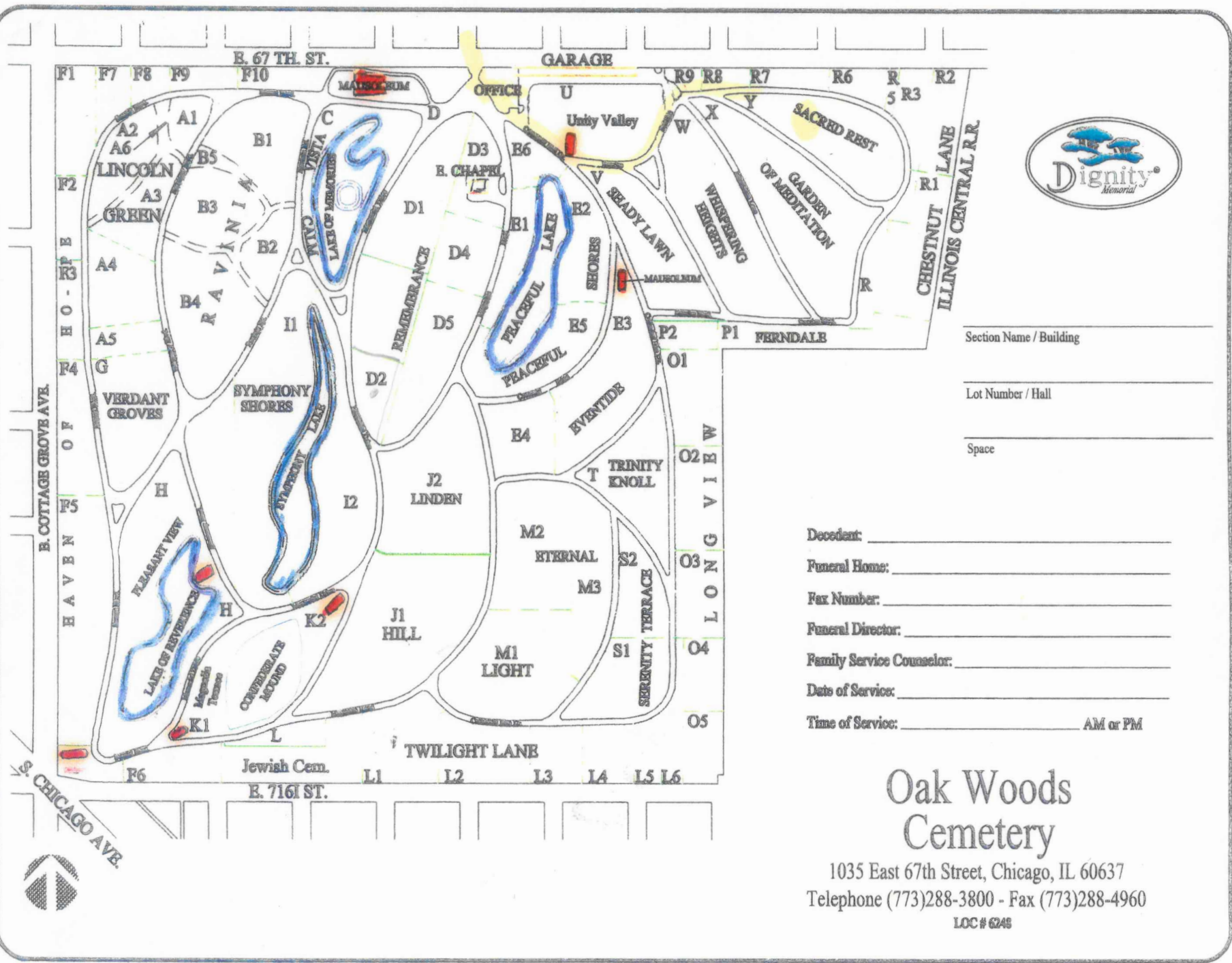
Family Service Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ AM or PM

# Oak Woods Cemetery

1035 East 67th Street, Chicago, IL 60637  
 Telephone (773)288-3800 - Fax (773)288-4960  
 LOC # 6248

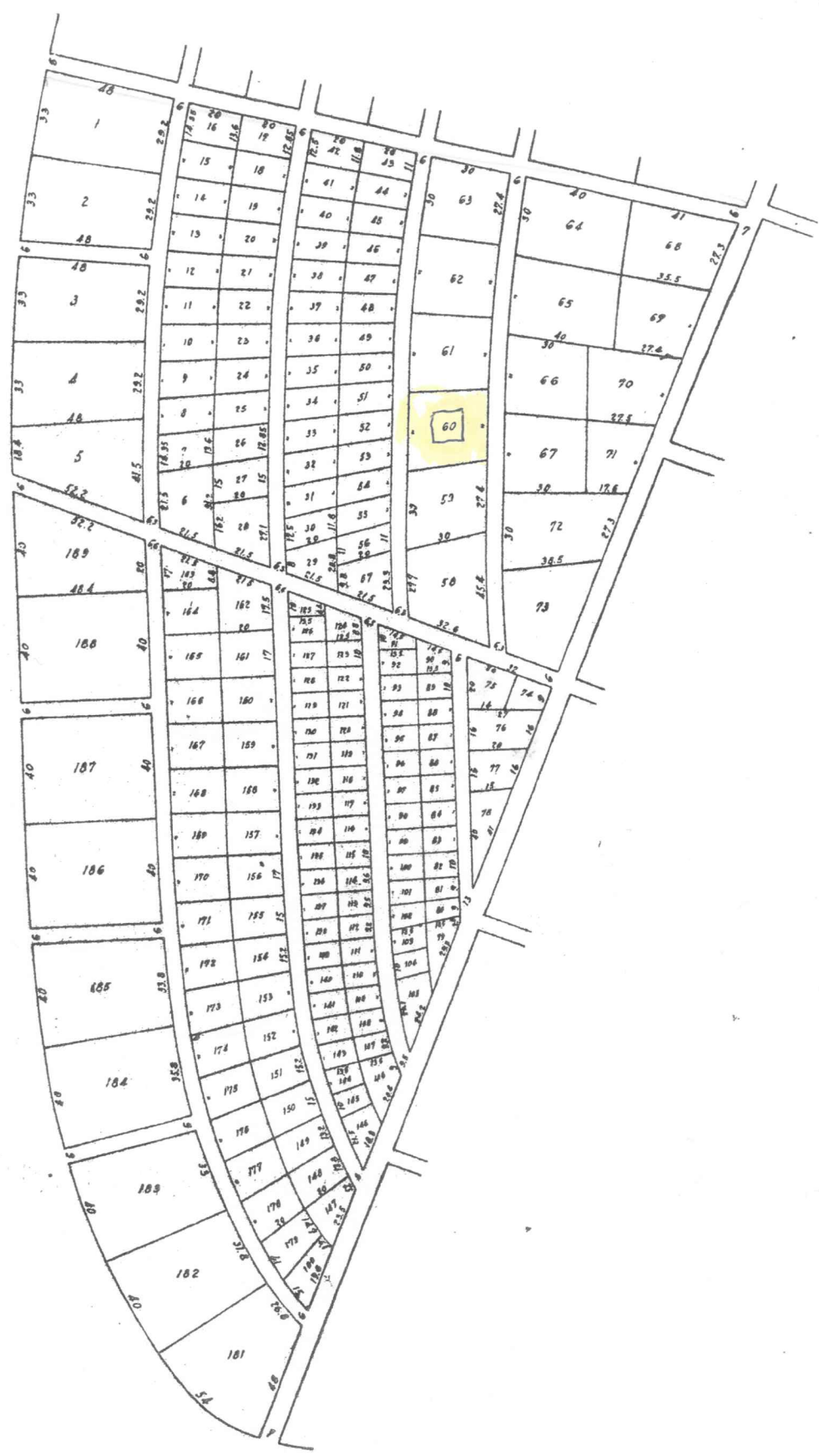


A 2004/2005/2006/2007/2008/2009/2010/2011/2012/2013/2014/2015/2016/2017/2018/2019/2020/2021/2022/2023/2024/2025/2026/2027/2028/2029/2030/2031/2032/2033/2034/2035/2036/2037/2038/2039/2040/2041/2042/2043/2044/2045/2046/2047/2048/2049/2050/2051/2052/2053/2054/2055/2056/2057/2058/2059/2060/2061/2062/2063/2064/2065/2066/2067/2068/2069/2070/2071/2072/2073/2074/2075/2076/2077/2078/2079/2080/2081/2082/2083/2084/2085/2086/2087/2088/2089/2090/2091/2092/2093/2094/2095/2096/2097/2098/2099/2100



SECTION D,  
DIVISION 2.

Roadway.



SECTION D DIVISION 2 LOT 60 NW 1/4

DEED NO. 1460 PURCHASE

PROOF OF HEIRSHIP YES  NO

MONUMENT

MARKERS

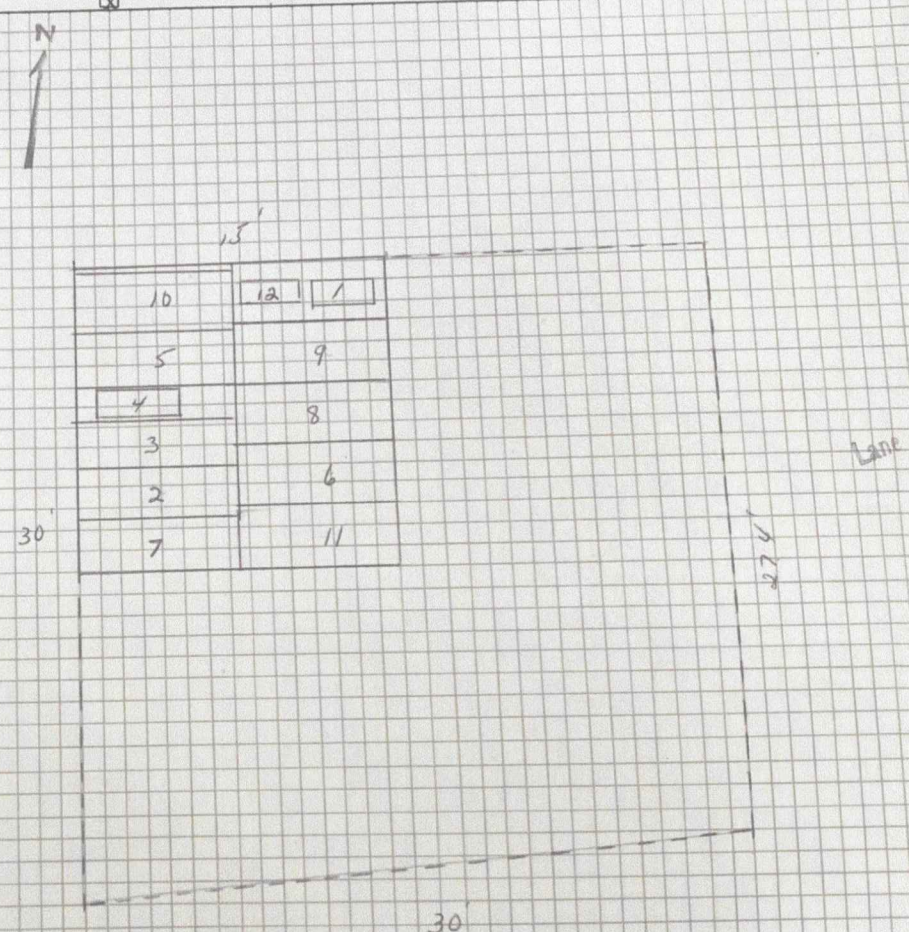
REG.  FLUSH

OWNER NAME Charles Lanyon

ADDRESS

INTERMENT DATA

NUMBER	LOCATION	NAME
21985	1 2 1/2 E-2N	Mary G. Lanyon - ch
35616	2 3 1/2 S-4W	Esther Lanyon - ad
56884	3 3 1/2 W-9N	Josiah Lanyon - ad
60938	4 3W-6 1/2 N	Esther E. Hocking - ch
68876	5 4 1/2 N-3 1/2 W	Hattie Lanyon - ad
46424	6 4E-10 1/2 N	Catherine Hogan - ad
12857	7 3S-4W	Catherine Uren - ad
108801	8 7 1/2 N-4E	Ann Lanyon - ad
110162	9 4 1/2 N-4E	Charles H. Lanyon - ad
114817	10 1 3/4 N-4W	Helen M. Walker - ad



BILLING INSTRUCTIONS (over)

GRASS CUTTING

IMPROVEMENTS

MISCELLANEOUS

SPECIAL CARE YES  NO

TOTAL

117264

11 4E-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ S

Mary J. Hocking - ad

8618

12 2N-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ E

Elmer Lanyon - ch



WILLIAM  
MOSHER  
1840-1900

CERTRUDEE  
MOSHER  
WIFE OF C. A.  
MOSHER



