

## DAR honors Detroit's early burial place

About seventy five people attended the dedication Oct. 16, of a plaque honoring the burial place of 4,518 persons on Detroit's eastside. The place contains not a single headstone, and the persons were all removals from Detroit's earliest cemetery.

The plaque was given by the Michigan Daughters of the American Revolution, represented by Vice-regent, Mrs. Maxwell Hunt and was received by Hudson Mead for the Michigan Bicentennial Commission. The bronze plaque is mounted on a natural boulder.

The Beaudry Post 126 American Legion Color Guard participated in the ceremonies with volleys and color drill.

The cemetery from which these bodies were removed was the old Russell Street cemetery, where the Eastern Market is now located. They now rest in a grassy approach to the Edsel Ford Highway at the Conner's street intersection, near Gunston and Hern streets, east of Chandler's Park. It is the only cemetery belonging to the Michigan State Highway department. These people, over 4000, were Detroit's pioneers. Many now rest under the roadbed of Conners Street.

The bodies were removed from the Russell Street cemetery from 1880 to 1882. At that time there were many headstones and the entire cemetery was surrounded by a strong iron fence. By 1926 every vestige of the cemetery had disappeared, the fence and all the headstones.

When the state highway department started the construction of Conner highway they found much to their surprise that they were in the midst of a cemetery.

Mrs. Albert Rohrabacher from the local Philip

Livingston chapter DAR attended the dedication. Many persons from the old Conner Street neighborhood attended. Some of these persons had lived all their lives in this area and remembered the exact location. They were very helpful to the historian, Mrs. Chloset in securing data for her research.

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