According to this article:

“(Oakwood Cemetery) comprises some 170 acres of land, situated not far from the center of Syracuse, N. Y., and includes hill and dale. Of gentle declivity, no inclines impracticable, and half of its area natural woods, the white and black oak predominating. Its greatest elevation is 200 feet.

“Oakwood cemetery was established in 1859….”

This article, which begins on the next page, is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

http://quarriesandbeyond.org/

Peggy B. Perazzo
Email: pbperazzo@comcast.net
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Oakwood Chapel is a term appropriately applied to this attractive resting place of the dead, which originally beautiful under nature’s lavish hand, has retained this characteristic feature under the wise methods adopted and pursued in its transition. It comprises some 170 acres of land, situated not far from the center of Syracuse, N. Y., and includes hill and dale, of gentle declivity, no inclines impracticable, and half of its area natural woods, the white and black oak predominating. Its greatest elevation is 200 feet.

Oakwood cemetery was established in 1859, and now comprises some 170 acres, but has only one small lake used as a lily pond. It has eleven miles of gravel roads, and on the grades the gutters are paved with cobble stones from three to seven feet wide. There are fifty seven sections laid out, of irregular size and shape, covering some eighty acres of its area; the largest lot contains 8000 feet and there are several of 3000 to 6000 square feet of area, but probably the average may be set down at from 450 to 500 feet. No entire section is devoted to single graves; the system adopted is to locate a block of them not many in a place, in the interior of large sections. There is no “potters field,” and this is a feature in accord with present ideas provided a true conception of “man’s duty to man” stimulates the management.

No monuments or boundary posts are permitted on single graves and the markers are restricted to a height of 2 ft. 6 in. and a width of 2 ft. One body is only allowed in each grave and the price charged is ten dollars.

The lawn plan, as it is called, of cemetery design and maintenance, is adopted in the new portion of this cemetery, so that in the old grounds we still find the depressed paths between lots. About the newer sections grass paths are the rule and no gravel, cement or serinshaw is used. Very liberal margins are left about the lots for ornamental planting, and all odd points and fractions are reserved for decorative effects about
the grounds. No
mounds or graves
exceed five inches
in height and few
are above three
or four inches.
No restrictions
are as yet placed
upon the design
and form of mon-
uments, except
that they must be
in every way
proper, and only
one is allowed on
each family lot.
All foundations
are however built
by the cemetery
association, which
at least prevents
faulty construc-
tion in this most
particular feature
of cemetery work.
In regard to
family vaults, the
cemetery author-
ities exercise a
censorship and all designs must be submitted for
approval and accepted by the executive committee
before any work is commenced upon them.
Hitherto the cemetery has not been provided
with modern water facilities, but the coming sum-
mmer will see a commencement of this important
matter.
The Chapel and Receiving Vault combined, of
which two views are given, is constructed of Onan-
daga gray limestone, and cost some $20,000. The
receiving tomb is arranged under ground and
has a capacity of 200 bodies. The total number of
interments is about 9000, and the average number
per year at present is 375.
The management of this cemetery does not con-
sider a greenhouse a necessary adjunct and in con-
sequence Oakwood has none. Greenhouse plants
can be bought so cheaply, and, moreover the plant-
ing of tender flowers is discouraged, so that green-
house facilities have no attraction for the officials.
Great care, however, is bestowed upon a small
nursery, where a great variety of the best and choicest
evergreens, deciduous trees, shrubs and hardy per-
nials are cultivated. This nursery furnishes ample
stock in great variety for the ornamentation of the
grounds as well as to accommodate lot owners. The
plants are set out in the nursery very small and
thus become acclimated and when required there is
choice enough of good material for immediate ef-
fect which very rarely fails to grow right along.
This is a policy which should be pursued more par-
ticularly than it is in all our cemeteries, and it
would be well as a rule, if more attention were paid
to the wild plants and shrubs indigenous to the lo-
ality. Many of our leading landscape men bestow
much care in this direction and produce effects with
familiar plants and bushes hard to be excelled in
any other way.
The illustrations given speak well for the ap-
pearance of the cemetery. At the point illustrated
by the view of “Dedication Valley” the services of
dedication were held in November, 1859. Many
fine monuments are scattered about the grounds.
The cemetery employs from twenty-five to
thirty men, and in the spring augments the force
by the addition of forty to fifty women, mostly Ger-
man. The latter do the light work of raking up
the leaves and cleaning up the grounds generally,
and they appear to do the work satisfactorily.
This is unique in cemetery work. The original sur-
vveyor of Oakwood was Howard Daniels. To the
superintendent, Mr. B. Chaffee, is due the improve-
ments now continually in progress, which are in line
with progressive modern ideas.

(photo caption) “Dedication Valley” Oakwood, Cemetery, Syracuse, New York”