

# Rarick Cemetery History

Rarick Cemetery is located in South Russell, Ohio. The property is on the south side of Bell Street about a half mile west of Chillicothe Road (SR 306). Rarick Cemetery was the first public burial-ground in both the township of Russell and South Russell Village.

On November 15, 1849, Rarick Cemetery was developed, when one-half acre of land was purchased from S. R. Willard for forty dollars. In 1863 the space was enlarged when a strip thirty-three feet wide was bought from Isaac Rarick's widow, Melinda Rarick, for ten dollars and added to the already existing burying-grounds. The addition of a public burial ground was important for the community because before this time, many of the dead were buried in family burying-grounds..

Rarick Cemetery is named for the Rarick family and Russell township citizen, Adam Rarick. Adam was born in 1779 in New York, and was buried in one of the original graves in Rarick Cemetery. The Rarick's were among the first people to settle and live in what is now South Russell Village. Adam Rarick served in the war of 1812. In 1828, Adam, his sister, her husband and his son Isaac moved west to Ohio, first Cleveland then Bainbridge, and finally Russell, now South Russell Village. In 1851, Adam died of unknown causes. His son Isaac then moved to the family farm, so he could support his mother. It is where he would spend the rest of his life.

Isaac Rarick, son of Adam Rarick, was a significant contributor to the Bainbridge and Russell community. Isaac exemplified strong moral convictions and beliefs that were uncommon where he lived, and the time in history. Isaac was an early abolitionist, so he took great personal risk in aiding runaway slaves to gain their liberty. His home was a prominent station for the Underground Railroad for an approximate period of twenty years. Although he was met with bitter opposition from his neighbors, he still held firm to his beliefs. It is from this family that Rarick Cemetery is named. Rarick Cemetery is a true gem of South Russell.

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*This marker commemorates the centennial anniversary founding of the Village of South Russell*

*dedicated by Charles J. Robinson, Boy Scout Troop 241 and the Chagrin Valley Rotary Club of Chagrin Falls, Ohio on July 23, 2023.*

