

relatives and went out towards the Lena area to pick up a new puppy for the children. All five were killed in a car-train wreck.

- Location #21 small white stone marker: This is unusual because of the languages used on the stone. The stone is inscribed in both English and Greek. The epitaph pays tribute to Greek immigrants and to this country. "All forever and devoutly commemorate the Greeks who died in America in virtue and prosperity."
- Location #22 Bidwell: Two locations in Freeport are named after the Bidwell family: Bidwell Park and Bidwell Street. Mrs. Bidwell was known as a fashion leader in her day. Some of the furnishings of the Stephenson County Historical Society home came from this family.
- Location #23 Soldiers' section: This corner of the cemetery is the resting place of veterans from five different American wars: the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and Vietnam. There are three branches of the U.S. military represented: the Navy, Army and Air Force and at least four military ranks: Cpl. (corporal), Pvt. (private), PFC (private first class) and Tech 5. There's a cross-section of American history and military history here. Note the large cement base. At one time a large cannon stood here marking this section of military graves. It's uncertain when or why this was removed. People who remember the cannon speculate that it was melted down for metal during World War II.
- Location #24 Beebe mausoleum: Although the Beebe name is not familiar to most citizens of Freeport, the Beebe land is. It was the Beebe's land that is now Krape Park, in fact, the original name for that park was Beebe's Woods.
- Location #25 Pittman memorial: This is a recent marker that harks back to a time when large monuments were common in cemeteries across the nation. Both the statues atop the marker and the four epitaphs at the base carry out the theme of love. Expense has "downsized" monuments in many cemeteries. Some cemeteries have gone to requiring flat markers that are "lawn mover friendly." These more practical markers don't carry the amount of information and personal history that we've seen in some parts of the City Cemetery. The Pittman family is known for efforts in the area of historical preservation in Freeport. Laura Pittman lived for many years in the oldest neighborhood in town: the Old River School District. Her efforts led to the marking of that neighborhood as an historical area. Ms. Pittman lived in a home at the corner of Van Buren and Monterey Streets. Her home was formerly the home of Louella Parsons who went on to a long career in Hollywood as a gossip columnist. Before that the home belonged to the Schmich family. The Schmichs operated one of the breweries that flourished in early day Freeport.

There are always other stories to tell. The City Cemetery is the final resting place of Louise Neyhart, author of Henry's Lincoln, a book for young people about the Freeport Lincoln-Douglas debate of 1858. There are relatives of Charles Guiteau, the troubled assassin of President James Garfield. Garrett Dirksen founded the Dirksen Silver Company whose products are prized antiques today. Movie star Spencer Tracy attended the funeral of his aunt, Emma Brown, in this cemetery. Cemeteries are community journals. We hope you've enjoyed "reading" some of Freeport's stories.