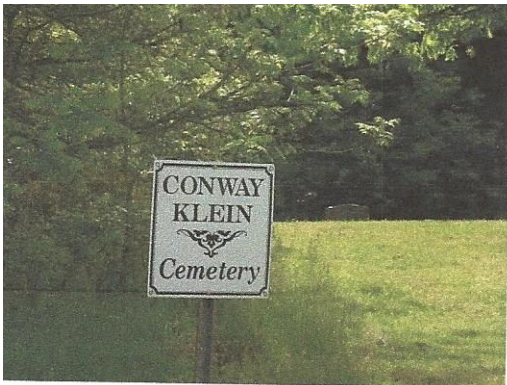


# Conway Township Cemetery Master Plan



## **Introductions:**

Cemeteries are a place of respect and contemplation. Visitors are often in search of a place of quiet reflection so they can think and pray for their loved ones. Planning a cemetery is a task of high importance that must be approached seriously and with care. This is particularly true with Conway Township Cemeteries, which were established beginning in 1841, and has evolved into an appealing community asset.

The Cemetery Committee is an advisory body; the Township Board holds the deed to the property and makes final decisions concerning the cemeteries. The Conway Township Board of Trustees is also, represented on the committee and contributes 100% of the cemetery's operational funds.

According to cemetery records, there are approximately 4,006 burial sites in Conway Township, of which approximately 2,752 are occupied or sold. Currently burials occur in Benjamin Cemetery, Antrim Cemetery, and Klein Cemetery.

The overall view of all 5 cemeteries as each cemetery being unique in its characteristics will have its own plan with some cemeteries having natural burials areas and scatter gardens for cremains established. Also, having natural areas for reflection gardens and memorial sites. The expansion options would be best suited for Benjamin Cemetery as this is the cemetery with the most activity. The expansion for Miller may also be ideal as the Township already owns property adjacent to this cemetery.

All cemeteries need an all-weather bulletin board to post Cemetery Rules, lot markers, hours and layout. Along with larger signs with current names, historical names and established dates at each entrance. Proper benches and trash receptacles should be placed in all the cemeteries.

# Antrim Cemetery

**Fuller Cemetery**

Lovejoy Road

Est. 1884



## **Cemetery History:**

Antrim Cemetery is in Section 2 on the Southside of Lovejoy Road one mile east of Fowlerville Road. The cemetery dates to 1884, it was deeded from Gaius C. Fuller to Antrim Conway Cemetery Corporation in 1884. The size was approximately 1 acre at the northern part of the cemetery. The older (Original) portion of the cemetery plots have been purchased. Future sales will be in the 1<sup>st</sup> Addition. Deeded to Conway Township in 1969. The newer portion known as the 1<sup>st</sup> Addition, southern area was deeded to Conway Township by Carl and Francis Witt in 1996. On the north side of the cemetery there is a non-functioning water pump and the cemetery is completely fenced around the parameter.

## **Individual Site Assessment/Evaluation:**

Visitors can and do drive into the cemetery. The driveway is an old carriage driveway not designed for cars, but cars can and do use it. The road frontage is fenced and needs trimming, with the front gate able to be opened and closed. The sign is small and hidden behind the fence.

The driveway is one of the major capital improvements which is desperately needed, as the cars have difficulty driving in during the wet season. Towards the back half of the Original part of the cemetery is a big dip. It is the length of several burial sites across the whole width of the cemetery that cannot be used for burials as this is where water flows and accumulates. This area would be a good area to turn into additional parking. Lot markers, benches and trash receptacles should be purchased and placed throughout the cemetery to make them more accessible.

The line between the Original and 1<sup>st</sup> addition has several trees, and this would be a great place to put a reflection garden. Antrim has been surveyed and the new survey has a turn around and drive that need to be plotted out.

The back part of the 1<sup>st</sup> addition would be a good place for Natural Burials. There is also room in the back for a scatter garden area. A monument with plaques for those who have been scattered there would need to be erected.

It would be nice to determine if the old water spigot could be repaired.

There are 2 sections the Original and 1<sup>st</sup> Addition. 1,488 plots with 155 plots being in the low ground for a total of 1,333 plots: 777 sold and 510 for sale. Records report 32 veteran burials.

# Benjamin Cemetery

Fowlerville Road

Est. 1874



## **Cemetery History:**

Benjamin Cemetery is in Section 27 on the southside of Sherwood Road at the intersection of Fowlerville Road. The cemetery was deeded by Covert S. Sherwood to Conway Township in 1874. It consists of 3 divisions: Original, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. The original section is closest to Sherwood Road, the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition is in the center and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition is south of center bordering a field. The entrance is accessed by Sherwood Road. The school land along Fowlerville Road was deeded by Covert S. Sherwood to School District 6 Conway in 1909. In 1999, Jack and Lucille Sherwood deeded the school land to Conway Township. This area has future potential for burial expansion and a cremains scatter garden area.

## **Individual Site Assessment/Evaluation:**

Visitors can and do walk from the township parking lot to visit but they can also drive to the cemetery. The drive located off Sherwood Road is not clearly marked. The sign is facing Fowlerville Road and is not visible from either Fowlerville or Sherwood Roads. Currently there is fencing around the south and west sides of the cemetery.

Benjamin is the most recognized cemetery, likely because it is the most visible.

The old schoolhouse used to be in front of the cemetery and that area is currently used as a parking lot. Where the school used to sit would be the best spot for a cremains garden, reflection garden and cremains columbarium. A scatter garden could be plotted. A monument would need to be erected to memorialize those who have been scattered.

The projects mentioned above would be capital improvements along with a more dedicated driveway and parking area. A 3<sup>rd</sup> addition could be designed for the grassy area north of where the Benjamin school use to be. Lot markers, benches and trash receptacles should be purchased and placed throughout the cemetery to make them more accessible. It would be a good thing to have a water source for this cemetery. Multiple incidents of vandalism also indicate a need for better security.

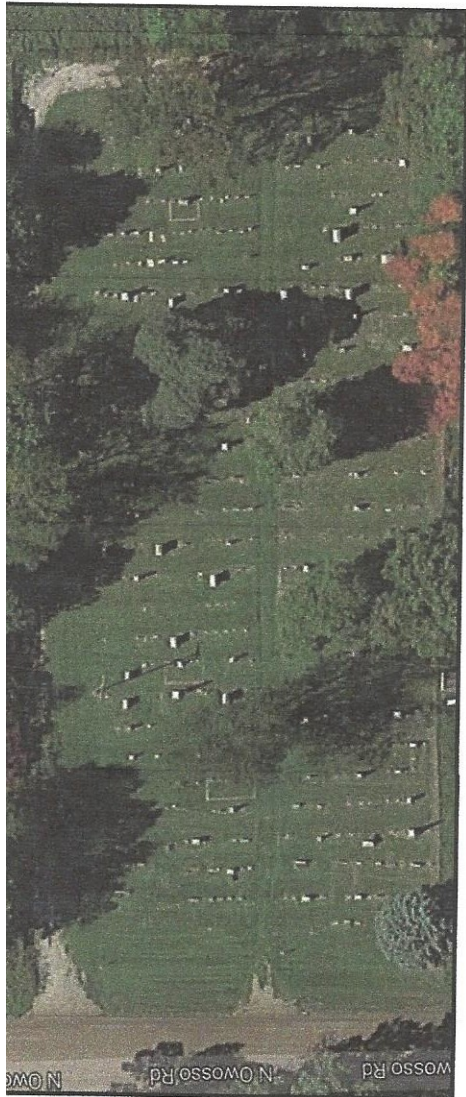
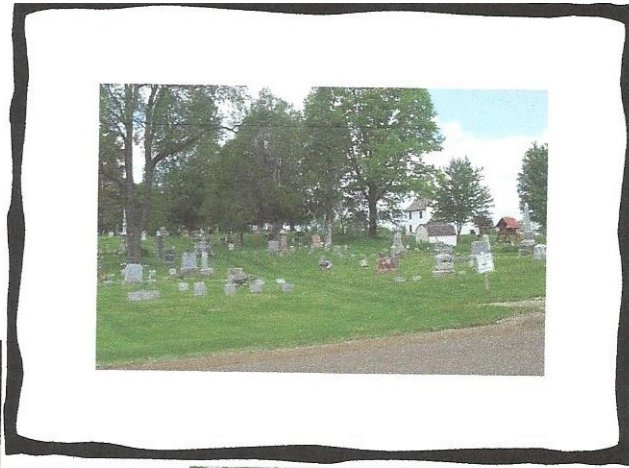
Benjamin is the first cemetery to get some headstone repair done and still has some work to be completed.

There are currently 3 sections, Original, 1<sup>st</sup> Addition, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition. Total plots 900 with 660 sold and 198 for sale (1/3 being only big enough for cremains burial) records indicate 30 veteran burials.

# Coughran Cemetery

Owosso Road

Est. 1841



### **Cemetery History:**

lena (original name of Conway Township) Cemetery was established in 1841. The cemetery is in section 2 on the west side of Owosso Road one half mile north of Chase Lake Road. Original cemetery was 1 acre, deeded from John Coughran and his wife to Directors of the lena Burial Society. In 1945, .375 acres was deeded from L. Dan and Hilma Adams family to Conway Township. The entrance and exit are on Owosso Road and is fenced on three sides: south, north and west.

### **Individual Site Assessment/Evaluation:**

Visitors drive to this cemetery and the frontage is clean the entrance and exit are not clearly marked. The sign identifying the cemetery is small. Part of the driveway was built up with limestone in 2014. The rest of the drive still needs to be completed as a capital improvement project. Lot markers, benches and trash receptacles should be purchased and placed throughout the cemetery to make them more accessible.

This cemetery has a reflection garden. This being the oldest cemetery it has some of the oldest burials with some being the founding families of Conway/lena Township.

It has three sections, Original, 1<sup>st</sup> Addition, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition. A total of 989 plots with 788 sold and 144 for sale. Records indicate 41 veteran burials.

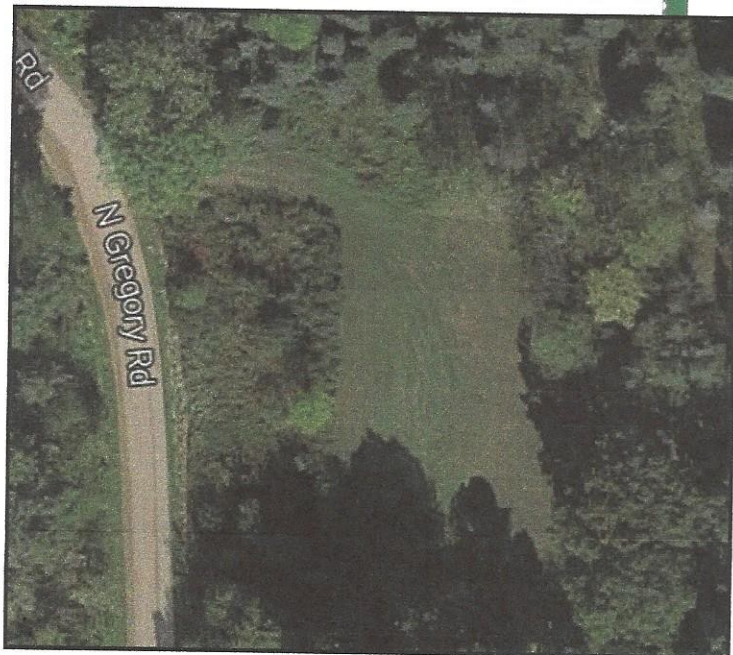
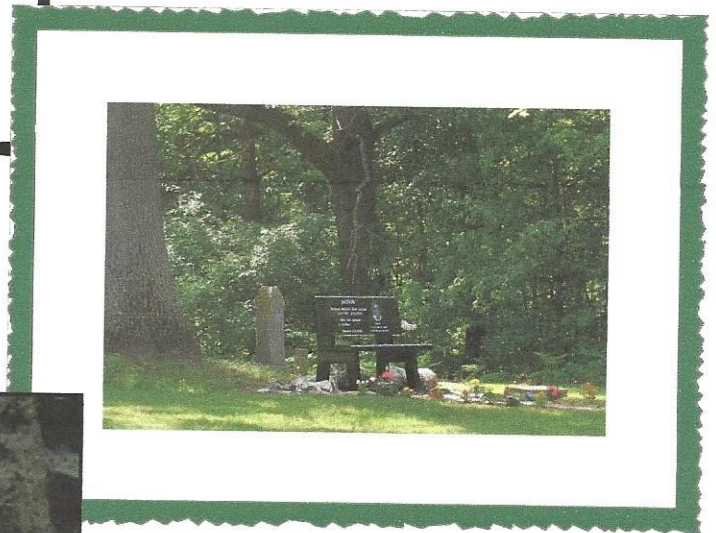
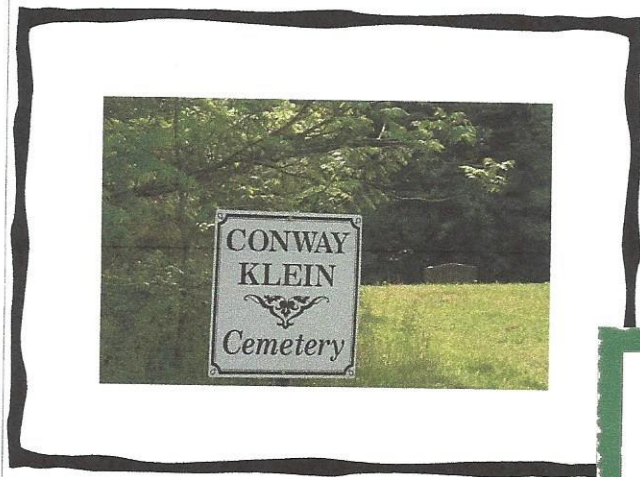


# Klein Cemetery

## Conway Cemetery

Gregory Road

Est.



### **Cemetery History:**

Conway Klein Cemetery is in section 15 at the southeast corner of Gregory and Pierson Roads, consisting of 3.467 acres. Records indicate this cemetery dates to the 1880s. The original was a family burial plot and potter's field. The original wooden markers no longer exist.

### **Individual Site Assessment/Evaluation:**

Visitors drive to this cemetery if they know where to find it. The cemetery is not easily visible from the road. The front fence was recently replaced. There is not an established driveway, visitors simply drive on the grassy area in the front.

Capital improvements would be a proper drive and parking area. Lot markers, benches and trash receptacles should be purchased and placed throughout the cemetery to make them more accessible. This cemetery would be a good candidate for natural burials, a scatter garden and or a pet cemetery. A monument indicating unmarked burials in the original part of the cemeteries is desired as most of the burials were potter's field and were marked with wooden stakes that are long gone.

North of the 1st addition this land was once used as the local garbage dump and is not suitable for any type of development. It could be dedicated as a scatter garden area.

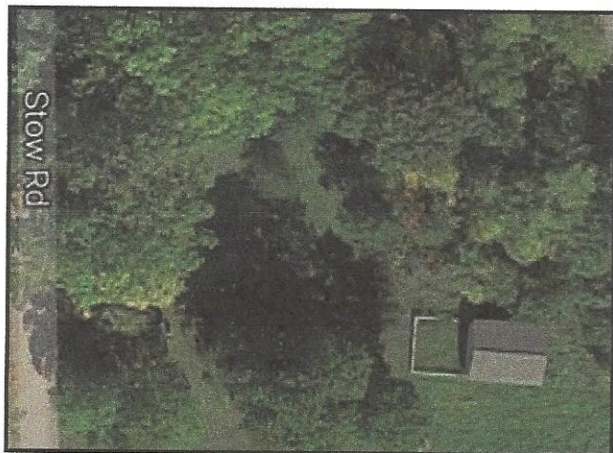
This cemetery is the smallest with 84 plots: 41 of which are sold and 43 are available. Records indicate 4 veterans are buried here.

# Miller Cemetery

## United Brethern Cemetery

Stow Road

Est. 1880



### **Cemetery History:**

Miller Cemetery is in section 29 on the east side of Stow Road one half mile north of Chase Lake Road. Deeded in 1880 from Henry R. Miller to the Charles Whitehead trustees, the original area was .5 acres. An additional .075 acres was deeded in 1926 from Silas and Emma Allen to the West Conway Cemetery. The United Brethren Church acquired the cemetery from the Allen family in 1983. It is currently a closed cemetery. The entrance is on Stow Road and there is a building on the site.

### **Individual Site Assessment/Evaluation:**

Visitors drive to this cemetery and the drive is not clearly marked. The frontage is 8 to 10 feet higher than the road with the sign located on the high ground, not very visible from the road.

The cemetery is considered closed as the documentation is minimal.

With the Township owning the property just south of the cemetery, this would be another potential area of expansion if the township did not sell the property. Lot markers, benches and trash receptacles should be purchased and placed throughout the cemetery to make them more accessible.

There are 545 total burial plots according to the records we do possess. Records indicate 16 veterans' burials.

# CEMETERY LOCATIONS

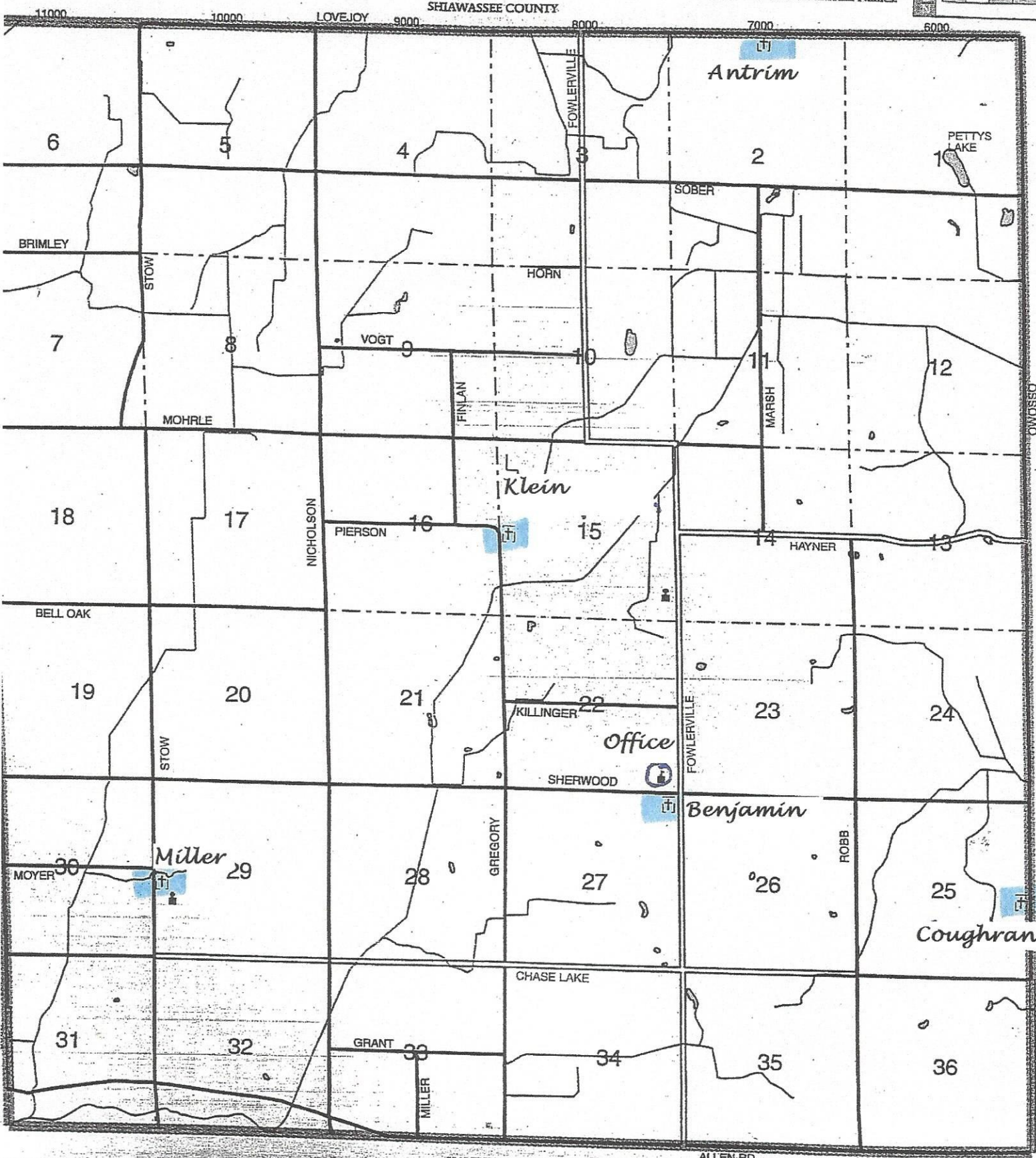
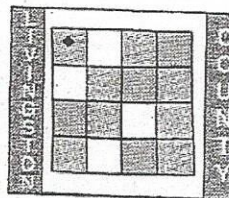
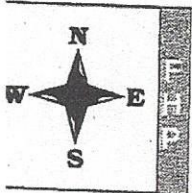
## CONWAY ROAD MAP

T-4-N • R-3-E

Sec = 640 Acres

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See Pages 101-104 For Additional Names.



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