



ANDERSON
ARCHIVAL

CASE STUDY

Cemetery Records Uncover New Life

100+ Years of Peaceful Patronage.

In the aftermath of the battle of Gettysburg, the community of Indiana, PA, gathered to discuss where to lay their fallen soldiers to rest. To meet that need, Oakland Cemetery was founded in 1864, just months before the war ended. Now the cemetery's mission has expanded and serves the larger Indiana County area. Even after a century, the cemetery's original record books are still referenced and amended daily. But this revealed a problem: the books were quickly deteriorating.

Records in Grave Danger.

Oakland Cemetery's record books were fading bit by bit—and sometimes chunk by chunk—as staff and historians used the collection. Brittle pages and aged binding crumbled at the touch, and some books survived only by the miracle of duct tape. “We knew that we couldn't access them physically much longer,” said board member Bernie Lockard. **“Every time you opened those books, you lost a piece of history.”** Oakland Cemetery knew the digitization firm they chose needed a delicate touch to reduce further damage to this one-of-a-kind collection.

Ashes to Access, Dust to Robust.

Utilizing our proven processes and dedicated care, Oakland Cemetery was able to both preserve their deteriorating historical collection and provide a research tool to their organization and community in the form of a digital reference library. Now each page can be categorized, zoomed in, and reprinted—all without further damaging the delicate originals. Oakland Cemetery values their new digital collection and continues to invest in preserving their history.

Museum Quality Care

Using the level of care typically reserved for museums and academia, Anderson Archival was ready to tackle preserving these treasures. We used our V-cradle book scanner to hold the fragile books, allowing for gentle page capture without strain on the spines.



Now that we have this [digital collection] we are sharing those files with a local historical society. Access is going to make its way into our website. We are creating a historical tour of the cemetery that will link to the digital files.”

—Bernie Lockard,
Oakland Cemetery Board Member