

The Petoskey Record
Wednesday, February 22, 1899

Build a Receiving Vault and Chapel

The experiences of this winter have been sufficiently gruesome to satisfy every one that the building of a receiving vault for Greenwood Cemetery is in the name of decency, a necessity. It should be constructed before next winter. Bodies have been left on top of the ground, or rather on top of a snow drift, this winter because the graves were not dug on account of the frost. It would not cost a great deal to construct a receiving vault for 25 or 30 bodies, with a small mortuary chapel in front, large enough to accommodate the ministers, and friends of the deceased for prayers, and for the good name of the city it ought to be done. A very reasonable charge would more than pay the interest on the investment and our good name would be preserved. It is said that one day three weeks or so ago, when the mercury was way down below zero, a funeral cortege made its way through the snow drifts into the cemetery. The grave had been marked out and about six inches picked out at one end. The coffin was deposited on a snow bank alongside, and as the cortege moved off, a stranger who spent the winter of 1807-08 in Alaska remarked, "*Well by the Lord Harry, that beats the Klondyke!*" The present situation is certainly a disgrace to a city like this, and we hope that public sentiment will be aroused on the subject, and a vault built before another winter is upon us.