Question: What pioneer cemetery is located within Cottonwood Heights?

Answer: Union Fort Pioneer Cemetery is located at 1485 East Creek Rd. Rufus Forbush buried his first wife, Polly Clark, on his farm located on Little Cottonwood Creek upstream from Union Fort on August 22, 1851. That winter, a smallpox epidemic struck the Sandy District and the survivors buried their dead near Polly's grave.

When Rufus visited her grave the next spring and discovered the other burial plots, he set aside that parcel of land which came to be known as the Paradise Cemetery. Many Union Fort settlers are buried there including Silas Richards, who assisted in building Union Fort and was the first Justice of the Peace of Union Precinct. Several African American settlers are buried in the Union Fort Pioneer Cemetery, including Green Flake and Hark Wales. Jake Galbraith, a southern Confederate soldier wounded in the Civil War, was the grave digger and cemetery sexton for many years. Sarah Ann Griffiths Forbush, born at Union Fort in 1852, was the last adult buried in the cemetery in 1939. The last child buried in the Union Fort Pioneer Cemetery was Karen Van Valkenburg in 1942.