



Douglas County Cemetery Association Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

Greetings From the President

Another summer is leaving us as we look forward to a cool down and hopefully some much needed moisture. A nice long fall would be welcome, but I know we must accept what comes. With fall coming we start preparing our cemeteries for winter. A final mowing, leaf removal, staking locations of lot corners or safe entry lanes for winter access, etc. An active and involved board is appreciated year-round! Thank you all!

As of this newsletter mailing, your DCCA Board has met twice since our annual meeting. Below is an update on projects we are working on, most of which were discussed during that meeting. We thank all member and visitor cemeteries that were able to attend; and to our new members ... Welcome!

- ◆ The May cemetery tour was successful and we are happy that ten more cemeteries have expressed interest in hosting a tour in the future. Thanks to this year's host cemeteries: **East** and **West Moe, Moe Heights, and White Garden**. My cemetery hosted the tour a couple of years ago and it was a wonderful experience.
- ◆ Plans are being finalized for the reprint of our *DCCA Cemetery Guide*. Thank you to the great committee members for volunteering and thanks to all who contributed new or updated information. We hope to have them available for our next annual meeting.
- ◆ A group of cemeteries has expressed interest in working on the **Find-A-Grave** project. It will be quite a task, but it will be a wonderful resource for our communities. Forty cemeteries in Douglas County currently have burials listed. Check it out at Find-A-Grave.com and click on "search for a cemetery".
- ◆ A possible DCCA website is still being studied to determine costs, information to be included, timeline, etc.
- ◆ The survey information has been compiled and I believe it will help us all determine prices, policies, etc. We hope the results will help your board feel more comfortable making decisions that may directly affect many families. Member cemeteries will find a copy enclosed. To save mailing and printing costs, any interested non-member cemeteries can call or email me to arrange for a copy. chlian@gctel.net or 320-763-7409.
- ◆ A number of county cemeteries also provided their specific operating "Policies & Procedures". If your board is planning to update your policies before our next annual meeting, please contact me and copies can be mailed to you. Otherwise, copies will be available at our annual meeting in the spring.
- ◆ County cemeteries policies and procedures are many and varied. It was nearly impossible to organize, so with the newsletter you will find copies of many that were provided with your surveys. We hope they will provide suggestions for many of the issues that have given us all problems, or that probably will in the future. Again, non-members, please contact me.
- ◆ At our last annual meeting, Tom Hargreaves, representative for the American Legion, VFW and the Veterans Color-Guard asked all county cemeteries to provide a list of their recorded veterans so the Memorial Flag and Plaque lists can be updated. This is a big project and your help is appreciated. Please contact him at tomh49@gctel.net or 320-304-0925.
- ◆ Our cemetery tried the D/2 Biological solution for removal of lichens on our gravestones. Based on the one "diluted trial", it was not very effective. It cost \$62 per gallon with shopping. It might do a better job undiluted, but a water/vinegar solution has also been suggested, or careful power-washing works if you have that capability. Please let us know of other suggestions.

We are always open to your ideas and suggestions and we encourage you to contact any DCCA Board member. Our association tries to provide information and suggest procedures that will help us all offer our families a better experience when dealing with the loss of their family member. Remember, YOU are that association. Thank you all!

John Chlian
DCCA President

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Douglas County Cemetery Spotlight

*In May of this year, folks were led on a guided tour of cemeteries in Douglas County. Tour guides **Bernie Botner** and **Harold and Carolyn Carlstrom** for East Moe; **Gabe Pipo** and **LeRoy Foslien** for West Moe; **Duane Haabala** for Moe Heights; and **Harriet Larson** for White Garden led participants and pointed out notable headstones while telling stories. The tour was sponsored by the Douglas County Historical Society.*

Immigrants from the Scandinavian countries came to the upper-Midwest to homestead in central Minnesota and established a small township named Moe, for a province in Norway. They began to plot out land for churches and cemeteries where they could be spiritually fed in accordance with the customs of their ancestors.

East Moe Lutheran Church Cemetery

East Moe Road, off County Road 56

East Moe Lutheran Cemetery is located in the churchyard of East Moe Lutheran Church. It was started at a meeting on November 8, 1886.

West Moe Lutheran Church Cemetery

County Road 8

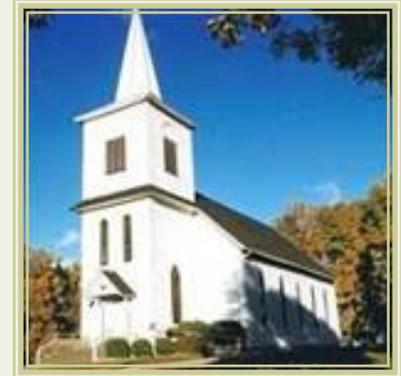
The West Moe and Urness Cemetery Association was founded in 1924 with Mrs. C.B. Hanson and Miss Gena Burkee as Treasurers. The money went into an endowment fund and the interest used for upkeep of the cemetery. In 1953, three members were elected for the first

Cemetery Board, with terms of three, two and one years. Now the board consists of five members and meets a minimum of six times a year.

Moe Heights Cemetery

County Roads 7 and 27

Moe Heights Cemetery was incorporated in 1957. It was established because St. Paul's Cemetery was full.



White Garden Cemetery

County Road 27, north off State Highway 27

The White Garden Cemetery was organized in 1900 by the LaGrande Mission Church. J. N. Hagstrom donated one and one-half acres of land for this cemetery. It was surveyed on December 26, 1900. On January 29, 1946, a meeting was held at School District 60 to organize a community cemetery association and to elect a board of directors. In 1976 Reverend Allen Hagstrom and John Hagstrom deeded a strip of land on the east side of the cemetery. The White Garden is a very peaceful, secluded spot surrounded by trees.

Douglas County Cemetery Association—2012 Membership

Bohemian Independent Cemetery, Brandon Cemetery, Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Carlos Prairie Cemetery, Christian Union Cemetery, East Moe Lutheran Church Cemetery, Ebenezer Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, Fahlun Cemetery, First Lutheran Church Cemetery, Kensington, Fryksande Cemetery, Gordon Pleasant Cemetery, Holmes City Lake Finnish Independent Apostolic Lutheran Cemetery, Hudson Cemetery, Kinkead Cemetery, Lake Charley Cemetery, Lake Ida Cemetery, Lake Mary Cemetery, Moe Heights Cemetery, Mound Grove Cemetery, Nelson Cemetery, Oscar Lake Cemetery, Our Lady of the Runestone Catholic Cemetery, Rose City Evangelical Free Church Cemetery, Rose Hill-Trinity Cemetery, Sauk Valley Lutheran Cemetery, Seven Dolors Catholic Cemetery, Solem Lutheran Church Cemetery, Spruce Hill Cemetery, St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, St. Paul's Cemetery, Moe Township, St. Petri Cemetery, Trinity Lutheran Church Carlos & Zunker Cemetery, Trysil Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery, Van Loon Cemetery, Wennersborg Cemetery, West Moe Cemetery, White Garden Cemetery, Zionsborg Cemetery

QR Codes—High Tech Option for Connecting with a Loved One

QR (quick response) codes, similar to a bar code are an opportunity to document family stories before they fade away and a chance for future generations to make a connection with a loved one. The practice grew out of memorial videos in which people tape messages to be played at their funerals. It's accessed via the QR code containing embedded information which is on a 1 1/2 inch square sticker similar to the renewal tabs used on license plates and can be attached anywhere on the tombstone.



QR codes allow people with smartphones to access a website paying tribute to the departed. Cemetery visitors can read the deceased's biography, study their family tree, look at pictures or watch videos of them talking about their lives. As long as a cemetery is in an area with cell phone coverage, it will work.

According to Ron Gjerde, Secretary Treasurer of Minnesota Association of Cemeteries, current rules and regulations will not permit such an item to be attached to a monument or headstone at many cemeteries. "As a cemetery, you need to start thinking about the permanence and the liability should they disappear or become damaged." For more info., visit www.katzmanmonument.com.

Demystifying the Statute Regarding Descent of Cemetery Lots



What is the law regarding descent of cemetery lots? How is it determined who gets an unused cemetery lot if it's not described in a will?

It's spelled out in Minnesota State Statute 525.14. Essentially, since 1981, unused lots descend to:

- ◆ The surviving spouse in the form of a life estate with right of interment, and any remaining space goes to the oldest surviving child.
- ◆ If there is no surviving child, it goes to the decedent's youngest surviving sibling.
- ◆ If there are no children or siblings, the lots go entirely to the surviving spouse.
- ◆ If there is no surviving spouse, child or sibling, and if the lots are not sold during administration of the decedent's estate, they would go to the cemetery association or private cemetery in trust as a burial lot for the decedent's relatives as the association believes proper.

A pamphlet about cemetery law is available from the Minnesota Association of Cemeteries. Request an e-mail copy at: info@mncemeteries.org. Or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: 3600 Hennepin Av. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.

DCCA Board Member Spotlight

GARY ADAMSON

Gary has served as secretary for the **Holmes City Lake Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church and Cemetery** since 1987.

His farm surrounds the church grounds, on County Road 107 and he has several relatives buried there - too numerous to list.

Gary and his wife, Ida have been married for 31 years.

Gary feels every grave deserves respect and upkeep regardless if it was a single person with no known relatives or a family with several relatives.



DONNA GUNDERSON

Donna (Stahl) Gunderson was born in Ashton, South Dakota and moved to Spruce Hill Township at age 15 with her parents. She attended country school in South Dakota and then graduated from Central High School in Alexandria. She married Harvey Gunderson on October 30, 1948 and lived on a Solem Township farm just north of Kensington. They raised three daughters: Cheryl, Dianne and Judy and have 7 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Donna worked for Glenwood Manufacturing for 17 years and then for Douglas County Public Health for 13 years. The Gundersons moved to Alexandria in 1976. Harvey and Donna were long time active members of Solem Lutheran Church even after moving to Alexandria. Donna has served as long time treasurer for **Solem Cemetery Association**. Donna is a current member of **Nora Lutheran Church**, rural Kensington following the closing of Solem Lutheran church four years ago. Harvey passed away in March of 2011 and Donna now lives in Kensington.

GABRIEL J. PIPO

Gabe is a native of Douglas County, and his four sets of great-grandparents all settled in Moe Township, Douglas County. He was born in Alexandria, and grew up in Moe Township, Douglas County, and Elk Lake Township, in Grant County. He attended elementary school and high school in Barrett, Minnesota. He then attended Alexandria Area Vo-Tech Institute/College, and was in the first graduating class of the Law Enforcement Program.

Gabe began his law enforcement career in Springfield, Minnesota, and then received his draft notice. He joined the U.S. Navy for a four year enlistment and was assigned the occupational rating of Personnelman. He served in Japan, San Diego, California, the Philippines, Republic of Vietnam, Italy and Sardinia. He traveled to Thailand, Spain, Germany, France, Austria, England, Majorca, and Mexico, in four years. Following his military service, he returned to Minnesota and served 25 years with the Douglas County Sheriff's Department.

He has been married to Diane, who has been a Deputy Auditor Treasurer, with Douglas County, for 37 years. They had three children, Jesse (deceased), Kymm Tingum of Staples, Minnesota, and Kerry Pipo, of Long Prairie, Minnesota. They have three grandchildren.

Gabe has been keeping busy in his retirement. He is a lifetime member of the VFW, member of the Vietnam Veterans Association, American Legion, and has served on church and society boards.

Creative Corner: Headstone Humor



Headstones can be both unique and hilarious. These commemorating messages seem to show what the deceased person was passionate about.

As you walk through a cemetery you may come up with different stories about the deceased by checking out their headstone. From the different shapes and inscriptions, there must be a tale that lies behind them.

In many cultures, death is not seen as a morbid or tragic event, but rather an opportunity to celebrate the life of the deceased. Humor is an effective means of doing so, and these humorous headstones are good examples of using humor to make a tragic situation easier.

While some may see these headstones as tasteless, those who use them are surely in the mindset that the deceased would have appreciated the comedic perspective on tragedy.





**Douglas County
Cemetery Association, Inc**
A Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation

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Our Mission



"The Douglas County Cemetery Association will work hard to fulfill its purpose of being a resource for member cemeteries in dealing with the operational

problems that arise, creating mutually beneficial relationships between our members, promoting our cemeteries as the guardians of our county's heritage and as a place of lasting tribute. to the memory of those who have gone on before us."

Our Goals

- To work with many other organizations to provide service to those concerned about our heritage.
- To help those working on family genealogy.
- To support efforts to maintain our cemeteries as well-landscaped and comforting places to visit.
- To collect information to identify notable people buried in our cemeteries and historical gravesites.
- To do mundane chores of developing better deed forms for membership and better transfer records.

Newsletter Editor:

Kathryn Liesemeyer

Katalyst Communications, Alexandria, MN

Board Members/Officers

President: **John Chlian**
Vice-Pres. **Barbara Sather**
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John Conard
Donna Gunderson
Ruth Johnson
Gladys Paulzine
Gabriel J. Pipo
Gene Rasmusen
Kristi Wussow
Carol Neumann, ex-officio

Annual membership meetings are held the fourth Thursday of April at: First Congregational UCC, Alexandria, MN.

We will work closely with the Douglas County Historical Society to maintain cemetery records.

For more information about DCCA contact:
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