



Douglas County Cemetery Association Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 2

Greetings From the President

As summer is winding down, we start thinking about fall projects and what needs to be done before our Minnesota winter begins. I have certainly appreciated the fabulous summer we have had. Will an early spring bring an early fall.....we'll have to wait to know that answer.

The fall season means the DCCA board is finalizing our 5th grade Essay Contest plans. That must be completed by the middle of October so students can be involved with the Veteran's Day Service. We again thank our sponsors for contributing awards money. If each school continues to participate in larger numbers, we may need to seek more sponsors. That would be wonderful! Please let us know if your cemetery could help.

Julie Kirscht has been working on updating our website. New information is being added and more is to come. It is an involved project and we are so thankful for Julie's extra effort and for her talents! Many cemetery contacts are being added as well as a google maps cemetery locator. We are also planning to present our Essay Contest information on our website, so printing and mailing costs can be reduced. Besides

That, most 5th graders can probably navigate a computer better than I can! If you would like *your* cemetery contacts included, please let us know. Our website will be a great resource for funeral homes, the DCHS and the general public when they need to contact a cemetery representative. Check it out at www.dccamn.org. Thank You Julie! You will find a separate article in this Newsletter about the Find-A-Grave website. If you haven't been on the site, go online and you may find your burials all listed. Enter findagrave.com, go to "find graves", click on "search for a cemetery" and the site will take you through the rest. There is even a mobile app available for free.

We also extend a huge Thank You to the volunteers at the Douglas County Historical Society for recording each of our cemeteries burials. What a great resource. Stop in and ask for a copy of your burial register to compare against your records. Or just call 320-762-0382, and ask for a copy to be mailed to a board member. In some cases their database needs to be updated and that information comes from individual cemeteries. We urge you to stay current on submitting your DCHS burial records and to fill

them out completely and accurately. If it sounds like I'm harping....I am! Sorry.

I am still adding names to our Veteran's burial information. We started out with about 30, and we now have 56 on the roster at Hudson. We have copies available at our cemetery, so family members can let us know their loved one should be included. We have also been adding MN National Guard vets to our listing. Contact Tom Hargreaves for his listings to compare or add information. *It is helpful to list grave locations and provide a map of your layout* so the volunteers can place the veteran flags and stars for Memorial Day. Our goal is to have every Veteran recognized at every cemetery. Tom can be reached at tomh0925@gmail.com or call him at 320-304-0925.

By the way, I have mentioned a number of times that my cemetery displays information at the entrance. We have been using weather-proof plastic display envelopes available online at DisplaystoGo.com, Item #INFO1014 and cost \$7.18 each. They hold 8.5x11" paper. They protect very well but may only last of couple of years because of UV rays. Until we can afford something more elaborate, they definitely do the job.

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Finally, log onto the MN Association of Cemeteries site for the latest quarterly newsletter. There are several interesting articles on cremation. Log in as "guest" and the password is "guest".

Once again, we thank all cemetery directors for their commitment to their duties on the board. We also thank you for your continued support of the DCCA. We hope our efforts can provide more support and involvement at your cemeteries. Have a great winter, and we look forward to seeing you in the spring!

John Chlian
DCCA President



THANK YOU to all *FIND-A-GRAVE* Contributors!



The DCCA board asks all county cemetery boards to join us in recognizing and thanking the volunteers that have dedicated many hours of effort on recording our counties burials on the *Find-A-Grave* website. We all offer a huge **THANK YOU** for the countless hours of mind numbing entry work; the thousands of pictures taken; and endless research time needed to present such a complete listing of burials for each of our cemeteries. Some of those volunteers are board members, family members or friends...and a few are those very enthused, excited and oh-so-dedicated FAG contributors. **Thank You....Thank You!!**

I was privileged to work with and contribute to our cemetery's entries this winter and spring, by working with one those very dedicated volunteers! I was totally impressed! I had prepared a separate spreadsheet of Hudson burials and locations based on information from both our sexton's and our actuary's records. I compared that information to the D.C. Historical Society listing.....and to the volunteer's burial listings, and provided our cemetery's burial locations. Many corrections and additions were made to ensure as close to 100% accuracy as possible. I have to admit, almost all of those corrections were made to our cemeteries records. Of our 580 burials, I also have to admit that we still are not aware of where 45 burials are located.

Most of those are burials from the very early years. So we continue with our "work in progress". Our spreadsheet notes the burial locations and is available at the cemetery, along with a map of the grave locations. This helps anyone trying to locate a burial at our cemetery. We also display information on who to contact for cemetery information or questions; as well as a form that reminds visitors where donations can be sent.

We encourage each cemetery to ask for a copy of your DCHS burial records, compare them to your records and to the information available on *Find-A-Grave*. I just ran a total of the FAG burials listed for Douglas County, and it currently is at 31,000. Only 11,000 were listed last year. Much effort went into entering *20,000 entries in one year!*

You can contact those volunteers on the FAG website. Click on your cemetery, click on a burial, look for the contributors' name or initials and click on that. You can then "leave a public message" with that contributor. A huge **Thank You** is definitely appropriate!!

There are currently 78 cemeteries and historic burial sites located in Douglas County, MN. 52 are active and 26 are inactive. The Douglas County Cemetery Association website (www.dccamn.org) has a complete listing. Cemeteries are grouped by township and many are linked to google maps. Cemetery records and research materials, as well as links to other Douglas County Historical organizations are available at the Douglas County Historical Society. ~ **John Chlian, President**

Douglas County Cemetery Association Membership

Bohemian Independent Cemetery, Brandon Cemetery, Calvary Cemetery, Carlos Prairie Cemetery, Christian Union Cemetery, Church of Seven Dolores Catholic Cemetery, East Moe Lutheran Church Cemetery, Ebenezer Cemetery, English Grove Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, Fahlun Lutheran Church Cemetery, Faith Lutheran Church Community Cemetery, Faith Lutheran Church Community Cemetery, First Lutheran Church Cemetery- Kensington, Fryksande Cemetery, Geneva Cemetery, Gordon Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Holmes City Lake Finnish Independent Apostolic Cemetery, Hudson Cemetery, Kinkead Cemetery, Lake Charley Cemetery, Lake Mary Cemetery, Moe Heights Cemetery, Mound Grove Cemetery, Nelson Cemetery, Oscar Lake Lutheran Church Cemetery, Rose City Evangelical Free Church Cemetery, Rose Hill-Trinity Cemetery, Sauk Valley Lutheran Church Cemetery, Solem Lutheran Church Cemetery, Spruce Hill Cemetery, St. Ann's Catholic Church Cemetery, St. Luke's Lutheran Church Cemetery, St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery, St. Nicholas Catholic Church Cemetery, St. Petri Lutheran Church Cemetery, Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, Trysil-Bethesda Cemetery, Van Loon Cemetery, Wenersborg Cemetery, West Moe Lutheran Church Cemetery, White Garden Cemetery, Zionsborg Cemetery

DCCA Essay Contest—"What Stories can the Stones Tell?"

Please spread the word that DCCA is again sponsoring a County-Wide Essay Contest. Monetary donations from several area Veteran's organizations, REA's Operation Round Up, private individuals and cemetery associations have contributed monetary prizes for **every school that participates!** —**Three students from each school, and the home school category, will receive monetary prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25.** All entries must be turned in by **October 14, 2015** and awards will be announced to the communities in the local papers and at each school! *Selected students will be asked to read their essay for the Veteran's Day service in Alexandria.* All entries will be compiled into book form to be kept at the Douglas County Historical Society for future generations to enjoy!



What Stories can the Stones Tell?

3rd Annual Essay Contest
For all Douglas County, MN 5th Graders
Entry deadline: October 14, 2015

- Those who came before us have stories to tell.
- Research a community member buried in one of our county cemeteries and tell their story.
- Write an essay sharing what you have found.
- Visit dccamn.org for details and an essay submission form.

Cash Prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25 will be awarded for the top 3 essays from each school, including a home-school category

ESSAY SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Entries may be emailed to: chlian@gctel.com or,
Postmarked no later than October 14, 2015 and mailed to:

John Chlian
10937 Maple Springs Dr. SE,
Alexandria, MN 56308

Sponsored by the Douglas County Cemetery Association

Contact us for more information: <http://dccamn.org>

Phone inquiries can be directed to: John Chlian, DCCA President @320-763-7409

Minnesota Statutes That May Affect Your Cemetery

Most cemeteries struggle when it comes to what MN Statutes allow. We hope this information will provide some insight and help.



306.55 ASSESSMENTS LEVIED FOR LOT CARE; ENFORCEMENT.

When assessments are levied by a cemetery association authorized to levy assessments by its articles of incorporation, bylaws, or otherwise for the care, upkeep, and maintenance of any lot or lots in the cemetery and remain unpaid for a period of five years, the unused portion of the lot or lots reverts to and becomes the property of the cemetery association in which the lot or lots are located. The reversion becomes effective upon entry of judgment in the district court of the county in which the cemetery is located, in proceedings instituted for that purpose after petition by the association to the court and after a hearing on the petition, upon notice to interested parties as prescribed by the court.

History:(7594-16) 1927 c 208; 1949 c 428 s 1; 1988 c 469 art 5 s 1

471.84 CEMETERIES; APPROPRIATION BY CERTAIN SUBDIVISIONS.

The governing body of any city of the fourth class or statutory city or town may, in its discretion, appropriate a sum not to exceed \$10,000 per annum to any public or privately owned cemetery located within or without its boundaries if the cemetery is used for the burial of the dead of any city of the fourth class or statutory city or town without restriction.

History: 1951 c 121 s 1; 1953 c 281 s 1; 1957 c 452 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 2008 c 187 s 8

525.14 DESCENT OF CEMETERY LOT

Subject to the right of interment of the decedent therein, a cemetery lot or burial plot, unless disposed of as provided in section 306.29, shall descent free of all debts as follows:

- (1) to the decedent's surviving spouse, a life estate with right of interment of the spouse therein, and remainder over to the person who would be entitled to the fee if there were no spouse, provided, however, if no person entitled to the remainder of the fee survives, then the entire fee to the surviving spouse with right of interment therein;
- (2) If there is no surviving spouse, then to the decedent's eldest surviving child;
- (3) If there is no surviving child, then to the decedent's youngest surviving sibling;
- (4) If there is no surviving spouse, child or sibling of the decedent, then, if not sold during administration of decedent's estate, to the cemetery association or private cemetery in trust as a burial lot for the decedent and such of the decedent's relatives as the governing body thereof shall deem proper.

The cemetery association or private cemetery, or, with its consent, any person to whom the lot shall descent may grant and convey the lot to any of the decedents' parents, siblings or descendants.

A crypt or group of crypts or burial vaults owned by one person in a public or community mausoleum shall be deemed a cemetery lot.

Grave markers, monuments, memorials and all structures lawfully installed or erected on any cemetery lot or burial plot shall be deemed to be a part of and shall descent with the lot or plot.

History: (8992-26) 1935 c 72 s 26; 1969 c 852 s 1; 1981 c 25 s 1

Creative Corner: Why do we place flowers on graves?

Have you ever wondered how the age-old tradition of placing flowers on graves began? Some experts suggest that this practice has been around for thousands of years. Possibly started to mark the burial sites of noteworthy individuals, it was also used in Ancient Rome to create a comforting environment in which the deceased's spirit could wander around the grave.

In more recent history, three years after the end of the Civil War, Decoration Day was established as a time for American citizens to decorate the graves of its fallen soldiers with flowers. Those in charge of creating Decoration Day selected May 30th as the date, in order for the greatest amount of flowers to be in bloom across the country. Now we call it Memorial Day and it is still a favorite time for individuals to visit family cemetery plots to place flowers.

But, what does each kind of flower symbolize? Though meanings can vary, some are well known: a red rose represents love, respect, or courage; a yellow rose confers friendship, a lily stands for innocence, purity, or majesty; a forget-me-not signifies memories; and a poppy means eternal sleep. However, other flowers also bear important meanings, as well: a gladiolus represents strength, character, or integrity; a stock signifies lasting beauty; chrysanthemums and white daisies symbolize truth; and a nasturtium stands for patriotism.

Placing flowers on the gravesite of a loved one is a beautiful act of remembering and celebrating those who are no longer with us. Learning to use specific flowers for specific meanings can help us all in this process of remembering and celebrating.



FLOWER SONG

*Oh, blossoms, waken! Here comes spring.
Each flower, raise your pretty face.
The sun and rain are here to bring
you sustenance. Bring us your grace!*

*Arise, dear Tulip, from your bed,
and show to us your every hue -
your purple, orange, pink and red.
Come, Violet, and show your blue!*

*Sweet Daffodil, come take your pose.
Your sunny smile is needed here
alongside precious fragrant Rose.
White Lily, shine your Easter cheer!*

*Now Kokopelli plays his tune.
Arise, fair blooms; your time comes soon!*

~ Unknown



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

Return Address:

Douglas County Historical Society
1219 South Nokomis Street
Alexandria, MN 56308

Email: kim.dillon@dchsmn.org

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. **Joel Blank**

Secretary: **Julie Kirscht**

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Gary Adamson

Donna Gunderson

Ralph Gunderson

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Gene Rasmusen

Kevin Sather

Kristi Wussow

Ann Skoglund, 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: **John Chlian @ chlian@gctel.net**