



Douglas County Cemetery Association Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 1

Greetings From the President

Yes, it is that time again. A hint of spring and we start thinking about our annual meetings. Winter seems to be giving up early, so that means our spring cemetery duties take on a new urgency. We may all need to start our improvements or caretaking sooner than normal. Thinking positively, that gives us more time to complete those improvements this year!

Last fall, my cemetery board held a huge tree trimming party thanks in big part to Thrivent Action Team “seed” money of \$250 and about 25 local volunteers. We all enjoyed a pizza party afterwards. It was actually a fun event. Some of those volunteers mentioned they will be willing to help with a monument leveling party this year and *most all cemeteries are in need of that*. These are wonderful improvements and can be accomplished with a little different approach. We also thank *Operation RoundUp* for their gift of \$250 to be used towards yearly operating expenses. At this year’s annual township meeting, we asked and received a levy to include \$1000 for our cemetery operation. We have to do what we can to help offset fewer donations. I encourage all cemeteries to make similar requests if you’re in need of additional operating funds. Plus, I believe we may need to raise our lot prices and fees.

You know we are still maintaining those lots that sold for \$2; cremations cut our income in half; we earn little interest on savings accounts; and operating costs continuing to increase all multiply the problems. Regular small increases in lot prices are better than one large increase....coming too late!

2015 was a year filled with attempts to bring more awareness of our county cemeteries. Several wonderful articles were published in the *Senior Perspective*; a six-part cemetery series was published in the *Echo Press*; and several articles covering our essay contest were also published. We thank all those involved, but in particular **Tara Bitzan, Jim Palmer & Rachel Barduson**. We also again thank the contributors for all their work on entering burials on the *Find A Grave* site. Had to be a daunting task, but it was gladly taken on by a few very dedicated and determined folks. WE THANK YOU ALL!

Those Stones Do tell a Story and without YOU and many other directors before us, these stories would be harder to find. We thank you for all you do as a cemetery board member. We hope what we try to do as a county association makes the task just a little easier.

Once a year we gather as a group of volunteers with the same interests, to attend our **DCCA Annual Meeting**. You are invited and encouraged to attend our meeting planned for April 28th, 7 PM at the First Congregational Church located at the corner of 7th & Elm in Alexandria, MN.

Three directors have completed their 1st three-year term. We thank **Joel Blank, Ralph Gunderson** and **Kevin Sather** and hope all three will plan to seek a 2nd term. The board has also accepted the resignation of **Donna Gunderson** with one year remaining on her 2nd term. Our bylaws allow 13 directors and we currently have 9. Our nominating committee is contacting member cemeteries for candidates. We also welcome nominations from the floor at the meeting. *You are encouraged to represent your cemetery!*

We have asked **Tom Hargreaves**, volunteer with the local Color Guard to speak at our annual meeting. He continues to update the military veteran’s listings for our cemeteries and has information on “Who is a Veteran? We always seek comments or suggestions from each of you about whatever your concerns may be! This is “your meeting”....so feel free to offer items to discuss and specific questions. I sometimes feel that we don’t share enough of our experiences. I learn something new almost every day.

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Please note the article about our “updated” website. Julie **Kirscht** has put a lot of effort into our site and we are very proud of it. Thank you again Julie! We did need to change from an “.org” to “.com” listing to reduce the cost. We used our website to distribute our essay contest information this year and it certainly saved on mailing costs. Our site can be a great resource for families trying to locate cemeteries in the county. The DC Historical Society and our funeral homes also need current contact information. We have included contact information for each cemetery that gave us the permission. If you were waiting to view our final product, and now wish to have a contact person listed, please contact Julie or me. And, please make us aware of any contact changes.

Thank you all again for all you do for our cemeteries. I hope to see you all on the 28th.

John Chlian
DCCA President

Lost to Time by Julie Kirscht

Scattered around Douglas County are several burial sites of which little is known of either those interred or exact burial locations. Some of these sites are known only in memory to local inhabitants of the areas, with no visible markers remaining. Others have passing mentions found in either township histories or an obituary. *A brief history of a few of these follows.*

The approximate locations of these sites can be found at the Douglas County Historical Society. Please note that these are located on private property.

Section 33 Site – Holmes City Township - (formerly Site 61, Johnny Thoen Farm Burial Site) – **On private land.** There are no visible markers, suspected burials: perhaps six.

Section 34 Site – Holmes City Township (formerly Site 61A) – **On private land.** With no visible signs or markings, known burials are of the Gulbranson children Emil and Maria, children of Ole Magnet and Eline (Osty) Gulbranson are in this section site. There are perhaps as many as seven burials on this property.

Section 5 Site - Urness Township (formerly Site 35A) – **On private land.** The graves of two children are thought to be located in the southern part of this section. Nothing more is known.

Section 24 Site - Urness Township (formerly #37 - Peter Peterson Burial Site) – **On private land.** A site containing six graves was dowsed in around the year 2001. Records indicate a possible connection to Peter Peterson and it is suspected that the graves date between 1900 and 1910.

Site 19A – Craig Site – **On private land.** Located in Section 23 in Belle River Township. George B. and Sophia (Wilson) Craig are thought to be the first settlers in Belle River Township, coming from Massachusetts in about 1867. *“Sometime after coming to Belle River, a little boy of theirs died and was buried on the river bank near where the bridge now stands in Section 23. Bouncing Bet flowers covered the grave and the seed was probably brought with them from Massachusetts. The plant must have spread, because you can still find it growing in Belle River.”* From *Album of the Ages*, page 147.



Bouncing Bet Flower

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Dear Members,

Last fall, one of our board members resigned due personal circumstances. We are seeking an individual to complete the remaining term of this open seat, which expires April of 2017. If you are interested, please contact any of our current board members, or email us at dccamn@gmail.com. In the event no one steps forward, we will ask for nominations from the floor at our April 2016 annual meeting to fill this vacant seat. Please consider this opportunity to represent your cemetery on our board. Thank you!

Douglas County Cemetery Association Membership

Bohemian Independent Cemetery, Brandon Cemetery, Calvary Cemetery, Carlos Prairie Cemetery, Christian Union Cemetery, Church of Seven Dolours Catholic Cemetery, East Moe Lutheran Church Cemetery, Ebenezer Cemetery, English Grove Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, Fahlun Lutheran Church 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 Ida 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. John's Lutheran 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

Court Reporters Preserving Veterans' Stories

Reproduced with permission from "The Classy Canary", February, 2016

Court Reporters Help Record Veterans' Stories:

(NAPSA) Once again, court reporters are making sure that the stories of America's veterans are recorded for future generations.

2013 marks the 10th consecutive year that the Veterans History Project (VHP) has worked with the National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) and the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA).

The mission of the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress Folklife Center is to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

U.S. Representative Ron Kind (WI-3) proposed the Veterans History Project after interviewing veterans in his own family at a reunion. His wife, Tawni, a court reporter, knew that transcriptions would insure the accessibility of interview content.

To date, more than 2,800 interviews in the VHP collection have been transcribed by court reporters. Once a court reporter transcribes an interview, the transcription is sent to the Library of Congress to be added to the veteran's collection, and in many cases, it is digitalized so that the public may access the transcript online.

Not only do court reporters serve VHP by transcribing oral histories that are submitted to the Library of Congress, they also dedicate their time as volunteer interviewers.

"I can't tell you how rewarding it has been to me to work with such dedicated professionals at VHP, and with court reporters who unselfishly volunteer their time and talent to ensure that these stories will be preserved so that future generations of Americans will know the sacrifices made to preserve our freedom", said Beth Kilker, NCRF's Oral Histories Program Coordinator.

NCRF is also an ardent ambassador for VHP, and has promoted "VHP Days on Campus" at various court reporting schools and firms. Most recently NCRA held a "VHP Day" during the 2012 NCRA Convention in Philadelphia and is planning a VHP Day during the 2013 NCRA convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

In addition to recorded interviews, VHP also depends on volunteers to donate veterans' original photographs, letters, military documents, diaries, journals, two-dimensional artwork, and unpublished memoirs.

NCRF is a 501(C)(3) charitable organization, and a philanthropic arm of the 18,000 member professional organization for stenographic court reporters, NCRA.

To learn more or participate, visit www.loc.gov/vets.



Cremation Memorials to Stand the Test of Time

Cremation has come to the forefront in recent years in terms of percentages of those who choose it, and, according to ICCFA President, Darin B. Drabing, from his article in *The MAC Quarterly, Help Put an End to Cremation, (December, 2015)* "Rarely do we suggest a permanent memorial in a cemetery." Drabing says that there is an array of terrific suppliers offering access to the latest in technology and merchandise, but not as many really focused on the *end* of cremation. With cremation rates over 70 percent in some areas, it's obvious that cremation is a perfectly acceptable choice in dealing with realities of death. What isn't "perfectly acceptable" is the lack of education, support and follow-through provided to families who choose cremation. Drabing believes that, "The end of every cremation should be a permanent memorial—somewhere."

So what can we do? According to Drabing, "We should expect and assume that a family will select a final resting place for the cremated remains at the time of arrangement. And, more important, we should be working closely with cemeteries to facilitate the selection of a final resting place, the coordination of a committal ceremony and the placement of an appropriate memorial to stand the test of time." Craig Buysse, Licensed Funeral Director at *Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory* in Alexandria stated that there are numerous, varied wishes that families have for their loved one's final resting place, "One of our recommendations for after cremation is for families to consider burying all or part of their loved one's cremains in a private or public cemetery, so that there is a place of honor where people can come and pay their respects at a permanent memorial site.", says Buysse.

Drabing ends his article by stating that, "Death is part of the human experience. The emotion, the ceremony, the memorial - are all important. Let's not sell our cremation families short by not finishing our jobs. Let's do our best to make certain there is a service to honor a life lived and a permanent memorial where future generations can come to remember. Creating meaning at a time of loss is our reason for being. We create meaning by putting a proper *end* to cremation."

Take a Tour Around Our New Website!



We have a new website!

Please take some time to look around at www.dccamn.com.

Cemeteries of Douglas County: With just one click you will see all the cemeteries of our county marked on a map (give it a few seconds to load, please!) This page has a listing of our cemeteries by township. If you click on the township, a township location

map will pop up. Most of the cemeteries have this same feature. (Sites from approximate locations do not have this feature.) You will also find a printer friendly listing of cemeteries for anyone who may find this helpful.

Members page (includes our Todd County members): This page includes a directory of current members. If your cemetery provided contact information you will find it here. Those members who did not want their contact information published have a contact DCCA ... notation. There is also a printer friendly listing available on this page.

In the News: Here you will find links to local published articles on our cemeteries and the Douglas County Cemetery Association. Thanks to *Echo Press* for sharing these.

Newsletters/Minutes: On this page we have provided access to several years of our present and past newsletters and meeting minutes (including annual meeting minutes).

Useful Links: This page has links to the Douglas County Historical Society, the Minnesota Association of Cemeteries and a link to the Douglas County, MN cemeteries listing on *findgrave*.

Mission Statement and Directors and Contact us: Our mission statement and a current listing of our Board of Directors can be found here. Contact information for our President, Treasurer/Membership Secretary and Secretary are also provided.

This website is for YOU, our members. We hope you find it both useful and easy to navigate. Take a look and let us know if you'd like something added or removed. We welcome anyone with a desire to get involved with our board and/or the development and maintenance of our website to contact us!

Please Join Us!

DCCA Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 28

7 p.m.

First Congregational UCC

Creative Corner: And the Awards Go To ...

What Stories Can the Stones Tell?

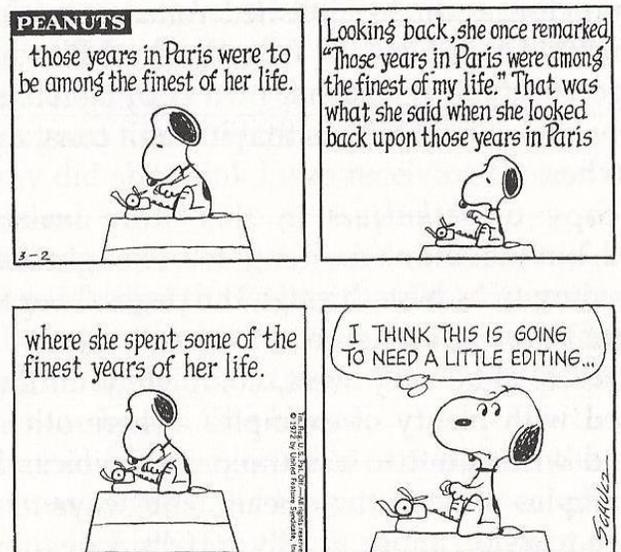
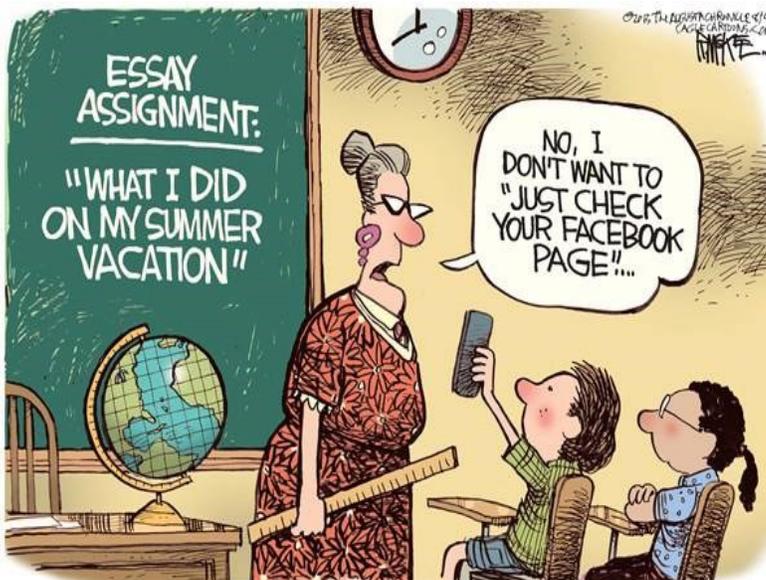
We were very pleased that our 3rd annual Fifth Grade student essay had 45 entries this year. We thank all the participating schools and students! But we have to note the increase was primarily due the efforts of the Brandon-Evansville staff and students. We were excited to learn the school has been taking their students on field trips to local cemeteries for years, and has encouraged them to learn about a cemetery operation. *We salute the teachers and staff!*



The students wrote so many great essays! Since our guidelines have been to award only three students from each school, our board decided to provide an “extra award” of a pizza party at the B-E school for all the 5th grade students. We thank the school administration for allowing us to spend some time with the students although, I think we had just as much fun as the students!

At our annual meeting, we will plan to *display a list of essay winners and articles from the Echo Press* about our contest. Our goals are to encourage young families to participate and be more involved with our local cemeteries; and to create an interest in our local history; remember our deceased family members, and recognize the many military veterans buried locally.

And, finally, just for laughs





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

Return Address:

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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

Board Members/Officers

President: **John Chlian**

Vice-Pres. **Joel Blank**

Secretary: **Julie Kirscht**

Treasurer/Membership Chair:
Sue Tvrdik

Gary Adamson

Ralph Gunderson

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**