



# Douglas County Cemetery Association Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

## Greetings From the President

**Y**our DCCA Board is planning our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and *you are again all invited!* During the last year we have welcomed five new cemeteries, and we continue to encourage others who remain uncertain to attend this annual meeting to see what we are about.

Our goals remain the same, and we attempt to help each board with daily operations. I hope we all can also better inform family members on what is needed to continue to care for the resting site of loved ones at our cemeteries. The public all needs to serve on a cemetery board to realize what is involved, and like everything else, it seems to only get more complicated...and more costly.

I urge you to encourage and invite attendance for your annual meetings and ask for support from as many family members as possible. We all need to be reminded! Our DCCA Annual Meeting will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM at the First Congregational Church in Alexandria. It is located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> & Elm, one block west of Broadway and is handicapped accessible. Consider using the East & North parking spaces and the East entry door. We are looking forward to our speaker for the evening, Ron Gjerde, *Sec./Treas. of the MN. Assoc. of Cemeteries.*

He will present information on cemetery lot titling, affidavits, trust deeds and certificates of ownership. Recommended forms and handouts will be available to keep us all better informed. Bring your questions....this is the person to ask!

Also, please join us in thanking the following board members who have served two three-year terms: Darrel Anderson/Mound Grove; John Conard/Lake Ida; Gladys Paulzine/Hudson; and Barb Sather/Fahlun & Nelson. Their involvement and dedication have been appreciated, and they will all be missed! As a last duty, we usually ask each out-going member to suggest a replacement nomination, but each member cemetery is also encouraged to bring nomination suggestions for these four open positions.

We also send a special thank you to our retiring Ex-officio Board member and Director of the Douglas County Historical Society, Rachel Barduson. Rachel's enthusiasm and commitment are definitely missed, and her many contributions were always appreciated!

During the year, many of you responded to our request for information on your "policies & procedures"; pricing, etc. Copies of that information will be available at the annual meeting registration table.

Thanks to our "Guide" committee, the re-printed Douglas County Cemetery Guides and Fliers are completed. A free Guide and Flier is available for each association member at the registration table and additional copies can be purchased for \$2. They are also for sale at the Douglas County Historical Society. As a member of the Minnesota Association of Cemeteries, we receive regular emails with information that may be helpful to many of you. They can include MN statutes; legislation; operating concerns; pesticide problems, etc. Please provide an email address for one of your board members, and I will forward those MAC emails to you or copies of the most pertinent information will be at the registration tables. In addition, even more information is available on the MAC website at: [www.mncemeteries.org](http://www.mncemeteries.org) and log-in using "guest" as your ID and your password. Please visit the Find-A-Grave website to view a number of additions to burial listings in our county cemeteries. We are still encouraging cemetery board members to enter information on their cemetery's burials so that it is as complete and accurate as possible. This site provides much information in an easy to search format and it is "free"! Check out your cemetery listing.

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Inserted in this newsletter, please find a copy of the DCCA Cemetery Information/Dues Request form. Please fill out completely and mail, or just bring to the annual meeting. Your prompt attention will be appreciated. So please join us for our annual meeting. Plan to stay for refreshments and talk shop, or just enjoy your neighbors. I hope to see you all on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and thank you for your interest and your commitment to all of our cemeteries. You are appreciated!

**John Chlian**  
DCCA President

## Douglas County Cemetery Spotlight

In honor of our outgoing board members, we are highlighting the cemeteries they served:

**Darrel Anderson**—Mound Grove

**John Conard**—Lake Ida

**Barbara Sather**—Fahlun and Nelson

**Gladys Paulzine**—Hudson

### **Mound Grove Cemetery**

*South of Evansville on Railroad Street*

The cemetery association was formed in 1873. Equal parcels of land were deeded to the Norwegian Lutheran Church and to Mound Grove Cemetery Society by Levi Thompson. One of the earliest recorded burials was Mr. Thompson's daughter, Frances Partridge in 1873. In 1963 the Memorial Park that encircles the cemetery became a reality.

### **Lake Ida Cemetery**

*County Road 61*

In 1877, Jens and Karen Olson sold 1 acre of land for \$1 to build the Norwegian Lutheran Church, and a foundation was laid. However, because East Moe Lutheran Church was already in the area, the new church was not built. For many years the site was not maintained. In 1973 the council of the First Lutheran Church in Alexandria appointed a committee to oversee the care of the cemetery and a fund was established for donations.

### **Hudson Cemetery**

*County Road 86, on North Meades Addition Drive*

Hudson Cemetery (formerly Union Cemetery) occupies a two-acre plot, originally a part of the Ben Gunsalus farm. Mr. Gunsalus donated the original acre to the cemetery. In 1877 the Hudson Cemetery Association was formed and officers voted to purchase an additional acre of land from Mr. Gunsalus.

### **Fahlun Lutheran Church Cemetery**

*4 miles northeast of Nelson on County Road 74*

Ole Olson Solum deeded the land to the Swedish Lutheran Fahlun Church in 1882. More land was purchased in 1892 and 1912. The oldest burial is Brita Olson in 1870, probably moved from the old cemetery 2 miles south of Fahlun. .



### **Nelson Cemetery**

*One-half mile east of Nelson on State Highway 27*

The Nelson Danish Cemetery started in 1873. The west part of the cemetery was the Norwegian Lutheran Cemetery associated with Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Nelson. In 1951, the two cemeteries became the Nelson Cemetery. The earliest grave is Johannes Anderson in 1870.

### **Douglas County Cemetery Association Membership**

Bohemian Independent Cemetery, Brandon Cemetery, Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Carlos Prairie Cemetery, Christian Union Cemetery, Christina Lake Lutheran & Mission Convent 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 Dolores Catholic Cemetery, Solem Lutheran Church Cemetery, Spruce Hill Cemetery, St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery, St. Paul's Cemetery, St. Petri Cemetery, Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery of Carlos & Zunker Cemetery, Trysil Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery, Van Loon Cemetery, Wenersborg Cemetery, West Moe Church Cemetery, White Garden Cemetery, Zionsborg Cemetery

## Preplanning Purchase of Cemetery Property Puts You in Control

**P**lanning for the purchase of cemetery property in advance has several advantages. Primarily, preplanning prevents loved ones from having to make such decisions when a death occurs. Making arrangements during a time of grief and confusion can be an emotional burden.

Advantages of preplanning:

- Spare family from making decisions during grief
- Puts you in control of decisions
- Make choices together with your spouse and family
- Purchase at today's prices
- Pay in installments over time with no interest
- Your purchase is protected by law



### Financial advantages

Inflation causes prices to rise over the course of time, but when you purchase property in advance you are buying at the current price. Many cemeteries offer interest-free financing plans. Be sure to check whether the contract of the cemetery guarantees prices. By thinking about memorial property in advance, you can compare different products and services to choose the options that work best for your budget.

### Make an informed decision

Preplanning allows you to choose how you would like to be memorialized and provides an opportunity for family and friends to be part of the decision. When you plan ahead, you will be able to consider the many options available. Perhaps there is a current family member near a certain available lot. By purchasing now, you can be assured that space will still be available. Another benefit is peace of mind, knowing your family and friends will be relieved of the emotional and financial burden often associated with making arrangements at the time of death.

### Understand what you're purchasing

When you purchase cemetery property, you are purchasing the right to designate who may be interred in the space. You are not purchasing the land itself, which remains the property and responsibility of the cemetery.

Purchasing the right to be interred in a cemetery is separate from making funeral arrangements with a licensed funeral director. Choosing a cemetery memorial may be one aspect of your final arrangements. Depending on your needs, funeral arrangements (which may include purchasing a casket, arranging a service, embalming, etc.) must be made using the services of a licensed funeral director. Some cemeteries also have licensed funeral directors who can do this, but most do not. It is not required that you make arrangements for funeral services when choosing a memorial in a cemetery.

*Taken from "2012 Minnesota Association of Cemeteries" website*

## Please Help us Save on Costs

On a trial-basis, this newsletter will only be sent to one board member of each cemetery in an effort to save postage and printing costs. If your board would prefer to each still receive a copy, please let us know. It can also be viewed on the Douglas County Historical website: [www.DCHS.mn.org](http://www.DCHS.mn.org). Click on "News & Events" to scroll down the listings. Or...if we have an email, a copy can be emailed to your board member.

## Unique Headstones May Encourage Policy

A recent article in *The Associated Press* regarding an Indiana woman who is suing a church for refusing to install a headstone on her husband's grave may give cemetery officials a reason to think about policies for our own cemeteries.

The issue centered around the stone being secular in nature featuring images of a deer and dog and color logos of NASCAR and the Indianapolis Colts.

The article went on to state that Shannon Carr spent \$9,600 on the granite headstone to mark Jason Carr's grave in the St. Joseph Parish Cemetery.

The Rev. Jonathan Meyer said that he notified the monument maker and Carr that the headstone didn't meet the cemetery's standards. But Carr says the archdiocese never produced any regulations for the plot until more than a year after she tried to have the headstone installed in 2010. Meyer responded that rules always existed but were formalized after Carr bought the headstone.



***Please Join Us!***  
***DCCA Annual Meeting***  
***Thursday, April 25***  
***7 p.m.***  
***First Congregational UCC***  
***Alexandria***



## DCCA Outgoing Board Member Spotlight: Barb Sather

I have enjoyed being a member of the Douglas County Cemetery Board. I was a charter member when it was organized in 1998 and have served several terms. In 2003, I received the *Cemetery Board Member of the Year Award*. Serving on this board has made me more aware of what goes on at the cemeteries and I am more interested in seeing cemeteries when we travel.

I am currently Secretary-Treasurer of the Nelson Cemetery and Treasurer of the Fahlun Cemetery, serve on the Fahlun Lutheran Church Council as secretary and have been the organist there for many years. My husband, Gerald, and I have lived in Douglas County for most of our lives and I have been the bookkeeper at Weber's Aero Repair, a family owned business in Alexandria for 35 years. Currently, I am serving on the Thrivent County Board for a second term.

*We thank Barb for her involvement and dedication. She will be missed!*

## Creative Corner: Taps History and Protocol

“Taps” was written in July of 1862 after the grueling Seven Days battles in the Civil War. Oliver Wilcox Norton, the brigade bugler, and Union General Daniel Addams Butterfield worked out the tune together. It was officially recognized by the U.S. Army in 1874. It was originally written to signal the end of the day, or lights out. Over time, it also became a standard part of military funeral honors. Protocol while “Taps” is being played depends on the situation:

- ◆ Protocol is informal when “Taps” is played for lights out, which means stopping and saluting is not required.
- ◆ Taps is a standard part of the military funeral honors. Civilians and military members not in uniform should place their hand over their heart and remove any headgear. Military members in uniform are to salute until the song is complete.



### Taps

© Pennsylvania Military College

*Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky;  
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*

*Fading light, dims the sight,  
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.  
From afar, drawing nigh, falls the night.*

*Thanks and praise, for our days,  
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, neath the sky;  
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.*

*Sun has set, shadows come,  
Time has fled, Scouts must go to their beds  
Always true to the promise that they made.*

*While the light fades from sight,  
And the stars gleaming rays softly send,  
To thy hands we our souls, Lord, commend.*



**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**  
Secretary: **Julie Kirscht**  
Treasurer/Membership Chair:  
**Sue Tvrdik**

**Gary Adamson**  
**Darrel Anderson**  
**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: **John Chlian @ [chlian@gctel.net](mailto:chlian@gctel.net)**