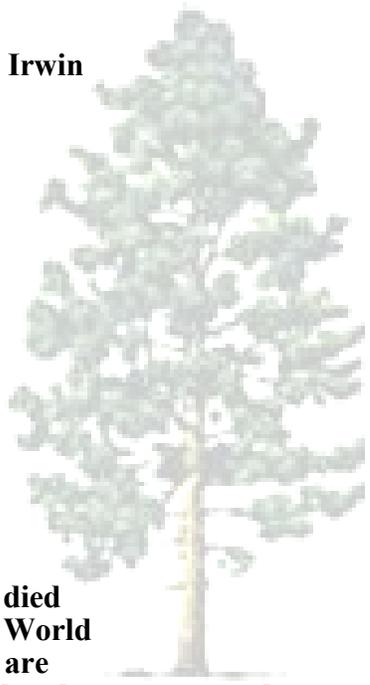


There is a cemetery in the northeast part of Whitman County in Washington State called Lone Pine Cemetery. It is located near the Idaho border and surrounded by small pioneer towns that have survived over the years.

The town of Lone Pine that started as a stagecoach stop near a lone pine tree on a hill in the Palouse country north of the Snake river, is no longer shown on maps of the area. This town was ended by the coming of railroads that needed their land. Even the railroad is gone Now and all that remains at this point in time is a two-acre cemetery that has become a jungle of brush, mostly lilacs that some very thoughtful person planted many years ago to beautify the cemetery. The lilacs have since taken over almost the entire cemetery.



The first burial in this cemetery took place in 1883 of twin boys that died at the age of three months, and the last burial took place in 1953 of a World War One Veteran. The exact number of burials between those dates are unknown but 56 gravestones attest to there being that many graves plus there are many known burials that are unmarked.

My interest in this cemetery began when I discovered through researching my mother's ancestry, that her Dutch Blue family lived and farmed in the area and my great-grandmother was buried there in 1888; and later three of her young grandchildren were buried near her.

Through the years there have been local volunteers organized to care for the cemetery from time to time but always there is a loss of interest and the brush takes over again. In 2006, two ladies that lived nearby noticed that the cemetery was badly in need of care and spent some time cutting grass and even rented a brush cutter. Somehow the word got to some of us descendants that were just discovering the cemetery and we got together with the two ladies and formed another organization for the care of the cemetery naming it "Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery". We opened a checking account at a local bank and began collecting contributions for expenses. Our group has been meeting twice a year since then as a Washington State Non-profit Corporation and having workdays to clear and burn the brush. And again; in 2019 interest is waning as we grow older and finding the needed work to be very difficult and we all have to drive over two hours to get to the cemetery and another two hours to get home.

During our years of working on the cemetery we have tried to find the actual ownership of the two-acre cemetery but no one seems to know but our group has received a Certificate of authority from the Washington State Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Restoration to do our work and the cemetery also received the designation as a Washington State Historic Site signed by the Governor.

We now have a new plan and that is to contract with local landscape companies to do the needed work. To pay for having the work done; we are reorganizing as a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization and plan to start an endowment fund to pay for future work long after we are gone. The IRS non-profit designation will help with contributions and qualify us for grant funding from government and business organizations.

Anyone wishing to have more information about our group or the cemetery, check out our website at: www.lonepinecemetery.com.