

Nomination of the Friends of the Lone Pine Cemetery for the Cemeteries Achievement Award

The State Physical Anthropologist and the former State Cemeteries Cartographer nominate the **Friends of the Lone Pine Cemetery Association** for a 2015 Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation Award in the category of Cemetery Preservation.

The Lone Pine Cemetery was established around 1883 near Tekoa in Whitman County, Washington. The cemetery served as the final resting place for the Tekoa and Lone Pine area. Burials occurred at the cemetery up to 1953 and currently there are documented 115 graves with 56 with markers at the cemetery. The cemetery began to fall into disrepair, headstones crumbled and were tipped by vandals, and brush began to grow over the many headstones.

In 2005, the Friends of the Lone Pine Cemetery Association was formed in order to begin the process of returning the cemetery to a cared for state. In 2009, the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, under the abandoned cemetery provisions (RCW 68.60) formally awarded Certificate of Authority for care and maintenance of the cemetery to the friends group. Under the authority of the Certificate the Friends of the Lone Pine Cemetery has conducted an enormous amount of care and maintenance of the cemetery restoring it from its previously abandoned state. In 2011 the Friends of the Lone Pine Cemetery nominated the cemetery and that year it was placed on the Washington Heritage Register of Historic Places.

The Friends have conducted numerous biannual brush removal projects from 2005 to 2015 using members, volunteer groups, as well as rented 260 goats to attack the brush and reclaim the cemetery. With gravel donated by the Coeur D'Alene Indian Tribe, the Friends have improved the entry road to the cemetery and its' parking area. They have also placed gravel around monuments and on paths, replaced the deteriorating fence around the cemetery, have erected a new cemetery sign, and have conducted headstone repairs. The Friends have had metal grave markers manufactured and placed for graves that have absent or missing markers. The group has also erected an information kiosk at the cemetery and has published their efforts in a quarterly newsletter and on a website. The nomination and naming of the cemetery to the Washington Heritage Register of Historic Places resulted in the Group's purchasing and placement of a monument at the cemetery indicating that accomplishment.

In addition to the Friends' efforts to physically restore the cemetery, they have also began compiling histories and photos of the those buried at the cemetery reporting them in their newsletter and also making them available on the Find-A-Grave website. The group has also had amazing success raising funds through donations to accomplish all these projects.