

This article by Annie Charnley Eveland appeared in the Walla Walla Union Bulletin today, Sunday, November 13, 2011.

Lone Pine Cemetery

Currently up to his eyebrows in genealogical research, Walla Wallan Jim Irwin said his great-grandmother Sarah Elizabeth Bowen-Smith-Blue is buried in Lone Pine Cemetery. To find it, seek a hill in a wheat field about one-quarter mile from the intersection of the gravel Lone Pine and Sieveke roads, southeast of Rosalia, north of Colfax, east of Steptoe Butte and halfway between Oakesdale and Tekoa.

Besides its value as Sarah's final resting place, Lone Pine Cemetery is historically significant for a direct connection to early pioneer settlers of the Tekoa and Lone Pine area, Jim said. Details of its establishment aren't known, but the site indicates patterns of early development by Euro-American settlers. Burials were made there from 1883-1953.

Sarah is also the great-great-grandmother of Walla Wallan Howard Morgan, Jim said. With husband Mr. Smith, Sarah had three children before marrying Jim's great-grandfather, Amos Blue. Amos came west by wagon train in 1851 and she arrived in 1853, Jim said. They homesteaded on adjacent land in the Medford area.

They married there and had six more children before migrating to Whitman County. Sarah died in 1888 and is buried near three grandchildren. Howard is a descendant of one of the three children of her previous marriage, Jim said. Amos was buried in 1912 at Mountain View Cemetery in Walla Walla .

Jim's hepped up about all this information because he's been delving into his Blue family ancestors and even found out a neighbor of his across Stone Creek Park has Blue genes dating to 1790 out Pennsylvania and West Virginia way. The research "never ends and it really is a small world after all," Jim said.

Meanwhile, Lone Pine Cemetery gained a listing on the Washington Heritage Register in March this year according to the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. DAHP is the state's chief agency with knowledge and expertise in historic preservation.

According to a chart at Kramer's Kimball Funeral Home in Tekoa, a total of 115 burials were made there, although just 56 markers have been accounted for.