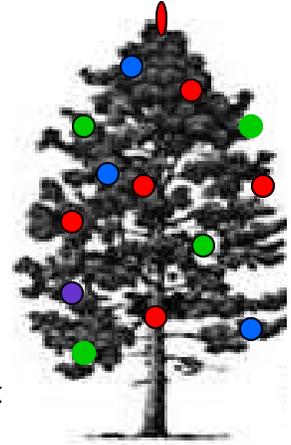


Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery Whitman County Washington Winter 2010-11



While winter is approaching , it appears that not much is going on with the cemetery but a couple things are proceeding as planned that do not depend on good weather.

First; Rod Smith & Jim Irwin have completed and re-submitted our request to the Washington State Historical Society to consider the cemetery a "State Historic Site". Second, Howard Morgan now has a shop to work in and has purchased the lumber for the sign that will be installed over the entrance to the cemetery. Third; we are proceeding with our application for Federal Tax status as 501-C-(3). This will be necessary for securing grants to raise the funds to meet our goals in restoring and maintaining the cemetery.

The following description of the cemetery was sent to the State Historic Society.

The Lone Pine Cemetery is located approximately one quarter mile north of the intersection of Lone Pine Road and Sieveke Road in Whitman County Washington.

The cemetery is located on top of a hill over looking the rolling hills of the Palouse wheat country. The two acre cemetery contains, according to a chart at Kramer's Kimball Funeral Home in Tekoa, a total of 115 graves but only 56 have markers or can be accounted for. (From Lone Pine cemetery history by Mrs. Mary A. Wolf)

The nominated parcel had a barbed wire fence surrounding it which has recently been removed but the corner posts are still solidly in place and will be used for a new fence. Removing the old fence has facilitated the removal of many years of uncontrolled lilac brush inside and outside of the cemetery boundary. The entrance driveway and parking area near the center of the parcel has been recently graded and graveled. Existing trails that lead from the parking area to burial areas have also been graded and graveled for safely walking though the cemetery.

There are several large fir and pine trees and much of the lilac bushes still cover much of the cemetery as well as areas of native grass throughout the parcel.

There is a range of markers and grave stones from small flat stones to large upright marble stones and large aluminum monuments. Some are still in very good condition and some are barely readable and a few that are unreadable. Some have fallen over or may have been vandalized and some have been repaired. A few may be un-repairable.

The earliest date of birth on a stone is 1809 and the earliest date of death on a stone is 1883. No burials have been permitted since 1953.

Editor note: A few year ago while looking for my Blue family ancestors in Idaho, I was very fortunate in finding help from the Historical Society in Craigmont. They helped me locate a long lost uncle buried in the Morrowtown Cemetery along with finding information about other family members that lived in that area at the time. Hearing about our projects at the Lone Pine Cemetery, Shelley Kuther of that organization has offered us the following information to help us with our restoration and care of tombstones in our pioneer cemetery.

Morrowtown Cemetery Association, PO BOX 96, CRAIGMONT, IDAHO 83523

TOMBSTONE CARE

by Shelley Kuther

from an interview with Gary and Kay Stilson,
owners of Garlinghouse Memorials in Lewiston ID

Most of us have tombstones that we are responsible for maintaining. How many of us have tried to clean them with a pocket knife, screwdriver, wire brush or some sort of harsh cleanser? Go ahead and admit it. You aren't the only one.

When cleaning a monument, the first step is to identify what type of stone you are dealing with. Many older stones are marble, which was softer and easier to carve by hand. Find an inconspicuous place on the back and scratch it with a knife. If it scratches, it is probably marble. If it doesn't, it most likely is granite. If you can remember your test results, you should have to scratch it only one time. There are other tombstones around this area, including many of the Woodmen of the World stones carved to resemble a tree, that are carved from sandstone. These are very rough and porous. The following tips are for granite only.

According to Gary and Kay Stilson, owners of Garlinghouse Memorials in Lewiston, just about the worst thing a person can do to a tombstone, especially marble, is to try to clean it with something made of metal. Granite won't scratch, but metal fragments from a knife or brush can remain behind and rust; this is one of the hardest stains to remove.

So, what is the alternative to the infamous screwdriver that works so well to clean that stuff out of the lettering? There are many household objects that will work. The wooden handle out of a Rubbermaid-type spatula is a nice-sized, sturdy instrument for getting rid of those big chunks of moss. Some of the plastic spatula handles are pointed and can be used for cleaning out letters.

Sometimes, no amount of picking and scraping will clean a tombstone, and you just have to scrub it. A plastic or natural-bristled brush in soap and water combined with a lot of elbow grease is a good choice. A stainless steel brush may be used on granite but be sure it is stainless steel! If you're not sure, don't use it. These steps should get rid of most of the moss and lichen growths on a tombstone.

If your tombstone is covered with the dreaded environmental residue, which can be anything from water spots to a grimy, dulling scum, there are other cleaning methods that most people can handle. Gary and Kay say that white vinegar may be used. Pour the vinegar onto the flat surfaces of the stone and let it sit for awhile, then scrub with a plastic or natural-bristled brush and rinse with water. On the rougher surfaces, vinegar will get into the cracks and kill that scabby-looking lichen.

Another product called Lime-A-Way, which may be found in the cleanser section of most stores is acceptable on granite stones but not marble. Pour it on, let it set, then scrub. If possible, start at the bottom and work up to avoid streaking. After this process, you should be sure to wash the stone with a soda water bath to neutralize the acid. Using baking soda from your kitchen, mix it with water to make a milky liquid and wash the tombstone and finish by rinsing with lots of clear, clean water.

Something else that works well on granite, especially polished surfaces is a pumice stone, which can be purchased at most grocery stores or a grill brick such as the ones used by restaurants. Using lots of water, work up a paste and go over the surface of the stone, then rinse well. Don't use this on marble.

A power washer also works very well, although this is a piece of equipment that not everyone owns. Many farmers have power washers, and if you can get the farmer to run the power washer, you'll be amazed at how easy this process is. This may be used on either granite or marble but check first to see if the stone is secure. The force of the water from the power washer could knock it over.

If these cleaning methods don't do the trick, you can always pay to have your tombstone professionally cleaned. Professionals use high-powered, dangerous chemicals that most of us don't have access to or shouldn't be using in the first place. The Stilsons recommend this treatment no more often than once every five years.

Marble tombstones require a little bit different type of care. Marble is much softer and more porous than granite. This causes it to scratch easily. Stains may soak in as deep as three quarters of an inch. If a plastic or natural-bristled brush in plain old soap and water doesn't work, you may try a product with a bleaching agent such as Comet or Ajax. Don't forget to rinse well and stay away from anything that will scratch.

Bronze plaques usually clean up well with soap and water, but if they need more attention, refinishing kits are available from the companies who sell these markers. The kits may run as high as \$65.00, so regular cleaning is recommended first.

Once the tombstone is cleaned, under no circumstances should you put anything on it to help keep it looking nice! Grease and oil will stain any type of stone. Wax, varnish, petroleum-based products and anything else will not be good for it. These may look great when first applied, but in time they will cause some sort of problem. By then they will probably be so hard to remove that professional cleaning may be your only option.

Soap and water, a plastic or natural-bristled brush and lots of elbow grease on an annual basis is the best way to keep a tombstone looking its best. Keep up with your tombstone maintenance while you are on this side of the grass.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Friends of Lone
Pine meeting agenda**

April 9, 2011 10:00 am

C&D Bar & Grill in Tekoa WA

1. Sec./Treas. Report

501 C (3) status

Historic Site Nomination

2 Vice Pres. Report

3. Plot plan update

4. Do we want gravel on paths and around headstones?

5. Burning of brush piles (status)

Work Day agenda For discussion and action—Saturday April 10th 9 am

1. Complete the removal of lilac-brush around perimeter of fence line.

2. Expand lilac removal in paths and around head stones.



Steel framework for the new sign at the cemetery entrance is put in place with the help of Dave Church of Worley Idaho, and his Bobcat.

The bobcat also saved a lot back straining in setting some of the fallen graves stones back in place.



Officers of: Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery

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If you have information, articles, or pictures, or would like

more information, or to make a donation, please contact any of the above officers or

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