

# Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery

Whitman County, Washington

A Washington State Historic Site

Winter –Spring 2014

A new information kiosk built by Rod Smith, was installed near the parking area at the Lone Pine Cemetery, after the 2013 Autumn meeting.

Rod & Sue Smith

Patti & Terry Smiley



Many graves at the Lone Pine do not have gravestones and the Friends are attempting to find and mark each grave site and a map will be placed in the new Kiosk.



<http://lonepinecemetery.com/index.htm>

### Martha Ellen Stevenson Kizer

From the Lone Pine burials timeline, Martha Ellen Stevenson Kizer was the 5th person buried there. She was the mother of the twin boys that were the first recorded burials at the Lone Pine Cemetery. She died fourteen months after the death of the twins on March 1, 1884, at the age of 29 and was buried near the twins. One year later her son James died at the age of 8, on March 3, 1885 and was also buried at Lone Pine.

Martha Ellen Stevenson was born on 12 Feb 1855 in Wisconsin, as the third child of Hugh and Ruth Rodgers Stevenson. She had five siblings: Rachel, James A., Hugh R., Ruth E., and David. When she was 24, she married John Clark Kizer, son of Abraham Kizer and Margaret Kizer, before 1880 in Iowa.

John and Martha Kizer had two other sons, both born before coming to this area to homestead in Whitman County. Their first born was George Oscar, born on Dec 23, 1873 in Linn County, Iowa and the second was James R. born on January 17, 1877 also in Iowa. In the 1880 census, the family was living with Martha's parents, Hugh and Ruth (Rodgers) Stevenson, in Cedar Creek, Washington County, Oregon.

More information on this Kizer family can be found in the Spring 2013 newsletter in our newsletter archives.



### Marietta Baskett Sumpter

Marietta Basket may have been the 5th or 6th person buried at the Lone Pine Cemetery. She died in 1884 but our records do not show the exact date and there is no gravestone for her.

Marietta Baskett was born in Sep 1847 in Missouri as the first child of William H. and Mary Baskett . She died in 1884 in Lone Pine, Whitman County, Washington.

John B. Sumpter and Marietta Baskett had the following children: Lena Vesta Sumpter was born about 1877 in Oregon. She died on 20 Dec 1947 in Spokane, Washington (Age: 70). She married Albert S. Cassand on 30 Oct 1892 in Latah, Idaho. William Clyde Sumpter was born in 1879 in Washington Territory. Lester Claud Sumpter was born on 09 Jul 1881 in Washington. He died on 15 Aug 1951 in Tekoa, Whitman, Washington.

**Shirley Wasemiller Irwin** December 30, 1938 –  
December 4, 2013

Shirley Darlene Wasemiller was born in Walla Walla, Washington on December 30, 1938. She was born at home to Reuben and Ella Mae Wasemiller. She attended Prospect Point Elementary and graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1957. She was the second oldest of the four. She grew up on a small farm that her family built with a great view of the Blue Mountains.

Shirley married Jim Irwin on February 15, 1958. As most of you know, Jim was in the Navy. This took the couple to Kodiak, Alaska where she worked at Donley and Atchison General Store. After only a year, Jim shipped out to Okinawa at which time Shirley returned to Walla Walla.



She went to work for Sherwood and Roberts until the couple adopted their son, Jerry. Two years later they adopted their daughter Kathy. Shirley was a devoted wife and loving mother. Once the children became teenagers, Shirley went to work at Baker Boyer Bank. She started as a teller and worked her way up to managing the Escrow Department. She retired after 21 years. Jim and Shirley had several homes in Walla Walla. Historically about the time they got the house the way they wanted, Jim would want to move and they would start all over. Shirley especially loved their current home which borders a park. This allowed her to watch the birds, kids, people and generally keep an eye on neighborhood happenings. It also gave her the opportunity to watch her two grandkids, Courtney and Bryan, who loved to come to grandma's house and play on the swings. They still do.

Shirley was an avid reader, often trading books with her sisters, friends and daughter. She loved birds, plants, flowers and was a skilled gardener, with a great fondness for roses. She sewed some truly amazing cross stitch pieces which can be seen hanging in their home. Her most recent project which was nearly completed will be donated to St. Mary's Cancer Center.

She loved to travel with her husband, Jim but was always glad to return home. The family liked to camp, hike, ride motorcycles and enjoyed their place up Mill Creek. Jim and Shirley often hosted picnics for family and friends. In retirement, Jim and Shirley were involved in several philanthropic organizations including AMVETS, fundraising for the Jonathan M. Wainwright memorial statue and the statue of Pew Pew Mox Mox which can be seen in downtown Walla Walla. **Also the restoration of a pioneer cemetery in Whitman County.** Jim and Shirley enjoyed weekly outings with their Tuesday night dinner group. They also enjoyed lunch with their Wa-Hi classmates once a month. Shirley loved her family and enjoyed hosting the Christmas Eve gathering at their home; upholding a tradition which her mother began many years ago.

She is survived by husband Jim, daughter Kathryn Fisher, son Jerry Irwin and wife Leanne, her grandchildren Courtney and Joel Parlour and Bryan Irwin, her sister Eva Myers, sister Linda Kula and her husband Jerry Kula and brother Gary Wasemiller and his wife Linda. She was preceded in death by brother in law Ken Myers and her parents. Shirley will always be remembered as a loving and doting sister, mother, grand-

Spring Meeting set for Saturday May 17th and Work Day Sunday 18th

This meeting will be held at the "Feeding Station" in Tekoa.

The Feeding Station, 205 N Crosby, Tekoa, WA. Tel: 509-284-3141

News article from the Whitman County Gazette

# Clean up continues at Lone Pine Cemetery

BY SALLY OUSLEY  
Gazette Reporter

When Jim Irwin finally found his great-grandmother's grave at the Lone Pine Cemetery, he got so excited, he fell over and needed help getting back up.

"I thought my great-grandmother was giving me a bad time for taking so long to find her," Irwin said.

"It was a jungle," he said. "The lilacs had just taken over. You couldn't walk through them. We had to make trails around the graves."

Irwin, who lives in Walla Walla, is just one of a group of Friends of the Lone Pine Cemetery which is located on a small hill west of Tekoa. The group, formed in 2006, will gather this weekend to work there.

"I knew she was buried there. You feel a little more connected to where you come from and who your ancestors were, how far they came and how hard it was for them," Irwin said.

Irwin said he had been doing genealogy research for

some time as a hobby and then he said it became an obsession.

"It's fun," he said.

Irwin said there are more than 100 graves in the cemetery, most of them unmarked.

None of the Friends live in Whitman County, but they will cut down old lilac bushes and restore more grave markers as they work to renovate the cemetery. Irwin said they get some help from Whitman County residents during their twice-a-year work sessions.

Graves in the cemetery date back to the 1880s. Family histories can be tracked through the markers that provide information about birth dates and deaths.

The first burial was in 1883 and the last in 1953. The old cemetery was all but forgotten when Amy Warwick of Oakesdale, who lives close to the cemetery, contacted Irwin.

Irwin's great-grandmother, Sarah Elizabeth Blue, died in 1888.

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Families now can visit old gravestones, some of them dating into the late 1800s, that were covered in brush.

Irwin said there are many stories of the people who are buried at Lone Pine.

Gracie Viola Clark was the fourth person buried at the cemetery and the first of seven of the Clark family to be buried there. She died Dec. 2, 1883, at the age of six months and two days. Her parents, Icabod and Lucy Dollarhide Clark had 11 children, five of them buried at Lone Pine.

Lucy Clark wrote about her pioneer woman experience.

"A new baby came every two years but they were all welcome. The first two born after we moved here were girls but when the second one was six months old, in 1883, an epidemic of scarlet fever spread over the country and

my baby was taken. I have passed through trials and tribulations. Five of my family lies in the Lone Pine Cemetery. I am still here, hoping that I may stay a few years longer. I am the mother of 11 children. In addition, I raised four grandchildren and one niece. I have 31 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild."

Lucy and Icabod are both buried in Lone Pine.

In 2011, the cemetery was listed on the Washington Heritage Register of Historic Places. Irwin said a lot of work has been done to the cemetery, but a lot of work remains to be done to restore it to its original beauty.

Irwin said the association has been diligently



Friends of the Lone Pine Cemetery members Rod Howard, left, of Walla Walla, holds back overgrown shrubs as Rod Smith of Kettle Falls removes them from around a gravestone during last spring's work day.

meeting twice a year and spending time working on clearing overgrowth brush and repairing fallen gravestones. The group is generally making the cemetery accessible and pleasing to visit.

A new sign has been placed at the entrance and a permanent stone has been placed in the parking area marking the cemetery as an official historic place in the state.

Irwin said the cemetery was forgotten since the last burial occurred there 60 years ago.

"It's not owned by the county, it's not owned by anyone," he said.

"We want to encourage other descendants, cousins and friends who are interested in helping to maintain this historic piece of real

estate and honor the pioneer settlers who migrated, worked the soil, raised their families, died and were buried in the Lone Pine Cemetery," he said.

"We've uncovered all the stones," he said. "A lot of the graves didn't have stones."

The Friends rely totally on donations and encourages anyone interested to contribute.

"We plan to get younger people involved," Irwin said.

22nd Annual Washington Snowmobile Association

## Officers of: Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery

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