

Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery

Newsletter www.lonepinecemetery.com

Spring 2020



Directions to Lone Pine Cemetery: From Tekoa take Highway 27 west to Fairbanks Rd, turn left on Sieveke Rd, drive one mile to cemetery on the right.

For GPS use Tekoa address: 1603 Sieveke Rd. (not a mailing address)

Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery has reached a crossroad.

Not the Lone Pine Cemetery; it will forever be at the crossroads of Sieveke and Lone Pine Roads in Whitman County Washington. The organization called “Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery” has reached a crossroad in it’s mission to save the cemetery from completely disappearing like the town of “Lone Pine” that was started in the mid to late 1800’s as a stagecoach stop. This is the place where some of our ancestors chose to settle from their long and dangerous journey to the Oregon Territory. The only remnant left of the town is the cemetery that contains the remains of some of our ancestors and many of their children. The last and final burial took place in 1953 of a veteran of the World War that was to end all wars.

Much has been accomplished in the past thirteen years since 2007 when this group was formed, which I will list at the end of this article but to make a long story as short as possible and get to the point of this story; we have changed the status of our organization from a state organization to a federal non-profit organization with a 501©3 tax status. The reason for this change is we need to raise money for an “endowment fund” to pay for maintenance on into the future and long after we are gone. Rather than using non-paid volunteers, like many volunteer organizations, interest in doing the work fades over time as does contributions. The history of the Lone Pine Cemetery shows this has happened before. Our long term plan involves hiring contractors with equipment and manpower to get the needed work done without using un-paid volunteers. Continue on page 2

Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery

Newsletter www.lonepinecemetery.com Spring 2020

At the present time, the people in our group are growing older and with age comes health problems that limit our abilities to perform the needed work. We have been meeting twice a year with a group of high school students from the Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, WA, that have been very helpful and we appreciate their friendly help very much., however, this requires that we drive from across the state to meet with them as none of our group live near the cemetery. We have been fortunate in finding a landscape company that lives near the cemetery that we hire occasionally and when we have funds for payment.

Since we live so far from the cemetery we are hoping to recruit board members that live in Whitman County and have an interest in the historic value of this cemetery. We are also looking for an organization or a government agency that will be willing to continue our efforts in the management of the cemetery in the event our group is not able to continue at some time in the future.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article , following is a list of accomplishments:

1. 2007—Started a newsletter and a website in which all newsletters from our beginning are achieved. **www.lonepinecemetery.com**
2. Dec. 21, 2009– Received Certificate of Authority for Maintenance from Depart. Of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. The cemetery is considered an abandoned cemetery and has no owner of record.
3. Mar.16, 2011- listed on Washington Heritage Register of Historic Places.
4. 2015, Received Annual Award from Washington State Historic Preservation for the category, Cemeteries.
5. 2020, the plan is to start an “ENDOWMENT FUND” at INNOVIA FOUNDATION. This organization is located in Spokane and Whitman County is in their area of coverage. The minimum amount to start this fund is \$10,000.00 and we have commitments of almost enough to get it started. So we are asking for addition funds at this time to begin this fund for future care of the cemetery.

Please indicate on your contributions if for endowment fund or for current expenses. It will be at least one year before any funds are available from this fund and the amount will depend on contributions and income from investments. At this time all contributions are tax deductible under our 501(c)3 tax status, but it is best to check with your tax accountant.

Please send contributions to Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery, c/o Jim Irwin, 601 Village Way, Walla Walla WA 99362

Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery

Newsletter www.lonepinecemetery.com

Spring 2020

Cooper's Landscaping made great headway this year by getting ahead of the new growth of brush at the cemetery before Spring arrived .

After years of hand and chainsaw cutting , the brush cutting machine is able to make quick work of removing the new growth that seems to get ahead of us every year.at this time.

Thanks to Cooper Angelo and his crew for the good work and the before and after photos.

Friends of Lone Pine will be meeting again this year on May 6th with the HOPE students from Upper Columbia Academy for more hand-cutting and burning .

The goal is to remove the heavy brush so the vegetation can be controlled by semi-annual mowing with power mowers.



Lone Pine, Whitman County, Washington

Started as a stagecoach stop



The Spring Meeting & workday is scheduled for May 6, 2020

10:00 am - Board meeting at the Feeding Station in Tekoa

11:00 am—Volunteers meet at the cemetery

Board members needed, to volunteer, please Contact Jim Irwin

A Washington State non-profit corporation. FIN #26-1302152.

President: & V.P. Terry & Pattie Smiley (360) 854-0988 tbsmiley@comcast.net

Sec/treasurer: Jim Irwin (509) 200-0786 jwirwin38@gmail.com

New board member Howard Morgan (509) 526-5285

Mailing address: 601 Village Way #46 Walla Walla WA 99362

Ended with the coming of the railroad

