

Agenda Item # 17.
Date 9-11-2019

SUMMIT GROVE
A Pioneer Cemetery
Established 1873

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DODGE COUNTY REPAIRS
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8th Annual Report
August 2019
Summit Grove Preservation Group
North Bend, Nebraska

This year's projects were hampered by spring flooding and rain that put everything behind. Headstones were ordered and made by Earl Boston of West Point Monument in West Point. It took a couple of scheduled times before the weather finally cleared up and the road to the cemetery was passable before the headstones could be placed by Earl and his team. We greatly appreciate their talents.

Stones were made for the graves of James and Ellen Bryan who are buried where the mausoleum originally was before being destroyed by vandals in the 1960's.

Also, stones were made for the O'Connor sisters. When we started the cleanup there were no stones at all for these girls and we are not sure what happened to them.



James and Ellen Bryan are buried in the mausoleum area that was destroyed in the 1960's by vandals. James was born in County Wicklow, Ireland in 1845 and emigrated to Canada as a young man. Ellen Murdoch was born in London, Middlesex, Canada in 1857. That is where James and Ellen were married in 1874 and then moved to Saunders County Nebraska before finally locating on the Maple Creek in Dodge County. They had three children, James, Elizabeth and Anna. James died in 1899 and Ellen in 1929.



Rose O'Connor and Lillian O'Connor were the daughters of Dudley and Sarah Adams O'Connor and the granddaughters of John and James Adams who are also buried in the cemetery. Lillian was only 5 years old when she died from typhoid-pneumonia on February 22, 1918. Rose was 26 years old and living in Lincoln when she died on December 20, 1919 following an illness of 5 years. The newspapers researched did not elaborate on what the illness was. There were no headstones at these graves when the cleanup of the cemetery started. We knew where the plot was at and brazing rods were used to find the graves so headstones could be placed to mark them.



It is always enjoyable to hear from descendants of the pioneers buried in Summit Grove Cemetery. This year Kathy Kahl from New Jersey made a trip to Nebraska with her husband and teenage daughter. One of their stops was to see the cemetery where her great great grandparents, William and Mary King Ferguson are buried. Meeting her at the cemetery was Diane Ferguson Emanuel who is also a great great granddaughter of the Fergusons and Kathy's third cousin.



We also need to recognize and say a huge "Thank You" to Bruce Ferguson. Without Bruce our cemetery would not be as beautiful as it is. Bruce oversees the mowing of the cemetery along with making sure the flags are put up and taken down as needed.

We are still working on and adding more information to our website at www.forevermissed.com. When this is finished we hope to have some history written about each person buried in the cemetery.