

CEMETERY: Although Evergreen Is Listed On National Historic Register, It Has No Complete Record

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develop a standardized form for recording data.

Unlike typical digs, these artifacts are dated. Skills taught to students include mapping, recording and analyzing. The project suits the land-grant university's mission of education, research and service, Vogel said.

The community service element helps the Evergreen Cemetery Association's efforts to preserve the historic spot. This project will give association members a true picture of what needs restoring, Vogel said.

The privately owned cemetery started as a family plot near a farmhouse, Vogel said. The first two people interred died in 1848 and 1849. Mary Stirman Pollard was almost 10; Melissa Pulliam, "consort of" R.P. Pulliam, was 28.

The buried are forever tied to the community, Vogel said. The names of many people here live on in UA buildings and Fayetteville streets. Peter Van Winkle, a man who operated a lumber mill near War Eagle and helped build Old Main on the UA campus, is remembered with a restored obelisk and a new wrought-iron fence around his family plot. The grave of Sophia Sawyer, a missionary and educator of Cherokees, is also marked by a

restored obelisk.

Although listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Evergreen Cemetery has no complete register — only a map of plots and cards about the interred, said Paula Marinoni, who serves on the cemetery association board.

STEADY, SLOW PROGRESS

When Vogel says record everything, he means everything. Workers document features using photographs, sketches and maps. They also note all names, motifs and inscriptions on the stones, which might be marble, granite, native stone or limestone.

"Photographs show a lot of details that would be hard to sketch," Vogel said. But some impressions don't show in photographs.

The inscriptions on marble stones are "disappearing pretty quickly," he said, wearing away from weather and time. These volunteers might be the last to see them in person.

A round, fabric reflector helps position light on the hard surfaces. The light fills in shadows, highlighting indented letters and other grooves. Vogel chose this approach over rubbings or impressions, which can damage the stone, he said.

Workers also record native

stones with no writing and unmarked depressions in the earth — both of which likely mark graves, he said.

Vogel is interested in seeing any old photographs the community might have of the cemetery, to note where features stood years ago.

Students and community volunteers have recorded at least 260 markers so far. Vogel hopes to finish the project within a year or so.

Some markers and other features might be hidden by thick summer vegetation, so Flanagan plans to look around trees and shrubs this fall, after the leaves fall away.

Work continues even in the intense August heat — but usually in morning and evening hours.

A NEW DAY'S WORK

Haj and Seiz return on Wednesday morning and begin recording the monument for Archibald Yell and his family. Yell served as Arkansas' second governor, and his family plot is the cemetery association's next restoration project, Marinoni said.

Seiz reads the inscription from the side dedicated to Maria Yell, noting upper case and lower case letters and letters half the size of others. The woman died Oct. 14, 1838.

"Sometimes I think it's easier to see from farther back," said Haj, sitting in a lawn chair outside the wrought-iron fence.

"Except, you have to feel," Seiz said, her wrinkled fingers moving across a line of lettering.

Unable to decipher the abbreviation for October, Seiz suggests they return later with the reflector.

Land and her son, Joe, struggle to read the inscription on one side of the Murfee family obelisk. They wonder what it says about former UA president Edward Murfee's wife, Odella?

"She's got a beautiful inscription, but it's so faint I can't read it," Land said, her long, white hair ruffled by a slight breeze.

Vogel grabs a reflector and shines sunlight onto the letters to fill in the shadows. Flanagan runs his fingers across the letters, like a modified form of Braille.

Like Pictionary, the volunteers shout out possibilities. Does it describe Odella, her friends or her children? Are those letters "ch" or "cl"? Is that an "of" or an "off"? Is that word "adoration," "with" or "children"? Which letters go with which word?

Is that "loving husband"? Sounds reasonable, they agree. How about "darling children"? That, too, sounds right. "Yea," they cheer at their fleeting suc-

cess. But maybe that isn't a "d." Is "darling" instead "laughter"?

"We change it — that's why we write in pencil," Land said, trying to capture the most current guess. They don't want to get it wrong; this is history.

"That's a mark in the marble," Marinoni said. The third letter could be an "I" instead.

The disparity of marble density caused letters on the very white part to remain distinct and those on grayer portions to fade, Vogel said.

Could their "darling children" phrase be "faithful Christian" instead?

"I think it's about her," Abby Burnett said.

This is as close as they come to a resolution for the moment.

They will record it in the revisit log for others to view it in a different light and with fresh eyes, Vogel said.

The seven workers disperse to work on their own projects as the heat of the day intensifies. Near the 10 a.m. quitting time, Seiz stands near the Yell obelisk and exclaims.

"Oh," Seiz said with amazement. As she walks by the tall monument, she sees the light beaming on Maria's side. The small "r" unclear earlier in the October abbreviation — maybe a comma, apostrophe or period — shows clearly as an "r" atop two dots resembling the German umlaut mark.

"The light makes a world of difference," Haj said.

FROM THE FILES

The Springdale News 30 Years Ago Aug. 4, 1972

Bishop Eugene Frank, who for the past 16 years has headed the Missouri area of United Methodist Churches, has been named resident bishop of the Arkansas area. He replaces Paul Galloway who retired after 12 years as a bishop ... Guyla Knowles was selected queen of the Springdale Junior Rodeo Saturday ... James Ritter, chairman of the Springdale Urban Renewal Commission, was re-appointed to his expired term and re-elected to the chairmanship by other commissioners present at the annual August meeting Tuesday. Pete Gardner was re-elected to serve as vice chairman.

40 Years Ago Aug. 10, 1962

Caroline Hinds has returned from a three-day trip to Pawhuska, Okla., where she represented the Springdale Riding Club in the Cavalcade Round-up queen contest ... Officials of the Hazel Fruit Supply Co. will hold an appreciation dinner for members of the Springdale Fire Department and their wives Monday night at the AQ Chicken House. The company's main warehouse was completely destroyed by fire July 22 and Springdale firemen stayed on the scene all night after bringing the blaze under control and saving an adjoining warehouse ... Letha Brogdon, Rachel Riggs, Mrs. Kenneth Morris and Edna Wright left last Thursday for Hot Springs to attend the summer board meeting of the

Arkansas Federation of BPWC in session there over the weekend ... The new interim sanctuary of Elmdale Baptist Church on West Huntsville, will be occupied for the first time at the morning services Sunday.

50 Years Ago Aug. 15, 1952

Candidates for the 1952 Tontitown Grape Festival are Mary Beckford, Virginia Franco and Betty Lou Ceola ... Three members of the Pen Point Club reported sales at the picnic meeting held at the Howard cabin on White River, Wednesday. H.R. Clark sold an article to Christian Science Monitor, Eva Howard sold one to Cats Magazine and Mrs. Billie Jines sold one to Tulsa Tribune and one to the Arkansas Democrat ... Mr. and Mrs. Ed Coulson, former Springdale residents, visited friends here Thursday en route to their home in Plainview, Texas, after a trip to Ohio.

60 Years Ago Aug. 20, 1942

John A. Trice, superintendent of Springdale schools since 1933, tendered his resignation Wednesday in order to take the position of superintendent of education at the War Re-location Center in Rowher. He and his family will leave this weekend ... Mrs. Glenn Riggs Tuesday purchased the half interest of Martha Harrison in the Keep-U-Neat Cleaners on the first anniversary of the women's partnership in the cleaning business ... Reba Smith, daughter

of Dr. and Mrs. L.A. Smith, returned Tuesday from Shelby, Mich., and St. Louis, Mo., where she spent the past month. A senior at the university, the coming year, she was awarded a

Danforth Scholarship last spring, which gave her the month's visit to the two industrial centers ... Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Morriss of Whitener celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Aug. 14.

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