



Douglas County Cemetery Association Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

Greetings From the President

Before we know it, fall will be upon us and that usually means winter is around the corner. It can be a beautiful time of year, but I prefer warmer temperatures. I hope Mother Nature is kind to us this year.

Also, I hope your cemetery operations went well this summer. It can be a struggle, but we make it through because we have to. We encourage cemeteries to promote, invite, solicit, inform and encourage. People that are not made aware will assume that cemeteries can operate without their help. That may not be the case.

With that in mind, we are trying to inform more in our community with several articles in the *Echo Press* and that response was very good. We appreciate the support from Editor, Al Edenloff and his staff. We are again preparing for this year's 5th grade essay contest. *What stories can the stones tell?* Last year's participation was limited, but the community response was wonderful. Indications are for more students to be involved this year.

We tried to promote a cemetery tour last spring through Adult Learning at School District 206 Community Education, but unfortunately there was limited interest and it was cancelled. We plan to attempt it again, but with a different approach in the spring. As always, we welcome your thoughts or suggestions.

Please be aware, the essay students may be contacting your cemetery for specific burial information, cemetery history, burials of special interest, etc. Your help will be appreciated.

We have already received funding from several veterans groups again. Thank you! All public sponsors will certainly be recognized in upcoming *Echo Press* articles. We are still seeking funding from other local groups and interested individuals, with the hope that we can make each year's contest bigger and better.

If we can create more interest from more students, we hope more *families* will also do the same! We need young people involved—they are our future!

A reminder: DCCA is a non-profit 501(c)3 association, and tax deductible contributions can be mailed to our Treasurer, Sue Tvrdik, 4500 Co Rd 21 SW, Alexandria, MN 56308. And of course, a portion of your cemeteries' DCCA membership dues will be applied to the student awards. A big THANK YOU goes out to the directors that have volunteered for the essay committee! Yes, it takes time and a commitment, but you all know what that is about!

Those of you with interest in "Perpetual Care Funds" may want to see the article in the *MN. Assoc. of Cemeteries Summer Newsletter*. It is part one of three articles on how to set up and maintain such a fund. Their website is www.mncemeteries.org. Log in as "guest", or I may be able to get a copy emailed or "snail"-mailed to you. Just let me know.

We have received requests from several cemeteries that **all** their board members want to receive our newsletters. But in some cases, we do not have all the contact information needed. Please make every

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effort to complete name and address information on the yearly DCCA membership dues forms. Or for now, contact Sue or me at chlian@gctel.net.

Finally I have to again say a big THANK YOU to you all. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated. Our county cemeteries are fortunate to have committed folks willing to donate their time and skills. Thank you also for continuing to support the DCCA. We are trying to make a difference, and we always welcome your input.

John Chlian
DCCA President

Douglas County Cemetery Spotlight: Holmes City Township

Trysil-Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery *County Road 26*

Established in 1870 on a beautiful hillside covered with oak trees. The church was disbanded in 1962 and the building dismantled, with the church bell standing as a monument. Some gravestones have inscriptions in Norwegian as many of the families immigrated from the Trysil, Norway area.



Rose Hill/Trinity Cemetery *State Highway 27, east of Holmes City*

Trinity Lutheran Cemetery was founded in 1889 in conjunction with the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church Lekvalten of Holmes City on land donated by the Bergstrom family. Rose Hill Cemetery was founded in 1914. Once acre of land was purchased for \$20 by the association members. In 1964 the cemetery was expanded by an acre acquired from the Hilda Hanson estate. In 1993 Rose Hill and Trinity Cemeteries merged into one.

Oscar Lake Lutheran Church Cemetery *County Road 7 and Church Road*

A new cemetery was started when the new Oscar Lake Lutheran Church was built in 1884, one mile east and one mile south of the old location on land donated by H.L. Lewis. Since that time all burials have been in the new parish cemetery, however no grave recordings were made until 1907.

Van Loon Cemetery *State Highway 114, west of Pocket Lake*

Minor Van Loon and wife, Charity, came to Douglas County in 1862 and "squatted" on land which they later secured as a homestead. They conveyed land to the trustees of Van Loon Cemetery in May, 1883 for \$5. In 1899, two sons of the Van Loon's nine children, Charles and Draper Van Loon gave another plot to the cemetery. Constant and Adina Wesen donated more land in 1945, and in 1978, Delphin and Annie Wesen added to that plot. Recently more land was donated by Dennis Wesen.

Douglas County Cemetery Association Membership

Bohemian Independent Cemetery, Brandon Cemetery, Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Carlos Prairie Cemetery, Christian Union Cemetery, Christina Lake Lutheran & Mission Convent Cemetery, Church of Seven Dolor's Catholic Church Cemetery, East Moe Lutheran Church Cemetery, Ebenezer Cemetery, English Grove Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, Fahlun Lutheran Church Cemetery, First Lutheran Church Cemetery- Kensington, Fryksande Cemetery, Geneva Cemetery, Gordon Pleasant Cemetery, Holmes City Lake Finnish Independent Apostolic Cemetery, Hudson Cemetery, Kinkead Cemetery, Lake Charley Cemetery, Lake Ida Cemetery, Lake Mary Cemetery, Moe Heights Cemetery, Mound Grove Cemetery, Nelson Cemetery, Oak Hill Cemetery, Oscar Lake Lutheran Church Cemetery, Rose City Free Church Cemetery, Rose Hill-Trinity Cemetery, Sauk Valley Lutheran Church Cemetery, Solem Lutheran Church Cemetery, St. Ann's Catholic Church Cemetery, St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, St. Luke's Lutheran Church Cemetery, St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery, St. Nicholas Catholic Church Cemetery, St. Petri Lutheran Church Cemetery, Trysil-Bethesda Cemetery, Van Loon Cemetery, Wennersborg Cemetery, West Moe Lutheran Church Cemetery, White Garden Cemetery, Zionsborg Cemetery

DCCA Essay Contest Promoting More Participation

Once again the DCCA is sponsoring an essay contest for fifth grade students from Douglas County: *"What stories can the stones tell?"* Student are encouraged to visit family cemeteries, interview family members, talk with local military veterans or their families, ask questions of local cemetery board members, or review cemetery archives at the Douglas County Historical Society when researching their essays.

We are hoping for even more participation this year by promoting and informing more in our community with several articles in the *Echo Press*. Please be aware that students may be contacting your cemetery for specific burial information, cemetery history, burials of special interest, etc. We are fortunate to have funding from several veterans groups again. All public sponsors will be recognized in upcoming *Echo Press* articles. We are seeking funding from other local groups and interested individuals with the hope that we can make each year's contest bigger and better. If we create more student interest, they will bring their families along!



Funeral Pre-Planning: A Priceless Family Gift



One of the most difficult times families will ever face is the death of a loved one, whether the death is imminent or unexpected. Being there for them in death as we are there for them in life can make all the difference in the world to loved ones. Preplanning one's funeral puts them in control as well as taking some of the stress out of the grieving process for the ones they care about the most. It gives them and their loved ones peace of mind knowing that everything will be taken care of.

According to Kathy Patton, Pre-Arrangement Specialist in Alexandria, MN, Preplanning involves three major decisions:

What type of funeral desired: traditional with burial or cremation?

Where should final resting place be?

How to fund it?

Funeral Pre-Planning (cont.)

It is recommended that a base dollar amount is set as if one were to die today. All of the funds can be set aside right away or a payment plan can be arranged. Changes to the policy or pre-planning information can be made at any time. Pre-planning funeral insurance covers expenses including all of the professional services, facility, equipment, automotive and merchandise. Plots and markers are separate, but pre-planning encourages people to look at their options.

“You purchase car insurance, home insurance and life insurance for eventualities. Funeral pre-arrangement sets aside funds you know for sure you will be using, while putting yourself in control as well as taking the stress out of the grieving process for the family”, says Kathy.

A decision planning guide is provided where wishes can be known to family on how a person wants to be remembered as well as information that may only be known to that person. There is a place to write one’s own obituary, and includes a place to record a person’s history as well as personal family remembrances.

Benefits of Pre-Arrangement:

- Planning together as a family, rather than alone (after the death)
- Sparing loved ones from having to make difficult decisions
- Ensuring wishes are well-documented and carried out
- Helping control costs and reduce emotional overspending
- Personalizing plan to reflect unique personality

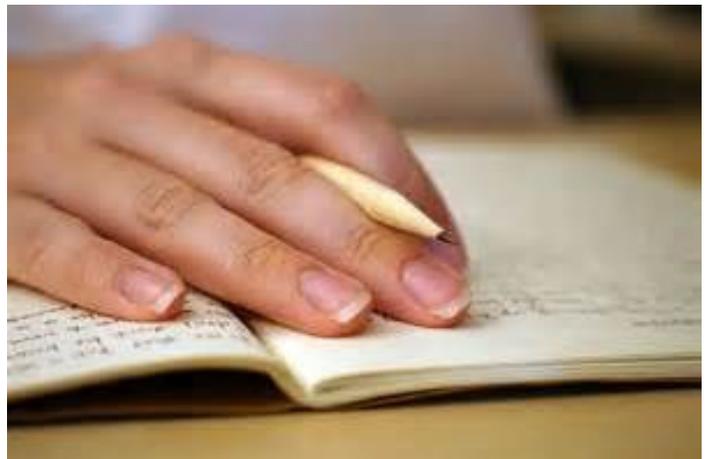
“It was so thoughtful that my parents had the insight.”

“Funeral pre-arrangement sets aside funds you know for sure you will be using.”

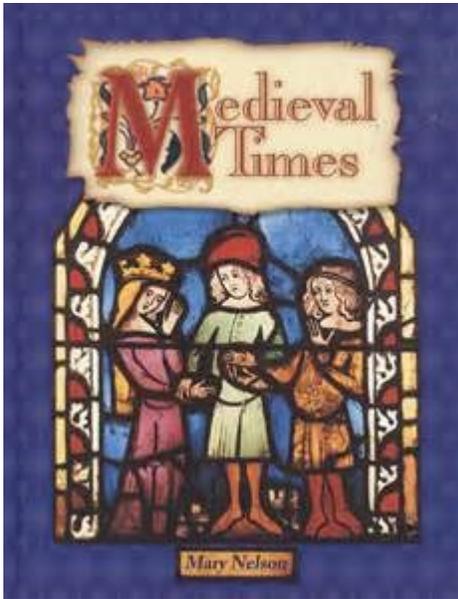
Taking care of funeral funding in advance allows:

- Taking the time now to make wise financial decisions for the future
- Making decisions free of emotional stress and pressure
- Finding a comfortable payment plan that fits needs and budget
- Benefiting from the convenience of funeral insurance
- Having portability for the plan upon relocation
- Having peace of mind and no regrets

Upon death, a funeral director will share the wishes of the loved one, and their family can focus on healing rather than wondering what to do and how to pay for it. Most important, they will have peace of mind knowing that they followed the wishes of their loved one.



Creative Corner: On the Lighter Side ...



In medieval times, lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up.

Hence the custom: “Holding a Wake”



CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS ...

Check out
this week's
bulletin

- ◇ The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
- ◇ Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.
- ◇ The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, “Break Forth into Joy”.
- ◇ Thursday night potluck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- ◇ This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.



**Douglas County
Cemetery Association, Inc.**
A Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation

Return Address:

Douglas County Historical Society
1219 South Nokomis Street
Alexandria, MN 56308

Email: kim.dillon@dchsmn.org

Our Mission



"The Douglas County Cemetery Association will work hard to fulfill its purpose of being a resource for member cemeteries in dealing with the operational

problems that arise, creating mutually beneficial relationships between our members, promoting our cemeteries as the guardians of our county's heritage and as a place of lasting tribute. to the memory of those who have gone on before us."

Our Goals

- To work with many other organizations to provide service to those concerned about our heritage.
- To help those working on family genealogy.
- To support efforts to maintain our cemeteries as well-landscaped and comforting places to visit.
- To collect information to identify notable people buried in our cemeteries and historical gravesites.
- To do mundane chores of developing better deed forms for membership and better transfer records.

Newsletter Editor:

Kathryn Liesemeyer

Katalyst Communications, Alexandria, MN

Board Members/Officers

President: **John Chlian**

Vice-Pres. **Joel Blank**

Secretary: **Julie Kirscht**

Treasurer/Membership Chair:
Sue Tvrdik

Gary Adamson

Donna Gunderson

Ralph Gunderson

Gabriel J. Pipo

Gene Rasmusen

Kevin Sather

Kristi Wussow

Ann Skoglund, ex-officio

Annual membership meetings are held the fourth Thursday of April at: First Congregational UCC, Alexandria, MN.

We will work closely with the Douglas County Historical Society to maintain cemetery records.

For more information about DCCA contact: **John Chlian @ chlian@gctel.net**