

Groveland Cemetery Gazette

May 2023

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2023 Annual Meeting - May 20

The Groveland Cemetery Association annual meeting will be held Saturday, May 20, 2023 in the Shady Oak Room at the Minnetonka Community Center at 10:00 AM. The Board of Directors and Administrator will be there to discuss the current state and future planning of the cemetery. Please bring your thoughts and questions to enhance the discussion.

Owners of gravesites, survivors and next of kin who are 18 years of age or older are eligible to attend and vote on business that may come before the meeting. The Community Center is located just north of Minnetonka Blvd. at Williston Road. There is plenty of parking. Come in the entrance by the fountain. The Shady Oak room is on the upper level with an elevator available. Refreshments will be served.

Memorial Day Monday, May 29th

Our Memorial Day service will be observed beginning with the flag ceremony by American Legion Post 259 at 9:00 a.m. sharp on Monday, May 29.

Our guest speaker will be Patty Acomb, our current MN House Representative District 45B.



MN Representative Patty Acomb

Ms. Acomb grew up and currently lives in Minnetonka. In 2009, she served on the Minnetonka Park Board and later on the City Council. She has served in the House of Representatives since 2018. With her natural resources degree from the University of MN, she has served on many committees for environmental advocacy.



Her parents are also buried at Groveland.

We invite you, your family, friends and neighbors to come and enjoy the fellowship, conversation and refreshments with everyone before and after the service. Parking is available in the Groveland School east lot and enter the cemetery through the gate near our utility building. We are looking forward to seeing you on this special occasion. Flags will mark the graves of our approximately 340 veterans.

From the President Planning for the future

In 2007 Groveland Cemetery was virtually out of space to sell for new graves. Income was down, maintenance costs were rising, and long-term prospects for the cemetery were not good. Fortunately, the lot and house to the north of the cemetery was for sale, and after much exploring with the

City of Minnetonka an agreement was made to purchase this lot and convert it to an extension of the cemetery. A "Consent Decree" was made with the city which stated that the cemetery would only sell graves in the southern half of this new addition until 2026, when the remainder of the property would be opened for sale one row of plots at a time in 5-year increments.



Dennis Cerkvenik, President

After clearing the land and platting out 9 rows of grave lots--about 600 graves--Groveland Cemetery began selling gravesites in the property. The lots started selling at a much quicker rate than expected. The board responded by creating more space in the original cemetery by selling smaller parcels for cremation only, and by reclaiming unused graves purchased over 100 years ago. But by 2018 or so the board realized that we would be out of grave space for sale long before 2026. So, in October of 2022 the board went back to the City of Minnetonka to change the consent decree to allow sales of graves in the area

being held until 2026, starting in 2023. This change went through the process of neighborhood hearings and Planning Commission review and was recently approved by the City Council. We will be removing a temporary sight barrier this spring and will have graves for sale in the area north of the sight barrier shortly thereafter.

This change gives us enough space for sales of full-size graves for the next 20+ years. We also have the possibility of revising some of the area for an even larger number of cremation graves.

However we use the area, we project that we will have built up a self-sustaining permanent care and improvement fund for the long-term future.

Thanks for being a part of the Groveland Cemetery Family and your continuing interest in and support of Groveland Cemetery.

Dennis Cerkvenik, President



From the Administrator...

We have had another active year in the cemetery.

The cemetery had 52 burials this year, 17 traditional casket burials and 35 cremation burials. We had lot sales of 47 (32 full graves and 15 cremation graves).

The new flag pole that was gifted to us by the American Legion was installed last year prior to Memorial Day. This year we plan to dedicate it with a plaque. We are

so grateful for the continuing support from the Legion. They also supply us with the bronze flag holders and flags that we set out each year on the veteran graves. Nine more veterans have been buried this year. Please support the Excelsior American Legion on Smithtown Road and enjoy their new outdoor space that was added last summer.



Shelley Duoos

Ron Horn continues to go above and beyond in his caretaking duties. More watering was done last summer due to the drought and we did lose one large spruce tree due to the extended drought. Hopefully all the snow received over the winter will make our trees happier. We continue to treat our elm and ash trees for diseases and we spray our fruit trees and other foliage for insects and other conditions.

Your flowers and mini-gardens looked their best ever in 2022! Thank you for beautifying Groveland and respecting our regulations. Some reminders:

- Real flowers only are allowed,

- no artificial items or glass
- Watch out for and report ground bees and sunken holes



- Headstone sizes: a standard single headstone is 24" x 12" and the largest Groveland can accept is 30" x 14". Plus add the required 3-4" cement border around it.

Please introduce yourself when you see me on the grounds, and feel free to contact me at:

Phone: 952-847-0011

Email: info@grovelandcemetery.org

Shelley Duoos, Administrator



Treasurer's Report

The Groveland Cemetery fiscal year began May 1, 2022, and will end April 30, 2023. This report is being prepared before the numbers are finalized in order to meet the Gazette mailing schedule, so they are approximate. Final numbers will be available at the annual meeting. We had a very good year and estimate a net income of \$59,000.

In recent years, the Board decided to reduce fixed assets when we sell graves to more accurately reflect fixed assets. While this

does not affect cash in the checking account, it reduces net income. The net income would have been \$78,000 if we did not make this change in reporting.

Our investments have changed in value; last year they were \$255,449.59. This year we added \$80,000 to our investments and they are approximately \$332,000 after changes in the market. The investments complied with the investment policy and were made following recommendations of the outside advisor. We add to these funds when possible and retain them as a reserve in the event of future shortfalls in operating funds.

The Board reviews our financial situation monthly and compares it to a budget. The past year we greatly exceeded budgeted income due to grave sales and interment charges, while expenses were slightly above budget. The result was net income that was approximately \$48,000 over budget. While income is unpredictable, expenses are managed by the Board and our administrator, Shelley Duoos.

With the approval of sales from added rows in 2023 by Minnetonka, we can continue to have income for the foreseeable future.

Donations are very vital and much appreciated. *See the Donation form on the back of the Gazette.* These funds enable us to make improvements (like landscaping). Since we have no perpetual care fund, expenses must be closely managed while making the cemetery attractive.

Detailed financial reports will be handed out at the annual meeting and are available on request. We operate on a cash basis.

Joe Dzurik, Treasurer



Meet Mary Tullbane Groveland Trustee

My name is Mary Tullbane and I am pleased to be one of the newest members of the Board of Trustees.



Mary Tullbane

My husband Phil and I have been residents of Spring Park, MN since 2000 when we were lucky to move onto Lake Minnetonka where we shared our love of the water with our 2 sons and their wives, plus 6 grandchildren and now 3 great grandchildren. Many extended family and friends joined on the deck and cruising the lake. We were truly blessed.

Phil passed away suddenly in June of 2019 and thus my new journey began looking for our final resting place. We had looked for cemeteries for several years prior to his passing but never saw anything that met any of our wishes. We had chosen cremation, but Phil wanted our ashes buried together. He always believed that everyone needed a place on this

earth to show that they had lived. I continued to look for cemeteries in the area and near water when I stumbled upon Groveland Cemetery. I immediately fell in love with this historic, beautiful and peaceful place. Every time I drive into the cemetery my heart tells me “this is it”. This is where we are meant to be.

I want to do what I can to help keep the Groveland Cemetery the historic, beautiful and peaceful place that I fell in love with that very first time I entered the cemetery.



2022 Groveland Cemetery Restorations

During seven work sessions in 2022, Lake Minnetonka DAR Chapter members cleaned 137 gravestones and/or restored landscaping in the oldest sections of Groveland Cemetery. They initially targeted the gravestones of Civil War veterans, then moved to early pioneers and veterans of later conflicts.

The initial step in the restoration process was to edge around the gravestone (for drainage) and wet the monument with water. After the water bath, the volunteers sprayed on D/2 Biological Solution, a biodegradable liquid that safely removes stains from mold, algae, mildew, lichens and air pollutants. (D/2 was developed by conservators and contains no acid or salts.) After scrubbing carefully with a soft nylon or natural bristle brush, the stones were again rinsed. Unfortunately, some stains and discolorations, particularly from tree sap, could not be

immediately removed. The D/2 Biological Solution leaves no harmful residue but continues to do its work over time, protecting and brightening the stones. In several instances, grave maintenance at Groveland involved weeding, pruning or replanting.



Amos Nixon Gray (1825-1902) – Civil War veteran after whom Gray’s Bay is named

The photos are a few “Before” (on left) and “After” (on right) photographs showing some of the remarkable improvements.



Phebe Converse Gray (1796-1870) – Widowed mother of Amos Nixon Gray

One very important facet of our project occurred after the gravestone-cleaning was done. A member followed up to take “After” photos and upload them to Find A Grave. In many cases, the task involved creating new Find-A-Grave memorials and uploading GPS coordinates. This work has far-reaching implications because family historians around the world routinely research Find A Grave. A front-page feature article about

the chapter’s work at Groveland Cemetery was published in the Sun Sailor in August.

Chapter members who participated in the project at Groveland found the work to be very satisfying. They enjoyed the peaceful setting and were comfortable even on hot, humid days. They presented an entertaining program about cemetery restoration at the December 2022 chapter meeting.

*Gigi Hickey,
Regent, Lake Minnetonka Chapter
NSDAR*



Granite Marks the Spot

Choosing a headstone is another decision to make after purchasing a grave space. You may order it following a death, or order it before a death has occurred so only final dates are needed later. Final date work is done right in the cemetery when the temperature is above 50 degrees.

Headstones today are mostly made from granite, with some families choosing bronze by itself or mounted on granite. Granite is very hard and durable. One hundred years ago, limestone was used, but it is so soft that after some years the lettering is difficult to read. Marble is even softer. In older cemeteries you may find marble statues, but often the fingers or ears may fall off due to the constant freezing and thawing of the outside elements. Therefore, marble works well inside, but not outside. At Ft. Snelling Cemetery, the white tablets were originally made from marble, but now they

have mostly transitioned over to Pearl Gray (or Twilight), an almost white granite.



Quarry location unknown

Price is mostly associated with the color of granite chosen. Sometimes families want to match the granite of an existing headstone, but it may not be possible as quarries do close on occasion. Some reasons for closure may be that the granite starts to get too brittle, or there is too much streaking in it. Another reason is the quarry gets too deep and it's not cost effective to dig any deeper. Some red granite quarries in Wausau, WI closed due to this reason.

There are many, many granite colors to choose from. Pearl Gray from Georgia and Morning Rose from Canada are some of the least expensive granites today. Amber

Glow (Mahogany) from Milbank, SD is brownish with rose tones. Mesabi in NE MN is a deep charcoal color with flecks in it. St. Cloud Gray has lots of black and white agates in it and lettering cannot be on an agate, so there is more waste with this granite. Blue Pearl and Emerald Pearl are from Norway, so the added shipping makes these more expensive. Emerald Pearl has more green in it, so often Irish families choose this one. The Jet Black from India is another example of large shipping costs. There are red granites from India and Missouri and Mountain Red from Texas. These are more orange-red in color and seem to be the least chosen color.

Lettering and the font also need to be chosen. Frosted Outline is the most popular lettering on a polished surface. Inlaid #1 is not as common today, as the lettering would need to be inside a frosted panel to make it legible.

In the past, headstones could arrive 2-3 months after ordering, but now the timeframe is more like 4-6 months. This is due to supply chain issues and lack of enough workers in the quarries. In Minnesota, installation can happen in the spring after the frost is gone until the winter snows arrive.

New Owners

Welcome to new owners since the last newsletter:

- Karen Blackey
- Shelley Isaacson
- Ronald & Christine Hanscome
- Gary Engler & Kathryn Aaberg
- Donald & Loretta Mann
- Sarah Williams
- Shichun Han
- Janis Callison & Fred Reuning
- Doris Hart
- Ryan Kenyon
- Thomas & Mary Owen
- Robin Gustafson
- Carol Sundet-Meeker
- Chris Nelson
- Jari Kosola
- Terry & Mary Tolman
- Veronika Megits
- Walter & Connie Linder
- Carl & Maryrose Adamek
- James & Lyn Enoksen
- David & Jean Severson
- Alan Larson
- Carol Hoff
- Gale 'Buck' & Judy Brothers
- Mary Jans & Paul Kuneck
- Katherine & Lawrence O'Halloran
- Leroy & Patricia Schlaerth
- Sharon Murphy Garber
- Alexey Baskakov
- Robin Carreno
- Denise Schorr
- Kristin & Grant Baker



Passings

(Alphabetical Since 5/22)

Karen Marie Antonovich	78
William Joseph Beck	76
Nora Freda Bell	95
Francis Alice Tripp Bell	104
Bernice Ann Benny	87
David Scott Benton	95
Brent G. Blackey	63
Brett Louis Brakemeier	55
Irma Kyllikki Cameron	73
Laura Ann Carlson	67
Scott Lynn Cornia	59
Barbara Jean De Witt	87
Ephame Adeline Dehn	96
William Franklin Denson	90
Paul Anthony Englund	85
Charlotte Diane Englund	84
Robert Andrew Fallat	82
Ekaterina N. Fedotova	86
Carol Crain Flint	86
Laurel Ann Forshee	66
Erik Robert Gustafson	47
Elaine Doris Haedtke	86
Mary Almina Hartzell	89
John Adolph Hartzell	93
Jeffrey Gene Hoberg	73
Donna Rae Hogsvan	90
Samuel William Isaacson	32
Judith Lynn Johnson	74
Julie Von Kenyon	63
Mary Louise Klumpner	91
Theodore Wayne Kobs	89
Eleanore A. Hosticka Kolar	89
Joseph Thomas Konyar	87
Mary Rose Juhasz Konyar	89
Jeffrey Milton Kraft	58
Donna Mae Krafve	87
Adelle Catherine Locke	101
Edward Carl Oliver	92
Joseph Thomas Reycraft	84
Joan Lenore Ronbeck	92
Craig Wray Schorr	70
Charles Herbert Schultz	91
Julianne Glee Schultz	90
Earle Lloyd Sherf	84
Robert Edward Stodola, Sr.	85
Karlye Kristine Thompson	44
David John Vanzo	63
Paul Simpson Walton	94
Bruce Merrill Wheaton	91
Lynn Davis Wilder	88
Della Irene Wilhelm	89
Max Gene Wilhelm	95
Yongyong Zhang	51

Average: 80.2 Years

Association By-Law Update

The Association has previously provided an informal waiver of burial fees to past and present Board members on their passing. The Board is recommending to formalize this practice in the By-Laws, which requires a vote at our Annual Meeting. This is the proposed addition:

5a) In lieu of monetary compensation for their service, all Directors, past and present, having served a minimum of one full year, shall have their Groveland interment fee waived on their passing.

Other Resources for Groveland Cemetery Information:

The Find A Grave organization is a volunteer resource for information on cemeteries around the U.S. They have cataloged and photographed many locations, including Groveland Cemetery. Check them out at:

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1998297/groveland-cemetery>

Board Elections

Your trustees' two-year terms will expire with this year's annual meeting.

Running for re-election are:

- Joe Dzurik
- Bob Nash;
- Lois Kamerud;
- Mark Peterson

We currently have eight members on the board, and by-laws provide that the board can consist of five to eight members. We occasionally have open positions. Please let us know if you are interested in serving when an opening becomes available.

Board of Directors

President:

Dennis F. Cerkvenik,
952-463-0073

Vice President:

Jeff H. Walton,
952-943-2064

Treasurer:

Joseph W. Dzurik,
763-688-5680

Secretary:

Erik Larson,
952-475-2471

Trustee:

Robert F. Nash,
952-476-0434

Trustee:

Lois Kamerud,
313-300-9814

Trustee:

Mark Peterson,
612-990-0428

Trustee:

Mary Tullbane,
952-250-1647

Groveland Staff

Administrator:

Shelley Duoos,
952-847-0011

Caretaker:

Ronald Horn,
612-859-3066

VOLUNTARY DONATION / CONTRIBUTION FORM



YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: (optional) _____

Groveland Cemetery Association is a volunteer and non-profit organization. In order to help with the maintenance of the Cemetery grounds, we would like to make a voluntary contribution to be used to improve and maintain the conditions in the cemetery:

AMOUNT: _____

Please mail this form and your check payable to the Groveland Cemetery Association to:

	<p>Groveland Cemetery Association 3300 Woodlawn Avenue Wayzata, MN 55391-2821 <i>Attn: Joe Dzurik, Treasurer</i></p>
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Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!
Your Cemetery Board





Groveland Cemetery Association
3300 Woodlawn Avenue
Wayzata, MN 55391-2821

Address Service Requested

Groveland Cemetery Association

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