

THE GREENWOOD CEMETERY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR CORPORATE BOARD MEMBERS

Civil War Graves

On April 20, 2024, three special installations and ceremonies were held in Section N. William Bray, of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, John T. Crawford Camp #43 and A.P. Davis Camp, installed new government issued replacement headstones and GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) flag markers for Civil War Union soldiers David Waltermire, John Lance, and Daniel Rowe.

After the headstones were placed, two former members of Indiana's Wildcat Regiment Band, Jim and Rudy Bruno, participated in a small ceremony to honor the soldiers. Jim played trumpet and Rudy was a drummer in the band and performed at many festivals and gatherings over the several years they were involved. It was an honor to have Rudy, who is 88 and resides at Rose Haven, attend the ceremony and witness a little piece of Greenwood Cemetery history being made.

Bill Bray has a passion for all things Civil War. The installations at Greenwood made 73 total for Bill. Each headstone weighs about 230 lbs. He sometimes works with a few other volunteers from his local club, but often works alone to set the headstones on a solid foundation. While none of the soldiers at Greenwood Cemetery are related to him, he does have 2 great-grandfathers and 3 great-great-grandfathers who served in the Civil War with the

GAR; 2 of them were killed while serving in the war. In addition to the two Sons of Union Veterans camps, Bill belongs to the General Society of the War of 1812, Norwin Historical Society, and PA Society of the Sons of the Revolution. Bill also serves as the sexton of the Old Brush Creek Cemetery.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all veterans for their service and to Bill Bray for his ongoing dedication. **Continued on next page.**



Photo by J. Foister

Left to right: Jim Bruno, Rudy Bruno, and Bill Bray



Top left: Bill Bray brought all the needed tools and materials needed to securely place the new Civil War headstones.

Bottom: Standing and saluting for the playing of "Taps" by Jim Bruno were Rudy Bruno, Bill Bray, and Ron Fairman of the Greenwood Cemetery board.

Photos by J. Foister



THANK YOU, Greenwood Cemetery Grounds Crew

The cemetery staff often receives compliments from visitors. Greenwood Cemetery is fortunate enough to have three dedicated, long-time employees who care for the grounds and deserve all the praise for how well the cemetery is cared for year-round. Combined, they have been with Greenwood over 75 years!

During the warmer months, they spend much of their time mowing and trimming weeds, but it takes much more than that to keep the cemetery up and running smoothly. Roger Ringler (head caretaker), Ron Gaston, and Michael Lentz are “jacks of all trades” who use their skills to tackle many responsibilities.

In addition to lawn care and snow removal, the crew digs and prepares graves for burial, pour concrete foundations for monuments, set bronze memorials in the gardens, remove old flowers and flags, and empty all the trashcans throughout the cemetery. Roger, Ron and Michael save the cemetery money in the upkeep of the cemetery equipment as they perform almost all the needed maintenance and repairs in the shop.

There is always plenty to keep busy indoors as well. Any plumbing, electrical or general maintenance and repairs to the shop, office, and chapel are done by the staff. Presently, they are preparing to paint the building exterior and have recently replaced a door and window.

The most important job for the cemetery staff is attending to the needs of families and funeral homes. Roger, Ron, and Michael are never too busy to drop what they’re doing to take someone to a grave they cannot locate, level a leaning monument when asked, or assist someone interested in purchasing a lot or niche. When a service is scheduled either by a funeral home or family, the crew follows through with all the details for each burial to make sure the family’s wishes are honored. Even though normal business hours are during the week, if a service

occurs over the weekend, either Roger, Ron, or Michael work during that time. They come early to set up and stay until everything is put away and the family has departed.

Considering their long history of hard work and dedication, Roger, Ron and Michale deserve our gratitude and admiration for a job well done. They make the Greenwood Cemetery a place of beauty and peace for all the families who have chosen it for themselves or their loved ones as a final resting place.



Photo by J. Foister

The dedicated grounds crew left to right with the year they started working at Greenwood Cemetery: Michael Lentz (2021), Roger Ringler (1977), and Ron Gaston (1999). Roger took over as head caretaker in 2019.

If you have ideas for content, interesting history about the cemetery or family members interred, news, photos, etc., please reach out to Jan Foister at office.gwcemetery@gmail.com.

Explore Greenwood

Update on the Life of Educator Samuel Wolf

In the previous issue of the newsletter, the large Samuel Wolf memorial in section GG of the cemetery was featured in the “Explore Greenwood” section with little information available on Mr. Wolf. Corporate board member Dr. John Neale was able to locate Mr. Wolf’s obituary which is the source of this update:

Professor Samuel Wolf (1832-1908) lived in Indiana on Chestnut St. after moving to Indiana from his nearby Rayne Twp. farm. He was married to Rebecca Griffith from Marion Center and together they had a daughter and two sons. His teaching career spanned



Photo by Jan Foister

50 years and as he neared retirement, he was proud of the fact his son and grandson were also in the teaching profession in the county. Samuel Wolf was the founder, then director of the “select school” in Marion Center. In the mid 1800’s, teachers did not have the education they have now. They would complete grammar school, then go to a “select school” to become qualified to teach.

Due to Samuel Wolf’s efforts, The Indiana County Teachers’ Institute was organized where he served as superintendent for more than a decade. Dr. Neale shared this might have developed into the idea for Indiana Normal School, which we now know as IUP!

There are other notable people interred in Greenwood Cemetery. For example, did you know:

- a Revolutionary War veteran is buried here?
- an outspoken opponent of slavery who had a part in the Underground Railroad is buried here?

Watch for these interesting stories in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

We’ve Gone Social!

The Greenwood Cemetery Facebook page was launched in mid-May. Much of the content will be information that is reported in this newsletter. Pertinent posts will also be added as we recognize significant holidays and events in the life of Greenwood Cemetery and the local community. It will also be a way to remind families of some rules and regulations of the cemetery at appropriate times of the year. For example, posting a notification to remove Christmas flowers by March 15 sometime in February will give families time to get anything they’d like to save before staff begins to clean up for spring mowing to begin.

The new Facebook page presently has 74 followers and 131 visitors already. If you are on Facebook, please help increase Greenwood Cemetery’s online presence by visiting, then sharing, the page with your Facebook friends. There are a number of Greenwood Cemetery Facebook pages, so look for the one with our logo:



Cutting Edge

At the most recent Board of Managers meeting, approval was given for the purchase of a new Kubota Diesel Zero-Turn Mower. It replaced a mower that after years of service, started to need frequent new parts and repairs. The board and head caretaker Roger Ringler explored several options and settled on this mower from Walker and Walker Equipment. It was delivered and is being put to good use this summer alongside the Kubota tractor purchased last year.



Photo by J. Foister

SEEN AT THE CEMETERY



Photos by Tracey Ryan