

Transitions



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Many exciting things have been happening since our last newsletter! During the warm weather months, Friends members were able to finish some ongoing projects and tackle some fresh ones at the Cemetery.

By far the most significant accomplishment has been the restoration of the **Old Cemetery Section**, containing the graves of some of the area's earliest settlers who were originally interred at Veterans Park.

In June 2015, a team of workers from Carter's Cemetery Preservation repaired, straightened, and cleaned approximately 60 gravestones, some dating to the 1850s. This project was funded by a substantial grant of \$7,000 from the Greenville Area Community Foundation through the Ray & Mary Tower Fund, as well as generous individual and corporate contributions.



Another region of the cemetery receiving some much-needed attention was the **Fargo Mausoleum**. You can learn more about the project and discover the history of the Fargo family on pages 2-3 of this newsletter.

Again this past fall, Friends held a guided **cemetery walking tour**. Our third annual "Murder, Mayhem & Madness" tour was expanded to 2 days in October, with a record 120 attendees enjoying the autumn beauty at the Cemetery.

In November 2015, a group of Friends volunteers came together on a cold Saturday to join Greenville Public Services Director, Tom Pollock, at the **Middleton Mausoleum**. The door to the magnificent century-old structure was opened so that volunteers could scoop out the 1- to 2-foot layer of pine cones, leaves, and acorns that had been carried inside by our resident furry friends! The mausoleum was then welded closed to prevent vandalism.

The **Adopt-A-Veteran** program continues to be successful, with five additional Civil War headstones having been refurbished last summer through the generosity of donors. At this time, there are six more newly adopted veterans' headstones to be cleaned as weather permits. Flowers were planted in the planter on the G.A.R. section, and the brick border around the cannon was finished with more hostas being planted.

Other maintenance and beautification projects were also completed: the Odd Fellows urn was cleaned, repainted, and filled with flowers; the Knights of Pythias urn was planted; and landscaping around the tour box was updated. We're looking forward to a busy season ahead in 2017. Won't you consider joining us?

~ Paula Christiansen, President

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A NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF FOREST HOME CEMETERY, INC.

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www.friendsofforesthome.net

FARGO MAUSOLEUM RESTORATION PROJECT



Visitors who walk or drive through Greenville’s historic Forest Home Cemetery have likely noticed the lovely old stonework on the Jerome Fargo family mausoleum. Sadly, over the past decade, many of the stones had become dislodged and fallen to the ground. What was once a beautiful edifice had become an eyesore.



Friends of Forest Home Cemetery was able to contact a descendant of the Fargo family and obtain his permission to work on restoration of the structure. The repairs were completed by Wesley White, an experienced stone mason, who volunteered his time and skill to the project. Many hours of labor were spent resetting and mortaring the stones in place.

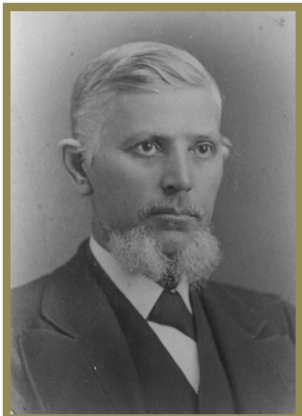
The five Fargo family members known to be entombed there include Jerome Fargo; his wife, Rachel King Fargo; their daughter, Dora Fargo Collard, and her husband, Joseph Collard; as well as Jerome’s sister-in-law, Josephine Fargo.

Although there is no documentation, it is assumed that the structure was built in 1891. This date is indicated above the door, and also coincides with the sale of Mr. Fargo’s farm that same year.

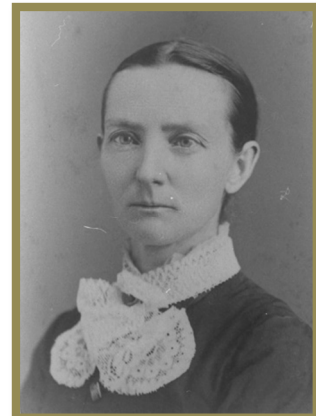
Friends of Forest Home Cemetery is pleased to have had the opportunity to sponsor the repair of this historical cemetery structure!



A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY



Jerome Fargo was born September 26, 1824, in New York State. He migrated with his parents to Lenawee County, Michigan, when only 13 years old, but later returned to New York. In 1846, Jerome came to Montcalm County where he spent one winter lumbering on the Flat River. The next year, Jerome and his brother, John, purchased a large tract of land in Fairplains Township, where they resided for many years.



Mr. Fargo married Rachel C. King on September 10, 1853. She was one of eleven children of Gilbert and Mary King, early settlers in Orleans Township, Ionia County. Rachel's father served as the township supervisor, Justice of the Peace, and Overseer of the Poor. Jerome Fargo and his wife Rachel became members of the Seventh-day Adventist church in 1860, with Jerome being formally ordained to the ministry at Lansing on September 25, 1876. He assumed a leadership role when he was elected President of the Michigan Conference of Adventists, serving from 1876 to 1886. He was also a stockholder and director of the Sanitarium in Battle Creek.

The Fargos often traveled with Elder James White and wife, Ellen G. White, who were early founders and pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist movement. The Whites resided on a small farm just east of Greenville from May 1867 to September 1869, and frequently visited with Jerome and Rachel Fargo. Ellen White was known as a prophetic visionary and later was called the Mother of the Seventh-day Adventist church. She was named among the "100 Most Significant Americans" by Smithsonian magazine for her influence on religion. The Whites were instrumental in founding the SDA Publishing Association, Battle Creek College, and the Western Health Reform Institute (Battle Creek Sanitarium). Although the Fargos were never blessed with children of their own, they adopted an infant in 1869, whom they named Dora. Dora was married to Joseph Collard, and they had one son, Glenn.

Jerome and Rachel built a large frame home in 1873, just 2 miles east of Greenville. The house, along with the original barn (pictured below), are still standing today.



Rachel Fargo died from heart disease in 1889, at the age of 65, and was laid to rest in Forest Home Cemetery. Just 2 years later, her husband Jerome sold his farm and relocated to Battle Creek with their daughter Dora. Elder Fargo continued Sabbath school work, and served as Superintendent of the Sabbath School for several years. His death occurred on June 17, 1899, at the Battle Creek Sanitarium.



Dora Fargo attended school and worked as a seamstress in Battle Creek until her marriage to Joseph Collard in 1901. She was widowed in 1918, leaving her to raise their only son, Glenn, by herself. Dora lived in Berrien Springs for the remainder of her life and never remarried. She died in 1946, and was the final family member to be laid to rest in the Fargo mausoleum at Forest Home Cemetery.

One other family member entombed in the Fargo vault is Josephine E. Fargo. Josephine was the daughter of Enos T. & Harriet Peck, early pioneers in Montcalm County. Josephine married Hiram B. Fargo, one of Jerome Fargo's younger brothers, and a prominent businessman who built the first brick building in Greenville (in 1869) where Colony House Furniture was recently located. Josephine died in 1915 from an apparent stroke. Her husband Hiram's death occurred in 1903 at Salt Lake City, where he worked as a traveling agent selling clothing. He was buried in that city.

ADOPT-A-VETERAN SUCCESS STORY



Friends of Forest Home Cemetery developed its Adopt-a-Veteran program as a means of financing the refurbishment of Civil War veterans' headstones and to raise awareness of the sacrifices of veterans of all wars. The cleaning and straightening of headstones is done by volunteers and funded by generous donations from community members.

To date, 23 soldiers have been "adopted:"

- Pvt. James J. Freeman – by Brenda Dillon
- 2nd Lieut. Newell J. Pratt – by Linda Boyer
- Pvt. James K. Fisher – by Ronald Corwin
- Pvt. Leonard Fleck – by Bill & Margaret Rexius
- Pvt. John P. VanNortwick – by Robert & Fran Schuleit
- John Swartz - by Robert & Fran Schuleit
- Pvt. Anson B. Lamb – by Candy Larkin
- William Weitzel – by Joanne Nemeth
- 1st Lieut. Lurendus B. Conant – by David & Lori Magirl
- Charles P. Durland – by Elizabeth Hern
- Wm. F. VanHouten – by Patrick Dunne
- Pvt. Martin Beebe – by Troy Johnson
- Cpl. Hayden F. Strong – by Ermal Wondergem
- Pvt. Nathan H. Cranmer – by Jeff & Tammy Johnson
- Cpl. John E. Graham – by Krystina McNamara
- Pvt. Frank A. Black – by Patricia & Bryan Black
- Cpl. William H. Shaffer – by Mike & Toy Hogan
- Pvt. Amos J. Corey – by Robert & Fran Schuleit
- Cpl. William H. Conover – by Alison Barberi
- Andrew J. Persons – by Robin Walter
- Pvt. Royal Dean – by Denise Hammons
- William H. Mulick - by Billie Halfmann
- Pvt. Simeon J. Hale – by Denise Gietzen

To participate in the Adopt-A-Veteran program, please visit our website and view those soldiers who are waiting to be adopted. If you do not have Internet access, just phone or drop us a note and we will mail you the information.

We hope you will consider honoring the memory of one of these long-forgotten men and boys by helping Friends restore their grave markers.

Adopt a Civil War Veteran

Royal Dean

3rd Reg't U.S. Inf.-Mexican War-Pvt.
44th Indiana Infantry, Co. C-Drummer
88th Ohio Infantry, Co. K-Musician

Royal was born in 1824 in Oneida Co., New York. In October 1846, he enlisted for a 5-year period in the 3rd Reg't U.S. Infantry as a Musician during the Mexican War. He participated in several major battles including the capture of Mexico City. He was mustered out August 1851 at El Paso, Texas. During the Civil War, he served as a Drummer in both the 44th Indiana Infantry and 88th Ohio Infantry over a 4-year period. Pvt. Dean was married to Amanda Jewell Hosler at Fulton, Ohio, on Dec. 9, 1864. His death occurred at Edmore on Dec. 27, 1901.

A donation of \$40 will clean and straighten his Civil War marker.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 7, 2-5 PM SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Friends will be out in force on Sunday, May 7, putting out flags, birdbaths, and water jugs; cleaning veterans' headstones; planting flowers; and doing general cleanup in the Cemetery. Plants and cleaning supplies will be provided. **Volunteers are welcome!**

To learn more, contact us on our website, or call:

Paula Christiansen, (616) 894-9922

QUOTABLE . . .

"A cemetery is a history of people – a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering – always."

~ Mary Lou Brannon, Brannon Monument Co.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

www.friendsofforesthome.net



With loads of historical and biographical information about the Cemetery and the people buried there, as well as information about the ongoing restoration projects sponsored by Friends of Forest Home Cemetery.

COMING SOON: Recorded biographies that visitors can access on their smart phones as they walk through the Cemetery – for a private self-guided tour! Be sure to check us out . . .