

Evergreen Cemetery Dedication Ceremony
Town of Blaine, Burnett County, WI
June 28, 2014

This old, almost forgotten cemetery located in the Town of Blaine has gone by several names. Locally, it's been called the "Settlers" Cemetery, or the "Indian Cemetery", but it's also gone by the Hillock Cemetery, named after the family that donated the 3 acres, and even the Love Cemetery (the origin of this name is unknown except there was a David Love buried here in 1908). It's also been called the Forest Home Cemetery, which was also the name of the first school located a half mile north of here, and where the foundation is still visible. Finally, now for many years it's the *Evergreen Cemetery*.

Burials occurred in this cemetery more than a hundred years ago, between 1903 to 1914 by the settlers and Native Americans that lived in this area. There are about 36 people buried here, but burial records exist for only 24. It is well known by many locals that a number of Native Americans are also buried in Evergreen Cemetery, but no death or other records were kept.

There are only a few old headstones or markers remaining, and only one that is still legible. Like many pioneer cemeteries of that age, the early settlers could not afford durable stone markers for gravesites; instead they used wooden markers that didn't last through time. This area of Wisconsin was also quite fire-prone in the early 1900's which may have been one reason so few markers exist today.

The only headstone that is still legible is for Arvid Lyon, and we know a little more about him. Lyon (L-Y-O-N) which may have been pronounced "Lee-own" was born September 30, 1841 and died May 24, 1914 at the age of 72, almost exactly 100 years ago today. To our knowledge he was the last person to be buried here in this cemetery. Like many before him, it's likely that he emigrated here from Sweden since his daughter Ruth Emelia Lyon, age 5, is also buried here, and she is listed as being born in Sweden. The daughter's mother is listed as Erika Augusta but there is no record of her death or burial location. However, Arvid is listed as "widowed", so apparently she died before him, and *may* also have been buried here but was not recorded. According to the 1915 Plat Book map Arvid Lyon's 160 acre homestead was located just one mile east of this cemetery.

One fellow deserves special mention because he is the only recorded veteran. His name is Francis Thurston, born in Iowa in 1848 and died here in 1904. He was a veteran of the Spanish American War of 1898. If you remember, the Spanish American War was basically over Cuba's independence from Spain, with the battleship Maine being sunk in the Cuban harbor, and where Teddy Roosevelt made a name for himself by charging up San Juan Hill. It has been said that there are veterans from the Civil War buried here, and it is certainly possible, but no records have been found to substantiate this.

There is limited information about 24 people that are buried here. Listed are 5 unnamed infants, and 5 children between the age of 4 and 9 who died from such diseases as diphtheria and scarlet fever. The remaining 14 recorded burials are for adults between the age of 26 to 76 who died from such things as childbirth and heart problems, and one from suicide at age 45. Only 3 made it into their 70's, one being Arvid Lyon that was mentioned earlier.

Sadly, for many decades, Evergreen Cemetery was neglected and became grown over with brush and jack pine. Then, during the week of August 18, 1986 in preparation for a prescribed burn, DNR Fire Control crews from Minong and Gordon incorrectly read their maps and brought in heavy equipment to this area and knocked over a number of large jack pine trees before their error was discovered. The DNR, to their credit, then removed the downed trees, and using long chains reaching from the road, dragged out the tree stumps. The DNR also marked the perimeter of the cemetery with 4 cement posts that remain in place today. Although this disturbance was done in error, it did open up the cemetery so more people became aware of it, and begin to pay more attention to it. The Burnett County Historical Society had a large plaque made with very meaningful words inscribed, and the DNR brought in a large rock upon which the plaque was mounted. However, this original plaque has faded badly from the sun, and is now only partially legible.

This brings us to today's new and more lasting granite marker that has the same exact inscription as the first plaque and reads as follows:

***"The people are now gone and the land has been reclaimed by nature,
the past almost forgotten. These inhospitable barrens saw
the individual sacrifice and hardships of the Indians and
early settlers in their attempt to eke out a living in the
non-fertile environment. Evergreen Cemetery remains as a
memorial to the strength and courage of those people who once
lived here. It will serve as a reminder to future generations to
pause and give tribute to those who came before them."***

Evergreen Cemetery Burial Information
Data from Burnett County Death Records
Location: Town of Blaine, Burnett County, WI
Township 42 N., Range 14 W. Section 23

Page 1 of 2

Aikinson, Mary	Basler, Ida	Bindert, Wilhelm Frederick
White female	White female	White male
Born: ca. 1886 (France)	Born: October 17, 1901	Born: February 25, 1837
Death: August 26, 1906	Death: December 3, 1908	Death: January 22, 1908
Cause: Childbirth	Cause: Scarlet fever	Cause: Aortic valve disease
Bohemian, born in France		Father: Martin Bindert
		Mother: Dorothea Frerich
Vol. C: Page 94; No. 53	Vol. 1: Page 208	Vol. 1: Page 215

Burlingame, Bertha	Burlingame, unnamed infant	Howard, Glen Clarence
White female, Married	White female	White male
Born: August 20, 1865	Born: March 17, 1903	Born: May 13, 1886
Death: August 28, 1909	Death: March 18, 1903	Death: May 15, 1912
Cause: Childbirth	Cause: Unknown	Cause: Tuberculosis
Father: Jacob Basler	Father: D. A. Burlingame	Born in Iowa
Born in Switzerland	Mother: Unknown	Listed as Love Cemetery
Vol. 1; page 44	Vol. C; Page 62; No. 5	Vol. 2; Page 17

Howard, Roy William	Lindgren, Minnie	Love, David M.
White male	White female	White male
Born: February 1, 1912	Born: June 25, 1899	Born:
Death: February 3, 1912	Death: October 18, 1908	Death: February 8, 1908
Cause: Lack of vitality	Cause: Diphtheria	Cause: Dropsy
Father: Glen C. Howard	Father: Eric Lindgren	
Mother: Emma Perley Howard	Mother: Mary Lundquist Lindgren	
Vol. 1; Page 413	Vol. 1; Page 214	Vol. 1; Page 217

Lyon, Arvid	Lyon, Ruth Emelia	McKee, John
White male: Widowed	White female	White male
Born: September 30, 1841	Born: June 17, 1901 (Sweden)	Born: 1837
Death: May 24, 1914	Death: April 25, 1906	Death: December 5, 1908
Informant: Anna Lyon (s)	Arvid J. Lyon	Cause: Heart failure
	Mother: Erika Augusta	Wife: Anna Freil
Cause: Carcinoma of stomach	Cause: Burned in bonfire	Listed as Love Cemetery
Vol. 2; Page 204	Vol. C; Page 90; No. 29	Vol. C; Page 101; No. 19

Miller, unnamed infant	Morse, Ransom	Nelson, John
White male	White male	White male
Born: April 14, 1908	Born: June 1, 1831	Born: 1858
Death: April 25, 1908	Death: January 25, 1908	Death: March 14, 1912
Cause: Spasms	Cause: Dropsy	Cause: Fire
Father: John H. Miller		C. F. Richard paid by
		town for burial
Vol. 1; Page 218	Vol. 1; Page 221	Vol. 1; Page 430

Newell, Mrs. Anna C.	Parson, unnamed infant	Pepper, Alfreda
White female	White male	White female
Born: December 16, 1838	Born: April 27, 1906	Born: September 1, 1850
Death: May 15, 1906	Death: May 3, 1905	Death: April 30, 1906
Cause: Pneumonia, Asthma	Cause: Spasms	Cause: Heart trouble & Dropsy
Father: John Friel	Father: John E. Parson	Father: George
Mother: Rebekah Friel	Mother: Hannah Parson	Mother: Sara
Listed as Love Cemetery	No place of death/burial recorded	Place of burial not recorded
Vol. C; Page 91; No. 30	Vol. C; Page 89; No. 18	Vol. C; Page 90; No. 26

Randall, Clarrasie Alsachi	Shaw, unnamed infant	Swanson, Alice
White female	White male	White female
Born: April 19, 1863	Born: May 16, 1908	Born: ca. March 4, 1900
Death: September 16, 1908	Death: May 17, 1908	Death: September 4, 1904
Cause: Suicide	Cause: Unknown	Cause: Diphtheria & heart failure
	Father: Perry Shaw	Father: Albert Swanson
	Mother: Mary Bardeen Shaw	Mother: Minnie Swanson
Vol. 1; Page 213	Vol. 1; Page 212	Vol. C; Page 71; No. 58

Sweet, Dorcas	Thurston, Francis	Van Dalen, Eva
	White male	White female
Born: Unknown	Born: July 26, 1848 (Iowa)	Born: Nov. 20, 1901 (Indiana)
Death: December 24, 1908	Death: January 16, 1904	Death: February 20, 1908
Cause: Diabetes & Pneumonia	Cause: Valvular heart problem	Cause: Diphtheria
	Father: Alfred	Father: Adrian
	Mother: Lydia	Mother: Elizabeth Rhodes
	Veteran: Spanish/American War,	
	Co. F, 8th Wisconsin Volunteers	
Vol. 1; Page 211	Vol. C; Page 62	Vol. 1; Page 112

Note: This cemetery has gone by many names: Hillock; Forest Home; Love; Settlers; and Indian, but it is currently known as Evergreen Cemetery. Also, see addendum for additional burials not recorded.

Addendum to List of Burials at Evergreen Cemetery in the Town of Blaine, Burnett County, WI. June 28, 2014

1. In addition to those 24 people listed there are other names listed as being buried in Evergreen without birth or death information:
 - a. Anderson: Babys (white paint on red slate stone); boy; Julia or Eva (twin); Lousie (twin); Nels, Jr.; Violet.
 - b. Bradley: Caroline; Severt; Stella.
 - c. Corbin.
 - d. Lyon (a third Lyon, possible Arvid Lyon's wife Erika Augusta).
 - e. Rufus.
 - f. Turner, S. E.
 - g. Unknown (white paint on red slate stone).
2. Arvid Lyon: This is the only legible marker left at the Evergreen Cemetery. Also, a "Arvin" Lyon appears on the 1915 Plat Book map. A 160 acre parcel in Sec. 24 Township 42N., Range 14W. Town of Blaine (east). This parcel is located one mile east of the cemetery.
3. Note: Records show that 3 of the 24 people on the burial list are buried in "Love" Cemetery. It's my understanding that Love was just another name for Evergreen Cemetery. These 3 people are Glen Clarence Howard; John McKee; and Mrs. Anna C. Newell.
4. John McKee appears on the 1915 Plat Book map. A 40 acres parcel in Sec. 36 Township 42N., Range 15W. Town of Blaine (west).
5. Mrs. Anna C. Newell appears on the 1915 Plat Book map. A 120 acre parcel (next to John McKee's parcel) in Sec. 36 Township 42N., Range 15W. Town of Blaine (west).
6. D. M. Love appears on the 1915 Plat Book map. A 80 acre parcel in Sec. 15 Township 41N., Range 15W. Town of Swiss.
7. John "A." Nelson appears on the 1915 Plat Book map. A 160 acre parcel in Sec. 7 Township 41N., Range 15 W. Town of Swiss.
8. It is well known by many locals that a number of Native Americans are also buried in Evergreen Cemetery, but no death or other records were kept.
9. The record shows there is a veteran buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Francis Thurston who served during the Spanish American War in 1898. However, I've heard from locals that there are supposed to be 2 veterans of the Civil War buried there.
10. The earliest burial date is for the Burlingame infant who died March 18, 1903. The last burial date listed is for Arvid Lyon who died May 24, 1914. (See number 2 above).

(over)

11. The 24 recorded burials in Evergreen Cemetery took place over a 12 year period, between 1903 and 1914 as follows:

- a. 1903: One
- b. 1904: Two
- c. 1905: One
- d. 1906: Four
- e. 1908: Eleven
- f. 1909: One
- g. 1910: None
- h. 1911: None
- i. 1912: Three
- j. 1914: One

12. The ages of the 24 recorded burials in Evergreen Cemetery are as follows:

- a. Infants (4 unnamed): 5
- b. Children between 4 - 9 years old: 5
- c. Adults between 26 – 76 years old: 12
- d. Adults unknown age: 2