

THE LITTLE KNOLL CEMETERY
Of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church

To those early settlers it was important that children receive baptism, that young people be confirmed and that the dead receive Christian burial. It was also important that they be buried in ground consecrated for that purpose.

So it was that on May 7, 1910 a meeting was held at the home of Ole Matson for the purpose of forming a church group and at the same time a three-man committee was set up to find a suitable place for a cemetery. The committee consisted of Z.H. Star, Ole Matson and John Selander.

This committee apparently got two acres of land from Mr. Ole K. Baker, on the N.E. corner of the N.E. quarter 6-6-5-W4. Mr. Baker donated the land on the understanding that on his death he be buried there.

At a meeting held on April 8, 1912, Oscar Wilson was named to collect money for the purpose of purchasing materials for fencing the cemetery. He collected \$15.25 and it was decided to use hog fencing.

Officiating at this meeting were: President, John Kangas; Secretary, Robert Tenhunen; and Treasurer, Oscar Wilson.

Z.H. Star and H. Lindequist were chosen to see about getting title to the land. The lots were to be 8 feet by 12 feet and could be divided into 4 by 8 foot sections. These family plots were to be sold to anyone for five dollars each. The cemetery was named Little Knoll.

The following is taken from the cemetery records and describes how the land was measured.

"Starting point of cemetery survey the S.E. corner of the N.E. quarter 6-6-5-W4.

Numbers beginning, Lot 1, Block 1 south running from East to West on the south line of cemetery, numbering 168 lots in the southern division of the cemetery. The north side beginning, Lot 1, Block 1 running from East to West numbering 168

lots. The lots in Block 8 joining the northern fence are only three graves to each lot. There are walks on south and west side of each lot on both North and South divisions, four feet wide. Allowance of 16 feet from East to West across the cemetery provides a driveway for vehicles and divides the cemetery into South and North division".

The plots were marked by placing a two inch by two-inch stake on the corner of each plot. There was also discussion about building a small building about ten by twelve feet with a cellar, for keeping bodies until burial could be arranged. There was, however, the lack of finances. It was perhaps to raise money, that on July 8, 1916 it was decided to sell shares in the cemetery and each person who bought a grave for \$1.25 was a shareholder. The price of each share was \$1.25 and each person could buy as many as he wished at the discretion of the directors. As there were one thousand and twenty individual graves, the cemetery had a capital investment of \$1,650.00 in shares.

As this was the first cemetery in this part of the country, people came from many miles to bury their dead ere.

Throughout the years it appears that continuous efforts were made to obtain title to the property. The land was owned by various people, none of whom apparently completed the transfer of title. Finally in 1935 the land as owned by Emil Cote and on March 21, 1935 the transfer of title was registered in the name of the Little Knoll Cemetery. Pastor J.F. Saarinen was on a tour of Lutheran Churches and so on

April 22, 1936 there was short service of dedication at the cemetery and that finalized the legal aspects as required by law. In the 1970's a grant was available for the restoration of old cemeteries. Advantage was taken of this to procure a steel gate and a stone pillar with the names of all who were buried there at that time. On May 29, 1976 a work party of volunteers put up the gate and the pillar. Three graves have been added since then: Ansga Jussila, Paavo Tytarniemi and John Matson.

And what about Mr. Baker? During the restoration work great efforts were made to find the burial place of Mr. Ole K. Baker. It is common knowledge that he was stricken with Influenza during the epidemic of 1918. He was taken to the Medicine Hat General Hospital where he passed away, but no trace of Mr. Baker was found, when he died or where he is buried. It is only known that he is not buried in the Little Knoll Cemetery to which he donated the land so long ago.

The cemetery is only used now for the few who wish to be buried with the rest of the family in the family plot. The graves are maintained a bit by those who still reside in the area. The birds sing and the grass waves softly while the old-timers sleep in eternal peace.

Submitted by Martha (Tenhunen) Jussila

Name	Memorial Information
Behrman, Delores Behrman	1917-1917; parents Henry Harry Behrman and Mary Gertrude Klein
Bodie, Clifford	unknown - 1919; died Manyberries, AB
Chinworth, Jeannette "Nettie"	unknown
Cote, Henry Raymond V	1928 - 20 Dec 1928, died Manyberries, AB
Cote, Laura Gladys	1925 - 21 Feb 1935; died Manyberries, AB
Dahl, Ralph	Jul 1924 - Jul 1924; shared with father Victor Dahl
Dahl, Victor	24 Feb 1879 - 4 Jan 1939; born Finland - died Manyberries, AB; shared with son Ralph Dahl; spouse Anne Hautala; children Lillie Meyers, Arthur Dahl and Rudolph Dahl
Erickson, Baby	unknown
Erickson, Grandma	died 1919 Manyberries, AB
Erikson, Erkki	unknown
Haapala, Anna W	1891 - 19 May 1935; born Finland - died Manyberries, AB
Harrison, Madie	unknown - 1920
Head, unknown; Mrs. Frank	unknown
Johnson, Vaide aLina	22 May 1900 - 31 Dec 1915
Jussila, Ansgarius "Ansga"	1906 - 14 Jun 1977; spouse Martha Wilhelmina Tenhunen; children Elsie Jussila, William Jussila and Robert Jussila
Jussila, Elsie	05 Dec 1928 - 05 Sep 1968; parents Ansgarius Jussila and Martha Tenhunen; brothers William Jussila and Robert Jussila
Jussila (nee Tunhunen), Martha Wilhelmina	20 Nov 1909 - 24 May 2014; born Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon - died Medicine Hat, AB; spouse Ansgarius Jussila; children Elsie Jussila and William Jussila
Jussila, William Rodney David "Billy"	30 Apr 1950 - 28 Jul 2017; born and died in Medicine Hat, AB; parents Ansgarius Jussila and Martha Wilhelmina Tenhunen; sister Elsie Jussila and brother Robert Jussila
Kakkinen, Edwin Olavi	15 Dec 1937 - 15 Dec 1937; shared with Olga Eliina Kakkinen
Kakkinen, Henry	18 Dec 1876 - 07 Apr 1947
Kakkinen, Olga Elinna	22 Nov 1912 - 07 Mar 1913
Kangas, John	unknown - 1918; died Manyberries, AB
Kangas, Olof "Olli"	unknown - 1916
Kujala, Isaac	15 May 1863 - May 1918; born Ilmajoki Municipality, Southern Ostrobothnia, Finland - died Manyberries, AB
Laiho, Baby	1916-1916
Laiho, H W	04 Feb 1922 - 04 Feb 1922
Laiho, Maria	unknown - 1922
Laiho, William	16 Jul 1883 - 16 Jun 1916
Larson, Louie	10 Aug 1884 - 14 May 1933; born Pierce County, Wisconsin, USA ; parents Esten Larson and Carrie Thoreson
Larson, Vivian Mildred	1922 - 1923
Loos, Baby	unknown
Loos, Frank	unknown - 1924
Luopa, Nestor	unknown
Maki, Elsie	unknown - 1937

Maki, Elsie	unknown - 1928
Maki, Lily	unknown - 1915
Maki, Lyla	unknown - 1913
Maki, Lyla	unknown - 1920
Matson, Amalia	02 Oct 1872 - 31 Jul 1955; born in Finland - died Medicine Hat, AB
Matson, Aunee Elvia	1908 - 1938; shared with spouse John A Matson and child Leslie Matson
Matson, Johannes "John"	1901 - 1979; shared with Aunee Elvia Matson and child Leslie Matson
Matson, Leslie	1937 - 1937
Matson, Ole Aleksanter "Olli"	1870 - 1937
Matson, Uno H	1911 -1911
Murto, Lilia	16 Oct 1913 - 25 Oct 1923
Olli, Jack	06 Sep 1883 - 09 Dec 1937; born in Finland - died Manyberries, AB
Piessa, Baby	unknown
Raappana, Baby	unknown
Selander, Baby	unknown
Simonson, Sam	unknown
Star, Allan	unknown
Stevens, Robert	unknown - 1916
Suomalainen, Emil	unknown - 1912
Suomalainen, Mrs	unknown
Suorso, Jakko "Jack"	20 Jan 1903 - 01 May 1985
Tenhunen, John	1897 - 1974
Tenhunen, Laura	unknown - 21 Feb 1939
Tenhunen, Kustaa Robert	15 May 1871 - 2 Mar 1939; born Kiurvuvess, Finland - died Manyberried, AB; spouse Wilhelmina Tenhunen
Tenhunen, Robert Jr	unknown - 1911
Tenhunen, Wilhelmina	unknown - 13 Apr 1931; spouse Kustaa Robert Tenhunen
Tuisku, Mary Karjalla	unknown - 14 Mar 1938; died in Ponalka, AB
Tytarniemi, Paavo	1936 - 27 Oct 1977; born in Finland
Vaide, Alina Johnson	unknown
Vallini, Simon	unknown
Wilson, Mary "Baby"	unknown