



Norton Cemetery Board Meeting

When: November 2, 2007 from 10:00AM-12:00Noon
Where: Community Center
Attendance: Lisa Merrick, Violet Carr, and Darlena Wise

Cemetery conditions: An anonymous letter came out in the Barberton Herald on October 25, 2007 stating that the gravesites and headstones at the Norton Center Cemetery are in need of some attention. This person stated that, “the gravestones are falling over and it is disgraceful to let the individual grave sites go like that”. Interestingly, a response letter was published in the Herald on November 1, 2007. This letter stated that maybe a weekend crew would like to volunteer to straighten the headstones. We agreed as a board that if there were more people involved in volunteering instead of pointing out the cemetery’s condition then much more could be accomplished.

Our city does a good job of mowing, cleaning up, and general maintenance on both of our cemeteries.

On October 1, 2007, Lisa received a letter from one of the members of the Twinbrooks Garden Club. The letter was about the “utter dismay” at the flowerbed at Western Star. The Twinbrooks Garden Club had previously put in the flowerbeds at both Norton Center Cemetery and at Western Star Cemetery. There were never any plans put into place as far as maintaining the beds at either cemetery. Then we were told last year that one of the members of the garden club would be willing to weed the beds and apparently it had not been done. Our board will address this matter in the hopes of making a regular schedule for maintaining the flowerbeds.

Although, just recently, someone from Twinbrooks went to Western Star and did a wonderful job cleaning out the bed around the sign. We truly appreciate her efforts. Ongoing? Not sure...

The work by the city, to be performed at Western Star, was again put on hold. The old stumps need to be ground out and new trees/shrubs need to be added to the old section. There has been talk

of replacing the front fence and a new foot gate being installed.

Perhaps in 2008!?

Many of the headstones in the old section have fallen over and need to be erected and the leaves that blow up against the fence in the corners need to be cleared up as well. While looking through our cemetery file cabinet, we came across a bucket of Set-Rite Compound. This compound is specifically to repair headstones.

Possibly this spring some of the stones that have been broken can be repaired and reset.

A large tree fell across the back fence at the Norton Center Cemetery sometime in the month of July. The city crew cleaned it up and straightened up the fence. Acme was responsible for the cost of the cleanup. The tree fell from the Acme owned property.

In July of 2007, a letter was sent to Norton's Administrative Officer regarding placing the headstone of John H. Suttles into the Western Star Cemetery. This stone presently resides at the Lahr house, home of the Norton Historical Society. The response to our letter stated that the stone could be placed within the old section and the placement is to be coordinated with Ted Weinsheimer,

Superintendent of Public Service. Records are to be updated as far as name and placement of this particular stone.

With the Suttles name added to the list, for the city, and the historical record, it may provide a lead for a family member who has been searching family genealogy, or just, gives this person a name in history... so as not to be forgotten.

Darlana stated that the headstone might need more identification, such as a plaque, considering that the actual person is not buried there.

In August 2007, The Summit County Genealogy Society contacted the City of Norton regarding information on veteran burials at the Western Star Cemetery. Becky Lukats sent a letter to the OGS in response. The cemetery board was given a copy of their correspondence.

The cemetery board received a mailing from the Summit County Genealogical Society regarding two recently completed projects in Summit County. One of the projects is the production of a book called, *"Lest We Forget"*. The book is a 296-page publication telling the stories of 61 of Summit County's cemeteries. These

cemeteries were chosen because many of them are lost, obscure, and unique small family plots, or others still in existence in varying stages of care.

This leads us to...

Other News :

On October 30, 2007, Lisa met with Mario Narbutaitis, Project Manager of Engineering for PPG. The meeting was coordinated to explore possible access, through PPG property, to the Himelrigh Cemetery. It was decided that access would be permitted on a limited basis. Lisa has been given an access code to enter the gate off of Vanderhoof Rd. It is a bit of a rugged walk and drive to the actual cemetery from PPG property. The entire cemetery is fenced out except for private property on the east and west sides. PPG may be willing to make a foot gate available to the public, provided that the owners of the cemetery are identified and are agreeable. PPG would not be responsible for creating access to the cemetery to allow us to trespass.

Judy Davis of the Ohio Genealogical Society was contacted to further research the proper owner of the cemetery. We have a deed

number but during her research through the Probate Court, this number turned up nothing of value.

Judy Davis has asked to see the sight of the Plaque Cemetery. She was told that we would make plans to go visit the sight in the spring.

Paul Garrett came to the Historical Society enlisting help in finding information on the Carpenter family in Norton. He is researching itinerate preachers. We found a headstone in the Plaque Cemetery with that name engraved. We were unsuccessful in finding any more information for him at this time

Next meeting: not yet scheduled

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa A. Merrick". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lisa A. Merrick, Chairperson