

Historically Speaking

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St. Wenceslaus Cemetery, east of Farwell, is one of the oldest cemeteries in the county. It was established in 1876 by Czech settlers.

Rest in Peace

By Julie Spilinek

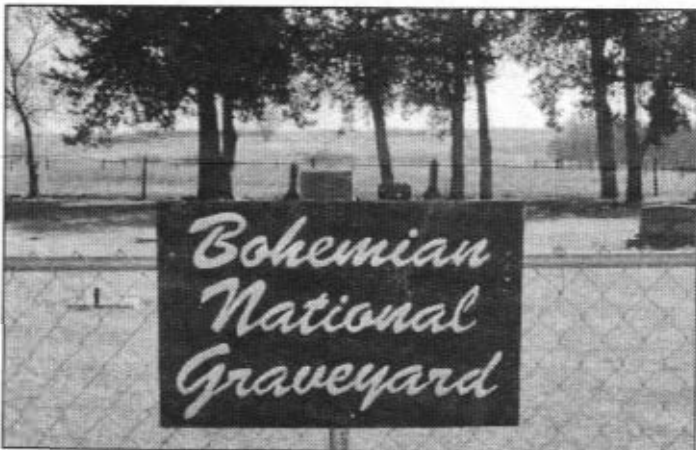
Cemeteries are not the favorite place to visit for most people, however, a significant amount of historical information can be found there. Genealogists frequently use the names and dates found on tombstones to learn about

their ancestors. Occasionally, the cause of death is included. Dorothy Sazama and Charles Wenke compiled a booklet about cemeteries and several private plots in Howard County. Most of the following information has been taken from that publication.

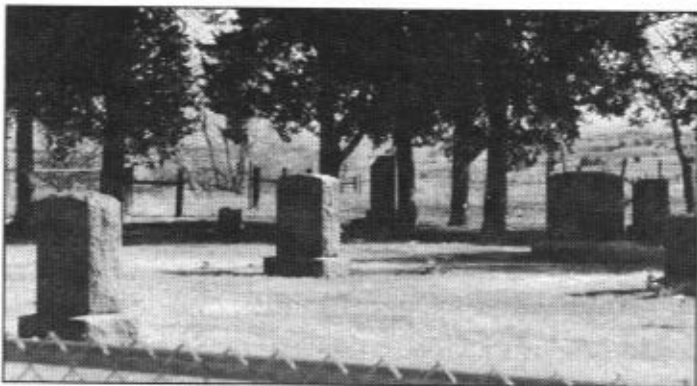
A Message From the President *Jessie Kiser*

It's going to be spring soon. The Historical Village will be open on weekends, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The Village will be open on June 6th so the people here for BRAN (Bicycle Riders Across Nebraska) can go through the Village if they like. We will need volunteers for this day. Please help if you can.

Thanks to Gary Peterson for his years as President and his help to me.



There are about 50 graves in the Bohemian National Graveyard, which is located west of Elba.

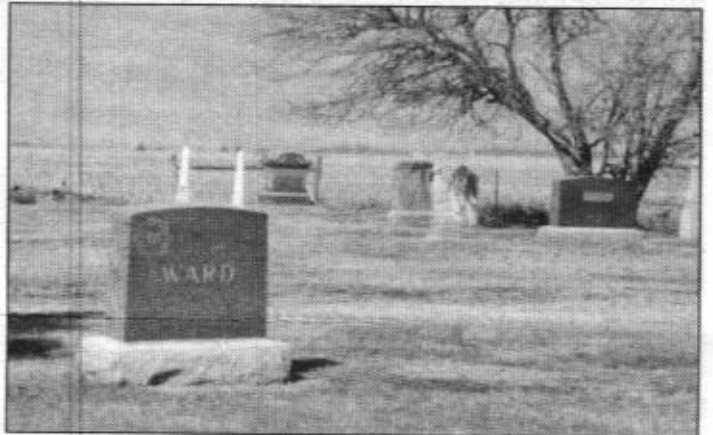


BOHEMIAN NATIONAL CEMETERY

A tract of land (Twn. 15 R11 Sec. 28 NW1/4) was purchased for \$1.00 from a Mr.



Canada Hill Cemetery is located on Highway 11, south of the Midway Corner.



and Mrs. Pokorny for a cemetery for non-Catholic Czechs. Anna Jares, 1880, and Joseph Jares, 1884, are among the earliest burials.

COTESFIELD CEMETERY (Twn. 16 Sec. 30 NW1/4)

On August 30, 1884, a group met to establish a cemetery near Cotesfield. J. M. Parker and M. W. Parker each donated 1/2 acre of land and were assigned lots 38 and 40 as a result. Although the cemetery wasn't recorded until December 30, 1886, burials had taken place as early as August 1881.

CZECHOSLOVAK CEMETERY (Twn. 14, R11 Sec. 6 SE1/4)

This cemetery was established March 25, 1901, on the east edge of Farwell. The first person known to be buried there was a man killed while working on the railroad.



The Elba Cemetery was established in 1894 on land donated by John Holland.

DANISH CEMETERY

(Twn. 14 R12 Sec. 1 NE1/4)

This cemetery was plotted in 1893. According to the earliest records, which were written in Danish, the first burial was Hans Jorgensen, Jr., in 1897. This cemetery is located west of Farwell.

DANNEVIRKE CEMETERY

(Twn. 16 R12 Sec. 28 SW1/4)

This cemetery was laid out about 1879. The first burial was a Sena Olson. About that time a Christensen child was moved from a plot near Farwell to this cemetery. Approximately 300 people are buried there to date.

EBENEZER CEMETERY

(Twn. 13, R12 Sec. 4 SW1/4)

This cemetery was associated with a German Methodist Church located west of Dannebrog. A charter was issued to the church on May 3, 1886. The cemetery was actually used earlier as Anna, wife of Jacob Koch, died on Feb. 27, 1880, and was buried here.

ELBA CATHOLIC

(Twn. 15 R11 Sec. 9 NE1/4)

This cemetery is associated with the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Elba. According to the deed, registered October 27, 1886, Joseph and Rosalia Nadolinski sold 1-1/2 acres to the Right Rev. James O'Conner, bishop of Omaha.

ELBA PUBLIC CEMETERY

(Twn. 15 R11 Sec. 15 NW1/4)

The land for this cemetery was donated by John Holland and the town of Elba has assumed responsibility of it since 1937. One of the earliest burials was Ida Holm, who died Feb 20, 1894 and was a daughter of John Holm. Later, Ralph Spilinek donated a piece of land to enlarge the original cemetery.

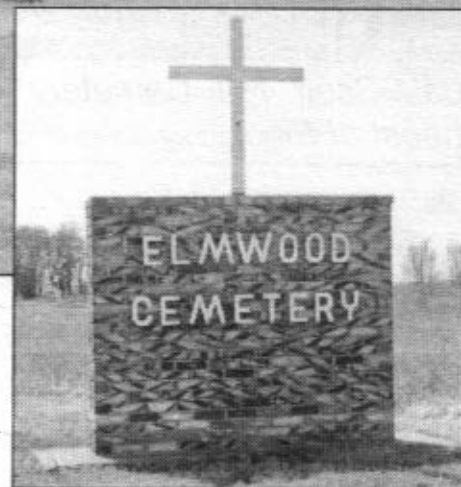
KELSO CEMETERY

(Twn. 14 R12 Sec. 23 SW1/4)

The Kelso Cemetery was laid out in 1895 when land was donated by a Mr. Saha—who is thought to be the first person buried there.



St. Paul has one cemetery, Elmwood Cemetery, located south of town. The former Catholic Cemetery is in the southeast corner of Elmwood Cemetery. The City of St. Paul administers the cemetery.



The cemetery was associated with a Lutheran Church located farther south. A Mr. Peter Boll was the first President of the board; all records regarding this cemetery were written in the German language.

LOUP FORK CEMETERY

(Twn. 13 R12 Sec. 11 SW1/4)

This cemetery was recorded in the County Clerk's office on April 28, 1883, and is located 2-1/2 miles east and 2 miles north of Boelus. One and a half acres of land was acquired from Thomas P. Sorensen for the sum of \$15. Some of the first burial included Mrs. Hans Olsen, Dec. 1883; Mr. Hans Olsen, Jan. 1885; Mrs. Oscar Burman, Oct. 1886. The original officers of the association were Henry Boesen as President, Anders Christensen as Secretary and Jens Knudsen as Treasurer.

MELROSE CEMETERY

(Twn. 14 R9 Sec. 20 NE1/4)

The land for the Melrose Cemetery was bought from J. F. Webster in 1892 for \$5.00 and consisted of approximately 3 acres. The first burial was of Mary Hill Hood in 1892 and is marked by a headstone. Two graves of small children are marked by iris flower plantings.

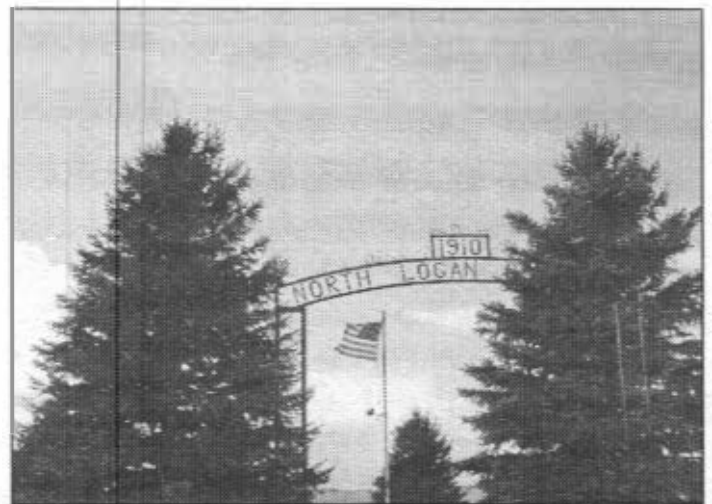
MT. CARMEL CEMETERY

(Twn. 15 R12 Sec. 7 SE1/4)

This cemetery is located near the Paplin Catholic Church. The first recorded burial was in 1885 when a Barbara Sheutera died on October 12, 1885, at the age of 105 years. In 1892 there was a diphtheria epidemic in the area and around 100 children died and were buried here. Father Steir buried 3 Grudzinski children, 5 year old Andrew Bagger, 4 year old Paul Chewiski, 6 year old John Kowalski, 6 year old Joe Roszczialski, 4 year old John



Fairdale-Scott Hill Cemetery is located northeast of Elba.



North Logan Cemetery was established in 1910 and is located on the west side of Highway 281 in northern Howard County.

Novak and 2 year old Leo Klein—all in one day.

NORWEGIAN CEMETERY (Twn. 13 R9 Sec. 13 NE1/4)

This cemetery is located on the eastern edge of Howard County northeast of St. Libory. A church and a cemetery were organized here in 1885. One of the first burials was a Jens Anderson in Jan. of 1887. The church has been discontinued and all the records have been given to the Worms Lutheran Church in Merrick County.

NYSTED CEMETERY (Twn. 13 R11 Sec. 5 NW1/4)

This cemetery was associated with St. Peter's Evangelical Church and established when Lester Sorensen and Chris Rasmussen each gave 1/4 acre of land for it. Although most records are lost, the first burial seems to be that of 3 year old Hannah Sorensen.

OAK RIDGE CEMETERY **OF DANNEBROG**

In June of 1871 when Lars Hannibal helped organize the town of Dannebrog he also donated land for a cemetery. There have been two additions of land since then. One of the earliest burials was of Jacob Kelhoffer in 1873.

ROCK CREEK CEMETERY (Twn. 16 R9 Sec. 23 SW1/4)

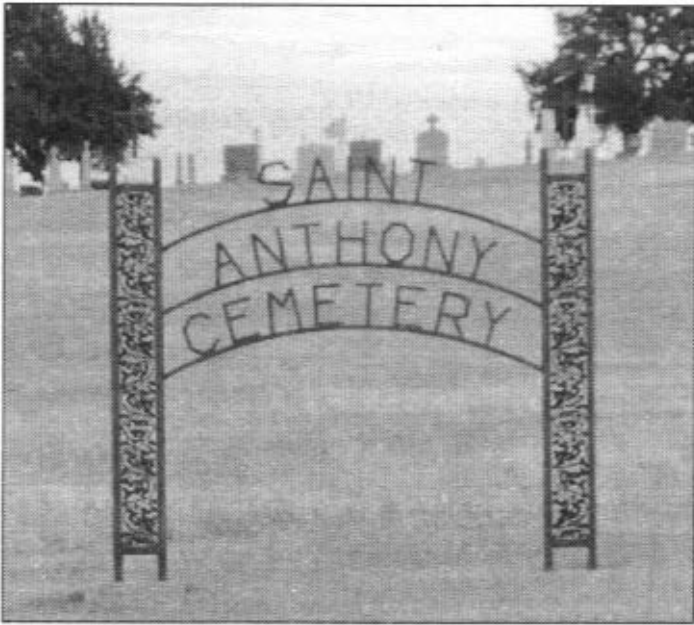
Very little is known about this cemetery, located in the northeast part of the county, as the records were destroyed in a fire. One of the earliest burials seems to be a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Petersen in March of 1897.

SCOTTISH CEMETERY (Twn. 14 R11 Sec. 8 SW1/4)

This has also been known as the Turkey Creek Cemetery, plotted and registered on June 23, 1886; however, a Mrs. Gow was buried here in 1872. At one time this cemetery was associated with a Presbyterian Church located at Farwell.

SCOTT HILL CEMETERY (Twn. 16 R10 Sec. 7 NW1/4)

This is a small cemetery located northeast of Elba. The first marked burial was a 4 year old son of A.D. and A. Cox on Oct. 9, 1872. According to information from Art Voght in 1976 there are two veterans of the Civil or Spanish American War buried here, but with no markers. According to Mr. Voght their names were Mr. Crow and Lou Williams. Mr. Voght's parents and infant daughter are also buried there.



The first burial in St. Anthony Cemetery at Farwell was Mary Ann Zaucha in December of 1878.

SOUTH LOGAN CEMETERY (Twn. 16 R10 Sec. 26 SW1/4)

Like most cemeteries, this one was associated with a church, Lutheran in this case. A Lars Peterson deeded the land in 1909 but the first burial was about 1906.

SPRING CREEK CEMETERY (Twn. 16 R9 Sec. 30 NE1/4)

The following is taken from Ellen Partsch's book, "The First 100 Years".

In the spring of 1873 Dillon Haworth and his little family were fixing up a new home near the home of his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Crow. When the April blizzard bit, they were without adequate supplies and tried to return to the Crow home but lost their way. When found after the storm, Mr. and Mrs. Haworth and their older child were dead, with the small 2 year old daughter still alive huddled beneath the mother. Their burials were the beginning of this cemetery. It is located in the northeast part of Howard County.

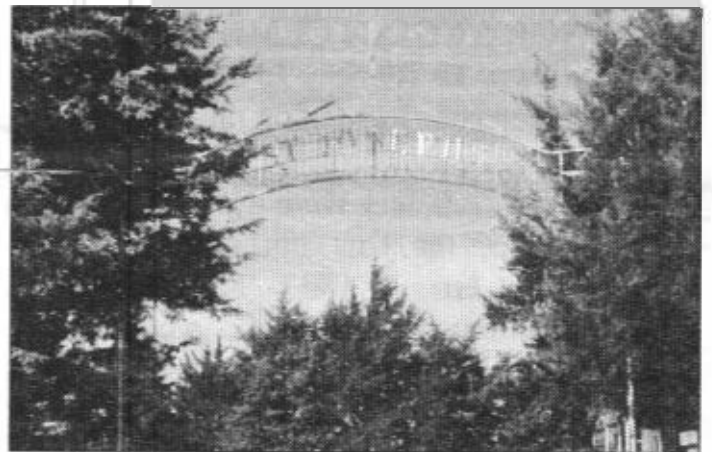
ST. ANTHONY CEMETERY (Twn. 14 R12 Sec. 13 NE1/4)

The following information offered by Father Berger to Sazama and Wenke: This cemetery was associated with a church that was built by a Polish settlement south of the present town of Farwell. The church building was moved into Farwell about 1925. The first burial was Mary Ann Zaucha in Dec. of 1878. In 1883 a Father Sperl was buried without a headstone. A cement slab marks his grave now.

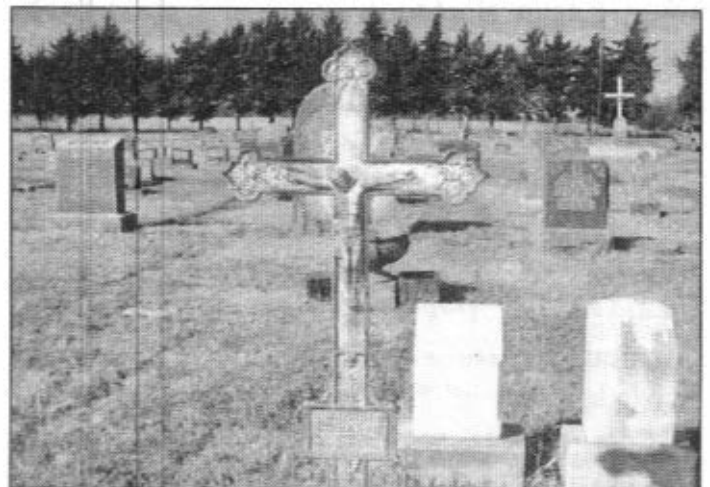
ST. LIBORY CATHOLIC CEMETERY

Information from Robert Evers/Sazama and Wenke.

This cemetery is associated with the Catholic Church that was started by German



St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery at Elba was formed in 1886 when Joseph and Rosalia Nadolinski sold the land to the Catholic Church.





A stillborn Partsch baby was buried in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in September of 1897.

immigrants from St. Libory, Illinois and named after their patron St. Liborius. The first recorded burials were Marcia Ann and Francesca, children of Mr. and Mrs. Worthman in March of 1884. There were burials as early as 1879 when Anton Rickoff was buried. The original charter of the church, the weddings, burials and etc. were all written in Latin.

ST. PAUL PUBLIC CEMETERY

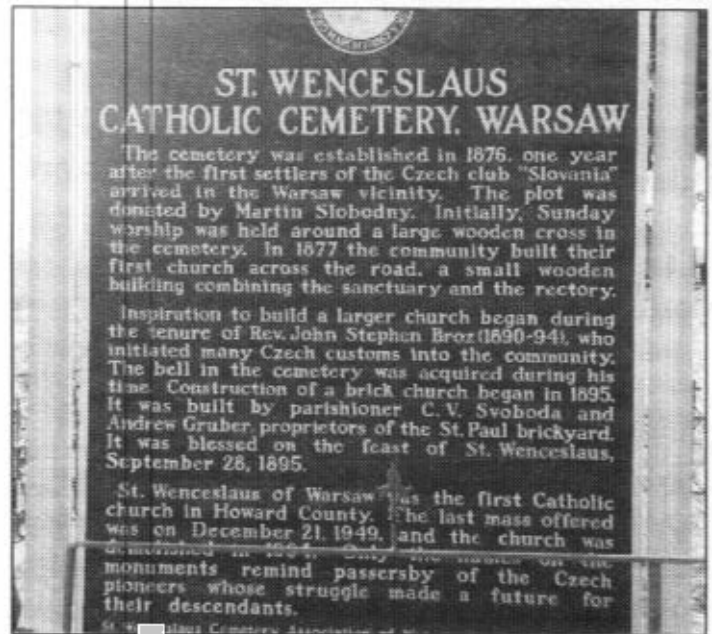
Between 1880 and 1890 a Cemetery Association was formed by some St. Paul ladies to beautify the local cemetery although it was not officially registered until 1904.

STS. PETER AND PAUL'S CEMETERY

This was once a separate cemetery associated with the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and was started about 1896. It is a part of the St. Paul cemetery located just southwest of the city.

SAINT WENCESLAUS BOHEMIAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY—WARSAW

The following information is from Czech Cemeteries in NE Editor Vladimir Kucera.



A historical marker at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Cemetery tells the story of the cemetery that was established in 1876.

Due to the death of Anton Francis' child in the fall of 1876, the Catholic Czech community organized and laid out a cemetery on a plot of 2 acres of land donated by Martin Slobodny, one of the pioneers. The deed was recorded on Dec. 29, 1883. The majority of the pioneers of the Warsaw Czech settlement are buried there. A church was also built, but is long gone.

Anyone with any additional information about the content of this newsletter should contact Julie Spilinek at 308-863-2275.

Found on a tombstone in England:

Remember man, as you walk by,
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so shall you be,
Remember this and follow me.

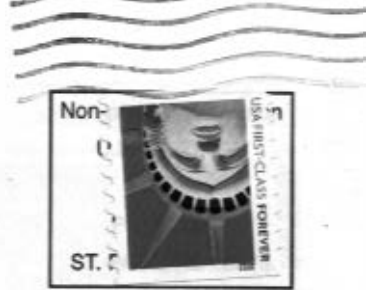
To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone:

To follow you, I'll not consent,
Until I know which way you went.

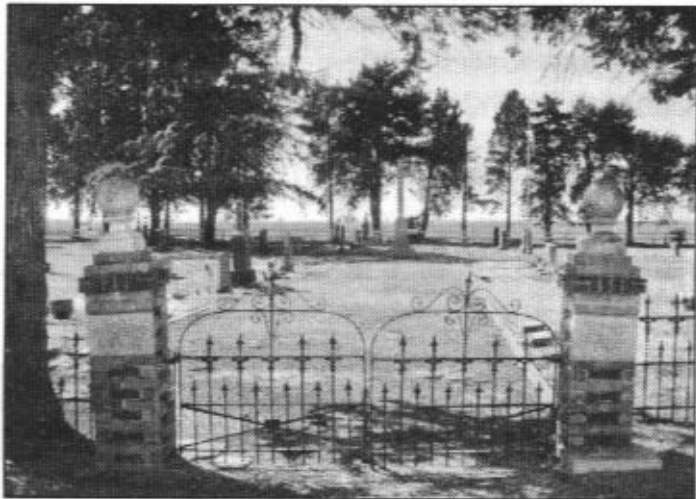
Taken from Farm Show, Vol. 36, No. 2, 2012, Page 5.



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INSIDE: This issue of *Historically Speaking* is entitled "Rest in Peace" and features the cemeteries in Howard County.

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