



Cornerstones

A Newsletter From Oak Grove Cemetery

Fall ♦ 2005 ♦ Vol. 4 ♦ No. 2



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Message from Val Reinke

Executive Director

Hixons visit Oak Grove

Val Reinke

Oak Grove Cemetery exists to provide a beautiful and serene final resting place. We will provide comprehensive services for clients in an environment of trust, compassion and respect. The cemetery recognizes its importance as a historical resource, and is committed to enhancing public knowledge of that history.

We certainly embraced the last sentence of our mission statement in July, when we hosted 150 members of the Hixon Family who were in La Crosse celebrating their reunion. The group toured the family plot and the Hixon Family monument. We'll be celebrating our history again soon with the Silent City tour set for September 17.

Of course, YOU can celebrate the history in Oak Grove Cemetery - stop in and let us show you around.



Hixon Family watching an actress portray Alice Green Hixon.



Historic sites:

In The Cemetery: Hixon Family Monument

Alice Hixon was very conscientious in maintaining the family home at 429 North Seventh Street. In 1962, she donated the home with all of the furnishings and numerous personal items to the La Crosse County Historical Society. The Hixon House Museum is open to the public and provides a fascinating insight into the lives of late 19th century upper class Americans. For more information, call the historical society at 782-1980.

In 1913, Frank Hixon (1862-1931) commissioned sculptor Leonard Cruelle to create the artistic molded copper sculpture of a Mother and Children as a family memorial. Frank, Alice and three of Frank's brothers are buried here. Other Hixon family members are buried in the Hixon family plot in Oak Grove Cemetery.

The Hixon family played an important role in La Crosse business and civic affairs beginning with the arrival of Vermont lumberman Gideon Hixon (1826-1892) in 1856. Hixon had married Sarah Crosby in 1850 in Maine. She died in 1856 not long after they arrived in La Crosse.

Gideon married Ellen Pennell, a schoolteacher, in La Crosse in 1861. She bore Gideon five sons. In 1909, Ellen spearheaded a committee to save Grandad Bluff from a local quarry company. Her two eldest sons, Frank and Joseph, also became active in local philanthropic projects. Frank's second wife, Alice Green Hixon (1883-1982), was involved in La Crosse social and cultural organizations and was the first president of the La Crosse League of Women Voters.

- ♦ Genealogy resources that can help
- ♦ Upcoming events
- ♦ Holiday wreath information and order form



Genealogy: Resources that can help

Have you ever wanted to research your family tree? Where would you start? We asked Jonna Peterson, a member of the La Crosse Area Genealogical Society to give us some tips on how to do it. Watch for more tips in the next Cornerstones.

What are the most common resources? Can the “average person” access them?

While internet websites such as www.ancestry.com are very helpful, you cannot assume that everything you access there is factual. You still need to verify this information. I have looked up records online that have different maiden names or misspellings of names. Birth and death dates may vary and you really need to find the original document to verify this data. Sometimes people submit information that may not necessarily be totally false, but may not be as accurate as you need for a well-documented search. Courthouses, I have found, have great resources but you have to know what you are looking for before you get there. Especially if you are traveling out of town to go to a courthouse, the best bet would be to call ahead and find out what is easily accessible. Make a list of records you want to look up. For example, if you are looking for birth certificates, have a list of names and approximate dates of birth - this helps the research go much faster. Another important thing to consider is that not all courthouses have all records.

Another interesting tidbit is that not all courthouse employees are helpful. While most I have encountered have been very pleasant and helpful, there have been a few who were more on the less helpful side.

The average person should have few problems accessing these types of records if they have basic computer knowledge. There are resources to get help if you are a beginner by visiting your local archive or history room. Libraries are a great resource for getting help.

Learn more about Genealogy...

La Crosse Area Genealogical Society Book: Dig and Delve

Want to learn more about researching genealogy? Get a copy of *Dig and Delve*, the new handbook by Anita Lee Palmquist from our local genealogical organization. The cost is \$5 plus \$1.75 shipping and handling. Send your check to LAGS, PO Box 1782, La Crosse, WI 54602. Or, to save on shipping, you can purchase the handbook in the Archives Department at La Crosse Public Library.

Join the LAGS

If you're interested in joining the La Crosse Area Genealogical Society, go to their website — <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wilacgs> or write to them P.O. Box 1782, La Crosse, WI 54602-1782.



The La Crosse Area Genealogy Society visited Oak Grove on May 24. The group listened to a presentation on the historic mausoleum and reviewed cemetery resources that would aid in genealogy research.



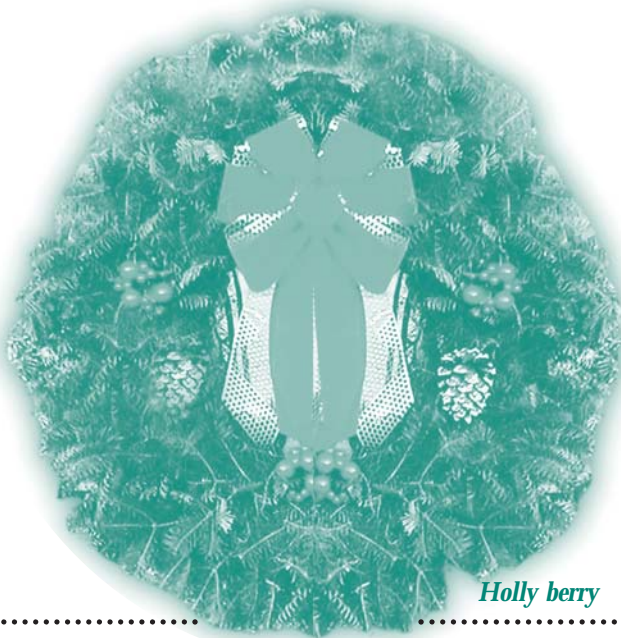
Oak Grove Cemetery

Order your holiday wreaths today

Oak Grove Cemetery will once again offer holiday wreaths for gravesites. These traditional evergreen wreaths are 26 inches in diameter. We will take care of placement, and either tie the wreath to the monument or attach it to a stand on the lot.

Please take a moment to review the options listed below and fill out the form to let us know what you'd like. If you have any questions, please give us a call, (608) 782-6956, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wreath orders received by November 9 will be placed on the site for you by December 2. We will remove wreaths on or after April 1, 2006. Mastercard and VISA accepted. Call us today.



Holly berry

Package	Details	Price	W/tax
Traditional	Red plastic bow, 2 pinecones	\$20.50	\$21.63
Remembrance	Red velvet bow, 2 pinecones	\$26.00	\$27.43
Holly berry	Red velvet bow, 2 pinecones, 3 groupings of red glass berries	\$34.50	\$36.40
Veteran's	Red, white and blue velvet bow, 2 pinecones, 2 flags	\$35.50	\$37.45
Deluxe	Red or burgundy velvet bow w/metallic backing, 2 pinecones, 3 groupings of decorations	\$46.00	\$48.53
Customized	Limited to decorations on hand. Please call the superintendent, Adam Casper, for pricing.	Call for price	Call for price



Note: Wreath orders received after November 9 are not guaranteed placement or fulfillment before the holidays.



Oak Grove Cemetery Memorial Day 2005

As always, this year's annual Memorial Day parade ended at Oak Grove Cemetery. Val Reinke welcomed the participants and invited them to take the self-guided walking tour. Many people stayed for a special service in the G.A.R. Veteran's Section. Oak Grove always has extended office hours throughout Memorial Day weekend, and this year we assisted a number of people - helping to locate gravesites of loved ones and answering questions regarding rules, regulations, services and prices for the cemetery. Stop by and see us next year.



Need to have a monument cleaned or raised?

The grounds crew at Oak Grove Cemetery is available for the following work requests:

Cleaning markers

- Single \$20
- Double \$30
- Monument (up to 5 ft.) \$100

If your monument is oversized, please call us for a quote.

Raising markers

- Single \$20
- Double \$30
- Monument (up to 5 ft.) \$100

If your monument is oversized, please call us for a quote.

Call (608) 782-6956 or stop in today.



Lot Owners Meeting Recap

The Oak Grove lot owners had their annual meeting on April 27. Val Reinke provided a review of the association's mission, introduced the trustees, summarized the various trust accounts and 2004 financial statements, highlighted cemetery services, and announced special events scheduled for 2005. Val also described the new Wall of Honor for Veterans, which was dedicated on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2004. The 2006 meeting date will be announced in Spring, 2006.



Please Send Me:

- General information about Oak Grove Cemetery
- A 2005 price list for Oak Grove Cemetery
- Oak Grove Planning Guide
- Wall of Honor Information
- Rules & Regulations

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

e-mail: _____

- Please have someone at Oak Grove Cemetery call me regarding pre-arrangement counseling or other questions related to the cemetery.

Telephone number: _____

Send to: Oak Grove Cemetery, 1407 La Crosse Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601



