

SUPERIOR HISTORIAN

VOLUME I, ISSUE 3

FALL 2003

NOVEMBER, 2003

CEMETERY GRANT APPLICATION MADE

The Town of Superior has submitted a grant proposal to the State Historical Society the funds from which would be used for restoration work on tombstones in the Superior Cemetery. If the grant proposal is successful, the money will be used to have professional restoration of those headstones in need. Results of the proposal will be made known by November 20, 2003. Anyone with relatives buried in the Cemetery that does not want any restoration done to gravestones should call Jennifer Dunn at the town number, 303-499-3675.



Wm. Clark Age 38y 4 m

A native of Pieta Co., Nova Scotia

A loving father: a Husband dear: Is buried here.

Alas how changed that lovely flower
Which bloomed and cheered my heart.

Fair fleeting comforts of an hour

How soon we're called to part.

"Gone but not forgotten"

THANKS FROM THE COMMISSION

Thanks to Ted and Marge Asti for their monetary donation in memory of Bunny LePenske. Also thanks go to Bob and Jane Morgan for their contribution in memory of Genevieve Crawford.

Thank you to Jim Huchison and the Lafayette Historical Society for their donation of a display case that can be used in any possible future museum

SUPERIOR'S PIONEER CEMETERY, Part 1

One is greeted by a sense of awe and reverence upon entering any burial place, but the panorama visible from one once known as "the Cemetery on Coal Creek" make today's Superior Cemetery especially unique. The eye can't help but follow a line from Long's Peak southward across the Indian Peaks, Arapahoe Glacier, the Flatirons to Eldorado Canyon and beyond. This site, also in view of Original Superior and is dotted with black-eyed susans, yucca, sage complete with cattle leisurely grazing in the foreground, is where pioneers living in this end of the Coal Creek Valley began to bury their departed loved ones back in 1873.

The Superior Cemetery was also once known as the Old Louisville Cemetery and was formally deeded in 1876 even though little two-year old Lottie Eggleston was buried there in 1873. The pioneer farming families of the Superior area decided on the location which was given over to them by the Minks family. It was located on a hill near a freight road that connected the territorial capital of Denver and the mining supply town of Boulder. The Boulder – Denver Turnpike would later be built along much of the route of this ancient road and is known today as U.S. Highway 36 and is also visible from the Cemetery. Following the burial of Lottie Eggleston at least fifty-five other people were buried there, the last one being when local farmer George Shockey was interred in 1949. The Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, owners of local mines particularly Superior's Industrial, acquired rights to the cemetery property back in 1910 and later dedicated the cemetery to Boulder County in 1976. In 2002, the Town of Superior took it over and since has initiated many improvements, especially the construction of a new iron fence complete with prairie dog abatement features.

SUPERIOR HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Chair — Errol Waligorski, 303-499-1657

Vice Chair — Doreen Ruffe

Secretary — Karen Waligorski

Treasurer — Bob Morgan

Many insights into a town's history can be deduced from studying its gravestones. For example, two Civil War veterans are interred in the Superior Cemetery. Although the headstone of Jacob R. Wolverton, who served in the Illinois Infantry, is no longer legible, one of the best preserved is that of James Morton, who we learn was a soldier in the 142nd Pennsylvania Infantry. That unit was mustered out of Fayette County, Pennsylvania in 1862 and discharged in May of 1865. Nothing is known about his service specifically, but his unit served in many of the most important battles of the War Between the States: Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, to name but a few. What is known is that he was related to early Coal Creek Valley residents and that he lost an arm due to an accident in one of the coal mines in Marshall.



The headstone of Private James Morton, one of Superior's Civil War Veterans.

Another lesson from the past is that infant mortality was high here in Boulder County as it was throughout the nation. Sadly, twenty of the fifty-five known graves in the cemetery are of children three years of age or less. Imagine the sorrow and anguish of the parents who buried their young children and imagine especially the grief of the Atkin family as three of their children, including twins, were buried in a matter of eleven months in 1882 and 1883. Their son Thomas was less than two, Charlotte not quite one, and her twin sister Sarah just over a year old. Mary Jane McKay was three years old, Clarence Spicer twenty eight days old, Walter Clayton twenty one days, Harold Harris one month, and a baby remembered now only by the last name, Sheratt, four months. Others too, are remembered only by the barest of descriptors: Searcy infant, Ray baby, Jurado baby.

In all likelihood, child and adult died in the various epidemics that were so common generations ago. In the past contagious diseases swept through the country at a level unimaginable today: smallpox in 1905, diphtheria in 1907, and the most severe of all came in 1918 in the form of influenza. More Americans died on the home front in 1918 and 1919 from this awful contagion than were killed in World War I. This too is reflected in Superior's Cemetery as Fred Willhausen, George Admire, Walter Wood and Albert Eggleston, among others, were buried during those years and are thought to be victims of the epidemic.

Look for the second part of the story of the Superior Cemetery in the next issue of the Superior Historian.

VISITING THE CEMETERY

People are welcome to visit the Superior Cemetery, but are asked to follow proper etiquette when doing so. The cemetery is accessible from the Avista Hospital parking lot. Bear to the left until a dirt road appears at the left of the lot. You can park here and walk to the cemetery or drive on with the understanding that the road is narrow and rough. The road goes under US 36 and up the hillside and the cemetery is obvious at that point.

~Please keep the gate closed at all times.

~Please do not leave any litter behind.

~Since it is a final resting place, please be respectful of the special nature of the cemetery.

~Since many of the stones are unstable, please do not touch or make any rubbings of the gravestones while they are in their unrestored state.

~There is no access from the west due to private property limitations.

~Anyone having questions pertaining to cemetery access can call Jennifer Dunn at the Town of Superior.

MAYHOFFER BARN DESTROYED

The historic Mayhoffer Barn was destroyed in the great blizzard of 2003 which hit so hard last March. Unfortunately,



the nearly one-hundred year old barn with roots back to the founding Hake family, was slated to be stabilized and eventually restored within weeks of

its destruction. The wood is saved and plans are in the works to use it in a future project. Any donations made to the Barn Restoration Fund are now directed to the installation of a plaque on the old barn site.