

# A walk through the Thompson Cemetery

By Elaine Hastings

As I walked through the cemetery today, my thoughts turned to the first time I helped my folks on the very long weeded rundown plots that were our family's last resting place.

Working with my Dad almost cost me my life in the old ancestors plot. I remember Pa saying to get Helen (my, two year old, sister) away from the loose stone of our great grandmother Evaline Hursh. It was a flat upright stone. It now looks so small. I was only 8 years old at the time. I moved Helen and next woke up on our sofa at home, having a difficult time trying to breathe with cold wet cloths on my head.

I think yet today, at 78, I still have a sore spot from it on that side of my head. It is always unexplained after many tests.

But this is not going to be a story on my life, though it will include many of my ancestors. There are five family plots of ours and I counted 3 of the Sellman family, more of the Tuffnells, Browns and Squies. Though different plots, they are all in the same area so it is hard to count how many.

First I want to compliment the Thompson Township Board for the wonderful care they do on the old cemetery. Hiring a man to keep it cut at all times and new roads have been built through it and all graveled making it so much easier to get to one another.

The Secretary of the board has a complete book of all plots so one can find ancestors if the stone has fallen or sunk.

When Floyd Sample was supervisor he had a well dug, so no one has to carry water if planting. He also had a flag pole put up for flags on special occasions, maybe more often, as I don't notice that part too much.

I started walking in on one of the new roads off the Stoor road when I noticed one grave with a very old stone all grown up in lilac bushes. It must be a real old time one. I think it was a Webster, 1882. Next to

it was the Engerbrestens brothers 1883, also with lilac trees. These dates are the oldest ones I made out. I couldn't say if they were birth or death. I do know they were long ago residents of Thompson.

To the left of the way I was walking were two boys, real close friends of ours, whom both died so young, the Nelson brothers. Fred who died of meningitis, at the age of 17 and his younger brother, David, who gave his life for his country. Their father was buried next to them in later years. Their mother shares a lot with their sisters' husband Klinke across the road.

Now on the other side of this new road is a grave stone that has been destroyed with time. I think it was a Cummings plot. Then another unknown to me and then the Stoor, Nelsons, and Flodins. A young Stoor, another who left this earth as a youth, and his sister, Nancy, as a baby. Recent years later joined by father, mother, and grandmother, plus others. Then another Cummings plot and Marlow.

Back to center is a huge stone that Robert Laplante, a USA diplomat who traveled all over the world and has come back home to live in Thompson, has so beautifully erected for when the good Lord calls him to rest in peace. None of his family is in Thompson. Guess most of them have passed away when the Thompson Cemetery wasn't a very handsome place to be.

There are many of us who have plots and stones waiting for the day the Lord calls.

To the left of this is Floyd and Mary Sample and a niece, a De Sautle baby. To the right is our old family plot which includes so many; my grandfather, David Hursh, a Civil War veteran; his mother and sister, both Evalines; only sister a Revore; his son, Charles and brother Wilson.

His son, Charles or Wills as they called him, was killed on the Thompson train en route to Shingleton on a coupling that

came loose. Also buried there was a Hursh baby and F. Sample. A very full plot.

Very few were able to keep up their lots like my Pa and family did. A fence used to surround the place but has since been removed, probably because no more cattle running.

The cemetery now has a very deep slope in front from the main road, with a very beautiful sign made by Wayne Stanley, the local gravedigger, with the help of his sons.

Albert Fragal, Sr., was the gravedigger for as many years as I could remember. From a child, right up almost to his death. I am not sure who did it after but I think Oscar Gundersen helped.

We have so many family buried there it is hard not to make this a personal story. I am going to try to name some of the names I saw on the stones as I walked or limped through: Kinneys, 1859; Sellmans; Richards, 1894; Dufore and wife, 1886-1900; Roberts, 1897; Wager family, (I couldn't make out date except daughter Lean 1972); Larson, 1897; Webster, 1882; Engerbrestsen, 1883; Bouschler, 1849; my grandfather David Hursh, 1898; Smithson, 1899; Hinkson, 1919; Vincent, 1892; Flodin, 1921; and August Carlson 1948.

The following are later date so I will just mention the names: Simooneam Fand M. Sample, Peterson, Tuffnells, Forstner, Ericksons, Poupor, Kittybelle Windandy (whose daughter has formed a full grave cross of white stones), Squies, Bevers, Cripps, Joe Hursh family, Hoaglund, Olson, Edwardson, Anderson, Hawleys, Klinke, and Louis Rebeard (born in Switzerland and buried in Thompson). On to Mary Wackter great grandmother died in 1927; mom, Ella Hursh, 1900; Grandma McDonald; Joe, Leo, Noel, and Henry Hursh. Room for one more in lot.

Ernest Hoholik wife; Pete Hoholik wife and daughter; Demars; Smith; Love Gytte



Above is a view of the Thompson Cemetery site looking towards the Joe Hursh family plot. The sign carved by Wayne Stanley identifies the cemetery today (left). Bob LaPlante is one of the many who have designated their plots in preparation (right).

Passinault; Dobyn Shust, and Perrys. I probably missed lot of the newer ones through most are related to the older ones.

I did forget to mention there were a lot of families that were not related with the same names such Erickson. I didn't mention the Hugo Erickson lot and the Nelson. Both are two families not related to others but they are the only ones I know.

The Peterson, Cummings, Browns, Squies, Tuffnells, are all related as the Emil Nelson Family, the Flodins and the Stoor. All the Ericksons except Hugo and his wife, the Hurshes, Wackters, McDonald, Revores, Schneiders and Hastings are related.

I am going to try to honor all

our veterans that fought to save our country. If I miss any or have wrong war, please excuse me. There was no way for me to tell on most of them which war they were in. I am just guessing by date of death and birth what war they served in, if it is not mentioned on their stones.

David Hursh, Civil War, maybe more but he was only one I was sure of. Same with Henry Hursh, Spanish War.

Paul Huston, Korea; David Nelson, Korea; ES Smart is a question; Byron Peterson, WWII; E. Gray, WWI; Mary Nelson, mother of David, Gold Star Mother; Klinke, WWI; Jack Olson, WWII; Keith Peterson, WWII; Leonard, Vanner, Elliss, Ivan, Bigford Erickson brothers, WWII;

Abram Brown, this was an old timer so I'm guessing he was in WWI though might have been earlier; Wellar Squiers, WWII; Kenneth, Percy, Gerald and Richard Tuffnell, WWII; Arnold Pierce, WWII; Keith Perry, WWII; Paul Miller, Korea; Ed Bell, WWII; Richard Krzyzanski, Korea; Harold Shust, WWII; Arthur Grimm, Vietnam; Henry Smith, WWII; Marken, WWII; Terry Jasmin, WWII; Thomas Wood, WWII; William Foy, WWII; Tomas Arnold, WWII; Duward, Joseph Jr. and Newell Hursh, WWII; Donald Sellman, Vietnam; Fred Swan, WWI; David Rood, WWII; Irving Anthony WWII.

There are also many VFW auxiliary members buried out there by their men.