

Cemetery has vet from each war

By RUTH MOCHIMAN
SPECIAL WRITER

The North Farmington Cemetery is one of the five antique cemeteries in Farmington and Farmington Hills. It is unique because it is still operated by a private cemetery association.

A veteran from each United States war is buried there. According to Wally Christensen of the American Legion Groves-Walker Post 346 in Farmington, there are 133 war veterans buried in the North Farmington Cemetery. Wally and his wife, Lorraine, put American flags on each of the graves on Memorial Day.

From the intersection of 14 Mile and Farmington roads for a mile south to 13 Mile, there was once an unincorporated village called North Farmington. The little village extended to the north side of 14 Mile Road into West Bloomfield. It was a farming township where there were fruit and dairy farms.

On the West Bloomfield side of 14 Mile was the Dickie Milk

receiving station. A milk receiving station was where dairy farmers brought their milk which was then transported to the city to be processed. The farmers were paid by the percentage of butterfat in the milk.

In North Farmington, south of 14 Mile Road, were two country stores, one on either side of Farmington Road. One store had a billiard-parlor on the second floor. Children were not allowed in the billiard parlor lending it a sort of forbidden allure.

At the intersection of 13 Mile and Farmington roads a tree grew right in the center of the intersection. One post office in the vicinity goes back to 1830. The North Farmington Post Office dates from 1850 to 1896 when Rural Free Delivery was established.

Nichols School was a one-room school that educated local youth until eighth grade. School was a gathering spot for neighborhood events. When it was no longer in use, Nichols School burned down one Christmas Eve. With

Improved roads and transportation, the milk receiving station was gone. The last of the stores literally fell down in 1970.

The cemetery is still there. In 1837, the year Michigan became a state, the local farmers banded together to establish a burying ground. The cemetery association was incorporated in March. The officers were Chauncey Wolcott, Orange Culver and John Button.

Chauncey Wolcott, farmer, store keeper and first postmaster of the North Farmington Post Office, was also sort of a preacher. He didn't believe in drinking spirits. Usually when people came to help with a barn raising, alcohol was offered for refreshment. But Chauncey Wolcott was dedicated to the temperance movement.

On one occasion, the barn parts were ready to be raised, but without the refreshments, the workers refused to finish the barn. One of the neighbors finally brought some spirits and the barn was finished.

Orange Culver, whose farm was on 14 Mile, was the first to have his grain milled at the Steelo Great Mill in Sleepy Hollow. Orange Culver carried the grain on his back all the way to the mill to have it ground.

John Button was a cousin of the Buttons who had a farm on the current 12 Mile. He served as one of the North Farmington post masters. His son, George, served under Moses Wisner in the Civil War. John Button moved to Flushing in 1872.

At first the North Farmington Cemetery was called the Wolcott Cemetery. The first grave was that of a young girl. Chauncey Wolcott already had a small cemetery on his land and the remains were moved to the new cemetery.

The cemetery records were lost

and the cemetery had to be reincorporated in 1874. In the early days, funds were raised to keep up the cemetery by local neighborhood events like box suppers where the ladies brought box suppers and the men bid on them and had the privilege of eating with the lady who prepared the meal.

Wally Christensen mentioned a few of the veterans who are buried in North Farmington. The oldest is Revolutionary War veteran Levi Green. He and his wife, Asenath, are both buried there. The Greens came to Michigan in the 1830s. Family members were in both Farmington and West Bloomfield townships. Levi Green was a Ranger in the Albany Company. He fought in the Battle of Bennington.

There are numerous Civil War veterans. George Button served in the Michigan 22nd Infantry. Chauncey Wolcott was a grandson of the first postmaster of North Farmington and one of the founders of the cemetery. Levi Jackway was a blacksmith from the New York Infantry. Another Civil War veteran was George Willia.

Louis Rouse served in the Kansas infantry in the Spanish American War.

The Colman brothers, Don and Dean, were World War II veterans.

There are many more who bravely served their country who are buried in the North Farmington Cemetery.

Ruth Mochiman is a local historian and author of *Heritage Homes of Farmington*.



First place: Tom Kociela on trombone with accompanist Beverly Notestine.

Musical scholarship recipients perform concert

Wonderful music filled the Antioch Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 2, as first place winners of the Farmington Musical Awards of Musical Excellence competition performed their choice selections.

The special Strey-McCallum award was presented to Julia Siciliano for her accomplishment at the piano. Julia performed "Abeeg Variations" by R. Schumann.



Trumpeter: Bill Baxtresser on trumpet with accompanist Mary Behnan at Antioch Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 2. Catch the Farmington Musicales concert on Friday, April 14, at North Congregational Church at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the door tomorrow evening.

Women's program honored

The Jewish Vocational Service Women to Work program was honored recently with a Diamond Award from Women in Communications of Detroit.

"It is extremely gratifying to receive public recognition for the Women to Work program," said Laura Sacks Kohn, program coordinator. "JVS is pleased to be viewed as a diamond for helping working women and is honored to join other illustrious past winners as Plante Moran, Crains Detroit Business and Ford Motor Company."

The Diamond Award is given annually to an individual, business or organization whose policies, practices, advertising or other activities enhance the status of working women.

The JVS Women to Work program helps local residents face the task of starting over after a divorce, death of a husband or because of a spouse's disability. Many participants suddenly must find a job although they have been out of the work force for an extended period of time.

The program lasts five weeks, two days a week, to help participants focus on building self esteem and developing job search skills. They write a resume, learn effective interviewing techniques and develop and implement a career plan, all in a supportive group environment. They also receive an introduction to computer operations.

"Women to Work makes a tremendous difference to women suddenly facing major life changes," said Kohn. "With the support provided through the program, they build the confidence and skills to make a better life for their families."

Women to Work receives public and private funding.

"Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, the Michigan Commission, United Way Community Services and other contributors have long recognized the importance and value of this program," she said.

For information on how to enroll, call Kohn at 559-5000 during business hours.

Farmington/Farmington Hills 50th Anniversary of Korean War Era Commemorative Community Committee 22408 Floral, Farmington, MI 48338

If you wish to purchase a Korean War Era Commemorative Flag similar to the one pictured here, please contact the committee address above.

Veteran or family _____
 Address _____
 Phone number _____
 Service and discharge rank _____
 Decoration or medals _____

Volunteer to talk to schools/history class YES NO

Would you be willing to share your war experience with the local media? YES NO

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