

Scenes from Princeton's Past Event – The August Cemetery Tour Provided a Great History Lesson

On August 26th the Cemetery Walking Tour provided a great insight into our local history. We would like to thank all who attended or participated in the event. Next year's Cemetery Walking Tour will be held August 25, 2018. Following is a brief overview of the individuals we were honored to portray.

Amos Dike was a Veteran from the War of 1812. It is very unusual for cemeteries in our area to have a Veteran from this war buried in it. Amos was born in 1787 in Tyringham Massachusetts and was a member of the local militia unit. His military service records show he was a Private in the Captain Artemas Farr's Company, Vermont State Militia. Following the war, Amos and his wife moved to Green Lake County. He was over the age of 60 when he moved here and records indicated they lived in the Town of St. Marie. One wonders what brought individuals to Green Lake County at that time.

Henriette Schendel and her husband Fred suffered great losses as they had 13 children with only one of the children surviving into adulthood. Many families suffered great losses during those early years as epidemics spread throughout the area.

The degree of detailed information we have on file for our Veterans vary from person to person. However records indicate there are 2 Veterans from the War of 1812, 43 Veterans from the Civil War, 17 Veterans from WWI, 49 Veterans from WWII, 11 Veterans from the Korean War, and 3 Veterans from the Vietnam War, and some Veterans who served during peace time in our City Cemetery. One of the interesting components is there are three veterans who served in more than one war.

Through the Cemetery records search, we found information on Lucy Whitcraft who was born in 1816 and died in 1869. We were able to trace Lucy's roots back to distant relatives born in Gloucestershire England in 1502. As was portrayed during the Cemetery Walk, researching your history can turn up connection with notable forefathers of our nation.

Mrs. Corencke (pronounced as Mrs. Kranky) owned a candy shop in downtown Princeton. A popular spot in the early 1900's Mrs. Kranky kept a spotless shop where the youngsters of the community were in awe of the candy assortment she had in her store. Dressed in her white apron, there was a proper way to get your candy from Mrs. Kranke because if you dawdled too much, she would pick out a selection for you. It was common for stores to be closed during between noon and 1:00 p.m. as the clerks would go home for their noon meal and then return to the store.

The Cemetery tour also provided a stop at the Yahr Mausoleum. Above ground burials were not common however, in the mausoleum there are seven above ground burials. Being an ornate structure in the cemetery, Yahr was a pioneer in the banking business in Princeton. Starting in the 1800's, F J Yahr had a store with a large safe in it where Yahr's acquaintances kept their surplus cash in the safe. This was the start of the banking industry in Princeton as a group of businessmen got together and bought shares in the private bank.

Cigars making was a common business in the early 1900's. Wilhelmine "Minnie" Miller and her husband ran a cigar factory in Princeton. The Miller Cigar Factory produced the Paz de Oro, a 10 cent cigar for more than 50 years. Other brands made were the White Seal, Shoe Peg, Club House and White Birch which sold for five cents.

Ellen Merrill lived for 93 years. Her husband was in the Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War, and her husband Frank served as the County Sheriff from 1888 to 1890. Mrs. Merrill's obituary noted "Mrs. Frank Merrill was Princeton's Oldest Resident" when she passed away.

With the Tiger Brew being a prominent building in the City of Princeton, Carl August Weist was portrayed being the founder of the Tiger Brew, a Brew with a Purr in the late 1800's. While Weist was a native of Germany and a skilled Brew master, he commenced to build his brewery in 1864. Highlights given during the walk included the history of the family and Tiger Brew from the start to the closure of the business.

Edith Mueller was the wife of Dr. Mueller, the local physician who returned to Princeton in 1930. Having his office in the upstairs of the building at 501 W. Water Street, Dr. Mueller was known for doing house calls, was an avid fisherman. Edith worked in the office and was involved in the Garden Club, the Women's Club, the Library Board and one of the founders of the Band Mothers, a group who was able to bring a band & music to the Community. An upcoming article in the Princeton Times will highlight Dr. and Mrs. Mueller.

The Hoyer Family was also portrayed being a family rich in the ministerial history. Two previous articles included in the Princeton Times focused on the Hoyer family and can be found on the City of Princeton website for detailed information.

Adeline Stern was the wife of Hugo Stern, who was a jeweler in town for 30 years. Hugo attended Watchmakers school in Milwaukee and ran his business from the location which was located where Megow Park is now. We have learned that some of our town residents purchased jewelry from the Stern family. A detailed article of the Stern family was also previously printed in the Princeton times with copies included on the City website.

As you can see, there was a great amount of history shared during the Cemetery Walking Tour. The focus of the tour was to bring attention to our rich history of those buried in the Cemetery and the ongoing projects taking place, but also the need to obtain information to expand the background information we have on our early settlers.

If anyone has information on those buried in the City Cemetery, please contact City Hall at 531 S Fulton Street or call 920-295-6612 or email mneubauer@cityofprincetonwi.com or cnickel@cityofprincetonwi.com. All information that is collected goes in the binders and is kept at City Hall. City Hall is also looking for old Year Books from Princeton High School. If anyone has any that they do not want or need anymore and would like to donate them to the City of Princeton for use in these articles please contact City Hall. City Hall is also looking at potentially doing a Second Printing of the 1930's Edition of the Band Mother's Cookbook as a fundraiser for the Cemetery Restoration.

Patty Wianecki as Mrs. Corenke, Candy Store Owner



Vickie Wielgosh & grand-daughter Sophie Buslaff portraying Henriette Schendel and her daughter



Jamie Williams as Carl August Weist, Tiger Brew



Jamie Williams and John & Debra Holmes. Debra is the Great Great Grand-daughter of Carl Weist

