

Volunteers work to restore Mound Cemetery's grounds

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By Neoma Foreman/Special to the Daily Mail



Rich Patton and Don Stockstill clear away brush at Mound Cemetery near Walker.

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The earliest recorded burial in Mound Cemetery of Walker Township is 1866, and the last recorded burial took place in 1928. The cemetery has been inactive and un-maintained for years - until last week. Rick Ribble of Menasha in the Fox Valley in Wisconsin has been doing family research for about 40 years and discovered he had ancestors buried there.

He located the cemetery on an earlier trip, but snow was on the ground and it was very cold, also there was almost impenetrable brush to deal with. That was about 25 years ago, but he knew he wanted to restore the cemetery.

"I knew it was a worthwhile project and something I wanted to do," Ribble, who is an associate pastor at the Calvary Bible Church in Neenah, Wis., said.

He made another trip and located the stone of his great-great-uncle, Henry Ribble, Jr. It had fallen over and was broken. He cleaned and repaired the stone and vowed that he would come and clean up the cemetery.

That was a couple of years ago. Last week, Ribble and his wife, Janice, brought pruners, weed eaters, saws, and a lot of elbow grease and began working in the cemetery after checking at the Vernon County Courthouse to be sure it was OK. They have spent almost two weeks working each day to clear the brush. Janice's sister and brother-in-law, Jacquie and Paul Stambaugh of Siloam Springs, Ark., helped a couple of days. So even though the trees were tall, the family roots went deeper and the Ribble family persevered in their cleaning project.

When word got out that the Ribbles were working on cleaning the cemetery, Marty and Rich Patton, Charles and Neoma Foreman, and Don Stockstill joined them Sunday afternoon. The cemetery is far from finished and the Ribble's vacation has ended; but they still hope someone will continue the maintenance effort.



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