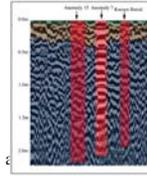


"I believe a man is happier, and happier in a richer way, if he has "the freeborn mind."

Sonic studies conducted by Geosciences Management International of Monmouth, Oregon identified 17 unmarked, **Unknown** graves.

The center portion of the Freeborn Cemetery holds special importance; these graves are "the Lady Saints" (15 & 7 shown as anomalies below) now have monuments as "unknowns." This was a cultural practice not restricted just to ladies of the night, others are also unnamed.

The 1870 Census notes that 1/4 of the men of Snohomish County found Native American wives. Native populations then had an abundance of females as early childhood diseases had a much more lethal impact on boy babies. When Indian wives died, they were often buried in church cemeteries, but only around the borders, hardly ever within. And often their graves were set North-South, not West-East. Compaction clearly evidences these graves surrounding a cemetery should they exist. (Graves are easily identifiable as dug and filled holes are never as hard-packed original soil.) GMI's survey in 2012 found no evidence nor do Church records record Native American Native burials.



Also unmarked were the "dead on arrival" pioneers. Early European immigrants arrived in wooden ships, trading their bodies' and brick ballast filled cabin space (east-west) for cut lumber's return (west-east). Stanwood was then a seaport, its brick streets today a testament. Not all arrived alive. You may be standing (grass lawn) close to graves of an unknown family who reportedly arrived in Stanwood burlap bags. This family was reported infected with Yellow Fever after the ship's landing in Panama. "So many passengers died at sea that these ships were known as Coffin Ships;" page 6, Austin Ryals' *The Two Johns*. This text is a family history of the homestead bordering this cemetery; it was given to us in 2015 and was our first knowledge of the site's Jewish heritage.

Ryals' history tells of a young John Erick "Brun" (changed to "Bruhn" at Ellis Island), son of a German Jewish physician who fled the pogroms to Sweden and later sent his son to the homesteaded land to your left in 1901. As unlikely as it might be, Bonhoeffer Botanical Gardens may be the site of Snohomish County's only Jewish pioneer farm. Its border was just 80' to the west, with gardens honored to tell and retell the Holocaust Story.

This corner of the Bruhn homestead has been long used by the Church as a picnic area. Evidence that salmon once existed at Exit 215 is found in the oldest structure on the Campus, the fireplace found in the Children's Park to your left. This structure was once surrounded (in whole or in part) by a wooden shed; it contains iron bars to "dry or smoke salmon." (Use attested to by Historical Research Associates, contracted to establish the Exit 215 Campus as a historic district. Other uses include: first as a salmon smoker/drier, then as an entertainment site for the brothel, and later for church picnics.) Bricks used match those found in the 1901 Bruhn house's chimney, most likely made in England and brought here as ballast in the bottom of sailing ships.



The cemetery holds many small coffins set next to mothers buried in their old age, some parcels are marked, but empty, memorializing men lost at sea. 31 flags fly each Memorial Day; several have died for their new County, some gay. Many histories are "lies perpetrated on the dead, excluding the politically incorrect." Here in this small cemetery, we have a history of inclusion, a celebration of life lived in a New Land for those "born free" with descendants who fought and died for that freedom. Pray that Freeborn Cemetery, the inclusion of all, and this Pedestal's storyboard continue to exist for we who are free born.



The Unknowns

FREEBORN CEMETERY HISTORY AMONG THE DEPARTED

11 pioneer families created the Cemetery in 1900, each funding \$10 for lots 16' x' 24'. Founders' names were: G. Guldbrandsen, O. Husby, G. Gabrielsen, C. Iversen, J. Garberg, P. Pedersen, J. Somme, E. Husby, I. Pedersen, H. Garberg, and E. Johnson. The counts of individuals by family who have been buried since then: Thomsen (16), Nurmi (15), Garberg (14), Johnson (14), Jacobsen (13), Anderson (12), Pedersen (12), and Pearson (10); although the highest mode count is: "Unknown" (17).



These pioneers first built the Freeborn Elementary School ~1890 (demolished in 1917), meeting there on Sundays until they built the Old Chapel in 1904. The congregation then (and now) are very inclusive, so the circa 1910 picture of the congregation is as noticeable for the men sitting to the right and the women to the left ... as it is for the 8 women sitting to the left and the 16 men to the right. Death in those days was a constant companion. Some worked for the English Logging Company that recorded a fatality a day in 1906.

What happened when someone was hurt (casualty, rather than fatality)? A prohibition speakeasy (and brothel) sits across the road. It was in effect a nursing station to early pioneers, the home of the community's true care givers. History overlooks the fact that loggers, miners, and trappers were not the ones to tend to the broken arms, lonely women hearing voices, the sick and dying or those giving birth and burying their newborns. During the day these "working women" were the "lady saints" and deservedly earned an area in Freeborn Cemetery, graves now marked as "Unknown" as the agreement was that their names were not to be recorded.



FREEBORN RESERVE'S HISTORY PEDESTALS

Pedestals (14 in all) are found on both sides of 300th. With the Farm's 16 Heritage Trailers/Cabins and the Gardens' 16 Kiosks, they combine to provide educational venues, 2 hour outdoor labs (4' at each station, 2' for transit) covering topics rarely taught today in schools. The Reserve honors this area's pioneers, their beliefs and dreams, and the land they settled.

- 1 Preschool & Garden Dreams - 270' to your right/NE
- 2 Haiti Mission Projects - 120' to your right/East
- 3 History Among the Departed ■ You Are Here Now
- 4 Children Park & Salmon Drying Kiln - 140' to your left/West
- 5 A Jewish Pioneer Farm - 420' to your left/West
- 6 Bonhoeffer Botanical Gardens - 470' to your left/West
- 7 Why the Water Testing Pipes? - 600' to your left/West
- 8 Why No Stream in the Gardens?

Freeborn Reserve: Pilchuck Learning Center, Living History Farm, Preschool, Freeborn Church and Cemetery, Bonhoeffer Hall, Sophie's Herbarium and Greenhouse, and Bonhoeffer Botanical Gardens' visitors enter under Washington's Recreational Use Statute - RCW 42A.200 & 210 allowing public recreational use including nature study and viewing or enjoying historical archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites on private, fee-based land. No visitor or admission fees are required.