

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

PLEASE:

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

Type of Memorial

Monument *with* Sculpture
 Monument without Sculpture

Monument with *Cannon*
 Historical Marker Plaque

Affiliation

G.A.R. (Post Name & No. _____) M.O.L.L.U.S.
 W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. _____) Other Allied Order
 SUVCW (Camp Name & No. _____) (Please describe below)
 DUVCW (Tent Name & No. _____)
 Other: Women's Club

Original Dedication Date _____ Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location Old Settlers Road + State Hwy 19
 City/Village _____ Township Berry County Dane

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...

Name _____ Dept./Div. _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Contact Person _____ Telephone () _____

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

Material of the Sculpture = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____
 If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" _____

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

Material of Cannon = Bronze Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm
 Markings on muzzle = _____

Markings on Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? If so, describe _____

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

Monument or Base: Height _____ Width _____ Depth _____ or Diameter _____
 Sculpture: Height _____ Width _____ Depth _____ or Diameter _____

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found _____

The "Dedication Text" is formed: cut into material raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides...) Please use additional sheet if necessary.

38 Trees were memorials to Town of Berry Civil War Vets.
only 3 still surviving

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Courtyard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Town Square" | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Office | <input type="checkbox"/> School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building | <input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol | Other: <u>Along</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus | <u>Road</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | _____ |

General Vicinity

- Rural (low population, open land) Suburban (residential, near city)
 Town Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

- Industrial Commercial
 Street/Roadside within 20 feet Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)
 Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)
 Any other significant environmental factor _____

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments *without* Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with *Cannon*. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (look for signs of exterior rust)	___	___
Any evidence of structural instability? (look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	___	___
Any broken or missing parts? (look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	___	___
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	___	___

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	___	___
White crusting	___	___
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	___	___
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	___	___
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	___	___
Chalky or powdery stone	___	___
Granular eroding of stone	___	___
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	___	___
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	___	___
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	___	___

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? Yes No Unable to tell

Surface Coating

Does there appear to be a coating? Yes No Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

Gilded Painted Varnished Waxed Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? Yes No Unable to determine

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

Well maintained Would benefit from treatment In urgent need of treatment Unable to determine

Overall Description

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on).

Two fir trees excellent
One fir tree top appears dead.

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

Inspector Identification

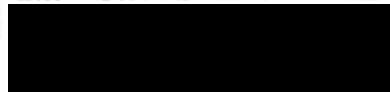
Date of On-site Survey 2007

Your Name Virgil O. Matz

Address P.O. Box 425

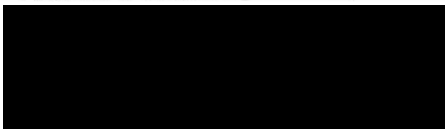
City Black Earth

State WI Zip Code 53515 Telephone



Please send this completed form to:

Todd A. Shillington, PDC



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
 National Civil War Memorials Committee

Old trees mark Civil War vets

by Tere Rios Versace

Three 120-year-old fir trees stand at the junction of Highway 19 and Old Settlers Road -- each dedicated to the memory of a Civil War Soldier.

The three are all that are left of a row of 38 trees planted by The Mothers' Club as men of the area joined the Union Army.

Mazomanie history buff Jeanne Mahony found an article by Genie A. Laws in the Nov. 12, 1931 **Mazomanie Sickle**.

It told how, when the first enlistments were recorded, the women conceived the idea of trees as a memorial. Among the 50 women were Mmes. John Ford, George Draper, Davis (no first name was given), William Seston, John Gray and Roland Roberts.

The first men to enlist were assigned to Company A of the 11th Wisconsin Regiment: John Ford, Frederic Stevens, Robert Gillette, Willis and Steven Porter, John Carter, Kennie, William, Abraham and Webster Emily, James Cutler, James and Hugh Stewart, and Benjamin, John and Joseph Fowler.

Later, George Seston went as a recruit to the 11th Regiment, followed by Friedrich Matz and Christian Berry.

Those who enlisted for two years were August and John Hageman, Tom Bowman, George and James Diment, and William and Frederic Schumann.

Two years before the end of the war, Laban and Timothy Perry, Joseph Hillier, Sgt. Hugh Roberts, Nicholas Mergner, Captain John Nagel and his son, John Nagel, and Henry Bird joined.

Samuel and William Hawley, Emile Roche and John Guenther were 90-day men.

Guenther, according to the story, secured a substitute, who was killed in action. After the war, it said, "John Guenther was disfranchised."

Which leaves a question: if it was the custom in the Civil War for men to pay substitutes to fight for them, why did Guenther lose his vote? And who took it from him? Some court? The local townsfolk? The U.S. Government? It would be interesting to find out.

The name of the substitute was not available when Laws wrote the story. She refers to him as "the 'Unknown Soldier' of his band of Uncle Sam's blue-clad boys."

A tree was planted for each man



who left, and his name on a metal plate affixed to the tree. The nameplates have long since been lost.

Nine of the men are buried in the Sunning Hill Cemetery, up the hill off Old Settler's Road. Among them are Capt. Nagel and his son, Frederic Stevens, killed by a sharpshooter, and Timothy Perry, who died in Libby Prison.

Lynn Seston, who lives on Old Settlers Road, said that his great-grandfather, William Seston, is buried in a private family cemetery a few yards from Sunning Hill.

"My aunt, Inez Seston, took a great interest in that old cemetery," he said. "She used to clean it up, straightened the headstones -- it's a lot bigger than you think, looking at it now, all overgrown and

neglected."

Inez Seston, he said, was instrumental in getting the cemetery turned over to the Town of Berry, so that it would be kept up. It used to be part of the John Ford farm, he said.

Last Memorial Day, when Black Earth American Legion post members went to hold a memorial service there, the road to the cemetery was impassable, so they had to hold the ceremony along the side of Old Settlers Road. The cemetery itself is on a hilltop about 500 yards away.

The gravemarkers may be lost in the weeds, and the nameplates gone forever, but the names of those soldiers live on in Halfway Prairie Valley...in their descendants.

38 Fir Trees Are Memorials to Town of Berry Civil War Vets

Woman's Club Spon- sored Plan in Days of '61

BY GENIE A. LAWS

MAZOMANIE—A memorial to Civil war soldiers of the town of Berry, and one which it is probably safe to say is not duplicated anywhere in the state, is a row of 38 fir trees standing on the east side of a road leading from county trunk K, across the hills north to Dunlap Hollow.

This road passes the present home of Lewis Seston, who, because of his relationship to some of the participants in those events of an earlier generation, is intimately acquainted with the history connected with these trees, his father, William Seston, having given the land on which they stand for this purpose.

Tells of Enlistments

From Mr. Seston the following story was obtained:

The trees are a species of Abies, or fir, and were transplanted from the spot where they first took root in the nearby locality, to their present position, where they have stood, a fitting tribute to the memory of the men in whose honor they were planted.

When the first enlistments were recorded, a Women's club, designated as "the Mothers' club," conceived the idea of this form of memorial.

Among the leaders of this movement were Mrs. John Ford, president of the club; Mrs. George Draper, vice president; Miss Eliza Ann Seston, secretary; Mrs. Davis, treasurer; Mrs. William Seston, Mrs. John Gray, Mrs. Roland Roberts, and others to the number of about 50.

The first contingent consisted of 17 men who enlisted under Capt. Hall, recruiting officer for the 11th Wisconsin Regiment, and they were enrolled in Co. A. These men were John

Ford, Frederic Stevens, Robert Gillette, William Gillette, Willis Porter, Steven Porter, John Carter, Kennie Emily, William Emily, Abraham Emily, Webster Emily, James Cutler, James Stewart, Hugh Stewart, Benjamin Fowler, John Fowler, Joseph Fowler

Later, George Seston went as a recruit to the 11th regiment, and William Matz and Christian Berry joined Co. A. Those who enlisted for two years were August Hageman, John Hageman, Tom Bowman, George Diment, James Diment, William Schumann, and Frederic Schumann.

Two years before the war closed, other enlistments from this same locality were Laban Perry, Timothy Perry, Joseph Hillier, Hugh Roberts, sergeant; Nicholas Mergner, John Nagel, captain; and his son, John Nagel, and Henry Bird.

There were four 90-day men, Samuel Hawley, William Hawley, Emil Roche, and John Guenter.

Trees Are Planted

As the different groups went, trees were planted, each man having a tree which bore his name on a small metal tag fastened to the tree. These tags have long since disappeared but the 38 trees still stand, firm and true to the purpose for which they were put there, and serving as sentinels to the Sunning Hill cemetery, lying but a few rods distant in which nine of the men are buried, among them Capt. John Nagel, and his son. One of the number, Frederic Stevens, fell a victim to a sharpshooter, and one, Timothy Perry, died a prisoner in Libby prison. Now all rest there but three. These are William Schumann, Sauk City; Webster Emily, West Plains, Mo.; Abraham Emily, California.

The question of the Women's club of Mazomanie taking over the work of trimming the trees and placing a suitable marker at the intersection of the two highways, is being considered.

F902B

ME

The MAZOMANIE SICKLE

MAZOMANIE, WIS., NOV. 12, 1931

FIR TREES MEMORIALS TO CIVIL WAR VETS

By Genie A. Laws

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When the first enlistments were recorded, a Women's club, designated as "the Mothers club," conceived the idea of this form of memorial. How fitting that the mothers should be the prime movers in such a cause. Did their mother love look far into the future, and enable them to realize what an ever green memorial to such heroic sacrifice would mean to coming generations, even unto the third and fourth.

Among the leaders of this movement were Mrs. John Ford, president of the club; Mrs. George Draper, secretary; Mrs. Davis, treasurer; Mrs. William Seston, Mrs. John Gray, Mrs. Roland Roberts, and others to the number of about 50.

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There were four 90-day men, Samuel Hawley, William Hawley, Emil Roche and John Guenther. The last named secured a substitute who made the supreme sacrifice, but whose name could not be learned for this writing. Therefore, he will rest as the "Unknown Soldier" of this band of Uncle Sam's blue-clad boys. After the war, John Guenther was disfranchised.

As the different groups went, trees were planted, each man having a tree which bore his name on a small metal tag fastened to the tree. These tags have long since disappeared but the 38 trees still stand, firm and true to the purpose for which they were put there and serving as sentinels to the Sunning Hill cemetery, lying but a few rods distant in which nine of the men "sleep the sleep that knows not waking", among them Capt. John Nagel, and his son. One of the number, Frederic Stevens, fell a victim to a sharpshooter, and one, Timothy Perry, died a prisoner in Libby prison. Now all but three "rest, their warfare o'er." The three survivors are: Wm. Schumann, Sauk City; Webster Emily, West Plains, Mo.; Abraham Emily, California.

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← Should be
Frederick Matz
Co. E, 11TH.
William was his
SON

