

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 with *Cannon*
 Monument *without* Sculpture 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: _____

Original Dedication Date 1875 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 130 South Nottawa Street
 City/Village Sturgis Township _____ County St. Joseph

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 City of Sturgis Dept./Div. Parks and Forestry Division
 Street Address 310 N. Franks Avenue
 City Sturgis State MI Zip Code 49091
 Contact Person Rick Birr Telephone (269) 659-8110

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

The memorial consists of a cannon tube only. The tube was removed from the base due to theft concerns and is stored currently in

 a barn at the cemetery.

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.) _____

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)	___	<u>X</u>
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)	___	<u>X</u>

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...	___	___

Concrete base for the mounting of the howitzer tube is broken and in need of replacement so that the cannon can be properly and securely replaced.

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

Surface Coating

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

Overall Description

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .
 The memorial is a howitzer tube that was originally mounted on a concrete base using a rough angle iron framework.
 The base has degraded with time and cemetery officials were concerned about theft, so the tube was removed and put
 into storage. Presently the tube is safe, but in dire need of restoration and replacement to its proper place in the GAR
 plot of Oaklawn Cemetery in the City of Sturgis, Michigan.

Supplemental Background Information

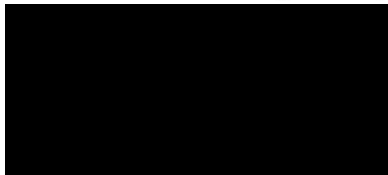
In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation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

Inspector Identification

Date of On-site Survey December 12, 2008
 Your Name Bruce S. A. Gosling
 Address 20388 US Hwy. 12 City White Pigeon
 State MI Zip Code 49099 Telephone [REDACTED]

Please send this completed form to:

Kevin P. Tucker, PDC, Chair



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

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

Burial Sites Afford Clue

By CAROL ANKNEY
Journal Staff Reporter

Cemeteries, this Memorial Day, will be ablaze with color, when the annual pilgrimage to decorate the graves of loved ones takes place. In particular, the populace will lay wreaths on the graves of veterans of all wars for their devotion and service to our country.

The marching bands, trumpets and speakers will be heard at the larger cemeteries in the county. But, in many small plots of ground dotting the roadsides of St. Joseph County, a quieter Memorial Day will be observed.

But for the steadfast devotion of organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Posts, Daughters of American Revolution and St. Joseph County Historical Society, the graves of many of our soldiers would be forgotten and lost in time.

The small township cemeteries are becoming a page of history — though some burials are still made in the small acreages. There is not adequate room for burials and many people choose to be interred at the larger cemeteries nearer cities and villages.

The township cemeteries were an early scene of pioneer life in St. Joseph County. Most of these cemeteries have headstones dating back to the early 1800s — surveyors were here in 1825 and many of the established township cemeteries were being used in 1830.

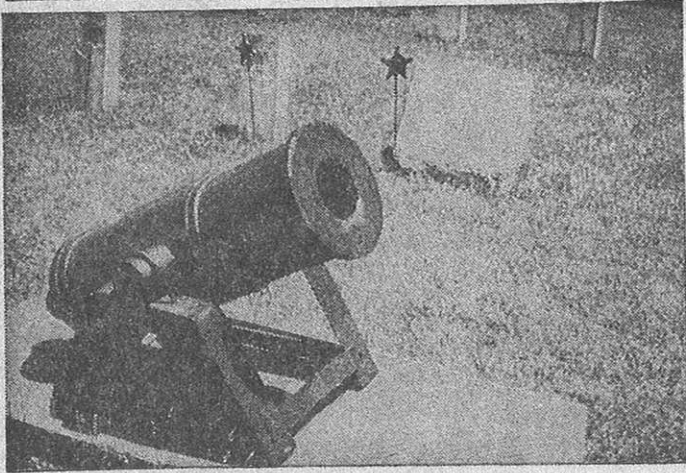
Cemeteries came under the jurisdiction of secular society in the 1830s in the United States, when more stringent regulations were needed to prevent the spread of disease. Before then, cemeteries were an adjunct to churches and one was buried, usually in a winding

sheet, in the churchyard.

Paupers were buried outside the churchyard, in potter's fields. At one time, persons who committed suicide were buried under crossroads, the custom coming from the "old countries."

In Western Europe, especially, the same burial places were used over again, as few headstones were used. There usually was ample room for churchyard burials. Today, many people term the traditional cemeteries "marble orchards" because of the many tombstones.

An unhurried stroll through the small, serene township cemeteries in the area provides an interesting look at life in another time. One finds a family who lost several small children in the space of two years. Closer check on census records reveals they held firm their faith, conquered adversity and remained to build a home. The old tombstones provide, sometimes, the only link in the lineage of a family; many early township cemetery records have been lost.



REMINDER OF CIVIL WAR BATTLES

Howitzer Stands Guard Over Sturgis Veterans

In 1875, the State of Michigan gave a howitzer to the Township of Sturgis, to be placed at the cemetery. Today, this monument stands guard over the graves of veterans of several wars.

It also stands in reminder that Decoration Day, or Memorial Day as it is now known, was first observed on May 30, 1868, when Gen. John A. Logan, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued an order designating that day as one on which the graves of soldiers who had fallen in the Civil War would be decorated. In time, May 30 became known as the day on which all soldiers would be honored. Though we observe Memorial Day on May 28 this year, to most Americans May 30 is a hallowed day set

aside in their minds and hearts.

In the photo above, one can see the tombstone of Pvt. Alonzo Bacon, who fell in the battle of Thompson's Station, Tenn., on March 5, 1863. The original marker which stood at the site was erected by Bacon's tent mate, Pvt. Franklin G. Rice, also of Sturgis. Bacon's body does not rest below the marker, nor does he lie in a marked grave at the National Military Cemetery at Stone's River, near Murfreesboro, Tenn., where the dead of that Civil War battle are interred. It is presumed that his body was never recovered.

Sturgis also lost another son in that battle — Pvt. DeWitt C. Greenman. Pvt. George C. Cole also was wounded, but returned home to Sturgis with Rice.



Locate Graves Of Revolu

The grave of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolutionary War is located in the churchyard of the Old Presbyterian Meetinghouse, Alexandria, Va. But there are seven known Revolutionary War veterans buried in cemeteries in St. Joseph County.

Though the efforts of the St. Joseph County Historical Society, a list has been compiled for future records. The men and G

TWO-PRICE POLICY U

Township Duties, C

The supervision and costs of burials in township cemeteries are governed by the individual township boards. Though few



12/12/2008



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