

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

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

☐ Monument ☐ with Sculpture ☐ without Sculpture ☐ with Cannon ☐ standalone Cannon
☐ Historical Marker ☒ Plaque ☐ Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Note: try to record items separately. Cannons near monuments should be recorded & photographed separately, etc. Thank you.

Affiliation

☐ GAR ☐ MOLLUS ☐ SUVCW ☐ WRC ☐ ASUVCW
☐ LGAR ☐ DUVCW ☒ Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

Citizens of Warren County to Preserve Their Memory and Dignity

Original Dedication Date 4 Nov 2023

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

Harmoniie Church Cemetery

The Memorial is *currently* located at: 24924 S Stracks Church Rd

Street/Road address or site location _____ GPS Coordinates 38° 46'03.36 N 91° 03'50.45W

City/Village &/or Township Innsbrook

County Warren County State MO Zip Code 63390

The front of the Memorial faces: ☐ North ☐ South ☐ East ☐ West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name Harmonie Church

Dept./Div. _____

Street Address 24924 S Stracks Church Rd

City Innsbrook State MO Zip Code 63390

Contact Person _____ Telephone (636) 734-5443 ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places ☐ Yes ☐ No ID # if known _____

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = ☐ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

Material of the Sculpture ☐ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Other Is it hollow or solid? _____

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

For Historic Marker or Plaque: Granite Stone

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

For Cannons with/without monument:

Material of Cannon = _____ Bronze _____ Iron _____ Type of Cannon (if known) _____

Rifled _____ Yes _____ No _____

Markings: Muzzle _____ Base Ring/Breech _____

Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? _____ Yes _____ No _____

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] _____ Yes _____ No _____

For Other Memorials: (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial _____

Materials of the Memorial _____

Complete for All Memorials

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

12 inch _____ Height 24 inch _____ Width 3 inch _____ Depth or _____ Diameter _____

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) 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 _____

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

Burial Site of Unknown Soldiers 1861-1865

Dedicated by Citizens of Warren County to PReserve Their Memory and Dignity 11-4-2023

Environmental Setting

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

Type of Location

☒ Cemetery ☐ Park ☐ Plaza/Courtyard ☐ "Town Square" ☐ Post Office
☐ School ☐ Municipal Building ☐ State Capitol ☐ Courthouse ☐ College Campus
☐ Traffic Circle ☐ Library Other: _____

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 NEW

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Submission of this form requires at least one type of identification so that you may be contacted regarding the information on this form. This information will most likely be in the public domain. Your name is required; please include one (or more) pieces of contact information.

1. If a member of an Allied Order, the name of your camp, auxiliary, tent, circle or corps; along with your department;
2. Physical Address;
3. Phone Number
4. E-Mail address.

By submitting this, you are allowing the posting of this information on the internet.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 11-4-2023
 Your Name Craig Mathews Sr.
 Address _____
 City Ballwin State MO Zip Code _____
 Telephone () _____ E-Mail craig.mathews0124@gmail.com

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

General Ulysses S Grant Camp 68, Missouri SUVCW

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. Photographs & GPS Co-ordinates are very much desired.

Pages 4 & 5 attached to this electronic file are the Monument's Condition and the Narrative forms. Only the Monument's Condition form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Please mail (or e-mail pdf, and picture files) to:

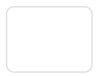
Walt Busch, PDC, Chair, 1240 Konert Valley Dr., Fenton, MO 63026, cwmemorials@suvchw.org (314) 630-8407

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Civil War Memorials Committee.

>This form may be photocopied.<

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WARREN COUNTY

Unknown Civil War soldiers honored thanks to work of two Warren County women



(https://epsilon.creativecirclecdn.com/warren/original/20231107-155634-IMG_9879.JPG)

Kelley Wright and Linde Flanders lay wreaths on the newly-dedicated stones marking the mass grave of Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery at Harmonie Church.

JASON KOCH PHOTO



Posted Monday, November 13, 2023 6:00 am

By Jason Koch, Editor

One-hundred and sixty years ago, this was a community divided.

The Civil War raged across the United States (<https://www.britannica.com/event/American-Civil-War>), threatening to tear the young nation apart.

Warren County wasn't spared, nor were the young men fighting in what remains the deadliest U.S. war in the nation's history.

That war killed approximately 620,000 Americans. For context, that's roughly as many Americans were killed in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

And many families never knew what happened to their loved ones, whether they wore Union blue or Confederate gray.

Many were buried in unmarked graves left to be forgotten to history.

One of those graves is in the cemetery at Harmonie Church in Innsbrook (<https://www.harmoniechurch.com/history>).

"They don't know how many young men are in there, but they do know that some are from the Confederacy and some are from the Union," Kelley Wright said.

Wright, who serves as the sales manager for The Warren County Record, had visited the church in July not long after she had started at the newspaper hoping to build a relationship and help the congregation market its services.

While she was at that meeting, she learned of the grave marked solely by a large rock in the ground. No one knows much about the mass grave.

No one knows how many bodies are buried in it.

No one knows when they were buried.

No one knows what those soldiers did in Warren County during the war.



(/uploads/original/20231107-155805-IMG_9831.JPG)

All that is known is that the bodies of both Union and Confederate soldiers lie at rest together, and that they died of diphtheria, a serious infection of the nose and throat that today is easily preventable but in the 1860s was often fatal.

It made Wright, a mother of four including two boys in their 20s, wonder how the mothers of those buried so unremarkably must have felt when their sons never came home.

“I was thinking how I would have felt had my children been off fighting a war and something happened to them and they were just laid to rest, unknown, unaccounted for and it just would not go away,” she said.

So she called her new friend, Linde Flanders (<https://www.warrencountyrecord.com/stories/this-hidden-hero-does-gods-work-to-help-wright-city-and-warren-county,67436?>), and said something had to be done.

“She said it just really touched her mother’s heart,” Flanders said.

The two women spent the next several weeks working to acquire proper stones to identify the grave site and to prepare a ceremony to recognize the soldiers who had for more than a century been forgotten by almost everyone.

But for Flanders and Wright, the ceremony was more about honoring the Civil War dead. They wanted to bring the community together and help heal the rifts that have the nation more divided than at any point since the end of the great American war (<https://www.ussc.edu.au/america-more-divided-than-at-any-time-since-civil-war>).



(/uploads/original/20231107-155758-IMG_9818.JPG)

Rallying the community

The project, which Wright called “a labor of love,” ended up involving several members of the community.

“We went to the VFW meeting and asked for some funding and one of the guys said ‘well, we need to pass the hat,” Flanders said. “He took his hat off and they passed it and they gave us a huge donation. And then we went to the Marine Corps League meeting and they did the same thing.”

In the end, a number of local groups helped make the dedication happen, including Warrenton Marine Corps League, Warrenton VFW, Marthasville American Legion, Innsbrook Historical Society (<https://www.warrencountyrecord.com/stories/wright-city-middle-school-students-take-a-step-back-in-time,89172?>), Moment of Grace Florist, Warrenton High School, Wright City High School, Dave Roper, and Jerry Prouhet.

The community support was “amazing,” Wright said.

“The love and support the people in this community have shown for this project, they just all opened their hearts,” Flanders said.

Roper, for instance, drove from his home in East Alton, Ill., to Huntsville, Ala., to pick up the two new grave markers. Members of the church and Warren County Sheriff’s Department deputies helped get the two 140-pound stones from the truck to the site. And Prouhet took care of digging the holes and leveling the stones.

“I think we’re living in a time of such sadness and violence and division that I feel like the community really needed something to rally around,” Wright said. “Something that

meant peace, something that meant love, something that meant companionship, something good.”



(uploads/original/20231107-155741-IMG_9965.JPG)

The community comes together

The ceremony did rally the community. The day of the ceremony, Nov. 4, a huge crowd came out, filling the small church parking lot and requiring some attendees to park across Stracks Church Road.

Some were dressed in their service uniforms. Re-enactors proudly wore their blue and gray. Some wore the clothes of a civilian, grateful to pay tribute to the service of those buried.

“The ceremony was everything it was supposed to be,” Wright said after the event. “It wasn’t about Union and Confederacy. It wasn’t about a nation divided. I was about coming together to honor young people who fought for what they believed in and to recognize them.”

During the ceremony, songs were sung by Wright City High School student Hailey Patterson, prayers were said by the church pastor the Rev. Doug Kraus, a poem was read (<https://allpoetry.com/The-Blue-And-The-Gray>), and two wreaths were laid – one of blue flowers laid for the Union soldiers, one of yellow flowers for the Confederate soldiers.

It also featured four Warrenton students playing Taps on an echo.



(/uploads/original/20231107-155703-IMG_9932.JPG)

“I was glad to be here and to be able to support our community,” Warrenton High School senior Roy Briggs said.

“I’m going to be glad that this is something I’m a part of,” sophomore Joe Buechner said.

“We’re just really glad to be a part of this community and to be able to be a part of the ceremony,” freshman Malia Hopper said.

That community spirit carried over to everyone present.

“For future generations, they can come out and see this and understand what happened, what went on at that point,” Civil War re-enactor Gary Dunakey said, wearing his blue Union uniform.

“We need to recognize these men for their sacrifices,” Ray Cobb said, another re-enactor in the gray uniform of the Confederacy.

The two re-enactors stood shoulder to shoulder, emulating what happened more than a century earlier when the soldiers from both armies were buried together.

“We had Union and Confederate soldiers out there talking and laughing,” Wright said. “I hope that feeling continues and branches out into our community.”

About the author: Jason Koch is the editor of The Warren County Record, and covers local news and government for the newspaper. He has won multiple awards from both the Indiana and Illinois APME and from the Illinois Press Association. He can be reached at 636-456-6397 or at jason@warrencountyrecord.com



UNKNOWN
UNION SOLDIERS



UNKNOWN SOLDIERS
CONFEDERATE STATES ARMY

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MARGARET BRANDT-JOHN BRANDT
SEPT. 15, 1845, JUNE 3, 1838,
APR. 28, 1914. NOV. 5, 1910.



































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