

Local

Wingville Cemetery gets historic marker

Chapter Regent (President) Meschelle Cookson welcomed the crowd and introduced herself, and then the individuals accompanying her near the marker, which were Chapter Vice Regent Roberta Morin, Chapter Chaplain Wilma Johnson, Chapter Secretary Theona Hambleton, Chapter Registrar Lynne Zwanziger, Honorary State Regent Ellen Hopkins, and flag bearer Dave Hunsaker.

Cookson said this dedication is a "...first for the Lone Pine Tree Chapter. Maybe not the last, but, certainly the first historic marker dedication," and explained that Hopkins is also the State Historic Preservation Chair and the Northwest Division Historic Preservation Vice Chair.

Cookson introduced Hunsaker as the “HO-DAR” of Joyce Hunsaker, prompting some laughter from the crowd. She elaborated on the acronym, which means Husband Of A Daughters Of The American Revolution member.

She said, “And, the only time we’re allowed to say the word DAR is in the term HODAR. And, if it weren’t for a lot of HODARs, we would not be able to be here today. And, we’re very thankful for their participation, as well.”

Cookson introduced other Chapter members in the crowd, including Programs Officer Carol Guthrie, Historian/Public Relations Officer Dorothy Robertson, Lillian Densley, Ethelyn Williams (the organizing Regent of the Chapter on April 22, 1995), Joyce Hunsaker, Cherlyne Allen, Treasurer Shirley Simmons, Kathryn Pitcher, Joan Smith, and State Historian Tami Snedden.

Cookson said, "Bill Harvey, our (Baker County) Commissioner, came to join us today, and, it's a

great honor." After introducing other attendees, she asked those present to join her in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed immediately by singing of the "Star Spangled Banner," led by Morin.

Hopkins led the dedication, including the following words: "Early pioneers of the Oregon territory settled in this community called Wingville ... The cemetery was established by Wingville Grange No. 150, which purchased 10 acres from Tom Bailey and his wife, for a two dollar gold piece, on April 8, 1878. On December 8, 1883, the trustees of Wingville Grange No. 150 deeded 2 ½ acres, for \$50, in the northwest corner of the cemetery, to Wingville IWOFF Lodge 59.

“On behalf of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the Oregon State Society Of The Daughters Of The American Revolution, it’s this Honorary State Regent’s and Historic Preservation Chairman’s honor to dedicate this Wingville Cemetery marker. To all who pause in this place, may this marker make the effective voice of the memorial.

“May it remind them of the nobility of lives who lived in service to our nation, and make them aware of the ever continuing cause of selfless service. May this site keep alive the appreciation of our Godly heritage. In the name of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, we dedicate this marker.”

Hambleton and Zwan-
ziger pulled a red and
white cloth cover from the
stone marker, which was
followed by enthusiastic
applause from the crowd,
and then prayer, led by
Johnson.

The marker, produced by Dennis Teskey of Stone Tributes in Baker City, reads: "Wingville Cemetery. On April 8, 1878, this property was purchased by the Wingville Grange No. 150 for a two

dollar gold piece. Placed by Lone Pine Tree Chapter NSDAR 2015.”

Before the crowd dispersed, Cookson said, "Prior to us leaving, can we please take a moment of silence for the September 11 14th anniversary." She thanked everyone present for their efforts associated with the dedication.

The marker can be seen near the Wingville Cemetery sign, located 10 miles northwest of Baker City, off of Wingville Lane. The sign reads: "Wingville Cemetery, 1878-1962. The community of Wingville was settled in 1862. Its name originated from the southern Democratic settlers who were considered the 'right wing' of the Confederate Army. A diphtheria epidemic in 1878 created a need for a cemetery. Many graves are unmarked. Most wooden markers were burned in range fires. There are records of 135 burials."

According to Lone Pine Tree Chapter documentation, the Chapter, part of OSSDAR and the National Society Of The Daughters Of The American Revolution (NSDAR), supports “National DAR Schools; our local and state youth through school historical essays and scholarships; Chemawa Indian School; our local, state, and national veteran’s organizations and hospitals; promotion of adult literacy; state DAR museums; and preservation of genealogical records.”

The objectives of DAR are historic preservation, promotion of education, and patriotic endeavor.

The Lone Pine Tree Chapter's monthly open meetings are held alternatively at the Sunridge Inn Restaurant in Baker City, and the Flying J Restaurant in La Grande, on the second Friday of each month.

A no host lunch, at the Sunridge Inn at 11:30 a.m., followed by the Chapter meeting at noon, was held after the dedication.



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Members of DAR stand beside the newly unveiled marker.



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

The ladies in red were visible from a distance along Wingville.

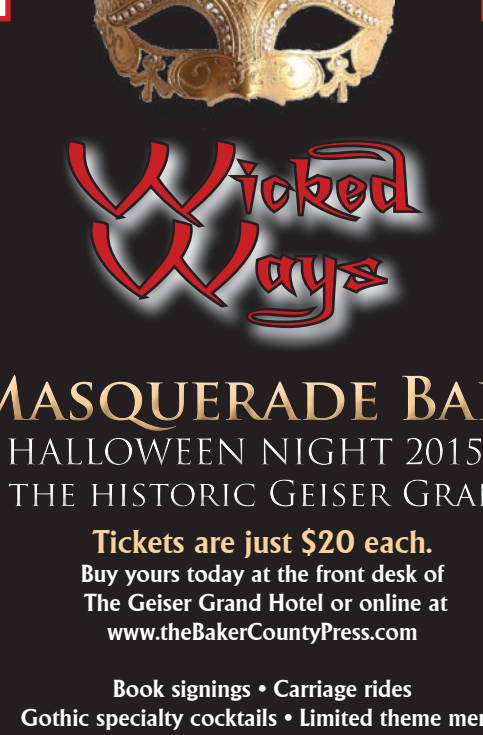


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