

Living On a Lake in the Country: The Fishhawk Lake Cemetery

By Gayle Rich-Boxman

Some people think it's creepy walking through a cemetery, but I find



it to be an area filled with peace and interesting bits of history scattered throughout. In looking at Fishhawk Cemetery, there are many monuments and stones with names of old families in the Birkenfeld and surrounding areas that are still around. These keepers of history tell of simpler times in our local community, share the love of someone missed and honor people who were deeply loved. The variety of artwork in the stone carvings and etchings made it a pleasure to photograph. Looking at the dates of some of them, took me back hundreds of years. There are even two stones side-by-side of two generations of the same family who gave their lives

for our country.

This cemetery is off the beaten track. You meander up a gravel tree-lined road, which is also a great place for horseback riding. I took my horse, Summer up there and we quietly walked through the gate into the cemetery for a moment of shared solitude. She found a tall monument, and we both slowly walked up to it with her leading. She and I stood beside it; I reading it while she sniffed and then licked it, much to my surprise! She obviously found something special about that large stone. Being part of this moment felt very sweet and tender.

There is a huge, gracious old tree guarding the entrance and on another side of the cemetery stands a grove of gorgeous alders all lined up like soldiers watching over the



cemetery grounds.

Walking through a cemetery can give you pause to ponder your own life. It might make you think about those whom you have lost, and treasure those in your life that you love who are still with you. It can bring up thoughts about the goals you've set in your life. Maybe you realize that some of those that were important earlier in life aren't so important anymore. Quality of life as well as quantity of life is a goal that can arise as a result of thinking about others who are no longer living. If you can approach this with a different mindset, you might

be surprised by the emotions of awe, calmness and love that you will feel. After all, it's just two worlds interconnecting: the "passed" and the present!



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