

Spring 2016



Nebraska's Historic State Cemetery

Wyuka and Lower Platte South NRD Team-Up for Kids

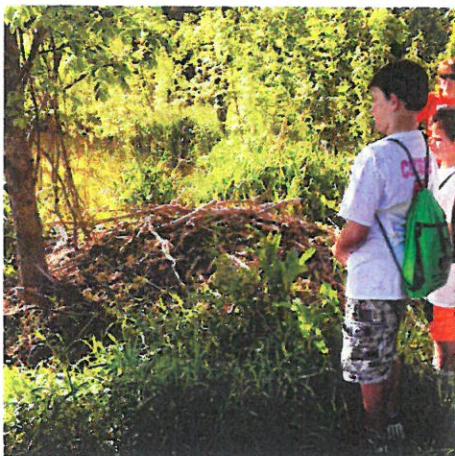
For over 15 years, the fifth grade class of Belmont Elementary School has made a field trip to Wyuka in early May. This year the field trip was on May 3rd and the kids were able to enjoy beautiful sunshine and warm temperatures. There were 96 students and several faculty joining in the field trip. Part of the day staff from the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District help the kids explore and learn in the wetland/pond area on the east side of the Wyuka.



WHF board members with support from some spouses provide and prepare a lunch of grilled hot dogs, chips, cookie and water. A vegetarian option is available to meet the diverse needs of students attending the school located on North 14th Street in the Belmont Neighborhood. WHF also pays for the charter bus to transport the students and WHF board member Mary Pro presents to the students revealing her knowledge of the life and times of many of the people laid to rest at Wyuka.

McKenzie Barry, Environmental Education Specialist with the Lower Platte South NRD oversees the exploration of the wetland area and the pond. Each student is provided a knapsack by the NRD and they hike across the cemetery to get to the pond. This year the kids were able to see and to learn around the great diversity in the water and plant life. They were able to dip and catch a few critters and even saw evidence of beaver activity.

The WHF's partnership with the Lower Platte South NRD and Belmont has become a treasured tradition for the fifth grade class. The teachers use the day in support of their Science and Social Studies curriculum while learning about Wyuka's history and exploring a unique urban nature setting. A science unit on rocks and minerals is enhanced with the history tour due to the variety of materials used in the headstones.



"We can't thank you enough for creating these once in a lifetime opportunities for our students to grow, reflect, search, learn, and enrich their understandings of many concepts and life! You are amazing partners for the Belmont 5th Grade Team!" - Bobbie Ehrlich, Belmont Educator

The Wyuka pond and wetland sprouted a beaver house this Spring captivating the kids!

While on the annual Wyuka field trip, the first group of Belmont 5th graders eat lunch at The Stables before their Wyuka hiking tour and lectures.



Wyuka Historical Foundation Board of Directors

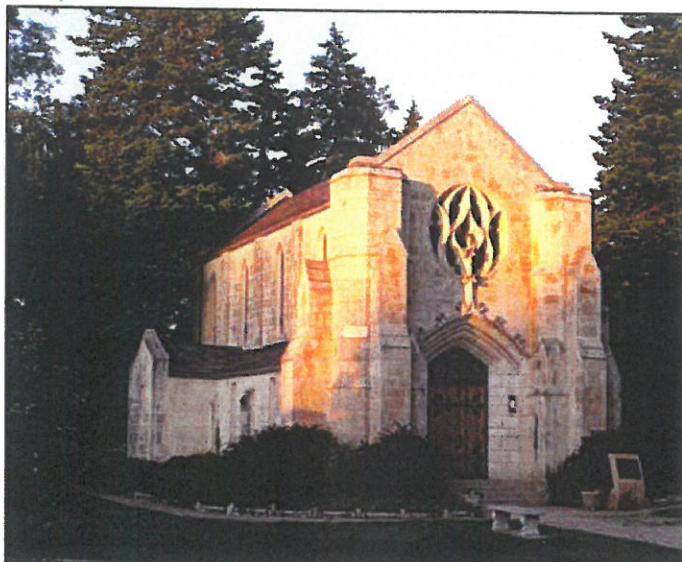
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The Wyuka Historical Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports the preservation, interpretation, and public use of Wyuka Cemetery, the state cemetery of Nebraska located in Lincoln.

President's Piece



The restoration of the Rudge Chapel now includes a new sound system for music to be played from multiple formats. The Rudge may be rented as a package with The Stables. For more information contact: events@wyukastables.com (402)525-6765 wyukastables.com



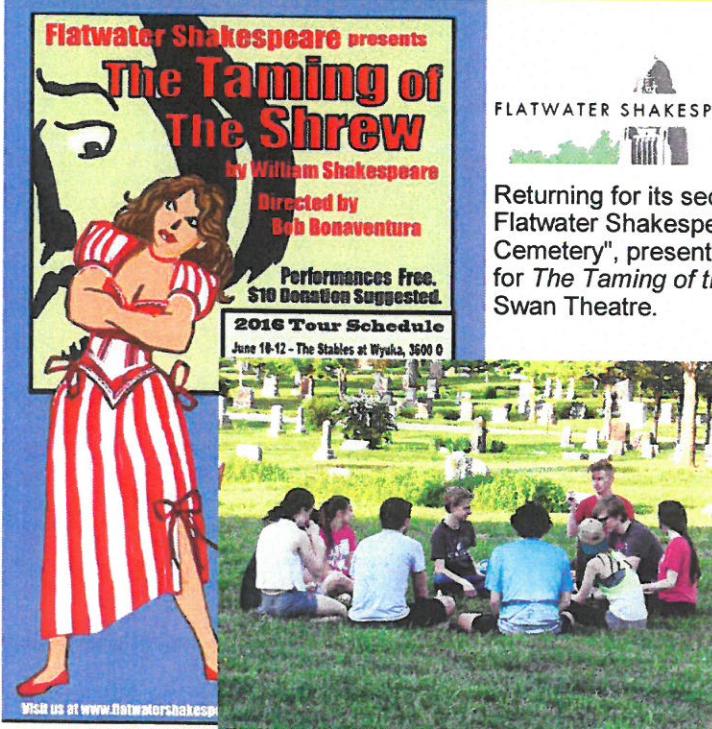
"Son, you may never pass that way again"

Recently, I was reflecting upon this advice given to me as a young man by my dad. The occasion was my father's funeral and I was speaking to honor his life of 94 years especially his more than 3 years service with the 45th Combat Engineers during WWII. His advice responded to my desire to spend a second Christmas away from home in order to do more traveling during my time with the 3rd Infantry in the US Army Europe. I stayed and visited six more countries expanding my world view. So the words have stuck with me all these years, and whenever I think about his advice and how it freed me to go out on my own, to start adventures, to be confident, I thank him.

I concluded my short eulogy with "...as we pause today to recognize and reflect on (dad's) life let us think about that piece of advice he gave me those 42 some years ago – you may never pass this way again. Think about it and use it to become an even more loving, caring and devoted type of person. One like he was. And for now, we know that dad will never pass this way again."

Wyuka is a special place that many go to reflect that their loved ones will never pass this way again. Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Wyuka Historical Foundation to keep the cemetery a beautiful place of rest and reflection.

2016 Flatwater Shakespeare – June 10-12, Swan Theatre, The Stables



Returning for its second year in the newly renovated Stables, Flatwater Shakespeare, operating as "Shakespeare at Wyuka Cemetery", presented its first production in June of 2001. Show time for *The Taming of the Shrew* is 7 p.m. Seats are provided at the Swan Theatre.

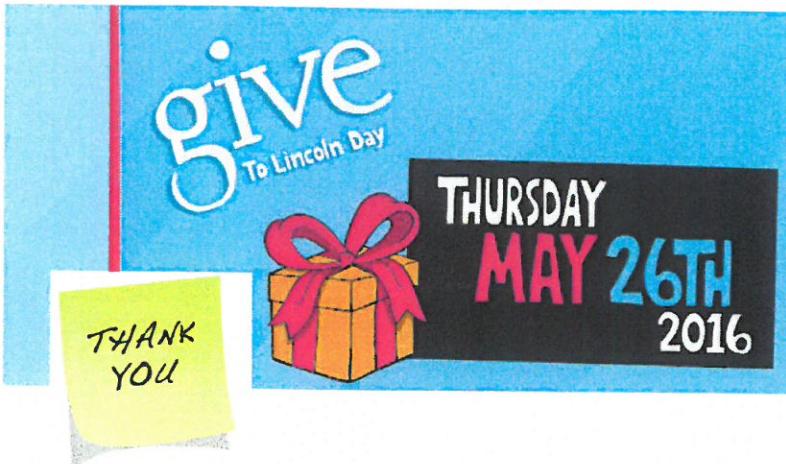


flatwatershakespearecompany.org

Our thanks to the following organizations for their generous support:



2016 Give To Lincoln Day Donations



Thank you to our 15 donors providing \$2,625 to the Wyuka Historical Foundation during the Lincoln Community Foundation's annual Give to Lincoln Day.

For five years for one day, a share of every donation made to local nonprofits is proportionately matched by a challenge grant provided by the Lincoln Community Foundation and partner sponsors. This year the challenge match was \$300,000.

A total of 13,773 donations were made for \$3,076,995 to over 340 different nonprofits.

This Will Be the 7th Year for Wreaths Across America

Thinking and planning ahead.....On Saturday, December 17, 2016 hundreds of fresh evergreen wreaths with red bows will be placed on veteran graves. This will be the seventh consecutive year that Wyuka has participated in this cherished event. Wreaths Across America began in 1992 and now includes every state in the Union and our overseas military cemeteries. In 2015, we placed 614 wreaths. Our goal is that someday every veteran grave in Wyuka will have a wreath. There are over 1500 veteran graves in Wyuka. The laying of the wreaths is but a small token to remind us they are not forgotten.

The mission of Wreaths Across America is to *Remember* the fallen, *Honor* those who served and their families, and *Teach* our children about the commitment and sacrifice men and women have made to protect our freedoms. This year's theme is "Just Say Their Names." That is so appropriate as some who volunteer to lay wreaths often say aloud the name on the headstone after carefully placing the wreath.

The Wreaths Across America kick-off across Nebraska program will be 11AM December 12th in the Warner Chamber, State Capitol. The public is welcome.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent at anytime and designated for "Wreaths Across America." Checks should be made out to Wyuka Historical Foundation. You may also donate online at the site wreathsacrossamerica.org using Location ID as NEWYKC and the Group ID as NE0001

For information, please contact board member Diane Bartels, [402-429-3342](tel:402-429-3342).



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3600 "O" Street
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Did You Know?



The cast-iron fence along the O Street frontage of Wyuka bears the trademark of John Seaton of Atchison, Kansas. It was first installed in 1891 around the original campus of the University of Nebraska, which consisted of ten acres bounded by R, T, North 10th, and North 12th Streets. The narrow gateways of the fence impeded efforts of Lincoln firefighters to combat fires on campus, including one that severely damaged the State Museum building in 1912. This helped inspire Charles Morrill to make donations that resulted in a new natural history museum. Construction of Morrill Hall began in 1925 and that same year, the campus fence was removed and reinstalled at Wyuka, with a wide front entrance.

The concrete cylinder with the conical roof marks the highest point in the cemetery—the logical location for a water tank. Built around 1889 to provide irrigation water for the cemetery, the reservoir is no longer used. Establishing shrubs, flowers, lawns and especially trees in the Nebraska prairie requires water. In its early years, Wyuka met the challenge with windmills, wooden water towers, and eventually this reservoir. Today

the cemetery's irrigation needs are met with private wells—hence the "Do Not Drink This Water" tags on the spigots throughout the grounds.

Taken from Wyuka Cemetery: A Walking & Driving Tour
Ed Zimmer, author
Lori Merliss, project director
Jaclyn Smith, designer.

Researchers: Caitlin Bazemore, Jill Dolberg, Rebecca Petersen,
Hillary Saalfeld, & Jaclyn Smith.

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