

## THE SPRINGDALE NORWEGIAN PIONEER CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL

The first Norwegian cemetery in Springdale, and the oldest in western Dane County, is located on section eight on an elevation in the north-western section of Springdale, and at that time in close proximity to the first Norwegian settlement of the township established in 1846.

This cemetery was established in 1847, a year after the first Norwegian settlement had begun, and was dedicated by the Rev. A. C. Preus on April 10, 1850. It is not known who was the first person buried there. The first interment recorded is that of Ingebret Berge, the infant sone of Mr. and Mrs. John I. Berge who died September 7, 1849. There are fifty or more members of pioneer families interred in this cemetery. The location of many of the graves was originally marked with simple memorials, most of them designed and prepared by Aslak Lee, that disintegrated with time and gradually disappeared, and with the tilling of the soil over this burial ground the exact location of the graves is unknown. This burial place continued in use until the year 1863 when the cemetery adjoining the Springdale Lutheran Church located about a mile south that had been established in 1861 came into general use.

With the passing away of the older generations and fearing that all trace of this burial place would be obliterated, Mr. Albert K. Sorenson, whose

mother and two brothers lie buried in this cemetery, felt that a suitable monument should be erected on this hallowed burial ground to perpetuate the memory of the persons interred there. In the year 1900 he initiated a movement for a permanent memorial and enlisted the aid of relatives he could locate through personal inquiry and by appeals made in Norwegian and English language publications of those who had any of their people buried there, and succeeded in learning the names of most of the fifty or more persons interred in this cemetery. Funds were raised by subscription, that is by appealing to relatives of the deceased here and elsewhere and contributions from interested friends, and a substantial monument was erected there on September 15, 1901 on a plot of land twenty-five feet square conveyed to the Springdale Lutheran Church as a perpetual possession.

The obelisk monument standing seventeen and one-half feet high consists of a shaft and two bases of Bedford stone with the polished die of Barre granite. On the east face of this memorial is engraved the following Biblical passage: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me though he die yet shall he live". On the north side is found the following inscription: "The first Norwegian cemetery" - "Erected in 1901 to the memory of those buried here from 1847 to 1863." On the west side the inscription reads "Among the fifty or more dead buried here are the following:

Kari Berge Sorenson	Anton S. Lunde
Soren Sorenson	Tore Grasdalen
Gustave Sorenson	Dora Kalsket
Ingebret Berge	Christ Olson
John Berge	Ole A. Lee
Johanna Urdahl	Anna Levorson
John Urdahl	Maria Levorson
Kari Bingham	Olea Skindrud
Marie Bingham	Ole M. Skindrud
Annie Bingham	Olene Skindrud
Ole D. Shutvet	Andrew Bohle
Ole Thompson	Johan H. Hoff
Hermod Sorom	Arne Roang
John Nelson	Halvor Roang
Knud Spaanum	Beota Roang
Ole Spaanum	Knut E. Bang
Aslaug Spaanum	
Marget Grasdalen	
Halvor Grasdalen	
Harold Brager	
Lari Lunde	

The present cemetery adjacent to the Springdale Lutheran Church, also in Section 8, was established on two acres of land purchased from M. Allen on January 10, 1861 at a cost of forty dollars. It is not definitely known when the first interment was made there, but is assumed that burials were made shortly after the cemetery was acquired. The pioneer cemetery continued in use until 1863 probably by families having other members previously interred there.