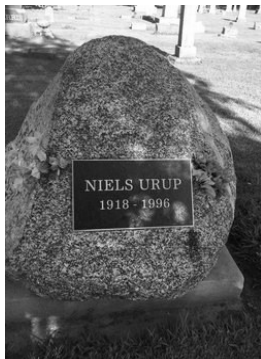




Niels Urup

Nov 28, 1918 - June 11, 1996
(77 years)
E Section, Lot 392 1W

- Niles was born in Sonder Vium, Denmark to Peder and Elna (Jensen).
- He was the second eldest with five siblings: Anna, Jorgen, Sofus, Thomas, Ejler (passed at five months).
- Niels and siblings attended school in Denmark.
- He and part of his immediate family arrived in the USA in 1949 and he obtained a social security card from NE.
- By 1950, he was working construction in Vermillion while living at Anna Viath's popular boarding house on 219 Forest Avenue.
- Niels became a US citizen in 1954.
- He and his brother, Tom, started a construction business together, had differences of opinion, split the business, and then ended up as competitors.
- Niels founded and owned Niels Urup Construction Company and was very well known in the area as a builder, talented woodworker, and craftsman.
- Shareholder of Electro-Magic Corp (1958 in Vermillion) which manufactured steam cleaners, pressure washers and space heaters for the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics.
- From 1957-59, Niels was a member of the Vermillion Civil Air Patrol, closely aligned with the Air Force for search/rescue and natural disaster relief.
- Niels' company was awarded Clay County Union Electric building contract in 1962.
- He returned to Demark in June of 1964 for his father's funeral and had an extended stay.
- Niels was 46 when he married (Anna) Minna Brondum (44) on September 24, 1964, while still in Denmark.
- The couple had no children.
- They were active in Trinity Lutheran Church.
- Niels retired in 1987 and the 1990 census lists the couple living at 833 Valley View.
- Brother, Tom, passed in 1996, six months earlier.
- Minna died in 1999 at 79.
- Brother Jorgen survived them all, passing in 2012 at the age of 93.



Thanks to:

~ Bluff View Cemetery Board and the St. Agnes Cemetery Committee

~ Storytellers:

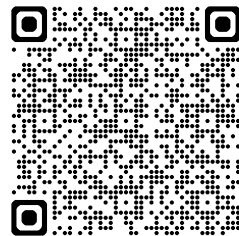
*Kelsey Collier-Wise
Mecia Graham
Sagan Marcus
Bryce Mayrose
Kevin O'Kelley*

~Spoken History Cemetery Tour Committee:

*Joni Freidel
Maxine Johnson
Doug Kronaizl
Constance Krueger
Wess Pravecek
Art Rusch*

~ Clay County Historical Society Board of Directors: *Ruth Bylander, Barb Campbell, Dan Christopherson, Joni Freidel, Katie Heine, Kevin Jacobson, Maxine Johnson, Kathleen Kavanaugh, Constance Krueger, Wess Pravecek, Art Rusch, Tom Sorenson, Jim Stone, and Judy Sullivan*

Scan QR code for
Cemetery Headstone Symbols



The mission of the Clay County (SD) Historical Society is to bring together people interested in the history and prehistory of Clay County and adjacent areas.

CCHS Yearly Membership

\$25 Individual
\$40 Family
\$75 Institutional
\$250 Individual Lifetime



The Austin-Whittemore House
(home of CCHS)
15 Austin Street
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00-2:00 and by appointment
605-624-8266
claycohistory@yahoo.com
www.cchssd.org

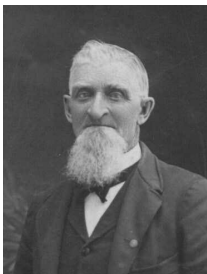


The Clay County
Historical Society presents
2024 Spoken History
Cemetery Tour

*Enigmatic Epitaphs
Unusual Headstones*

Monday, October 14
5:30 p.m.

Bluff View &
Calvary Cemetery
Vermillion, SD



Joseph H. Hinchliff

May 3, 1834-Oct. 26, 1908
(74 years)
W Section, Lot 818 3E

- Joseph's parents, William and Elizabeth (Uttley), were married at 31 and 41 respectively.
- They had six children in 12 years and were 43 and 54, when Joseph was born.

- The family immigrated from Yorkshire, England, to New York in 1844.
- They then moved to Wisconsin and eventually settled west of Columbus in Elba, Dodge County.
- Joseph and (Maria) Sarah Rynes (1835-1918) married on March 3, 1859.
- They lived in a number of WI areas prior to Chicago.
- A Civil War veteran, Joseph enlisted in September of 1862 in the "War of the Rebellion"; he already had two children.
- He served in the 25th Infantry Regiment out of Camp Salomon, La Crosse, WI.
- The regiment participated in the siege of Savannah in December of 1864. Joseph was honorably discharged in 1865 when the regiment disbanded.
- The couple had 10 children: Alice, J. Richard, William, Jennie, Carrie, Alfred, Alvin, Harry, and James.
- In 1893, the family purchased a farm in the SW corner of the Spirit Mound section of Clay County.
- In November of 1907, they purchased and moved into a home on Dartmouth Street in Vermillion.
- On a Sunday night, while putting up a stove pipe, he fell, straddling the chair he had been standing on.
- By Monday night, he passed from internal bleeding resulting from the blunt trauma.
- Joseph was a Vermillion citizen for over 25 years and was considered one of the best neighbors and friends.
- Active in public affairs and the Republican party.
- Four of his children, including a newborn, passed prior to Joseph's demise in 1918.
- His funeral was conducted at his home by the Miner Post No #6, Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R., Union Army veterans of the Civil War) of which he had been a member.



Winona May

"Dolly" (Axtell) Lyon
Feb. 12, 1863-Feb. 4, 1949
(86 years)
SE Section, Lot 262

- Dolly was born to Aaron and Hannah (Brady) of Walnut, IL, and had five siblings: Franklin, Philomon, Marietta, Asa, and Aaron. Her family farmed and operated a small hotel.
- By the time she was six, they moved to Sumner, MN.
- Dolly briefly taught, worked in MN post offices, then transferred to the Sioux Falls branch in 1883.
- William (Dolly's future husband) was born on Nov. 26, 1858, the only child of Dr. Samuel and Mary (Hill) Lyon. His family moved to Vermillion in 1860.
- Dr. Lyon passed early (39), when Will was only 16.
- In 1883, William moved to Sioux Falls to practice law. He also served four terms in the SD legislature.
- Dolly and William H. Lyon were married at her family home on Nov. 2, 1891, in Mower County, MN.
- Dolly was the first president of the SD Federation of Women's Clubs in 1900.
- In 1906, the couple moved in a house south of the current Lyon Park at 746 Phillips Street in Sioux Falls.
- Although they had no children, her widower father, older sister and her three children lived with them.
- Dolly served on the Sioux Falls College Board of Trustees, Sioux Falls Park Board, Women's Division of the SD Board of Charities and Corrections, and Sioux Falls Historical Society.
- In 1927, she co-founded the Minnehaha County Historical Society.
- They donated money to establish Lyon Park in 1928.
- William died suddenly in 1930 from pneumonia. Dolly inherited the estate now valued at over \$15M.
- The Axtell-Lyon philanthropy gifted numerous properties including Axtell Park School, Palisades State Park, Wall Lake Park and Girl Scout Camp, Tower Park, and the Sioux Falls History Club.
- The most recognizable donation is the 50+ acre *WH Lyon Fairgrounds*, home to the Minnehaha County Fair (1938).
- In 1942, she donated the land for Lyon Boulevard to ease access to the fairgrounds.



Charles S. Overhulse

April 30, 1874-January 1, 1894
(19 years)
E Section, Lot 521 3W

- Granville B. Overhulse (1844-1916), Charles' father, was born in Gallia, OH and his mother, Elizabeth Emma Richey (1853-1941) was born in Champaign, OH.
- When Granville was 26 and Libbie (Elizabeth) was 18, they married in Adams, IA, on October 20, 1870.
- His father was a plasterer, mason and 'reform orator' for the Populist movement.
- Charles was born in Fairfield, Clay County, NE.
- He was the second of 12 children born in 21 years: Frankie, Rosalie, Clarence, Ernest?, Leslie, Albert, Marion, Frank, Carl, Lulu, Maude and Ruth. Frankie, died at age 4 in 1877.
- Charles was known as exceptionally bright and intelligent.
- By 1881, the family had moved to Clay County, SD.
- A 1893 New Year's Eve sledding party two miles north of Elk Point (Atwood township) led to his demise.
- Charles' tragic death as recapped in the 8/24/1894 Sioux City Journal, *"One of Vermillion's most controversial incidents was the shooting death of Charles Overhulse, 19, whose headstone is a tree trunk on which hangs a sled. As the young man and some of his friends coasted down snow-covered hills one starry New Year's Eve in 1893, he was fatally wounded when Walter W. Hoffman, editor of the Clay County Freeman, fired a gun into the group. The incident shocked and divided the town. Overhulse died shortly after midnight, January 1. Hoffman was eventually convicted of second-degree manslaughter and sentenced to nine months in jail and a \$250 fine."*
- Other media accounts indicated two months of jail time and referred to Charles as a 'former Elk Point boy'.
- Sometime in the early 1900s, most of the remaining Overhulse family moved out of Vermillion to San Jose, CA, and are buried there.



Frances (Franciska) Stark Moritz Rabusch

Oct. 9, 1866-Aug. 15, 1951
(85 years)
Calvary Block 20, Lot 4

- Frances was one of 12 children born to Andrew (Andreas of Bavaria, Germany) and Anna Maria (Mary Wieneke of Prussia) in Cedar Rapids, IA.
- She married Charles "Karl" Augustin Moritz in 1885.
- He died in 1892, leaving Frances (26) to raise three children: Matilda (1), Andrew (3), and Henry (5).
- On January 2, 1900, she and John (Johannes Nicholas) Rabusch were married, shortly after he had immigrated from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (1889).
- According to the 1900 census, they owned a farm by Garryowen, Prairie Center, Clay County.
- Three more children, Mary, Ida, and John A. were born.
- John passed 1918, then Henry was listed as head of household and Andrew, the hired man, on their farm.
- Her daughter, Mary, died of an epileptic seizure while visiting her aunt in Cedar Rapids (1922).
- In 1923, assisted by the St Agnes parish, an orphan (7) rode a train from New York City to join the family.
- Thomas R. Rabusch was legally adopted by the widow and became a valued member of the community.
- In 1927, Frances lost Andrew (38) to peritonitis.
- Tom attend University High School, and earned awards for his musical talent and baseball prowess.
- Tom married Irene Brown in 1938, and they had four daughters, Robin, Karen, Anita, June, and a son, Karl.
- Tom spent 40 years in the grocery business and owned *Tom and Bud's Super Valu* with Bud Christensen.
- He was a charter member of Eagles Club, a volunteer firefighter, a member in the Lions Club, Senior Center, an honorary member of the Clay County Historical Society, and was active in St Agnes's Church.
- The USD Beacom School of Business offers a scholarship in Tom's name which reflects his *"legacy of honesty, integrity, and good feeling for his customers and fellow workers."*
- Frances died in 1951, a woman of great faith and perseverance.

