

I am Paul Fuchs, a landowner on the county line spanning the Town of New Glarus and the Town of Primrose. I understand the town board will meet on September 8 to discuss whether or not to mow the grass in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. I would like to express an opinion about that and the future of the cemetery.

Preservation, Honor and Respect for all

Primrose has a proud history of honoring the people of its past and present, protecting its rural character and defining its legacy by safeguarding and respecting the future of the land.

The first Yankee settlers of the early 1840s found lush prairie, wood and good water when they came here. The Mount Pleasant Cemetery is a piece of living history from that time. The cemetery is one of few existing remnants of that landscape, the plant communities and the community of human occupants of that early settlement. Unlike the Scandinavian settlers who arrived after the Yankees and built the Primrose Lutheran Church, the Yankee settlers had no church to leave as a benchmark of their presence in the township as they met in the homes of their congregation.

As historic and hallowed ground, Mount Pleasant Cemetery grounds and gravesites should be honored, preserved and maintained in a manner consistent with the period of settlement. In other words, no mowing as it will destroy the native plant community. I would suggest following the example of the Green's Prairie Cemetery located near Postville. This cemetery served early Yankee settlers of Primrose, and York townships and is now a marked Wisconsin historic site being managed as a natural prairie pioneer cemetery, no mowing, honoring everyone, including veterans.

I believe the early settlers would appreciate lying under the soil, covered with the same flowers and plants that existed when they were alive. This preserved piece of history should be a source of pride for the entire township, not a source for continued airing of personal biases. Whether mowing grass or similar kinds of opinions will honor individual groups, more or less, is beside the point. My point is, to honor all of us and our community by respectfully preserving a piece of authentic local history for the future.

Thank you,

Paul Fuchs  
P.O Box 227  
N9645 Primrose Center Rd  
Belleville, WI 53508