

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission  
Meeting—October 21, 2023

This meeting took place at the property of Eli and Jennifer Garms, which is on 295<sup>th</sup> St. about one half mile off of Hwy 13 in Cox Creek Twp.

On the Garm's property is the Schmidt Family Cemetery. The official address for this cemetery is: Sec 10 SE/NW Cox Creek Twp.

Our meeting was not an official meeting since only two commission members, Bruce Collins and Ellen Collins, were present. Others at this meeting included friend of the commission, Dave Beck, the owners of the cemetery property, Eli and Jennifer Garms, and three descendants of the Schmidt Family, Elaine Grimes and her daughters Jan and Julie Grimes.

Eli Garms took us to the cemetery location with his all terrain vehicle. (The cemetery location can be reached under normal weather conditions by a pickup or other 4 wheel drive vehicle.) Thank you Eli for your helping us find the cemetery and getting us there.

The cemetery is in a beautiful secluded location. The area is surrounded by trees that at this time--October--were in full fall color. The cemetery grounds certainly received maintenance over the years—it was planted with day lilies with very little, if any, brush growing in the grave area. Also there were remnants of fencing material found that once enclosed the cemetery area as well as what may have been a grave stone—a piece of rock that appeared to be chiseled and shaped.

This cemetery contains the graves of Adam and Doretha Schmidt and six of their eight children. Five of the six children died within a one month period, July 1862, from diphtheria. Their names: Hannah, Erich, Bernard and another boy and girl. Then another son, Adam Jr., is buried here in 1896. He passed at the age of 30 and is the last to be buried here. (Adam Jr. was born 3 years after the death of his 5 siblings buried here.)

The 3 Grimes ladys that attended our meeting today are descendants of Minnie Schmidt Gusta, a daughter of Adam and Doretha Schmidt. (Minnie wrote a newspaper article sometime in the 1930's titled "Pioneer Story" writing about how pioneer life was growing up in the 1860's and how she too suffered from diphtheria at the same time that it caused the death of her 5 siblings.)

We noted the passing of commission member Lee Lenth on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Lee was at our last meeting, a working meeting, at the Garretson Cemetery on September 23. He was involved in many, many family, church and community events over the course of his life as well as being a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. Lee will be missed; God bless him.

Dave Beck has done research on the Schmidt Family members buried here, much of which is noted above, and the commission plans to make a sign with that information to be placed at this cemetery location. Bruce Collins will work on preparing the wording for that sign for presentation at a future meeting.

Bruce Collins  
Secretary  
CCPCC