

October, 2009

Wilson Bridge Road



A LINWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY

Linworth Historical Society Newsletter

Linworth United Methodist Church
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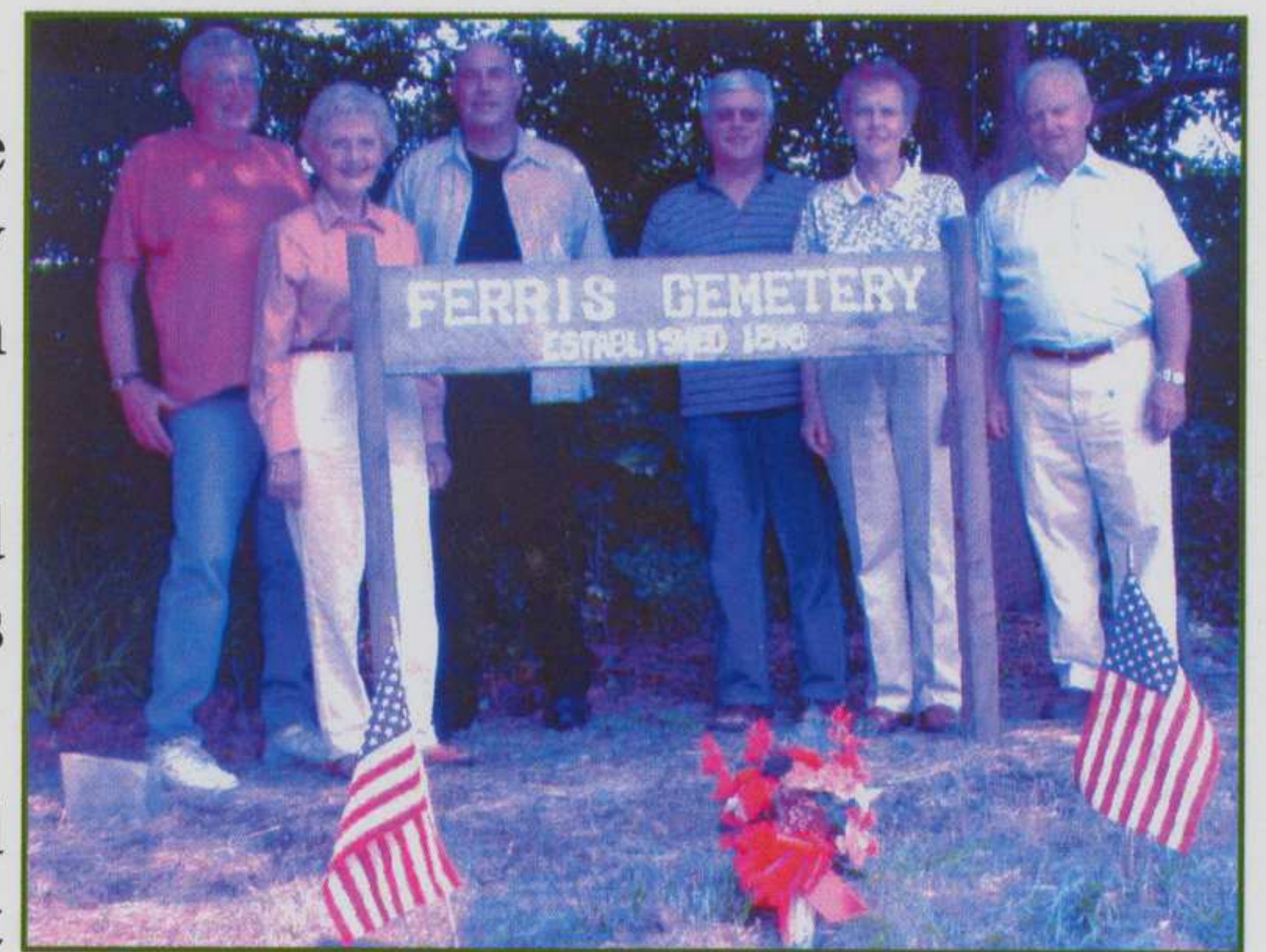
Ferris Cemetery Tombstones Found Near Site

Established in 1848, the Ferris Cemetery is located in the tree line approximately 700 feet south of Bright Road on the east side of Riverside Drive. As recently as 1930, there were visible signs of at least 24 burial sites. Two confirmed burials are pioneer settlers David Smith and his wife, Elizabeth Gooding Smith.

A historical marker was placed at the abandoned cemetery site in 2004 by Linworth United Methodist Church Historical Society.

At the time no tombstones remained above ground and only a few pieces were found in the adjacent tree line.

A few years later, Eric and Mara Ward discovered two uncovered markers not far from the cemetery site.



Mara Ward & her children L to R: Alex, Mara, Alison, Justin, Matthew

Eric and Mara Ward expressed their delight at discovering the two markers and getting them to Jim Thompson of our historical society. They said they were happy to see the markers returned to their rightful place in Ferris Cemetery. Thank you to the Ward Family.



Writings on tombstones read:

Left: In Memory of Lanah wife of Anthony Cortright Who Died May 25 1828 Aged 64 Years

Right: Abriam Smith Died March 8 1846

It is not known when Anthony and Lanah Cortright came to Franklin County. It appears they first settled on Kosciusko land when they purchased property at a tax sale. In 1819 Joseph Smith sold Anthony land close to Joseph and Sarah Ferris's farm. Another 100 acres was purchased from Henry Swartz in 1834, all in Perry Township.

Cortright girls who were married in or near Perry Township in Franklin County are: (Note the various spellings of the name Cortright and Courtright.)

14 Apr 1816 Sally Courtright and John Smith by Daniel Brunk

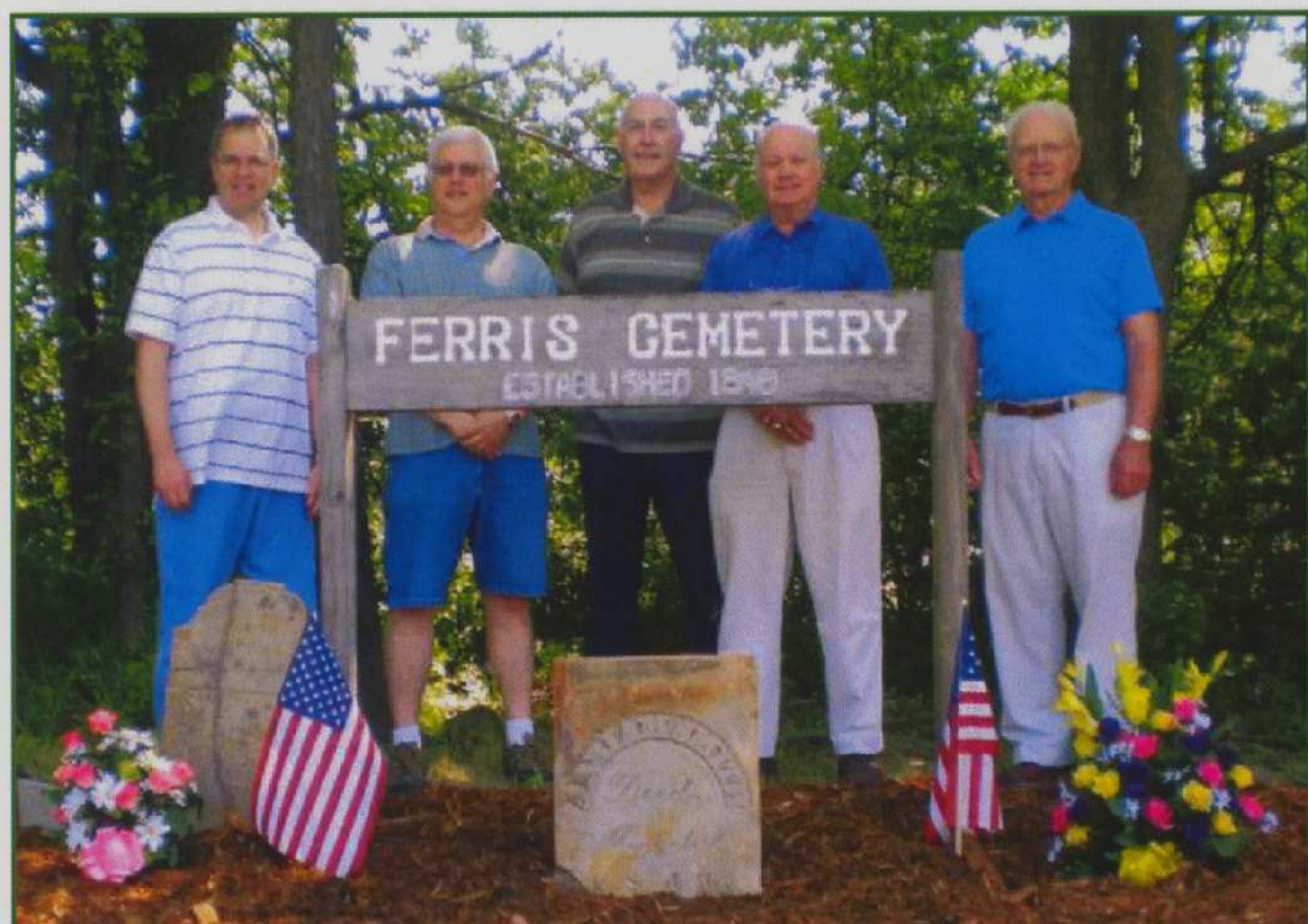
25 Jun 1816 Nely Courtright and Gilbert Smith by Joseph Grate, JP

5 March 1823 Julian Courtright and Sherman Travis by Robert Boyd, JP

10 Aug 1826 Jemema Courtright and Moses Mitchel by Tracy Willcox

Abriam Smith could be the son of Joseph Smith. Joseph purchased his land from John Sells in 1816. His 350 acres were adjacent to the Ferris property.

The research of the Cortright Family was done by David Martin.



L to R: David Martin, Ed Pollock, Jim Thompson, Walter Myers, Jim Richards

The men pictured above maintain the site yearly by placing new flags, flowers, and mulch. They reset the tombstones May, 2009.



L to R: Peter Hendrixson, Allison Myers Hendrixson, Joan Holder Harless, Walter Myers, Jim Thompson, Kaye Holder Myers have ancestors buried in the cemetery.

The following are some memories of Kaye Holder Myers. Kaye and her sister, Joan, grew up on property adjacent to Ferris Cemetery. They are direct descendants of Joseph Ferris.

"Joan (sister) and I remember the cemetery very well. When we were children we remember crawling over the crumbling stone fence to make 'rubblings' from the old headstones. I don't remember specific names but we were always interested in one that was the headstone of a young girl." Kaye Holder Myers

Linworth United Methodist Church through the Historical Society has memorialized our early pioneers, many of whom were founding members of our church. We have continued at Linworth to remember the deceased members of our congregation by erecting a beautiful Columbarium adjacent to our Worship Center. The remains of Linworth's members and friends who have helped to advance the cause of Christ and His love and care to our world are reminders to us of the importance of keeping the faith of our heritage.



This picture of our Columbarium can be viewed on our church website: www.linworthumc.org.

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