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# East Lawn Cemetery Walking Tour



# Grisly Demises

October 2019
Organized & Researched by:
Samma Johnson of Pioneer Preservation
In partnership with the Augusta Memorial Public Library

| Rosalie Schultz | Larry Johnston    | "Unknown Hobo" (NS) | Thomas Sweet   | Thomas M. Smith | Charles "Addo" Shiel | Ralph Pride* | Levi Bangle*      | Allan Randall*                     | John F. Stone*     | Polly Richards | Helen Dodge*                      | Name                |                 | C                                     | 93 82 85 84 77 76 |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Train           | Motorcycle        | Train               | Drowned        | Fallen Object   | Cars                 | Horse        | Fall              | Car                                | Train              | Buggy/Cart     | House fire                        | Cause of Death      |                 |                                       | 69 61 60 53 52 45 |
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| 33              | 13                | 4                   | ω              | 67              | 69                   | 74           | 65                | 92                                 | 36                 | 14             | 21                                | Lot                 |                 |                                       | 2                 |
| ω               | ω                 | Ъ                   | 6              | 4               | 4                    | 6            | Н                 | Ы                                  | 6                  | U              | Ь                                 | Grave               |                 |                                       |                   |
| O C             | (NS)-This unknown | previous walks.     | * - Visited on |                 | Thank you!           | weather.     | and dress for the | hazards. Wear<br>comfortable shoes | and other tripping | uneven ground  | in the cemetery.  Be prepared for | to exercise caution | Please remember |                                       | - N               |



#### Accident, 1956 Larry Johnston — Motorcycle

old and had just completed his sophomore year at Augusta High. He was a member of the Football and track teams, a member of the FFA scooter crashed in the path of the oncoming car. He was only 16 years and local 4H club, with an interest in pursuing a career in Agriculture. scooter" at the junction of HWY 12 was killed by a car striking his "motor and CTY V. An initial report says his On the evening on June 3, 1956 Larry

#### Rosalie Schultz — Hit by Train, 1915

Around noon on May 5th, 1915, Mrs. August Schultz had just returned is presumed she became impatient and began to set out on foot. daughter, and was expecting Mr. Albert Zank to collect her and take About 500 feet west of the depot; the opposite direction of home, she home from Elk Mound on the 11:30 train. She had been visiting her was struck by the train and instantly killed. her home where she resided with her sister. When he didn't arrive, it



# Thomas Smith — Workplace Accident, 1976

Strangely, it appears that there was no particular local news coverage about the workplace accident that killed Tom Smith. His printed obituary states that at around 9 AM on Thursday, September 9th, 1976 he was injured on the job. Rumor is a piece of equipment fell, hitting him. He was rushed to Luther Hospital in Eau Claire where he was pronounced dead at 10:45 AM.

Special thank you to Deanna Newbury for this addition to the walk!



#### Thomas Sweet — Drowned at Coon Fork, 1913

Tom Sweet was only 30 years of age when he drowned at Coon Fork Creek on a

Saturday evening in June, 1913. He had gone to the creek to water and bathe a horse. It was guessed at the time that he was seized by cramps, which caused him to drown. His body was recovered by his newlywed wife, but too late to be resuscitated.

# "Unknown Hobo" —Struck by Train, 1901

Listed only as "Unknown, Killed by cars" in the cemetery book, with a date of burial, I had enough information to delve into the newspapers to see what I could find out about this unknown person. In August of 1901, an unknown man was run down and



killed by the Limited train, on an early Sunday morning about a mile west of Kempton Rd. An inquest was made to the man's identity, but sadly: no leads. He is said to have been around 40 years of age, dark hair and mustache, possibly of Italian descent. He was about 5'7", and was evidently a "tramp". I have chosen to call him the Unknown Hobo instead.



#### Helen Dodge — House Fire, 1860.

Unfortunately, not much is known about Helen Dodge as a person. It is surmised that she was the sister-in-law of one of our founders; Charles Buckman. A brief news notice of the house fire that took

her life says that her dress caught fire when trying to escape the house. Sadly, the articles really only note Buckman's actions as hero in saving his wife and two children. Dodge was sleeping in another room and seemed to have been an afterthought for the frantic husband and father.

## Polly Richards — Buggy Accident, 1890

Mrs. Richards and her daughter were on their way home from visiting relatives when their horse "took fright" and became "unmanageable...to it's lady drivers". Their buggy overturned, resulting in a bad break and the ladies were thrown out of the vehicle. Mrs. Richard's dress caught on a piece of the broken buggy and she was subsequently "dragged for some distance". A doctor was initially hopeful for her recovery, but she passed away shortly after the accident. No official obituary seems to have been published, but a brief article about the accident is in line with her burial.

#### John F. Stone — Hit by train, 1889

John F. Stone came to Augusta as one of our very first settlers in 1856. In fact, he is recorded as being the 2nd settler to arrive, within days of Mr. Charles Buckman. During his life, he acted as Augusta's first Postmaster and ran our first Sawmill. At some point between the 1880 census and his death in 1889, he moved to Eau Claire. It was here, in the train yard he cut through on his way home, that he was struck by a yard car. It is guessed that he was going deaf and failed to hear the whistle. He died just three days shy of his 75th Birthday.

#### Allan Randall — Hit by Car, 1925

We previously visited Mr. Randall on our very first cemetery walk. His "claim to fame" being that he was proclaimed the first "white child" born in Eau Claire County and the City of Augusta. The Randall name is still familiar in the area; Scott Randall and his wife operating the farm across the street from the cemetery. Allan was known for being a lover of horses and the "best posted horse buyer in the country". He also worked as City Assessor for 40 years.

Allan died in 1925 at the age of 73, when he was struck by a car during a storm on Thursday, October 1st. He died in the home of his son the next evening from his injuries.



### Levi Bangle — Fell from scaffold, 1901

Born in New York, after serving in the Civil War, Levi Bangle and his wife settled in Augusta where they raised three children. In July of 1901, the Bangle Family began a Western Trek toward Hood River, Oregon. They anticipated settling there, but along the way stopped at the home of their daughter in

Oberon, North Dakota. On October 4th, he was helping to work on a barn when he fell from the scaffolding and was killed instantly. His remains were returned to Augusta. Records indicate that his wife, Adoline, did eventually continue on the journey to Hood River and is buried at Idlewilde Cemetery there, after her passing in 1922.

## Ralph Pride—Thrown from horse, 1864

Mr. Pride was known for his generous spirit. And it may have led to his untimely demise. He spent his final living day helping to fight a fire in Cadott; but when it came to making his way home on horseback, he had borrowed a "half-broke colt" to make the trip. Along the way, the horse startled, throwing him and it then became entangled in barbed wire. It was when Ralph tried to free the animal that it kicked him in the head. He did make it home, and is said to have been in





On January 22, 1936 a snowstorm coupled with car trouble led to the most grisly death on our walk. "Addo" and his friend, Adam Baillet were on their way to home to Augusta when their car slid into the ditch about three miles outside of Fall Creek. Balliet went to get help, but was delayed in his return. When he finally got back to the car the next morning: Addo was gone.

It is surmised that: cold, probably hungry, and worried, Sheil decided to make the trek to Fall Creek on his own. Less known is whether he was hit by a car he didn't hear, or whether he had fallen and drivers did not see him. Either way: the next morning, what was left of Sheil was strewn across the highway and nearly unidentifiable. Sheil's wallet, containing \$20.84 was recovered later; it did not contain identification, which halted its ability to be returned and aid in the identification of the body.