



PERPETUAL CARE . . . PRESERVING THE PAST . . . ENSURING THE FUTURE

The City of Williston serves as caretaker of the approximate 53 acres of platted burial grounds which encompass the cemeteries known as Riverview, Green Acres, Potter's Field, St. Joseph's, Hillside Memory Gardens, G. M. Thomas Subdivision and Garden of the Angels. A columbarium, for the inurnment of cremated remains, was added in 2005.

Established as Perpetual Care cemeteries, it is a concern of the Cemetery Board that the future maintenance of the grounds be continued in the same high standards as in the past. It requires the efforts of the full-time and part-time employees as well as the citizens of Williston to adhere to this commitment.

The first burial in Williston took place in 1887, and presently an average of 110 burials are conducted each year. The sale of lots and the grave openings and closings generate only fifty percent of the income needed to maintain the grounds. The balance of the revenue is obtained from donations and other sources.

What is meant by Perpetual Care? It means keeping our cemeteries beautiful, year in and year out, forever. It involves mowing, watering and trimming the grass during the summer, as well as hedge and tree trimming and planting. It includes preservation of the graves and the lots, and also of the grounds, walks, and roadways. In general, Perpetual Care is a commitment to preserve and maintain forever the Williston cemeteries.

Why was the Perpetual Care Fund established? It was established to guarantee there would be funds available in the future to continue the upkeep of the cemeteries, and especially when there are no longer lots or burial spaces available for sale. It is the goal of the city that through voluntary contributions to the Perpetual Care Fund, the cemeteries will eventually be self-sufficient. Only the interest earned from the Fund will be used for cemetery maintenance and improvement.

How can you help? Your contribution or memorial to the Perpetual Care Fund can be made by filling out the Perpetual Care Contribution form and mailing it to the address given. Thank you.

gone, but not forgotten...

BEYOND THE INSCRIPTION . . .

the true treasures of the Williston cemeteries can be found in the thousands of persons buried there, the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the famous and the infamous, who came to know this as their final resting place.



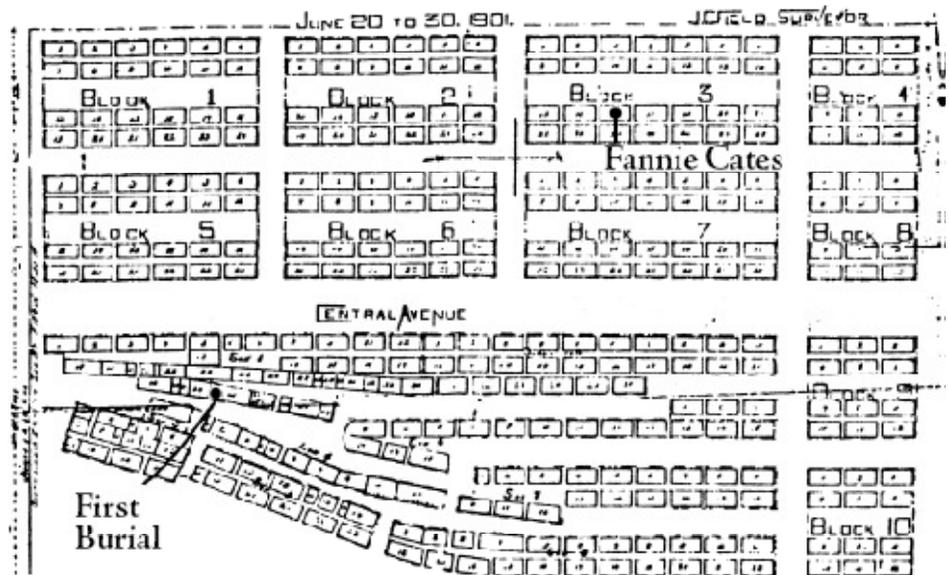
**Gustave Marelius
(1875-1887)**

Riverview Cemetery, formerly known as Williston Cemetery, had its beginning with the death and burial of 12 year old Gustave Marelius in September 1887.

The son of George and Louise Marelius, he died of appendicitis at the boarding house of pioneer homesteader, Fannie Cates. Mrs. Cates prepared the body for burial and young Gustave was interred on the hill just north of the fledgling village of Little Muddy, later known as Williston. Mrs. Cates died in 1912, at the age of 94, and is also buried in Riverview Cemetery.

G. M. & Mary Thomas and Judd and Alice Pettis were the original owners of the cemetery grounds. Williston Cemetery was privately owned until the Riverview Cemetery Association purchased the grounds in 1916 from G. M. Thomas. The name was then officially changed. The City of Williston assumed responsibility for the care of Riverview in 1955, along with St. Joseph's Cemetery. Green Acres Addition was added in 1973, and in 1978, by a vote of the people, the City of Williston became caretaker of Hillside Memory Gardens, located 1½ miles north of the City. The G. M. Thomas Subdivision was platted in 1992.

WILLISTON CEMETERY



First Map of Williston Cemetery - 1901



Veterans have been honored with special ceremonies for many years at Riverview Cemetery. As early as 1898 newspapers described the observance of Decoration Day, later Memorial Day, at 9th Avenue West.



The tri-county Memorial Plaza which includes Williams, Divide and McKenzie counties, recognizes veterans from World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. It was completed in 2006.

The plaza features a 20 ton triangle shaped rose granite stone with a plaque listing the names of 161 area veterans who lost their lives in World War II. The monument was set in place in 1995.



The 30 ton, six foot high bronze statue of a World War I soldier mounted on a polished granite block was moved from Railroad Park in 2003. A new flagpole, illuminated 24 hours a day, and new white crosses are adjacent to this memorial.

A brick semi-circle with raised relief military sculptures was constructed to honor the veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The names of 37 area veterans are inscribed on the two bronze plaques.

A curved sidewalk connects the memorials, and in keeping with tradition, veterans continue to be remembered each year on Memorial Day at Riverview Cemetery.

Brochure designed by Adrienne Stepanek and copied from Basin Printers PDF file.

Original drawing at top of document was drawn by Paula Haugen in 1990.