

Self-Guided Historical Tour

Using the grid locations below, you can view some of our most historically significant graves

1. Hans (1864-1914) and Mary (1871-1956) Wingren ~ 032B & 025B

It is believed that this couple survived the Great Hinkley Fire of 1894. The news article states: "As Hans headed for safety from the fire at the gravel pit, he noticed a bewildered woman standing alone, and by grabbing her by the hand, he pulled her along with him into the pit, thus saving her life. Her name was Maja, and she was a cook in the lumber camps. It was not very long after the fire that Maja and Hans Wingren were married. In later years they resided in Stanchfield Township." The couple had two children, neither of whom survived to adulthood.

2. Charles "Charlie" Erickson (1865-1953) ~ 102A

Charlie was the first white child born in Stanchfield Township on March 1, 1865, and was honored in Cambridge during the Minnesota Centennial celebration in 1949 as Isanti county's oldest native. He was born when his father, Peter (buried at grid location 212C), was away serving as a volunteer with the Union Army during the Civil War. Charles was the father and father-in-law of Raymond and Helen Erickson (108A). Notice too, Leonard Erickson's marker, another son of Charles who was seriously disabled during World War I during overseas service, and died in a veterans hospital in 1920.

3. The First Burial ~ 115B

At this site you will find the first burial in our Cemetery. First, look for the foot stone of Anna Loren (1854-1926) who is buried next to her husband, Louis Loren (120B). Her obituary states that she was, "buried next to her mother, the first person to be buried in the Stanchfield Cemetery." According to Isanti County court House records, the "mother" was Christina Peterson (Andersdotter) who died in Stanchfield on January 29, 1876 at age 51. Her burial site is indicated by the tall limestone marker near Anna's grave. You will also be able to locate near you her other children's graves: Peter Hanson, and Christin.

4. Peter Sund (1825-1903) ~ 188B

This is a family burial site for the Peter Sund family. Peter was the very first settler to file for a homestead claim in Stanchfield township. He built the first log cabin due west of here on the west side of Highway 65 in which the first meetings of Stanchfield Baptist church were held. He and his wife, Brita, faced many hardships. In particular, they lost four children in less than two weeks in 1882 due to the smallpox epidemic. If you look carefully behind the monument to the left in the cement border, the names of the children are inscribed: Peter, Mary, Fred, and Louise (and mother).

5. Johan Hamberg Family (210A)

This family faced a heart-wrenching accident the day after the Fourth of July in 1877. They had four children. A county history book says, "We might also state here that the John Hambergs lost three of their children on July 5, 1877 in the nearby Kranz Lake. The youngsters had ventured out on the lake in a shallow pan." Walking around the stone you will see their names: Martha, 12; Sigri, 10; and John, 4, all with the same date of death.

6. Masser Anders “M. A. Peterson” Person (1831-1891) ~ 226B

This is the grave of an outstanding Christian pioneer who homesteaded in Stanchfield. His family and others left Sweden as he and other leaders of the Baptist Movement were targeted and persecuted by the State Church of Sweden. He became one of the leading members of the Stanchfield Church. He was paralyzed in his lower limbs and so had to be carried into the church. Despite this handicap, he served as the first pastor of the Swedish (Stanchfield) Baptist Church; singing and preaching from a chair. He was highly respected in the community and was postmaster during all the years he remained in Stanchfield.

7. Mrs. Anna Blade (1854-1921) ~ 275B

Oh, how difficult pioneer life must have been! For the Blade family, it was compounded by losing their entire home and land to cunning “carpet baggers”. Following their loss, Mr. Eric Blade, the father, started “drinking excessively” and the couple divorced. He totally left the family and was never heard of again until after his death in Montana. And again, only this time doing it alone, Mrs. Blade had to etch out a new life for herself and her nine children. It is almost unimaginable how extremely difficult life was in those days. As her children grew, however, they were able to help their mother.

Grave Inscription: *“Iars oss betanka huru far vara fagar aro, pa del all vi ma andfa visa bjartan.”*

Translation: *“Teach us to know how few days we have, that we might use them wisely.”*

8. The Beckmans and the Lorens ~ 285C

These two musical families that were early arrivals to the Grandy area greatly enhanced the music program of the church. Two Beckman brothers married two Loren sisters. One of these brothers, Erick Beckman (1849-1919), was a fellow-worker of the famous pastor of Isanti county, Andrew Blomgren, during his term here in Stanchfield. Erick was also a missionary in Wisconsin as well as the interim pastor of SBC from 1895-1896.

9. Olaf Flack (1816-1882) ~ 220E

This gentleman had been a soldier in the Swedish Army who also suffered persecution in Sweden for his faith. He was imprisoned for his refusal to take part in the divine services of Sweden. It is said that in that period of Swedish history, a soldier who did not take part in the services of the State Church was to be shot to death. When a judge asked him if he was satisfied with the verdict, he replied, “Yes.” But the case was later moved to a higher court, where the sentence was revoked. You can imagine how exhilarating it was for him to come to America to worship as he pleased! And he did it with great zeal. He and his wife both died in the smallpox epidemic.

10. The Dahlman Family (075C)

Louis “Spannar Lars” Larson Dahlman (1832-1911) was buried in 1911. Though the exact location of his plot is unknown. Louis was a forceful and enthusiastic character, and usually acted as a self-appointed peace officer and deacon of the church. All around this location you can find the burial place for many of his descendants (Dahlmans, Nelsons, and Olsons). Peter took a great interest in making a plat of the old cemetery as well as other improvements. In 1936, the cemetery was enlarged with the land to the south of the cemetery tool shed.

We certainly appreciate your visit to our cemetery. If you have any information either from old obituaries or family histories that you can share with us to further recapture information. We would sincerely appreciate it.

**This tour made possible due to the diligent effort of Dave Marshall and the SBC cemetery committee of 2006*