



Rutherford

CEMETERY & COLUMBARIUM ASSOCIATION
STILLWATER, MN • EST. 1850

NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Our Mission

Our mission is to honor the memory of those who have chosen our hallowed grounds as their final resting place. We include people of all faiths and offer ground burials as well as a columbarium. We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of this lovely historic site. To this end, we rely on individual and community support as well as donations.



A message from our President



Greetings to our many Friends of Rutherford,

I am sitting here the first week in February thinking about the weather outside and how things change. Right now I have no snow to plow, no snow on the ground and

I washed the car outside this afternoon and didn't even have ice crystals on it! In fact, it's 50° outside right now - like I said things change. For those of you who are snow lovers and wish to be out cross country skiing, ice-skating and wonderful winter sports, don't worry the winter isn't over yet. The good news is we haven't had to pay for a single snowplowing or any extra for digging graves through the winter.

Let me recap the year for you. We had active board meetings this year with a lot of participation. This is a great thing and needs to continue. Unfortunately we continue to have fewer candidates to run for the board and need to change this. We have four openings this year, and I would like to see at least four candidates or more for the spots. There really aren't a lot of meetings for the board only two, one in the spring and one in the fall plus the annual meeting on April. 9, 2024 at Stillwater Evangelical Free Church at 6 PM. If you are interested in running for office, please call me, my number is 520-780-0535. You can also go to the Rutherford website and send us a message. It would be great if you could attend the meeting so everyone knows who you are.

We had successful spring and fall cleanups and got a lot done. We really could use a few more people showing up to these as well. We don't work very hard but stay busy and chat quite a bit. This year's spring cleanup is scheduled for May 4, 2024. The fall cleanup is scheduled for September 14, 2024.

I hope you have all been able to drive by the cemetery and see the addition of the rock-wall in the front and if you also were able to go through the cemetery, you saw some changes to the stairs, rock-wall improvements and stair improvements. In addition to these great changes, we installed three new benches for you to rest on while you visit or want to just think about your friends and family members. We thank the Kern family, Prigge family and Masterman family for donating the funds, making these three new benches available to all.

I hope to see you at the spring meeting. Please plan on about an hour for the meeting, it won't take all night.

Respectfully yours,
Jeff Olson - President





Memorial Day 2023

In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Association members who recently lost loved ones.

Eileen Williams

John Kern

Florence M Senske

*Dale Williams **

*Nichoali Eliassen **

Vivian Guse

Jeannie Kirkpatrick

Mary Brewer -Bitney

John N Wojtowicz

*Veterans

Full list of veterans is available at rutherfordcemetery.org

You are Appreciated!

Our sincere thanks to the members who made donations in the form of time, goods, and services in 2023.

An extra thanks to the volunteers that kept our new trees watered again this last year!

Jim Masterman - boulder walls, ornate wrought iron railings, planters, and hose stands.

Prigge family - bench

Kern family - bench

Masterman family - bench

Monetary Donations:

Peg & Dave Hansen

Steven & Sandra Roth

Elizabeth A Welke

Iona Holsten

Ellen St. Sauver

Charles & Ute Buehler

Matthew & Kimberly Rowley

James R & Susan J Burton

Mark E & Suzanne M Myers

Delbert or Barbara Mitchell

Scott R & Kum Cha Kruse

Kay Kern

Ed & Sandy Schouweiler

Verlin D. Hanson

John Rutherford

June C McComas

2024 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, April 9th, 6pm

85th Annual Meeting. Location: Stillwater Evangelical Free Church (next to Rutherford). Additional details will be forthcoming and communicated via email to association members. Please join us!

Saturday, May 4, 9am

Spring Cleanup Day: There is always something for everyone, so please join your fellow members in giving the grounds a good sprucing up. We will have several tools and

supplies available, but buckets, rakes, shovels & gloves will no doubt come in handy.

Inclement weather back-up day
Saturday, May 11th

Monday, May 27, 7am (Sharp!)

Memorial Day Services: Military service provided by Stillwater VFW Post #323. Please come and honor our veterans. See a full list of veterans at our website: rutherfordcemetery.org/veterans



Saturday, September 14, 9am

Fall Cleanup Day
Inclement weather back-up
September 21st

Members will be notified via email if any of these events are postponed/cancelled.

Jim Masterman – Self-Appointed Chief Technology Officer of Rutherford Cemetery

Jim Masterman didn't know it while painting the fence at Rutherford Cemetery in the 1960's, but one day he would attain the esteemed title of Chief Technology Officer (CTO). Rutherford Cemetery was only 1/2 mile away from where Jim grew up near the family farm in Stillwater, MN. In fact, the Masterman's are original plot owners that helped create the cemetery. The land was on a small hill that wasn't good for farming anyway, so about 16 of the local settlers and farmers established Rutherford in 1850. Jim helped clean up the cemetery each spring which gave him a leg up on the competition when he received his first paying job as the official grass mower which paid a whopping \$2 an hour which Jim said, "...was the highest paying job I had for years". After a long career working for the 3M Company, as an engineer, Jim jumped back in the saddle by becoming a board member of Rutherford and eventually becoming the self-proclaimed CTO.

Benefits Jim enjoys while in his position as CTO include the freedom to help Rutherford Cemetery in a variety of ways. With his background as a mechanical and electrical engineer, Jim brings unique experience to the table and is a natural go-getter. One of the first projects Jim tackled sprouted from a walk he took through the grounds at Rutherford which he had done so many times before. He noticed that markers for lots were difficult to discern. Jim dove deep into the issue of burial records and mapping lot locations and created a custom computer database to not only map the cemetery in Microsoft Excel, but to also keep precise documentation of each lot by linking the map to an individual record. Jim went a step further. He donated his own money and hired a company that used ground penetrating radar (GPR) and found 20 unmarked burials in the oldest part

of the cemetery from the 1850's. Jim admitted that he hoped for more from the GPR survey, but finding those lots only in the oldest section of the cemetery was helpful since no new sales would occur there. As CTO he also dove into financial records again using Excel to organize the information. He also reinstated the tax-exempt status for the cemetery which Jim said with a bit of sarcasm, "...after only 6 months we recovered our status." Jim has a keen eye for a good-looking cemetery and again donated his time, money, and energy to landscaping with an attractive two-tiered boulder wall in front, one tier on the north side by the flag pole and new steps in each location. He's also currently working to install hand railings by the steps. Needless to say, Jim has taken his job as CTO seriously and paved the way for a more organized, smoother running, and better-looking cemetery.

Jim poured his time, energy, and passion into Rutherford Cemetery to help everyone enjoy remembering our loved ones who have passed on. Jim says he enjoys walking the cemetery grounds looking at names and dates. Jim said, "I always find the dates interesting, with a little arithmetic I can see how old the person was..." He notes, "Many of them were not particularly old." It was a different time living in, "A world lit only by fire". Rutherford is an extension of Jim's passion for history. It's a good reminder to follow our passions and use our strengths, as Jim has, to make a difference in our world and a little cemetery called Rutherford. Thank you, Jim, for all you've done as you're an inspiration to us all!

For a detailed and full story from Jim on his efforts, visit Rutherford Cemetery's website at: <https://rutherfordcemetery.org>





Rutherford Cemetery & Columbarium
 P.O. Box 895
 Stillwater, MN 55082

Benches donated to Rutherford Cemetery

Many thanks to the families that donated a bench in memory of their loved ones. They are such a wonderful addition to our historic cemetery! Thanks to Sue Olson for planning and managing this project.

Reminder:
 Members, please remove
 winter pots by April 1st.



Prigge Family



Masterman Family



Kern Family

Rutherford Board Members

President	Jeff Olson	2022-2025
Vice President	Rick Haussner	2022-2025
Treasurer	Lori Swanson	2021-2024
Secretary	Leslie Dorendorf	2021-2024
Lot Sales	Don Grund	Sales

Trustees

Jerry Brandt	2021-2024
Tom Lange	2022-2024
Jim Masterman	2022-2025
Jane Luger	2023-2026
Sue Olson	2023-2026

Check out our website for
 newly updated information!
rutherfordcemetery.org