

## Grounds to be blessed at PV Cemetery

Written by Darci Tomky

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Pleasant Valley Cemetery is one of several rural cemeteries in Phillips County, and community members are invited to gather there for a special occasion this Memorial weekend.

Ceremonies will be conducted Sunday, May 27 at 4:30 p.m. at the cemetery located 11 miles east (County Road 61) and 2 1/2 miles south of Holyoke.

Veterans will be honored at the ceremony, and Rev. Gary Rahe will deliver honors and blessings for a new cemetery grounds addition as well as a re-blessing of the original cemetery grounds.

Records show the Pleasant Valley Cemetery was established in 1885, making it 127 years old this year.



**Special ceremonies will be held at the Pleasant Valley Cemetery Sunday, May 27 to bless the new cemetery grounds addition and to re-bless the original 127-year-old rural cemetery, located east of Holyoke.**

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Charley Triplette, long-time resident of the Pleasant Valley community, said legend has it that a group of pioneers were traveling on a wagon trail that cut northwest from Nebraska through the northeast corner of Colorado. When bad water or other dangers killed some of the people, they started a burial ground for the deceased.

It was first called State Line Cemetery—even though it's a couple miles west of the Colorado/Nebraska state line—and there used to be a State Line Church at the intersection to the north of the cemetery. The church was built in 1895.

The cemetery is covered with native grass, which greens up in the spring and summer, and a few trees dot the landscape of the wide open plains.

Triplette said there are around 100 graves in the cemetery, with some that are marked as unknown. He pointed out there are some patches of miniature irises, which he thinks mark the graves of infants whose families probably didn't have enough money to buy a proper headstone.

Graves were dug by hand until around 1966.

In addition to the one square acre of land used for the original cemetery, which was deeded by Ollie Stiles in May 1934, another half acre to the north was donated to Pleasant Valley in 1992 by the Percy Travis family. It does not have any graves right now, as it won't be used until the other grounds have been filled.

Triplette, who has lived in the area his whole life, said his parents and grandparents are all buried in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, and he'll probably end up there some day, too.

Growing up, he remembers how the older folks in the community always took care of the cemetery. Once they were all gone, some of the younger people needed to take over.

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In 1990 they reorganized the Pleasant Valley Cemetery Association. Since its beginning 22 years ago, Triplette has served as president. Others serving right now include Donna Lutze as secretary/treasurer, Dorothy Hubbard, Steve Triplette and Ron Thompson.

The recognizable archway to the cemetery was a welcome addition around 10-15 years ago when it replaced the old sign. Pheasants Forever also planted a windbreak at the cemetery in 1995.

Because of a project set up several years ago, many of the cemetery records/photos can be viewed at [usgwarchives.net/co/phillips/costones/plsntvly.htm](http://usgwarchives.net/co/phillips/costones/plsntvly.htm) .

For more information about Sunday's ceremonies, call Betsy Triplette at 854-2176.

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