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Sitting at vintage school desks and dressed in period clothing in Mrs. Crow's country school house in Arnold, 4th grade students raise their hands to answer a question as they experience school days in the 1800's. (Kevin Neth photo)

What Was It Like Way Back Then? Students Experience School 140 Years Ago

Donned in period clothing, 17 Arnold 4th graders trudged to school one Thursday morning in May. Actually, they were very excited to learn how children their age were taught around 140 years ago at Mrs. Crow's country school house located in Arnold on North Walnut Street.

The class was the first group to be able to sit on vintage

school desks, write on slate boards, and have a full morning of school 1860's style.

Topics were taken from McGuffey's 4th reader (1853) "Perseverance"; McGuffey's 4th Reader (1879) "Why The Sea is Salt"; Short Studies in English (1886) "Uniting Sentences" and "Naming Words"; Ray's Practical Arithmetic (1853) "Division

of Simple Numbers", and McGuffey's Eclectic Spelling Book (1879).

"The division was quite a different process than our present system, but they caught on fast," said Mrs. Crow. "They enjoyed writing the math problems on the board and listening to a small history of 'country schools', and they all wanted a

turn at sitting in the 'Dunce' chair as (5th grade teacher) Mr. Neth took their photos."

Mrs. Crow told the students about "Normal Training," a year-long class that high school students could take mid-20th Century. This class allowed them to teach in a country school for three years upon

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A.H.S. Alumni Banquet, Program is Saturday



Alumni program emcee
Lane Purcell.

Arnold alumni will gather at the school auditorium this weekend for the annual banquet and program set for Saturday, May 28. The banquet will be served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Emcee for the program will be Lane Purcell, Class of 1970, who has lived in the Philippines and various parts of the United States, serving with New Tribes Mission, as a pastor, and counselor. In 2005, Purcell accepted the church's call to full-time pastor at Rexford, Kansas, where he and wife Patty remain now. Their children include Naomi Joy, Julia Anne, Elizabeth Jean and David Lane.

This year's program is titled "Thanks for the Memories." Bob Hope (Bob Jensen) will be on hand to recognize our servicemen. Community businesses will sponsor the show with great humor. A highlight of the program will be a performance by Arnold's Elite Dance Conservatory.

President Gary Halstead encourages all servicemen - past and present - to attend the program and be recognized.

The banquet and program are open to anyone - not just graduates - who have a vested interest in Arnold School.

Arnold Cemetery Website Goes Live

www.arnoldcemetery-ne.org
unlike any other

Back in 2012, creating a cemetery website like no other seemed like an impossible task. Dedicating a page to each person buried in the Arnold Cemetery, with detailed information and photos, was the brainchild of Kristi Dvorak. After hundreds if not thousands of hours of work in the cemetery and at the computer, fundraisers, donations and grants, the professional site went live last week.

"I first heard of digitizing a cemetery in 2012," said Kristi. "I was mesmerized with the idea, but the cemeteries that were doing it were only providing a digital list of names and dates of the deceased in their cemetery. The part of me that loves genealogy thought it should include more personal information than just a name and date. After all, when I walk through a cemetery or am researching family history, I want to know the story of the person - to get a sense of who they were and their accomplishments in life."

Dvorak said as the idea began to take shape, she realized this website would be unique to any cemetery website out there. With one page dedicated to each person buried in the Arnold and Powell Canyon cemeteries, the site currently has over 3,000 pages, and will increase as Powell Canyon is finished up. These pages can be customized to include name, date of birth and death, photo of the headstone, obituary, multiple personal photos, downloaded PDFs of awards, marriage certificates, death certificates, newspaper clippings, letters, and more. The page can include anything the family wishes to share.

The site provides easy access to information about other family members buried in the cemetery by including a list of

relatives on a deceased's page with a link going directly to those personalized pages.

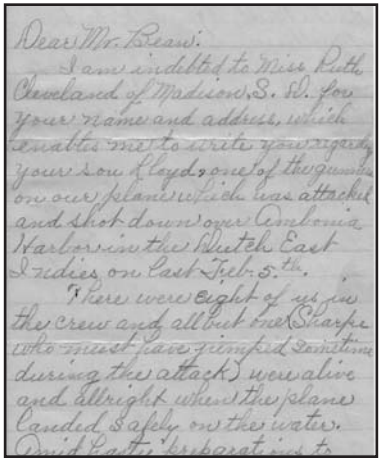
The site will also be a permanent place for the public to submit condolences and stories. Dvorak said this is similar to how a mortuary website does it, except this site will be a permanent place for these stories to be shared months and years after the loved one has passed.

The site has been professionally designed to promote the community of Arnold.

"First impressions are important, and the first impression many people receive from your community is through a website," said Dvorak. "Arnold has been putting forth great effort into promoting itself with its newly redesigned community website (arnoldne.org), and because we're affiliated with the Arnold Economic Development Corporation (AEDC), we've used their iconic "tree" from their logo on our website for brand integration. The developer that helped build the website structure is located in Olathe, Kansas. He loved this idea so much that he suggested that I market this concept to other cemeteries, starting with one near him in Kansas."

Dvorak said a project of this magnitude could not be "added on" to the current Arnold website. It had to stand alone. FindAGrave.com does include some of the basic data from the Arnold Cemetery, but it is a nationwide genealogy effort done by volunteers that are not from Arnold. It's difficult to navigate and does nothing to promote the community.

Dvorak, who has volunteered all of her time to the project, has been assisted by paid AEDC interns through the Ogallala Commons Internship program. A local photographer donated his time to take photos of each



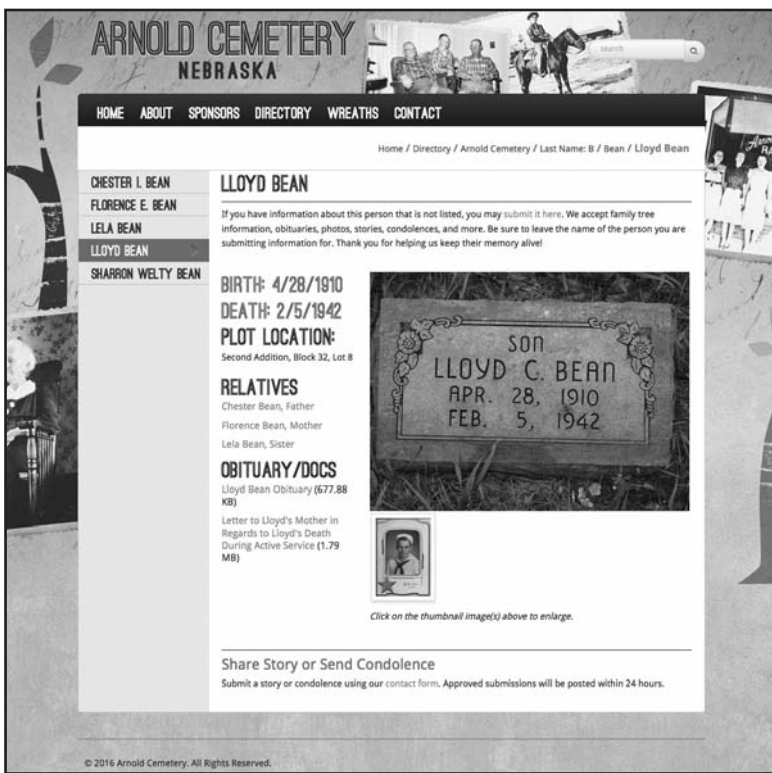
Above is a portion of the original letter, dated 1943, written to Chester Beane about his son's death in World War II that is linked to the Lloyd Bean page.

marker in the cemetery, and two local residents were hired for the final push of the project with a \$2,500.00 grant received from the Custer County Foundation, Inc.

In applying for the CCF grant, Dvorak used the first constructed page as an example of how the website works. Dayna Larreau, who was the first intern to work on the project with Dvorak for two summers, was asked to gather information from her grandmother, Betty Cole, for the Lloyd Bean page. Bean, who was Betty's brother, was the first serviceman from Arnold to lose his life in action in World War II. His page contains his photo, obituary, and a handwritten letter written to his parents, Chester and Florence Bean, by one of the men in his unit who survived that day and witnessed what happened. Links to Chester and Florence, and other family member are on his page.

Dvorak said the letter is a perfect example of how items that are often contained in scrapbooks, or even lost, can now be permanently stored and read by future generations.

The Cemetery Wreath Project, with volunteer "Cemetery Cherubs" designing the wreaths, has helped pay for the



Pictured above is a snapshot of the Lloyd Bean page from the new Arnold Cemetery Website. Links take the viewer to his obituary, full size photo, and a letter written to Bean's parents, dated 1942, telling the details of his death while serving in World War II. Links also take the viewer to family members who are buried at the Arnold Cemetery. The page was the first test on the site with content.

monthly maintenance costs of the site. Wreaths are custom made by order to be placed and then picked up at the cemetery during special holidays, including Memorial Day. Wreaths are also made and sold for home decoration. Wreaths can be viewed and requested online.

The community has also shown its support by providing cash donations, which are still needed.

"The cemetery website fund is getting low, and maintenance costs will continue monthly into the future. Any amount - large or small - is appreciated and is tax deductible," she said.

Monetary donations can be made at the AEDC office, 109 N Walnut, online, or mailed to the AEDC office, PO Box 376, Arnold NE 69120 in care of the cemetery fund.

In conclusion, she said that the work on this website has increased awareness of the maintenance of the Arnold Cemetery. Residents raised money and volunteered time and equipment to remove dead trees in 2014, and efforts have increased to beautify the grounds and complete long-overdue maintenance projects.

To visit the site, go to www.arnoldcemetery-ne.org. Information, photos and documents can be submitted by calling Dvorak at 308-870-4480 or e-mail: info@arnoldcemetery-ne.org. A contact form can also be filled out on the website. Dvorak said that if viewers find an error or know of anything that is missing, to let her know so she can make the site as accurate as possible.