

Family Places Sign at Little Known Cemetery Near Arnold



After the small graveside ceremony, Loni said her grandmother had great stories of her youth.

“She often told stories of covered wagons and traveling by wagons. She made a game of cutting wood with her brother, taking the wagon to pick berries, and

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A new sign was erected at the end of April at Powell Canyon Cemetery, east of Arnold, by the family of Mabel J. Brooks. Established in 1886, the cemetery was first named Rosebud Cemetery due to the wild roses growing there. The cemetery went relatively unnoticed by passersby until the sign was installed.

Take a drive east of Arnold, and you will pass by an unnoticed, quiet spot called the Powell Canyon Cemetery. Located about five miles outside of town, just off Highway 92, the cemetery is small and unkept, but loved ones of the people buried there know it as a special place. Toward the end of April, one of those families gathered there to bury their grandmother’s ashes and to erect a large steel sign that will mark the spot for generations to come.

Before erecting the sign, the family buried the ashes of former Arnold resident

Mabel J. Brooks at the gravesite of her husband, Lawrence P. Brooks. Mabel passed away at the age of 100 on December 8, 2016.

“My dad Roger, Uncle Buddy, and grandma and grandpa, are buried in the heart of the Sandhills. It is the most beautiful, quiet, peaceful place. It’s our hope that this sign will bring more families’ loved ones here and shine light on the goodness in people’s hearts. Now when people pass the cemetery, they will know it’s Powell Canyon Cemetery,” said Mabel’s granddaughter, Loni (Brooks) Waddell.

Powell Cemetery

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swam in the river – all without supervision. She was born before a telephone was installed in the home and lived to use a cell phone. She went from homeschooling in a sod house to seeing a man walk on the moon to wireless technology and commercial flights. She flew to Florida to see her grandchildren at almost 90 years of age.

“She was a simple woman with simple needs. She went from being a household caretaker to graduating high school to becoming the breadwinner of the family. She was going to a gym monitored by healthcare workers three times a week up until six months before her death. She was a hard worker and strived to teach her family her love of life.”

Family members involved in planning for and donating to the purchase of the sign were: Loni (Brooks) Waddell (granddaughter), Tyler and Jason Brooks (grandsons), Orrin Brooks (son), Gloria (Brooks) Grooms (daughter). Also Gary Brooks (grandson), with help from friends Kyle Troyer & Kenny Folchert, did the legwork of painting and placing the sign.

“Grandma always talked about how sad she was that things weren’t cared for our ‘kept up’ very well at the cemetery,” said Loni, who mentioned that Arnold Township Board member Ron Cool is looking into a grant for the cemetery.