

## Schnuck Cemetery

*Also referred to as the Nistendirk Cemetery*

This very old cemetery is preserved under Missouri law as a historical site. A short cement wall surrounds a single line of six gravestones, all bearing German inscriptions. Unfortunately, only three stones are still standing, the rest have been fallen for years. The method of construction of the surrounding wall can easily be seen. Cement was created from a mixture of rock and gravel and pressed between two boards until hardened and dry. Wooden poles (from tree trunks) were installed into the concrete and there was originally to have been a wire fence surrounding it. This cemetery is located on what was formerly the Schnuck family farm property, ruins of various buildings have been identified by the state. As a historical site, this homestead and cemetery needs to be respected and not disturbed. Various other iterations of the last name were used in different records, such as "Schnick", "Schnict" and "Schnueck". The term "Nistendirk Cemetery" came from the last owners of the property, as had been the custom. No one from that family is interred in this cemetery, however.

### Interred:

Gerhart J Schnuck (Johann Jurgen Gerhard) Born Nov 1, 1790 Died Jan, 1843

Christina Wilhelmina (Grube) Schnuck Born June 2, 1798 Died March 14, 1887

Catherine Louise Henrietta (Nolte) Schnuck Born Dec 24, 1836 Died June 2, 1888

John (Johann) Herman Schnuck Born Dec 3, 1832 Died April 8, 1900

Herman W Schnuck Born July 30, 1864 Died Sept 1, 1864

Carolina W M Woltemar Born May 5, 1852 Died Aug 9. 1885

Gerhart was born and lived in Badbergen, Hannover, Germany (then Prussia). Christina was born in Badbergen, Bersenbruck, Hanover, Germany (then Prussia) and baptized June 7, 1798, in the same place. She and Gerhart were also married in that village on April 3, 1824. The couple had three children while living in the area, Gerhardt "Garrett" "Gerd", born in 1825, Lucia Margaretha "Margaret" in

1835 and Johann “John” Hermann in 1832. The family left from Bremen in 1838 bound for the United States with five boxes, one trunk, and a bed. On Jan 5, 1839, the family arrived in New Orleans aboard the “Active”. The record of their arrival states they came from Badbergen, and Gerhart was listed as a farmer. He was 48 years old, wife Christina was age 38, “Gerd”, age 14, Hermann, age 7 and Margaretha, age 4.

Garrett J Schnicht is listed as the first owner of this property located within the boundaries of Innsbrook. It is clear the family was living there many years prior, however, as Gerhart, who died in 1843, is buried there. In 1853 Garrett is listed as owning a 40-acre plot; he added another 160-acre section in 1856.

Gerhart is presumed to have continued to farm upon arriving in this area and living on this property. Unfortunately, he died four years after arriving at the relatively young age of 53.

Gerhart’s stone is made of limestone in a decorative dome tablet shape with a long inscription at the bottom in German. The top of the stone is decorated with a hand with a finger pointing upwards, thought to symbolize the deceased had gone to heaven, and a belief in the afterlife. It appears there could be a broken branch incised at the top also, generally thought to symbolize mortality. His footstone is also a limestone tablet shape with his initials carved. The inscription on his stone is enclosed with a shield and reads “Hier ruht” (Here rests) Gerhart J Schnuck Geb. (born) im Jahre 1790 (in the year of) “Gest.” (died) im Jahre 1843 “Im Alter von” (at the age of) “53 Jahren” (53 years).

Gerhart’s wife, Christina, outlived him by many years. Her obituary was published in the *Warrenton Banner* on March 18, 1887. It states “Died, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Waltemar, on Monday morning, Mrs. Christina Schnick, aged 88 years. Her remains were buried Wednesday in the graveyard, on Herman Schnick’s farm. Mrs. Schnick was one of the old German settlers of this county, and her long and honorable life was one of thrift and industry.” On a side note, Christina died at the home that Innsbrook now refers to as the “old farmhouse” near the stables. That was the home of Margaret Woltemar and her husband for many years.

Christina’s stone is also made of limestone in a decorative dome tablet style and has a limestone footstone as well. Hers has an inscription in German along the

bottom translated to read “Rest gently dear mother and grandmother, From toilsome work redeemed, Rest gently and nicely until we see each other up there. You went ahead in death, even your loved ones rest here. I soon can come time. Then we are united together with you, merry eternity then nothing can separate us anymore.” She also has the symbol of a hand with a finger pointing upward under a broken branch as her husband Gerhart’s has. There are also Lily of the Valley flowers on either side of the hand. These are thought to symbolize rebirth, purity, innocence or a return to happiness and humility. Her inscription is also within a shield like her husband’s. It reads “Hier ruht in Frieden” (Here rests in Peace) “Christina W Schnuck Geb. Grobe” (Born Grobe, her maiden name) followed by the dates.

John Herman, who went by his middle name “Herman”, their son, was born and baptized at Badbergen, Bersenbruck, Hanover, Germany (then Prussia) a few days after he was born, on December 15, 1832. He was the brother of Margaret and Uncle of Carolina Woltemar. John was married to Catherine, and they had a total of four children, John GF, Herman W, who died as an infant in 1864 and is buried in this cemetery, Elizabeth, born in 1865 and lastly Anna Margaret, “Annie”, born in 1870. The 1860 census lists Herman as a farmer, owning \$1500 in real estate and \$250 in personal wealth. His sister, Margaret, niece Caroline and mother Christina are listed as living in the same household. The 1877 and 1901 Warren County atlases list Herman Schnuck (spelled Schnict and Schnick) as being the property owner of a total of 480 acres. It is interesting to note that the September 17, 1897 *Warrenton Banner* had a small article about Herman, stating “Herman Schnick of near Stracks church informs us that rattle snakes are quite plentiful in his locality. He says that he has killed quite a number one of which had 13 rattles and a button.” Herman’s wife Catherine preceded him in death by a number of years.

Herman’s death was a notable event in the community. A lengthy news article/obituary was published in the Warrenton Herald on April 10, 1900. It was titled “Found Dead in Bed”. It goes on to report “Herman Schnick, a well-known old citizen of this county” was found dead Sunday morning at the home of his daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Frank Doye. They lived just a few miles away. The article stated his sudden death came as quite a surprise as “only the day before he was in town apparently in good health.” The article also went on to

say "It is strongly rumored that the old gentleman contemplated marriage in the near future and was preparing for this happy event while in town Saturday. It gives his age as "passed 70" and says he had been a resident of Warren County since he was 8 years old. Interestingly enough it goes on to say "We are told that he earned his first dollar when the old North Missouri Railroad was being constructed and by good steady habits and persistent industry he had amassed quite a fortune." He was survived by son John, daughter Elizabeth and her husband Frank Doye, daughter Annie and her husband Simon Dickman, and grandson Charly Baurichter, Annie's son by first husband Casper Baurichter. Annie, a widow, had married Simon only a little over a year prior at her father's farm, another newsworthy event. It was determined at an inquest that Herman's death was due to "fatty degeneration of the heart". His funeral service was held at his daughter Elizabeth Doye's residence on April 10 at 10:00 am and his burial was at 1:00 pm the same day at the "Schnick farm". This was the last burial in this small family cemetery.

A copy of Herman's will, dated September 1, 1899, was located. His estate was not fully settled until 1903, possibly due to the extent of it. Frank Doye, his son-in-law, was executor and filed a notice in the Warrenton Herald on February 11, 1903 that the final settlement would take place in Probate Court the second Monday in May, 1903, in Warrenton. Herman passed his farm on to his son John, who was living there with him at the time. He said this farm was referred to as the "home place." He valued that farm at \$4000, and directed that upon getting title John pay his grandson Charles Baurichter \$1400 when he came of age. He gave his daughter Elizabeth Doye the "place she and her husband live, known as the Gaffney Place," which he valued at \$2800, and directed her to pay grandson Charles \$300 when he turned 21. Similarly, he gave his daughter Annie Dickmann the farm he bought from the Biesermeyers Estate, which he valued at \$2800, with the same stipulation for the \$300 to his grandson Charles. Herman also directed that "no sale be made of such personal property as I may leave but direct that the same of every kind and description, whether stock, household good, machinery, carriages, buggies, motes, bonds and cash, be equally divided among my three children, share and share alike".

Herman's stone is made of marble and is in a dome tablet shape. It is decorated with a pair of clasped hands, within a broken circle. This could represent

marriage, unity and affection even after death. These hands may also represent farewell or a last goodbye, with the hope of meeting again in heaven. The circle represents eternity. Lily of the valley flowers are on either side, which for a male represents renewal and resurrection since they are some of the first flowers to bloom in the spring. They can also represent submitting to God's will. The stone reads "Hier ruht in Frieden" (Here rests in Peace) Joh. Hermann Schnuck with the dates. There is an inscription along the bottom but it cannot be deciphered. His footstone is also made of marble and in a table shape marked with "J.H.S." Sadly, his stone has been overturned.

Herman's wife Catherine was also born in Prussia. Her ancestry is not as well documented, but it seems likely she immigrated to this country and arrived in Missouri in 1850 with her father, Carl Wilhelm Nolte and siblings Herman and Wilhelmine. Herman Nolte is also buried on the grounds of the Innsbrook community. He was killed in a nearby Civil War skirmish at a young age. Wilhelmine is believed to be a half-sister. She married William Boehmer and is buried in Pitts cemetery. Sadly Catherine died at an early age. Her obituary stated that "the sad news reached here of the death of Mrs. Herman Schnick. Mrs Schnick had been suffering for seven weeks, and it was at one time thought she would recover, until about three days before her death, when all hopes vanished and death claimed her. Mrs. Schnick leaves a husband, three children and a sister, the wife of Wm. Boehmer, besides a host of friends who mourn her loss. She was born in Schemme Lippe Detmold, Jan 2, 1836. The interment took place at the family graveyard, where at least 800 people gathered to pay her their final respects. Rev. Scholtz conducted the funeral services, his text being Psalm 90, 19."

Her stone, being older, is made of limestone, as is her foot tablet. It is shaped in a dome tablet style, and decorated with clasped hands, hers being depicted by a ruffed cuff. Since she passed before her husband, the hands could symbolize marriage, unity and affection after death. They could also symbolize a farewell, with the hopes of meeting again in heaven. Her inscription reads "Hier ruht in Frieden" (Here rests in Peace) Catherine Louise Henriette Schnuck Gerborne Nollen (her maiden name) and the dates.

Their infant son Herman is also buried here. His stone has also fallen over, unfortunately. His stone is also made of limestone in a dome tablet style and is decorated with a sleeping lamb at the top. The lamb was a common symbol used

on children's graves at this time to symbolize innocence and purity. There is an inscription in German at the bottom, but it is difficult to read. The main inscription reads "Hier ruht (Here rests) Herman W Sohn von (son from) H.D.J. Schnuck, which is a bit puzzling. The dates of his short life follow.

Carolina W M Woltemar died at the early age of 32. She was the daughter of Margaret Woltemar and this is listed on her tombstone. Her mother was Lucia Margaretha "Margaret" Schnuck, who was born Feb 24, 1829 in Hanover before her parents immigrated to this country. As were her siblings, she was baptized March 9, 1829 at Badbergen, Hanover. Carolina's father was Friederich Meinershagen, who was born January 30, 1822. Margaret married Friederich in Harmonie Church on December 19, 1850. This marriage ended in divorce when Friederich filed for divorce in Warren County Circuit Court on September 12, 1857. The court granted the divorce in 1858, when Carolina was six years old. Custody was awarded to her mother, Margaret and Friederich was ordered to pay her \$100.00. Margaret then married John William Woltemar on February 22, 1861. The couple went on to have four daughters, Carolina's half-sisters. They were Elise, born June 21, 1862, who later married William Hollenbeck; Lydia, born August 30, 1866, who later married John Kirkhoff; Anna, born March 17, 1868, who later married William Painter; and Margaret, born November 7, 1873, who married Edward Custer. It is assumed Carolina began using the Woltemar name from this marriage. Her biological father, Friederich, died on November 27, 1904. Her mother Margaret died December 3, 1916, and was buried in the Harmonie Church cemetery.

Carolina's stone is made from limestone in a dome tablet shape, as well as her footstone. It has an inscription in German along the bottom, transcribed to read "I had to carry hard on the weight that God imposed me in life. But harder was the last and hounding. The forehead covered cold sweat high life the heart and trembled themselves: then you came and pitied (possibly mercy) yourself. Now the suffer chalice is empty, how gently she sleeps undisturbed, you don't wake up the weeping voice. The ghost compasseth heavenly light". The top of her stone is decorated with a hand holding a full blooming rose. This is thought to symbolize death occurring during the prime of life. It could also symbolize beauty, victory, triumph or purity. Her inscription reads "Hier ruht in Frieden"(Here rest in Peace) "Carolina W.M. Tochter von" (Daughter from) "Marg. Woltemar" and the dates.