

laborative effort by Jews and non-Jews, locals and non-locals, and many were interested even though it happened over a hundred years ago.”

The monument memorializes the names of the Jewish settlers, but as efforts progressed to establish the granite marker, it came to memorialize newly-forged friendships as well. People from across the nation and the state came to know each other well, but according to Connor, it was as if they had known each other for many years.

“What’s odd is that sometimes you meet people and you’ll still have that getting acquainted feeling,” says Connor, “but it seems like on this cemetery, once you talked to them or got an email, it was like hearing from an old friend.”

This connection may be due to the fact that there is a shared history, says Ettinger. “It’s a unique story. It is just a sliver of history that came, some were buried and now it’s gone, but it really impacted a lot of people’s lives. Homesteaders took

a part of North Dakota with them as they dispersed in the early 1900s, so a bit of North Dakota is in a lot of people throughout the country and throughout the world. That was one reason I wanted to make sure we had something permanent out there – so that flash wouldn’t be forgotten.”



Two New York rabbis visited the cemetery in August, as part of a visit they make to rural areas every summer. They are Rabbi Cheskel Rothman, left and Rabbi Yudi Steiner. Louise Oleson, *Devils Lake Journal*, photo