

The only physical reminder of the Ramsey County Jewish farming community and the oldest Jewish homesteader cemetery in North Dakota. It was the second settled Jewish rural area of the state with Jewish pioneers arriving in 1882.

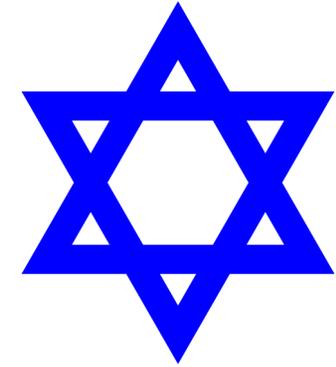


Others are believed to be buried at or near the cemetery giving the property significance from 1888, the estimated date of the first burial of a Jewish homesteader's 19-month old child, Joseph Kaufman, through 1935, the year of the last homesteader's burial in the cemetery.



14. Israel Greenberg, He was the 11-year-old-son of Phillip and Mollie Greenberg, and brother of Charlotte Greenberg. A native fieldstone marker, possibly once encrypted with Yiddish or Hebrew, but carvings have all worn off.
15. Charlotte Greenberg, She was the 4-year-old daughter of Phillip and Mollie Greenberg and the sister of Israel Greenberg. A Folk Art native fieldstone marker, 1902-1906. A carved inscription of the Yiddish or Hebrew epitaph of “Peh Nun” and a carved image is barely legible being worn away by time and the elements.
16. Israel and Charlotte Greenberg’s newer headstones with Hebrew and English inscriptions on the front, name and date, and “GREENBERG’ on the back side of the tombstones. They are located behind Israel and Charlotte Greenberg’s native fieldstone markers.
17. See #16
18. Anna Canter, 1902-1914. She was the 12-year-old sister of Joseph Canter (#8). The tombstone has four flowers, two of which are upside down.
19. Unidentified child’s tombstone with Hebrew inscription, and English “BORN June 20, 1902, DIED DEC. 4, 1906.”The artwork symbolism consist of what may be a palm branch across the top center and two flowers laying on their sides.

Sons of Jacob Cemetery



The Sons of Jacob Cemetery contains tombstones that are clearly distinct including natural field stones with carved art, one of the most notable expressions of traditional Jewish art. This unique culture of stone carving reached a particularly high level of development in the Pale of Settlement where the tombstones were honored as sacred relics in cemeteries and was brought to America by the Eastern European Jews.



1. Joseph Adelman, 8-14-1907, A tin punched Hebrew inscription on back side resulted in being upside down after having been blown 1 ½ miles away in a storm. Later the two Hebrew letters, “Peh Nun”, meaning “here lies,” which traditionally appear at the top of Jewish monuments were identified.
2. Folk Art native fieldstone of unknown person with worn and weathered Hebrew epitaph, including date and carved “Peh Nun” letters on the sides of an image on top portion of headstone.
3. Benny Parks, infant son of Charles and Fannie Parks was born Jan. 31, 1910, and died at two weeks old Feb. 13, 1910.
4. Manacha or Mandel Mill, 1860-June 2, 1935, Includes Hebrew epitaph, “Peh Nun,” also the abbreviated inscription of the first book of Samuel, 25:29. “May his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life.” At the age of 75, he was the last burial at the Sons of Jacob Cemetery. The eldest son of Israel Mill, he arrived in ND to take over his father’s farm after his death.
5. A native fieldstone donated in 2012 engraved with words “Unknown” and the Star of David to be a memorial for all unknown gravesites at the Sons of Jacob Cemetery.
6. A crude rectangular sheet of tin attached with barbed wire and surrounded by native fieldstones marks the gravesite of unknown person.
7. John Yaffe, 1891-1918, Died at age 27 during the year of the Spanish flu epidemic.
8. Joseph Canter, Dec. 11, 1905-Sept. 27, 1918, He was the brother of Anna Canter and died during the year of the Spanish flu epidemic. Since Judaism considers a 13-year-old boy to be a full-fledged adult, that may be the reason his site is located away from where the other children are buried.
9. Folk Art native fieldstone of unidentified person, but thought to be the site of Isaac Slemerson, who arrived in 1886-1887. It was told he left home one morning in the fall of 1902 with a wagon load of hay and a few chickens which were to be slaughtered in Devils Lake. On-the-way the load tipped over and Mr. Slemerson was later found with a broken neck. It was reported that his tombstone could be seen at the Sons of Jacob Jewish Cemetery. The Hebrew phrase “Peh Nun” is located with image at the top of epitaph, carved possibly as the Tree of Life.
10. Solomon Kalov, born 1/2/1825 and died 3/1/1909, father-in-law of Rachel Calof. An obelisk tombstone identified by “Calof” in English on bottom. The Hebrew epitaph includes the phrase “here lies,” and two descriptive terms, “precious,” and “Our teacher Shalom.” The deceased’s name of the father, Shaul; date of death with year, day and month in the Jewish calendar, and artwork symbolism of a standing carved flower, and a design of flowers and leaves near the bottom of the tombstone.
11. M. Slumezon, 1900, The grave is in the northwest corner of the cemetery, separate from the other graves. The reason for the location of this grave is unknown.
12. Unidentified burial mound (next to Simon Ettinger;’s gravesite) with six moss-covered rocks detected which possibly outlined/covered the grave.
13. Simon Ettinger, died in 1889 just 6 months after gaining free title to 160 acres. The marker is constructed of metal sheet with name and date crudely cut into and attached with barbed wire, surrounded by moss-covered rocks. His tombstone is the earliest marked gravesite in the Sons of Jacob Cemetery. (A former wood plank, once attached to the marker is now located at the Lake Region Heritage Center Museum in Devils Lake, and has “SM ETTINGER 188” carved onto it.