

Devils Lake Journal

Sons of Jacob memorial set to be dedicated on Sept. 17

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Last month two young rabbis from New York visited the Jewish cemetery and prayed among the graves.

One hundred years after it was established, the Sons of Jacob cemetery will be getting a permanent monument to recognize those immigrant Jewish families who made their way here in the 1880's.

They came with their hopes and dreams from "the old country" to start life anew, raise their families and farm.

They chose the Garske area and purchased five acres of land for their cemetery. The first burial was in 1888 when a 19 month old boy from the Kaufman family was buried there.

There are about 15 graves of early Jewish settlers and family members in the cemetery. The last burial was in the 1930's.

The granite monument planned for the site bears the names of the early Jewish settlers who made this area their home. The project of erecting this monument was spearheaded by Hal Ettinger of Lawrence, Kan. It was his desire to identify the historical location as a memorial to those courageous men, women and children who established a Jewish community in the lonely prairies of Dakota.

Contributions from all over the United States have helped to bring the monument about. The Devils Lake Area Foundation has also contributed and the monument has been sponsored by the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board as a community service.

On Sunday, Sept. 17 beginning at 1 p.m. Janeen Kobrinsky, Lay Rabbi from Temple Beth El in Fargo will officiate at the dedication.

To find this peaceful, but remote place travel north from Devils Lake on N.D. Highway 20 for 21 miles, turn east (right) on to N.D. Highway 17 and go six miles (watch for the small cemetery sign in the ditch on the right), then turn south (right) on a gravel road for 1.75 miles and look for the cemetery to the west (right). A prairie path through the grass leads you to the fenced-in dedicated ground.

A reception will be held following the dedication in the Chautauqua Gallery at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake.