

**VIRGINIA**  
**CEMETERY**



Southern Cherry County  
Nebraska

1981  
Prepared by the Hooker County Genealogical  
Society, Mullen, Nebraska 69152

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#### VIRGINIA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

This cemetery is located on a rolling hillside on the east part of the late Stephen James' valley northeast of Mullen, Nebraska. This ranch is now owned and operated by Eugene James, a grandson of Stephen.

On January 3, 1923, a County Surveyor, A. J. Antwerp of Broken Bow, Nebraska surveyed and made plats and a blueprint for a tract 250' by 166'. A. G. Humphrey issued the deed.

On April 9, 1925, Articles of Incorporation were drawn for the Cemetery Association. Members who signed the Articles were: Virginia James, Loy R. James, Pearl James, Fielden S. Boyer, Mary E. Boyer, C. N. Boyer, Cora Boyer, and Fay B. James. By 1976 all were deceased except Loy and Pearl James.

At this meeting, Virginia (Boyer) James donated a parcel of land on the northwest quarter of Section 18 in T.25 which was to consist of not more than two acres for cemetery purposes.

Loy James, C. N. Boyer and Fielden Boyer were elected trustees and it was decided that annual meetings would be held in April at the Virginia Schoolhouse (District 176, Reeves Precinct). At the present time there is no school building in the district.

Article V reads: "Members of this association shall consist of the persons signing these articles, their heirs or assignees."

The cemetery was so named because most of the residents of the community had originally come from Grayson County, Virginia.

In a letter to C. N. Boyer, the surveyor stated that he thought an appropriate name for the cemetery would be "Blizzard Cemetery" as it was the first he had attempted to plat during a blizzard.

It has also been suggested to name it "Tragic Cemetery" because many of the burials were the result of a tragedy. James Murray and his pregnant wife, Lee, were killed in a tornado which struck a few miles east of the cemetery on September 28, 1923. The next morning, Lester Parsons rode to the top of a hill and found the buildings demolished and the bodies lying in a field. Lee was still alive, but died shortly afterward while the two little boys, still alive were huddled by their mother's side. These may have been the only deaths in Cherry County caused by a tornado.

Another tragedy occurred in December 1923 when Bill Smith, a good neighbor in the west end of the valley was murdered at his home. His wife, Lottie and a hired man, Clinton Smith (no relation) were found guilty and served time in the State Penitentiary.

Vera James, a sweet young school teacher drowned in the Loup River north of Mullen in 1933 and was buried in the Virginia Cemetery.

One will find graves of several infants who died at birth, or in early childhood. There are three sets of twins buried here also.

VIRGINIA CEMETERY

There are 60 lots, and the following persons are interred in this cemetery:

- Lot 43 - Dennis Boyer, 8/5 - 1842 - 2/27 - 1919  
His wife Sarah E. Boyer, 9/24 - 1843 - 1/8 - 1924  
Stephen L. James, 9/10 - 1853 - 3/29 - 1917  
Virginia Boyer James, 3/17 - 1847 - 4/4 - 1926
- Lot 44 - Veva Boyer, 9/9 - 1909 - 3/22 - 1910 (daughter of Fielden & Enice Boyer)  
Donald Dwayne Mink, 5/19 - 1938  
Glen Eugene Mink, 9/19 - 1940 (Sons of Clarence & Bessie Mink)
- Lot 45 - James Murray, 1885 - 1923 killed in tornado  
Lee, his wife 1895 - 1923  
Baby  
Children Rose & Ross Marray 1913 (twins)  
Rosalie 1917 - 1920  
Billy 1922 - 1923  
Neil Murray, son of Charles & Winnie Murray, 11/23 - 1917 - 6/14 - 1919
- Lot 46 - Unmarked graves of W. F. (Bill) Smith, who was murdered 12/20 - 1923  
and two infant children of his.
- Lot 47 - Carl Berson Little, 4/25 - 1889 - 3/24 - 1929  
Claude E. Little, 10/9 - 1922 - 3/3 - 1924, his son  
Tennie Lee Little Ulrich - 3/1 - 1895 - 4/1 - 1975 - his wife
- Lot 51 - Charles Bullington (Infant of Elmer Bullington) 1933  
Unmarked grave - Downing twins
- Lot 52 - Eliza Fearman Miller, 12/15 - 1880 - 2/2 - 1923  
Zenna Pearman, 7/13 - 1921 - 9/16 - 1923 (daughter of Ernest & Hazel)  
Pearman
- Lot 56 - Vera M. James, 3/11 - 1908 - 5/29 - 1933 (daughter of Fay & Sallie )  
James
- Lot 57 - Unmarked graves of twins:  
Bonnie June Webber & Vonnie Jean Webber - June 30, 1935  
daughters of Elva (James) Webber & Erwin Webber

Information gathered and written  
by Gussie (Boyer) Osborne  
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BOYER, Dennis	Lot 43	5 Aug 1842	27 Feb 1919
*Sarah Elvira	Lot 43	24 Sep 1843	*8 Jan 1924
Veva	Lot 43	9 Oct 1908	22 Mar 1909
BULLINGTON, Charles J	Lot 51	+20 May 1933	*11 Jun 1933
DOWNING, Boy ) twins of Girl) Fred J.	Lot 51	+11 Apr 1936	*11 Apr 1936
GAMBILL, Mrs. Nellie moved to Mullen	Lot 54		* 5 Feb 1929
JAMES, Stephen L.	Lot 43	10 Sep 1853	29 Mar 1917
Vera Maude	Lot 56	11 Mar 1908	*29 May 1933
Virginia BOYER	Lot 43	17 Mar 1847	*4 Apr 1926
LITTLE, Carl Berson	Lot 47	25 Apr 1889	*24 Mar 1929
Claude Eugene	Lot 47	9 Oct 1922	* 3 Mar 1924
MILLER, Eliza PEARMAN	Lot 52	15 Dec 1880	2 Feb 1923
MINK, Donald Dwayne	Lot 44	+19 May 1938	*19 May 1938
Glen Eugene	Lot 44	13 Sep 1940	*13 Sep 1940
MURRAY, Bertha Lee	Lot 45	18 Nov 1895	*28 Sep 1923
Billie	Lot 45	1922	Sep 1923
James T.	Lot 45	16 Oct 1885	*28 Sep 1923
Neil		23 Nov 1917	14 Jun 1919
Rose) twins		1913	1913
Ross)		1917	1920
Rosalie			
PEARMAN, Zenna	Lot 52	13 Jul 1921	16 Sep 1923
SMITH, *James William (Bill)	Lot 46	30 Jun 1875	*20 Dec 1923
ULRICH, Tennie Lee LITTLE	Lot 47	1 Mar 1895	1 Apr 1975
WEBBER, Bonnie June) twins *Donna Joan)	Lot 57	30 Jun 1935	*30 Jun 1935

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+Hooker County Birth Records  
\*Hooker County Death Records

# Virginia Cemetery

42	41	40
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39	38
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43	44	45
Sarah E. Boyer	Donald D. Mink	
Dennis Boyer	Glen E. Mink	<i>Murray</i>
Virginia James	Veva Boyer	
Stephen L. James		

46	47
<i>Smul</i>	Claude E. Little
	Tennie Little Ulrich
	Carl Little

54	53	52
<i>Gambill</i>		
		Eliza Miller    Zenna Pearman

51	50
<i>Bettington</i>	
<i>Downing</i>	

55	56	57
	Vera James	<i>Webber Twins</i>

58	59