

**BEAVER CREEK CEMETERY  
BROADWATER COUNTY  
MONTANA  
OCTOBER 2006**

This cemetery was located northeast of Winston, Montana, Township 9 North, Range 1 East, Section 27 but was covered when the Canyon Ferry Reservoir was filled in 1952. The cemetery area is now below the water level. According to the records, the graves were moved to the Forestvale Cemetery near Helena and the Winston Cemetery (formerly Placer Cemetery) near Winston, Montana.

“BEAVER CREEK CEMETERY - 1870. A lonely forlorn grave left by some early wagon train on a hill overlooking the conflux of Beaver Creek and the Missouri River was isolated no more. That spot became the Beaver Creek Cemetery. George Filson donated an acre of ground for this cemetery about 1868 or 70. A number of the Filson family were buried here. The first grave in this cemetery was in 1870 (Methodist). Approximately 35 graves were in this cemetery. One was a Civil War veteran, Knud Thompson, a native of Skandaborg, Denmark. He died in 1885. This grave marker was made of blue-gray metal. Another was “Daniel Boone” Filson who died in 1916. Alice Reynolds died in 1882 of a diphtheria epidemic and was buried here. In 1950 all of the remains were moved to other cemeteries before the water of Canyon Ferry Lake cover this spot. A few of these remains were moved to the Winston Cemetery. They are all in the northwest corner. Some of these graves were moved to Helena cemeteries and elsewhere. The moving of these graves was put up for bids by the government. A coroner from Havre, Emil Ellison, was in charge of moving them.” Broadwater County Cemetery book, page 19, which is located in the Broadwater County Museum, Townsend, Montana.

“Beaver Creek, Beavertown, eighteen miles southeast of Helena, was in Jefferson County when its post office was established in 1872. The office was closed in 1876, reestablished in 1878, closed again in 1884, only to be reinstated in 1885. The first postmaster was Thomas Pauley. The town was named for a nearby stream, which in turn had been named for the animals that inhabited it. Beaver and trappers disappeared; the prospectors came, and the town's name kept pace: in 1887 the community moved up to the railroad siding and changed its name to Placer.” Roberta Carkeek Cheney, *Names on the Face of Montana, The Story of Montana's Place Names*, Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, 1983.

**1949, November 24, The Independent Record:**

Canyon Ferry Cemetery Being Moved. Two public hearings regarding movement of graves from Beaver Creek and Canyon Ferry cemeteries, both within the reservoir area of the new dam, were conducted at Townsend and Helena recently by the bureau of reclamation. The nearest relatives of the dead have been, wherever possible, contacted and given a choice of locations to where the graves will be moved. The bureau is moving the graves to either Helena, Townsend or Winston cemeteries without charge. As the Canyon Ferry cemetery will not be inundated but will be on an island in the lake, relatives were given an option of leaving the grave at the present location but they were required to sign a waiver alleviating the government from any obligation of providing transportation from the shore to the grave. The Beaver Creek cemetery will be completely flooded and all of the graves will be moved to new sites. The unmarked

graves, many of which are found at Canyon Ferry, will be moved to a plot in the old Placer cemetery near Winston. A section of the Winston cemetery, originally established as a resting place for dead miners, has been purchased from the county for that purpose. According to some of the early day residents of the area, many of the unmarked graves at Canyon Ferry were those of victims of the famed claimjumper's war in Cave gulch in the early days. However, many were marked with wooden slabs, but time has erased the marking or the boards have been carried away leaving the mound undesignated. The 50 odd graves at Canyon Ferry include many names which are synonymous with the pioneer area. Family names, often duplicated on the headstones, include Nolan, Harris, Dwyer, Gustafson, Elston, Byrd, Robertson, Clegg, Hoffer, Aastrup, Cassidy, Conable, Williams, Maloney, Angel and Dotson. Names on the grave markers at Beaver Creek, also including many pioneer residents, are Filson, Carpenter, Bruce, Reynolds, Karstrom, Rotz, Fisher, Davies, Herd, Thompson, Hammons, Grandolene, Donaldson, Falen, Hart, McLaughlin, True and Ridgeway.

NAME	T	BIRTH	DEATH	AGE	REMARKS
Beatty, Hamilton Wesley	x	1871	1918	47	Moved to IOOF cemetery in Helena in the early 20s.
Bruce, Alanson	x	1855	1929		#15, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section
Bruce, Charles R.		1857	1935/04/03	78	#17, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section
Bruce, Marvel	x	1915/12/22	1916/01/01	10d	#16, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section, d-C.L. and H.
Bruce, Ralph C.	x	1895	1909/01/19	14	#18, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section
Carpenter, Annie Laura	x	1869	1883/03/29	14y8m21d	#23, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section, d-B.F. and M.F.
Carpenter, Benjamin F.	x	1845	1890	45	#20, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section
Carpenter, Louis M.	x	1886	1923	37	#22, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section
Carpenter, Mary Frances	x	1851	1918	67	#21, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section
Carpenter, Willie	x	1871/06/09	1871/06/09	0	#24, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section, s-B.F. and M.F.
Davies, Winifred	x	1917/05/14	1917/11/30	6m	#03, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section, "Infant daughter of Fred and Lydia Davies"
Donaldson, Marian Adele	x	1907	1923	16	#19, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section (shows family plot)
Grundlan, Adala		1854/03	1913/09/15	59	#25, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section. No stone in Forestvale. She appears in the 1900 census; age 46, single, born Sweden, enumerated with Amelia Falen (her sister), John Karlstrom (her nephew), and Cora L. Keith (boarder) at Winston, Broadwater County, Montana. The spelling in the census is: Gwendoline Edla. Spelling on death certificate is Adala Grundlan.
Falen, Amelia		1844	1924/08/14	80	#29, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section
Falen, Charles Anthony	x	1821/01/28	1896/10/29	75	#28, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section, born Stockholm, Sweden
Falen, Charles Anthony Jr.	x	1888	1889/09/29	11m14d	#27, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section, s-C.A. and A.
Filson, Daniel Boone	x	1843	1910/06/18	67	#05, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section, "Death is the crown of life", s-George M. Filson, born Buchanan County, Missouri
Filson, George M.	x	1816/08/06	1898/04/04	82	#11, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section, "Children come to see us in heaven"
Filson, James (Infant)			1916		#08, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section

Filson, Kate A.	x	1860	1915	55	#04, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section, "Death is the crown of life"
Filson, Lenore	x	1891/02/03	1891/02/20	17d	#07, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section, d-D.B. and K.A.
Filson, Sarah A.	x	1819/01/10	1909/03/07	90	#10, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section, "Children come to see us in heaven"
Filson, William G.					#09, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section, s-George M. Filson, born in Missouri
Fisher, James Edward	x		1923		#02, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Glenwood Section
Fisher, William Edward	x		1912		#01, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Glenwood Section
Hammons, A. W.	x	1865/03/26	1880/03/22	15	#12, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section
Hammons, J. P.	x	1830/03/28	1881/05/18	51	#14, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section
Hammons, O. A.	x	1865/03/26	1880/03/15	15	#13, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section
Hart, Mary S.	x	1877	1923		#06, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Ming Section
Herd, Robert	x	1853	1890	37	#39, Moved to Placer Cemetery
Hobson, Burke	x				#52, Moved to Placer Cemetery
Hobson, Steve D.	x	1840	1890/05/22	50	#50, Moved to Placer Cemetery, Herrmann & Co., born Iowa, miner, died St. Johns Hospital, Helena
Isaacson, John	x		1894		#48, Moved to Placer Cemetery
Isaacson, Mrs. John	x		1896/12/14		#49, Moved to Placer Cemetery, Herrmann & Co.
Karlstrom, Cora L. (Keith)	x	1875	1937/12/28	62	#26, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section, w-John A. Karlstrom
Lambert, Infant	x		1884/08/28	2d	#47, Moved to Placer Cemetery, "Dau. of Geo. and Celinda Lambert"
McLaughlin, Ida (Squires)	x		1891		#38, Moved to Placer Cemetery
Rawlings, John Benjamin		1895	1899/02	4	Could be one of the unknowns
Reynolds, Alice	x	1878	1882/04/09	4y6m19d	#30, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section, d-C. and J.
Reynolds, Clifton W.	x	1852	1919/02/15	67	#31, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section
Reynolds, Julia	x	1854	1936/05/22	82	#32, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section
Ridgeway, Lilly May	x		1890		#36, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Glenwood Section, Block 3, grave 96
Rotz, Azariah L.	x	1839	1932/12/12		#35, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section, QM Sgt. Btry D Pennsylvania L Arty, h-Missouri
Rotz, Estella	x	1881	1883/03/18	2y4m23d	#33, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section, d-A.L. and M.
Rotz, Missouri	x	1849	1884/12/11	35y10m	#34, Moved to Forestvale Cemetery, Mountainview Section, w-A.L.
Squires, Kate	x		1890		#37, Moved to Placer Cemetery
Thompson, Andrew T.	x	1843/04/14	1909/12/13	66	#42, Moved to Placer Cemetery, Corp. Co. D Second Wisconsin Infantry, h-Cora, m. 12/13/1879 or 1880
Thompson, Cora B. (Filson)	x	1858			#41, Moved to Placer Cemetery, born Buchanan County, Missouri, w-Andrew
Thompson, Knud	x	1837	1885/01/09	48	#43, Moved to Placer Cemetery, Civil War, served in 82 <sup>nd</sup> Illinois Infantry, 48 years old, Native of Skandaborg, Denmark "Honest Soldier Lies Here" bust relief of soldier on the back of metal tombstone. Herrmann & Co.
True, George	x		1891/08/11		#45, Moved to Placer Cemetery, partner of J. Z. Collins, Herrmann & Co.  Campbell, William C., <i>From the Quarries of Last Chance Gulch, Volume II, Continuing the</i>

					<i>"News-History" of Helena, Montana</i> , Printed by The Helena Independent Record Publishing Company, Helena, Published by the Bell-Arm Corporation of Helena, Montana, 1964, page 31, "The first mention of the "Placer Hotel" in the Herald did not refer to the hotel in Helena today, but to the one at Placer, Mont., located between Winston and Louisville (Clasoil). The reference in the paper stated that the proprietor of the "Placer Hotel" took his own life when his wife said she didn't love him any more. The victim was George True."
Unknown					#40, Moved to Placer Cemetery
Unknown					#51, Moved to Placer Cemetery
Unknown					#53, Moved to Placer Cemetery
Walker, Henry Infant	x				#44, Moved to Placer Cemetery
Wimpey, Alice*	x		1867		#46, Moved to Placer Cemetery, has large boulder for marker.

T-"x"-Deceased has tombstone or marker in their permanent resting place.

**References:**

\*Montana GenForum message dated April 28, 2000 from Merla Sears Van Norman: "I recently ran across an older newspaper article that included information about the first burial in a cemetery in Montana. It included the information about the grave of a young girl that died on a Wagon Train en route to Helena, Montana. There was a boulder used as a headstone and the name Alice Wimpey engraved in it with the year of 1867 below. Her birthdate could not be distinguished. She is buried in what is known as the Beaver Creek Cemetery overlooking the Missouri River. It is believed that her parents only stayed in the area for a brief time and then moved on. No one was able to contact any relatives of this family in later years. They were possibly following the Gold Rush Trails. I hope this information will benefit someone researching this family". Sincerely, Merla Sears Van Norman.

Plot Plan, United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Region 6, Missouri Basin Project, Canyon Ferry Unit, Montana, Beaver Creek Cemetery, dated October 3, 1949, no. 296-613-169.

Graves Register for Beaver Creek Cemetery as Compiled by Bureau of Reclamation, Canyon Ferry Unit, Canyon Ferry, Montana, dated August 4, 1950.

Montana Historical Society Photo Archives, pictures PAC 75-80.1 through 75-80.25 depicting the disinterment.

Broadwater Bygones, Broadwater County, Montana, 1897, A History of Broadwater County, Copyright, 1977, Broadwater County Historical Society.

Coffin Book from Herrmann & Co. dealers in *All Kinds of Styles of Furniture, Bedding, Upholstery, Etc.*, METALLIC AND WOOD CASKETS ALWAYS ON HAND, Helena, Montana, located on October 6, 2005 at the Montana Historical Society, collection SC 1673. Also in collection was an advertisement pasted on a little square of wood, stating the date of 1871, furniture and “metallic and wooden coffins.”

Compiled by Charleen Spalding, Helena, Montana.