

# THE MORNING NEWS

SPRINGFIELD ROGERS FAYETTEVILLE

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## Pioneer Woman To Be Honored

*By Charlie Alison, The Morning News •*

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FAYETTEVILLE — Nearly 100 years after her death, Temperance Van Winkle has gotten a headstone to mark her grave in Evergreen Cemetery.

"Tempy," as she was known, was the wife of Peter Van Winkle, the Northwest Arkansas pioneer whose marble marker stands tall above nearly every other at the oldest public cemetery in Fayetteville. A marker for Temperance, however, was never placed because she was the last of the family living in the region prior to her death in 1902.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, her marker will be dedicated, and Peter Van Winkle's monument, newly restored, will be rededicated, the second project completed under Evergreen Cemetery's Adopt-a-Monument Program.

The 14-foot-tall tombstone for Peter Van Winkle, which is on the north side of the cemetery, was cleaned and reassembled by Norton Arts. Liz and Wendel Norton of Marshall also did the conservatory work on a monument to Sophia Sawyer, one of Fayetteville's early educators.

Van Winkle, who moved to Washington County in about 1835, was known for his lumber mill near War Eagle Creek and his help in building Old Main on the University of Arkansas campus.

According to Marilyn Hicks, who has written a family history about Van Winkle, he was born on the island of Manhattan, N.Y., in 1814 and moved with his family to Illinois prior to 1820, moving on his own later at the age of 21 to Washington County and settling near present-day Greenland in 1835.

In 1840, he married Temperance Miller, with whom he had 12 children.

He started out farming but soon put his mechanical mind to work, building wagons, plows and other farm equipment. He later ran numerous milling operations across Northwest Arkansas and also built the first multi-story hotel in the region on Center Street in Fayetteville. A member of the Primitive Baptist Church

and a Mason, Van Winkle died in 1882 at Rogers. His wife, Temperance, died in 1902.

Cleaning of the Van Winkle family markers was paid for by the Reagan sisters of Rogers — Agnes, Mary Sue and Lynn — and installation of the new marker for Temperance Van Winkle and a new wrought-iron fence were paid for by family members, organized by Hicks, who will speak at the rededication.

The marker for Temperance was specially cut by Emerson Monuments of Springdale and designed to blend with the other century-old markers in the Van Winkle plot, which also includes markers for Cora Van Winkle Hall and her infant daughter, Ruth.

The new fence around the plot was built by Mainer Iron Works Inc. of Fort Smith.

Paula Marinoni, a member of Evergreen Cemetery's board of directors and the person who started the Adopt-a-Monument Program, said in a news release that Mark Mainer would talk about the iron fence.

Also making a presentation at the rededication, Steve Chyrchel, an interpreter for Beaver Lake State Park, which is working on the new Van Hollow Park, will describe some of the work at that site, the historic location of Van Winkle's mill.

In a news release, Chyrchel wrote of Van Winkle that he influenced the growth and development of all Northwest Arkansas by supplying the high-quality lumber, doors and "gingerbread" for homes and businesses from Fayetteville to Springdale, Lowell Rogers and Bentonville.

Many of those buildings stand today after more than 100 years. When the Benton County Court House was rebuilt following the Civil War, Chyrchel wrote, it was constructed with Van Winkle lumber. "The majority of lumber used to construct Old Main at the University of Arkansas also came from Van Winkle's mill," he wrote. "Van Winkle lumber obviously was used in the magnificent Van Winkle Hotel that operated many years just off the square in Fayetteville."

Chyrchel also said that Van Winkle's influence helped bring the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad to Rogers in 1881, and he served on the committee that chose the site of the railroad depot in Fayetteville.

During the Civil War, Chyrchel said, Van Winkle contracted with the Confederate Army to build winter quarters for Gen. McCulloch's men at Cross Hollow (just west of Monte Ne) and Oxford Bend, now known as Goshen.

"When (Gen.) Van Dorn retreated from the Battle of Pea Ridge on March 8th, 1862, he and the majority of the Confederate Army on the West spent the night at and around Van Winkle's mill,"

**Chyrchel wrote.**

**Chyrchel said that the site of the Old Peter Van Winkle mill and home sits in a hollow being developed by Beaver Lake State Park, east of Rogers.**

**As plans for park development progress, archaeological endeavors sponsored by Arkansas State Parks, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Arkansas Archeological Survey continue.**

**When the project reaches completion, visitors to Beaver Lake State Park will be able to walk a new trail through the area of Peter Van Winkle's home and mill site with interpretive presentations that will demonstrate the 19th-century life of "Van Hollow."**

**Evergreen Cemetery is west of University Avenue, behind the Kappa Sigma house on Dickson Street. For details, call 444-6170.**