



Kansas State University Libraries
New Prairie Press

Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal

2020 - The Flint Hills: Rooted In Stone (Larry Patton, editor)

Vernacular Tombstones

Symphony in the Flint Hills, Inc.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://newprairiepress.org/sfh>

Recommended Citation

Symphony in the Flint Hills, Inc. (2020). "Vernacular Tombstones," *Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal*. <https://newprairiepress.org/sfh/2020/history/6>

To order hard copies of the Field Journals, go to shop.symphonyintheflinthills.org.

The Field Journals are made possible in part with funding from the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation.

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences at New Prairie Press. It has been accepted for inclusion in Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal by an authorized administrator of New Prairie Press. For more information, please contact cads@k-state.edu.

VERNACULAR TOMBSTONES

Prairie peoples have a long tradition of “make do and mend,” and this ethos extends from the cradle to the grave. Vernacular and folk-art tombstones are made by untrained craftspeople and can be found throughout the Flint Hills. Made from inexpensive materials that were likely on hand—concrete, wood, stone, and metal—vernacular tombstones are often decorated with pressed-in inscriptions, glass inlays, or ceramic figurines. Usually more ephemeral than traditional granite and marble markers, the charm of many of these folk-art works are the rough, unsettled, and broken or missing pieces. A poignant testament to the transitory quality of our lives.



Juan Montana and Children, St. Anthony Cemetery, Strong City
Lori Strecker



*Child's Grave, Dunlap Cemetery
Predo Salinos, Calvary Cemetery, Council Grove
Derek Hamm*

*Stephen Prudden, Dunlap Cemetery
Martin Ramsey, St. Anthony Cemetery, Strong City
Derek Hamm*