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.

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Recommended Citation


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

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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.
Child’s Grave, Dunlap Cemetery
Preda Salinas, Calvary Cemetery, Council Grove
Derek Hamm

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