

ST ANTHONY CEMETERY 1846-2017 and Memories from Lee Wick St. Anthony Parish School Graduate 1951

☐ **Oldest Grave.** There are six sections to the St. Anthony Cemetery. Section 1 is the oldest and located directly behind St. Anthony Parish School. Waukesha County Register of Deeds suggests that the oldest grave is Peter Joseph Brahm who died in September, 1847 at the age of 82. His spouse was Mary Ann Schiller.

☐ **Unknown Priest.** An unknown priest is buried in Section 1. Research suggests that it may be Fr. Hieronimus Berckmann

☐ **Father Nicholas Schaaf.** St. Anthony pastor Father Nicholas Schaaf served the parish from 1884-1918 and is buried at the site of the Good Shepherd gravestone near the parish school. Stories are told of a vision of Jesus as the Good Shepherd appearing to a local resident near the gravesite.

☐ **The Vision of the Good Shepherd:** It was said that an apparition of the Good Shepherd appeared to the husband of a parish housewife who had been praying in the first log church of St. Anthony for her husband's conversion from Calvinism (around 1848). In recognition, Bishop Henni gave pastors permission to have a special devotion every July 16 which is when the supposed vision took place.

☐ Until 1947, Sections 1 and 2 were all that made up the cemetery. A line of lilac bushes stood along the western edge before what is now the basketball court. Beyond that and down the hill was then part of the Wick farm.

☐ **Additional Land Purchase.** On March 10, 1947, a special meeting of the members of the St. Anthony Congregation was called to order by Rev. Father Joseph Bollenbeck for the purpose of discussing an offer made by Joe F. Schmidt in regard to Wick farmland being subdivided and sold. This particular piece of land adjoined St. Anthony's property to the north and west. After discussion the decision was made to purchase the property with part of the land to be used as cemetery space. The purchase added Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 and increased the size to roughly five acres – the size it is today.

☐ **Section 3.** Leander and Gertrude Wick's still-born daughter, Mary and adult Walter Reith are the first burials in the then newly created Section 3, buried in December 7, 1949 and 1950 respectively. Lee Wick remembers that his father, Leander, purchased the smallest gasket from the funeral and dug a grave for his baby daughter in what used to be his family's farmland on a mild December day. Regarding his sister's funeral, Lee also writes, *"I remember Mary's burial. As children we did not fully understand what had happened. We just wanted our Mother to come home. We knew she was very sick because Father had asked for everybody in Church to pray for her. [At Mary's graveside] it was just Father Reichling, Dad, and us kids."*

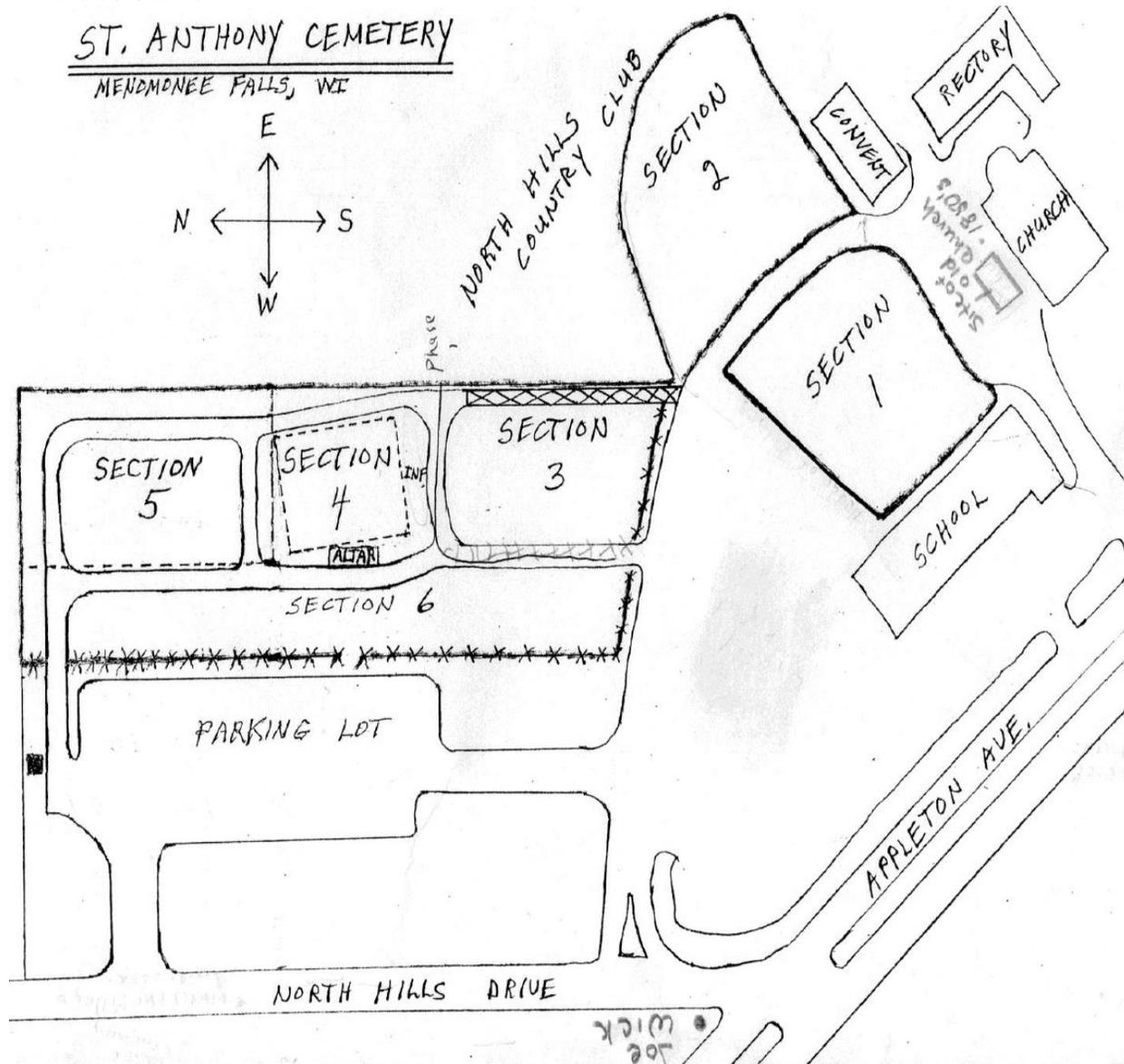
☐ **Cutting Grass and Perpetual Care.**

Lee Wick recalls, "When I was 11-12, I cut the grass with a large 28 inch rotary mower in the cemetery for Father Reichling. The cemetery (at that time) was divided into three parts, older near the school (Section 1); old, on the other side of the driveway near the original school and sister's house (Section 2) and new where my parents (and baby sister, Mary) are buried (Section 3). Section 1 has a Wick monument when coming from church. This is my grandpa. Anyway, when I cut the

grass in the cemeteries, only the older (Section 1) and the new (Section 3) were included. Father R. (Father Reichling) gave me \$5-\$10 depending on how long it took. The old section (Section 2) was not included at the time because it didn't have perpetual care and there was no full time janitor." Lee remembers his family cut the grass around their family's plots in Section 2.

☐ **Priests.** Several priests are buried in the cemetery including: Father Nicholas Schaaf, Father Ferdinand Falbisoner, Father George Holzem, Father John Biegler and Father Wayne Barta. There are currently markers for Father George Fleischmann and Father Ralph Gross.

☐ **St. Anthony Veterans.** As of December 2017, there are 262 veterans buried in the St. Anthony Cemetery: 14 Civil War, 2 Spanish/American War, 1 American Legion Auxillary, 7 World War I, 131 World War II, 45 Korean War, 24 Vietnam War, 25 marked U.S., 4 marked as Peacetime, and 6 marked as Unknown.



4 Unknown means that it is certain that served their country, but it is unsure which conflict/war