



Indian Spring Cemetery

5400 Indian Springs Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Open Dawn to Dusk

Cemeteries are places to discover all kinds of interesting things that tell us a lot about the people who are buried in them . . . you just have to look closely to find the clues! To complete this tombstone hunt, look carefully to find and complete each item on the list.

1. Look for the grave of someone who was born in the same month as you.

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

2. Ivy is a symbol of eternal life, and was often carved onto tombstones. Look for a tombstone with a plant carving on it and draw it in the box below:



3. Most military tombstones are either a similar style of stone or a flat bronze plate mounted flat on a stone. Find a military grave and record the following:

Name: _____

Date of death: _____

Which war did this person serve in? _____

Which branch of service did this person serve in? _____



4. In addition to plants, animals often appear on tombstones. Find one near you and write down its name. What do you think the animal is a symbol for?
-

Did you Know? Charlotte County's history can be traced through over 3,400 interments at this site, many representing the settlers of the area and the ancestors of local families. Charlotte County's founding fathers interred in Indian Spring Cemetery include politicians, doctors, lawyers, engineers, surveyors, entrepreneurs, builders, veterans and their families. Land for the cemetery was donated to the County by James L. Sandlin, a prominent citizen and member of the Punta Gorda Council. Indian Spring Cemetery was originally surveyed by Albert Gilchrist, a surveyor who recorded the first plat in 1886 and later became the 20th Florida Governor. Both Sandlin and Gilchrist are buried in the cemetery.

5. Can you find a tombstone that contains a photo? What's their name?
-

6. Can you find a tombstone that resembles a tree or a log? These tombstones are representative of Woodmen of the World stone. The Woodmen is the largest fraternal benefit society with open membership in the United States. It is an insurance organization founded in Omaha, in 1890. Early Woodmen of the World policies provided for a death and a monument benefit. Gravestones were originally furnished to members for free. According to the Woodmen of the World website, although the monument benefit is no longer included, the Society does not let graves go unmarked. Find a Woodman of the World tombstone:

Name: _____

Dates: _____

7. Tombstones are usually carved out of different types of stone. Most are marble, granite, or even concrete. Locate a tombstone that is made from concrete:

Name: _____

Dates: _____

8. Family plots are either large groups of stones that look alike or are enclosed by an iron fence or a concrete border. Find a family plot and write down the name of the family buried in it.
-

9. Indian Spring Cemetery has over 3,400 burials, but there is room for more. Look around you and see if you can spy a tombstone that is dated before 1890 and a tombstone dated after 2000. What years did you find? 18 ____ / 20 ____

10. Some believe that angels protect people on earth and guide them to heaven when they die. How many angels can you find on tombstones in this section of Indian Spring? _____ What are the angels doing? Describe one here:

11. Indian Spring Cemetery is the final resting place for many of the earliest pioneers in Charlotte County. Look around and find an individual whose last name is the same for a building, street, business, etc. in Punta Gorda or Port Charlotte:

a. Name: _____

Dates: _____

Last name matches what in town?

12. Some tombstones contain more than just names and birth/death dates. Some contain a favorite religious passage, nicknames, professional title, or a specific message about the person buried there (for example: *He loved to play golf*). Find a unique description or passage and write it down.

Name: _____

Message: _____

13. Who has the oldest known burial in Indian Spring Cemetery?

** Now turn in your quest at the Charlotte County History Services to earn rewards! **

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Libraries & History

Charlotte County History Services
2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd. | Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941.629.PAST (7278) | Fax: 941.613.3196