





#### **Vulcan County Missing Graves Project Deliverables**

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## Where did this all start?

- Graves can go unmarked for any number of reasons:
  - Markers can be lost to time or damaged and not replaced.
  - Records can be lost.
  - Old maps can become damaged or misplaced or just be inaccurate.
  - Sometimes people were buried without anyone recording the event.
- It seems odd in our time, but was not uncommon in the past.





## **First Contact**

Can Remote Sensing technology provide a solution?

Research can't guarantee results.



Students benefit from real world experience.



Everyone likes to spend time in graveyards at 4 am...right?



## Why might this work?

- Earth surface materials can absorb and re-radiate energy at different rates.
  - Asphalt is hotter than grass in the summer.
  - Rock is colder than soil in the morning but warmer in the afternoon.
  - Disturbed soil can also show thermal differences.

FIAT LUX

## **Existing Archaeological Research**

Ongoing PhD research of Tammi Mills

 Looking for buried archeological features.



a. Concentrations of artifacts



c. Subsurface architecture



d. Subtle topographic features



## Thermal Survey





# We're going to try...we don't know if it will work!

- Image in the morning and afternoon.
- Try to cover as many cemeteries as possible.
- Hire a student.













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Each cemetery will have a map showing the empty, marked and unmarked graves.



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Travers Cemetery North Section WIP Map

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"???" means that the name is unknown





They don't have

records.







Digital Terrain Model (DTM) (left) and thermal (right) products.

These are not definitive and would require other techniques outside the scope of this project to be sure.



Some non-concrete graves are easily visible in the thermal

• These graves are usually more recent.

Others are not as visible.

# We are trying to estimate maximum age of graves visible in thermal





Elevation data can help us see surface features like mounds or depressions

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Arrowwood, Bowville, Travers, and Carmangay cemeteries have a layout layout with updated records as well as the "suspected graves" map.

Lomond, Milo and Anastasia will be finished by the end of April.



## Carmangay

The three marked graves in the far north corner













Milo

Thermal Shadows in O Perfect Peace Cemetery during sunrise





#### Milo

The provided map didn't conform well to the layout on the ground - once the shown grid will be complete, the two maps will be rectified.



### Milo

Note the old church outlined by stones. Barely noticeable in RGB imagery (below).





### Arrowwood

Consistent results, some regions of interest noted. These will all be annotated on a new layer (not shown).



	Reserved For Margaret Gail Thompson William	Joseph M. Weins						
	Ronald Thompson	(Tony) Nyman						
- Martin	Irwin Wesley Swanson							
	Deriesh Burrell							
	George Burrell							
-	Linda Fay Barnes							
	Sarah Anderson	Chester A. Armey						
	Andrew Anderson	Thurza M. Armey						
	Henry Anderson	a second in						

### Arrowwood

 Irwin Swanson's grave doesn't appear to have anyone unmarked next to it.



## Bowville

Very good records.

Only one unmarked grave (in orange)





#### Lomond

# A lot of interesting features visible in thermal.

No grid with records created yet (will be done in April).

Complex surface with a lot of burrows and rocks.



### **Questions?**

