Board of County Commissioners
200 E. Virginia Ave
Gunnison, Colorado 81230

Received
County Administration
1/8/18

Re: Gunnison Cemetery Board vacancy January 8, 2018

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

I would like to express an interest in the Gunnison Cemetery Board vacancy.

I have often visited cemeteries in Gunnison Country including Gunnison, Crested Butte, Tomichi Town, Somerset, Marble, Powderhorn, Pitkin, Doyleville, Doyleville South and Tincup. For years in Tincup John Curtis and Lowry Englebright would repaint the wood head boards of all the graves in black paint every year. When they stopped this useful upkeep slowly all the names and information faded away. It is very fortunate that Gunnison has a Cemetery Board who works hard to prevent this kind of grave site deterioration.

As a small boy growing up in Sargents, Colorado and attending the two room Sargents School we had an outing to Tomichi Town, above White Pine. During that outing, I found a miner's grave about a half mile from the main Tomichi Cemetery. On a pine tree was a brass plaque and a wooden shelf holding a homemade candle with tin wind guard. On one side of the candle was a pair of tiny baby shoe, on the other side was a pair of miner's boot. The brass plaque said "These are my son's first pair of shoes and the boots he had on when he was killed in the mine." In the late 1960's a subdivision was plated over the old town site of Tomichi Town and the plaque and the shoes have disappeared.

The Gunnison Cemetery holds members of the Gunnison Junior Varsity Football Team all of whom were my classmates as well as Coach Floyd. It also is the resting place of Doc Shores one of Gunnison County's early sheriffs as well as his son who died in the great influenza outbreak of 1918. Gunnison Cemetery is also the resting place of Dan Thorton, former Colorado State Senator and the 33rd Governor of Colorado.

Cemeteries are an important part of all communities. A place to reconnect with history and a place where the living can grieve their loved ones. Towns truly can disappear such as Baldwin, but their cemeteries often remain as a mute testament to the struggles and triumphs of their former residents. Cemeteries are an indication that the community holds those who have gone before in respectful highest regard.

What I can bring to the Cemetery Board is a fresh set of eyes and many layers of skills. I am experienced with computers, spreadsheets and word processors. I am a fair hand at maps and mapping, using GPS equipment and software. I have studied the cemetery maps and it might be nice to update the COLORADO GENWEB PROJECT with accurate and more detailed burial information as well as pictures of each gravesite which remain attractively groomed thanks to John Vader's grounds keeping efforts.

I am proud of what the Gunnison Cemetery Board has accomplished and would be pleased to be part of the record keeping and preservation efforts honoring those who gave gone before us.

Sincerely,

Mark Templeton

Mark Templeton
10 Floresta St
Gunnison CO
(970) 641-6371