

Wednesday, August 26, 1942

## Grave of Decatur Founder is Marked Inscription Placed on Large Monument

After long years, the final resting place of Samuel L. Rugg, founder of Decatur and one of the leading pioneers of this section of the country a century ago, is appropriately marked in the Decatur Cemetery.

The Wemhoff Monument Works has completed the inscription on the large granite monument on the Rugg grave. The inscription reads:

Samuel L. Rugg  
1805 - 1871  
Founder of Decatur

Ever since the body of the rugged individual who gave Decatur it's start as a settlement and named it for the famous naval hero, Commodore Stephen Decatur, was moved from the old cemetery on Winchester Street, now the American Legion Memorial Park, the identification of the grave was by the name of Rugg. The head stone on which rested the large monument bore only the family name.

Following several requests from civic minded persons and organizations that an inscription be made on the stone, the present directors of the Chamber of Commerce ordered the work done. The Wemhoff concern moved its sand blast equipment to the cemetery and inscribed the stone.

Mr. Rugg was born in New York State and came to Decatur as a young man. He founded the town in June of 1836 and was a donor of several of the tracts of ground for public sites, including the court house square.

French Quinn, local historian in whom the pulse of civic endeavor and patriotic spirit, together with a fervent love for Decatur, reflected his joy today as he commended on the completion of the Rugg Memorial.

Mr. Quinn expressed the community's appreciation to the Chamber of Commerce directors for taking in hand a civic undertaking, which for so many years was neglected in the years which have marked the progress and growth of one of the outstanding county seat towns in the world.

The Rugg grave is located in the front part of the cemetery, west of the main entrance. In August of 1936, when Decatur celebrated its Centennial, a memorial tribute was delivered at the grave, to the man who founded the town on the west bank of the St. Mary's River and laid the ground work for its development.

George Wemhoff believes that Mr. Rugg's body was moved about 1895, following establishing of the present burial grounds in 1885, the stone lacking the founder title for nearly a half century.

**Adams County Historical Museum**  
**1942A Scrapbook, image 93**  
**Transcribed by Jim Cox**