


## Dayton Daily News

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### Technology reveals unmarked burial sites

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Contributing Writer

**DAYTON** | Twenty-first century technology crossed paths with 19th century burial customs when Wright State University professors used ground penetrating radar to find indications of unmarked graves at the Kerr and Drill Pioneer cemeteries.

Ernest Hauser, a WSU associate professor of geology and geophysics, slowly rolled the three-wheeled device across a square he had marked out in the cemetery.

Hauser has used technology to help discover burial sites at SunWatch Indian Village in Dayton.

"Some old cemeteries, you see one or two gravestones," Hauser said. "Only a few stones are standing. The appeal is you're doing detective work."

On his initial visit to the cemetery, the equipment indicated a "disturbance" in the small area Hauser was testing. Hauser hopes to eventually create a grid and identify patterns that would indicate the layout of the burial sites. It is believed that more than 50 people are buried there, even though only a few headstones remain.

Lisa O'Hearn founded Inspire, Create, Unite, a nonprofit organization to help take care of the Kerr and Drill Pioneer cemeteries. Tom Reed and Dick Rice are two volunteers who have relatives who had lived in Dayton and are buried in the cemetery. Rice, who lives in Covington, has great-great-great grandparents buried in the cemetery.

"This is a place where you can walk on the ground, and know you're on ground your ancestors walked on," he said.

For more information about the cemetery, visit [www.icudayton.org](http://www.icudayton.org) or call (937)-546-6005.

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