

# Bechler, Floriniza Grave

By Dave Hallemann



This lonely child grave is located in T41 R4 S10 SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

38° 18' 12" N / 90° 33' 30" W

The tract was originally entered as a new location by John Long on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1846, Surveyor Generals Certificate # 99, Reg. #34, as recorded in Original Entries Book 2.

29<sup>th</sup> March 1847, Zeno Mackay and other heirs of James Mackay desc., thru power of attorney dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 1846 at Union Mo., sell land of John Long located according to said certificate of new locations by Survey General Being #99, (many locations including SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of T41 R4 S10, containing 41.<sup>95</sup> acres, as recorded in Book I Page 287.

3<sup>rd</sup> April 1849 Zeno Mackay and Maria his wife, of St. Louis County sell to George Lony for \$85, "NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , T41 R4 S10 containing 41.<sup>95</sup> acres, also the **SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$** , T41 R4 S10 containing 41.<sup>95</sup> acres," Recorded in Book I Page 503.

On 19<sup>th</sup> January 1861, George Lony and his wife Mary sell the tract to John Bechler for \$182.<sup>50</sup> "SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , T41 R4 S10, containing 41.<sup>75</sup> acres." Recorded in Book R Page 559. [It is interesting to note the .20 difference in acreage size. Could George Lony have buried someone here also? He owned the land for 12 years. I have seen this before where a cemetery wasn't 'excepted out' but the size of the land sold was smaller having the same effect.]

On 20<sup>th</sup> September 1864, John Bechler and wife Mary sell the farm to Henry W. Meyer containing 41.75 acres, for \$325, being the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , T41 R4 S10. Transaction being recorded in Book T Page 645. No exception being recorded.

Finally on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1865, one year after selling the farm, Henry Meyer sells to John Bechler, "Eight (8) feet square out of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , T41 R4 S10, to enclose the grave of Floriniza Bechler a deceased child of party of the second part."

With this deed we can "officially" establish the name of this cemetery as

*Floriniza Bechler Grave.*



As can be seen in the picture at left, by 1876 F. Frankenbecker is in possession of the property. The cross I added to the photo to denote the approximate location of this gravesite.

Just to the left or “west” of the grave in the letter “b” of Frankenbecker is the location of the house in 1876, denoted by the black square.

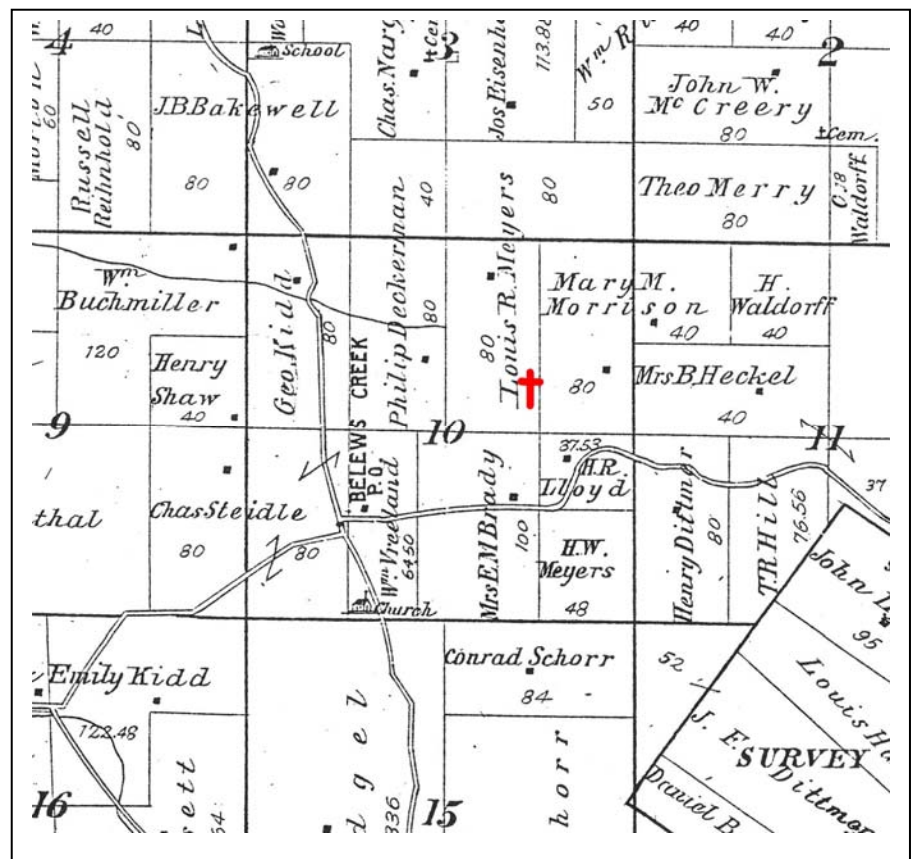
Also curious to note is the size of the tract is now 41 acres instead of the 41.<sup>75</sup> that John Bechler sold to Henry Meyer. There is a Myer family cemetery in to the north on the Jacob Meyer tract. Perhaps the cartographer thought it was included in the Frankenbecker land.

By 1898 the Louis Meyer has acquired the tract.

As before, I have added the cross to show the approximate location of this graveyard.

The acreage in 1898 is listed as 80. I feel the cartographers of this time period did not spend as much time on detail as their counterparts in 1876, as that was the centennial year.

The church located on the Vreeland property is Glade Chapel.





## Floriniza Bechler

*This lone fieldstone is all that marks her final resting place. Little information survives other than she was the child of John and Mary Bechler.*

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In this photo we can see the distinct vegetation change in the pasture where the grave is located.

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Although little is known about “Flossie” we can make some guesses as to her age at death.

John and Mary (Seel) were married on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1862 by Hy Brockhagen a Catholic Priest, as recorded in marriage records Book 4 Page 218. “Flossie” *could have* come along a year later so this would be as early as 1863. John sold the farm in September 1864 and “Flossie” would have been already buried there. This would have her age as less than 2 years old at the time of her death.

For additional information on John & Mary Bechler, “Flossie’s” parents, see my article on the Bechler Cemetery. Copies of all my articles can be found on the Jefferson County Historical Society Website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current owners, the Robert Speck Family, for their efforts at preserving this little known gravesite.

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