

Blessing ceremony honors Carlisle American Indians

Suzanne Reynolds, Army War College Public Affairs

Blessing ceremony honors attendees of the Carlisle Indian School



Members of the Lipan Apache Tribe pay respect to relatives that once attended the Carlisle Indian School and are now buried in the Carlisle Barracks Cemetery.

Photo by Suzanne Reynolds.

May 16, 2009 - A Native American blessing ceremony was conducted on May 16 at the Carlisle Barracks Cemetery by Richard and Anita Gonzalez, members of the Lipan Apache Tribe. The ceremony to honored and paid special respect to one of their "lost ones" buried here

over a century ago.

"Jack Mather was a boy who was injured in battle along the Texas-Mexican Border in 1877. He and his sister survived a massacre and were captured by the U.S. Cavalry and then sent to the Carlisle Indian School," said Barbara Landis, Cumberland County Historical Society.

Mather died in Carlisle on Feb. 5, 1888, and was buried in the Carlisle Barracks Cemetery. He was lost to his people for over 100 years.

During the ceremony, the Gonzalez' used water and soil from Las Moras Creek, near Del Rio, Texas, the last place where the young boy lived.

"Everything has to start and end, that is why we are here," said Richard Gonzalez. "What you see and what you hear is yours to keep."

Members of Dickinson College and the Cumberland County Historical Society attended the event, along with Dr. Jacqueline Fear-Segal, author of the book "White Man's Club" which is the first published account of the story of the "Lost Ones."

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