

The Pigasus Gazette

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WEATHER: Hot

Walnut Grove History

Remembering the lives of John Wesley Sharpe and Alex Brown

Recently, during one of my daily walks through the orchards, I stumbled upon the resting place of Walnut Grove's founder, John Wesley Sharpe, and his family. Standing there, I was deeply moved. It inspired me to delve deeper into the lives of John Sharpe, Alexander Brown, and the layered history of our small town.

When we first envisioned the Flying Pigs Festival, our intention was to honor the vibrant heritage of Walnut Grove's Japan Town. But standing among those graves, I realized I didn't want to forget any of the people who came before us—from the early pioneers to the indigenous caretakers of the Delta. So, I found myself asking a question: *How do we honor all those who preceded us?*

We remember.

The historical legacies of John Wesley Sharpe and Alexander Brown reshape how I view our town's past. Stories of cross-cultural support during difficult times prove history must be understood in context. The early Japanese residents affectionately called their community Kawashimo, meaning "down river." Uncovering these narratives helps me connect to this place we share.

Even the shadows of history cannot prevail when our collective memory, imbued with love, offers grace. And this is the essence of what I call the Spirit of Kawashimo.

- E.M.

FlyingPigsFestival.com

WALNUT GROVE HOTEL

