

Spotlight on Headstones: Stone-Carver Signatures Revealed

One of the rewards of focusing effort on leveling and repair of headstones in the historic Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery (now Salem Pioneer Cemetery) is the opportunity to see at close range the quality of carving in letters and numbers making up the epitaphs on marble tablets of the last half of the 19th century. Icons, or symbols carefully chosen to convey particular meanings, such as eternal devotion or hope for the afterlife, for example, also are indicators of a marble cutter's skill in rendering standard patterns in stone. Some marble cutters incised their names in a lowermost corner of a headstone as an inconspicuous claim of craftsmanship.

In the course of the 2012 working season, Mark Fields and his field volunteers identified eleven headstones bearing maker's marks and thereby brought the cemetery's total known array to thirteen thus far. The so-called signature stones have been found to have come from New York, San Francisco, and Portland. Two of the stone cutters discovered to have "signed" their stones were local talents: Philip Miller of Albany and John A. McDonald of Salem. *(continued, page 2)*



Endowment funds make possible stabilization and repair of major monuments such as the Classical, temple-fronted Ford family mausoleum of c. 1908-1913, one of the centerpieces of the cemetery.



The marble headstone of Felix Raymond (1809-1862) carved by Philip Miller of Albany is one of the finest examples of stone carving of the 1860s in the cemetery.

Endowment Reaches \$500,000 ~ Goal is Set for Next Fundraising Level

Steady support of contributors to Salem Pioneer Cemetery's Endowed Fund and several major bequests have attained the \$500,000 goal set when the fund was established within The Salem Foundation Charitable Trust in 1999. In 2012, the fund's earning power was boosted by \$7,950 in gifts from eighty individuals and organizations.

The current market value of the Pioneer Cemetery Endowed Fund stands at \$505,040. Now that the initial target level has been reached, the new goal is to raise the fund's value by \$50,000 over the next five years.

The endowment helps the City of Salem accomplish betterment work that could not be undertaken otherwise. In 2012, endowment proceeds provided the City with \$10,384 in supplemental funds to cover, among other things, professional headstone repairs, refurbishment of the cast-iron fence surrounding the forecourt of the E.N. Cooke mausoleum, and an architectural assessment and restoration plan for the Ford mausoleum. Restoration of the Ford vault will begin in 2013.

Stone-Carver Signatures (continued from page 1)

Philip Miller, a native of Tennessee, advertised his marble tombstone business in Albany newspapers in 1860-1862. In 1863 he promoted his business under the name Miller & Jeffries and the next year resumed his work as an independent “dealer in California, Vermont and Italian marble.” One of the finest examples of headstone carving of the early 1860s in the cemetery is Miller’s straight-topped marble tablet for Felix L. Raymond (1809-1862) on which the weeping willow of mourning in sunken relief, the variously rendered lines of the epitaph, and the small italicized verse from Scripture (Job 19:26) are so expertly carved, they are still crisp after 150 years.

The earliest listing of John A. McDonald (also spelled MacDonald) in connection with marble and granite works in Salem that has been found so far is in the 1881 Oregon State Directory. Salem directories indicate that he was associated with S.A. Riggs in 1889-1890 and thereafter practiced his trade in the capital city independently through the 1890s. Several of the McDonald signature headstones are embellished with leaf-like, free-hand gouge work reminiscent of Eastlake-style furniture decoration which was fashionable in the late 1870s and 1880s. (continued page 4)



J.A. MacDonald’s Gothic pointed-arch marble headstone for A.P. Armbruster (1859-1881) displays differing stone-working techniques: high-relief carving in the tympanum and a shallow tracery of scrollwork to separate motto from epitaph.

Cemetery Database Volunteers Earn Heritage Education Award



Willamette Heritage Center Collections Manager Kylie Pine, left, presented Tom Branigar and Lynn Mack of Polk County and Tracey Saucy and Addie Rickey of Marion County with a Heritage Award for their excellence as cemetery database compilers. Photo by Cheryl Clark, Aura Marketing for Willamette Heritage Center.

During the 20th annual Heritage Awards gala at the Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill (WHC) in Salem in May, Marion County and Polk County cemetery Website volunteers were presented with WHC’s Heritage Education Award for Excellence.

Tracey Saucy and Addie Rickey, pictured far right, are the database manager and founding genealogist for the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery, respectively.

In presenting the award, WHC Collections Manager Kylie Pine said the selection committee recognized the growing importance of Worldwide Web-based educational resources and believed the combined Marion and Polk County database projects exemplify highest quality in a history-focused endeavor created entirely by volunteers.

Salem Pioneer Cemetery’s online database (salempioneer cemetery.org) is consulted by family historians and researchers around the world. Data entries on each burial have been painstakingly compiled from burial registers, obituaries, vital records, and local histories over more than twenty years to become both a record and research tool valued for the compilers’ scrupulous citation of documentary sources.

Special Update: Salem Transportation System Plan Amendments Could Open Cemetery to Non- Motorized Through Traffic

For the past eight years, there has been public discussion of creating a shared-use path across Salem Pioneer Cemetery grounds in order to connect Fairmount and Candalaria neighborhoods for pedestrians and bicyclists. The debate moved into high gear through 2012 with arguments pro and con presented in public hearings before the Salem Planning Commission and the City Council on amendments to the Salem Transportation System Plan that recommend such a project.

On December 10, the Council adopted Bicycle-Pedestrian elements of the Transportation System Plan (TSP) when it approved Ordinance Bill 20-12. The plan states that location and design of a north-south route to connect Rural Avenue and Hoyt Street between Commercial Street on the east and the west boundary of City View Cemetery would be determined “through future study.” In a section addressing mandatory statewide land use planning rules concerning “Goal 5” resources (natural resources, scenic and historic places, and open spaces) the ordinance states:

As Goal 5 relates to the proposed pedestrian trail in the area between Rural Ave. and Hoyt [Street], the proposal provides only that such a trail be studied for the general area, and does not require that a trail be located within the cemeteries located between the two streets. If further study concludes that a trail should be located in the study area, then a minor amendment to the TSP will be necessary, in which case an Economic, Social, Environmental, and Energy (ESEE) consequences analysis will be conducted. . .

Pioneer Cemetery was among Salem Historic Landmarks officially designated Goal 5 Resources in 1990. Its status, therefore, entitles the cemetery to the ESEE level of analysis and balancing of conflicting planning goals at the appropriate time.

Heading the list of half a dozen issues that concern Friends of Pioneer Cemetery about a standard bicycle-pedestrian shared-use path cutting through the cemetery is losing effective access control. The existing perimeter security fence that provides destination access only, and only during daylight hours, has significantly reduced vandalism since it was erected in 1986.

An exclusively pedestrian way-of-access would have considerably less direct impact on the cemetery grounds.

Even so, child safety and access control are issues to be considered if such a project were to proceed to the evaluation stage.

The City’s Director of Public Works, Peter Fernandez, has explained to the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery that the Bicycle-Pedestrian element of the TSP is “a planning document that acknowledges the need for pedestrian connection in the area.” No timetable for addressing the need for a pedestrian connection has been established. The connection is a second-tier priority in the schedule of city-wide improvement proposals for non-motorized travel. If proponents of a pedestrian-only access-way through the cemetery and Friends of Pioneer Cemetery should find a location using an existing lane and an acceptable means of regulating access, only then would the City take the appropriate steps toward development. Other considerations would include assigning responsibility for financing the cost of an additional gate and revocability of through access in the event that harms or misuse should ensue.

If you have questions or comments about the City’s Transportation System Plan as it relates to Pioneer Cemetery, you may direct them to Peter Fernandez, Director of Public Works, City of Salem, 555 Liberty Street SE, Room 325, Salem OR 97301-3513 (telephone 503-588-6008); or e-mail Mr. Fernandez at PFernandez@cityofsalem.net.

Stone-Carver Signatures (continued from pg. 2)

Following are the seven stone cutters thus far found to have placed their names on headstones in Salem Pioneer Cemetery.

Roberts & Shartle, Portland

Monument of Samuel R. Thurston (1815-1851, burial c.1858), Oregon Territory’s first delegate to the Congress of the United States

See & Mapes, New York [Manhattan]

Mary C. Jones (1832-1857), wife of George H.

Jones, daughter of Rev. David and Mary A. Leslie

Philip Miller, Albany

Felix L. Raymond (1809-1862), farmer

Minnie Belle Rickey (1859-1863)

Julliet R. Raymond (1844-1864)

Wm. Young, Portland

Lucia A.N. Jordan (1831-1862), Willamette University instructor

J. Gruber, Portland

Sarah Kenyon (d. 1862), wife of Wiley Kenyon, mayor of Salem 1857-1860

L.R. Myers & Co., San Francisco

Horace T. and Walter B. Eyre (d. 1862 and 1864)

Ruhamah Leveridge (1830-1868), wife of W.K. Leveridge

J[ohn] A. McDonald, Salem

Adolphus J. Riely (1835-1868), printer

Samatha Kitterman (1851-1868)

Cynthia R. Chitwood (1836-1878)

A. P. Armbruster (1859-1881)

Palmquist and Fields: Dedicated Co-leaders of Field Volunteers



Mark Fields, left, and Dale Palmquist, devised and installed permanent plot-row numbering guides on the center drive to help visitors and workers find their way to given plots across the 17-acre grounds.

For eight years, Dale Palmquist and Mark Fields have been recruiting and training volunteers to groom plots, remove invasive plants, and repair headstones in City-owned Salem Pioneer Cemetery. In cooperation with Parks Operations personnel, the co-leaders organize clean-up and betterment projects and supervise youth and community groups participating in the monthly work parties.

Following a State-assisted demonstration workshop in Pioneer Cemetery in 2004, Dale and Mark schooled themselves in the best practices for headstone conservation. They have led hundreds of volunteers on the grounds and have expanded their work sessions from one day per month in spring and summer to the present schedule of three days per month, nine months of the year. Calculated at the current accepted rate of \$21.79 per hour for donated labor, the value of the field volunteers' contribution in 2012 averaged \$1,580 per month at a conservative estimate.

Thanks to the commitment of these co-leaders and new City service contracts established last year, grounds keeping at Pioneer Cemetery is markedly improved. Although the City is able to budget for basic maintenance of the cemetery, such refinements as remedial plot care, pruning of roses and ornamental shrubs, installation of plot numbering guides, and much of the leveling, resetting, and repair of grave markers would not be accomplished were it not for Dale and Mark and their field volunteers. Their efforts are vital to the City's ability to effectively care for the cultural landscape that was named a City of Salem Historic Landmark in 1990.

Support from the following community volunteers who participated in Friends of Pioneer Cemetery field work in 2012 was deeply appreciated.

Suzanne & Erin Apodaca	T. Randy Miles
Melissa Clark	Kathy & Roger Moreland
Art Fogarty	Pat Norman
Cessaries Galusha	Harold Otto
Beth Glascock	Elisabeth Potter
Carolyn Harris	Ben Root
Kevin Herren	Penny Ruiz
Jennifer Johns	Grant Rutherford
Marjorie Jordan	Karen Sewell
Fred Klatz	Claudine Shaw
Nancy Lindburg	Ellen Stevens
Michael Livingston	Brian Sund
Moya McKeehan	Bill Thompson

Volunteers are always needed and welcome. For schedule information, please contact Tibby Larson, Volunteer Coordinator for Parks Operations, Salem Parks and Transportation Services Division, talanson@cityofsalem.net or 503-589-2197.



Field volunteers enjoyed their ritual refreshment break during a work party in August. Back row, left to right: Penny Ruiz, Mark Fields, Harold Otto, Kathy and Roger Moreland, Suzanne Apodaca, Bill Thompson, Pat Norman, Dale Palmquist. Front row: Ellen Stevens, Art Fogarty, Claudine Shaw, and Fred Klatz.



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About this Mailing

Friends of Pioneer Cemetery provides this Annual Report for your information in association with the Parks and Transportation Services Division, City of Salem Department of Public Works. If you wish to contribute to the Salem Pioneer Cemetery Fund, make additions or corrections to the mailing list, or have your name removed from the mailing list, a return envelope accompanies this report.

Parks Operations Personnel Focus on Mausoleum Forecourt Repair



Bob Oakes painstakingly refurbished the cast-iron railing of the E.N. Cooke mausoleum forecourt in May.

The finest example of decorative cast-iron fencing in Pioneer Cemetery lines the 16 x 26-foot forecourt of the mausoleum erected in the 1870s for pioneer industrialist E.N. Cooke. George Rosal led the effort to true the railing's foundation wall, and Bob Oakes prepared the rusting railing by washing and sanding the gate and each S-scroll panel section before applying rust consolidator and finishing coats of flat black paint. Re-seeding the forecourt planting beds will complete the project.



On the headstone crafted by Salem stone cutter J.A. McDonald for local printer A.J. Riely (1835-1868) is a rare example in the cemetery of a trade or occupational icon carved in relief. The Riely icon represents the compositor's tray used in early day printing to set type by hand.

Destination Walk in Cemetery Kicks Off Healthy Neighborhood Initiative

A crowd of more than fifty turned out on June 30 for the inaugural community destination walk sponsored by the South Salem Neighborhood Association. The objective of project organizer Jennifer Carley, SSNA board member, is promoting good mental and physical health through regular walking. She and co-coordinators Connie Jones and Pat Norman selected Pioneer Cemetery as the setting for a brisk guided walking tour highlighting the symbolism and craftsmanship of monuments erected for Salem pioneers from the 1850s onward.



Elisabeth Potter led participants in SSNA's Healthy Neighborhood walking tour in Pioneer Cemetery and a section of adjoining City View Cemetery in June. Photo by Jennifer Carley, project organizer.