

FRIENDS OF PIONEER CEMETERY ANNUAL REPORT Dec. 31, 2015

The Salem Foundation Charitable Trust, Pioneer Trust Bank, N. A., Trustee

PO Box 2305, Salem OR 97308



John Savage family plot 158-159 pictured Oct. 10 after its failing concrete structure was removed and head-stones reset in a curb-lined enclosure planted for grass.

Conservation Issues Involving Concrete Resolved on Savage and Ward-Bell Plots

The major undertaking of the 2015 field season for Jeff Hilts, the City's contractor of record for professional headstone repairs, was renovation of the John Savage family plot, a historic conjoining of the north half of Plot 158 with Plot 159. Because the aggregated plot had been capped with concrete in the mid-20th century, the project involved freeing ten gravemarkers from concrete, demolition of plot cover, curbs and retaining walls, hauling away concrete spoils, forming new reinforced concrete curbing, resetting of grave-markers, and dressing the contained plot for a cover of grass. The project eliminated a hazard created when a section of failing concrete retaining wall broke away and blocked the adjacent aisle. The structure had been destabilized by invasive plants emerging from joints between plot cover and retaining walls and curbs.

John Savage, a native of Ohio, crossed the plains with his parents, Towner and Matilda Savage, at the age of twenty in 1846. He married Rhoda Presley at Salem in 1850 and settled a donation land claim four miles to the *(continued on page 2)*



Headstones of John Savage (1826-1908), right, and first wife Rhoda Presley Savage, adjacent to repaired headstone of 3-year-old daughter Hannah.

“This Place Matters,” Historic Landmarks Commission First Annual Photo Contest

In April, the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission sponsored its first annual photo contest for local heritage organizations and the public to showcase historic places that matter to the community. Contest winners in several categories were announced by the sponsors and displayed in the State Capitol in May, during National Historic Preservation Month. Honorable Mention was awarded to Salem photographer Matt Dillon, whose entry, the striking color study, “Pioneer Cemetery Sunrise,” is shown here by kind permission of Mr. Dillon. Of necessity, it is reproduced in black and white and trimmed at its left edge to fit the format.



“Pioneer Cemetery Sunrise,” c. April, 2015, by Matt Dillon, Salem, Oregon. Looking east from William H. and Chloe Willson monument in median of central drive.

Donors Sustain \$600,000 Endowed Fund

Support from the community has kept the earning power of the Salem Pioneer Cemetery Endowed Fund above the target level of \$600,000 for the past two years. The fund was established as part of The Salem Foundation Charitable Trust in 1999. In 2015, the fund's value was boosted by \$7,405 in contributions from eighty donors. At year's end, the market value of the Pioneer Cemetery Endowed Fund stood at \$620,435. The fund allows the City of Salem to accomplish betterment work that could not be undertaken otherwise. In 2015, endowment proceeds provided the City with \$9,469 in supplemental funds to cover varied professional headstone repairs and renovate the concrete-capped John Savage Plot 158-159 to eliminate hazards.

Conservation Issues *(continued from page 1)*

northeast. As a resourceful farmer, he learned blacksmithing skills from one of the early forge operators in Salem. He occupied his claim throughout his life and fathered eight children with Rhoda, who died in 1866. At his death in 1908, Savage was survived by five of his offspring and his second wife, the former Eleanor Tarrant.

The Ward-Bell family Plot 039 presented a two-fold challenge to the contract conservator. The bases of three stately marble tablets had been encased in a mid-20th century concrete cap which remains generally sound today. However, over time, the headstones had fallen onto the cap, where they lay broken into as many as five and six pieces each. The tablet of Thompson Ward (1786-1860) commemorates a veteran of the War of 1812 whose birth year is one of the earliest seen in the cemetery's epitaphs. Because its original stone base was sound, the repaired tablet could be reset in it. The other two bases, on the other hand, were of soft, deteriorating sandstone and had to be cut out of the concrete and replaced with concrete bases to receive the repaired headstones of Ward's wife, Sarah, and grandson, John C. Bell, Jr.

Thompson Ward, a lawyer and state legislator from Kentucky, served as Captain in Ohio during the War of 1812 and subsequently as General in the Kentucky militia. In 1854, he emigrated from Missouri to Oregon, where his wife died two years later. In Salem, he eventually made his home with his daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Bell, and son-in-law.



Ward-Bell family Plot 039, in November, looking NE from the SW corner. From right: headstones of Thompson Ward (1786-1860), his wife, Sara Kountz Ward (1789-1856), and his young grandson John C. Bell, Jr. (1861-1863). Ward's tablet bears the square and compass emblematic of his Masonic affiliation.

Celebrating Pioneers and Roses

Friends of Pioneer Cemetery grounds volunteers Dale Palmquist, Mark Fields, Pat Norman, Claudine Shaw, Suzanne Apodaca, Jinglin Guo, and Virginia Slaughter continued ongoing tending of the cemetery's heritage roses which has returned once-neglected, overgrown plants to healthy florescence.

On June 7, rose enthusiasts of the mid-Willamette Valley and Portland gathered with interested members of the public in the chapel of the Funeral Home of nearby City View Cemetery at the invitation of the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery. They were treated to living history enactor Mary Hutchens's portrayal of Georgiana Burton, overland trail pioneer, who, after her marriage to newspaperman Henry L. Pittock, became a founder of the Portland Rose Society. Laura King of Northwest Rose Historians illustrated the history of the popular pink early Hybrid Tea rose, "Mme. Caroline Testout," which was introduced to Oregon by the turn of the 20th century and became the most abundant rose in Salem Pioneer Cemetery at a count of thirty-five individual plants seen today. Following the indoor presentations, the audience toured the grounds with event coordinator Pat Norman, Ms. King, and visiting expert Darrell Schramm of The Heritage Roses Group. For the second time since his courtesy visit in 2013, Mr. Schramm examined heritage blooms in Pioneer Cemetery and shared pointers on rose classification.

Below: Historical character actors Mary and Mike Hutchens portrayed Georgiana Burton Pittock, champion of the Portland Rose Parade, and her chauffeur.



Above: California-based rose historian Darrell Schramm paused to identify a Tea rose on Plot 751.

Volunteers Turn Out, Lift Upkeep Efforts

Regular mowing of the grass-covered 17-acre cemetery grounds is handled under contract between the City and crew of neighboring City View Cemetery. Headstone and monument care is undertaken in accordance with an approved work plan by the City's contractor of record for professional repairs in cooperation with the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery (FOPC) volunteer headstone repair unit, which is led by Dale Palmquist and Mark Fields and includes Harold Otto, Fred Klatz, and others on occasion. In 2015, twenty-nine projects were completed by Jeff Hilts, the professional contractor of record; and twenty-three headstone straightening and repair projects were accomplished by the volunteer unit.

The FOPC field, or grounds crew co-captained by Palmquist and Fields, conducts community work parties on the second Saturday and certain Mondays of each month, 9:00 a.m. to noon, March through October. Through the 2015 field season, the co-captains were supported by thirteen regular volunteers, forty-six members of Salem Stake, LDS Church youth groups and their supervisors, and ten members of the service-oriented South Salem High School Key Club. In addition, the Cullison family of four volunteered in May to remove moss from concrete plot covers and sidewalks in the oldest part of the cemetery in preparation for public visitation on Memorial Day.



The Cullison family, left to right: Ian (Blanchet), James Oliver, Colin (St. Joseph's), and Kelley paused at the Basey family monument after clearing moss from half a dozen concrete plot covers and sidewalks on May 9.



South Salem High School Key Club members reinforced the community work party on October 10. Left to right: Mya Stenlund, Jaren Guevata, Olivia James, Stacie Johnston, Anabelle Smith, Diana Castaneda, Diana Naylor, and Trevor Mitchell. Seated, front row: Salome Potskhverashvili, left, and Sonia Boeger, right.



SSHS Key Club volunteers Trevor Mitchell and Stacie Johnston worked with FOPC volunteers Harold Otto and Dale Palmquist to prune shoots of a holly tree on the family plot of early Salem mayor and state senator John H. Moores (1821-1880).



Diana Naylor (left) and Sonia Boeger (right) of the SSHS Key Club gently rinsed away grime and coaxed moss from epitaphs on granite pillow markers using plain water, soft-bristled brushes, and wooden implements during their work session on October 10.



Among the dozens of Salem Stake, LDS Church youth who turned out to work on July 23 were, l. to r., Tanner Stones, Claudine Shaw (FOPC group leader), Nick Fredinburg and David Johnson (LDS group leaders), Kayelynn Steiner, and Ellie Warner.



Adam Bell (left) and Kenneth Utter (right) of the Salem Stake LDS Church youth volunteers worked, July 23, with FOPC group leader Mark Fields (center) to raise the sinking marker of Robert W. B. Riggie (1887-1920) a WWI combat veteran.



Raising and leveling sinking pillow markers on July 23 were, l. to r., Megan Petersen, Madison Young, Ethan Houskeeper, Corianne Sharp, Megan Laney, and Summer Lakey, LDS group leader.



Pruning overgrown wild roses during the July 23 day-long youth work party were, l. to r., Pat Norman (FOPC project coordinator), Darek Lakey (LDS group leader), Jessica da Silva, Jordan Watkins, Katie Johnson, and Suzanne Apodaca (FOPC group leader).

Friends of Pioneer Cemetery Regular Field Volunteers, 2015

Suzanne Apodaca	Dale Palmquist
Mark Fields	Elisabeth Potter
Jinglin Guo	Claudine Shaw
Fred Klatz	Virginia Slaughter
Frank Mathias	Ellen Stevens
Kathy Moreland	Brian Sund
Pat Norman	Bill Thompson
Harold Otto	

Volunteers are always needed and welcome. For schedule information, please contact Tibby Larson, Volunteer Coordinator for the Parks Operations and Planning Section, City of Salem Department of Public Works, 503-589-2197, or tal Larson@cityofsalem.net.

D.A.R. Steps in to Replace Missing Plaques on Grave Markers of Champoeg Men

On November 21, the Friends of Salem Pioneer Cemetery hosted Chemeketa Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, as the chapter dedicated bronze plaques produced to replace those of 1931 which had long been missing from the grave markers of The Rev. David Leslie and William H. Willson, both of whom were members of the Methodist Mission in Oregon. The formalities were conducted in the chapel of City View Funeral Home on the day Chemeketa Chapter of Salem celebrated its centenary.

The original plat of what was founded as Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery in 1854 was laid out on five acres acquired from the land claim of David Leslie (1797-1869). William Holden Willson (1805-1856) platted the town site of Salem in 1846 after the mission was disbanded.

In the period 1929-1933, D.A.R. "Patriot Tablets," as they were called historically, were placed by Multnomah Chapter on grave markers of thirty-three of the men who had voted in the settlers' meeting at Champoeg in 1843 in favor of organizing a provisional government. Of the fifty or so men who voted affirmatively at Champoeg for civil organization in Oregon, thirty-three were found to have been interred in cemeteries scattered throughout the Willamette Valley and as far away as Walla Walla, Washington and Lewiston, Idaho.



One of the two bronze replacement plaques is shown in historic position on the monument of William H. and Chloe Clarke Willson. The marble marker bears the signature of Salem pioneer stonecutter, A.J. Monroe.

Jeff Hilts is shown testing for precise alignment of plaque bolt holes and original drill holes in the obelisk of Rev. David Leslie before installation. The plaques were cast for the D.A.R. by Newman Bros., Inc., of Cincinnati, Ohio.

In Salem, the D.A.R. Patriot Tablets may be seen on the graves of six Methodist missionaries, including those of Alanson Beers and The Rev. Josiah Parrish in Lee Mission Cemetery. Thanks to the D.A.R.'s initiative, in Salem Pioneer Cemetery today, the tablets may be seen once more on the graves of Rev. Leslie and William Willson as well as grave markers of Lewis H. Judson and Joseph Holman. Ward 7 Councilor Warren Bednarz, representing Mayor Anna Peterson, accepted the plaques in behalf of the City.

In her role as project leader for Chemeketa Chapter, Joyce Peters secured the necessary permission from the City of Salem, owner and steward of the cemetery. She selected a manufacturer sanctioned by the D.A.R., worked with the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery to develop detailed specifications for the replicas, and gained final approval from the D.A.R. Office of the Historian General.



Pictured during re-dedication of the “Patriot Tablets” on November 21 were, left to right, Ellen Hopkins, Historic Preservation Chairman, Oregon State Society, D.A.R.; Joyce Peters, project leader, Chemeketa Chapter; and Cindy Parnell, Oregon State Regent.

In Memoriam

As information becomes available, we respectfully note the passing of our friends and supporters.

- Wallace Kay Huntington (May 15, 1926 - Feb. 3, 2015)*
- Orlena E. Boyd (July 6, 1922 - Feb. 24, 2015)*
- Ruth C. Bishop (April 16, 1945 – May 28, 2015)*
- Lillian M. Marshall (Oct. 26, 1921 – July 23, 2015)*
- Dolores M. Jones (Oct. 13, 1928 – August 6, 2015)*
- Shirley A. Smith (April 29, 1931 – Sept. 1, 2015)*
- Robert Corry (Feb. 17, 1960 – Sept. 8, 2015)*
- Marjorie Ann Jordan (April 30, 1931- Oct. 25, 2015)*
- Lois I. Evans (Sept. 10, 1923 – Nov. 22, 2015)*
- Diana Powers Evans (Feb. 28, 1928 - Dec. 26, 2015)*
- James Davidson “Dave” Moss (March 21, 1946 - Dec. 28, 2015)*

U.S. War Department Standard Military Veteran Headstones in Pioneer Cemetery

Among the grave markers of approximately 285 U.S. military veterans at rest in Salem Pioneer Cemetery, are numerous examples of the uniform design adopted by the War Department in the aftermath of the Civil War, when the need for vast numbers of permanent markers was acute and newer mass production methods allowed for efficiency in cutting and working stone slabs.

Original manufacturing specifications for the typical four-inch-thick marble headstones were width of ten inches and length of thirty-six to forty-two inches to be set with above-ground exposure of twelve inches. Epitaphs included name, rank, and state of the veteran’s regiment. By the time of the Spanish American War and WWI, such additional facts as the conflict title and the serviceman’s year of death were added.



The U.S. War Department standard-issue veteran’s grave marker for James B. Chenowith (1869-1939), Sergeant in the 1st Washington Infantry during the Spanish American War of 1898, exemplifies the uniform marble headstone with epitaph of raised letters within a shield-shaped sunken field. Plot 877.



View east from the G.A.R. Memorial Circle in City View Cemetery overlooking the adjacent historic Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery today known as Salem Pioneer Cemetery. After concentric circles for burial of Union Army veterans of the Civil War were laid out in the new City View Cemetery in 1895, half a dozen veterans at rest in the older cemetery’s plot 757 owned by Sedgewick Post No. 10, Grand Army of the Republic, were disinterred and relocated, with headstones, “next door” to the Post’s G.A.R. Circle. Plot 757 was deeded back to the Odd Fellows.



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Mausoleum Forecourt Replanted - Again

FOPC volunteers have been working for some years to establish a native evergreen ground cover in the planting beds in the forecourt of the E.N. Cooke Mausoleum that will tolerate drought and prevail over weeds with a close growing pattern. Two attempts to introduce Point Reyes kinnikinnick eventually ended in failure. In 2015, the volunteers reduced soil in the beds to an optimum level for improved drainage, and, in November, laid down starting patches of barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia ternata*), in expectation of achieving an attractive low-maintenance ground cover that will hold its own.



Field volunteers working on clean-up of the E.N. Cooke Mausoleum forecourt posed for a group portrait that was the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery entry in the 2015 Photo Contest, "This Place Matters," sponsored by the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission. See Matt Dillon's Honorable Mention Award photo on page 1.

Oregon Black Pioneers Bus Tour Makes Stop at Salem Pioneer Cemetery

In May, an educational bus tour, "African American Places in Early Oregon History," organized by Oregon Black Pioneers made a stop at Salem Pioneer Cemetery to visit graves of some of the forty-three African Americans known to have been interred in the cemetery. The tour, directed by Kimberly Moreland, originated in Portland and proceeded up the Willamette Valley to sites in Corvallis and Brownsville as well as Salem. Of special interest to the tour group was the commemorative monument to Hiram Gorman placed with permission in 2002 by Salem Camp 1799 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in an aisle, since no specific burial location was recorded at Gorman's death in 1888. Hiram Gorman was an emancipated slave and a veteran of the Civil War, during which he was a teamster for the Union Army of Southwest Missouri. For twelve years of his career in the capital, he was pressman for *The Oregon Statesman* newspaper.



Gwen Carr, with microphone, right, conducted the tour of Salem Pioneer Cemetery with Oregon Black Pioneers leader Willie Richardson, hatted, center. The group paused to read the memorial on the Sons of Confederate Veterans monument to Hiram Gorman.

About this Mailing

Friends of Pioneer Cemetery provides this Annual Report for your information in association with the Parks Operations and Planning Section, 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.