

FRIENDS OF PIONEER CEMETERY ANNUAL REPORT Dec. 31, 2013

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

PO Box 2305, Salem OR 97308

Spotlight on Headstones: Survey Reveals Legacy in Old Roses

Visitors to Salem Pioneer Cemetery in summertime in the past several years will have noticed that the heritage roses blooming in that season are flourishing after years of neglect and overgrowing. Increased vigor of the old roses beautifying the grounds is the result of special care given to cyclical pruning and spreading of compost by a cadre of volunteers led by Dale Palmquist and Mark Fields.

In 2013, Laura King and Kathleen McMullen of Portland-based Northwest Rose Historians reached out to help the Friends gain a better understanding of the roses planted on graves in Salem Pioneer Cemetery in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. On June 2, the ladies escorted to the grounds Darrell Schramm, a leading rose expert from the California-based Heritage Roses Group, for the purpose of identifying the older varieties. The visit prompted a survey which established that roses are found on as many as 104 burial plots. Dale Palmquist and Pat Norman charted the distribution.

Apart from recent Hybrid Tea roses, the array includes Wild and Moss roses, Gallicas, Bourbons, a China rose, Tea roses, Damasks, Centifolias, and Cecile Brunner roses. If there is one rose that typifies the cemetery's array, it is the lush pink early Hybrid Tea named "Madame Caroline Testout," which
(continued, page 2)



The marble headstone of Eliza Raymond (1836-1855), young wife of Samuel W. McDowell, was adorned with a rose-carved panel and her grave was decorated with a fragrant Damask rose. In the 19th century cemetery setting, roses symbolized feminine beauty, purity, and the soul's perfection in Heaven.

Cemetery Listed in National Register



The National Park Service (NPS) announced that the burial ground founded in Salem by Chemeketa Lodge No. 1 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1854 was entered into the National Register of Historic Places on Sept. 11, 2013 under its historic title, "Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery." The seventeen acres known as Salem Pioneer Cemetery since 1954, and now owned by the City of Salem, had been declared eligible for listing by the Keeper of the National Register in 1981, but complete documentation of the property's significance remained a requirement for designation.

Friends of Pioneer Cemetery (FOPC) this year prepared the application for the City Parks organization, citing the property's significance to city and state as an outstanding cultural landscape in the 19th century Rural Cemetery tradition and as the final resting place of founders and leaders of Oregon government, institutions, commerce, and industry. The complete registration application, which runs to 72 pages including exhibits, will be available on FOPC's Website, salempioneercemetery.org, in due course.

Endowment Fund Advances Betterment Work

Steady support from the community has firmed the earning power of the Salem Pioneer Cemetery Endowed Fund at the target level of \$500,000 that was set when the fund was established by the Friends within The Salem Foundation Charitable Trust in 1999. In the 2013 calendar year, 74 individuals and organizations raised \$7,410, and on Dec. 31, the market value of the fund reached \$573,464.

The endowment helps the City of Salem accomplish betterment work that could not be undertaken otherwise. In 2013, endowment proceeds provided the City with \$9,678.00 in supplemental funds to cover professional headstone repairs, grading and gravel re-surfacing of the central carriage drive, and contract work associated with comprehensive repair and rehabilitation of the Ford family mausoleum.

See pg. 4 for mausoleum project details.

(continued from pg. 1) was bred in France and introduced to Oregon shortly after the turn of the 20th century. Planted by the thousands in parking strip beds around Portland, the Caroline Testout rose helped inspire that city's popular label, "The City of Roses." Salem Pioneer Cemetery claims as many as 37 Mme. Caroline Testout shrubs. Their number makes a noteworthy collection of the variety in an early Oregon cemetery landscape.

Several of the cemetery's heritage roses are notable for their delightful, even heady, fragrance as well as their visual charm. Examples are the Damask rose on the grave of Eliza Raymond McDowell, plot no. 006, the Bourbon rose on the grave of Ellen Anderson, plot no. 547, and the Centifolia (also called a Cabbage rose) on the Pratt family plot no. 848.

In funerary iconography of the Victorian age, a carved rose commonly was chosen to adorn the headstone above the epitaph to symbolize feminine beauty, purity, and perfection of the soul in Heaven. On an infant's or young child's headstone, the rose icon took the form of a broken bud. The practice of introducing living plants to gravesites as a complementary act of commemoration appears to have been well established in the former Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery by the early years of the 20th century, as is demonstrated by the many Mme. Caroline Testout roses. Such plantings were consistent with the Rural Cemetery ideal in which the setting as a whole was enhanced by dignified artistic monuments, stately trees, and flowering shrubs. The rose-planting tradition lives on in Salem Pioneer Cemetery today.



Darrell Schramm of the California-based Heritage Roses Group, pointed out characteristics of the Bourbon rose at the grave of Ellen Anderson (1811-1884) to Pat Norman and Dale Palmquist during a courtesy visit to Salem Pioneer Cemetery. Laura King, Northwest Rose Historians, photo.

In Memoriam

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

Ernest G. Clark, Jr. (Nov. 2, 1917 – March 25, 2013)

Sharon E. Fatland (Dec. 14, 1935 – March 26, 2013)

James Courtney Jones, Jr. (Aug 10, 1925 – May 7, 2013)

Field Volunteers Hailed for Headstone Work



Dale Palmquist, Mark Fields (l. to r., front), Harold Otto, and Fred Klatz successfully reset the broken oval-shaped marble headstone of Lovisa McAfee, which they had repaired with help of City headstone conservator-of-record Jeff Hilts.

Field Unit volunteers were at work nine months of the year straightening, repairing, and resetting headstones and performing other supplemental grounds work. Since 2004, as many as 140 monument repair projects, large and small, have been completed by the Field Unit, City personnel, and professional contractors. Field Unit leaders Dale Palmquist and Mark Fields were supported by 45 community volunteers who turned out to help between February and October, 2013.

Apodaca, Sue	Miles, T. Randy
Armitage, Amelia	Moreland, Kathy
Blasi, Sheronne	Norman, Pat
Carmichael, McCrae, and Shayn	Otto, Harold
Garcia, Levi, CCC	Potter, Elisabeth
Guo, Jinglin	Rutherford, Grant
Harris, Carolyn	Shaw, Claudine
Heitsch, Bonnie	Shoemaker, Roxanne
Holman, Karen	Stevens, Ellen
Howard, Antje	Sund, Brian
Howard, Paul, and Holden	Susee, Ashley, CCC
Jordan, Marjorie	Thompson, Bill
Martinez, Joshua, Corban U.	Wigg, Mark
McKeehan, Moya	

During the Saturday work party in May, the following Young Single Adults of Keizer Stake, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, helped prepare the grounds for Memorial Day weekend. The group was organized and accompanied by Virginia Kestler, Bishop Barry Stenlund, and Jackie Stenlund.

Doak, Lauren	Niemeyer, Steve	Ruppert, Steve
Hunter, Morgan	Packhaven, Alex	Schnab, Emily
Kestler, Leslie	Patterson, Kynna	Sheppard, Maren
Magnusson, Jasmine	Patterson, Shonay	Simon, Sheree
Magnusson, Jeremy		



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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.

Ford Mausoleum Rehabilitation Launched under City Contract

The handsome, Classically-styled Ford family mausoleum, built between c. 1908 and 1913, is a well-preserved example of a vault pattern popular in United States cemeteries in the early 20th century. It is one of only two above-ground burial vaults in Salem Pioneer Cemetery. With the passage of a hundred years, the vault's rock-cut sandstone exterior had become stained by grime and biological growth. The west-sloping slab of its stone gable roof had slipped just enough to allow moisture penetration. Glazed window openings in the entry door and rear wall had been broken by vandals.

In 2013, with the help of consulting historical architect Robert Dortignacq, whose analysis provided the scope of work and specifications, the City put the project out to bid and selected Cedar Mill Construction Co. as general contractor with Pioneer Masonry Waterproofing and Pioneer Masonry Restoration associated sub-contractors. Masonry cleaning and sealing was completed in December. Ensuing stages of the project to be carried out in 2014 include anchoring the roof slab, spot repointing and repair of masonry, reglazing the windows, repair of marble interior cladding where required, and site work for improved drainage. The project is made possible in part by proceeds from the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery Endowed Fund of The Salem Foundation Charitable Trust.

John Fulton Ford (1818-1875) brought his family overland to Oregon in 1844. He and his wife, Beda Anne, were among the first to be interred in the family plot, which was subsequently re-developed for an above-ground vault. Most illustrious of the Ford's children was Tilmon C.L. Ford, who was said to have been born on the immigrant trail, although sources differ as to the year and place of his birth. Tilmon, a graduate of Willamette University and a capital city lawyer, was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives for two consecutive terms, 1880-

1884, during which time he championed relocation of the State Insane Asylum (Oregon State Hospital) from Portland to Salem and pressed for construction of the new asylum building. He may have made provision for construction of the family mausoleum before his death in 1908. In any case, the structure was in place by December 20, 1913, when it was reported by the *Oregon Statesman* to have received the casket of his youngest brother, Charles D. Ford.



The Ford Mausoleum faces the cemetery's central drive. After sample tests, its exterior was gently washed with hot water and ProSoCo ReKlaim, a conservator-approved bio-deterrent which revived the sandstone's original buff color.

Robert Dortignacq photo.



Above left: Robert Dortignacq, consulting historical architect, center, inspected results of the cleaning phase with Jamie Olson of Cedar Mill Construction Co. on December 12.

John Kleeman photo.



Above right: Doug Wolf of Pioneer Waterproofing Co. checked samples of mortar and masonry patching material for accurate color match. Tooled mortar joints are beaded.

Robert Dortignacq photo.