

FRIENDS OF PIONEER CEMETERY ANNUAL REPORT Dec. 31, 2014

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

PO Box 2305, Salem OR 97308

Focus on Headstones: Long Awaited Repairs in I.N. Gilbert Plot Completed

Spurred by Endowment Fund contributions from an anonymous donor and descendants of the Alfred Stanton family, sensitive professional repairs were carried out on the headstones of Isaac Newton Gilbert (1818-1879) and Marietta Stanton Gilbert (1835-1891) in Plot 621. Jeff Hilts of Jeff Hilts Marker Setting re-consolidated the broken stones and placed them securely upright in the keyways of their plinths atop substantial bases. The build-up of elements on which a tablet rested was an effective traditional method of adding stately height to a well-cut headstone.

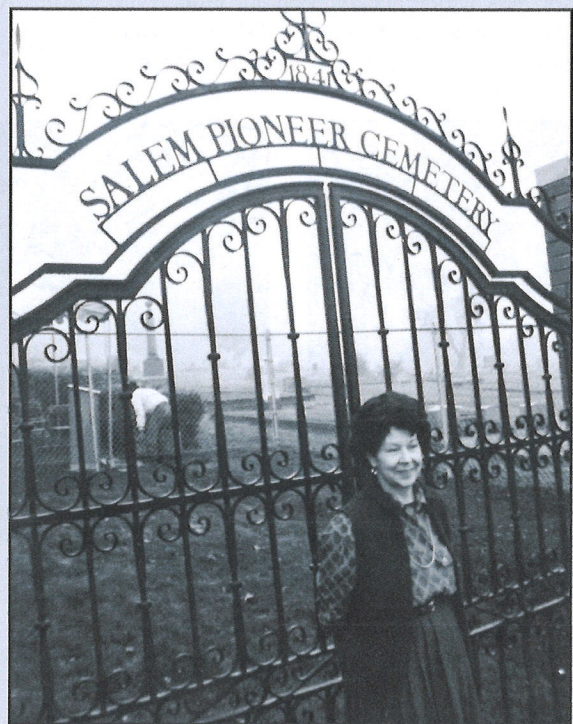
Isaac N. Gilbert, a native of New York, was an Oregon Trail pioneer of 1844. His wife, Marietta, born in Indiana, arrived with her siblings and parents, Alfred and Phoebe Stanton, in 1847. The two married in 1850 and settled Isaac's claim two miles northeast of Salem. They were founding members of Salem's Congregational Church in 1852 and raised six children. Isaac was the first clerk of Marion County and County surveyor credited with laying out the Territorial road connecting Salem with the Barlow Road section of the Oregon Trail skirting Mt. Hood. (continued, page 2)



Raised family plot of Isaac Newton Gilbert, Oct. 10, 2014, following resetting of primary headstones. The plot's stone retaining wall is conventional in placement of steps to the gravemarkers at the center of the east side. Epitaphs face east, to those ascending the steps.

Remembering Virginia M. Felton Founder, Friends of Pioneer Cemetery

Virginia McAllister Felton, Salem community leader and widow of Marion County Circuit Judge Joseph B. Felton, died in Portland on August 11, 2014, at the age of ninety-two. Following her private interment in Mt. Crest Abbey Mausoleum in City View Cemetery, former neighbors of the Feltons, Assistance League colleagues, and members of the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery gathered to greet Virginia's four McAllister nieces, Leslie, Marilyn, Pamela, and Sharon, and celebrate her accomplishments. (continued, page 2)



Virginia Felton, founding president of FOPC, was photographed at the unveiling, August 18, 1991, of an I.O.O.F. commemorative plaque affixed to the lych gate.

The brick and wrought-iron lych gate was erected in 1988 at the site on Commercial Street of the original entry gate, which had vanished long ago.

Donors Attain Latest Goal: Endowed Fund Reaches \$600,000

Steady support from the community raised the earning power of the Salem Pioneer Cemetery Endowed Fund to the target level of \$600,000 by the close of 2014. The fund was established as part of The Salem Foundation Charitable Trust in 1999. In 2014, the fund's value was boosted by \$8,840 in contributions from eighty-one donors. The current market value of the Pioneer Cemetery Endowed Fund stands at \$614,549. The fund allows the City of Salem to accomplish betterment work that could not be undertaken otherwise. In 2014, endowment proceeds provided the City with \$8,643 in supplemental funds to cover, among other things, professional headstone repairs and completion of the Ford Mausoleum rehabilitation project.

Gilbert Headstones (continued from page 1)

Among other grave markers in the Gilbert plot is that of the Gilberts' daughter, Emma Frances, who married Isaac N. Gilbert's nephew, Frank, in 1876 and died prematurely a year later. Frank Newton Gilbert, the nephew, came from Michigan to Oregon by ship via the Isthmus of Panama in 1869. At twenty-one years of age, he had come to work on his uncle's farm. He was later joined by his brother Andrew, with whom he eventually entered into business partnership in Salem. In 1880, Frank married Annie Hovenden, daughter of Alfred Hovenden of Hubbard, a pioneer of 1849. Frank and Annie's son, Alfred Carlton Gilbert (1884-1961), the great nephew of I.N. Gilbert, was educated at Pacific University and earned a medical degree from Yale University. His youthful engagement in magic pastimes led to profitable manufacturing ventures which produced mail-order magic kits, and the creative, educational Erector Sets which became popular around the world. A.C. Gilbert's accomplished career is celebrated in the Gilbert House Children's Museum in Salem's Riverfront Park.



Left: Repaired headstone of Isaac Newton Gilbert. The die, broken into several pieces, was rejoined and securely mortared into the keyway of the base plinth.



Virginia Felton (continued from page 1)

In the early 1980s, Virginia became concerned about the declining state of the historic cemetery in her neighborhood. She brought Salem Parks officials, neighbors, historians, genealogists, pioneer descendants, and community leaders to her dining room table for meetings which resulted in the organization in 1985 of a citizen support group known as the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery. In 1986, the City accepted title to the 17-acre cemetery from Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. For twelve years, beginning in 1986, Virginia operated as unpaid steward of Salem Pioneer Cemetery, directing Carlos Lopez and Humberto Andrews, a two-man crew under her hire.

The activities of the Friends were supported by and coordinated with the Salem Parks and Recreation Agency. Improvements in the appearance and security of the cemetery grounds were dramatic in Virginia's active years. They included introduction of a perimeter chain-link fence and interior night lighting to reduce vandalism, an automated irrigation system, and a ceremonial gate on Commercial Street to mark the site of the original entrance. Virginia's tireless efforts upon the grounds earned her the gratitude of descendants of the pioneer generation and the appreciation of the community as a whole. She was recognized by the statewide Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association as recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award in Cemetery Preservation in 1995.

Right: Repaired headstone of Marietta Stanton Gilbert. The die end was shaped with a tab inserted into the plinth keyway. The tab and lower section of the die were securely re-mortared into the keyway and upper sections of the broken die were joined to the lower.

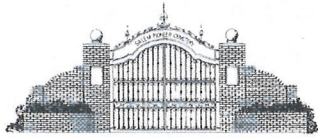


Detail view of reverse (west) side of I.N. Gilbert stone showing solid epoxy repair joints and build-up of the plinth keyway shoulder. The shoulder had worn away

In Memoriam

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

Nadine Edwards Wheeler (Dec. 17, 1917 – April 9, 2007)
 Evelyn E. Tooley (April 11, 1918 – Feb. 5, 2010)
 Perry J. Powers (July 28, 1919 – March 7, 2011)
 Elaine E. Yager (March 20, 1928 – April 18, 2013)
 Vivian M. Olney (Jan. 1, 1920 – Aug. 26, 2013)
 Eleanor Looker Olcott (May 9, 1919 – Jan. 27, 2014)
 Gwen Helten Kessel (May 31, 1927 – March 7, 2014)
 Inez Wickline Osmus (Dec. 26, 1919 – March 11, 2014)
 James Armpriest (Aug. 27, 1919 – March 26, 2014)
 Dale R. Turner (Oct. 23, 1928 – April 25, 2014)
 Lewis B. Melson (March 1, 1914 – June 1, 2014)
 Muriel Smith Brown (Nov. 14, 1923 – June 6, 2014)
 Virginia M. Felton (June 22, 1922 – Aug. 11, 2014)
 James Wiles (Oct. 22, 1959 – Oct. 8, 2014)
 Art Fogarty (Sept. 12, 1937 – Nov. 27, 2014)



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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 Completed under City Contract

Rehabilitation of the temple-fronted Ford family mausoleum of c. 1908-1910 was launched with cleaning and sealing of exterior masonry in December, 2013. In 2014, the sliding west slab of the double-pitched stone roof was anchored, and repairs to and spot repointing of the rock-cut sandstone masonry were made. On the interior, marble facings of vault niches were patched in several places with matching stock donated by City View Funeral Home and Cemetery. For the rear façade, a fine leaded glass window in the spirit of the vault's historic period was installed with a protective sheet of Lexan to replace newer broken glazing and a non-historic steel grate.



Final inspection of the Ford Mausoleum project was conducted July 15, 2014. Left to right: John Kleeman, City of Salem Parks Operations Supervisor, Robert Dortignacq, consulting architectural conservator, Keith Smith, Parks Operations Project Leader, and Jamie Olson, Cedar Mill Construction Co., contractor.



Noticeable Gains Made in Standing Up Fallen and Broken Headstones

The City's contractor of record for professional headstone repairs, Jeff Hilts of Jeff Hilts Marker Setting, and the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery volunteer headstone repair unit, led by Dale Palmquist and Mark Fields, worked collaboratively on a number of projects in 2014. Experienced volunteers are able to reset marble tablets once the contractor has cut any jagged ends for secure resetting or has supplied custom-dimensioned bases of concrete where no usable base remains. The mortar used in resetting a marble die, or tablet, in the keyway of a concrete base serves as a buffer between marble and the concrete, from which soluble salts would otherwise wick into the softer, permeable stone. All told, in the past year, as many as forty repair-and-resetting projects were finished or advanced to a state of near completion.

From March through October, the above-named FOPC field unit co-captains were supported in headstone repairs and supplemental grounds work by fourteen regular volunteers, two high school students and two fifth-graders, as follows.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Apodaca, Suzanne | Otto, Harold |
| Apodaca, Erin (OHSU Nursing) | Potter, Elisabeth |
| Cowlishaw, Suzanne | Shaw, Claudine |
| Guo, Jinglin | Slaughter, Virginia |
| Klatz, Fred | Stevens, Ellen |
| Moreland, Kathy | Sund, Brian |
| Norman, Pat | Thompson, Bill |

Salem Academy: Anessa Galloway and Jessica Outslay
 McKinley School: Erin Cridge and Addi Fitzsimmons

FOPC genealogist and Web-site database manager Tracey Saucy was assisted during the past year by volunteer researcher, Western Oregon University advanced-degree history graduate Diane Huddleston.



Volunteer Ellen Stevens was pictured in August using a wooden stylus to remove moss from incised letters of a pillow-marker epitaph. Buckets, spray bottles of plain water are at hand for repeated rinsing of work surface.



In July, Julia Anne Forstner headstone, Plot 375, was reset in leveled, original base by FOPC repair team, from left, Mark Fields, Fred Klatz, and Harold Otto.