

FRIENDS OF PIONEER CEMETERY

The Salem Foundation Charitable Trust
Pioneer Trust Bank, N.A., Trustee
PO Box 2305, Salem OR 97308

Dedication of D.A.R. Commemorative Plaque Highlights Legacy of Tabitha Moffatt Brown

On July 7, 2020, the Tabitha Moffatt Brown Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, realized a long-held goal of enhancing Tabitha's gravesite in Salem



Pioneer Cemetery with a plaque that recognizes her as the daughter of Joseph Moffatt of Brimfield, Massachusetts, a patriot who served a local regiment as doctor in Revolutionary War time.

Initially planned as a formal event for D.A.R. affiliates, the many descendants of

Tabitha Brown, and others, the quietly compelling ceremony of dedication was carried out instead under pandemic protocols involving only essential officers and a few witnesses. Left to right: Deborah Merrick, Project Co-Chair and Honorary Regent of Tabitha Moffatt Brown Chapter; Rebecca Taylor, Honorary State Regent, N.S.D.A.R., and Beverly Davis, Honorary Regent, Chemeketa Chapter. Joyce Peters of Chemeketa Chapter was Deb Merrick's Project Co-Chair.

The Aloha-based D.A.R. Chapter was joined by Chemeketa Chapter of Salem in co-sponsoring the plaque project approved by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Supporters will remember that, in 2015, the Salem Chapter had undertaken for Pioneer Cemetery the replication of D.A.R. bronze patriot tablets to replace two long-missing from gravemarkers of men who in 1843 voted at Champoege to form Oregon's provisional government.



Joseph Moffatt's daughter is well remembered in Oregon history for founding, with the Reverend Harvey Clark, a boarding school for Oregon Trail orphans. Her Tualatin Academy was the forerunner of Pacific University in Forest Grove. In 1846, the resilient widow of the Rev. Clark Brown had crossed the Plains with

younger members of her family. Upon her arrival in the Willamette Valley after an arduous traverse of a southern immigrant route, she concerned herself with the

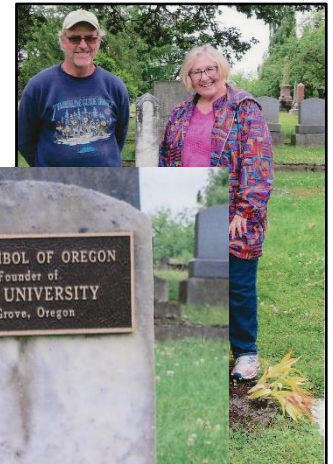
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Together with Updates for Jan. 1 - April 30, 2021

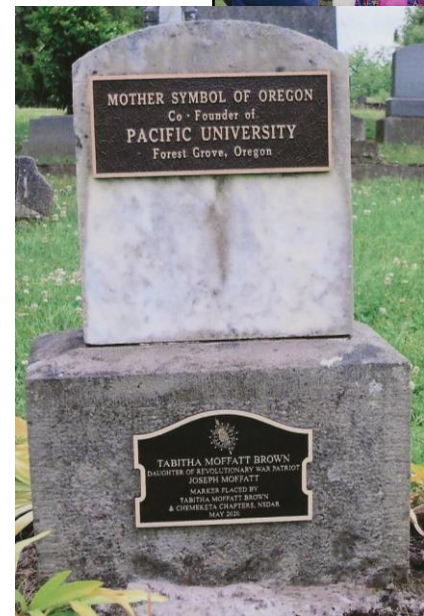


welfare of orphans and their education. Inspired by her charitable deeds, the Oregon Legislature formally declared Tabitha the Pioneer Mother symbol of Oregon in 1987, and a plaque was placed on her marble headstone, on the opposite face from her epitaph.

To gain support for placement of an additional plaque at the gravesite, the project co-sponsors sought approval of Tabitha's descendants and worked with Friends of Pioneer Cemetery to specify



appropriate placement for a blind mounting. Jeff Hilts, the City's contractor of record for such installations, and FOPC advised a centering on the east face of the basalt base. Permission for the modest



attachment was given by the City through its Parks Operations and Recreation Services branch of the Public Works Department.

Above: Joyce Peters of co-sponsoring Chemeketa Chapter, N.S.D.A.R., supervised installation of the plaque by Jeff Hilts on June 20. Tabitha Moffatt Brown's is among the most visited gravesites in the cemetery.

Donors, Market Forces Boost Endowed Fund Value

In 2020, earning power of the Pioneer Cemetery Fund of the Salem Foundation Charitable Trust was amplified by a generous bequest of \$5,000 from the **Gloriale Paulson Family Trust**. The combined contributions of sixty-three community and corporate donors, including the Gloriale Paulson bequest, added \$11,803.50 to the endowed fund in the calendar year. As of December 31, 2020, the fund's market value reached \$1,009,262.00, and endowment proceeds had provided the City of Salem, the cemetery's steward and titleholder, with \$12,246.10 to supplement budgeted public monies for repairs and betterment. As of the reporting period ending April 30, 2021, the endowed fund market value stood at \$1,081,361.56.

Pedestrian Through Way Proposal

It was on April 27, 2020 that the Salem City Council passed a motion directing staff to prepare a report on potential options for a pedestrian connection between the neighborhoods west of Commercial Street that are divided by City-owned Pioneer Cemetery and the adjoining privately-owned City View Cemetery. After being provided with a preliminary report, the Council requested more detail on the steps needed if Council should approve moving forward with the concept of creating a north entrance to accommodate a pathway through Pioneer Cemetery.

In the days leading up to a virtual (online) Council meeting on January 11, 2021, a considerable amount of written testimony from stakeholders, pro and con, was logged for distribution to the councilors. Friends of Pioneer Cemetery had circulated a petition of concern and objection to opening a new gateway in cemetery's north-side perimeter fencing. Those responding to it by email and regular post produced 96 petition sheets bearing 250 signatures for entry into the record. The petition initiative allowed FOPC to bring more voices to bear in public testimony and identified a diverse constituency that extends throughout the community, the state, and elsewhere and includes, in addition to descendants and relatives of the interred, citizens affiliated with heritage organizations, patriotic societies, and veterans associations.

The more detailed, objective, staff report presented to the Council on January 11 was filed after brief discussion consistent with its status on the agenda as an information report. No plans for further consideration of the pathway proposal have been announced to date.

Qing Ming, Traditional Chinese "Sweeping of the Tomb" Ceremony, Returns



Members of Portland and Salem Chinese communities gathered at the historic ritual table in Pioneer Cemetery for livestreamed Qing Ming ceremonies on April 3, 2021. After a 2020 pandemic gap year, celebrants again made traditional offerings of food, flowers, incense to honor ancestors. Photo: Kimberli Fitzgerald, Salem Community Development Dept.

Remembering a Longtime Benefactor

Glorialee Paulson Wilmes (1922-2020)



From the time she was a child being raised in Portland, Ore., Glorialee Anderson accompanied her family to Salem to tend the gravesite of her great grandmother on the grounds still known in her youth as the Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery. Her mother, Corinne, became engaged in improving Plot 106 after the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery was organized under the leadership of Virginia Felton in 1984. Following her mother's example in watching over Plot 106, Glorialee became a faithful and generous donor to FOPC and pursued with FOPC genealogist Addie Dyal Rickey her keen interest in the pioneers at rest in the plot to whom her great grandmother, Frances M. Hendershott Putman, was connected. (Biographical records for Capt. Charles Bennett, a co-discoverer of gold at Sutter's mill in California in 1848, his wife, Mary Ann Bennett Hendershott, John Hendershott *et al* are in the online database, salempioneer cemetery.org). On October 21, 2020, Glorialee was interred in 106, in the presence of family members, next to her first husband, Richard Paulson, their four-year-old daughter, Charlotte; her parents and brother. Her annual visits to Salem to decorate 106 will be greatly missed by FOPC.

Glorialee is pictured above with Elisabeth Potter in 2015 at the grave of her great grandmother, Frances Hendershott Putman (1847-1907). Photo courtesy of Kevan T. Anderson.

In Memoriam

Respectfully, and with regret, we note the passing of our friends and supporters as information becomes available.

Alice Crane Verret	(April 21, 1930 - May 19, 2019)
Adele Louise Egan	(Nov. 5, 1925 - Jan. 16, 2020)
Susan S. Bernt	(Jan. 24, 1949 - Jan. 24, 2020)
Glorialee Paulson Wilmes	(July 10, 1922 - Mar. 3, 2020)
Georgette Yoshikai	(June 28, 1926 - March 18, 2020)
Richard Burson	(July 1, 1927 - May 7, 2020)
Sharon Lee Juza	(Dec. 11, 1929 - June 17, 2020)
M. Joann Foster	(Aug. 11, 1928 - Aug. 15, 2020)
Marian M. Churchill	(Oct. 25, 1925 - Aug. 18, 2020)
Thomas W. Churchill	(May 18, 1922 - June 23, 2009)
Phil B. Ford	(Sept. 5, 1932 - Aug. 21, 2020)
Ruth S. Roberts	(Nov. 13, 1941 - Sept. 2, 2020)
Betty Lou Getzendanner	(June 8, 1928 - Jan. 2, 2021)
Diane Riggs Vaucher	(Sept. 8, 1929 - Jan. 16, 2021)
Robert Lee Ohmart	(Nov. 6, 1937 - Jan. 23, 2021)

**Improving the Grounds Together
Community Volunteers, FOPC Field Crew,
and Contractor of Record**



Evergreen State College student Sonia Boeger of Salem turned out on June 20 for the first community work party of the 2020 season. Meticulously, she rinsed away grime and used wooden implements to coax moss from the joint scroll gravemarker of George and Verbena Croisan, Plot 631.

Community work parties had to be canceled in March and April, 2020, and in March, 2021. Even so, working together, community volunteers, FOPC's experienced volunteers and the City's contractor of record (COR) for professional repairs (Jeff Hilts Marker Setting), undertook varied groundwork and completed twenty-three headstone improvement projects. Two of the headstone projects were large collaborative undertakings in which the COR and FOPC's four-man headstone crew 1) reattached the tall, pink granite octagonal shaft of the Jonathan Waldo Smith monument (photo opposite) to its pedestal on plot 442 and 2) excavated to pour a more substantial concrete foundation atop which the heroic granite Cross of Calvary marking graves of Dr. John E. and Eliza Payton on plot 635 was reset upright in its original base. Including Sonia Boeger (above) and members of the Sprague High School Senior Class of 2021, volunteers in 2020 and 2021, through April, were:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Dale Palmquist, co-leader | Suzanne Apodaca |
| Mark Fields, co-leader | Ellen Stevens |
| Harold Otto | Rosa Frank |
| Fred Klatz | Brian Sund |
| Pat Norman | Elizabeth Peters |
| Claudine Shaw | Virginia Slaughter |



Left to right: Jeff Hilts, Dale Palmquist, and Mark Fields use straps and hoist to lift a leaning Payton cross, set it aside and build a stronger foundation. Gloria Hilts photo Aug. 24, 2020.

**Sprague High School Seniors
Joined FOPC Regulars on April 10, 2021
to Clear Storm Cleanup Debris from Aisles**



Above: Mark Fields and Sue Apodaca deposit debris on pick up tarps for City's composting. Left: Pat Norman and Melinda Kleinman, Sprague High School Senior Class Adviser, supervise.



Below: Clara Mindal, Ellie Horn, Hallie Sickendick, and Mei Tate pause at Jonathan Waldo Smith plot 442.



Above: Sprague seniors Mei Tate and Kelsey Cochran off-load debris at a collecting station.



Among ten Olympians of the Sprague High School graduating class of 2021 who made the cemetery grounds their service project of the term were



Liam Sharp (not pictured) and, left to right: Mason Aften, Ivan Zhong, Landon Wieweck, and Jeffrey Huang. April 10, 2021.

Native White Oak Losses 2020

July 27, 2020



A large limb and branch structure broke away from the mature white oak at the SE corner of Plot 617 on July 27 to reveal heavily decayed heartwood in the trunk. An assessment by the City's Urban Forester, Milan Davis, and crew of the City's contractor, Mountain View Tree Service, determined that

the way to remove the tree with the least amount of impact on cemetery values would be staging the initial reduction and removal operation from the north travel lane of Hoyt Street, using a truck-mounted articulated spider crane that could be maneuvered above or below overhead utility lines.



Major removal was completed August 3 and 4, and, on August 8, FOPC's cadre of experienced volunteers, working in cooperation with Jeff Hilts, the City's contractor for professional headstone repairs, 1) re-centered the dislocated pinned shaft monument of Emily Crandall Crawford (Plot 587) on its base and 2) reassembled components of the toppled stacked shaft grave marker of Simeon Bartlett (Plot 601). The oak was noted in the 2019 Parks Planning and Natural Resources Branch tree inventory as being in poor condition due to a worrisome crack at the top of its trunk. *Above, top: The tapering stacked shaft monument of James O. Davidson, a veteran of the War of 1812, stood free on Plot 602 amid the oak tree failure and removal.*

December 20, 2020

Five months later, on Dec. 20, a mature white oak was downed in a seemingly spontaneous up-rooting. The trunk, once destabilized at the root, fell to the SE, in the direction of its greatest burden of limbs and branches, from its roots in the NE corner of the S ½ of Plot 021.



The canopy spread over a broad field, toppling several stacked shaft and tablet grave markers and skewing alignment of small grave markers. Removal of the trunk was largely completed by December 29. Headstone repairs were placed on the work list for the 2021 field season. *Above: Looking east from SW corner of Plot 021 at curbed cradle marker of infant Frank Ford pushed aside by the root ball.*

Casualties of the Lincoln's Birthday Ice Storm

February 12, 2021

The ice storm that caused widespread downing of trees and power lines across the mid-Willamette Valley overnight on February 12 left a heavy mark on the city's street trees, parks, and Salem Pioneer Cemetery. In the cemetery, two more mature white oaks were uprooted and countless limbs and branches piled up in debris fields where oaks and conifers are concentrated. Two weeks after the storm, when FOPC conducted its preliminary assessment, many broken branches remained hanging in tree canopies. The cemetery gate remained locked for the public's protection until safety hazards could be addressed.

At the base of the oak that was uprooted at the NE corner of the Henry D. Boon family Plot 632, two small, heavily-weathered marble tablets for infants that were loose in their bases skirted the root ball void until retrieved for eventual resetting. Looking Northwest.



Operating mechanized equipment in the cemetery environment is a sensitive proposition since care must be taken not to destabilize or damage grave markers in the process of removing debris or hoisting hefty cut stone.

Among urgent recoveries that lie ahead is the resetting of two monumental grey granite blocks on Plot 618, the family plot of A.J. Monroe, Salem's pioneer stone cutter. On Plot 093, in the lower grounds, the trunk of the second uprooted oak tree scarcely missed two small markers.



The recent events point up the fact that Pioneer Cemetery's remaining stand of aging oaks is vulnerable. Of thirty-three white oaks tallied in the cemetery tree inventory prepared by the Parks Planning and Natural Resources Branch in November, 2019, twenty eight were standing at the end of the 2021 ice storm. The City's final-leg storm cleanup of the grounds and general tree maintenance pruning began May 13.

“At Your Service” Award Ceremony Recognizes Citizen Support in Cemetery Care

The City of Salem honored supporters and organizers of Friends of Pioneer Cemetery during the 2020 annual volunteer recognition event held as part of a virtual (online) meeting of the City Council on November 9. The nomination was put forward by Tibby Larson, Volunteer Coordinator for Salem Parks Operations. In directing individuals, young families, students, and church groups to opportunities for volunteer service in the City’s parks and other publicly owned spaces, Tibby is FOPC’s essential link in reaching auxiliary forces for community work parties in the cemetery.



Above: The Hon. Chuck Bennett, Mayor of Salem, came to the cemetery grounds to present one of the City’s 2020 “At Your Service” Awards to FOPC representatives. Left to right: Mark Fields, field crew co-leader; Elisabeth Potter, administrative clerk; Mayor Bennett; Dale Palmquist, co-leader, field crew; and Pat Norman, events coordinator. Emily DuPlessis-Enders photo, Nov. 18, 2020.



Above: Leadership personnel of the Parks Operations and Recreation Services Branch, Salem Public Works Department, paused at the E.N. Cooke family mausoleum on June 5, 2020, during a walk through the cemetery grounds to consider overall health of the natural setting and condition of the mature tree canopy in particular. Left to right: Jacob Snyder, Parks Field Supervisor, Jennifer Kellar, Branch Manager, Milan Davis, Urban Forester, and Brian Smith, Horticultural Project Leader.



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Decorated graves of Mason family veterans in Plot 346.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, MAY 28-31, 2021

What to Expect

At this writing, spread of the coronavirus is ongoing. Advisories from the Oregon Health Department and Governor’s Office listed Marion County among areas of extreme risk at the end of April and shortly afterward reduced the level of risk to “high.” Protective face masks and practical physical distancing are recommended protocols when outdoor activity involves exposure to larger groups of people. For the second Memorial Day of the pandemic, Friends of Pioneer Cemetery will not man a fixed help station but will circulate in the central grounds periodically. Visitors are welcome and asked to exercise caution around sites where suspended repair and recovery efforts could pose a safety hazard.

ABOUT THIS MAILING

Friends of Pioneer Cemetery (FOPC) provides this annual report for your information in association with the City of Salem Parks Operations and Recreation Services branch of the Public Works Department. If you wish to contribute to the Pioneer Cemetery Fund, make additions or corrections to the mailing list, or request that your name be removed from the list, a return envelope is provided for your convenience.

Please consider joining those who have elected to view the report in color via email by using the envelope to inform us of your email address. As the report is gradually phased out as a print document distributed by regular mail, print copies will be made available on request. As customary, contributions and instructions for memorial donations may be sent to the address above. Friends of Pioneer Cemetery annual report/newsletters are archived and are accessible, along with each new edition, on the FOPC Website. To protect your privacy, it is our policy not to include a donor acknowledgement page in any edition of the annual report that is posted on our Website: salem-pioneer-cemetery.org.