

Lee Mission Cemetery Newsletter

Spring 2013



Lee Mission Cemetery 2204 D Street Salem, OR 97301

Special Thanks to:

- *Volunteers from LDS Fairgrounds Ward headed by Bishop Davis*
- *Volunteers from LDS Salem Ward headed by Bishop Smart*
- *Jerry Shay of JP Services for his maintenance at the cemetery and for all the extras he does including the placing of flags for Memorial Day*

Reflections and Observations

★ The Cemetery is once again grateful to the LDS Fairgrounds Ward led by Bishop Davis and the Salem Ward led by Bishop Smart for their pre-Memorial day cleanup at the cemetery.

This group of volunteers worked on the weeds by the Kiosk and the circle, cleaned up Diamond Square and spread bark dust, raked up grass clippings, and cleaned headstones. A remarkable amount of work was completed in just over three hours. They then took time to set up an awning and had a picnic lunch, barbecuing hot dogs and hamburgers. It was a beautiful day and their efforts are much appreciated by the Lee Mission Cemetery Association.

★ One of the issues the cemetery has faced over the years is the presence of weeds in some of the sections of lawn. Last fall, Rasmussen Spray Service came in late in the year and sprayed the front sections in an effort to eliminate the problem. The results are already evident.

★ The ability to spray for weeds is one of the many ways that donations to the cemetery contribute to not only maintaining the cemetery but to improving it. Over the last few years, donations have helped to pay for the graveling of the driveways, a paved parking area, fence repair and tree trimming. We are so very grateful to those who have taken the time and effort to contribute time and money.

★ Earlier this year the Lee Mission Cemetery Association established a new website. We can now be found at <http://www.leemissioncemetery.com/>. Efforts are being made to keep information as current as possible.

**Volunteers May 2013
LDS Fairgrounds Ward and Salem Ward**



Memorial Day





Did You Know
by Mimi Stang

Lee Mission Cemetery is the final burial place for a number of early Oregon pioneers, not just Reverend Jason Lee. At the back of the cemetery is a section called “Diamond Square” and it is there you will find many of these early pioneers and missionaries. Truly a great deal of Salem’s history is represented.

Alanson Beers - came by ship in the “First Reinforcement” to the Oregon Mission in 1838.

Gustavus Hines - arrived in the “Great Reinforcement” of 1840.

Josiah Parrish – First Methodist preacher ordained in Oregon .

Cyrus Shepherd – came to Oregon with Jason Lee in 1834.

Alvan F. Waller – built the first church in Salem, first brick building at Willamette University.

Anna Maria Pittman - first wife of Jason Lee.

Lucy Thompson Lee – second wife of Jason Lee.

Elisabeth Winn Parrish – deeded five acres of her Donation Land Claim to create the Lee Mission Cemetery in 1869.

Lee Mission Cemetery Awarded the “George Strozut Award for Preservation”

At a recent awards ceremony at Willamette Heritage Center (Mission Mill), Lee Mission Cemetery was recognized. We were very pleased and honored to receive the “George Strozut Award for Preservation” which is to honor an individual, group or organization that has advocated for historic preservation. The award is named for George Strozut who was a long time Salem teacher, preservationist and president of the Marion County Historical Society.

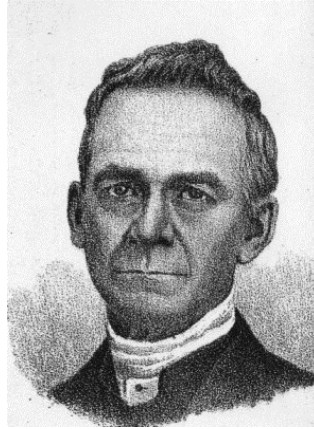
This award was based on our work over the many years to preserve and improve the cemetery. The nominating letter noted that we are a not-for-profit cemetery, established in 1846 and incorporated in 1869, run by a six member board of directors, all of whom serve without compensation. Also mentioned in the award nomination was our community event of June 2006 when we commemorated the 100th anniversary of Reverend Jason Lee’s internment.

Cemetery Board members attending the award ceremony were President Jim Momyer and his wife Karen, Secretary Mimi Stang and her husband Ted, Pat Glass and her husband Tom and Sherrill Hochspier. Jim Momyer received the award (a very nice plaque) on behalf of the cemetery. It was a nice evening that included a buffet dinner and a President Abraham Lincoln reenactor.

I hope you share with us the pride in having our cemetery recognized. [Our thanks go out to Mimi and Ted Stang who wrote and submitted the application that resulted in this award.]



Rev. James Hiram Wilbur, DD



Rev. James Hiram Wilbur was born in Louville, New York September 11, 1811 and died October 28, 1887 at Walla Walla, Washington after a long and successful career.

Rev. Wilbur was ordained a minister of the M.E. Church January 4, 1842 and in 1847 emigrated to Oregon with fellow minister Rev. William Roberts and their families.

At the time of his arrival he was a young man in his prime, 36 years of age, 6'2' in height, straight as an arrow, deep chested and powerful. He was fearless and cool, no stranger to hardship. But even such a man found the

demands upon an itinerant Methodist preacher about all he was able to endure.

Soon after his arrival he was appointed to the Oregon Institute, now Willamette University. While at Salem, he helped build the first church. Father Wilbur helped to clear the land on which Portland now stands and built the Portland seminary and Umpqua academy. He also built the first churches in Portland and at Oregon City. Twenty years of Mr. Wilbur's later life were spent in conducting an Indian training school at Yakima, Washington

During his life on this coast, the good father helped to build not less than nine church buildings and seven parsonages. He annually contributed about \$3300 toward church and charitable purposes. He was the founder of the Portland Female academy, and of the Wilbur academy at Wilbur, Oregon.

Father Wilbur held the honorable position of educational agent of the M.E. church of the Columbia conference from 1861 to 1882; was instructor

and Indian agent at Fort Simcoe, W.T., during the same period, going to Walla Walla in 1882 and remaining there. .

When Father Wilbur bought his lot in the Lee Mission cemetery he gave one half of it to the Rev. William Roberts. He felt that since they had come to this country together on the same ship, and had labored together ever since; they should be buried side by side.



Donations

Lee Mission Cemetery is a 501(c)13 not-for-profit Corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

100% of donations made to the cemetery go towards improvements and maintenance. Officers and board members volunteer their time.

Lee Mission Cemetery
P O Box 2011
Salem, OR 97308

Lee Mission Cemetery is licensed through the
Oregon State Mortuary Board
Phone: 971-673-1500

Board of Directors:

Jim Momyer, Chair
Mimi Stang, Secretary
Tom Bowers
Phyllis Gillis
Pat Glass
Sherrill Hochspeier

Contact Information:

Jim Momyer @ (503) 871-5639
for lot purchases and concerns about the cemetery

Web Site:

<http://www.leemissioncemetery.com/>
Webmaster: Stephenie Flora
email: SLFlora47@msn.com to share information about those buried at the cemetery. Questions, comments and corrections are welcome.

Newsletter:

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Salem, OR 97308*

