

Lee Mission Cemetery Newsletter

December 2014



Lee Mission Cemetery 2204 D Street Salem, OR 97301

From the President;

We have been the recipient of service again this year from volunteer organizations to assistance in clean-up at the cemetery. We are very appreciative of the efforts each of these groups have provided. Our caretaker appreciates the help as well.

Thanks go to Salem First Methodist Church Saturday of Service Committee, Fairgrounds Ward of Latter Day Saints, and the Brush Creek Ward of LDS. These groups have been regular in their willingness to assist us as one of their service projects

The cemetery remains active since the mid 1800's and burials this year have been consistent with the last several years. So far we have had 11 internments this year.

Because we are not-for-profit organization staffed by a volunteer manager and board of directors we can operate as one of the least expensive cemeteries within the metropolitan Salem/Keizer area.

Thanks to all of you who honor us each year with a donation to help offset our cost of maintenance. We are tax exempt under the Internal Revenue tax code as a 501(c) 13 organization. Year end is a convenient time to make a tax deductible contribution and we would be very appreciative of your including us in your list of organizations to support.

It has been my pleasure to be a volunteer on the Board of Directors for the last 34 years. I will be retiring from my position as of January 31, 2015.

Jim Momyer

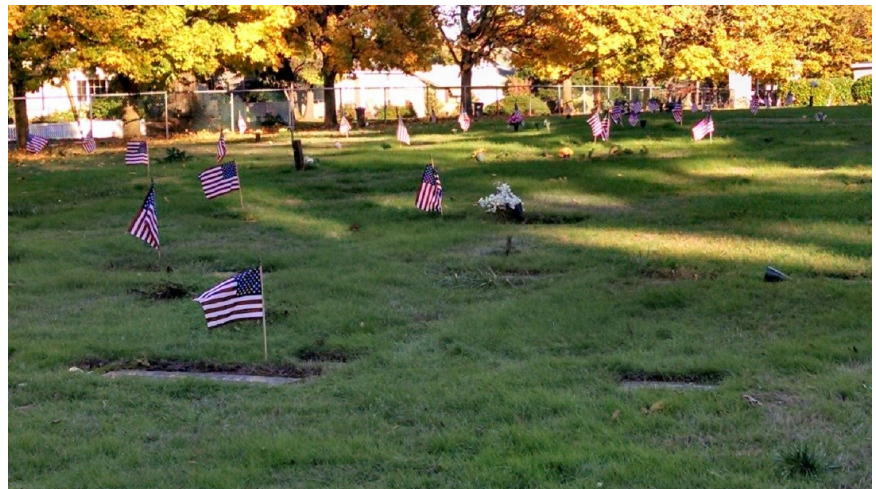
From the Editor:

Over the last 34 years the cemetery has regained its stature as a historic cemetery under the direction of Jim Momyer. Many do not realize the time and effort involved in all the day to day tasks associated with the cemetery. There are vandalism problems to be dealt with, maintenance, plot sales, inquiries and, in addition, the paperwork required by monitoring agencies. Jim has handled all of these and more. And he has handled it without any kind of compensation with the exception of an occasional "thank you". It is with great regret that we learned of his retirement. And yet it is well deserved and I think I speak for all of those on the board when I wish him well in his new endeavors.

As we move forward into the New Year the board members will be meeting to ensure that the cemetery moves forward and continues on the path that Jim has established. While Jim is moving onto other interests he has stated that he will still be available for questions and support as the board takes on the task of running the cemetery.

Honoring Veterans

Veterans Day is a time to acknowledge the men and women who have given so much to protect the freedom enjoyed by the American people. Student volunteers from North Salem High School joined with grounds keeper, Jerry Shay of J.P. Services, to put flags on the graves of those who have served in the various branches of the military over the years. It made an impressive display.



Cyrus Shepard
Missionary, Teacher, Husband and Father

Cyrus Shepard, the youngest of six children was born to Stephen and Prudence (Adams) Shepard on August 14, 1798 in Phillipston, Worcester County, Massachusetts.

Cyrus, the man, was described as "tall, and fine looking, yet of scrophalous tendency and feeble health." He was of a studious disposition and for several years had been a teacher in the Sabbath School in Lynn, Massachusetts. He was devoted to religion and a missionary at heart."

His original plan was to become a missionary in Africa but an unexpected turn of events made him change his mind. Spurred by the pleas of four Flathead Indians who had traveled east in 1831 to learn about the 'White Men's God', Cyrus joined the 1834 west bound party of Rev. Jason Lee party leaving to minister to the native tribes of the far off Oregon country.

Much of the knowledge of this man comes from his own diary. On March 4, 1834 he wrote: "Took leave of my aged mother, brother and friends, the place of my birth and youthful sportiveness, the grave of my Father & all those scenes rendered sacred by the recollection of days gone bye, and accompanied by my brother, rode to Templeton to take a seat on the mail stage for Springfield on way to New York." Thus began his journey to join the Lee party.

Cyrus was often ill on the trip. At Independence he wrote: "Tuesday & Wednesday 15th & 16th April 1834. Very much unwell & weak in body, having for several days been sorely affected with bowel complaint, but now I trust through the mercy of Jehovah getting better...." The Lee party, in company with the Wyeth Expedition, started on their journey April 28, 1834. They arrived at Fort Vancouver five months later on September 14, 1834 to begin the process of setting up a mission.

Despite repeated bouts of illness, Cyrus assisted in setting up the mission while ministering to the local native population. On June 16, 1837 he was joined in marriage to Susan Downing in a dual ceremony with Rev. Jason Lee and Anna Maria Pittman. The two couples traveled for four days on horseback from the Willamette Valley to "vacation" at the coast near present day North Lincoln County.

Plagued with poor health, Cyrus Shepard died January 1, 1840 and was buried in the Mission Cemetery what is now known as Willamette Mission Park, Wheatland, Marion County, Oregon. His stone was brought from the East and while ascending the Willamette Falls, fell from the boat in the Clackamas Rapids. It was not recovered for several years and by the time it was found the inscription was scoured off by the sand and stone driven by the current. When Cyrus was later reinterred at the current Lee Mission Cemetery, the stone was placed on his grave. The partial inscription read, "The grave of Cyrus Shepard, who, weak in body, but strong in faith, accompanied the first missionaries. He crossed the Rocky Mountains....."

LEE MISSION CEMETERY
DONATIONS SINCE JANUARY 1, 2013

<p>Monument Builder <u>\$500 – 2500</u></p> <p>Sponsor <u>\$101 – 499</u> Pat Clark Mary Turner Tom & Patricia Glass Craig Marlette Phyllis Gillis Erin Hanni Cora A. Hallauer Rose Stenersen Ted and Mimi Stang</p> <p>Supporter <u>\$51 – 100</u> Cora Hallauer Craig Marlette Phyllis Gillis Erin Hanni Rose Stenersen Tom & Patricia Glass</p>	<p>Friend <u>Up to \$50</u> Mary Turner David Smedema Constance Richards Gloria Wedel Robert & Robbie Kay Adams Peter Dane Lura Dymond Mary Brock Doris E. Russell Virginia & Keith Klein George Knox Norma Gekakis Paul & Ruth LaRue</p>
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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 toward improvement 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, President
Mimi Stang, Secretary
Tom Bowers
Phyllis Gillis
Pat Glass
Sherrill Hochspeier

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for lot purchases and concerns about the cemetery

Web Site:

<http://www.leemissioncemetery.com/>
Webmaster: Stephenie Flora
Newsletter Editor: 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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