

Lee Mission Cemetery Newsletter

July 2021



From the President

Damage

The first half of 2021 was eventful for Lee Mission Cemetery. The ice storm of February resulted in a lot of damage to trees in the cemetery, resulting in closure of the roads in the cemetery for safety purposes and unexpected expenses to have a tree service work for three and a half days to deal with all the damage before the roads could be reopened.

In addition, due to non-repairable damage done to the entrance gate at the cemetery in late 2020, a new gate needed to be fabricated and installed earlier this Spring.

Improvements

We would like to recognize and thank the two volunteer groups that have helped at the cemetery this year: a group from the Methodist Church in April and a group from the LDS Church in May. Their help is always much appreciated.

A Boy Scout chose to do his Eagle project at the cemetery. He and his volunteers trimmed around all the graves in Section RA, trimming back grass and sod that was encroaching upon the headstones.

We also received a very generous donation of gravel for the roadways within the cemetery to fill in the low spots. This donation also included about two days of a crew spreading the gravel, all free of charge. The roadways are so much nicer now.

As a result of the New Rules and Regulations and Rules for Headstones and Around Graves (see pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter) that went into effect May 1st, new and uniform signage has been installed. A new sign has been installed next to the kiosk, new signs directing the way to Diamond Square, and new signage at the entry to the cemetery indicating the new “No Pets Allowed” policy.

We are hoping the second half of 2021 will be less disruptive to the cemetery in terms of damage. The cemetery board is continuously working to improve the cemetery with projects like completion of the Diamond Square fence, new/replacement boxes for flower vases, a possible refresh of the kiosk, repair/replacement of section posts/markers, and weed/blackberry control. We cannot do this without the valuable help of our volunteers, both in terms of financial assistance and labor. There is always a lot of work so please contact us if you are interested in helping or if you have ideas for improvements to the cemetery. 100% of your donations are used for cemetery projects and grounds maintenance.

~Michael Staten, Cemetery Board President

Cemetery Rules and Regulations

THIS CEMETERY IS THE RESTING PLACE FOR GENERATIONS OF OREGONIANS. IT IS A SANCTUARY OF LIFE, LOVE AND MEMORIES. RESPECT THE SOLEMNITY OF THE GRAVES AND OTHERS' PROPERTY BY FOLLOWING THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. No pets allowed.
2. No loitering.
3. No parties, alcoholic beverages or drugs are allowed on cemetery grounds. Salem police may be notified of any of these activities.
4. No music allowed except for funeral services, same day only.
5. No tents or awnings allowed except for funeral services, same day only.
6. No BBQs, open flames or candles are allowed.
7. You are responsible for removing your own garbage. Please use trash containers provided or take it with you.
8. No parking on lawns or gravesite areas. No parking on roadways unless visiting a grave.

El Cementerio Reglas y Regulaciones

ESTE CEMENTERIO ES EL LUGAR DE DESCANSO PARA GENERACIONES DE OREGONIANOS. ES UN SANTUARIO DE VIDA, AMOR Y RECUERDOS. RESPETAR LA SOLEMNIDAD DE LAS TUMBAS Y LA PROPIEDAD DE OTROS SIGUIENDO ESTAS REGLAS Y REGLAMENTOS

1. No se permiten mascotas.
2. No está permitido vagabundear en el cementerio.
3. No se permiten fiestas, bebidas alcohólicas o drogas en los terrenos del cementerio. La policía de Salem puede ser notificada de cualquiera de estas actividades.
4. No se permite música excepto para los servicios funerarios, solo el mismo día.
5. No se permiten carpas ni toldos, excepto para los servicios funerarios, solo el mismo día.
6. No se permiten asadores o parrillas, fogatas, velas o veladoras.
7. Usted es responsable de recoger su propia basura poniéndola en los contenedores de basura del cementerio o llevársela a su casa.
8. No se estacione en el césped o en las tumbas.

Rules for Headstones and Around Graves

LEE MISSION CEMETERY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE OR MISSING ITEMS TO HEADSTONES OR ITEMS PLACED ON GRAVES

- A. Artificial flowers are not allowed April – September. Fresh flowers are allowed year-round.
- B. The following items are prohibited:
 - breakables including glass or ceramic vases and candles,
 - rocks, tiles and marbles,

- fencing or other structures.
- C. No plants, flowers, or decorations may be placed more than 12 inches away from headstone.
- D. Trees, shrubs or flowers may not be planted on the plot.
- E. The cemetery board maintains the right to remove any article, keepsake or planting which is not consistent with the historical, natural and maintenance needs of the cemetery.

Reglas para Lápidas

EL CEMENTERIO LEE MISSION NO ES RESPONSABLE DE CUALQUIER DAÑO O ARTÍCULOS FALTANTES A LAPIDAS O ARTICULOS COLOCADOS SOBRE TUMBAS

- A. No se permiten flores artificiales de abril a septiembre. Se permiten flores frescas durante todo el año.
- B. Los siguientes artículos están prohibidos:
 - Objetos que se pueden romper como,
 - rocas, tejas y canicas,
 - cercas o otras estructuras.
- C. No se pueden colocar plantas, flores o decoraciones a más de 12 pulgadas de distancia de la lápida.
- D. No se pueden plantar árboles, arbustos o flores en la parcela.
- E. Los encargados del cementerio se reserva el derecho de retirar cualquier artículo, tales como recuerdos o plantas que no sea compatible con las necesidades históricas, naturales y de mantenimiento.

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 and receive no compensation.

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

Michael Staten, President
Sherrill Hochspeier, Secretary-Treasurer
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Phyllis Gillis
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Julie Staten

Contact Information

Lee Mission Cemetery: 503-851-1803
Lot Sales (Rick): 503-559-2242
Web Site: www.leemissioncemetery.com
Send comments, additions and corrections regarding website or newsletter to statenmd@hotmail.com

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the Cemetery is on Kalapuya Illihi, the traditional indigenous homeland of Kalapuya peoples who were forcibly removed to what are now the Grand Ronde and Siletz reservations.

Dr. E. R. Fiske

By guest author, *Margaret Stephens*

Dr. E.R. Fiske (June 1817-August 1877) was a co-founder of medical associations in the State of Oregon and in our area, including the Salem Academy of Medicine, and was Dean of the Medical School at Willamette University. He, along with wife Charlotte and one of their sons, are interred in Lee Mission Cemetery.

An epidemic of diphtheria in Oregon broke out in the 1870s. Characterized as “The Strangling Angel of Children,” diphtheria is a bacterial infection caused by *Corynebacterium diphtheria*, transmitted through close contact with an infected individual, usually via respiratory secretions spread through the air.

To help prevent further spread in the Salem area, the Salem Academy of Medicine notified parents in early 1877 via the local newspaper that the Academy recommended closure of public



schools and advised other precautionary measures.

Until a vaccine was developed and distributed in the mid 1920's, outbreaks continued. Oregon had relatively low rates to total population compared with the rest of the country. Yet, in 1920, in the USA as a whole, diphtheria was responsible for 57% of the deaths of children 5 years and younger.

In our Cemetery records, where noted in obituaries, there were at least seven children who died in the 1920s of diphtheria who are interred in Lee Mission. Other dates of childhood deaths from the disease noted in available records were 1876, 1890, 1901.

Some families lost many of their children. It is noted on Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson's obituary (d. 1898; grave in Lee Mission) that she had one surviving son and that

she passed through “the awful ordeal of losing the other five children in the month of March 1877, during the dread scourge of diphtheria then prevalent in this valley.” This type of loss was not uncommon.

Diphtheria peaked in the USA in 1921. By the mid-1920s, researchers licensed a vaccine against the bacterial disease. Infection rates plummeted in the United States.

Today more than 80 percent of children in the United States are vaccinated, according to the CDC. Those who contract the disease are treated with antibiotics.

PARENTS READ:

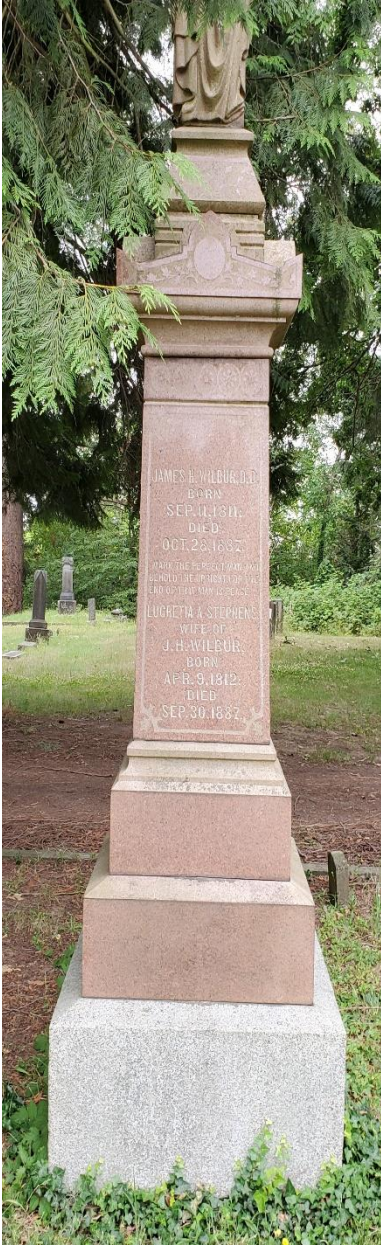
Resolutions Adopted by the Salem Academy of Medicine Last Night.

At a meeting of the Salem Academy of Medicine, held January 29th, it was

Resolved that in consequence of the severity and highly contagious character of the prevailing epidemic of diphtheria, that the authorities be requested as a sanitary measure, to close the public schools for a season, and that such precautionary measures be adopted as have a tendency to prevent the spread of the disease, and that the practice of taking corpses of persons dying with contagious diseases to the churches for funeral services be discontinued, and that the children should not be allowed to attend funerals in such cases.

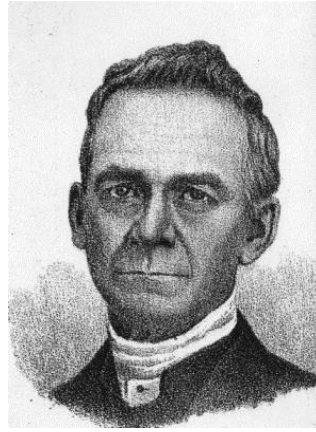
John Reynolds,
Secretary

Dr. E. R. Fiske,
President



Rev. James Hiram Wilbur, DD

Reprinted from Lee Mission Cemetery Newsletter, Spring 2013



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.

Margaret Stephens, a longtime member of the Board, resigned in May. The Lee Mission Cemetery Board would like to recognize her and thank her for all her hard work for the cemetery.

LEE MISSION CEMETERY DONATIONS
January 2021 - June 2021

Thank you to our donors!

Friend: \$1-\$49

- Karen Ro Heuberger - In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Roe Betterton
- Mary J. Brock - In memory of Margaret Hadley Irvine
- Leona C. Fuller

Supporter: \$50-\$99

- Elisabeth Walton Potter
- Kathryn A. Karr - In memory of Bert & Ada Karr
- Katharine L. Hagerty - In memory of Edwin & Sarah Snider
- George Swanson - In memory of Juanita J. Swanson
- Jim & Ruth Hoss - In memory of Great-grandfather Gustav Nelson
- Peter & Norma Gekakis

Sponsor: \$100-\$249

- David R. Shaw
- Thomas & Patricia Glass
- Ginger Anderson
- Wilbur & Lela Jackson
- Cynthia J. Woodroof - In memory of Dorthea Tanzer
- David L. Smedema

Preservation \$250-\$499

- Cora Hallauer
- Jean Hand - In honor of Prof. Richard Gillis and Phil Hanni

Historian: \$500-\$2499

- Anonymous
- Phyllis Gillis – In memory of Richard M. Gillis

WANTED

Articles regarding your descendants that are buried in Lee Mission Cemetery. Each article should be about one family and no longer than 500 words. The board reserves the right to shorten your article to fit the space available in the newsletter that is published twice a year (Jan and July). We would prefer that the article is typed; however, all articles will be accepted. Deadlines for articles are June 15 and December 15. Submit articles to Lee Mission Cemetery, PO Box 2011, Salem, OR 97308-2011.

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Rev. William Roberts

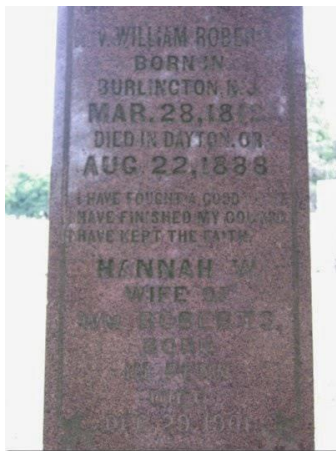
Adapted and printed from PlacesPages by Robert D. West

William Roberts was born in Burlington, New Jersey on March 28, 1812. He was a prominent minister in Philadelphia when he met and married Pennsylvania native Hannah Webster. In 1846, Reverend Roberts was selected by the Bishops to succeed George Gary as the third Superintendent of the Oregon Mission. He and his family sailed from New York on November 27, 1846 with Reverend Wilbur and his family. They arrived in Portland on June 27, 1847. Two years later, Reverend Roberts organized the Oregon and California Mission Conference and served as Superintendent, or Presiding Elder, of the churches in Oregon.



Sailing on the way to Oregon they reached San Francisco, then known as Yerba Buena. William Roberts and James H. Wilbur had been charged by the Board of Foreign Missions to make a survey in California en route to Oregon. They landed at Yerba Buena April 24, 1847 and took stock of the land and the people. In May, a Methodist Class and Sabbath School were organized. This is the first Protestant church of record in California.

William Roberts set energetically about his work as Superintendent of the Oregon Mission, preaching wherever people gathered, supervising the pastoral work, traveling to the scattered settlements within his field of responsibility.



William Roberts was appointed "Missionary to Idaho" in September 1865, a post-conference appointment. In October 1866, Roberts went to Utah. He was perhaps the first Methodist preacher to make a survey of religious conditions in Utah and to report his findings to the bishop and the Church.

Roberts left Idaho in 1869. Some of his fields of service not yet mentioned included pastor at Salem one year; agent of the American Bible Society, seven years; Presiding Elder of Portland District, six years. He was superannuated in 1875 because of impaired health, but later he was restored to the effective relation and was pastor at Forest Grove, Astoria, and Dayton.

In 1879, when Roberts was 67 years old, he took an aggressive interest in the problems of the Chinese on the Pacific coast. Roberts established a night school for the Chinese, which met six nights each week.

Roberts was one of the original incorporators of Willamette University. He died in Dayton, Oregon on August 22, 1888, having served in the Methodist ministry for 55 years, 41 of these years in the Pacific Northwest. He shares a large monument with Reverend James Wilbur, who gave half his lot in the cemetery to Roberts. His side of the monument bears the inscription "I have fought the good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith." Hannah Webster Roberts died on December 29, 1901.



*Lee Mission Cemetery
PO Box 2011
Salem, OR 97308*