

Lee Mission Cemetery Newsletter

July 2022



From the President

Lee Mission Cemetery is not just a historic place, it's a very special place. I receive comments from folks all the time about how much they love the cemetery and how much meaning it has to them, their families, and the community. We would not be able to keep it this way if it weren't for the wonderful volunteers that give from their hearts to help keep it that way. This year we have been blessed once again and are very appreciative. We have had volunteer groups come to help with maintenance of the cemetery and an individual that is working to help clean some of the oldest gravestones we have in the cemetery. Later in this newsletter you will find two special articles about some of the volunteers we have had in 2022. The Lee Mission Cemetery Board is very appreciative of the work all of them have done. Thank you to each and every person and group that has contributed to help in the maintenance of this historic cemetery.

It was mentioned in the January 2022 newsletter that we had recently discovered four or five large holes cut in the chain link fence surrounding the cemetery which were allowing access into and out of the cemetery after hours when the gates were locked. We have worked with a local fencing company who has repaired the damaged sections of fence.

The Board is continuing to address decorations on and around gravesites to help minimize the amount of impact on the landscaping company as they do their work to keep the cemetery looking its best when they mow.

We are still working to complete the Diamond Square fencing project; one of our Board members is working with the appropriate historical and governmental authorities to assure everything is done correctly.

We would still like to get the section marker posts repaired/replaced this year to help cemetery visitors more easily find the areas they are looking for. If you or someone you know would like to help with this project, please call and leave a message at 503-851-1803.

The Board further discussed moving live plants from gravesites to an area specifically dedicated as a “memorial garden” where families can have a living memorial to their loved ones. It was decided not to do this. We ask families to please follow the rules and not plant live plants on the gravesites. We will try to work with each family before plants are removed.

2022 has been a good year for the cemetery so far. Visitors are doing a good job of keeping it looking nice and following the rules, volunteers have been a tremendous asset, and our landscaping company did a wonderful job making it look so nice for Memorial Weekend.

I would be amiss if I didn't also recognize our many donors. We realize not everyone can volunteer their time to help but anyone can donate and every donation, no matter how large or small, helps. I would encourage you to consider giving a donation to Lee Mission Cemetery.

~Michael Staten, Cemetery Board President

Wenger Family – David Runner

Lee Mission Cemetery is the resting place for several of my relatives from the Wenger family. Jacob Wenger Sr., my second great-grandfather, was born in 1835 in the German-speaking Canton of Bern, Switzerland. In 1854, when Jacob was 19, his father, Johan, moved his family to America. Johan's wife, Elizabeth, was not with the family when they emigrated and did not join them later, so apparently died in Switzerland.

As for why the Wenger family made the move to America, no specific information has survived. However, historical sources indicate that the 1840s and 50s were difficult economic times in Switzerland. So, it is likely that they came to America with others who were seeking better economic opportunities.

The Wenger family landed in New York and then proceeded to the town of Monroe in Green County, Wisconsin. Green County had a sizable population of Swiss immigrants at that time, both in Monroe and New Glarus, another town about 15 miles north of Monroe. New Glarus took its name from the Swiss canton of Glarus and was established in 1846 after authorities there encouraged a group of citizens to emigrate due to overpopulation and poor economic conditions in the canton.



In Monroe, Jacob met Rosina Dick, and the two were married on December 19, 1861. Rosina's family, also of Swiss origin, had arrived in America in 1843. Jacob and Rosina had eight children: Robert, Henry, Jacob Jr., Louisa, Rosadie (my great-grandmother), Anna, Emma, and Charles, all of whom were born in Green County, Wisconsin. Jacob Sr. worked as a farmer and also a cheesemaker, reportedly of very pungent Limburger cheese.

The entire family relocated to Oregon in 1889. Again, no specific information survives about the reason for this move further west. However, in 1887, the Milwaukie and St. Paul Railroad extended a branch line to New Glarus, finally providing a convenient connection from the town to the rest of the country. So, Jacob and Rosina likely took advantage of this transportation improvement to move west to Oregon to provide their maturing children with better economic opportunities.

After the move to Oregon, Jacob and Rosina lived in various locations near downtown Salem. Rosina died on June 11, 1920, and was buried in Lee Mission Cemetery. Jacob died on March 7, 1924, and was buried next to his wife. The two of them have a single, joint headstone.

Also buried in the same plot at Lee Mission Cemetery are two of Jacob and Rosina's children, Charles and Rosadie, as well as a grandson, Raymond Girod.

Charles Wenger was born in 1880 in Green County, Wisconsin. He died in Salem at age 15 on September 18, 1895.

Rosadie "Sadie" Wenger (my great-grandmother) was born in Green County, Wisconsin on November 24, 1871. She was 18 years old when the family moved from Wisconsin to Oregon. In Oregon, she met Leon Girod, a native of the French-speaking Swiss canton of Neuchatel. She and Leon were married in Salem on January 12, 1893. In a German-English Bible that I inherited from my father, Truman Runner, Leon recorded on the inside front cover that the Bible was a wedding gift from Sadie's father Jacob. Other notes inside the front cover record births and deaths.

Leon and Sadie had two children, Leona Girod (my grandmother), born June 21, 1895, and Raymond S. Girod, born June 29, 1897. Sadie died three weeks after Raymond's birth and Raymond then died about two months after that. Leon recorded their death dates in the German-English Bible he and Sadie had received from her father. After Raymond's death date, Leon added that the baby "was buried at Lee Mission Cemetery by the side of his dear Maman." Consistent with Leon's French-Swiss heritage, the word "Maman" is the French equivalent of the English word "Mommy." Leon remarried after Sadie's death and had additional children. He is buried in a cemetery in Pratum, east of Salem.

Buried in a different section of Lee Mission Cemetery is another child of Jacob and Rosina, Jacob Jr. He was born in Green County, Wisconsin on June 23, 1867. He married Alice Roth in Salem on December 4, 1897, and the couple had a son, Karl, and a daughter, Trista. Jacob Jr. was very musically inclined and for ten years before his death sang with a Salem group called the "Stalwart Quartette." One newspaper account of his life said that he "was a first tenor of rare merit and was the only genuine Swiss yodeler on the Pacific Coast." He was a mason by profession and, for a period of seven years, also operated a music supply house in Salem with W.M. Cherrington.

Jacob's wife, Alice, was born on February 6, 1875, to John and Anna Roth, both Swiss natives. Alice remained a widow following her husband's death and died on December 22, 1939. She is buried beside her husband at Lee Mission Cemetery, near an adjacent plot holding the remains of her parents.

LEE MISSION CEMETERY DONATIONS

January 2022 - June 2022

Thank you to our donors!

Friend: \$1-\$49

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- Cora A. Hallauer In memory of Robert Hallauer
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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 and receive no compensation.

Board of Directors

Michael Staten, President
Sherrill Hochspeier, Secretary-Treasurer
Martín Hernandez Barrera
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Contact Information

Lee Mission Cemetery: 503-851-1803
P.O. Box 2011, Salem, OR 97308
Lot Sales (Rick): 503-559-2242

Web Site: www.leemissioncemetery.com

Send comments, additions and corrections regarding website or newsletter to admin@leemissioncemetery.com

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

My Story – Mary Curtis

My name is Mary Curtis. A few months ago, I watched a video of a person cleaning historical headstones. The person was cleaning an unreadable headstone and I was taken aback by the end result. I never knew that all they needed was a good cleaning to look good as new. I always thought the grime was from the age of the stone and it is what it is, boy was I wrong.

I did my research and I just felt compelled to volunteer my time and resources to clean these stones

that are over 100 years old. The tools used are nylon or natural bristled brushes, wooden scrapers and a cleaning product called D/2 Biological Solution.



D/2 Biological Solution is the ideal cleaner for Gravestones and Monuments. No metal, plastic or power tools are used because these can cause damage and scratches to the stones. So, I had the why and the how but was missing the where.

I have lived in Salem my whole life and have visited the Lee Mission Cemetery several times over the years and found it to be a nice little cemetery. I visited the cemetery and was drawn to an area that had some of the oldest headstones that looked very weathered.

I started to clean them one by one in a row and have been using the cemetery map on the website to keep track of my progress. I am hoping to clean every headstone in the cemetery. I don't have a timeframe of completion but seeing the results is really motivating. Cleaning off a hundred plus years of grime and stains and making it look new again is amazing.



Thank you to our volunteers

The Lee Mission Cemetery Board would like to thank the volunteers from Salem 1st Ward, in the Keizer Stake for their continued support of Lee Mission Cemetery. They have provided their services to the cemetery on the last Saturday prior to Memorial Day Weekend for over fifteen years. This year they arrived on May 21st and worked for over five hours. There were a total of about 15 individuals that helped out over the duration of time they were there. The crew was enthusiastic, hardworking, and knew what needed to be done, as they have volunteered for so many years.



Important Reminder Regarding Grave Decorations

We want to remind everyone they need to closely adhere to the rules for grave decorations. Unfortunately, if the Cemetery Board finds graves that are not compliant, there is a strong likelihood items will be removed and/or moved to put the gravesites into compliance. The reason for this rule is that we all want to have the cemetery well groomed for everyone's loved ones and so our maintenance

contractor can mow and trim over and around the graves.

Below is an excerpt from the Rules and Regulations for Lee Mission Cemetery which specifically addresses this subject. The full rules and regulations can be found at the following link.

<http://leemissioncemetery.com/LMCemeteryRulesHome.html>

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.

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.



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