

Lee Mission Cemetery Newsletter

June 2016



Lee Mission Cemetery 2104 D Street Salem, OR 97301

From the President:

In visiting with people at the cemetery I realized that many people do not realize that Lee Mission Cemetery is actually private property. It is managed by the non-profit organization, Lee Mission Cemetery Association. It is not affiliated in any way with the city or county and does not receive any support from them in the way of funding or maintenance. Because it is private property the Board of Directors has the right to determine the rules and regulations associated with visiting the property. They also have the right to enforce those rules and regulations in whatever manner is appropriate. The association is working closely with the Salem Police Department to eliminate illegal and/or dangerous activities at the cemetery. The neighbors have been our eyes and ears when we are not at the cemetery and it is much appreciated. If you believe drug activity is occurring call (503) 315-2566. To report other concerns, call the cemetery contact line at (503) 851-1803.

The cemetery does not have garbage pickup. If you are replacing flowers on a grave it would be appreciated if you would take the flower pots and old flowers home to recycle/debris bins. The board members that help maintain the cemetery are volunteers and receive no compensation for their work. Many of them have jobs and any help in maintaining the appearance of the cemetery by removing your debris is appreciated.

Volunteers:

The Cemetery has been blessed again this spring with volunteer groups that donated a day of work at the cemetery. The First Methodist Church group worked in Section D to edge around all the headstones and generally clean. When they were done the area looked wonderful. The LDS Fairgrounds stake trimmed low branches on trees, put bark dust on the landscaped areas at the front of the cemetery, raked up excess grass and cleaned around headstones. Both groups have been a mainstay in keeping up with the maintenance at the cemetery. Also backing up our maintenance man, Jerry Shay of JP Services, is board member Tom Bowers. He has done an amazing job of weed eating, spraying, mowing in smaller areas with a push mower and picking up debris left by visitors. Tom does all of this in addition to the fact that he is still working.

Board Members:

Margaret Stephens has been instrumental in removing the English Ivy that was threatening some mature native trees. She has trimmed bushes and done general maintenance. She is our “go to” person regarding native vegetation and preservation.

Sean O’Harra: Sean is the newest member of the board. He is Operations Director of Willamette Heritage center and is a wonderful addition to the board. His input and experience has been invaluable.

Pat Glass: Pat has provided input and suggestions on the various issues that occur before the board. She has family at the cemetery and her interest is seeing a Columbaria built at the cemetery. While it is a long term project some initial ground work has been done to determine the feasibility of such a project.

Grants:

Two grants were applied for this year. One grant through the Historic Cemeteries is to restore and preserve the railing around the area where Jason Lee and his missionaries are interred. The second grant through Preserving Oregon is to replace the failing roof on the maintenance shed. There are always many organizations seeking these grants so we will not know if we will receive them or not. News on the status of these grants will be received later this month. Either way, the projects will go forward. Even if the grants are received the cemetery will be faced with additional expenses for both projects as the grants do not cover the total cost. The additional costs will be absorbed by the cemetery through plot sales and donations.

Memorial Day:

Jerry Shay of J.P Services along with his son and several board members put out flags to honor both the military and the clergy buried at the cemetery. It is a huge job and many thanks go to Jerry for putting out the flags every year. If you have family that did not receive a flag and was entitled to either a military or clergy flag, please email me at stephenie@leemissioncemetery.com so we can make sure they are honored next year.

Thanks also go to Board Members Pat Glass, Phyllis Gillis, Margaret Stephens and Sean O’Harra for spending time at the cemetery through Memorial Day weekend to greet and help visitors.



Pillars: The solar lights for the new pillars at the entrance to the cemetery were purchased and installed. Thank you to the Craig Marlette family for donating the cost of the lighting in honor of their son Keith. Thanks also to Cynthia Woodroof, whose contribution towards the lights was used to cover the cost of the installation. The lights were a wonderful addition to the pillars. The installation was done by Mike Tappan Masonry. Mike did the original replacement of the pillars and has a good working partner for the cemetery.

Oregon Heritage Conference: In junction with the Oregon Heritage Conference that was held in May, a workshop was held at Lee Mission Cemetery on cleaning and setting headstones. Led by Sally Donovan of Donovan Associates, a group of about 12 participated in the workshop. They reset several stones and cleaned many of them in the older section. It was a nice group of people to work with. They worked from 10:00 until 4:00 in very hot weather.

Future Projects:

Blackberries: The issue of the blackberries at the back of the cemetery has been an ongoing problem. Contact has been made with Dan Bielenberg and James Cook of the Oregon Department of Corrections to arrange for crews to come in and remove the blackberries. Since there is cost involved it will be done in stages as the cemetery feels it can afford to proceed. After all the details are determined the initial removal would start in late fall.

Headstones:

Many of the older historic headstones in the cemetery are deteriorating. The need to reset and restore some of the historic areas will be assessed. One of note is the marker for Elizabeth (Winn) Parrish in Diamond Square. Her marker originally had a large cross on it that has since been destroyed. At some point we might consider the cost of replacing the cross on her headstone.

Landscaping:

As time and funds permit, additional landscaping will be added to the newer section. Jerry Shay of J.P. Services donated the Oregon Ash trees that line the field and newer sections of the cemetery. In time they can grow up to 80' in height and will provide shade and a habitat for birds. Smaller, low maintenance vegetation will also be added around the trees in time. Care must be taken when adding landscaping to keep mowing and maintenance manageable.

History:

The original entrance point to the cemetery was at what is now the back of the cemetery. The wagon trail came up the hill at an entrance point near where Jason Lee is buried in Diamond Square. The trail is still very visible. When entering the cemetery at the current location it has the appearance of being very flat but the back of the cemetery has a steep slope to the homes and streets below. The first burial is believed to be Capt. John Brown who came to Oregon in 1846 at the age of 77. He died in March 1848 and was buried at Lee Mission cemetery in what is now an unmarked grave in (or near) Diamond Square. The section of the cemetery adjoining D street was deeded to the cemetery by Levena (Gilliam) Nash Patty, the widow of Rev. William R. Patty after the death of her husband in the 1890s. Both are buried at the cemetery. Rev. Patty died 12 May 1890 and Levena died 16 Jan 1894.

LEE MISSION CEMETERY
DONATIONS SINCE DECEMBER 2015- JUNE 2016

Friend Up to \$49

Karen Heuberger (in memory of Roe and Jessie Betterton)
Mary Brock
Nettie Karr
Leona C. Fuller
Pete Dame
George Knox
Kim Blanding

Supporter \$50 – 99

William and Mary Mainwaring
Gloria Wedel (in memory of Paul J. Wedel)
Mimi & Ted Stang (in honor of Jim Momyer)
Cynthia Woodroof (pillar lights)
Kathleen Coleman (in memory of Rev Hiram Moore)
Wanda E. Blanding (in memory of Robert Blanding)
Edwin and Marianne Heberlein
Richard and Janet Hoffman
Paul and Tracey Saucy

Sponsor \$100 – 249

Melvin and Marilyn Wright
Jeff and Kris Walton (in memory of Jeff Walton Sr.)
Cora Hallauer
Otto Friedrich

Preserver \$250-499

Craig and Ruth Marlette (pillar lights in memory of Keith Marlette)
City View Cemetery



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:

Stephenie L. Flora, President
Sherrill Hochspeier, Secretary-Treasurer
Mimi Stang
Tom Bowers
Phyllis Gillis
Pat Glass
Margaret Stephens
Sean O'Harra

Contact Information:

Lee Mission Cemetery @ (503) 851-1803
Lot Sales: Rick @ (503) 559-2242

Web Site:

<http://www.leemissioncemetery.com/>

Comments, additions and corrections regarding the website or the newsletter can be sent to

Stephenie@leemissioncemetery.com



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