

SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

*A newsletter for the families and friends of
the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery
(Across from McArthur Court)*

FALL 2010

TRADITION AND RESPECT - Memorial Day 2010

by Quentin A. Holmes

The sky was overcast with the heavy dark clouds threatening rain, but folks still came out to honor the many veterans who rest in our Cemetery. Organized by Mr. Bob Potter of American Legion Post # 3, the Memorial Day ceremony at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery followed a traditional format. The American dream lives on thanks to the sacrifices of those whose lives helped make out country what it is today. Veterans, Boy Scouts, and Middle School Youth performing – It just doesn't get much better than this.

Early on Memorial Day morning, Boy Scouts from Troop 182, under the leadership of Scoutmaster Bryan Burch, put a flag on the grave of each Civil War soldier throughout our Cemetery.

Our formal ceremony began with Joe Ingram directing the Shasta Middle School Symphonic Band in "Badge of Honor March." Master of Ceremonies, Bob Potter/ American Legion Post # 3 welcomed everyone. Following the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, David Fitch directed the combined Shasta Middle School Choir and Young Men's Ensemble (YME) in singing "America the Beautiful" and the National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner". We, the old, felt truly blessed by the youth!

Harold Slavik, Commander of Louis Renninger Camp No. 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, read General Order # 11, issued in 1868 by General John A. Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. This is the General Order that established "Decoration Day" as a time to remember fallen veterans.

The Shasta Middle School Symphonic Band then played "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Touching!

The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War dressed in their brightly-colored military uniforms are a sight to behold. When their Commander had them raise their rifles and perform a "Black Powder Salute" grandeur and respect got commingled, and young kids squealed with awe and delight.

The primary speaker was – albeit somewhat of a surprise to him – Mr. Jim Torrey, Ex-Mayor of Eugene. Still, no one does a better job of expressing what Memorial Day means to all of us than our old friend, Jim Torrey.

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Eugene Pioneer
Cemetery
Endowment Fund

Any Comments or
Questions?
Please write or
phone us!

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TRADITION AND RESPECT... (Cont. from Pg.1)

Next came the song, "Valdres March" played by the Shasta Middle School Symphonic Band.

Memorial Day would not be complete without a reading of *In Flanders Fields*. This poem, from WW-I, was written by Canadian physician Lieutenant Colonel John McRae on 3 May 1915 after he witnessed the death of his friend, Lt. Alexis Helmer, 22 years old, the day before.

Wreaths were then placed in front of the statue of a Civil War soldier. Among those placing wreaths were the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and also a young boy and girl from Shasta Middle School.

The formal ceremony closed with the bugling of "Taps" by a member of SUVCW, followed by the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the Eugene Fire Bagpipe Band.

(Please see photos in **ROTOGRAVURE** on Pg. 3)

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

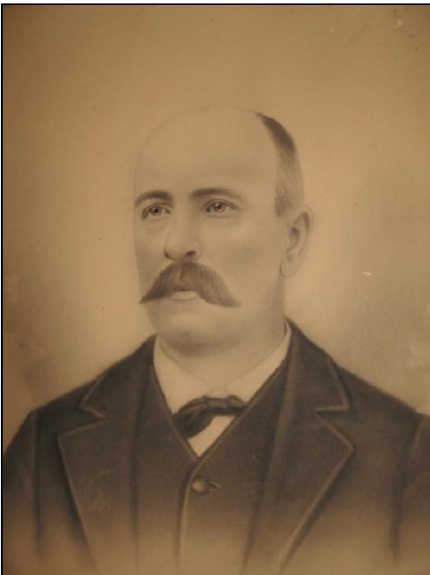
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

(Lt. Col. John McRae)

PETER & FLORA BOQUA - LANE COUNTY SETTLERS

By Great Granddaughter, Judy Trumbo Jernberg)



PETER BOQUA (Circa 1900)

In Block No. 441 of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery is a monument for Peter Boqua and his wife, Florence (Flora) Anna Thorpe. Peter died in Alvadore, Oregon in 1909 and is buried here. Flora died in 1948. Even though Flora's name is also on the monument, she is buried in Coos Bay, Oregon. Three infant children of Peter & Flora's daughter, Minnie Boqua Parker, are also buried in the Boqua family lot.

Peter Wilhelm Boqua was born in Germany on Aug. 4, 1845. He came to America in the ship's steerage which he described as a terrible experience. He changed the spelling of his last name so he couldn't be traced. No one knows why. We also don't know anything about his extended family. Peter lived in Rexburg, Idaho where he met Flora Thorpe, born in 1858 in Minnesota. Peter was 20 and Flora was 16. She was indentured to a family in Rexburg. Peter bought her indenture and they were married in North Platte, Nebraska (we assume her family lived there) on December 1, 1877. The couple returned to Idaho and lived at Moody Creek where their six children were born 2 years apart: Anna, Maude, Minnie, William, Charles and George. They ran a trading post on the Oregon Trail. In 1900, they sold the trading post, and bought 160 acres of land near Clear Lake in Alvadore, OR.

Peter died in 1909. Leaving the farm for his widow and children to run, Anna and the boys stayed at home to work, but Minnie and Maude were forced to find housekeeping jobs away from the family. William and George "crop rented" land nearby until they farmed 1,000 acres between Clear Lake and Highway 99,

(Cont. on Pg. 4 **BOQUA...**)

ROTOGRAVERE OF MEMORIAL DAY 2010



A Folks Came Out to Watch – with Umbrellas in Hand!



B Bob Potter – Master of Ceremonies



C "The Star Spangled Banner"
Shasta School Choir with Young Men's Ensemble



D "Black Powder Salute"
Sons of Union Veterans of Civil War



E Jim Torrey –
The Main
Speaker



F "Valdres March" – Shasta Symphonic Band

BOQUA ... (Cont. from Pg.2)

never actually purchasing more land. Will had a large horse-drawn, but gasoline powered threshing machine. By the 1920's George owned his own 160 acres. He bought the first tractor-drawn McCormick Deering combine in Lane County. It took 16 horses to pull the old machine, so the McCormick was a real time and labor saver. Will purchased a "revolutionary" crawler tractor (with big grinding treads) which would sometimes backfire and set the field on fire. The brothers ran the farm until the early 1940's when William sold a portion of his land to the City of Eugene for Mahlon-Sweet airport.

George married Gladys Harwood in 1920. Gladys was the daughter of Clinton J. Harwood who owned Thistledown Farm on River Road (my mother tells of sleeping in the Thistledown turret with cousin Gweneth Harwood). Gladys inherited a 160 acre filbert and walnut orchard on the Willamette River in Springfield (close to the current location of River Bend Hospital). They lived there until retirement in the 1960's. George died at the age of 80 and Gladys was 90 when she died in 1986. William continued to live with his mother, Flora, and later his wife, Effie Bond, on the corner of Clear lake Road and Highway 99. While farming in the 1930's, George hired my father, Eldon Trumbo. My mother, Evelyn Boqua Trumbo, married Eldon in 1939. George and his team of horses helped to build Highway 99 from Eugene to Junction City, and my dad cleared brush and timber when Fern Ridge Dam was built in 1941. All those ponds along Highway 99 (now called wetlands) began as gravel pits for the highway.

George and Gladys had three children: Evelyn, Florence Ann and Edward (Bud). Bud Boqua attended the Univ. of Oregon and played football in the Cotton Bowl in the 1950's. Ann moved to Kansas after she married Kenneth Harrod. Evelyn, now 89, continues to live in the Bethel-Danebo are at the Solvang Retirement Center. Evelyn began to play the piano at age 3 at barn dances in Lane County with her father, George, who was an eclectic musician. Evelyn and her mother, Gladys, also played at church and Grange meetings in Alvadore and Santa Clara. My mother claims there are very few dance halls, lodges, piano bars or live music venues in Lane County where she hasn't played the piano. She played in the the Eldred Glaspey band for many years and was co-chair of the Annual Musician's Ball at the Eugene Hotel for 15 years. Evelyn was also a church organist for nearly 30 years. She has continued to play at care centers and retirement homes for the last 20 years. She is still playing at Solvang Retirement Center and Terpenning Terrace. Evelyn has played countless weddings, funerals and special events. She still knows over 300 songs and hymns, playing them by ear.

Evelyn Trumbo is a life member of the American Federation of Musicians local 689. She was the first woman on their Board of Directors, and was their first woman President. In the 1960's Evelyn accompanied the Modern Dance Department at the Univ. of Oregon. Evelyn is also a life-time Girl Scout, in the Order of the Siler Trefoil. She was a camp director and outdoor trainer for many years. Eldon & Evelyn were active in the Trail Riders Association and the Oregon Trail Equestrians. They worked with the U.S.Forest Service to complete Graham Corral near Sisters. Both of my parents were avid outdoors people. The two of them took up backpacking when they were 60!

Eldon & Evelyn Trumbo lived in Bethel-Danebo all their lives. Their children, Judy Trumbo Jernberg, William Trumbo and Lorie Trumbo Jensen have inherited an interesting legacy from parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Judy and Dale Jernberg continue to live in the Danebo neighborhood with their boys, Michael & Tami Jernberg & Dennis & Yvette Jernberg and their families. William lives in Phoenix, Arizona. Lorie and her daughter, Michelle and Bryson Martell, own Lone Pine Farms – right next door to where Grandpa Harwood lived at Thistledown Farm.

A VISITOR'S IMPRESSION



The Jennings Family Lot (Lot No. 177)

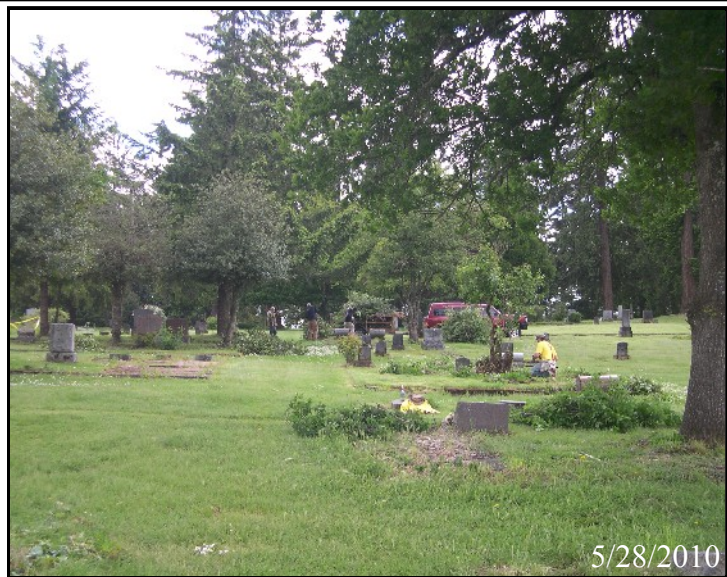
Kristin G, a student at the U.of O. occasionally comes to the cemetery to relax and sketch. This is one of her lovely sketches. (Look for still others in future issues.)

MAY WORK PARTY A BIG SUCCESS

Ruth Lake Holmes, EPCA Sec-Treas.

Each year, EPCA Director George Beebe organizes a Work Party for the Friday preceding Memorial Day. Months in advance, George arranges for a ten-person crew from the Lane County Jail. George holds a "walk through" with other board members two weeks in advance to decide what area needs work the most.

On Friday, May 28th, we began work around 9 am. Board member Dorothy Brandner took the lead on cleaning up the Civil War Lot. George Beebe and Quentin Holmes supervised the remainder of the work crew cutting down low-hanging limbs and trimming bushes. Resident caretaker George Dull (joined by Tim King later in the day) took care of hauling the cut away debris to a 32-foot commercial dumpster that was on hand for the day. By the late afternoon, our Cemetery looked gorgeous!



WORK PARTY – CLEANING UP THE CEMETERY

DAUGHTERS OF UNION SOLDIERS OF THE CIVIL WAR (DUVCW)

by Quentin A. Holmes, EPCA President

The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) was incorporated in December 1885. "We are daughters, direct descendants, from Veterans of the Union Army who fought in the defense and for the preservation of our Nation during the American Civil War. We honor Veterans through service projects which are of benefit to to the public at the local, state and national level."

Carolyn Hall is leader of Thirsa Gossett Tent #2, Willamette Valley, Oregon. She, and other DUVCW members, had a significant role in the restoration and upgrading of the Civil War Lot in the center of our cemetery.

Their namesake, Thirsa Gossett, was born to William H Burris, Sr. and Marie Bellows on June 6, 1839 in Washington County, Ohio. One of nine children, she joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at age eleven. Thirsa's mother died two years later and she was raised by her father. On Nov. 5, 1861 Thirsa married Warden Willis Gossett in Cold Run, Ohio. He had joined the 77th Ohio Infantry several days earlier to fight in the Civil War. She referred to him as "my dear soldier boy". In July 1862 Thirsa volunteered as a nurse and worked at the hospital in Mount Vernon, Indiana; later, when the sick were sent to Evansville, Indiana she went with them. Thirsa served in two hospitals there and was discharged in January 1863 when Warden developed TB and she took him home. Alas, her military service records were lost in a house fire. Thirsa's application for a pension in later years was further complicated by the fact that her name had been listed as Theresa and Thurse by the doctors she had served under, Drs. Penny, Turner, and Pennington. A testimony says, "*She would do the laundry for the soldiers as well as nursing them.*"

Despite Warden's ill health and Thirsa serving in the medical unit, their first child, Howard was born in July 1863 in Noble County, Ohio. Their daughter, Hortensia (Tenta) was born in March 1866. The family moved along with the families of her sisters, Melissa and Maria and their husbands, the Brabhams, to Lane County, Oregon and they lived in Springfield, Eugene and Junction City. Thirsa belonged to the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. Eventually, Warden and Thirsa moved to Lents in Multnomah County where they owned a plot of land. Warden died in 1909 and is at rest in Block No. 390 in our Cemetery. Thirsa had difficult financial times for the three years remaining before her death due to heart disease in May 1912. Thirsa was laid to rest beside him after a trip by train from Portland.

Their son, Howard Gossett, had three children and three grandchildren. Tenta had two children and five grandchildren. However, thus far, we have been unable to locate any of the descendants. Each Memorial Day the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War conduct a memorial service at Thirsa's grave.



CAROLYN HALL/ DUVCW – PLACING WREATH



EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND

by Ruth Lake Holmes, EPCEF Board Member

The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery was established in an era before perpetual care cemeteries. In those days people relied on relatives who lived nearby to keep up the family burial plot and help keep the Cemetery grounds looking nice. Today, a few families are still able to actively maintain their own lot. However, most of our older members are no longer physically able to clean their family lot. In addition, we live in an era when younger generations often live far removed from where they grew up. Hence, our Cemetery relies on annual donations to the Association and interest earned on the Endowment Fund to pay for mowing, pruning, gravel, signage, upkeep and improvements. Please consider a donation to The Fund, now, or in your estate plans. Your capital contributions to The Fund will be preserved permanently to generate income to help with expenses. Your donations are tax deductible. The Endowment Fund's non-profit registration numbers are: Federal: 51-0175540; State: 110200-13.

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

**c/o Ruth Lake Holmes
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

