

SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

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

SPRING 2009

EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

by *Quentin A. Holmes*

President, Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

Times change, and we with time. Back in the 1930's, when Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association was formed, many lot owners were able and took pride in helping cleanup the cemetery as well as preparing their family plot for "Decoration Day" each year. Back then, word of mouth, letters, and/or a telephone call sufficed to let someone determine WAS a particular individual buried in our cemetery? and, IF SO, where that individual's grave was located.

Today, Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association (EPCA) takes care of the cemetery on behalf of the lot owners. Indeed, a number of physical improvements have recently been made by the EPCA – such as the historically-appropriate new sign at 18th Ave and University. Today, most people go on the Internet when seeking information. The Internet is widely accessible, quick and far-ranging, and allows a variety of potential sources to be searched in an efficient manner. Although many of our members don't use computers, it is fitting that Eugene Pioneer Cemetery will soon have a website on the Internet.

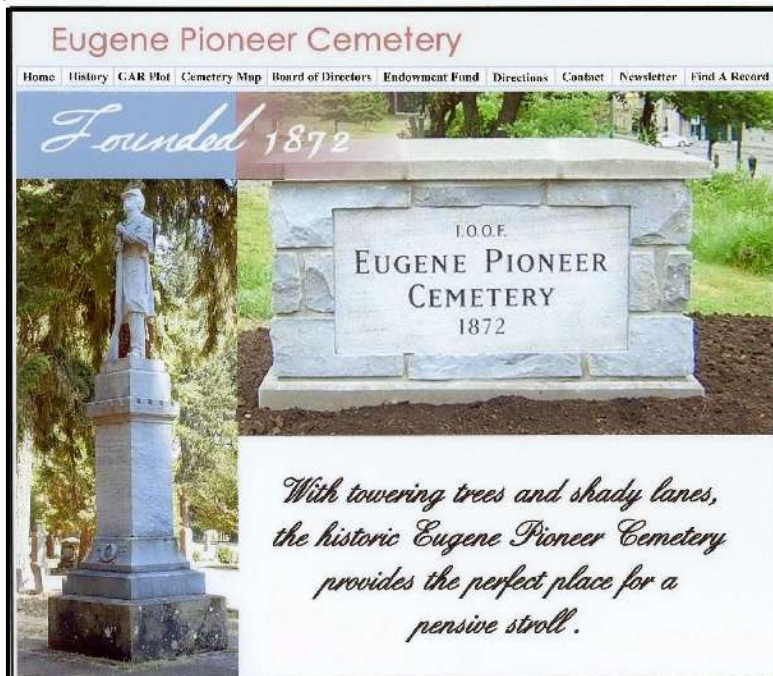
Our website is currently under construction - full functionality will not be achieved until sometime this Fall – but a number of things are already in place. The name of our website will be, EUGENEPIONEERCEMETERY.ORG where the suffix ".ORG" signifies that we are a non-profit organization.

The homepage is shown at the right. Arrayed along the top of the homepage are several links that will take a visitor to more specific information about our Cemetery and those who help us care for it. Links include:

- o "History"
- o "GAR Plot"

- o "Board of Directors"

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Homepage of Website
EUGENEPIONEERCEMETERY.ORG

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Any Comments or
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Please write or
phone us!

EPCA

c/o Ruth Lake
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Eugene, OR 97401

Phone: (541) 345-8686

... **CEMETERY WEBSITE** (cont. from Pg.1)

- o "Endowment Fund"
- o "Directions"
- o "Contact"
- o "Newsletter"

Each of these links will be functioning by early June.

A far more ambitious link – one that won't begin functioning until early this Fall – is "Find A Record". Detailed work by Dorothy Brandner, a retiree who loves a challenge and is very good at puzzles, has produced a Plot-by-Plot Database of all the people buried in our Cemetery. Over a 25-month period,

Dorothy, portable computer in hand, visited each plot several times and compared what was there with all known records. Sources Dorothy used include:

- Cemetery Records by Lane Historical Society after 1957;
- "Pioneer Cemetery Book" by Otilya Lay, Genealogy Society;
- IOOF Cemetery Register:1875-1904;
- Pioneer Cemetery Block Maps by U.of O. Prof. Ralph Leighton;
- US Census Records;
- Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System;
- Cemetery Burials 1953 -1975;
- Obituaries in microfilmed newspapers;
- List by SUVCW of Union Veterans buried in Eugene Pioneer Cemetery; and.
- The Oregon Death Index.

Block	Plot	Sources	Last Name	First Name	Middle (Initials)
571	1	1a, 2a, 3a, 4, 8, 10, 19, 22a	Jewell	Frank	Reznor

Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Date of Death	Place of Death	Date of Burial	Age
5/5/1876	Kansas	10/18/1918	Eugene, Oregon	10/21/1918	42 years

Cause of Death	Veteran's Information	Notes	Buyer of Lot	Researcher's Notes
Pneumonia, Influenza	Co. 1 2 nd OR Infantry Spanish American War	Son of J.W. Jewell & Eliza J. White. Husband of Lillian Meacham		Obit says that his body was shipped to Albany, Oregon for burial.

EXAMPLE RECORD FROM PLOT-BY-PLOT DATABASE

[For Frank Reznor Jewell (b.1876 – d.1918)]

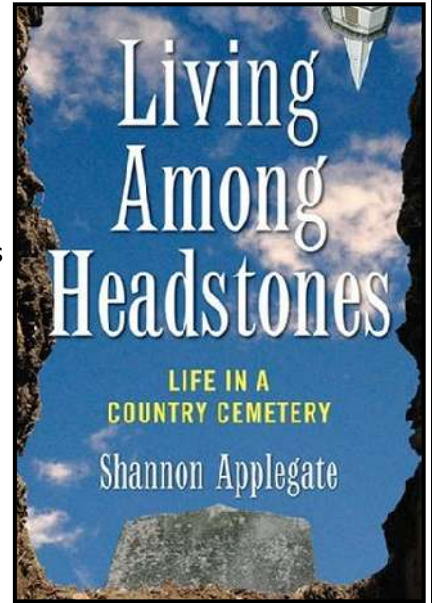
Individual records in the resulting database contain not only the lot and grave space, but also the best available information about the individual. "Find A Record" will respond to just a family name, an individual's last name, or their first & last name. This link will serve to answer the question, "WAS a person by the name of ____ buried in Eugene Pioneer Cemetery?" IF SO, the corresponding record displays the known information about that person. The example record shown above contains information gleaned from eight (8) different historical sources. In this instance, some of the data sources disagree (i.e., I.O.O.F. records indicate Mr. Frank Reznor Jewell was buried in our Cemetery in lot 571 – grave space 1 on Oct. 21st, 1918; while an obituary states that his body was shipped to Albany [Oregon] for burial.)

Currently, the Plot-by-Plot Database contains records on some 4,200 people that historical documents indicate were buried in the sixteen acres that we know as Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. Dorothy Brandner has done one incredible job! She just finished going through the detailed records kept by several Eugene mortuaries and found ~ 260 additional names of people who were buried in our cemetery. Soon, the fruits of all of her efforts will be readily available to online visitors to Eugene Pioneer Cemetery's Website.

BOOK REVIEW: Living Among Headstones, Life in a Country Cemetery
by Sara A. Leiman, Treasurer of E.P.C.E.F.

In 1997, Shannon Applegate was bequeathed a small cemetery in Yoncalla, Oregon. The neglected five acres were not only the burial site for generations of her family but also the designated resting ground for many in the nearby logging town. Her book chronicles her experiences as sexton of this sacred land: she finds herself plotting graves, consoling families and confronting the funeral industry. Engaging reading and reminiscent of our Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. Here's a sample, as the author relates a story of an apple tree and what was found when Rhode Island's early settler's grave was to be relocated.

"As those exhuming Roger Williams's body gathered for their task, it was noted that a stout old apple tree grew near his grave. As the digging began, the shape of the coffin could gradually be traced from a black line of organic matter. It was soon discovered that the apple tree had sent down two main roots and had obviously developed its root structure so that it might benefit from useable nutrients produced by William's decomposing corpse. The largest root had pushed its way to the precise spot originally occupied by William's skull, made a turn as if passing around it, and followed the direction of the backbone to the hips. Here the root divided into two branches, sending one along each leg to the heel. Then both turned upward to the toes. One of these roots formed a slight crook at the knee. Not a single bone remained, yet there did Roger Williams still abide, the living roots forming an uncanny outline of his body. Roger Williams had become an apple tree; had bloomed; had born fruit; had, quite literally, been eaten."



**"LIVING AMONG HEADSTONES,
Life in a Country Cemetery"
by Shannon Applegate**

2009 WORK PARTIES SCHEDULED

Quentin A. Holmes, EPCA President

Director George Beebe has scheduled two work parties in the cemetery during 2009. George has to set these up months in advance in order to get crews from the Lane County Sheriff. Typically, we get crews of about ten people - both men and women - from the Lane County jail. These folks do an excellent job for us, and regard it as a privilege to be outdoors helping the Cemetery. A week or so before, several of us "walkthrough" to look things over and agree upon what needs to get tackled by the work party..

Our first work party will be on the Friday before Memorial Day:

Walkthrough at 11:30 a.m. on May 14th, 2009;

Work Party from 9 a.m. -> 3: p.m. on May 22nd.

Our second work party will be Friday the 4th of September:

Walkthrough at 11:30 a.m. on Aug.27th, 2009;

Work Party from 9 a.m. -> 3: p.m. on Sept. 4th.

Come join us if you like, we can always use help!

RECENTLY SEEN IN THE CEMETERY



NEW DRIVING ENTRANCE TO THE CEMETERY

With the completion of the U. of O's new Music Building, the way you drive into the Cemetery has changed. Drive to 18th and Harris Street, and then turn North. Follow the driveway shown here along the West edge of the Cemetery until you reach the old (16th Ave.) entrance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Combined Annual Meetings of Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association and Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund, Inc.

Will be held Saturday, May 9th, 2009 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: The First Congregational Church
1050 E. 23rd Street
Eugene, Oregon.

Memorial Day and Dedication Ceremonies at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery

A Memorial Day Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 25th, 2009 at the Civil War Veteran's Plot. This formal service will feature members of the Sons of Union Veterans dressed in full Civil War military uniforms, and a musket salute in honor of the heroes who are at rest in the G.A.R. Plot. The inspiring Shasta Middle School Band and Choir will perform music from the Civil War era. Please Come!

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

c/o Ruth Lake Holmes
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Eugene, OR 97401

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED