

Restoration Focus – The Humphrey Fence

Located just west of the Public Square, the Humphrey plot is one of the most prominent in the cemetery. It is one of only two family plots surrounded by a cast iron fence, an exceptional resource dating from 1879. Unfortunately, the Humphrey fence has been in serious need of repair with most of its 16 cast iron posts badly cracked or broken off near the ground. The damage allowed rusting and possible collapse. There was also deterioration of the paint and an accumulation of mossy growth.

Fortunately, EMCA received a grant that enabled it to hire a welding contractor to restore and preserve this unique asset. This project was funded in part by the Historic Cemetery Grant Program, Oregon Heritage, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Cast iron is notably difficult to weld, but the fence was successfully repaired in September by Tyler Hoppe of ASF Ironworks Inc., who commented that “this is beautiful cast iron for welding.” This was followed by a thorough cleaning and repainting of the entire fence

using volunteer labor with a focus on rust mitigation and lichen removal. If they can be found, we also plan to replace the missing cast iron vases at the top of several posts.

The Humphrey plot contains the remains of Norris Humphrey and his second wife, Elizabeth Felix. Norris was born in New York in 1804, moved to Canada as a young man, married, and fathered three children, a son and two daughters. He took part in the Canadian Rebellion of 1837, the goals of which were political reform and responsible government. When the rebellion failed, Norris, instead of surrendering, rode his horse across the border to the United States, leaving his family behind.

Abigail Humphrey died in the early 1840s, and Norris, having traveled from Missouri west on the Oregon Trail, married Elizabeth at the Whitman Mission in 1845. They purchased a farm in the Willamette Valley, but then headed south to California when gold fever struck. They did



Welder at work

very well—Norris in the gold mines and Elizabeth selling baked goods to the miners. Returning to Oregon, they settled first in Jefferson and then in Eugene, where Norris’s brother and family were living. Norris became active in the local real estate market and in Masonic Lodge #11.

When Norris died in 1879, his obituary stated: “Liberal in his religious, political, and financial walk in life, his course of conduct is worthy of imitation. The friend of the widow, the destitute, the homeless, and charity to all, was the hope upon which he hung his faith.” His son Ralph, who had been left in Canada when Norris fled to the United States, received \$10,000 from his father’s estate. This enabled Ralph to purchase a farm for each of his five sons. Norris’s widow Elizabeth passed away in 1898.

Denny Hellesvig, EMCA board member and supervisor of the fence restoration, said “this is another example of EMCA’s commitment to beautifying the cemetery and honoring an important Eugene pioneer family.”

Board volunteers cleaning fence

Note: Most of the Humphrey information is from “The Norris Humphrey Story, 1804-1879” by Donna Humphrey Gilbert, great-great-granddaughter of Norris Humphrey.



Passing the Torch

Actually, what was passed was a sledge (president's gavel) from John Bredesen to Jenny Peterson in May and a pitchfork (essential landscaping tool) from David Lynch to Wendi Bondeson in August.

When John took over the EMCA presidency ten years ago, his most important goals for the cemetery were to raise sufficient



David and Wendi

funds to complete the installation of the golden-glass clerestory windows in Hope Abbey, to restore its original lighting fixtures, and to get the mausoleum's bathroom functional again. (As a retired engineer, John has a deep interest and expertise in plumbing and electrical matters.) All three goals were realized during his tenure.

Fortunately, John will continue to be an active board member, particularly in overseeing the summer Music to Die For concert series and serving as e-newsletter editor.

Jenny joined the EMCA board in 2011 and has served as cemetery archivist—a perfect fit for a semi-retired librarian—and has assisted in many other activities, such as planning this year's Memorial Day weekend events. Already she has proved worth her weight in gold as president while taking charge of



John passing the "gavel" to Jenny

the hiring process to replace David as site manager. Her goals for the cemetery are "to ensure that it remains the lovely and vital resource that it's become for the neighborhood and the community, by continuing to build on the excellent foundation laid by all those who have worked so tirelessly on its restoration."

More than anyone else, David is responsible for the way the cemetery
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What Do Board Members Do All Day?

Reisa Maddex's parents moved to Eugene in 1966 when her father accepted a position in the UO's Department of History. She grew up on Van Ness Street, only blocks from the Masonic Cemetery, and her connections with history and cemeteries began early on. As the daughter of an historian, she visited lots of old cemeteries.

She remembers walking with friends through the Masonic Cemetery on her way home from Roosevelt Middle School in the 1980s. Although the cemetery was neglected, she nevertheless found it peaceful and welcoming—it was the "most beautiful and saddest place I had ever seen." When she moved back to Eugene after graduating from



Reisa Maddex

Beloit College in 1994, "the cemetery was beginning to be cleaned up and I was so happy."

Reisa's professional career has been in retail, including 20 years as buyer and manager of Footwise the Birkenstock Store. Because of her desire to work part time, she recently accepted a position with Capella Market. She agreed to join the EMCA board with encouragement from board member emeritus Libby Bottero and because her deceased brother has a marker in the cemetery. Her renewed interest in the cemetery also is due to her family's move to Elinor Street four years ago. Reisa, husband Patrick, and daughter Slyvie spend family time walking there

and soaking up local history.

Reisa has been helping with cemetery staffing issues and will be doing marketing and publicity for EMCA as needed. Patrick is also involved. He is creating photospheres (360-degree photos) of the cemetery and posting them to Google maps.

**Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association —
541-684-0949**

Board of Directors

John Bredesen	Karen Seidel
Alex Brokaw	Roz Slovic
Dale Forrest	Wendi Bondeson, <i>Site Manager</i>
Denny Hellesvig	Steve Kuchera, <i>Groundskeeper</i>
Kay Holbo	Sally Dietrich, <i>Cemetery</i>
Reisa Maddex	<i>Administrator</i>
Jenny Peterson	
Lynette Saul	

www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org

Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between April 1, 2014 and October 1, 2014. We thank you all.

Monumental Giver (\$2500+)

Richard Larson and Barbara Cowan

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Fran Ross and John Bredesen
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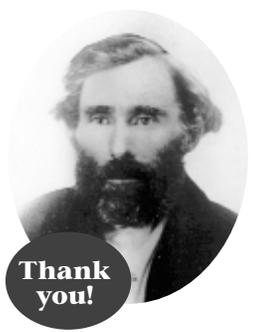
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Thank you!

Robert and Rose Marie Cassidy
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Karen Locke
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Elizabeth Potter
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Rosalie Calef Willett
Dorothea Yellott

Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between April 1, 2014 and October 1, 2014 the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association received gifts from the following. We wish to thank all who contributed and regret any errors or omissions.

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2,499)

Lane Hoxworth in memory of Thomas A. Emmens
Eunice Kjaer in memory of George Kjaer
Lynette Saul in memory of Matthew and Jim Saul

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Sterling Morris in memory of True Agusta and James Morris
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Rebecca Weedon Lacy in memory of Bob, Jonnie and Sam Lacy
Helmut Plant in memory of Carol Plant
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Rene Speer in memory of Noel Wicks
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Julia Heydon in memory of Ben Shaver
Jill and Gary McKenney in memory of Gladys Pound
Jennifer Peterson in memory of Kent Peterson

Ginny and Roger Reich in memory of Robert and Opal Clark and Laurie Guttormsen
Nadyne Neet and Charles R. Simmons in memory of Dora and Levi Neet
Rex and Julianne Underwood in memory of Don, Lois and Gavin Fox
Kathy and Bob Welsh in memory of the Hamptons

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Maggie Yokum in memory of Sarah Baumgartner
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Shirley Boles in memory of The Addison Family
Brigid Flannery in memory of Dan Slovic
Dorothea Yellott in memory of Arthur M. Geary

Passing the Torch, from page 2

tery looks today. He retired at the end of August, having managed the site for 20 years, since the very beginning of EMCA. During that time he, with assistance from staff, board members, arborists, botanists, and a slew of volunteers, has transformed the grounds from an over-grown blackberry jungle into a mini-arboretum. We can never thank him enough for his enormous contributions. He and wife Denise are moving to the North Carolina

coast, where we wish them a happy retirement.

Wendi is our new site manager, having worked on the cemetery's landscape for seven years and served as assistant site manager for the past two years. She has absorbed David's knowledge and will continue to implement the Board's plans and vision for the cemetery's appearance. Steve Kuchera came on board in September as the cemetery's new groundskeeper.



Eugene Masonic Cemetery
ASSOCIATION

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*Newsletter by Karen Seidel
and Beneda Design*

Time Capsule Contents

The 100th anniversary of the dedication of Hope Abbey was celebrated last Memorial Day weekend. As part of the mausoleum's re-dedication, visitors were invited to suggest additional materials, representative of life in present-day Eugene, to place in the original 1914 time capsule, i.e., the cremains crypt that contains photographs and historical documents portraying local life in that day. (The current exercise was hypothetical, as the sealed crypt specifies that it is not to be opened until 2914.)

Memorial Day guests clearly represented a cross-section of today's community. Responses from civic-minded individuals captured our major public policy issues. They suggested articles about climate change and global warming, NSA surveillance tapes, a sign from the GMO labeling rally, a newspaper from the day Obama was elected president, records about the condition of American prisons, and a copy of Eugene's first same-sex marriage certificate.

Eugene technophiles listed iPhones and iPods, although they didn't address how batteries would still function 900 years from now. Bibliophiles wanted Oregon authors to be represented—Barry Lopez, William Stafford, and "Frog"—as well as the "Twilight"

books and the APUSH review books (covering U.S. history for the Advanced Placement exams). Additional "only in Eugene" suggestions were a pair of Nike running shoes, a tie-dye T-shirt, and UO campus pictures.

Many responses focused on the cemetery itself. They included photos of the site and "all the beautiful trees that have grown there," the May 25th Register-Guard article about the restoration of the cemetery, a copy of the Hope Abbey re-dedication program, and a "photograph of the individuals who have worked so tirelessly to recover and restore this cemetery and mausoleum."

The editor's favorite response came from Soren (age 5), who suggested "the U.S. flag picture I drew."

CONSIDER YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY...

Burial Space for Sale

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery, a public cemetery, offers a variety of options for memorials and earthen burials. Your purchase will provide a beautiful and meaningful space for your family to visit for generations to come. **For more information, email the cemetery administrator, Sally Dietrich, at EMCA1859@gmail.com.**