

Monumental News

An occasional newsletter of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Spring 2011

Memorial Day Weekend — History in Hope Abbey

We know quite a bit about the building named Hope Abbey Mausoleum. Up to now, we have known much less about the people interred there. Thanks to a year's worth of research by Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) volunteers, the lives of many of them have been brought to light. We will feature these early Eugeneans by placing informational plaques on their crypts for Memorial Day weekend. (See related article about DAR's research on page 2.)

Traditional displays and events will also be in evidence for the weekend. Flags will fly over veterans' graves. Adrian Vaaler, neighbor and Vietnam veteran, will play taps each day at noon. Landscape displays and project exhibits will greet Hope Abbey visitors. "Find the Veterans,"

a history hunt for children and families, will take place throughout the weekend, with prizes awarded for those completing the hunt. Our cake will again be designed and prepared by student chefs in South Eugene High School's "South Fork Pantry."

Following the playing of taps on Sunday, we invite all visitors to join us in Hope Abbey for the cake cutting and a short ceremony to unveil

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Annual Meeting

EMCA's annual meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, at 8:30 am in the library of the First Congregational Church (23rd and Harris streets). All members are welcome.

Take Care of the Cemetery Work Party Saturday, May 21, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

The EMCA will host its annual work party on Saturday, May 21. Its purpose is to enhance the cemetery's natural landscape, develop an oak savannah nursery plant bed, make improvements in and around Hope Abbey, and ensure that the cemetery looks beautiful for Memorial Day weekend.

Volunteers can choose to remove invasive species, prune overgrown shrubs along the gravel road, plant native plants, weed and mulch the mausoleum planting beds, place flags on veterans' graves, tidy up in either Hope Abbey or the garden shed, or provide a fresh coat of paint on entry signs.

Barbara Cowan, landscape committee chair, will direct the work party. She asks volunteers to meet at Hope Abbey at 10:00 am or, for a later start, at 11:30 am. Bring gloves for all tasks and hand tools, such as weeders, pruners, loppers, or shovels, for working in the landscape. Refreshments and some tools will be provided.

This is a wonderful opportunity to work with others to prepare the cemetery for an important holiday.



Mary Ellen and Daughters of the American Revolution volunteers reviewing research

DAR Sheds Light on Abbey Occupants

Hope Abbey Mausoleum is the best example of Egyptian Revival architecture in Oregon. Ellis F. Lawrence, first dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon, designed the building. Cecil E. Bryan, who worked with Frank Lloyd Wright and Ralph Modjeski, a pioneer in reinforced concrete, built Hope Abbey in 1913. Bryan also constructed at least 80 other mausoleums throughout the United States. In 1980, Hope Abbey was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

More about the building's rich history was known than about the lives of the people interred there.

However, this has changed since the Lewis and Clark Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution began researching the lives of 32 men and women a year ago. Stacy Clark, Robyn McGregor, Roberta Hoban, Rhonda Morgan, Donna Dial, and Judy Ponichtera spent many hours exploring obituaries, census data, and military records at the Oregon Genealogical Society, Eugene Public Library, and on the Internet. Google>Books provided biographies. Ancestry.com provided information about the year families moved to Lane County as well as military records.

Who were these people? Many of

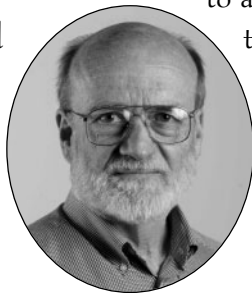
them lived during the Progressive Era when Eugene evolved from a frontier town into a modern city. City streets were graded, graveled, and eventually paved as residents acquired automobiles. Electric lines and water and sewer systems were installed. The Oregon Electric Railway and an electric streetcar system provided mass transit. Eugene's first radio station went on the air, and a municipal airport began operations. As logging and agriculture became mechanized, rural residents moved into town.

The occupations of the people interred in the mausoleum reflect this transitional period. They range from farmer to lawyer, from tailor to doctor, from livery stable operator to

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What do Board Members do all day?

Charley Wright, a 50-year Eugene resident and a 12-year Amazon Neighbors resident, joined the Masonic Cemetery board a year-and-a-half ago. He has immersed himself in a number of board activities, including long-range planning, fundraising, and consolidating electronic mailing lists. According to Charley, his two important goals are 1) to help EMCA figure out what the cemetery wants and needs to be in the future and how this will be accomplished, and 2) to help the Eugene community recognize what a city-wide treasure the cemetery is.



Charley Wright

Charley brings a wealth of non-profit volunteer experience to the board. In 2005, he was recognized as a "Volunteer of the Year" in the arts and culture category for his service as president and board member of the

Oregon Mozart Players. He has been a member of the Lane County Mental Health Advisory Committee for the past five years and continues to assist the Mozart Players as their webmaster.

Many reasons exist for people visiting the Masonic Cemetery, but Charley, a retired UO professor of mathematics, may have one that is unique. He started coming to the cemetery to teach his grandchildren arithmetic. "You look at the birth and death dates on a tombstone and try to figure out how old the person was when he died." Which brings up another of his volunteer activities—fifth graders at McCornack Elementary School look forward to Charley's once-a-week visits as the "Math Wizard."

Charley's other activities include gardening, traveling, and music-mak-

ing. He and his wife Leslie enjoy walking vacations, most recently in Australia, Chile, Switzerland, and England. The bassoon has been Charley's instrument of choice. He founded the Alder Street Woodwind Quintet in the 1960s and is the only founding member still playing in the group. He also plays regularly in the Uncalled Four bassoon quartet and with the Riverside Chamber Symphony.

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

Board of Directors

Alice Adams	Donald Micken
Libby Bottero	Lynette Saul
John Bredesen	Karen Seidel
Barbara Cowan	Roz Slovic
Denise Fearn	Charles R.B. Wright
Dale Forrest	
Denny Hellesvig	David Lynch,
Mike Helm	<i>Site Manager</i>
Kay Holbo	Mary Ellen Rodgers,
Violet Johnson	<i>Cemetery Administrator</i>
Jim Luckey	

www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org

Plot Owners' Corner – Safety at the Cemetery

One may think the only cause for alarm at an old cemetery is the spirits who lurk there. However, other features of a cemetery may also pose threats to one's well-being. Hundreds of people visit the Masonic Cemetery each month to memorialize loved ones, enjoy nature, or appreciate the cemetery's history. EMCA has been pro-active in protecting the safety of the site. Visitors also need to be aware of their role in keeping the cemetery safe for everyone.

Twenty years ago, occasional visitors did not have the cemetery's best interests in mind. The derelict place seemed abandoned by everyone except vandals, drug users, and beer-partying students. When taking over the cemetery in 1994, EMCA's first action was dealing with extensive vandalism and personal safety issues. The Lane County Historical Society supported this effort with a gift of \$2,500 for the purpose of hiring two years of private security. Today David Lynch, site manager, Mike Helm, board member, neighbors, and Eugene Police officers provide day and night security. While a number of vandals have been prosecuted over the past few years, the incidence of vandalism has steadily declined.

Landscape management is also a key component of safety. We continue to remove ivy, poison oak, blackberry, and other hazardous shrubs that overran the cemetery in the past. The Public Square was recently made safer by removing laurels that had provided a place for people to camp or use drugs and alcohol. We have repaired hundreds of loose and fallen tombstones. David Lynch inspects

the health of our forest canopy, looking for hanging limbs and removing hazardous trees. Trees near homes have been professionally surveyed and inspected. Barked and graveled paths keep visitors away from poison oak, seasonal bees, uneven terrain, and protruding tree roots. A new pedestrian entrance with an accessible concrete ramp was added at the 25th and University entrance.

Safety improvements at Hope Abbey have been made using grants and contributions from, among others, the Oregon Heritage Commission, the Gaines and Larson Foundations, and generous individuals and businesses. Contractors have repaired loose marble on the interior walls, constructed a wheelchair ramp, and repaired broken steps at the entrance. The restroom was remodeled so that people with mobility challenges can safely enter and use the facility.

But cemetery safety is also a function of visitor behavior. New visitor policies, posted near cemetery entrances, were developed with safety in mind. Many people, including

small children, the elderly and handicapped, and grieving families may experience the cemetery as an unsafe environment if the rules are violated. We need dogs to be kept on leash at all times. The local animal control officer is strictly enforcing the rule as he makes frequent patrols through the cemetery.

We also need children to be supervised, so they don't "party" at the scatter garden during lunch hours or after school and don't build forts in the northeast corner of the cemetery (the steepest and most hazardous section). To minimize fire danger and prevent damage to native plants, we must first give permission before any landscaping is carried out on a plot. Any group visits to the cemetery must be arranged in advance by the group leader with the cemetery administrator.

EMCA's efforts to reduce vandalism and correct safety hazards have made the cemetery an inviting place to visit. To accommodate the increase in public use, we must all respect the cemetery grounds as a natural landscape, a dignified burial ground, and a community resource.

*Mary Ellen Rodgers
Cemetery Administrator*



Dogs on leash in the cemetery

President's Column = Long Range Goals

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association assumed ownership of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery in 1994. Since then, the cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum have been largely restored by the Board of Directors, two dedicated employees, and volunteers. Hard work and significant financial help were necessary to accomplish what has been done. These accomplishments would not have been possible without thoughtful planning and the setting of goals early on in the life of the new organization.

Seventeen years have now passed since the rebirth of the cemetery, and it's time to reassess:

- What remains to be done?
- What do we envision for the foreseeable future *and beyond*?
- How are we going to fund that foreseeable future *and beyond*?

Four board members have been meeting almost weekly since last fall to review the goals and determine strategies to meet them. Their efforts have organized our long-range planning around four primary goals, which I want to share with you.

Goal 1: Restore and interpret the unique cultural and natural heritage of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery as a private resource open for the community.

We acknowledge the special place the cemetery has in the history of Eugene and in the hearts of families who have members and friends buried here. It's the oldest incorporated cemetery in Eugene, dating back to before the Civil War. Hope Abbey Mausoleum, almost 100 years old and unique in Oregon for its Egyptian Revival architecture, has

been extensively restored, although more work has yet to be done.

An extensive landscape management plan was drafted in 1997 to allow an orderly removal of invasive plants and to reintroduce native plants. With experience as a guide, that landscape plan is also being updated.

Although the cemetery is private property, we operate it in a manner that makes the public feel welcome and informed.

Goal 2: Maintain the grounds, structures, and monuments of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery.

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery, initially 2 ½ miles out in the country, was designed in an orderly pattern with neat 20 by 20 foot plots, each containing space for ten burials. Hope Abbey was dedicated in 1914 at a cost of \$40,000.

Today the cemetery is maintained much like a city park. Trees are trimmed, tombstones repaired, and walking paths barked on a regular basis. Interpretive signs throughout the ten acres provide information on persons and plants in the cemetery. By the time the EMCA took ownership, vandalism had led to the blocking shut of the 83 windows in Hope Abbey. Although electricity and lighting were original features of the mausoleum, they were not functioning. The roof was leaking and foundation drainage was poor. A decade and a half of hard work have now essentially restored the building to the glory it once had. Replicas of the original stained glass fill most windows, the copper-clad doors again swing freely, and the lavatory is

functional. More work is in process to replace missing marble and some decorative cement pieces.

Goal 3: Maintain fiscal viability to support these goals.

It costs money to maintain and restore the grounds and structures and to pay our two employees. Income from donations and sales of plots and crypts has covered routine operating expenses and has allowed us to create a "rainy day" fund. Public and private grants have funded many of the capital projects, and we will continue to rely on them as we continue the task of restoration. An endowment fund has been started with a generous gift, but long-term cemetery viability requires that this fund be built to an even higher level, a project we're hard at work on.

Goal 4: Manage the Cemetery and Hope Abbey as a 501(c)(3) public interest organization and as a visibly successful business.

This final goal summarizes why we're here and why we're working diligently. We want to assure ourselves and the public at large that this cemetery will survive another 150 years and beyond with the dignity and beauty it now possesses. The IRS has granted us a coveted non-profit status, and we need to work to maintain it. A strong Board of Directors, stable financing, and community support will make that possible.

These four goals are the basis for our long-range plans. We have well considered strategies to meet them, as well as a long list of tactics. We all recognize that a lot of work lies ahead, but, with the help and goodwill of all of our stakeholders, I am confident that we will achieve our goals.

John A. Bredesen, President

Huge Thanks to Alex and Alice

Alex McBirney and Alice Adams, both founding EMCA board members, have recently provided generous donations for improvements to Hope Abbey Mausoleum.

Alex's gift is for the purpose of restoring the lotus blossom petals on the large Egyptian urns flanking Hope Abbey's entrance archway. Surviving for almost one hundred years, the petals are beginning to fall off because internal retaining rods and grouting have aged and no longer hold them in place. Plans are to replace all petals on both urns in order to ensure consistency in color and texture.

However, in order to make Alex's gift go even further, EMCA plans to use it as a "match" for one or more possible grants to enable us to also restore the missing parts to concrete pilasters inside Hope

Abbey. The process is the same for replacing both the petals and the columns—a mold is made, a concrete mixture of a matching color and texture is poured into the mold, and the new parts are installed. Mark Andrew, local sculptor, has agreed to create the molds.

Alice has requested that half of her gift be used for Hope Abbey windows—two large windows on the east wall opposite the entrance and one small clerestory window. John Rose, glass artist, will again recreate the original golden glass windows and install them. They will be in place by Memorial Day. One large window is in honor of the local chapter of DeMolay (a Masonic organization for teenage boys), with whom Alice worked for years, bringing the boys to the cemetery for work parties. The window will also be shared in memory

of a close friend of Alice's, Richard Roblyer.

With Alice's gift the restoration of the five large east wall windows and 53 of the 63 small windows has been completed.

Alex retired from the EMCA board last year, and Alice recently moved to Seattle. They both have made enormous contributions to the restoration of the Masonic Cemetery, for which we are grateful.



Mary Ellen points out missing petals

Cemetery Passes Inspection

The Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board conducted a surprise inspection of the Masonic Cemetery in February. Several days later, the Board asked Mary Ellen for information regarding burial procedures and records of specific burials, which she immediately forwarded as requested. Subsequently she received a call saying that her response was very complete, and the inspector had been impressed by the appearance of the cemetery. This is the second time we have passed the state examination with flying colors.

DAR, from page 2

radio station owner, from druggist to book publisher, and from iron foundry proprietor to minister. Many women were housewives. Many people were born in the Midwest. Some individuals remain mysteries as they had no obvious connections to the Eugene area.

The DAR volunteers found their research experience rewarding. They have generously offered to continue their work in piecing together the stories of other Hope Abbey occupants. Judy Ponichtera commented, "I always feel rewarded when I find valuable records and information for an individual. . . it is so fascinating to discover how people in the past have

left their footprint in history." The DAR's efforts have added important information to the interpretation of Hope Abbey. Many of their stories will be on display during Memorial Day weekend.

The Lewis and Clark Chapter of DAR was founded in 1913 as a service and lineage organization with the mission of patriotism, education, and historic preservation. They offer scholarships and conduct an annual school essay contest. The state organization manages four museums in Oregon.

EMCA wishes to thank the DAR volunteers for their valuable contribution to our ongoing historical research activities.

From Farm to Fairmount

Born in England, William Smith came to this country with his parents, and, at age 21 in 1847, became an early Oregon pioneer. Nancy Luckey was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and crossed the plains to Oregon with the large Luckey clan in 1850. The two met in Eugene, married, and took up a donation land claim east of the city. The claim stretched from the Willamette River south to approximately 30th Avenue and bordered Fielding McMurry's claim on the west (Agate Street). It extended east to the hills.

The claim was a good choice. It was generally an open landscape, probably because it had been used by the Kalapuya for hunting grounds. With their four children, the Smiths farmed, using the land to grow crops and provide pasture for their dairy cattle. In 1859, William Smith won a premium for his livestock entry in the first Lane County Fair.

Smith also excavated the millrace, which ran across his property. With Hilyard Shaw, he built and operated a lumber mill at the millrace's western end. The partnership was short-lived, however. Smith withdrew following a heated disagreement with Shaw over the latter's property lines. (While Shaw was considered a good businessman, he evidently had a temper. Eugene Skinner related a similar altercation with Shaw that almost turned violent; it also concerned property boundaries and trees removed from Skinner's land.)

In 1890, after almost 40 years of farming, Smith sold 415 acres of his land to George Melvin Miller and University of Oregon professor

John Straub for \$39,000. Miller, younger brother of "Poet of the Sierras" Joaquin Miller, was the active partner in the development of Smith's DLC. An attorney, promoter, inventor, and visionary, his passion for real estate was only one of his many enthusiasms.

Miller filed a plat for the town of Fairmount (named after Philadelphia's Fairmount Park) and immediately began advertising the desirability of its residential lots. The ads rhapsodized over the location. "Fairmount has a healthy location, has rich soil, no rocks or stumps and good drainage, pure, running water direct from the per-

petual snow of the Cascade mountains." And they emphasized its proximity to the university. "Being the leading institution of Lane county, it will always attract the wealthy and more intelligent class of citizens to that vicinity." Fairmount was incorporated in 1892.

Miller was convinced his town would be the center of a consolidated Eugene and Springfield. However, although families did begin purchasing lots and building homes, development slowed because Miller, lacking sufficient financial resources, was unable to provide needed public infrastructure. With citizen approval, the Eugene City Council annexed Fairmount in 1902.

William and Nancy Smith are buried in the Masonic Cemetery.



Early picture of Fairmount looking North

Send us your email address!

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association is interested in using email to communicate with our supporters about future events in the cemetery. If you are interested in learning more about work parties, volunteer opportunities, celebrations and events, send us your email address.

Name _____

Email _____

Recent Contributions

The following individuals contributed gifts October 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011. We thank you all.

Monumental Giver (\$2500 or more)

Gaines Foundation
Alex & Carmen
McBirney

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-2499)

Fran Ross & John Bredeesen
Richard Larson & Barbara Cowan
Eugene Lodge 11 A.F. & A.M.
Paul & Kay Holbo
Hundredth Monkey Foundation
Jim Luckey
Karen Seidel
Charles & Leslie Wright

Preserver (\$250-499)

Ardith Moursund
Ann & Erik Muller

Marjorie Ross
Lynette Saul

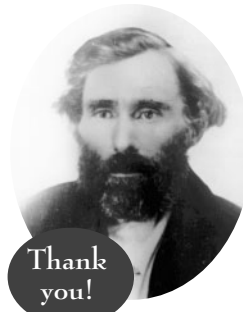
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Mary Globus & Gary Harris
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Theodore & Laramie Palmer
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Nadyne & Charles Simmons
Douglas Spencer
Jean Tate
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Donna Rose
Aldine Rubinstein
Tomoko Sekiguchi
Nathaniel Teich
Esther Jacobson-Tepfer & Gary Tepfer

Gifts in Honor and in Memory

We wish to thank all who contributed and regret any errors or omissions. October 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 – the Masonic Cemetery Association received gifts from the following:

Monumental Giver (\$2500 or more)

Alice Adams in memory of Murray D. Adams

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-2499)

Barbara Rose in memory of Bruce A. Rose

Victoria DeRose & Paul Wallace in memory of Casey

Preserver (\$250-499)

Alex & Bob Brokaw in memory of Olivia Helene Brokaw & Harold A. Butler

Donald Peting in memory of Betty Peting

Sponsor (\$100-249)

Barbara Barnes in memory of Osee Miller

Norman & Patricia Bishop in memory of James & Jimmy Bishop

Sheryl Engelbert in memory of Leslie Marsh

Ruth Friendly in memory of Hiram Friendly

Gail Frizzman in memory of Joseph Frizzman

John & Lisa Manotti in memory of Judith & Harold Loson

Joan McCornack in memory of Joan & Walter McCornack

Nancy McFadden in memory of Scott McFadden

Hope Hughes Pressman in memory of Helen & Roy Hughes & brother Willis Boldt Hughes

David & Mary Ellen

Rodgers in memory of Kenneth William McCormick

Rene Speer in memory of Noel Wicks

Carol Stroud in memory of Jim Stroud

Dan & Maureen Williams in memory of Patrick Williams

Supporter (\$50-99)

Joan Agerter in memory of Howard F. Herbranson

Dwight & Barbara Beattie in memory of William G. & Willametta Beattie

Maria Komauli Biagi in memory of Kurt Gerson

Jackie Booth in memory of the Booth Family

Libby & Joseph Bottero in memory of Joe & Gladys Bottero

Barbara Butler in memory of Harold A. Butler

I.R. Carlisle in memory of Dick Carlisle

Kathleen Wiley & Bob Carolan in memory of Don Wiley

Scott & Amy Christianson in memory of Barrett, Hill, Sloan & Forrest Families

Julie Daniel in memory of Maisie Daniel

Dottie & Jim Dougher in honor of Kay Holbo

Jean Johns in honor of Kay & Paul Holbo

Kathryn & Daniel Kremer in memory of William & Sally Wood

Robert & Debbie Laney in memory of Marian Larson Trummer

Eric & Kelli Rosen in memory of Eileen Binenkorb

Shirley Scott in memory of Lyle Scott

Roz & Paul Slovic in memory of Daniel Slovic

Cori V.C. Taggart in memory of Zola Noble

Miriam, Carolyn & Adrian Vaaler in memory of Nathan Schafner

Betty Williamson in memory of Douglas Williamson

Friend (up to \$49)

Shirley Bolles in memory of the Addison Family

Angela Bonzer in memory of Sydney Bonzer

Tom & Janet Heinonen in memory of Ethan, Lois & Doug Newman

Deborah Kelly in memory of Florence Bell

BJ Novitski in memory of Esther & Edward Novitski

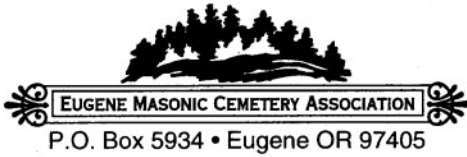
Jenny Peterson in memory of Kent Peterson

Margaret Prentice in memory of William J. Prentice Jr.

Sharon & John Selove in memory of Louis R. Mann

Maggie Yokum in memory of Sarah Elina

Janet Yood in memory of Bert & Shirley Yood



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*Newsletter by Karen Seidel
and Beneda Design*

Memorial Day, from page 1

two new large golden-glass windows on the east wall, a gift of founding board member Alice Adams. (See related article on page 5.)

Mary Ellen Rodgers, cemetery administrator, is again coordinating the weekend events. For families wishing to visit the cemetery, both gates will be open on Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. During the week, May 23 through May 27, the front gate, at 25th and University, will be open from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Both gates will again be open on Memorial Day weekend from 10:00 to 4:00 pm. Please

be respectful if a funeral or memorial service is in progress during your visit.

We invite you to join us. All Memorial Day weekend events are free and open to the public.

May 28–30: Memorial Day Weekend

- **10:00 am to 4:00 pm:** Hope Abbey open to the public. Fresh-cut flowers will be available for placement on graves.
- **On Display:** “History in Hope Abbey” plaques; “Cemetery Scenes” slide show; landscape and project exhibits; genealogy information available.
- **Taps will be played at noon** in the Public Square.
- **Refreshments** will be available on Sunday afternoon.
- **Sunday, 12:30 pm:** Unveiling of new windows in Hope Abbey.

Consider your place in history. . .

Burial Space for Sale

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery offers a variety of options for memorials, cremains, and earthen burials. Your purchase would provide a beautiful and meaningful space for your family to visit for generations to come. *For more information, phone Mary Ellen Rodgers at 684-0940.*

Thursday, June 2: 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Sacred Harp Singers' ninth annual performance of folk hymn singing in the “shape note” tradition. All are welcome to participate in this joyful music making in Hope Abbey.