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March, 2020

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Masonic Cemetery Operations: COVID-19

The current COVID-19 virus attack has impacted the lives and businesses of many. For current information on sales of burial space and for burials (full body or cremains), please call the Cemetery Administrator, Sally Dietrich, at (541) 515-0536. We will be monitoring what is permitted by the state as time goes on.

Respect the Space

We'd like to ask your assistance. Please report any inappropriate behavior you observe to the police at the non-emergency number: (541) 682-5111.

You can also alert the cemetery to inappropriate behavior and vandalism by leaving a message at (541) 684-0949, or by email at emca1859@gmail.com. There has been some recent vandalism and inappropriate behavior, and the police are aware of the problem. Do not interact with problematic people yourself.

Women Who Made a Difference

The EMCA is Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Below are the first in a series of some of the women "who made a difference in our community," and who are interred in the historic Masonic cemetery.



Mary Cook Skinner Packard

Mary Skinner (1816–1881), considered the "First Lady of Eugene", was the wife of Eugene Skinner (1809–1864). He and Mary traveled by wagon train, arriving at Sutter's Fort, California in 1845, wintered there and then traveled to Dallas, Oregon, where daughter Mary was born. He traveled to what is now Lane County in 1846, staked his claim and built a cabin near what is now called Skinner's Butte. He returned for his family in 1847.

The first days in the cabin were forbidding. The local Indians were offended at the white family settling in their midst. The Skinners knew enough jargon to recognize the impending danger. Eugene shouldered his musket and patrolled the cabin that night, while Mary molded bullets over the fire. By sundown on the following day, Chief Tom and Eugene Skinner smoked the pipe of peace.

Mary was the first white woman in Lane County. Their second daughter, Lenora, was the first white child born in Lane County. Both girls died in their early teens. Three other children survived, however. Mary was a **courageous** woman, with no one living nearby, often spending days alone with her young children while Eugene was hunting or buying supplies.

After other pioneers arrived, Mary was awarded the honor of giving a name to the embryo town—she named it Eugene City (later changed to Eugene in 1889). It's been written that Mary was a woman with many virtues, "kind and charitable, ever ready to assist the needy and alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate. Unaffected in her manners, and caring little for distinction, all who came in contact with her were treated with a gentle courtesy that marks the true woman and lady."

After Eugene died in 1864, she married Captain N. L. Packard in 1867. She is buried in the Skinner plot.



Sandra Morgen

Sandi Morgen (1950-2016), PhD, was an influential and beloved professor and a pioneer in feminist anthropology. She ultimately served as the Director of the University of Oregon's Center for the Study of Women in Society from 1991 to 2006. She received the *Outstanding Career Award* which goes to faculty for distinguished scholarship in 2015.

Morgen published several books on gender and inequality, including *Into Our Own Hands: The Women's Health Movement in the U.S. 1969-1990*. She was the winner of the Basker Prize from the Society for Medical Anthropology in 2004.

She served as president of the Association for Feminist Anthropology and the Society for the Anthropology of North America. In 2004, the National Council for Research on Women honored Morgen with its *Women Who Make a Difference* award.

Personal remembrances from colleagues and friends included that: "women in academia benefited from her trailblazing efforts and unceasing support; she created pathways and networks at a moment in time when they didn't exist; her life was very purposeful—she was so encouraging, not only to peers but also to students; the quintessential mentor; her mantra was love, generosity, courage. Sandra was one of the most influential scholars the College of Arts and Sciences has ever seen."



Last Sunday Open House

Our regular open house scheduled for March 29th, will not be held because of the COVID-19 epidemic. We will keep you apprised for future months.

John Bredesen, eNewsletter Editor
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

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Mission Statement

To restore, rehabilitate, maintain, interpret and operate the historic Eugene Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum as a cultural and natural resource for the community.

The cemetery is operated for the public benefit,
but it is private property.
(A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)



Eugene Masonic Cemetery
ASSOCIATION