



February, 2024

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



"Last Sunday" Open House



We'll be hosting our monthly "Last Sunday" Open House this coming Sunday, February 25, in Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The doors will be open for visitors from 1 to 4 PM, and there will be two knowledgeable board members present to answer questions about the mausoleum and the cemetery grounds.

Please park on city streets because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds. Hope Abbey is the large concrete structure at the end of E. 26th.

McClanahan-Hudson Fence Repair



The story begins in the 1970s when a careless driver of a power mower struck one of the cast iron posts, shattering it. The original supplier, last mentioned online with a catalog from the 1870s, has been out of business for many decades. The ornate design of the post made finding a match impossible. But, at long last, the iron fence surrounding the McClanahan-Hudson plot has been repaired. The gate (missing in this photo) will be installed very soon. The reassembly was done by Rainbow Valley Design and Construction with supervision by cemetery personnel.

We found a local company, Reinmuth Foundry, that was able to cast the replica post. However, the cost was in the thousands of dollars, which was unaffordable given our limited resources several years ago. Thanks to a recent generous gift from Masonic Lodge #11, we were finally able to have the local foundry create the replacement post using an undamaged one as a model.

The Board approved the hiring of Rainbow Valley D & C to replace the damaged fence sections because using cemetery staff would stretch our "in-house" capabilities too much. Once the contract was signed, the project moved quickly. Work began on a Wednesday, and by Friday they had finished assembling the fence, ready to pour concrete the following Monday. When the weather gets warmer, a volunteer crew can begin scrubbing and prepping the fence posts and horizontal rails for painting.

The Gate



A close-up of the gate for the plot is shown in the photo to the left. Strangely, it was stolen at some point in its history, but mysteriously reappeared on the Hope Abbey Mausoleum porch, perhaps 30 years later.

But what do the symbols on the gate mean? Cemeteries have been a haven for interesting symbols, and books have been written on the subject. Here's what's been found about this combination of common symbols, a Christian cross and an anchor.

In a cemetery setting, an intertwined anchor and a Christian cross can symbolize several things, depending on the specific context and cultural background. What do they mean in this case? We don't know, but here are some of the most common interpretations:

Non-Christian interpretation:

- Maritime connection: If the deceased had a connection to the sea or maritime life, the anchor could be a personal symbol of their profession or passion.
- Strength and resilience: The anchor can symbolize strength and resilience in the face of challenges, which could be relevant regardless of religious beliefs.
- Connection to a loved one: If the deceased is buried near someone with a maritime connection, the intertwined symbols could represent a special bond between them.

Christian Interpretation:

- Hope and salvation: The anchor is a common Christian symbol of hope and steadfastness in faith, often referencing Hebrews 6:19 where hope is described as an "anchor of the soul." The cross represents salvation through Jesus Christ's sacrifice. Together, they symbolize finding hope and salvation through faith in Christ, even in death.
- Spiritual stability: The anchor offers stability and security in stormy waters, representing the belief that faith in Christ provides stability and peace even in the face of death and the unknown.
- Eternal life: The combination could represent the hope of eternal life through faith in Christ, with the anchor symbolizing holding onto that hope beyond the physical world.

It is important to be respectful of any religious or cultural symbolism present in a cemetery setting, and to avoid making assumptions about its meaning without further information.

Music To Die For



This popular free music series will return in June, 2024.

Music on the Square



The Riverside Chamber Symphony, led by Philip Bayles, will kick off the *Music On The Square* music series for 2024. The 30-piece ensemble is made up of advanced non-professional players from around the region.

They will play at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery on the Public Square on the Memorial Day weekend at 6 PM Sunday, May 26th. More information on the concert will be forthcoming in this newsletter next month.

Information on both of these free concert series will be listed here and on our Facebook page.

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

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