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The New Year Brings Many Changes

January has brought a number of changes to the Cemetery; some have been in the works and some are new.

First, we were delighted to learn that the Cemetery has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. The Cemetery had already been recognized at state and local levels, and this new status will bring additional opportunities (and requirements) for preservation and operation of the property and our programs.

The Cemetery's recognition was made at the highest level; that is, the Cemetery was recognized as being of *national significance* rather than primarily local or regional importance. To ensure the Cemetery continues to meet the requirements of the National Register, the City's Preservation Director, Roberta Deering, will review structural changes, installation of infrastructure, etc. within the Cemetery. Ms. Deering is responsible for the historical integrity of the nearly 100 Sacramento properties on the National Register plus many others of local and regional significance. She will work closely with Marcia Eymann, City Historian.

City staffing has been increased to permit reopening the Cemetery seven days. Volunteers may work on days convenient to them and, perhaps even more important, out-of-town visitors won't be turned away at the gate two days a week. Open hours for the Cemetery will remain the same, while the Cemetery may be closed on some holidays.

Cities undertake changes within their organizational structure for a variety of reasons and over the last year, Sacramento has revised the management of the Cemetery to be more responsive to our new status and better manage budgetary limitations. First, preservation will be handled as outlined above. The Center for Sacramento History will also work with the OCCC to expand and develop tours and programs beginning with school tours. Finally, maintenance of the facilities and grounds will be under Parks Department Supervisor Tony Ulep.

The City will also manage volunteer programs at the Cemetery. The Parks Department will supervise gardening volunteers and the Center for Sacramento History all others—tour guides, Visitor Center volunteers, etc. During this transition, volunteers have completed updated volunteer forms (while many were on file, not all volunteers had done so). The forms will be held by City staff and will remain confidential.

The past few months have been busy, sometimes confusing, and now with national recognition, and increased open hours gratifying to volunteers and members of the OCCC.



President's Message

Connie Bettencourt

Happy New Year!

Last summer Judy Eitzen found it necessary to resign as President due to family concerns, and I found myself in this chair again. Other changes in officers include Jean Robins as OCCC Secretary and Kris Klein as Vice President. Lois Dove has rejoined the Board as well.

I want to thank the Board for their support during all these changes. 2015 promises to be a busy year, building on our successes from 2014. As in prior years, the October Lantern Tours were successful, in fact they were sold out very quickly and visitors reported how much they were enjoyed. As this is our primary fundraiser each year, we anticipate the repair of headstones will continue.

We were gratified to learn in November of the recognition granted to the Cemetery as it has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is a reflection of the more than 25 years of effort by OCCC volunteers and members and City staff. Working with City staff we will continue to support and enhance this important piece of history.

In January, letters were sent to the membership asking you to rejoin in support of the OCCC. I urge all to renew your membership as the funds are needed to continue our work to support the Cemetery. Monies raised through memberships and events support headstone repair, maintenance of activities in the Visitor's Center (office supplies, computer, phone lines, etc.) and memorials.

Questions, comments and suggestions:
Connie Bettencourt
infoatoldcitycemetery.com

From the Editor:

The Epitaph was issued just twice in 2014 as family illness limited my volunteer time. Three issues are planned for 2015. If you have a suggestion or idea for inclusion or wish to submit an article for this newsletter, please contact Judy Eitzen at:

verlaine@citlink.net.

Visitor Center

Jeanne Baldwin

The Visitor Center Needs Volunteers

Volunteers who spent time in the former Archives are now working with those who volunteered in the Visitor Center. These volunteers help to maintain Cemetery records, record Cemetery stories, assist in developing tour stories and help visitors find graves and information about the Cemetery and its residents.

With the Cemetery reopening seven days and encouragement from the City to staff the Visitor's Center on weekends, we are recruiting additional volunteers.

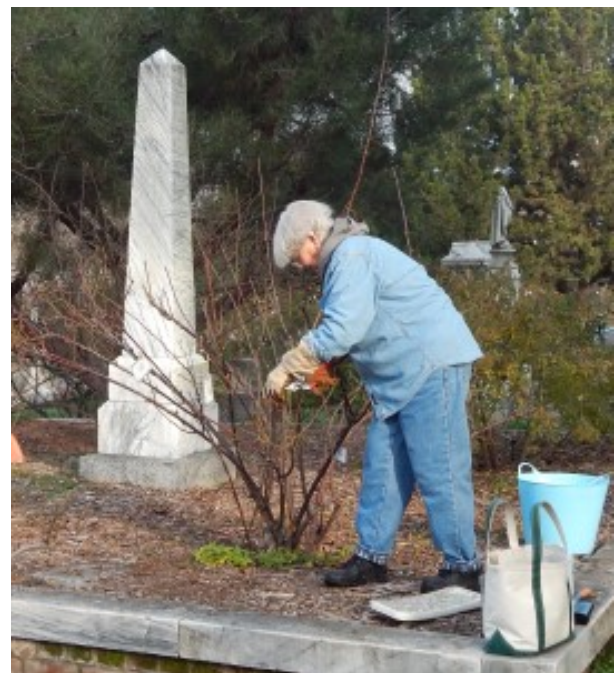
If you have an interest in history, enjoy working with the public and love tracking down historical mysteries, this is the opportunity for you.

We're looking for volunteers to assist the public locate graves and answer questions about the cemetery. The Visitor's Center is generally open from 10—3 each day.

If you have time to volunteer for a shift on a Saturday or Sunday and want to learn more information about the cemetery, please email to Jeanne Baldwin at:

Visitorcenter@oldcitycemetery.com

Pruning Time



All over the Cemetery, it's pruning time—small trees, shrubs and roses. Each year folks get together in January for a Pruning Party in the Rose Garden. This year some 30 people turned out. Pat, Craig and Anita demonstrate 'proper' garb (note the built in knee pads) while Laura demonstrates proper technique.

Mortuary Chapel Retrofit

by Judy Eitzen

A number of Cemetery buildings, primarily private mausoleums, were constructed prior to the 20th century. With more than a century of time, issues have developed; leaking roofs, broken ironwork, rusty locks, etc. One of these buildings was constructed by the City for use as a Mortuary Chapel in 1893. It was designed to be available for funeral services, open to outside air through several openings in the building, though apparently it was not actually used for that purpose.

Over the years, it was used as a body storage facility, with two individuals ‘residing’ in the building for several decades and used as storage for various artifacts. At some point in the mid-20th century, air vents were closed off and the building began use as storage for records and workspace for those who worked with Cemetery records, becoming known as “the archives”. Heating, air conditioning and electricity were added and volunteers regularly occupied the building, maintaining files and records and assisting Cemetery visitors.

Occupation by living, breathing individuals has gradually caused additional structural issues and the building will require extensive modification. To preserve the building’s 19th century integrity, the City has employed an architect familiar with 19th century structures to evaluate it. First priority for repair is a leaking roof and a failing false ceiling. Scaffolding has been erected to permit safe access to the roof. The City plans to begin repairs as funding is available.



Sacramento City Founder, John Sutter, Jr.

Judy Eitzen

Just inside the main gate to the Historic City Cemetery is a memorial to John Sutter, Jr, founder of the City of Sacramento. How this happened and how he came to be interred here after dying in another country is an interesting story.

The Cemetery's beginnings were on ten acres donated in 1849 by John Sutter, Jr. along what is now Broadway. He was the son of Captain John Sutter, one of the original European settlers in the region; the man who built Sutter's Fort. Captain Sutter immigrated to California from Switzerland escaping debtor's prison, leaving his family behind. When he ran into financial trouble in California, he sent for his son, John Sutter, Jr.

Sutter Junior determined the best way to relieve his father's financial problems was to establish a city and sell parcels of property. The city he proposed was located at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers, not further south as his father wished. It was also named Sacramento, not Sutterville, as his father wished. This strained relations between father and son and Sutter Junior also became ill and remained housebound at the family's Hock Farm for some time. Relations did not improve when Sutter Junior was forced to accept a contract of sale from local businessmen which did not include payment. Having no further need to manage the property, Sutter Junior traveled to Acapulco, Mexico in hopes of improving his health.

There he met his wife and began a family, returning to Sacramento periodically in an effort to receive payment for the land he had sold. Various court cases resulted in no remuneration for Sutter. He ran a successful business, and was well respected in Acapulco. He also became a port agent for the U.S. government, eventually rising to become U.S. Consul. He stayed in Mexico until his death in 1897 and was interred in St. Francis Cemetery there.

As the cemetery was being relocated to make room for development, it seemed a good opportunity to return Sutter to the city he founded. Accordingly, a committee was founded, the John. A. Sutter Jr. Memorial Committee of Sacramento, made up of local historians, civic leaders, members of the Sacramento Historical Society and Sutter's descendants. (He had 12 children.) Several sites were considered, with the city cemetery being the final choice.

Local newspapers announced the reburial scheduled on March 11, 1964. It was originally planned to eventually move the remains to Old Sacramento, but this plan was abandoned. Sutter's remains were transported from Acapulco to San Diego aboard the USS Leonard F. Mason, and flown by the U.S. Navy to the Municipal Airport (now Executive Airport).

Graveside services were conducted by the Rev. Noel F. Moholy of St. Francis Catholic Church and were attended by descendants, civic leaders, historians and the general public. In 1967, a large black marker which incorporates the original grave marker from Acapulco was installed.

Dr. Bob LaPerriere, a Board member of the Old City Cemetery Committee and one of the original members of the Historical Society instrumental in supporting the City Cemetery, once said, "A jolt of historic stimulation comes whenever I enter the gates to the

Sacramento Historic City Cemetery at 10th and Broadway. Walking past the gravesite of John Sutter Jr., who founded the city of Sacramento as we know it today, and also donated the first acreage to establish the city cemetery, is a great reminder of the 150-plus years of the wonderful, historic heritage that Sacramento offers." ⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ **Final resting place of city's founder located in Sacramento's oldest cemetery**, by Lance Armstrong, Valley Community Newspapers writer, (Valley Community Newspapers, 2011)

Tours and Events Planned for 2015

The Old City Cemetery Committee and Cemetery Volunteers have planned a series of salacious, creepy, provocative, stirring and charismatic tours for Cemetery visitors in 2015.

We begin the year with Museum Day, Saturday, February 7. On that day, museums around the Sacramento region will be open at free or reduced prices and while the Cemetery is always free to visitors, we will offer tours throughout the day.

History and garden tours will be conducted throughout the year together with special events.

HISTORY TOURS

- February 7 Museum Day
- February 21 African-American History
- March 7 Haberdashers
- April 11 Sacramento History for Kids
- May 2 Symbolism & Victorian Funeral Customs
- June 6 Odder than the Odd Fellows
- June 27 Love Is A Many Splintered thing
- July 11 Brewers and Bakers
- August 1 As the Cemetery Turns
- September 5 A Dozen New Ways To Die
- September 12 Tragic, Triumphant and True Tales of Education
- September 26 Bosses of the Boneyard
- October 3 Temperance & Prohibition
- November 7 Freedom's Calling—Stories of Patriots and Patriotism

History tours begin at 10 o'clock and start from the front gate (10th and Broadway). Please park across the street as there is limited parking inside the grounds.

GARDEN TOURS & EVENTS

- March 21 What's Blooming in the Cemetery?
- March 28 Early Bloom in the Rose Garden
- April 11 Fragrance in Roses Class
- April 18 Open Garden
- May 2 Old Garden Roses Class
- October 17 What's Blooming in the Cemetery?
- November 21 Fall Color in the Rose Garden

What's Blooming tours begin at the Broadway entrance and Rose Garden tours begin in the Rose Garden. Saturday garden tours are held at 10 a.m.

Special evening events will also be held in spring and summer and of course Lantern Tours in October. In addition, Memorial Day will be commemorated on Saturday, May 23 in the area nearest the large Veteran's section. Check the Cemetery and Rose Garden websites for details of special events.

www.oldcitycemetery.com
and
www.cemeteryrose.org



Wells Fargo Coaches

by Jeanne Baldwin & Judy Eitzen

Prior to the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, the fastest mode of transportation for people, mail and cargo was a Wells Fargo Coach. The coaches were built by carriage builder J. Stephens Abbot and master wheelwright Lewis Downing in their factory in Concord, New Hampshire. These vehicles were designed and built high and wide to handle the rough, rutted roads of a new country. The coaches were strengthened by the curved frame of the body which also gave passengers a little more room. Perfectly formed, fitted and balanced wheels stood up to decades of drenching mountain storms and parching desert heat.

An innovative feature for the time was the suspension; instead of steel, the body of the coach rested on leather 'thorough braces' made of thick strips of bull hide. The leather would give a little which kept the horses from being jarred and gave passengers a rocking motion on relatively smooth terrain. In *Roughing It* (1870) Mark Twain called a



Wells Fargo coach "an imposing cradle on wheels." A Concord coach could carry fifteen passengers, nine inside and six outside, including the driver and a Wells Fargo messenger, and was drawn by six horses.

Today, Wells Fargo is fortunate to be able to display original Abbot-Downing Concord Coaches in Wells Fargo History Museums and we in Sacramento are fortunate to find one on display in the Wells Fargo Bank Building on Capitol Mall. Each coach was given a number by the Abbot-Downing factory, and has its own story.

The following rules posted in each Wells Fargo coach.

- **Abstinence from liquor is requested, but if you must drink share the bottle. To do otherwise makes you appear selfish and unneighborly.**
- **If ladies are present, gentlemen are urged to forego smoking cigars and pipes, as the odor of same is repugnant to the gentler sex. Chewing tobacco is permitted, but spit with the wind, not against it.**
- **Gentlemen must refrain from the use of rough language in the presence of ladies and children.**
- **Buffalo robes are provided for your comfort in cold weather. Hogging robes will not be tolerated and the offender will be made to ride with the driver.**
- **Don't snore loudly while sleeping or use your fellow passenger's shoulder for a pillow; he or she may not understand and friction may result.**
- **Firearms may be kept on your person for use in emergencies. Do not fire them for pleasure or shoot at wild animals as the sound riles the horses.**
- **In the event of runaway horses remain calm. Leaping from the coach in panic will leave you injured, at the mercy of the elements, hostile Indians and hungry coyotes.**
- **Forbidden topics of conversation are: stagecoach robberies and Indian uprisings.**
- **Gents guilty of unchivalrous behavior toward lady passengers will be put off the stage. It's a long walk back. A word to the wise is sufficient.**



WELLS FARGO



**Old City Cemetery
Committee, Inc.**

1000 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95818
916-448-0811

Mission Statement

To join hands with the community to restore, beautify, preserve and protect the Historic City Cemetery, while maintaining access by descendants of the deceased, and to provide educational services to all visitors to the Historic City Cemetery of Sacramento.

We're On the Web
www.oldcitycemetery.com

Interested in history? Then Museum Day is for you. On February 7, more than 25 area museums will participate. The museums below are devoted to history and offer free admission on Museum Day:

- California Automobile Museum
- California State Capitol Museum
- California State Railroad Museum
- Don & June Salvatori California Pharmacy Museum
- Heidrick Ag History Center (Woodland)
- Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park
- Maidu Museum & Historic Site (Roseville)
- Museum of Medical History
- Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum
- Old Sacramento State Historic Park
- Sacramento Historic City Cemetery
- Sacramento History Museum
- Sojourner Truth Multicultural Arts Museum
- State Indian Museum
- Sutter's Fort State Historic Park
- Wells Fargo History Museum (Capitol Mall)
- Wells Fargo History Museum (Old Sacramento)

Museum Day is sponsored by Sacramento Area Museum association, comprised of 30 greater Sacramento area museums working in partnership with the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau to raise awareness of local museums.