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## OSCC Calendar

**Saturday, September 9**

***The Medical Bag  
History Tour***

10 am

**Saturday, September 23**

***What's Blooming  
in the Cemetery Tour***

10 am

**Saturday, September 30**

***Volunteer Appreciation  
Dinner***

5 - 8 pm

**Friday, October 13**

***Friday the 13th Tour***

6:30 & 8 pm

**Saturday, October 14**

***Fireman's Memorial***

9 am

**Wednesday, October 18**

***Birds at the Cemetery***

7:30 am

**Saturday, October 21**

***What's Blooming  
in the Cemetery Tour***

10 am

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday**

**October 27, 28 & 29**

***Lantern Tours***

6:30 & 8 pm

**Saturday, November 18**

***Autumn Color  
in the Rose Garden***

10 am

**Information: 916-448-0811**

## DR. CHARLES DUNCOMBE PIONEER, PATRIOT, AND TRAITOR

*By John Bettencourt*

*This story about the life of a Sacramento Historic City Cemetery Resident was written and presented on tours by the late John Bettencourt. Mr. Bettencourt was a founding member of the Old City Cemetery Committee.*

Dr. Charles Duncombe arrived in Nueva Helvetia in 1843, just four short years after John Sutter landed on the banks of the Sacramento River and built his fort. He had made his way south with French-Canadian trappers who worked the rivers, then teeming with beaver, from Fort Vancouver at the mouth of the Columbia, down the Willamette to the Klamath, and finally to the head waters of the Sacramento, once thought by early Mountain Men to be the great Buenaventura, a mythical river that stretched from the Rockies through the Sierras, and on to the Pacific Ocean.

Duncombe might not have been particular where he was going. He was just anxious to get as far away from Canada as possible, having fled his adopted country as a fugitive with a price on his head DEAD OR ALIVE! He was a traitor.

The good doctor was not a native of Canada. He was born in Connecticut, and raised and educated in New York State, where he received his degree in medicine. In 1819, at the age of 32, he pulled up stakes and moved to Ontario in upper Canada where he took up residence, became a citizen, set up practice, established the first medical school, and was elected a member of Parliament.

But Charlie Duncombe was still a "Yankee" at heart. He had been born into freedom and independence from British rule. Now, as a member of the Parliament, he suddenly realized the absence of so much of the freedom and independence he had taken for granted as an American. Although Canadians could elect their members to Parliament, the British Governor or his appointed administrators could over-rule the elected assembly. This was wrong, and he was going to do something about it.

A small group of militant reformers was being organized to revolt against this injustice. Dr. Duncombe was in the thick of what would become known as the William Lyon McKenzie Rebellion of 1837. It failed, and members fled for their very lives. Those involved in the ill-fated insurrection were hunted as traitors.

*Continued on page 6*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lynda Walls

A huge  
thank  
you

With Summer winding down and Fall quickly approaching, Cemetery volunteer minds turn to the October fund-raising events. What an exciting time to begin my tour of duty as Old City Cemetery Committee President!

We've had a successful year, due to the efforts of our faithful board members, committee members and volunteers! Judy Eitzen, outgoing President has been instrumental in that success. Judy has tirelessly worked toward the preservation and beautification of the Cemetery as well as on unending amounts of presidential, administrative and public relations tasks and acting as the OCCC representative in conjunction with the City's Cemetery Master Plan. When you see Judy in the cemetery, please extend your thanks to her!

A tremendous amount of thanks goes out to retiring board members Dorothy Mills and Rick Roberts. Both Rick and Dorothy served on the OCCC Board of Directors for many years, contributing their energy, expertise and enthusiasm.

Dorothy Mills has worked in Archives for many years and has served as Archives Subcommittee Chair. She has participated in sales and assisted with tours. We are grateful that although Dorothy has retired from the OCCC Board, she will continue to work in the Archives.

Rick Roberts has served as the OCCC Vice President, Treasurer, Restoration Chair, Sales Co-Chair and Memorial Day Co-Chair. He also maintains a large section of the Cemetery. Rick's knowledge of the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery is encyclopedic and we thank him for continuing as a member of the Restoration Sub Committee.

I would also like to acknowledge each and every Cemetery volunteer. During the past year, volunteers contributed over 12,680 hours! These hours have been spent in the plots and the archives, on tours and administration. Every person involved deserves a huge thank you and a great big pat on the back!

## OCTOBER IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT THE CEMETERY! October Events

### FIREMAN'S MEMORIAL

Saturday, Oct. 14  
9 am, Free

### BIRDS AT THE CEMETERY

Wednesday, October 18  
7:30 am, Free Tour  
Birds at the Cemetery  
Guide: Maureen Geiger

### WHAT'S BLOOMING IN THE CEMETERY

Saturday, Oct. 21  
10 am, Free Tour  
Guides: Anita Clevenger  
and Barbara Oliva

### FRIDAY THE 13TH TOUR

Monday, October 13  
6:30 & 8 pm  
Tickets \$13  
Reservations: 448-0811

### LANTERN TOURS

Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
Oct. 27, 28 & 29, 6:30 & 8 pm  
Tickets: \$15  
Reservations: 448-0811





# Victorian Garden party

June 16, 2006



# VOLUNTEER NEWS

By Sharon Patrician, Volunteer Coordinator

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Please call or e-mail me at 916 455 8166 or patrician@midtown.net with your *monthly* volunteer hours.

## NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN!

Adopt volunteers who have been around for a while know the drill about getting help from the Sheriff's Work Release program on the weekends. If you haven't met our lead sheriff, go by and introduce yourself to **Sheriff Al White**. He has taken an interest in the cemetery and wants to work with the volunteers to beautify and improve the grounds.

## WEEKLY CITY MEETINGS

A recent addition to cemetery staff is Tom Thornton, supervisor for the City. Tom attends our bi-weekly meetings, together with Victor Esparza and Curtis Clarke, and we have accomplished many of our goals with his cooperation and input. You are all welcome to come to these meetings, held the first and third Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the 10th Street gate office. Call Sharon at 916-455-8166 if you have any questions or concerns.

## POLLINATORS: GARDEN HEROES

Gardeners have a huge vote of thanks to all the insects who pollinate flowers and vegetables. Among these pollinators are native bees who are less familiar to us than the Italian honeybee. Native bees do not produce honey and they live solitary lives. Their contribution as one of the insect pollinators is essential to our food production and the grace of beautiful flowers.

The cemetery is a unique environment for native bees. Dr. Gordon Frankie, UC Berkeley entomologist and ecologist, has been studying our native bee population since spring, and has offered to give a presentation to all interested volunteers.

On October 7, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. on the west side of the Archives building, Dr. Frankie will talk about pollinators and provide handouts. This promises to be a fascinating talk and an opportunity to meet your fellow volunteers.

Please RSVP to Sharon at 916 455 8166 or patrician@midtown.net for a chair and coffee count.

A  
New Sheriff  
in Town



## In Memory of

**LORRAINE GORMAN:** Lorraine died on July 15, 2006. She was a volunteer for the cemetery from 1990 until 2004 and helped with the indexing and genealogy research for the public. Lorraine loved the cemetery in part because her grandfather, Cameron Boothroyd, is buried there.

**ELIZABETH KELLIHER:** Elizabeth died June 25, 2006. She worked from 1987-1988 on a major inventory of all the stones, monuments and mausoleums in the Cemetery. When the inventory was completed, she helped streamline how archives records are arranged, which helps volunteers and the public locate information.

**MARJORIE POWERS:** Marjorie died January 6, 2006. She volunteered at the cemetery in 1987 and helped with the stone inventory. She continued to volunteer at the Archives for many years and was a regular visitor to the Cemetery.



# MEET THE VOLUNTEERS!

The following volunteers have been associated with the Historic City Cemetery for many years. Their contributions are numerous and varied and they love what they do.



## Connie Bettencourt

Connie began volunteering about 1993 to help her husband, John Bettencourt, with events and fund-raisers. John was a founding member of the Old City Cemetery Committee and gave hundreds of history tours before his untimely death in 2001.

When John died, Connie was determined to maintain his gravesite and the fountain which the family donated to the cemetery in John's memory. She has succeeded beyond her original plans – she had adopted half the area known as the East Flat and maintains the flowers around the fountain.

Connie is a member of the Board of Directors for the Old City Cemetery Committee and serves on several subcommittees. She loves the planning, organizing, and coordinating of fund-raisers, dinners at the cemetery, and bus trips.

A mother of five, she has vast experience with event coordination. As a retired dental lab employee, she knows how to plan her time and resources. She always pitches in to help with tours, Memorial Day ceremonies and special events.



## Judy Eitzen

One of Judy's many interests is roses. She attended an Open Garden event in 1994 and learned about "antique" roses which prompted her involvement with the Historic Rose group. Since she was working full time in 1994, her involvement was after work before the cemetery closed.

She became increasingly involved in 2001 when she developed a web site for the Rose Garden at the cemetery and helped with their newsletter. Her curiosity and energy moved her toward working on several subcommittees for

the Old City Cemetery Committee, and she became a full fledged Board of Directors member in 2003.

She served as President of the Board from April 2005 until July 2006 when she stepped down to pursue her many interests. She continues as a valued Board member.

Judy describes herself as "someone who likes to know at least a little about everything". That drive, plus her library career skills, has propelled her to become a certified Master Gardener which is an asset to the volunteer corps at the Cemetery.

She has many projects on line. She is involved with development of the Master Plan for the Cemetery, will do presentations for the October Lantern Tours and will continue her work with the Historic Rose Garden.



## Fran Pendleton

For a person "not very interested in Sacramento history," Fran caught the fever on a cemetery tour in 1986. After that tour, she became involved with the Old City Cemetery Committee in 1988 and started giving tours with John Bettencourt in 1990. She hasn't looked back.

As a retired public school educator, Fran knows how to research and write. She picked out plots which interested her and did the research for "spots" on history tours. In those days, history tours were given every Saturday and Sunday from April through September.

In 1994, Fran did her first appearance as Margaret Crocker. She portrayed Queen Victoria at the Victorian Day of Mourning event in 1997 and at the Victorian Tea in 2005.

Fran has written booklets for the Historical Society and the Old City Cemetery Committee. These publications are available at the Archives.

Fran says getting involved with the cemetery after retirement from her first career was like having a second career. "All the skills I acquired as a teacher I brought to the cemetery. I learned new subjects, had new experiences and it changed my life," said Fran.

Look for Fran sometime this fall on a KVIE Channel 6 Viewpoint episode about Sacramento's baseball past. She also conducts occasional history tours at the cemetery.

# DR. CHARLES DUNCOMBE, CONTINUED

Disguised  
as old  
grandma

Dr. Buncombe's escape to the United States in 1837 came after weeks of being tracked through winter snow by British troops and mounted militia.

Having become somewhat of a folk hero, he was taken in by the various farmers along his escape route, being safely hidden from searching soldiers. He spent one night hiding between a farmer and his wife in bed while the house was being thoroughly searched. Another occasion found him sitting in a rocking chair disguised as old "grandma," receiving the respectful greetings from the search party as it passed through the room.

At long last he reached the safety of his sister's house near the border, where plans were made to get him across the border and to freedom in the United States. His escape, however, was blocked by the ice-bound St. Claire River, the crossing point of which was the border militia post at Sarnia. It was decided that they would attempt the crossing by sleigh. Dr. Duncombe was disguised as dear old "Aunt Nancy." As a further disguise, the family decided to join him in the dangerous effort to escape Canada. At the border check point his brother-in-law talked the militia into guiding them across the ice bound

river, it being most urgent to get their dear old sick aunt to a doctor on the other side. The border militia, doubtless having dear old aunts of their own, carefully guided the sleigh and Aunt Nancy across the treacherous river of ice and saw her safely to the other side. Returning to their post they waved, at which point Duncombe threw off his disguise and shouted: "Tell your commanding officer that Aunt Nancy sends her compliments... and Dr. Duncombe thanks you for helping him escape to freedom."

Dr. Duncombe's arrival here makes him the first known physician in the area, although we do not find him formally practicing medicine here until 1851. He would later be elected to our State Legislature in 1858, but was denied his seat for not being a citizen. The following year he was again elected and again denied his seat. It was not until 1862, having become a citizen, that he took his place in the State Assembly.

Across the  
treacherous  
river

The Canadian government pardoned Dr. Charles Duncombe in 1843. Far away from here, in Scotland, Ontario, Canada, a plaque commemorating his rallying of rebel forces at that location in 1837, stands in testimony of his devotion to liberty.

## OLD CITY CEMETERY COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### New Officers

President: Lynda Walls

Vice President: Jane Howell

### Continuing Officers

Secretary: Sharon Patrician

Treasurer: Lonnie Ratzlaff

### New Board Member

Claudia Richardson

### New Sub-Committee Chairs

Archives Chair: Lois Dove

Restoration Chair: Claudia Richardson

### Continuing Board Members

Connie Bettencourt

Lois Dove

Judy Eitzen

Marilyn Fuqua

Mory Holmes

Dr. Bob LaPerriere

Suzanne Sanchez

Sabrina Okamura-Johnson

Barbara Oliva

# OUTREACH AT HARVEST DAY

By Sharon Patrician, OCCC Board Member

## Community Educators

The Historic City Cemetery is privileged to have among its volunteers several Master Gardeners certified by the County of Sacramento. Master

Gardeners are primarily community educators, and once a year they have a Harvest Day at the Fair Oaks Community Garden.

This year the event was held August 5, and the Cemetery was invited to have a table featuring our three major gardens – the Historic Rose Garden, the Hamilton Square Perennial Garden and the Native Plant Demonstration Garden.

Anita Clevenger, Judy Eitzen, Sharon Patrician, Barbara Oliva, Sabrina Okamura-Johnson and Bonnie Ross provided brochures and information to many of the 1700 visitors. It was a lovely, cool day, and the community garden was abundant and lush. Many other community organizations were present to share information about “spare the air,”

irrigation, bee culture, garden practices and almost anything connected with a healthier way to live.

The participants agreed it was a great way to provide information about our efforts at the cemetery, and the tomato and grape “tasting” was outstanding!



## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

at the

Historic City Cemetery

Firemen's Area

September 30, 2006

5 to 8 pm



For the

Volunteers of the  
Historic City Cemetery

Hosted by

Historic City Cemetery Staff  
and the City of Sacramento

Please R.S.V.P.  
Kristin Elder, SAMCC, 264-7080

A ceremony to honor those added to the  
Roll of Honor Stone at the Cemetery and dinner to follow





**Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc.**  
 1000 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818  
 916-448-0811 • www.OldCityCemetery.com

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: September 30, 2006 5 - 8 pm  
 at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, Fireman's Area**

If you're receiving this newsletter, you're important to the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery!  
*Are you a member of the Old City Cemetery Committee?*

The Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc. is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit association, whose purpose is to maintain and preserve the beauty and integrity of the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. Membership is only \$15 per individual, \$20 for families and \$35 for businesses. Join today!

**Membership Application**

Annual Dues (Membership runs January 1 through December 31):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$15.00                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$200 - \$299         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$20.00 (One household, One voting member) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor: \$300 - \$599        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business: \$35.00 (One voting member per business) | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sponsor: \$600 - \$999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation: Amount & designation: _____              | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsor: \$1000+         |

Name (Include all names if Family Membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Voting member's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (eves): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Mail form and check payable to "OCCC, Inc." to:  
 OCCC, Inc., 1000 Broadway, Sacramento, CA, 95818  
 Call (916) 448-0811 for information.

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