

JANUARY 2011

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Museum Day
February 5, 2011

First 2011 History Tour
March 5
Pioneers in Petticoats

First 2011 Garden Tour
March 20
What's Blooming

Lantern Tours Make History

by Judy Eitzen

Lantern Tours conducted after dark on the third and fourth weekends of October 2010 made history in several ways. First, we sold out in record time with many tickets going to repeat visitors. Next, a number of new stories were told and acted out by more than fifteen costumed volunteer actors. The end of October was stormy and we were lucky in that it only rained late one evening, and that was a gentle rain, not a downpour. Finally, we earned enough funds to continue headstone and plot repairs. Best of all, visitors declared their satisfaction and enjoyment of the tours; a good time was definitely had by all.

A large group of volunteers and friends helped put together the tours this fall. Lynda Walls gathered the stories, actors led by Connie Clark dressed appropriately and presented dramatic tales of mystery and intrigue, Sharon Patrician and Connie Betencourt led still more volunteers in preparation of treats for visitors, shirts and books for sale and general crowd control, and Dr. Bob LaPerriere and Mike Sickles led their sound team. Many thanks to all hard-working volunteers who made this year so successful.

2011 Tours & Events Announced

The OCCC has scheduled tours and special events for 2011. Free tours are conducted on Saturdays at 10 a.m. by trained volunteers. Meet in the open area near the 10th St. gate.

Museum Day

Twenty-six Sacramento area museums will offer free admission during the Twelfth Annual Sacramento Museum Day on February 5, 2011. This event is presented by the Sacramento Association of Museums. The Cemetery Visitor Center will be open with volunteers ready to greet visitors.

History Tour Schedule

- March 5, Pioneers in Petticoats

- April 7, Survivors of Winter Storms
- May 7, Symbology and Victorian Funerary
- June 4, Police, Fire, and Legal Lore
- July 2, Patriots
- August 6, History of Railroads
- September 3, Fun With Family & Children
- October 1, Medical Bag
- November 12, Veterans Medal of Honor

Garden Tour Schedule

- March 20—What's Blooming?
- April 16—Open Garden
- May 21—What's Blooming?

(Continued on page 3)



Connie Bettencourt
Acting OCCC
President

*“We...are
looking
forward to
2011 as a year
of growth,
change and
success”*

Comments, ques-
tions, concerns to
Judy Eitzen at
Verlaine@citlink.net

President's Message

from Connie Bettencourt

Many of you know that Lynda Walls has resigned as President of the Old City Cemetery Committee Board of Directors. We are saddened by this loss because Lynda contributed much to the success of the Committee. We wish Lynda every success as she pursues her master's degree in public administration with an emphasis on non-profit organizations.

I will act as President for an undetermined period of time. We are recruiting new Board members, and if you would like to serve a three-year term as a Director, please submit your qualifications to Sharon Patrician, Volunteer Coordinator, patricianone@att.net or call 916-455-8166.

2010 was a busy and profitable year. Our Lantern Tours grossed the largest amount for a single tour we have ever experienced (thank you, Lynda). We instituted a new Visitor Center in the front office as

an official welcome to our many visitors. We have photographed over two-thirds of the cemetery's headstones and monuments, and data entry for our new Burial Index database is proceeding smoothly. After a brief hiatus, we have begun headstone repair in the southern half of the cemetery, the cost of which is borne by the money we raise from tours and paid events.

We have some new history tours scheduled for 2011, several paid events planned and plans to grow our membership. The Archives continues to provide data for ancestor seekers, and our gardens and adopt-a-plots are especially lovely. We have many projects in place (see the article in this issue) and your help with any of these tasks is always appreciated.

We on the Board of Directors are looking forward to 2011 as a year of growth, change and success. We welcome your involvement with our goals and objectives.

Editorial

by Judy Eitzen

Greetings:

With the resignation of Lynda Walls in late 2010, I have assumed editorship of the Epitaph. I have some years experience publishing the Rose Garden's newsletter, *Cemetery Rose*.

It is my intent to publish at least three issues of the Epitaph during the year to share events, projects, history, and activities of the OCCC—in short, to keep our members up-to-date and share our progress with the community at large.

I hope that our readers will learn much about the OCCC and this historically important Cemetery. I hope too, that you will enjoy this newsletter and urge that you send me your comments, contributions and suggestions for future issues.

Thank You,
Judy Eitzen

*Comments, questions, concerns:
Judy Eitzen
verlaine@citlink.net*

Tours & Events, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

- June 18—What’s Blooming?
- September 17—Rose Garden
- October 15—What’s Blooming?
- November 19—Fall Color in the Rose Garden

Special Events & Tours

- May 13—Friday the 13th Twilight Tour
- May 28—Memorial Day
- September 10—Rose Propagation
- October 8—Rose Classifica-



Mourning volunteer during Lantern Tours in October

- tions seminar
- October 28 & 29—Lantern Tours
- November 12—Veterans—Medal of Honor Recipients.

Some special events require the purchase of tickets. Information will be posted on the OCCC website near the time of the event. (www.oldcitycemetery.com).

OCCC Board Recruits for Directors

We’re looking for a few good men and women.

We presently have three vacancies on the OCCC Board of Directors. We wish to recruit volunteers who have finance, marketing, public relations and project management skills. The requirements are listed below:

A Director for the OCCC should support the mission and goals of the OCCC; be willing to represent

the OCCC within the community and beyond; participate in fund raising and long-range planning for the OCCC; attend regular monthly Board meetings and be prepared to vote on fiscal and administrative issues; and participate in the various standing committees on the Board. The term is three (3) years, and about 10 hours a month will be required for participation. The individual must be a member in good

standing of the Old City Cemetery Committee and be willing to attend annual membership meetings.

Please call Sharon Patrician: 916-455-8166 or send an email to patricianone@att.net to indicate your interest. If you have a resume of your volunteer experience, please submit. Experience with a non-profit volunteer group is desirable but not required.

Volunteer News

by Sharon Patrician, Volunteer Coordinator

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Please call or email me at 916-455-8166 or patricianone@att.net with your monthly volunteer hours.

BIWEEKLY CITY MEETINGS

You are all welcome at the City staff and Adopt A Plot volunteer meetings held every other Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. at the 10th Street gate office. Contact Sharon by email with any questions or concerns.

MOTH ALERT

Those garden volunteers who live in the following area are asked not to bring in any plants grown in their home garden to the cemetery: North Sutterville Road to Stockton Blvd. on the east, bordered by 24th Street on the south and bordered further on the west by Freeport Blvd. The Light Brown Apple Moth has been

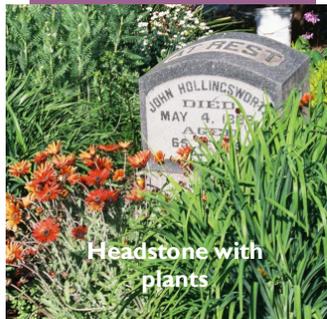
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Brickwork Repair

Volunteer Projects

by Sharon Patrician



Headstone with plants

Volunteer Contacts

**Volunteer Coordinator
& Hamilton Square:**
Sharon Patrician
patricianone@att.net

Tours & Events:
Nancy Laran:
laran99@gmail.com

Rose Garden:
Anita Clevenger
anitac@surewest.net

Native Plant Garden:
Sabrina Okamura-
Johnson
soj@surewest.net

Database:
Kris Ogilvie
kkogilvie@sbcglobal.net

Restoration:
Bob La Perriere
drbob@winfirst.com



Shaping Roses in Summer

Cemetery volunteers have been involved in a number of interesting, challenging and sometimes long-term projects to benefit the cemetery and the City. These projects can use more help, and we are ready to talk with any of you about involvement. In addition, there are OCCC committees including Adopt A Plot, Historic Rose Garden, Archives, Membership and Volunteers for which you may apply as well.

Tours & Events: Since every non-profit organization relies on funds, donations and gifts for its operation, our Tours and Events projects are continual and long-term. Saturday morning tours are free and cover history and horticulture. Tours are themed and volunteers are needed to assist the Tour Docent and to gain experience as docents. Contact Nancy Laran (laran99@gmail.com) for history tours, Sharon Patrician for garden tours, (patricianone@att.net) and Anita Clevenger (anitac@surewest.net) for the Rose Garden.

Fund-raising events are generally held in the evenings. Each event is focused on a theme with interpretative presentations by volunteer actors. These events require a lot of planning and have many opportunities for volunteer involvement. Sharon Patrician (patricianone@att.net) is the contact.

Restoration: After all that hard work and good times had in Tours and Events, monies raised are used for preservation and repair of cemetery artifacts. About half the cemetery has been surveyed for damage, but there is still an enormous amount of work to be done. As part of Restoration, we are training volunteers to do simple, non-back breaking repairs, such as affixing small headstones on their base. Complex and dangerous repairs are left to professionals, and we work closely with the Ruhkala Monument Company (across the street) as they have the expertise and manpower that we do not. This year, we have identified 54 stones for professional repair. Contact Dr. Bob LaPerriere (drbob@winfirst.com) or Sharon Patrician (patricianone@att.net), co-chairs of the Restoration Committee for more information or if you wish to volunteer.

Database Conversion: The OCCC has developed a data base for burial information and all data associated with individuals buried in the Cemetery. We are now converting existing data, most of which must be laboriously keyed into a spreadsheet. With information on over 25,000 burials, this is a long-term project, which depends on the dedication and attention to details by volunteers who enjoy data input. This has also been our opportunity to correct mistakes and erroneous facts and we are very proud of our efforts to date. If you would like to do data input from home on your own computer, contact Kris Ogilvie (kkogilvie@sbcglobal.net).

Visitor Center: Beginning on August 7, 2010, volunteers staff the Visitor Center in the front office at the 10th Street gate. The OCCC and the City see this as a positive approach to a long-time issue: providing warm welcome and useful information to visitors who often don't know where to go or what to see. It is an opportunity to capture visitor statistics and clarify our volunteer role in the cemetery. We intend to be open five days a week and need more volunteers to help with this new project. Contact Sharon Patrician for more information and to sign up. (patricianone@att.net)

Headstone Photography: For the last two years, we have photographed the headstones, footstones, monuments and mausoleums in the cemetery as part of the digital record for our database. To date, we have photographed approximately half the cemetery, but much remains to be accomplished. When completed, digitized photos will be part of the burial data. Volunteers who like photography and being outside are needed to complete the project. Contact Sharon Patrician (patricianone@att.net) about the Historic City Cemetery, or Dr. Bob LaPerriere (drbob@winfirst.com) to help with other county historic cemeteries.

New Tree Planting & Maintenance Project: Sadly, the majestic English Elms which have graced the cemetery for over 125 years are in

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Volunteer Projects, cont.

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decline from Dutch elm disease. Five years ago, a dedicated group of volunteers inventoried every tree in the cemetery, and we keep this inventory updated with removals and replacements of trees. New young trees need to be cared for in the first years of their lives in the cemetery, and to date we have planted more than 30 new trees of different species. As the elms are removed, they are replaced with oaks, sycamores, lindens, hybrid elms, crape myrtles, tupelo, vitex and maples to eventually restore the canopy we now enjoy. Volunteers who love trees and want ours to thrive are asked to contact Sharon Patrician (patricianone@att.net) for project information.

Cemetery Gardens: The three major gardens in the cemetery—Historic Rose Garden, Hamilton Square Garden and the Native Plant Demonstration Garden—each need volunteers. Each has its manager and goals for maintenance, fund raising and information sharing. The Rose Garden, for example, has funded the repair of brick surrounds for eight plots, and is planning a celebration in 2012 of its 20 years of existence. All need volunteers who *love* to garden (emphasis on the word love as there are a number of challenges gardening in a public area). Chores include weeding, pruning, removing spent plants, planning, replanting and, of course, enjoying what hard work brings to these gardens: birds, bees, butterflies, dragon-

flies and the entire habitat that plants create. Color, scent and beauty draw visitors to the cemetery, and these public gardens host informational tours between March and November. Contact Anita Clevenger for the Historic Rose Garden (anitac@surewest.net), Sharon Patrician for Hamilton (patricianone@att.net) and Sabrina Okamura-Johnson for the Native Plants (soj@surewest.net).

Other Projects: The cemetery has also welcomed Scout groups to earn badges upgrading benches and picnic tables. So far, about 16 benches have been done and at least that many need refurbishing. Some attempt to at least halt the disintegration of iron fences around plots has been accomplished, but we are looking for a volunteer with iron working skills willing to undertake remaining plot fences and gates. We also have plans to replace crumbling street signs, interpretative plaques and other signage.

We hope this demonstrates what can be accomplished through volunteer efforts. The OCCC has been in existence for 23 years, and our volunteers have steadily improved the cemetery from a derelict, sad and forbidding place to one that embraces its history while looking toward the future as a viable part of the Sacramento landscape.

The Keenans—Early Entrepreneurs

by Jeannie Baldwin

JOHN C. KEENAN
(1830-1868)

ROSANNA HUGHES
KEENAN (1832-1865)

Among the most colorful of the early European arrivals in Sacramento were John C. Keenan and his wife Rosanna Hughes Keenan. Not the typical pioneer Irish immigrant couple; both were involved in business enterprises and both were entrepreneurs—in their own way.

Soon after arriving in America, John served as a Texas Ranger defending Texans from Indian attacks and Mexican incursions. When it was time for John to move on, he looked for business opportunities and found them in Sacramento where the Gold Rush had caused the city to grow rapidly.

John opened the 'Fashion Saloon' in 1850 and it immediately attracted his fellow countrymen. Located at 39 J. Street (between Second and Third), the 'Fashion' unfortunately burned down during a huge 1852 fire which took many of the area's wooden structures. Concerned for his loyal Irish patrons who were now without a watering hole, the enterprising John traveled up the river to the abandoned town of Vernon

and moved a deserted building onto a boat and proceeded to outfit it as a saloon. Sailing into Sacramento, he quickly began serving his regular customers who were eagerly waiting by the side of the river.

John was a man of many interests and talents. Aside from being a gold panner, saloon owner and bartender, he was a member of the Sutter Rifles; an early Sacramento fireman (member of the famed Knickerbocker Engine Company #5); manager of the Sutter Race Grounds, located east of the city "between the old Stockton and Jackson Roads", and even found time to play ball with one of Sacramento's first baseball teams.

With a temper and strong feelings for social issues, John became involved in the occasional brawl. Fisticuffs and stray bullets were commonplace in early Sacramento and John was often part of the melee. The original 'Fashion' was known to be the scene of almost nightly fights. Determined to have a more socially acceptable establishment after the fire, John moved his business to a new location at 29 J. Street and rebuilt the 'Fashion' as a new, two story brick

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Fisher Plaque Installed



Mike and Igor Kalenyuk, East Lawn Employees, built the concrete stand and installed the granite plaque.

A Monumental Love Story, the tale of a young couple divided by death in 1875, has finally been erected as a plaque in front of Georgia Fisher's grave in the Historic City Cemetery, Sacramento.

Georgia Fisher and Martin Bergman, planning to marry New Year's Eve in 1875, were tragically torn apart by Georgia's untimely death of typhoid pneumonia just days before their wedding. The grieving fiancée and his family erected an elaborate monument to Georgia, but only a trace remains of its former glory. Restoration costs were estimated in the thousands of dollars, and fund raising efforts could not match this requirement.

Fund-raising did however, secure a small amount of money, and the OCCC Board of Directors pondered what to do with it. It was decided their story would be engraved

on black granite, with photos of Georgia, Martin and the original monument etched into the granite, and the piece installed on a concrete pedestal.

At this point, Steve Bartel, Vice President of East Lawn Cemetery, offered the services of his top masons, Mike and Igor Kalenyuk (formerly of the Ukraine and residents of Sacramento for almost 20 years), to build the form, pour the concrete, install the granite plaque and finish the surface. Both Mike and Igor have inherited their father's masonry skills, and they were "happy to help" when Steve them for this volunteer effort.

The Board of Directors of the Old City Cemetery Committee is extremely happy with the result and has plans to beautify the immediate area to bring a measure of loveliness back to this scene of such heartbreak and devotion.

* * *

Volunteer News, cont.

Thanks to Archives Volunteers who helped put together the necessary information for the (visitors) Center.

(Continued from page 3)

discovered in this area and it has been quarantined by the California Department of Food & Agriculture. Since this moth affects apple trees, (roses and other cemetery plants are related to apples) we are greatly concerned that this moth not get installed in the cemetery with its world-class collection of heritage roses. Please contact Anita Clevenger at anitac@surewest.net if you have any questions.

HEADSTONE REPAIR

I am still working on putting together this workshop. I will keep you updated by email on a new date this spring.

NEW CITY EMPLOYEE

Robert (Butch) Root is the city's new cemetery maintenance person, replacing Curtis Clark who retired in late September. Butch works Friday,

Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday with Wednesday and Thursday off when the cemetery is closed. Seek him out and welcome him – he is promising to be an asset to the volunteers and our many projects.

VISITOR CENTER OPEN

The cemetery's first official Visitor Center opened in August and is installed in the front city office, with thanks to the Archives volunteers who helped put together the necessary information for the Center. They also deserve special recognition for attempting to do this task and maintain cemetery records. Visitor Center Volunteers work all open cemetery days from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and provide a welcome to visitors seeking general information about the cemetery and its features. The phone number is 916-264-7839; come by for a visit with our loyal volunteers.

Hamilton Square Bench Restored

by Sharon Patrician

With the gracious supply of materials and adults to supervise the efforts, young members of the **Children of the American Revolution** replaced the slats in the bench near the monument to William Stephen Hamilton in the Hamilton Square Garden in June, 2010.

A representative for this group, Jim Falkenberry, called me to determine if this project could be accomplished. Since benches throughout the cemetery are currently being refurbished, I was happy to have this group of young people be involved as a benefit to the cemetery's visitors.

Photos were taken of the day's events and shared with the Old City Cemetery Committee, which is grateful for this group's involvement and hopes they will continue to be involved with the ongoing beautification and preservation of the cemetery's artifacts.

As an update to Hamilton Square's refurbishment, a direct descendant of Alexander Hamilton on his father's mother's side will undertake planting a garden in William Stephen Hamilton's plot. Allen Hamilton Conner and a friend, Bryn Miller, have signed up as **Adopt A Plot** volunteers and will use a planting plan from the Hamilton home in New York state. We look forward to this historical garden.



Volunteer members of the Children of the American Revolution, June 2010

Keenans, cont.

(Continued from page 5)

building which included a billiards room and sleeping apartments upstairs. The advertisement for the 'Fashion' in 1857 promised premium drinks for just 12 ½ cents a glass.

John's wife, Rosanna was an enterprising woman, as well, and became one of Sacramento's first 'madams'. By 1853, Rosanna owned and operated an elaborately furnished two-story brick boarding house on Third between J and K which was occupied solely by young lady boarders. At this period in Sacramento history, prostitution was legal, so the enterprise was legitimate. In 1850, there were approximately eight females to every 100 men, and it was not uncommon for men to seek the companionship of one of Rosanna's girls as they were starved for the sight of a female.

In 1855, the California Legislature passed a law that allowed local authorities to charge those operating or residing in a brothel with a misdemeanor and Rosanna became the first woman prosecuted in Sacramento. Like her

husband, she was feisty and demanded a jury trial primarily because she believed that most men had frequented her establishment and would say she was innocent. Her husband testified on her behalf and said he had seen the women lodgers pay Rosanna rent and that she had a license to sell wine. The evidence against her was not strong, but she was found guilty and ordered to pay a fine of \$100. A few days later, following her unsuccessful appeal, the police conducted a sweep of the brothels/boarding houses in Sacramento and arrested 22 women, including Rosanna. She appealed again and this time her appeal was successful; all the women were acquitted.

The 1860 Census of Sacramento records Rosanna and John residing with one child, William, aged 6 and three Indian children from Canada. All the children were adopted.

Eager to try new adventures, John and Rosanna joined the

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**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

Keenans, concluded

(Continued from page 7)

gold rush in British Columbia where he opened a new beer saloon in Victoria and she planned to operate a new 'boarding house'. At some point, Rosanna returned to California to pick up some of her 'ladies' for the purpose of relocating her business to Canada. On July 30, 1865 off the coast close to the California and Oregon boarder, the ship *Brother Jonathan* ran into trouble during a storm and sank with most of the passengers on board. Mrs. John C. Keenan, together with seven ladies, was listed among the passengers lost. Although it is not known whether Rosanna's body was ever recovered, there is a Rosa H. Keenan buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Sacramento. There is some confusion concerning this lady's death date so it may not be the same person, but isn't the coincidence interesting?

After his wife's death, John married Mary Jane Moore,

formerly known as Mary Jane Hughes. It is thought that she might have been Rosanna's sister. There was a Mary Hughes, also born in Ireland, who lived at Rosanna's female boarding house in 1853. John continued to operate the 'Fashion' and the Bank Exchange Saloons until 1865 when he moved to San Francisco to open another saloon and also manage the Oriental Hotel and restaurant. On the evening of May 25, 1868 Keenan was returning to his residence when he collapsed while ascending a stairwell. This powerful and dynamic man died at the age of 38, most likely of heart disease. He had seen more in his 38 years than most would have if living to be 100.

John was returned to Sacramento where he had a large funeral consisting of many old friends and coworkers, as well as fellow firemen. He is buried in the Fireman's Plot (B-136, Tier 3 Grave 26).

Membership Renewal Time

OCCC members will receive renewal letters in January. While your financial contribution through membership is important to us, just knowing that you support what we are doing keeps us going. Please, renew or join us now, by filling out and returning the membership form with your check.