



The Epitaph

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OCCC Calendar

Saturday, May 1 ~ 10 am

Symbology and Victorian
Funerary Tour

*Guides: Julianna Horrell
& Suzanne Sanchez*

Saturday, May 3 ~ 6:30 pm

Deadheading at Dusk
Historic Rose Garden

Sunday, May 9 ~ 10 am

Meet the Crockers History Tour
Guides: Judy Eitzen & Connie Clark

Saturday, May 15 ~ 10 am

What's Blooming
in the Cemetery Tour
Guide: Michelle Nitz & Jane Howell

Saturday, May 22 ~ 10 am

MAYors History Tour
Guide: Marcia Rogers

Saturday, May 29 ~ 10:30 am

Memorial Day Ceremony

Saturday, June 5 ~ 10 am

Above and Below History Tour
*Guide: Jeanne Baldwin
& Jane Howell*

Saturday, June 7 ~ 6:30 pm

Deadheading at Dusk
Historic Rose Garden

Saturday, June 19 ~ 10 am

What's Blooming
in the Cemetery Tour
Guide: Sharon Patrician

Saturday, June 26 ~ 7 & 9 pm

Have Spirits with the Spirits
Fundraiser: Buy Tickets at the Gate

Information: (916) 448-0811

John S. Fowler Old Masonic Plot (B-116 FF-04b)

BY JEANNE BALDWIN – ARCHIVES VOLUNTEER

Most people interested in early Sacramento history may not have heard of John S. Fowler, but he played an important role in the development and the policies of the burgeoning city. He also could be ruthless and extravagant, and often jumped from one entrepreneurial pursuit to another in his quest for success.

Fowler was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1819. Like so many of the early pioneers he was lured to California to make money, and wasn't afraid of hard work and cunning. He became one of the early businessmen to take supplies to the mines in the Sierra and could set his own prices, since he had a virtual monopoly in freighting. He paid his teamsters \$200 per month, an excellent wage in 1849. When weather was bad, his men still transported supplies to remote mining districts to help prevent famine. His payoff was excellent. He charged one dollar per pound (\$2,000 per ton) to transport supplies from Sutters Fort to Coloma. He averaged an estimated 50% profit.

One time, as his men returned from a particularly difficult trip, he rewarded them with a special dinner. At Sam Brannon's store, he saw two-pound tins of oysters and was told that each tin was twelve dollars. Without hesitating, he bought the entire supply for his teamsters' meal, thereby nearly wiping out his profits.

Fowler worked as an agent for Capt. John Sutter for several years and represented him in many business transactions. He was instrumental in assisting both Sutter Sr. and his son in disposing of properties to pay for various Sutter-accrued debts. Fowler was known for his excellent memory, and was said to be able to reproduce maps from memory. When a fire at the fort destroyed a valuable map, Fowler put that skill to work. Following the land dispute, some competitors were concerned that the second map might not be an exact replica.

In fall of 1848, an election held for the first and second Alcaldes of New Helvetia (the original name given by Capt. Sutter for this area), resulted in Fowler's being named the Second Alcalde. In April 1849, the population of the fort and in the city was slightly fewer than 150 inhabitants. Fowler resigned his post as Alcalde after a few months and was selected as a member on a newly formed Board of Commissions, whose responsibility was to frame a code of laws for the new district. During this time, he was elected to the Common Council, serving until 1850, and was also a member of the City Levee Committee. Fowler was involved in almost every major decision-making group concerning the future of Sacramento. He also was active in the Jennings #4 Lodge of the Masonic Order.

Fowler and Sam Brannon built the first hotel in Sacramento City and became proprietors of the city's leading hostelry.. This business enterprise had various names during its short life

Continued on page 2

President's Message

BY LYNDA WALLS

Congratulations to all the volunteers who worked on the Open Garden event! Over 550 visitors enjoyed tours of the Rose Garden, Hamilton Square Garden and the Native Plant Demo Garden. History tours were given and the Archives greeted visitors who wanted to learn more about the cemetery and its residents. Many baby heritage roses found good homes and much needed money was raised to support the efforts of our dedicated volunteers. A fine job was done by one and all!

The first half of 2010 has been a busy time for the Board of Directors. Over the past months, we have been working closely with the city of Sacramento. We are in the process of drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the city to formalize our agreement to care for the cemetery. We expect the MOU to be ready for approval this summer. We're also working on a strategic plan and a business plan for the Old City Cemetery Committee. When the drafts are finalized, we will be distributing all of them to our membership.

This summer, we'll be expanding our efforts to serve cemetery visitors. Beginning in July, we will be staffing a Visitors Center as well as the Archives. The city plans to open the front office to serve visitor needs and we'll be available to greet and educate the public. If you would like to participate, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Sharon Patrician.

We've also gained two new Directors: Kris Ogilvie and Pat Hutchings.

Kris has had an interest in historic cemeteries and genealogy since childhood. She holds a Bachelor's degree in music, Master's in library science, and a Juris Doctorate. Currently, Kris works for the California State Library as the library's Digital Programs Consultant. She focuses her work efforts on providing long-term preservation of, and access to, electronic historical records and documents. In addition, she maintains content of several library and statewide Web sites.

Kris has taken the lead on the cemetery database project. Our database guru, John Gipson, has completed the design and Kris is organizing a team of volunteers to populate the database.

Pat has 35 years of intergovernmental experience. Most of her career was spent in grant writing and grants administration, both at the federal and state levels. Pat holds a Bachelor's degree in government, and a Master's degree in public administration. Pat has lectured, taught and held grants administration classes at various places for a variety of organizations.

Pat is taking the lead on the Committee's grant writing efforts and already has several projects in the works.

Kris and Pat are wonderful additions to our Board of Directors and promise to help in our efforts to push toward further progress. We welcome them both with much excitement.

Our Annual Members Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 19, at 11 am. Watch for an announcement in May and we'll see you there!

John S. Fowler - continued from cover

(Hotel de France and later the City Hotel). It consisted of a two-story building—which was originally Sutter's grist mill—that was moved and modified. The total price of the hotel was an estimated \$80,000 to \$100,000 at Gold Rush prices. A lavish opening of the hotel involved an abundance of free whiskey and wine, and it was said that whole baskets of champagne were thrown from the balcony during the celebration. Early Sacramentans apparently loved to have a good time!

In 1850, Fowler was elected vice president of a group of Sacramento citizens who drafted resolutions urging that Sacramento City be selected as a "favorable consideration

of the people of California." This was the beginning of several years of legislative moves resulting in Sacramento's being selected as the seat of government in 1854.

Fowler continued his involvement in various business and community activities until his death in 1860 of consumption. The Pioneer Association requested that all members attend his funeral, which took place at the Baptist Church on 4th Street on April 14. His obituary in the *Sacramento Union* indicates that he "was liberal, benevolent, social, and clever; too much for his own good." He left a family consisting of a wife and six young children in destitute circumstances. He is buried in the Old Masonic Plot of the City Cemetery.

Volunteer News

BY SHARON PATRICIAN – VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Please call or e-mail 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 am at the 10th Street gate office**. Call Sharon with any questions or concerns.

BENCH REPAIR CONTINUES

Twelve more benches in the cemetery have been repaired and replaced with Trex for the bench slats. This project is ongoing with various Scout troops in the Sacramento and Oroville areas.

James Vang, LDS Troop 338, is a senior in high school. He and his troop repaired three benches in the cemetery. He plans to go to college for a year, go on mission for another two years, and when he returns to resume his education with plans to become a Web designer.

Daniel Saykhu is a scout with LDS Troop 414 in the Oroville area. He graduates this June and has plans for university and to become a dentist. He and his troop repaired and replaced bench slats with Trex on four benches.

Asipeli Tatafu, whose family emigrated from Tonga, is a member of LDS Troop 183 in Sacramento. He works with his father in construction and would like to be a firefighter. He and his troop repaired and replaced bench slats with Trex on two benches.

Chris Yang with LDS Troop 338 in Sacramento, will graduate this June from high school and has plans to major in physical therapy in college. He wants to serve a mission after he finishes his degree. He and his troop repaired and replaced bench slats with Trex on three benches.

To date, 18 benches have been refurbished in the Historic City Cemetery. About 12 more need attention, and other scouts will no doubt step up to the task when the weather improves.

The Old City Cemetery Committee and the City of Sacramento thank these scouts, their troops and the LDS community for their involvement with this worthy project.

When all the benches have been completed, Sharon will arrange for a get-together to honor the scouts and their leaders.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

In August 2009, Jonathan Appell, gravestone conservation expert, led a Gravestone Preservation Workshop at the Historic City Cemetery in Sacramento. Several OCCC members attended this workshop, as well as three city staff and others from surrounding historic cemeteries.

Appell focused on fairly simple repairs to stabilize stones that are loose on their bases and demonstrated how to affix such stones. From that workshop came draft guidelines for interested volunteers who want to help with easy repairs.

Volunteers will not be asked to handle extremely heavy stones or to put together fragile stones which have cracked or been broken. Sharon Patrician plans to lead a workshop this spring or early summer on how to stabilize small stones using putty, lead strips and epoxy.

Please let Sharon know if you are interested in this project. Her number is (916) 455-8166 or patricianone@att.net. When the details are in place, she will contact you for a workshop in Hamilton Square.

The Epitaph is going green!

Everyone is going green and the Old City Cemetery Committee should be no exception. Beginning in 2011, we want to reduce the number of newsletters we print and mail. We want to encourage you to sign up for the electronic version of *The Epitaph*. It's full color and delivered right to your e-mail inbox. A color printed version will be available to OC3 members at an additional cost of \$10 per membership. Watch *The Epitaph* for more information.

Historic Roses on the Move

BY ANITA CLEVENGER, ROSE GARDEN CHAIR



In 1883, the Perle d'Or rose was introduced in France and exported throughout the world. Popular in Victorian times, it's still a favorite today. Its clusters of

small, fragrant, apricot flowers are great to wear in a buttonhole or corsage, or to put in a vase. The healthy, vigorous and nearly ever-blooming plants are good garden shrubs, too.

Perle d'Or, which translates as Pearl of Gold, grows very well with little or no care. It's one of four roses designated as a Valley All-Star by UC Davis Arboretum. Rose books say that Perle d'Or will grow up to five feet tall and wide. The authors have never seen these roses in the Sacramento Valley. Our cemetery's plants easily grow to seven feet high and ten feet wide, thriving in the Sacramento conditions.



When the first Adopt-A-Pioneer plot was dedicated in 1988, Mayor Anne Rudin oversaw the planting of two Perle d'Ors in former Mayor C. H. Swift's plot. Shortly thereafter, volunteers planted seven more throughout the Historic Rose Garden.

Why so many? Perle d'Or is a survivor, frequently found in old homes and historic cemeteries. Sometimes, one clone of a variety is different from a clone collected in a different place. A collection like ours is a good place to preserve and study such variations. However, after years of observation, we've concluded that every Perle d'Or, no matter what its origin, is the same. It was time to remove some huge, duplicate roses to make way for other found, historic roses. We rose garden volunteers hated to see these rose destroyed, and wondered if a new home could be found.

Gregg Lowery, noted rosarian and proprietor of Sebastopol's Vintage Gardens, is a friend and supporter of our Historic Rose Garden. He was looking for some

mature Perle d'Ors for a garden he designed for Santa Rosa's McDonald Mansion, otherwise known as Mableton. This beautiful house, featured in Disney's movie "Pollyanna," was built in the late 1870s by Col. Mark Lindsay McDonald. Its notable visitors included Leland Stanford, Charles Crocker and Mark Twain. Mableton's new owners, John and Jennifer Webley, are extensively renovating its house and grounds. They want to put in mature plants that will make an immediate impact on the landscape. Our twenty-year-old roses are just what they need.

In exchange for a charitable donation to the Historic Rose Garden, four of our Perle d'Ors went to Mableton in January. Gregg will oversee their removal and replanting, which involved a lot of digging and cutting back of the roses to manageable size. Volunteers and city staff were on hand to supervise the proceedings and enjoy the show. The Historic City Cemetery is left with four Perle d'Or's, including the two in the Swift plot.

We hope to visit our roses in the McDonald Mansion's garden when it is opened for community events. Col. McDonald and his wife, Ralphine, rest a few

blocks away in the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery, which once had many old roses planted on its grounds. Santa Rosa's cemetery roses are being replanted from plants that Gregg's partner, Phillip Robinson, collected many years ago. Gregg tells us that this restoration effort was inspired by our own Historic Rose Garden.

We sincerely thank the Webleys and Gregg Lowery. It was difficult to say goodbye to these roses, but we are glad that they went to such a magnificent historic setting.



Angels and Cemetery Fences

BY SHARON PATRICIAN – VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



Carlile Fence - after repair

When that cypress fell, it took a chunk of a historic fence surrounding the Carlile plot.

The tree, over time, had grown into the fence, and its destruction was overwhelming. For months, the tree lay in the adjacent plot (narrowly missing old headstones) while the city pondered if liability insurance would cover repair. When it appeared insurance would not cover the damage, the tree was removed and the portion of damaged fence left until the city could decide what to do.

Enter an “angel” in the form of Rick Denardo, a guest with the Sheriff’s Work Release Program. Rick, who owns his own company doing sales, rentals and repairs of forklifts and other machinery, spotted the Carlile plot fence and knew he had the skills to restore it. He approached the sheriff and Curtis Clark, groundskeeper for the cemetery, and was told to go ahead, but there was no money for repairs of these fences.

Rick has been a mechanic for 24 years and understands metal. With his own equipment and donations of materials, he has repaired two fence surrounds and is working on the third (Rudolph plot) next to the cemetery office. He is meticulous in his attention to detail. Before he reconstructs the fence, he ensures old paint is carefully removed, iron pieces fabricated to replace missing fence parts, old bolts matched to look like the 150-year-old handmade bolts and the fence painted to match the original color.

About ten months ago, Rick and a select crew took on the repair and restoration of the Carlile fence. With his skill, the team has brought this fence back from its sad and dangerous condition to a place which defies it was

It started with a hurricane-force windstorm in Sacramento in January 2008. A storm blew through, downing many trees, including a 100-year-old cypress in the Historic City Cemetery.

ever damaged (see photo). After this success, Rick looked across the street and saw the Billings plot fence also in need of repair. Although only three iron urns remain of the original four, the plot looks rejuvenated and sets off the lovely marble statue in the middle of the plot. In addition, the sheriff’s brick crew has put back the black and white marble tiles on the floor of the monument, bringing this project to completion.

Rick had two key people on his crew: David Calvillo, a welder by trade, and Darran Moore, a loan processor. David’s time was up in December, and as a native Sacramentan, he is proud to be a part of something he feels makes him a “better person.” Darran, whose time was up in January, feels good about “giving something back to the community.” Together, these three persons have taken a low point in their lives and turned it into something inspiring and necessary to the ongoing preservation of the Historic City Cemetery.



David Calvillo, Rick Denardo & Darran Moore

Rick’s time was up in January, and without his leadership it is likely the fence repair team could be disbanded. Restoring these old fences takes experience, knowledge and a keen sense of their historical significance. Rick won’t be easily replaced, unless he decides to return as a volunteer. He describes his time on the sheriff’s crew

as a “happy” experience because he could apply his skill and interest to a worthwhile project.

There are many other fences in the Historic City Cemetery in need of repair. If Rick decides to become a volunteer, we can keep him busy for years. From the Old City Cemetery Committee, the volunteer group in support of the cemetery, we offer our heartfelt thanks for a job beautifully done. We also thank the City of Sacramento and the Sheriff’s Work Release Project for their support of Rick and his crew’s efforts to preserve the important artifacts of the cemetery.



Rudolph Fence

A Photo is Worth a Thousand Words...

BY LOIS DOVE - ARCHIVES CHAIR

Frank Hathaway, of Pennsylvania, came to the Archives with a photo of a plot in our cemetery taken by his father in 1916. Through the years, he was unable to understand why his father took the picture and why he kept it for so long. Frank's father also took a photo of the entrance to the cemetery.

In the archives, we could not recognize the headstone in the photograph, so I called Victor Esparsa at the front office because I knew he enjoyed 'the hunt.'

Victor had no idea where to find the headstone in the photograph, but he asked Frank to hop in his pickup and away they went.

An hour later they were back, as happy as two little kids. "We found it!"

The name on the stone had nothing to do with Frank's family. He still is not sure why his father snapped the photo so many years ago.

Upon returning to Pennsylvania, Frank sent the Archives an enlargement of the gate photo and the following story:

You may find the story behind this photo interesting. It was taken in July 1916 by my father, Frank A. Hathaway, when he and two friends toured a few of the western states, their main objective being to visit the Panama-California Exposition in San Francisco. All three men were 25 years old and lived in the small town of Carbondale, PA (near Scranton).

Judging from the other photos, they apparently spent two days in Sacramento and rented the Model T Ford—seen in this photo—to tour the city. (I recognized one of his buddies behind the steering wheel). As to why they stopped at the cemetery: my guess is that they just happened to be driving by and couldn't help but notice what I'm sure was the grandest cemetery they had ever seen.

I must admit, this is certainly an excellent photo of the old entrance. And some of the details are interesting; for example, the overhead electric trolley lines...and notice the hanging streetlight in the far upper right corner.

I am pleased that you will now have this old photo in your museum.

*Sincerely yours,
Frank R. Hathaway*



Cemetery Main Entrance at 10th and Broadway - Circa 1916

Coach Curtis Clark

BY ANITA CLEVENGER, ROSE GARDEN CHAIR

Visitors and volunteers in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery are familiar with Curtis Clark, who has been part of the cemetery's staff for seventeen years. After recent budgetary cuts, he is the only staff member assigned to the cemetery on a year-round basis.

What many people don't know is that Curtis has another, even more long-term role. For twenty-one years, he has coached the Pee Wee team in the Sacramento Raiders association of the Mountain Valley Youth Football league. Developing the thirty-five players, ages 10 to 12, is his true passion.

Curtis' involvement began when his son, also named Curtis, played for another local association, the Vikings. The elder Curtis observed prospective players being turned away. He asked, "Where are those kids going?" The reply galvanized him. "They are going right back to the streets." Curtis and seven other parents decided to form a Florin-area association, and canvassed car dealers and other vendors who gave them seed money. They bought equipment, painted the helmets, and started on a shoestring. They didn't have any money, but they were playing football.

There were originally four levels of teams, but there are now five, ranging in age from six to fifteen. There is also cheerleading. "Girls need help, too," Curtis observes.

Curtis says that many of his inner-city youth have no father in the house. Some of their mothers are on drugs. "Football keeps them going." He's found that the players are looking for structure. "The kids learn that they have to be accountable. It carries over to when they are grown," he says.

Curtis' teams have dominated the Mountain Valley League, which has 27 teams extending from the Bay Area to Sacramento. For seven years in a row, they've won the league championship. This year, they joined the American Youth Football league, and won the state championship.

As proud as Curtis is of his teams' successes, he's prouder yet of the kids who go on to play in high school, college and even the pros. He's had a couple of hundred kids on high school teams. Right now, ten



Curtis Clark

to fifteen are in college, and two are in the pros. He asks that the players come back and show the younger players what's possible.

Most important of all are the kids' grades. Players must meet academic standards. Curtis sees his players' school progress reports, and steps in to help kids with problems. "If you kick a kid off the team, he pretty much gives up," Curtis observes. "We work with them." Tutors come from Sacramento State University. Practices last

two hours. Players who need academic support spend one hour being tutored one-on-one, and one hour practicing with the team. This year, there were three players needing tutoring. At one point, half of the team was having problems.

Curtis' entire family is athletic, and they are involved. Curtis ran track and played football for Grant High School. His son coaches another Sacramento Raiders team. All of Curtis' grandchildren, four boys and four girls, are products of the program. His oldest grandson, Keith, is graduating from Sheldon High School and will be going to Oregon on a football scholarship. The girls are cheerleaders, with one exception. Ten-year-old Courtesy told him, "Grandpa, I want to play football." Even though there were no rules against it, Curtis resisted until her father came to plead her case. Playing as a wide receiver and safety, she has done just fine. "She's as good as the boys, as fast, and as physical," says her proud grandfather. "She understands what she's doing."

The city works to accommodate Curtis' schedule during football season. Curtis plans to retire from the cemetery one of these days, but will keep coaching "until I can't walk."

The team is in constant need of financial support, with barely enough money to play. They had to turn down the chance to play in the national championship in Florida. The state runner-up, a Vacaville team, went instead and won. "My phone was ringing off the hook," Curtis said, "with my players saying, 'Coach, it should have been us!'"

The Sacramento Raiders are a non-profit organization, and can accept donations of any amount. If you would like to support them, contact Curtis on his cell phone, (916) 628-4513.



**Old City Cemetery
Committee, Inc.**

1000 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95818
www.OldCityCemetery.com
916-448-0811

Don't Miss the OCCC Annual Members Meeting! Saturday, June 19, 2010 ~ 11 am

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 \$20 per individual, \$30 for families and \$50 for businesses. Join today!

Membership Application

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

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ___ Individual: \$20 | ___ Patron: \$200 - \$299 |
| ___ Family: \$30 (One household, One voting member) | ___ Sponsor: \$300 - \$599 |
| ___ Business: \$50 (One voting member per business) | ___ Silver Sponsor: \$600 - \$999 |
| ___ Donation: Amount & Designation: _____ | ___ Gold Sponsor: \$1,000+ |

Name (include all names if Family Membership) _____

Voting Member's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (day): _____ Phone (evening): _____

E-mail: _____

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