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OCCC Calendar

Saturday, June 3

"Soap Operas"

History Tour

10 am

Saturday, June 10

OCCC Annual

Members' Meeting

10:30 am

Saturday, June 17

What's Blooming in the

Cemetery Tour

10 am

Saturday, June 17

Victorian Garden Party

3 - 5 pm ~ \$25 per person

Reservations: 442-5662

Saturday, July 1

Sacramento and

California History Tour

10 am

Saturday, July 15

What's Blooming in the

Cemetery Tour

10 am

Saturday, August 5

Brewers and

Ball Players History Tour

10 am

Saturday, August 5

What's Blooming in the

Cemetery Tour

10 am

Info: 916-448-0811

BROKEN WINDOWS, BROKEN MONUMENTS

By Anita Clevenger

If you clean it up, it will stay clean. If you let it fall into disrepair, it will get worse.

That's the "broken windows" theory in a nutshell. Sociologists and law enforcement personnel have theorized for years that a neighborhood's tolerance for graffiti, trash and broken windows can create an environment that encourages crime. New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani initiated his war on crime by fixing these "broken windows": the homeless car "window washers" who pounced on cars stopped in traffic and demanded payment, the turnstile-jumpers who invaded the subway system, and the graffiti-covered subway cars themselves. While not everyone agrees that's what worked, New York's crime rate dropped, and its citizens felt safer.

In a more controlled experiment, cars were left in two different neighborhoods: one in the Bronx, and another in Palo Alto. The Bronx car had the hood propped open and no license plates. It began to be stripped in ten minutes, and was destroyed in twenty-four hours. The properly parked and locked car set unscathed for a week in Palo Alto. Then, the researcher broke out its front window. Within hours, the car's destruction was complete.

In the Sacramento Historic Cemetery, we've tested the theory, too. Our "broken windows" were vandalized headstones, collapsing brickwork and weedy, overgrown plots and paths. People didn't come to visit the cemetery, because it looked and felt abandoned. Vandalism fed on vandalism; neglect fed on neglect.

As a volunteer in the Historic Rose Garden, I have seen a renaissance in the cemetery since I started visiting it about a decade ago. On sunny days, particularly on Sunday afternoons, the cemetery has many visitors. Photographers and history buffs find much of interest. Families take walks, with babies in strollers and older children riding their bikes or running to explore. People often stop and thank me for my efforts, exclaiming over how much more colorful and tidy the cemetery is today than it was years ago. They remark on how good the entire cemetery looks, not just the roses.

It's taken many people's efforts to get to this point. The efforts of the Old City Cemetery Committee have been, and continue to be, the backbone. Adopt-a-Plot and other cemetery volunteers play a key part. The City of

Continued on page 2

BROKEN WINDOWS, BROKEN MONUMENTS, CONTINUED

Feel a
sense of
pride

Sacramento, while resource-constrained, has been part of the team. The Sheriff's work crew provides free labor, every weekend year-round.

In the rose garden, the process has reminded me of painting one room in your house. Suddenly, the adjoining rooms look shabby. The next thing you know, you're painting everything. We began by tackling the egregious five-foot-tall weeds, and then moved on to trying to get the beds weeded and mulched, one at a time. Then we realized how overgrown the paths were, and how slippery and unsafe they were in the winter rains. Now, they've been weeded and chipped. Roses had been pruned about once every three years, and often covered monuments. We focused on getting

the roses off the monuments, and progressed to a fairly ambitious regular pruning schedule. One thing has led to another.

The rose garden had its first annual winter pruning party in January. I suggested to one of the volunteers that maybe we would find it hard to attract volunteers in the future if things became neat and tidy. He disagreed with me, saying that it would be easier to find people to come in and work, and to feel a sense of pride in keeping things looking nice. To him, working in the cemetery no longer seemed like an overwhelming, thankless task.

People respond to the value that others place on things. That's what the proponents of the broken windows theory believe, and what we are seeing in the cemetery.



VICTORIAN
GARDEN PARTY

JUNE 17, 2006
3 - 5 PM

Sacramento Historic City Cemetery
\$25 per person (prepaid reservations)
Visit www.OldCityCemetery.com for Information
Call 442-5662 for Reservations

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Sharon Patrician, Volunteer Coordinator

In the next several issues of *The Epitaph* we are highlighting those Adopt A Plot volunteers who have taken on large areas of the Cemetery and beautified them to a significant extent. We asked the following questions:

- (1) Are you retired or still working?
- (2) Why did you choose the Adopt A Plot program as a volunteer effort?
- (3) Has the experience met or exceeded your expectations?
- (4) What do you like best about gardening at the Cemetery?

Our second group of volunteers are...

Claudia Richardson

Claudia maintains the entire Van Voorhees section, her family plot of Mull; and numerous plots in the Center Run.

Claudia is retired from the State of California.



According to Claudia, "After rediscovering my family plot in 1998 and subsequently 'cleaning it up,' I looked across the road and saw there were many other plots that could use some TLC."

Claudia says the experience has "exceeded my expectations."

Claudia feels that "...watching what I've planted grow and seeing how enhancing a plot with selected plants and flowers can make them beautiful and very pleasing to the eye of visitors to the cemetery" is what she likes best.

Amy & Scott Griffith

This sister/brother duo manages the area between Cypress and Laurel Avenues beginning at Magnolia Avenue.



Amy is an associate administrative analyst for the State of California. Scott is a telecommunications systems analyst for the State of California.

Amy chose the program because she wanted a place to honor her mother who had donated her body to science. She also wanted the opportunity to work with her brother.

Amy thought she would only take on a few plots. But as she discovered: "It's a little like washing a wall; you wash one spot and its clear how much the rest of the wall needs your attention. I love it." Scott describes the experience as "wonderful" and has liked meeting other volunteers.

According to Amy, the best part "is spending time with my brother;" Scott echoes that by saying "working with my sister."

Many other plots that could use some TLC

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Sharon Patrician, Volunteer Coordinator

Chris & Ken Pappenheim

Chris and Ken garden south of Amy and Scott Griffith's plots between Cypress and Laurel Avenues.



Ken retired from commercial electrical estimating, and Chris is a retired operating room nurse.

They tackled the adjoining plot

The Pappenheims began by caring for a family plot in Hamilton Square. However, they were looking for more of a challenge and started with the plot of John Corcoran of County Cork, Ireland. That plot looked so good, they tackled the adjoining plot and before they knew it they had taken on 25 plus plots.

They have always enjoyed gardening and have had lavish home gardens. Now, they have a very small yard, and working at the cemetery fills the need to "dig in the dirt."

They have "always felt the need to volunteer our skills for the betterment of society. In order to do that successfully, it must be doing things we enjoy." Working at the cemetery apparently meets their goals.



Have you found roses in your plot that seem old and were there when you came into the area?

We are looking for old roses that may be 'original.'

If you've found old roses, please contact Barbara Oliva at (916) 443-2146 or boliva@macnexus.org.



TELL US ABOUT IT!

Do you have an interesting story to tell about the cemetery?

We'd like to hear it!

We're currently accepting articles for the Epitaph.

Articles should be 500 words or less (longer articles should be broken into 'parts'), and involving a topic of interest to OCCC members and cemetery volunteers. History, gardening and volunteer experience articles are the most sought, however all articles will be considered for publication. The OCCC Board and Epitaph editor reserve the right to refuse any article for any reason.

If you would like to submit an article or would like more information, please e-mail Lynda at SayLynda@aol.com or leave a message at (916) 448-0811.

Open Garden

June 15, 2006



LUCINDA RAY

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.

To the best of her recollection she was born in 1811, born into slavery...the place of her birth unknown.

The life that she could recall began in Missouri on the cotton plantation of Verlinder Ray. At a young age, she had been taken into the "big house," where she was taught the skills of a seamstress and soon became the "favorite" of the mistress of the house.

It was in 1845 that Nelson, the plantation blacksmith and "favorite" slave of the Master, was given the privilege of being the carriage driver for the Rays. It was then that Nelson and Lucinda were introduced to each other. In 1846, they were given to each other in marriage. And for a short time they found happiness. Verlinder and his wife were kind and caring masters. But in the latter part of 1846 Verlinder Ray died. That death would bring change. Nelson was freed by a clause in his master's will, but not his beloved Lucinda. She remained a slave. Nelson was determined to free his wife ...to buy her out of bondage. To that end he sought employment in nearby Lexington, Missouri. Having been taught to both read and write by his master, and being a healthy specimen of a man, he was hired by a freighting firm owned by W.B. WADDELL, WILLIAM RUSSELL, and ALEXANDER MAJORS. And with them he soon found favor. For a while he freighted close to home, which allowed him to stay close to his Lucinda, who in 1847 gave birth to their first child, a son, whom she named FRANCIS MARION RAY. Nelson, as was the custom of freed slaves with no name of their own, took his master's name.

But it wasn't long before her Nelson was given the long hauls, freighting to California, leaving his Lucinda behind.

That death
would
bring
change

While he was gone, the Ray Plantation fell on hard times. Although she had been promised freedom for herself and her son, it was not to be.

And when the plantation and its chattels were placed on the auction block to satisfy creditors - so were Lucinda and her Francis Marion.

Fearing this day would sometime come; she tried to explain the ways of slaves and slave life to her young son. She told him that he should never forget who he was, and who his father was, and who his mother was. "NEVER FORGET WHO YOU ARE, BOY!" she would tell him. "I GAVE YOU BIRTH. YOUR FATHER GAVE YOU HIS NAME. DON'T YOU EVER FORGET YOUR NAME. No matter how many Masters you have or what they choose to call you ...REMEMBER YOUR NAME." And over and over she would school her small, young son. "WHAT IS YOUR NAME, BOY!" To which the lad would answer, "FRANCIS MARION RAY, MAMA."

Her worst fears came to pass in 1852. They were placed on the block together, but the buyer interested in Lucinda had no use for the child. Francis was pulled from his mother's side. He reached out for her, tears filling his eyes. "DON'T YOU CRY." Her words were soft but firm. "YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU. DON'T YOU EVER FORGET. DO YOU HEAR ME?" With his fingers wiping away his tears, he nodded. Francis Marion Ray was later sold as a house boy to a cotton farmer from Texas. Lucinda was fortunate enough to have been sold to a plantation down county from the old Verlinder Ray farm, where Nelson would find her upon his return from California. Two years and two children later, Nelson Ray freed his family, all but Francis Marion, whose whereabouts was unknown. Not satisfied with having bought Lucinda's freedom, he filed a WRIT OF EMANCIPATION with the courts in Missouri so that she could be legally FREE! He then brought his family on to California and a new beginning.

But for Lucinda always there he haunting memory of...of FRANCIS MARION.

LUCINDA RAY, CONTINUED

The end of the Civil War had freed the young Francis Ray, who was now 18, married, and with a family. He was share cropping on the plantation on which he had been enslaved, near BLUFTON, Texas. One day a friend from his slave days was passing through BLUFTON on way from California and stopped to see Francis. He told the young man of having been in Sacramento and seeing a man who bore a striking resemblance to Francis. If that wasn't enough, the old man's name was RAY.

The young man became excited. Could this really be his father...could his mother still be alive? He wanted desperately to find his mother. Risking everything, young Ray packed his family up in a wagon and drove north to Omaha, where with the last of their savings he booked their passage to Sacramento.

Arriving here virtually penniless, Francis and his little family were taken in by a Black laborer and his wife. When asked if they could help him find the Ray family, the old man agreed. For several days the search went on with no results. Then one evening the old man returned most excited. He took young Francis to a small bungalow less than four blocks away. There on the porch an old man stood, his hair all gray, his face wrinkled. He tried hard to see his father's face there beneath the wrinkles, but he couldn't. They walked inside and down the dark hallway to the parlor. There, across the room, sitting in a rocking chair was an old woman, her hair

LOOK UP & LEFT!

A mirror has been installed on your left side of the 10th Street gate leaving the cemetery. The mirror is to alert you about pedestrians or bicyclists coming from your right. There is adequate space for you to see who is entering from the left. Please become conscious of this feature – it could save a life!!

almost silver. Could this be his mother? This was an old woman with glasses. Slowly he crossed the room to where she sat. The eyes met, each one searching for that something they could remember.

The old woman rose and stood looking at the young man who now thought he had made a terrible mistake.

“WHAT IS YOUR NAME, BOY”, the old woman asked, her voice shaking.

“FRANCIS MARION RAY, MAMA,” was the reply. And with that they tearfully embraced. Once again, the child that had been taken from her was in her arms. FRANCIS MARION RAY was home.

And that's our story of his mother ...LUCINDA.

Could this
be his
mother?

Old City
Cemetery
Committee Inc.

*Come to
the Meeting!*

Annual OCCC Members Meeting

SATURDAY
JUNE 10, 2006
10:30 AM

at the
SACRAMENTO HISTORIC CITY CEMETERY

- ◆ Board Elections
- ◆ Future Plans
- ◆ Year in Review
- ◆ Refreshments

Open to All!

For information call Connie 442-5662



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

Members' Meeting: June 10, 2006 10:30 am at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery

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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