

MAY 2014

VOLUME IV, ISSUE II

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## Memorial Day Observance



Originally called Decoration Day, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. It will be observed on Saturday, May 24, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in the Historic City Cemetery.

There are many stories as to the actual origins of the day with many communities laying claim to being the first. There is also evidence that organizations of women decorated graves of Confederate veterans before the end of the Civil War. Regardless of who was first, this commemoration grew out of the tragedy of the American Civil War and was first proclaimed officially on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic in his General Order No. 11 and was first observed on May 30, 1868 when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. In 1873 New York became the first state to officially recognize the holiday and by 1890 it was recognized by all northern states.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Do You Feel Lucky?

As luck would have it, the Old City Cemetery is conducting a special tour, "The Unlucky 13". For one night in June on (you guessed it!) Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, you can join in to hear 13 stories about bad luck and poor souls being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Superstitious? We'll dare you to walk under a ladder or step on a crack (especially if your mother is

with you). Come early or stay after your tour to win prizes, if you're lucky, in the "Test Your Luck" area. This promises to be a fun-filled event for the whole family for only \$13 per person. Good luck—it's also a full moon!

Tours start at 6:45 pm, 7:30 pm and 8:15 pm.

*(Continued on page 2)*





## President's Message—City Changes

Retirements, financial constraints, and an election year all spell changes that affect the Cemetery.

Until this year, city oversight of the Cemetery was handled by the Convention, Culture and Leisure Department. That Department is being reorganized into the Convention and Cultural Affairs Department, with the Parks Department taking responsibility for several activities; golf courses, the marina and the City Cemetery.

This means the Parks Department will be responsible for maintenance of the City Cemetery, while Convention and Cultural Affairs will be responsible for services within the Cemetery—burials, programming, and activities.

What does this mean for members of OCCC and Cemetery volunteers?

While details have yet to be finalized, in general this means we will work with Parks Department when dealing with irrigation, security and maintenance issues. For events, visitor assistance, tours, headstone repair, signage and historically-related activities, we will work with the Convention and Cultural Affairs Department.

It is planned the transition be complete by the end of this fiscal year (June 30) when budgeting responsibility for Cemetery maintenance, staffing and security will transfer to the Parks Department. At this point, it is a work in progress and accompanied by other changes.

It has become necessary to repair the Chapel building; ceiling, heavy light fixtures, a leaking roof and human occupation have weakened the building. Volunteers have worked hard to cull materials, digitize information and move computers, phones, and themselves to the Visitors Center. Eventually the Chapel will become a museum with public access.

Meantime, Archives volunteers will continue their activities from the Visitors Center. I commend Jeanne Baldwin and her team of volunteers for their dedication, hard work and patience; it has not been easy, but they got it done.

Thank you.

*Questions, concerns, comments,  
Judy Eitzen, President  
Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc.*



## Friday 13th Event, con't.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Tickets for this event are \$13 per person and are available through Brown Paper Tickets.

Price includes the tour, entertainment, activities, and light refreshments. Proceeds benefit the Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc.

For more information, call 916-448-0811.

[www.brownpapertickets.comevent/640321](http://www.brownpapertickets.comevent/640321)



## Deadheading At Dusk

Come join us in the beautiful Old City Cemetery's Historic Rose Garden for an early evening hands-on sessions. We will remove spent blooms from the many rosebushes and tidy the garden which encourages repeat blooming of the roses in our treasured Historic Rose Garden.

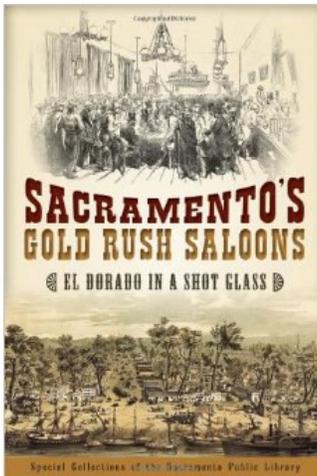
Deadheading At Dusk is scheduled for the first Monday of the month (June 2, July 7, August 4 & September 1) Tools and train-



ing will be provided and light refreshments will be served.

Workshops are free, however, donations are appreciated and go towards the restoration and preservation of the roses and cemetery artifacts.

Free parking is available in the lot at 10th & Broadway, across the street from the 10th Street entrance. For more information, call 916-448-0811 or 916-264-7839.



### New Local Publication

*Compiled by the staff of the Sacramento Public Library and Librarian James Scott is a new book about Sacramento's historic saloons. As described on Amazon:*

As early as 1839, Sacramento, California, was home to one of the most enduring symbols of the American West: the saloon. From the portability of the Stinking Tent to the Gold Rush favorite El Dorado Gambling Saloon to the venerable Sutter's Fort, Sacramento saloons offered not simply a nip of whiskey and a round of Monte but also operated as polling place, museum, political hothouse, vigilante court and site of some of the nineteenth century's worst violence. From librarian James Scott and the Special Collections of the Sacramento Public Library comes a fascinating history of Sacramento saloons featuring the advent of all types of gaming, the rise of local alcohol production and the color and guile of some of the region's most compelling personalities.

## Annual Members Meeting

Please join us Saturday, May 31, 2014 for the Old City Cemetery Committee Annual Members Meeting held near the Volunteer Fireman's Area at 11:30 a.m. At the meeting we will talk of accomplishments during the past year and you will have an opportunity to share your thoughts, ideas and concerns for the Cemetery.

We'll talk about plans for the upcoming fiscal year and all members are urged to participate; we need your ideas and suggestions to continue our successful support of the Cemetery. Nominations for Board vacancies are open; please send names to Judy Eitzen ([verlaine@citlink.net](mailto:verlaine@citlink.net) or 916.685.6634) if you or someone you know is interested.

Light refreshments will be served; please RSVP to Connie Bettencourt ([doxiechar@att.net](mailto:doxiechar@att.net). or 916.442.5662.)

# Memorial Day, con't.

*(Continued from page 1)*

The idea of wearing red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those serving the nation during war was inspired by the poem, "In Flanders Field" by Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae which mentioned the poppies growing in a World War I battlefield. Proceeds of poppy sales were donated to benefit war orphaned children and widowed women.

On Friday, May 23, local Boy Scouts will place American flags on each veteran's grave in the His-



toric City Cemetery and on Saturday morning at 11 a.m. a brief ceremony will be held. This placing of flags by Boy Scouts is duplicated at Arlington National Cemetery and many other cemeteries throughout the nation.

Many treat this weekend as the beginning of summer travel time and a three-day weekend away from work, yet it is a time for reflection and to honor those who sacrificed their lives for all of us.



## Curtain UP! Theatre Tour

**The Old City Cemetery  
Committee presents a tour  
focusing on Sacramento's rich  
theatrical history.**

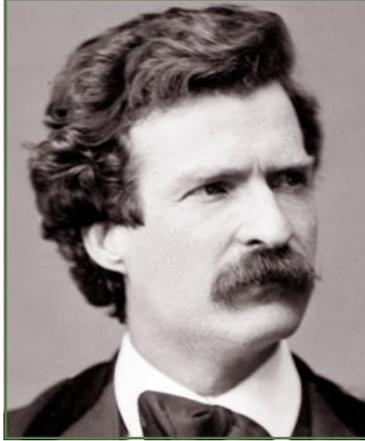
**June 7, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.**

From 1849 to the 1920's, Sacramento was California's "Theatre Town". It was second to none in California. Let us entertain you as we share the comedic, dramatic and tragic stories of cemetery residents who were part of Sacramento's theatre scene.

The cemetery is located at 1000 Broadway, Sacramento. Free parking is available in the lot at 10th & Broadway, across the street from the 10th Street entrance. Tours are free; however, donations are appreciated and benefit cemetery preservation. For more information, call 916-448-0811

# Mark Twain & Sacramento & Food & Drink

Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, traveled west and worked for the **Virginia City Territorial Enterprise** and later the **Sacramento Daily Union**. Though not one of our “residents”, it is interesting to review his writings for descriptions and comments about early days in Sacramento.



One of Twain’s chief joys in life was food and drink. In his day, food was served fresh and consisted of what was available locally as refrigeration was non-existent. Twain traveled extensively and wrote about food, especially when his favorites were not available.

He wrote of his first visit to Sacramento in February 1866 in the **Virginia City Territorial Enterprise**:

I arrived in the City of Saloons this morning at 3 o'clock, in company with several other disreputable characters, on board the good steamer *Antelope*, Captain Poole, commander.

I know I am departing from usage in calling Sacramento the City of Saloons instead of the City of the Plains, but I have my justification -- I have not found any plains, here, yet, but I have been in most of the saloons, and there are a good many of them. You can shut your eyes and march into the first door you come to and call for a drink, and the chances are that you will get it. And in a good many instances, after you have assuaged your thirst, you can lay down a twenty and remark that you "copper the ace," and you will find that facilities for coppering the ace are right there in the back room

One of those saloons may have been **Big Annie Fanny’s** with her river boat, the *Fanny Ann*

docked not far from the saloon which was on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The *Fanny Ann* was just back from the Civil War where it had been used to transport war supplies to the Third Battle of Chattanooga for the Union.

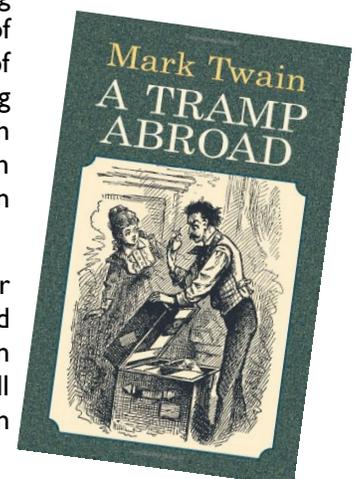
Twain might have looked in at the **River City Saloon**, also on 2<sup>nd</sup> street, though in Twain’s day it was called **French’s Saloon** and owned by newspaperman, Parker French. Perhaps he visited the **Phoenix Saloon**, 107 K Street, with proprietor Henry K. McLennan (buried in the cemetery).

Today, you can find saloons and eateries in Old Sacramento by walking along the wooden sidewalks; you may even find Twain’s favorite food at the **Firehouse** or one of the other Old Sacramento eateries.

Near the end of a European visit, having found little food to his liking, Twain rhapsodized about one of his favorite dishes:

“...a mighty porterhouse steak an inch and a half thick, hot and sputtering from the grid-dle; dusted with fragrant pepper; enriched with little melting bits of butter of the most unimpeachable freshness and genuineness; the precious juices of the meat trickling out and joining the gravy, archipelagoed with mushrooms; a township or two of tender, yellowish fat gracing an outlying district of this ample country of beefsteak; the long white bone which divides the sirloin from the tenderloin still in its place.”

Though today’s butter may be pasteurized and the mushrooms grown indoors, you can still find a good steak in “Saloon Town”.



## 2014 Open Garden

by Judy Eitzen

The 2014 Open Garden was held on April 12, a week earlier than usual. This proved beneficial as all three gardens were beautiful and the weather was just about perfect.

Around 300 visited the Cemetery that day. They purchased roses, toured the gardens and learned about the Cemetery and its gardens.

Anita Clevenger and Fred Boutin conducted well attended tours of the Historic Rose Garden while Sharon Patrician and Cassandra Musto showed visitors through Hamilton Square and the California Native Plant gardens. A history tour took history-minded visitors and the electric cart was used for those with limited mobility.

This annual event began as the primary event and fundraiser for the Historic Rose Garden, and has bloomed (pardon the pun) into a Cemetery-wide event.

Funds generated at Open Garden will be used to maintain the gardens (tools, irrigation, etc.), for signage and headstone and brick repairs.

A large cadre of volunteers worked hard to put the event together and were gratified when all roses were sold.

Cemetery gardens, especially the Historic Rose Garden, have received recognition from outside the community and have become a draw for visitors from afar as well as locally. We were gratified to have visitors from around California (as far as San Diego) and the US (New York) and South America (Argentina).

The Cemetery has never looked so good and this is due to the year-round efforts of hard working volunteers. Please take time to visit the Cemetery in all seasons; there is always something growing to see.



# Historic Cemeteries

by Judy Eitzen

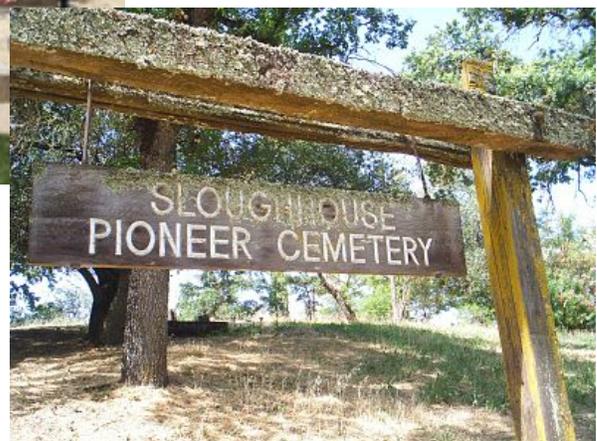
Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery is not the only historic cemetery in the area; in fact it is not the earliest, though it has become the most well-known. The ordinance establishing the original donation of land by Sutter and Schoolcraft in 1850 stated as follows:

*"Be it ordained by the president and council of Sacramento City, that from and after the passage of this ordinance, the (10-acre) square donated to the city by John A. Sutter and H.A. Schoolcraft, south of Y Street (now Broadway), between 9th and 11th streets, shall be the public grave yard (sic), where the bodies of deceased persons shall be buried."*

Over the years, things changed; the property grew to nearly 60 acres, then some was sold to the Masons and to the Odd Fellows for their cemeteries and some became residential property. The Historic City Cemetery now occupies about 30 acres.

A number of area cemeteries have come and gone, New Helvetia, Potter's Field, St. Rose's Cemetery and the original Jewish Cemetery located on 31<sup>st</sup> Street. In each case, bodies were reinterred (when found) into other cemeteries in the community. California state law defines a cemetery as a place where more than six individuals are buried and Sacramento County has many private, family and tiny cemeteries. A number of these (including the Historic City Cemetery) were founded during times of epidemics, especially the cholera epidemic of 1850-51.

Other cemeteries have interesting stories, too. For example, the first known burial in the Jewish Cemetery was a Mr. Harris Goldstein, a merchant of Marysville who fell overboard from the steamboat *Governor Dana* on May 30, 1850 as he attempted to get a bucket of water from the Feather River. As reported in the *Placer Times* (June 3,



1850), "...He swam well at first, and all aboard, including his son, about 14 years of age, had perfect confidence that he would reach the shore. He was observed to turn on his back, as if to rest himself, and then sank to rise no more. He had some \$1,600 in (gold) dust on his person...the agony of his son (Jacob) drew forth many a manly tear of sympathy and the truest commiseration." Although it is unknown where Goldstein was originally buried, his remains were reinterred in the Jewish cemetery on J Street and later moved to the Home of Peace.

In Fair Oaks, as reported in *The Tattler*, October 1902, "Now that we have two M.D.'s, the people have concluded that we need a cemetery. On October 21, 1902 an organization was affected and a Board of Directors was elected." (*Not sure about their reasoning...je*)

Take time to visit other historical burying sites in the area. Perhaps Elk Grove Cemetery originally established (1874) as a Masonic Cemetery or the Hicksville Cemetery in Galt which includes burials of Miwok Native Americans. They all have stories to find.



**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](http://www.oldcitycemetery.com)

## Upcoming Saturday Tours

**June 7—Curtain Up!** - From 1849 to the 1920's, Sacramento was California's "Theatre Town". It was second to none in California. Let us entertain you as we share the comedic, dramatic and tragic stories of cemetery residents who were part of Sacramento's theatre scene.

**July 5—Mother India** -India sent many gifts to the West including chess, the decimal system, tea and spices. But the greatest gift was her people. Join us on this tour to meet her descendants and find out how and why they ended up in Sacramento.

**July 12—Spiritualism and Suffrage** - Sure, spiritualists spoke with the dead at séances, but they were also early proponents of equal rights for women and people of color. Find out who was a fake medium, who ran for congress, and who hooked up with Aleister Crowley!

**August 2—Cemetery Families - Loving or Lethal** - Family – Do you really have to love 'em? Join us in exploring the dynamics of some families from yesteryear and see how they answered that question.

**August 16—Bad Poetry and Purple Prose** - Other than drinking and brawling, pioneers enjoyed nothing better than sappy love poetry. They both loved and dreadfully abused the English language, and we'll visit these perpetrators of sentimental doggerel and overblown purple prose to read from their best forgotten "classics."

**Saturday Tours begin near the Cemetery Gates at 10th and Broadway at 10 a.m.  
Free parking is available across the street.**