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Historic City Cemetery Tours

Volunteer docents well versed in Sacramento's colorful past, enjoy sharing their expertise with the public. Saturday History Tours are conducted at 10 a.m. from the main gate and are free to the public.

- June 6—Odder Than The Odd Fellows
- June 27—Love Is A Many Splintered Thing
- July 11—Brewers and Bakers
- August 1—As The Cemetery Turns
- September 5—A Dozen New Ways To Die
- September 12—Tragic, Triumphant and True Tales of Education
- September 26—Bosses of the Boneyard
- October 3—Temperance & Prohibition
- November 7—Freedom Calling

Garden volunteers will offer two Saturday morning tours as well:

- October 17—What's Blooming in the Cemetery
- November 21—Fall Color In The Rose Garden

All are welcome to these free events, though donations to support our volunteer efforts are appreciated.

Free parking is available across the street.



Memorial Day Observance

The Historic City Cemetery annual Memorial Day observance will be conducted on Saturday, May 23 at 11 o'clock in the Veteran's Area (near the Chapel).



President's Message *Connie Bettencourt*

It's spring again and volunteers are busy with projects put aside during winter—gardening, repairing headstones, installing plot markers.

Since becoming recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, Cemetery volunteers, OCCC members and City staff have been working hard to learn our responsibilities in caring for this special place. We have met with City staff—both Parks Department and the City Historian—to continue to clarify roles in this evolving organization.

Because we are one organization—city staff, volunteers and members. One organization in the sense that we're all working toward the same goal; to preserve and protect this historic site while providing access and information to the public.

Volunteers have made this the most beautiful spring in the Cemetery ever. A large number of monuments were repaired over the last year. Despite the drought—or perhaps because of it—volunteers have paid great attention to plants with the result that Hamilton Square, the Native Plant and Rose Gardens are at their best.

I encourage volunteers to take time to visit all parts of the cemetery and take note of its beauty and of the increasing number of visitors come to admire all our hard work.

My thanks for your efforts.

*Connie Bettencourt, President
Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc.
info@oldcitycemetery.com*

Calling All Members!



Old City Cemetery Committee Membership Meeting

Meet at the Fireman's Plot on Saturday, June 20 at 11:30 a.m.

Learn about OCCC, the current year's accomplishments and plans for next year. Meet your fellow members.

We will fill positions on the OCCC Board—if you wish to serve as a Director (or know of someone who would) please notify Connie Bettencourt. (448-0811 or info@OldCityCemetery.com)
A light lunch will be served.

Go West, Young Man

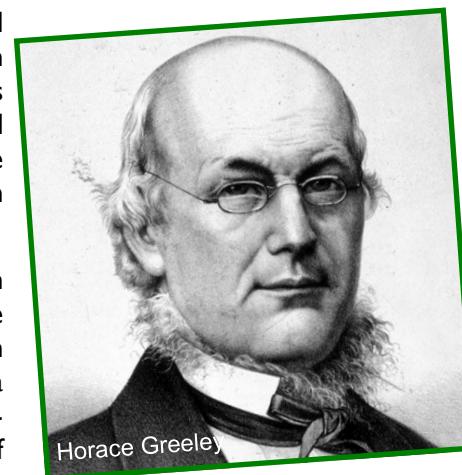
Horace Greeley, editor of the famed **New York Tribune**, was known for his support of the common man. Apprenticed to a printer at age 15, he had worked his way out of poverty through hard work and a voracious appetite for reading. In 1831 he began work in New York City, writing and editing for several newspapers before founding his own in 1841. He opposed monopolies and the disparity between rich and poor (sound familiar?) and was active in Whig politics, supporting William Henry Harrison in 1840.

James McClatchy, an orphaned Irish immigrant joined the staff of the **Tribune** and was working there in 1848 when word of the California gold strike set in motion what is arguably the single greatest influx of immigrants to California. This was big news and, because Greeley felt that cities were no place for aspiring young men, he continued to promote westward expansion.

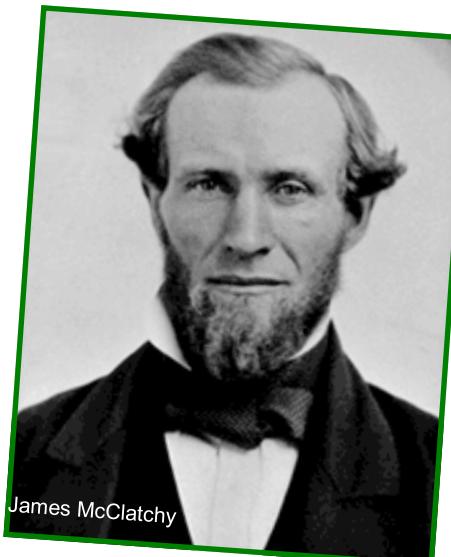
He is often credited with the phrase, “Go west, young man and grow up with the country.”

In 1851, the quote appeared in an editorial in the **Terra Haute Express** as coming from Greeley. Josiah Grinnell (congressman from Iowa, born in Vermont) claimed Greeley had advised him to head west in the 1830's. Greeley used it again in an 1865 editorial, encouraging Civil War Veterans to take advantage of the Homestead Act and colonize public lands:

Washington is not a place to live in. The rents are high, the food is bad, the dust is disgusting and the morals are deplorable. Go West, young man, go West and grow up with the country.



Horace Greeley



James McClatchy

by Judy Eitzen

Regardless of the origins of the phrase, Greeley employed McClatchy to head west and send dispatches to New York. McClatchy did travel west in an arduous journey that included surviving a near shipwreck off the coast of Baja. He

and 47 others left the near-foundering ship and walked some 300 miles, nearly starving before arriving in San Diego. Recovering briefly, they headed for the gold fields. As so many found, McClatchy learned prospecting for gold was not the easiest way to get rich – or even eke out a living.

He returned to Sacramento and began writing for newspapers that sprang up as the population increased. Almost immediately he got in trouble, writing an editorial in support of squatters living in disputed ownership of what had been Sutter's Mexican Land Grant. He was briefly jailed as one whose writing would incite a riot. After his arrest, there was a riot in front of the jail during which three were shot dead (including the Sheriff) and several wounded (including Mayor Hardin Bigelow). McClatchy was later freed without trial.

He began work for the Sacramento Bee in 1857. In the first week of publication, McClatchy oversaw articles exposing corruption which resulted in impeachment of the State Treasurer, Henry Bates. During his tenure as editor in chief, McClatchy made The Bee a bastion of progressive reforms, supporting the people's interest against corporations and corrupt politicians.

New Plot Markers

by Judy Eitzen

In cooperation with City staff, volunteers have embarked on a pilot project, placing plot markers in the cemetery to make it easier for visitors and volunteers to locate individual plots. Markers are being placed in Hamilton Square and the Historic Rose Garden. Funding was obtained from the Perennial Plant Club for Hamilton Square and monies earned by Rose sales during Open Garden events funded those in the Rose Garden.

Sharon Patrician and Anita Clevenger worked in tandem with City staff to design and order markers suitable for our historic site. The markers are made of aluminum and set in concrete. The first markers have been received and were installed in the Rose Garden in late April. They are placed in the southeast corner of each plot and oriented to the north. Cemented-over plots have markers placed outside the southeast corner in the walkway or sidewalk.

In most plots, markers will show Plot Book identification numbers; in the Broadway Bed of the Rose Garden, they will include both the Plot Book location and the Rose Garden designation.*

Sheriff's work crew members with experience in cement work are digging holes, pouring cement and placing markers. Setting the markers in cement should keep them from being vandalized or stolen while providing identification to each plot. The design is simple and unobtrusive. If this trial project proves successful, a plan will be drawn up to obtain funding, materials and construction of plot markers throughout the Cemetery.

Many thanks to Sharon Patrician and Anita Clevenger and to Marcia Eymann (City Historian) for developing and overseeing this project with help from City staff and the Sheriff's Work Crew.

* Plot numbers in this area are confused as property was added & deleted from the cemetery over the years.



Photos Top to Bottom:

- Smoothing the cement
- Placing the marker
- Tapping in the marker
- Finished plot marker

Kathryn Mackenzie

Kathryn Mackenzie began volunteering in the Historic Rose Garden in 2006, and first propagated roses for our 2008 Open Garden rose sale. Since that time, she has contributed over 400 roses to the annual Open Garden and for the 2012 Rose Preservation Symposium conducted by Historic Rose Garden volunteers. These roses have sold for \$12-20 or more, so we estimate she has raised well over \$4000 for us over the years.

Kathryn has actively sought rare “found” heritage roses in other sites, including foothill cemeteries and garden collections, and propagated them for the Rose Garden to offer for sale or to other heritage rose gardens. She is a devoted proponent of our mission to preserve these endangered roses and to educate the public about them, conducting propagation classes at the cemetery for the past five years. Nearly one hundred people have attended these classes, and several of them have begun propagating roses for the cemetery sales.



by Anita Clevenger

Kathryn has helped publicize and organize the rose sales, and her organizational abilities have greatly contributed to their success. As an active member of the local chapter of the American Rose Society, she publicizes Rose Garden activities to chapters throughout California.

Kathryn also represents the Cemetery in activities elsewhere. She conducted a propagation class for the San Joes Heritage Rose Garden and for the Sacramento Rose Society. She worked tirelessly as a key member of the team putting on the highly successful 2012 symposium, which saw over 100 people in attendance and netted over \$3000.

Kathryn is an active volunteer in the Rose Garden and participates in Cemetery events. The Historic City Cemetery and the Historic Rose Garden have benefited greatly by Kathryn’s contributions. These contributions will be noted by adding her name to the Stone of Honor.



Kathryn (L-R)

- Conducting propagation class
- Sitting down to prune
- Pruning a favorite rose
- In costume for an event

California Drought—When?

by Judy Eitzen

The drought is terrible. In this fertile valley there will not be over a quarter crop, and during the past four days' ride we have seen dead cattle by the hundreds...The hills are terribly dry, totally bare of forage, parched and brown...Dust fills the air...as we drink our cups of tea we find a deposit of fine sand on the bottom. Dirt, dirt, dirt – eyes full, face dirty, whole person feeling dirty and gritty.

Thus wrote William H. Brewer of the California Geological Survey in late spring 1864 as he traveled from San Jose to the San Joaquin Valley. At that time, California had been in the grip of a two-year, soon to be three-year drought. This occurred after the great deluges of 1861-62 and seems to be the norm for California. Before 1861, farmers and ranchers had prayed for rain as the prior two decades had been pretty dry. Their prayers were answered with a vengeance. Sixty-six inches of rain fell in Los Angeles that year - four times the usual amount. The Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys were entirely under water – some three and a half million acres.

Length of time and amount of rainfall are not the only ways to measure the severity of a drought. Historical impact makes the Great Drought of 1862-1865 the most significant in California's history. In fact, it is considered the worst disaster in California prior to the 1906 earthquake in terms of financial loss.

Most of the loss was to cattle and range crops. While some herds were moved to watered grazing outside the state, many could not survive the trek to new grazing. More than half the cattle in California died during this drought, ruining many ranchers. Properties changed hands for pennies on the dollar. One significant result was the end of California's pastoral economy and the beginning of its rise as an economic power.

Much has been learned about California's ecosystem in the last 150+ years, but we are still at the mercy of Mother Nature and are coming to grips with our own drought years. In the Cemetery, we encourage volunteers to focus water on 'permanent' plants—trees and shrubs—and give less water to grass and ephemeral plants. Volunteers are also encouraged to grow water-efficient plants.



Above—Flooded areas 1861-2
Middle—California grasslands 1864
Bottom—drought in cornfield



2015 Open Gardens—Beautiful!

Despite the drought—or perhaps because of it—Cemetery gardens are beautiful this spring. Volunteers are taking care with water, focusing on shrubs, trees and plants that need less water. Warmer than usual February and March brought and early spring bloom, and the entire Cemetery was on display on April 18 for our annual Open Gardens.

All three garden areas had docents on hand to share information, conduct tours and sell plants. While the ceanothus had finished blooming, the meadow in the Native Plant Demonstration Garden was in full bloom. In Hamilton Square, roses and South African protea caught the eye. The

Rose Garden had a large number of propagated roses for sale this year, sales of which earns funding for the garden and ensures these plants will be grown in gardens throughout the state.

More than 300 visitors came to the Cemetery that day...one from Houston, Texas who said that visiting the Cemetery for Open Garden was on her 'bucket list' and another from Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

It was a little hectic and volunteers were kept busy, but the weather was perfect and the day a big success. Some visitors arrived more than an hour early for the rose sales and many stayed well into the afternoon.



Old City Cemetery Committee Inc.

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Committee, Inc.**

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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.

In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.
Mark Twain



Spring is nature's way of saying,
"Let's party!"
Robin Williams

I am going to try to pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers, and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes and listen.
Anne Lamott