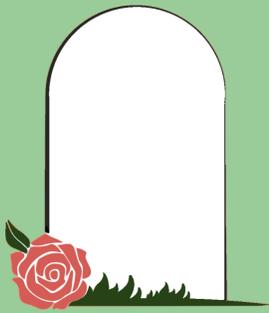


The



Epitaph

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE I
JANUARY 2019

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2019 Tours in the Historic City Cemetery

2019 marks the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, an important event in the history of Sacramento. A number of events throughout April, May and June will be held at the California State Railroad Museum and other locations throughout Sacramento commemorating this event.

It will not be ignored at the Historic City Cemetery as a number of those responsible for the railroad are among our permanent 'residents'. Consequently, our May 4 history tour will focus on the Railroad.

History tours and events begin this year with Museum Day on February 2 and will include:

- ◆ February 23—African-American History
- ◆ March 2—Animal Tales
- ◆ April 6—Sacramento History for Kids (4th grade and above)
- ◆ May 4—Sacramento—The Soul of the Railroad
- ◆ May 18—Stonecutters—Sacramento's First Artists
- ◆ June 1—Take Me Out to the Ball Game
- ◆ July 13—Extra! Extra! Read All About It!
- ◆ August 3—Mausoleums
- ◆ September 7—A Dozen Ways To Die
- ◆ September 14—Loves Found, Life Lost
- ◆ October 5—Cream of the Crypt
- ◆ November 2—Masons
- ◆ November 10—Veterans of World War II (Sunday tour)

President's Message



Happy New Year!

We had a busy and prosperous 2018 and this year's plans include a continuation of activities that should bring at least as many visitors to the cemetery as 2018, beginning with Museum Day—to be celebrated the first Saturday in February.

As you have seen, we have a new look for the newsletter for our new year. A new website was recently introduced and the newsletter reflects our new logo on the OCCC website. A new, recurring column appears in this issue and is devoted to learning more about our permanent 'residents'. Check it out.

Membership renewal letters will be sent soon and I hope you will all renew your support of the OCCC and encourage your family and friends to do so as well.

Volunteers and members of the OCCC Board made progress in 2018 toward defining and clarifying roles for staff and volunteers and we anticipate continuing the process in 2019.

We are especially appreciative of the cadre of some ninety Lantern Tour volunteers, who conducted four evenings of great stories topped by a wonderful stage show that received rave reviews from attendees. Funds raised at this and other events through the year will be used to repair and stabilize headstones and monuments throughout the cemetery. Thanks to all our volunteers for a great job.

We are looking forward to a successful and eventful 2019.

Comments, questions, concerns to
Judy Eitzen, President OCCC
verlaine@citlink.net

Membership Application

Become a Member of the Old City Cemetery Committee!

The Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation, whose purpose is to maintain and preserve the beauty and integrity of the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery.

Annual Dues (January – December)

_____ Individual: \$30

_____ Family: \$40

_____ Business: \$50

_____ Patron: \$200 - \$299

_____ Sponsor: \$300 - \$599

_____ Silver Sponsor: \$600- \$999

_____ Gold Sponsor: \$1000+

_____ Donation: Amount & Designation _____

Name: _____

Voting Member: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

They Had It Coming

Anita Clevenger, Lantern Tour Coordinator

The 2018 Lantern Tours last October had a consistent theme. From the spirits who greeted guests at the front gate or along the way, to the actors telling true stories about the lives (and deaths) of cemetery residents, to the stage show, the consensus was clear: they had it coming. Not all of the stories told of untimely deaths, but most did. After all, in historic Sacramento, guns were at the ready, liquor flowed freely, passions ran high and tempers were short. (Reminiscent of 2018, isn't it?)



The one positive story was the tale of Luella Buckminster Johnson, told by Rachele Weed accompanied by enthusiastic suffragettes advocating “Votes for Women!” In 1912, Johnson was the first woman elected to the Sacramento City Council. She tirelessly worked for women’s suffrage and many progressive programs during her two years on the council and spent her later decades serving Sacramento in many ways. She definitely “had it coming” when the Sacramento City Council named a hearing room in the Historic City Hall in her honor in 2018.

Less uplifting were stories such as the “Battle Over Breakfast,” with Clayton Whitehead and David Van Dyken playing the Morgan brothers, both of whom ended up dead over a disagreement over who would cook breakfast. Jim Speed told of Leander White, a stage coach driver who foolishly plunged into swollen Deer Creek, confident



that he could get across it safely. Fortunately, his passengers refused to cross with him, and his horses broke free. White was not as lucky. Connie Clark not only “wrangled” the actors, but also played the part of Van Curtiss Dodge’s widow, lamenting how her husband had initiated the “Bloody Duel on the Yolo Bridge.” In all, seven stories were told along the route, with a few additional one-minute stories at the gate. All of the stories were true and involved historical figures connected to our cemetery, in almost every case buried within our grounds.

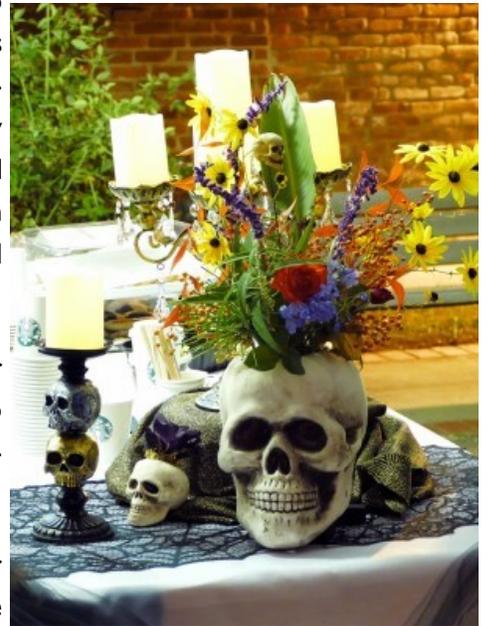


Photos courtesy of Gail Patrice



More than 90 volunteers helped put on this event, including young people from AmeriCorps and the California Conservation Corps.

This year, we increased the tours to five a night. As a result, 600 guests were able to enjoy the show. We offered advance ticket sales to Old City Cemetery Committee members, and opened up general sales at 12:01 am on September 1st. The tickets sold out in less than twelve hours!



The graphic design for the event allowed us to create a very popular teshirt. Thank you to John Robins for depicting death dancing the tango with a woman in red. We had to order extra shirts for the second weekend.

A special thanks to several sponsors and contributors to the event. Tower Theater provided the popcorn for the guests at the entry. Ken and Julie Perry contributed \$500, as did The Sutter Club and Pat Gormley of Gorm-

ley & Sons Funeral Home. Through these donations and ticket sales, we netted nearly \$19,000, which will be used to repair monuments and support the cemetery and nonprofit educational efforts in other ways.

The feedback from our guests was extremely positive. The challenge will be to match our success this year! Ideas are already flowing and volunteers are poised to make Lantern Tours 2019 an even better event. After all, we have it coming.



Editor's note: more details about Van Curtiss Dodge's duel are in the Dec 2018 Cemetery Rose newsletter, which can be viewed on the cemeteryrose.org website.



A Year Not To Be Forgotten—Cholera in 1850

Judy Eitzen

Many communities experience catastrophic years in their history and 1850 was such for Sacramento. With the influx of gold-seeking forty-niners, Sacramento's population had suddenly jumped ten-fold and by the end of 1850, the majority had fled.

Sacramento is the first incorporated city California, becoming official in February 1850. Prior to that positive news, the city was devastated by a major flood in January. Heavy rainstorms saturated the ground and both the American and Sacramento Rivers crested simultaneously resulting in major damage to merchandise, buildings and provisions. There were few levees or upstream dams at this time.

In August, one month prior to California becoming a state, while Sacramento city was the local governing body, squatters on land originally controlled by John Sutter rioted, protesting the high price land speculators set for land they acquired from Sutter. Harden Bigelow, then mayor of Sacramento, was wounded in the conflict and his death later from cholera was attributed to weakness from his wounds.

On October 18 a dead man was found on a levee. An inquest determined the cause of death as cholera morbus – a mild form of Asiatic Cholera.

The Sacramento Transcript reported on October 19, the news of California's admission to the Union and noted two or three cases of cholera in town during the prior two or three days. While city officials were glad of the news of statehood, the report of cholera deaths was alarming. City physician, Dr. Volney Spaulding reported at the city's common council meeting on October 21 that seven cases had come to his attention and recommended proper eating and drinking habits were desirable as a precaution. Consequently, the council passed an ordinance enforcing sanitary measures to reduce rubbish. It also established an emergency free cholera hospital and opened the city hospital at Sutter's Fort to all comers regardless of ability to pay. Various quack nostrums and quick cures were advertised in newspapers and sold to unsuspecting citizens. Doctors urged the people to put themselves in the care of doctors.

Fear and anxiety were considered contributing factors to cholera mortality and Dr. J. F. Morse urged, "nothing is more essential to safety than a cheerful mind and temperate habits...persons subject to the 'blue devils' find it hard to drive dull care away...recommend all such unfortunate to go to the bookstand and buy a copy of Dr. Valentine's comic lectures."⁽¹⁾

At first, it was business as usual. Two new saloons opened on October 26 – the Orleans and the El Dorado – and were crowded with patrons. As more deaths occurred, however, people and commerce began to disappear from the city. One newspaper reported, "...the streets thinly populated and its trade materially damaged."⁽²⁾

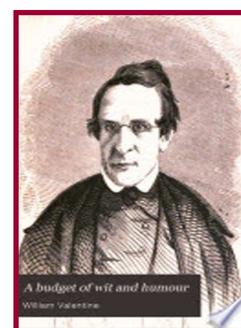
As the epidemic spread, people scrambled to escape, carrying cholera with them on riverboats and over land. One schooner, the Montague, left Sacramento October 18 for San Francisco with forty-three passengers and arrived with six dead aboard.⁽³⁾ It seemed the schooner had taken on surface soil, mingled with refuse to use as ballast – which contributed to the spread of the disease.

The epidemic peaked on October 31 with fifty deaths reported that day, some thirty-five from cholera. Hospitals were over-crowded and in deplorable condition. Many beds without sheets, others changed only once in three weeks. Over the next weeks, the epidemic waned and citizens began to calculate the cost in lives and business. The epidemic brought about the establishment of a Board of Health which helped further sanitize the city.

When it was over, some seventeen doctors who remained on duty were among the estimated 600+ dead from cholera. A number of individuals, now residing in the city cemetery, were heroic during the dreadful epidemic. Among them, California’s new governor, John Bigler. He aided local doctors to assist the ill and dying at risk of his own life.

A fifteen-year-old young man, Gustavus Simmons, assisted his brother-in-law, Dr. Henry Burbeck in the operation of the Boston Drug Store on the north side of J St. between Front and Second streets. During the epidemic, they risked their lives, administering medication to cholera victims Simmons, originally from Massachusetts, returned there to obtain a medical degree from Harvard. He studied in Europe and became a charter member of the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement and belonged to the AMA and the California Medical Association. His death in 1910 was...”the passing of the last of those sturdy pioneer physicians who took part in the scourge of cholera and other calamities that befell this great city.”⁽⁴⁾ His son became commissioner of public health and safety in Sacramento.

Of course, once the epidemic subsided, business returned to ‘normal’, though Sacramento would see future floods and catastrophes, 1850 is a year which stands out from the rest.



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- 1) Golden Notes, October 1957, p. 4. The book referenced here written by Dr. William Valentine, A budget of wit and humor, or, Morsels of mirth for the melancholy published in 1849.
 - 2) Alta, October 31, 1850
 - 3) Golden Notes, October 1957, p. 5
 - 4) Sacramento Union, November 19, 1917 article by Judge W. A. Anderson who served as a circuit court judge, state legislator and police judge and city attorney in Sacramento, having arrived in 1850 at the age of four.

Who Is She? A CSI Mystery

Lin McNamara & Jean Robins

Do you love a mystery? Want to be a CSI? A ‘Cemetery Stone Investigator’?

We are starting a group to find out more about the people who are buried in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. Each newsletter will feature a headstone that is of interest. We will share what we have already discovered so that you will not need to redo any work. You may have other resources that can shed light on a particular question. Any new information that’s found should be posted to the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery Facebook page so that other investigators will be able to see it. Use “CSI Corner” as the starter for your Facebook entry so that it is clear to your fellow investigators. Working together we may find the answers to questions. It is very possible that we could create a biography to use on the Lantern Tours or our Saturday morning tours. Are you ready to start?

Here’s our first project: *Annette Lile Bonds*

Why she was chosen: Her headstone is the most ornate one in the plot and is signed "Devine Fecit" (Devine, He Made It) by the carver. If you care to see it yourself, it is in A57 Lot 116 on Cypress West.⁽¹⁾

What the headstone states: Annette Lile wife of Wm. M. Bonds. Born in Tipton Co., Tenn. Died March 5, 1858, Age 21 y’s 2 mo’s & 4 d’ys.



The inscription reads:

Her life was exemplary,
A dutiful daughter
A devoted wife and a kind mother.
She sleeps in Jesus,

And by her side her infant daughter...Others who may be buried in the plot: Doctor Charles Sullivan, William G. & Jane Sullivan, James M. Sullivan, Lieut. Charles L. Sullivan, Sarah and a four-week old infant Bonds.

Cemetery records include The Lot Sales Book which shows that William Bond completed the purchase of the east half of the plot in June 1858, three months after Annette's death.

The Players:

- Annette Lile Bond(s):
 - Find a Grave memorial #35473131. ⁽²⁾
 - Obituary: "In Sacramento, March 5th, Annette Lyle Bond, wife of Wm. M. Bond and daughter of D. C. Sullivan 21 years, 2 months and 4 days." Sacramento Bee March 6, 1858 page 3.
 - California, Mortuary & Cemetery Records, 1801-1932 & the California County & Birth, Marriage, and Death Records, 1849-1980 show birth year about 1837, death date as 5 Mar 1858, the death place as Sacramento, CA and birth place as TN. Cause of death was "Inf. of lungs". Attending physician was Dr. C. Sullivan.
 - 1852 California State Census has Annette Lile (14) listed with Dr. Sullivan (49), Charles (21), Joseph (9) and James (1).
 - Sacramento Daily Union, 6 July 1855, lists the birth of a daughter to Mr. W.M. Bond and his wife.
- Dr. Charles Sullivan—Annette's father:
 - Find a Grave Memorial #195218692. No headstone. Dr. Sullivan is not shown in this lot in the Cemetery Plot Book.
 - California Mortuary & Cemetery Records 1801-1932 shows the birth place as TN and death place as Sacramento, CA. Died 59 years old with his birth year about 1803.
 - California, County Birth, Marriage, and Death Records, 1849-1980 states Dr. Sullivan had been in California since 1849. His death notice in the Sacramento Daily Union 11 February 1862 also states that he was a Sacramento resident since 1849.
 - 1850 US Census has Dr. Sullivan as a resident in Sacramento, CA but not his family. The 1852 California State Census has the doctor with his children but no wife.
 - US City Directories, 1822-1995 shows Dr. Sullivan practiced Botanic medicine. This is supported by Sacramento Directory 1853-1854 listing C. Sullivan as a botanic physician at 8th between K and L. Sacramento Daily Union 5 March 1855 has an advertisement for the doctor's "Anti-Dyspeptic Plaster" for dyspepsia or indigestion of the stomach, or for pain in back..."
- William M. Bond(s)—Annette's husband:
 - California, County Birth, Marriage, and Death Records, 1849-1980 states in 1852 he married A L Sullivan in Sacramento, CA. The Sacramento Daily Union 12 July 1852 announced that Rev. Mr. Gober presided at the marriage of Mr. William M. Bond to Annette L. Sullivan on 1 July 1852.
 - William used Dr. Sullivan's office at 8th Street between K and L streets to communicate with the public for sales and rewards. Two examples are Sacramento Daily Union, 31 July 1856 page 2 AND Sacramento Daily Union, 8 September 1857 page 2.
 - The connection continued with Dr. Sullivan. An article in the Sacramento Union, Volume 10 Number 1489, 3 Jan 1856 – The City Section states that William Bond had a room at Dr. Sullivan's house. In the article William was robbed while he was sleeping.
- William G. Sullivan—Annette's oldest brother:
 - Find a Grave memorial # 110545584.
 - 1870 US Census has Wm. born in TN; born about 1825; married to Jane Elizabeth Scott; was a farmer; had children Verah, Luda, Ehoe, Hardee, Elvira and Delia.

- 1895 Sacramento City Directory page 441 shows William as a “boltmker” for S P Co.
- California Voter Registrations 1866-1898 supported his birth in TN and he worked as a farmer in San Joaquin County.
- Lieut. Charles L Sullivan—Annette’s brother:
 - Find a Grave memorial # 28445815.
 - US Veterans’ Gravesites, ca.1775-2006 states the younger Charles fought for the Confederate side.
 - California Death Index 1905-1939 supports his death as 14 May 1917 at the age of 88.
- Joseph M Sullivan—Annette’s brother:
 - Find a Grave memorial # 131833793. Joseph Sullivan is not shown in this lot in the Cemetery Plot Book.
 - California Mortuary and Cemetery Records 1801-1932 states that he was born in Tennessee and died in Sacramento 8 December 1867 at the age of 25 years 10 months.
 - California Voter Registrations 1866-1898 supported his birth in TN and he worked as a clerk.
- James M Sullivan—Annette’s brother:
 - Find a Grave memorial # 131835431. James Sullivan is not shown in this lot in the Cemetery Plot Book.
 - California County Birth, Marriage, and Death Records, 1849-1980 has death date as 27 March 1870, death place as Sacramento, CA and his birth year as about 1844. He died at 26 years old. Death year is wrong here.
 - CA Mortuary and Cemetery Records 1801-1932 confirms he was born in TN about 1845 and died 27 March 1871.
 - CA Biographical Great Books 1867-1872 has James’ occupation as a painter.
- Sarah Bonds—Annette’s daughter:
 - Find a Grave memorial # 110545410.
 - CA County Birth, Marriage, and Death Records 1849-1980 states little Sarah J E Bond died between Sept. 28 and Oct. 8 at the age of 5 months. Supported by the CA Mortuary and Cemetery Records 1801-1932, she died September 10, 1854 at 5 months attended by Dr. Sullivan.

Now you have what we have. So, it is possible that the real great story is not about Annette but maybe about someone else in her family. Here are some of our unanswered questions:

1. Why did Dr. Sullivan come so early to California without his family? Where was his family in Tennessee and who was looking after them? William or Charles L. (they were old enough) or someone else?
2. Who was Annette’s mother? Is Annette’s middle name “Lile” her mother’s maiden name? What happened to her mother?
3. Where were her daughters buried before Annette died? William bought the plot 3 months after Annette died. Her daughters died before her.
4. Where is William M. Bond buried? Did he leave Sacramento? If so, where did he go?



What can we discover together? Are you up for the challenge? If you are, welcome aboard the CSI!

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- (1) Sacramento City Cemetery map with lot & plot numbers is viewable on www.citycem.org
 - (2) Find A Grave is a website that allows the public to search and add to an online database of cemetery records. It is owned by Ancestry.com and can be found at www.findagrave.com

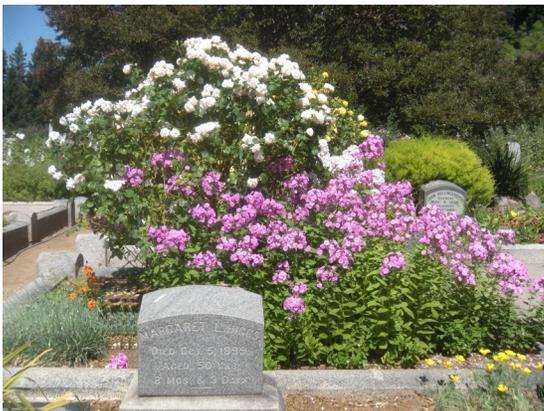
Hamilton Square Perennial Plant Garden

Anita Clevenger

Hamilton Square Perennial Plant Garden continues to be a showplace for over 600 unique perennials and other ornamental plants, including shrub roses, despite some recent changes. We were sorry to see Leslie Hurlburt leave after nearly ten years of devoted service. Leslie continued the work of Sharon Patrician, who established the garden on behalf of the Perennial Plant Club (PPC) at City Historian Jim Henley's request in 1997 and developed and maintained it for nearly 20 years.



Since the garden's founding, the PPC has invested over \$20,000 in plants and materials for the garden. Sharon also secured a \$5,000 grant from the Glide Foundation in Davis to repair plot surrounds and further beautify a run-down area. During her time as garden manager, UC Berkeley ran a study of native bees as pollinators. Sharon supervised the installation of aluminum plot markers throughout Hamilton Square, which makes it easier for historians to locate graves and plant lovers to identify and find items of horticultural interest. Leslie completed work to put the plant listings into a data base that will soon be available to the public.



The PPC has stated their intention to continue with their sponsorship and maintenance of this garden. Several volunteers work in Hamilton Square on Tuesday mornings, and the PPC has scheduled additional work days on Jan 8 and Feb 5 from 9-12.

Why volunteer in Hamilton Square? It's beautiful, peaceful and fragrant. It's a great place to learn about a wide range of plants and spend time in a very special space buzzing with hummingbirds, native bees and other pollinators, drawn by the diversity of plants. By volunteering throughout the year, you get to see how the garden grows and blooms in every season. There is always some new, exciting treasure to see.

Volunteers are also encouraged to adopt and maintain specific plots within Hamilton Square. Dalene Mar not only helps tend the overall garden, she also has adopted several plots to which she devotes special attention.

Many thanks to the devoted volunteers who have created this wonderful cemetery garden and who continue to keep it going. They could use some help. Want to join them? Come to Hamilton Square on the scheduled special work days, drop by during regular Tuesday morning work days, or contact Megan Crose at 916-825-9633 or mcrose@cityofsacramento.org to state your interest in becoming a Hamilton Square volunteer.

If you can't volunteer, come visit. Spring bulbs are already poking through the soil. We are so fortunate to have this very special garden in our cemetery.





Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc.

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

Mission Statement

The Old City Cemetery Committee is the 501 (c)(3) cooperating association which supports the Historic City Cemetery. Our mission is to work with the City of Sacramento to develop communication and interaction with cemetery staff, to support the restoration of the Historic City Cemetery, and to provide educational and interpretive services to all visitors.



2018 Lantern Tour Volunteers
photo by Gail Patrice