



HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE CYPRESS LAWN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

A FOUNDATION DEDICATED TO EDUCATION & PRESERVATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY

Fall 2017

Volume 9 No. 3

CALENDAR

August - October 2017



HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE

August 6, 2:00 pm

Crosby-N Gray, Burlingame

THE ROCK —

Alcatraz, a Complicated Pile of Stone
Professor Michael Svanevik



VICTORIAN DAYS WALKING TOUR

August 12, 1:30 pm*

Attendees encouraged to dress in period costume but not mandatory.

Docent: Terry Hamburg



SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE

August 20, 2 pm**

HALFWAY TO THE STARS:

THE WILD & WONDERFUL WORLD OF

SAN FRANCISCO'S CABLE CARS

Gary Kamiya, author of

Cool Gray City of Love,

Book Signing



HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE

September 3, 2:00 pm

Crosby-N. Gray, Burlingame

BILLIE & LIZZIE —

The War of the Ralstons

Professor Michael Svanevik



SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE

September 17, 2:00 pm**

101 TOMBS TO CHECK OUT

BEFORE YOU DO, PART 2

Doug Keister



SPECIAL EVENT

September 17, 4pm**

OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR

Doug Keister



NIGHTTIME WALKING TOUR

OF CYPRESS LAWN

September 23, 7:30 pm*

Docent: Terry Hamburg



Continued on page 2

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE
Light Refreshments Served

EVENT LOCATIONS:

*Meet at green tent, East Side,
near granite Entry Arch

**Reception Room, Cypress Lawn

THE STORY OF THE LAUREL HILL “PIONEER MOUND” AT CYPRESS LAWN

It was not by chance that when Laurel Hill Cemetery in San Francisco was ordered in 1937 by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to remove all its burials and abandon the Cemetery, the Board of Directors petitioned Cypress Lawn to accept the remains. Both institutions were cut from the same historic garden cemetery cloth. Cypress Lawn was honored and accepted.



Cypress Lawn Entry Gate, 1893

In 1892, financier and industrialist Hamden Holmes Noble recalled in his autobiography that while taking a buggy ride with a friend past Laurel Hill Cemetery, they were struck by its “dilapidated condition.” The friend said: “Noble, there is big money in starting a cemetery, at the same time doing a great thing for San Francisco.” Noble’s vision of Cypress Lawn in Colma—safely outside the zoning restrictions of San Francisco—was similar to what the founders of Laurel Hill Cemetery strove to achieve: a non-sectarian burial ground in a welcoming garden/horticultural environment modeled after such nineteenth century American cemeteries, most notably Mt. Auburn built near Cambridge Massachusetts in 1831, regarded as the pioneer of the American rural cemetery movement. The operating principal of that movement was that a cemetery should be built as a grand and beautiful setting, a place for the living as well as the dead.

Please turn to page 6

From the President’s Desk

Kenneth E. Varner



After twenty-one years of providing the leadership for Cypress Lawn Cemetery Association through a period of tremendous growth and renewal, I am retiring as the President of the Cemetery Association and the Cypress Lawn Heritage Association. We have witnessed great change in this period, including the building of a new cemetery addition at Hillside Gardens crowned by a new signature Cypress Lawn archway and lakes; the restoration/expansion of two significant assets of Cypress Lawn—the 1918 Mediterranean cemetery office designed by architect Bernard Cahill, and the 1894 Noble Chapel designed architect Thomas Patterson Ross; and the creation of the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation.

Native Californian Bob Gordon, Jr, will be assuming the leadership role of the Cemetery Association and of the Heritage Foundation as President and Chief Executive Officer.

Please turn to page 7

Calendar *Continued from page 1*

HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE
October 1, 2:00 pm
Crosby-N. Gray, Burlingame
A.P. GIANNINI —
Out of the Ashes Rose a Bank
Professor Michael Svanevik



SATURDAY WALKING TOUR
October 7, 1:30 pm*
INTRODUCTION TO CYPRESS LAWN
Docent: Terry Hamburg



SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE
October 15, 2:00 pm**
ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW
Appraiser: Terry Hamburg

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE
Light Refreshments Served

EVENT LOCATIONS:

*Meet at green tent, East Side,
near granite Entry Arch

**Reception Room, Cypress Lawn



Cypress Lawn Cemetery Association

Cypress Lawn is a 501 (c)(13) not for profit corporation established in 1892 by a group of prominent and responsible citizens, headed by Hamden Noble, determined to provide a decent cemetery for all creeds and races as well as “an attractive and pleasing place for meditation of the living.” Today, over a hundred years later, Cypress Lawn stands as a testament to the vision of these men when they proclaimed, “... in the fullness of time, the cemetery... will form an extensive park, rich in foliage, flowers, mausoleums, statuaries and other works of art ... a handsome gift to posterity.”



Annual Photography Contest

We are accepting entries for the 2018 Cypress Lawn Calendar Contest. Thirteen pictures from those submitted will be selected, one picture for each month plus a cover photograph. **The deadline for submission is November 5th.** The photographer will be acknowledged on each picture. You can submit as many entries as you wish and one person can have numerous pictures selected for multiple months.

For the best reproduction quality, please take pictures at your camera's maximum resolution as winning pictures will be printed at a large size.

Entries for 2018 will also be featured on our website and Facebook page. **Send entries to thamburg@cypresslawn.com**



Photograph by Bob Giles



Photograph by Deborah D. Lattimore

A great opportunity to take pictures for the Photo Contest is our third annual Photography Seminar with Doug Keister on September 17. See Upcoming Events on p. 4.

Cypress Lawn Introduces GENEALOGY SERVICES

You can access for free a request to see if an individual is buried at Cypress Lawn and his/her location. Go to www.webcemeteries.com/cypresslawn/search.asp

If you'd like additional information or services, see what is now available at the **Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation Online Store:**

- 1. Search of Files for Relevant Information:**
Staff will attempt to answer all questions, such as birth and death dates, location of the deceased in the cemetery, and provide miscellaneous other information including birthplace, place of death, age of the individual at the time of death, attending funeral home, cause of death, and an obituary, if available.
- 2. Digital Photograph of a lot, grave, monument, marker or name plate**
- 3. 8"x10" Color Photograph of a lot, grave, monument, marker or name plate**

Visit our website www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org and go to our **ONLINE STORE** (at the far right of the green strip at the top of the landing page).



Cypress Lawn Trivia Question

Which family has the largest mausoleum at Cypress Lawn?

- Hearst
- Spreckels
- Flood
- de Young
- Crocker

Answer on p. 4



Who knew it could be so easy?

Online Cremation Arrangements...



www.cypresslawncremationsociety.com



PLAY BALL! AT CYPRESS LAWN



We have at rest in our Memorial Park three important baseball personalities: one of the best players of all time, one of the most colorful managers, and the man who introduced the game to Japan. And, as we shall see, these gentlemen are all curiously connected.

A legendary player, **Lefty O'Doul**, is a San Franciscan native and his memorial is a big draw at Cypress Lawn.

He had a career .349 batting average in 970 games over 11 seasons. He began as a pitcher and didn't become a hitter until age 31. Lefty has the highest lifetime batting average of anyone eligible for the Hall of Fame but not enshrined. Never elected to the Hall of Fame?! His career as a full-time hitter was regarded as too short.

He did make it to the Japanese Hall of Fame. O'Doul was instrumental in spreading baseball's popularity in Japan, serving as the sport's goodwill ambassador before and after World War II. The Tokyo Giants were named by him in 1935 in honor of his long association with the New York Giants.

Later in his career, Lefty managed the San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League from 1935 to 1951, becoming the most successful manager in PCL history. One of his protégées was Joe DiMaggio. When asked what role he had in developing the Yankee Clipper, O'Doul remarked: "I was smart enough to leave him alone." DiMaggio, another San Francisco native, is buried near Cypress Lawn at Holy Cross Cemetery.



The O'Doul legacy lives on in the tavern he founded and the bridge near AT&T Park where the San Francisco Giants play.

Many people believe that Japan's fascination with baseball began post World War II as part of a general movement to adopt all things American. As we have seen, Lefty O'Doul was a goodwill ambassador there before the War. But Japanese baseball history goes back well beyond that time.

Years ago, I was surprised when a group of Japanese tourists at Cypress Lawn told me they were here to visit to the **Horace Wilson** "shrine," which turned out to be a handsome



DiMaggio with his well-known wife

but modest memorial on the east campus. An avid baseball fan since childhood, I had never heard of the man revered as the father of Japanese baseball.

After serving in the Civil War Union Army, Wilson was hired by the Japanese government as an adviser to assist in the modernization of its educational system. Around 1872, Wilson decided that his students needed more physical exercise and introduced a game that was growing very popular in America—baseball.

The game became a mainstay in Japanese amateur and college sports, and the first professional league was established in 1936. And, like O'Doul, the redoubtable Mr. Wilson is a member of the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame.

Then there is **Paul Irving Fagan**, who rests in Cypress Lawn's Lakeside Columbarium. In 1944, the millionaire bought the minor league Pacific Coast League San Francisco Seals, who played at a stadium built in 1931 at 16th and Bryant Streets.

Fagan is the one who brought in Lefty O'Doul to manage the team in 1935. Given Fagan's well known propensity to spend money lavishly, the baseball world was shocked when one day in 1950 he declared that peanuts would no longer be sold at the ballpark. "We lose five cents on every bag of peanuts. That's \$20,000 a year. It costs us 7 1/2 cents to pick up the husks and our profit on a dime bag is just 2 1/2 cents. The goober has to go."

Irate fans lit up the Seals' phone lines with their protests. Some threatened to bring their own peanuts and drop the offending shells everywhere. Newspapers along the West Coast jumped



Seals Stadium, seating capacity 18,500, demolished in 1959

to the peanut's defense. The Los Angeles Herald Express editorialized: "To many deep, dyed-in-the-wool fans, it was just like ripping the heart out of baseball itself. The privilege of buying, shelling and eating peanuts at the ball game is just too sacred".

The objections overwhelmed Fagan. Within 24 hours he issued his second peanut-related press release: "I give up. Mr Peanut wins. It's the first time in my life I've been beaten and it had to be by a peanut."

Three very different men, all at Cypress Lawn, all intertwined in the same "small world" baseball web.



The Wilson Family, circa 1860s. Horace is the gentleman upper far right

Halfway to the Stars: The Wild and Wonderful History of San Francisco's Cable Car



Lecture & Book Signing with Gary Kamiya, Best-selling Author and San Francisco Chronicle Columnist

Gary Kamiya is the author of the best-selling book *Cool Gray City of Love*, winner of the Northern California Independent Bookseller Association Book of the Year Award. He founded the ground breaking website **Salon.com**. Gary will sign copies of *Cool Gray City of Love* and have editions for sale.

Complimentary refreshments

Date & Time: Sunday, August 20. 2:00 pm

Location: Cypress Lawn Cemetery, Reception Room (2nd floor), 1370 El Camino Real, Colma.

Annual Photography Seminar

At 2 pm, **Doug Keister** will give a lecture/slide show "101 Places to Check Out Before You Do. Part 2." Then, at 4 pm, we will begin our twilight photography excursion. You'll learn camera secrets and techniques from Doug Keister who has 25 published books and has been called "America's most noted photographer of historic architecture." Bring your own camera equipment.

Date & Time: Sunday, September 17. 2 pm / Outdoor Seminar 4 pm

Location: Meet at the Reception Room at Cypress Lawn Cemetery, 1383 El Camino Real, Colma. Attend both or either events. Photo seminar will begin in the Reception Room and then proceed outdoors to the historic East Side.



Class of 2016

Nighttime Walking Tour of Cypress Lawn

In the dark of night, guided only by the moon and lanterns, we wind our way around grand mausoleums and monuments. Cypress Lawn will provide some lanterns, but please bring one if you have it, or a flashlight.

Date & Time: Saturday, September 23. 7:30 pm

Location: Meet at Noble Chapel, 1363 El Camino Real, Colma. Enter through the granite Entry Archway and make an immediate left.

Introduction to Cypress Lawn Walking Tour

All attendees will get a complimentary self-guided map of Cypress Lawn.

Date & Time: Saturday Oct. 7. 1:30 pm

Location: 1383 El Camino Real, Colma. Meet at the Green Tent on the East Side. Go through the large granite Entry Archway and make the first right.

Complimentary refreshments



Treasure Or Trinket? Annual Cypress Lawn Antiques Road Show



Bring two items for appraisal conducted in front of your fellow collectors and accumulators. Learn what you really have and how much it is worth. Photos of furniture okay.

The appraiser is retired antiques dealer and syndicated antiques columnist Terry Hamburg (who is the Director of Development for the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation).

Date & Time: Sunday, Sunday Oct. 15. 2:00 pm

Location: Cypress Lawn Cemetery Reception Room (2nd floor). 1370 El Camino Real, Colma.



ANSWER TO PG 2 TRIVIA QUIZ

Photo: David Evans

James C. Flood Mausoleum

James Flood came to California to find gold. Meeting limited success, he opened the Auction Lunch, a saloon on Washington Street where miners and financial speculators congregated and talked too much after a few drinks. From there, he learned about the silver Comstock Lode in Nevada before most others and invested heavily in the stock, becoming wealthy beyond his wildest dreams. In 1875, Flood established the Bank of Nevada, the forerunner to Wells Fargo. His mausoleum boasts 28 polished granite columns and a white marble ornate interior. This ode to an ancient temple cost \$125,000, almost twice the average mausoleum of the day. The monument sits on a private island. The structure was disassembled and moved from Laurel Hill Cemetery in San Francisco to Cypress Lawn in 1906.

CYPRESS LAWN BOOK CLUB

We try to meet the third Thursday of every month at 11:00 am at Cypress Lawn.

Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't read the current book. Help us pick out the next one. We have a fun and lively time!

For more information contact Laurel Koepernik at laurel.koepernik@gmail.com.

This month's selection on August 17 is



The story of the enormous Nevada silver extractions that catapulted San Francisco into a world class city.

The Story Of The Laurel Hill “Pioneer” Mound At Cypress Lawn

continued from page 1

A long anti-cemetery movement in San Francisco reached its first culmination when all new burials were banned in The City starting in 1901. To many, it appeared that what was once unimaginable—the actual eviction of the dead—was only a matter of time. Anticipating such events, some of the most prominent Laurel Hill deceased were moved to Cypress Lawn by their families in the years after its founding in 1892. In fact, the first mausoleum at Cypress Lawn in 1892 initially rested in Laurel Hill: lumber baron Andrew Jackson Pope (d. 1878). This is why you will see death dates on Cypress Lawn memorials that predate its opening in 1892. Other families, like those of James Flood (d. 1888), seeing the handwriting on the tombs, moved his mausoleum to Cypress Lawn in 1906.

As the Laurel Hill eviction order was enforced, families were allowed to retrieve their loved ones and monuments at private expense. The vast majority did not and three years later the removal of some 35,000 souls to Cypress Lawn began. Laurel Hill & Cypress Lawn trustees originally planned for an elaborate above-ground public mausoleum on the West Campus to serve as a monument to San Francisco pioneers. Exorbitant construction costs following World War II scuttled this design. Instead, underground concrete vaults were built where each individual set of remains was sealed in labeled boxes. Members of the same family

from the same burial plot at Laurel Hill were in individual containers and placed in the same numbered vault.

Although Laurel Hill Mound cannot accommodate individual memorials, all the re-interment records have been meticulously kept. Cypress Lawn knows the exact spot where each person's remains lay. Two structures stand as a general memorial to those buried there: the towering obelisk at the top of the Mound that was done by Vladimir Oslou, and near it the bronze sculpture by Francis Minturn Sedgwick representing California's pioneers. There is also a plaque detailing the history of the re-interment. The area was officially named Laurel Hill Mound and dedicated on May 4, 1954.

When you encounter this large expanse of land without individual monuments, it may appear quite abstract; even with the stirring pioneer memorials, one can experience a lack of personal connection. However, the more you know about who is there, the more you can appreciate the historical significance of the spot. Most of the burials were men and women of means, and some were quite prominent. If you read the list on this page—you will be surprised to learn what families are resting there.

So when you cast your gaze across the rolling green expanse of land in the shadow of a 70 foot obelisk, cast your mind's eye below to the many builders and pioneers of San Francisco's greatness.

*Terry Hamburg,
Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation*



Notables Buried at Laurel Hill Mound

Two mayors: **James Van Ness** (d. 1872) and **Andrew Jackson Bryant** (d. 1882), both of whom have San Francisco streets named after them.

U.S. Senator, **David Broderick**, shot dead in 1859 at the last major duel in the nation; he, too, was honored by a San Francisco street name.

California's second Governor, **John McDougal** (d. 1867).

Joseph Folsom (d. 1855), the Collector of the Port of San Francisco.

Two chief justices of the California Supreme Court, **Lorenzo Sawyer** (d. 1891) and **Silas W. Sanderson** (d. 1886).

Acclaimed Gold Rush painter **Charles Nahl** (d. 1878).

Arthur Page Brown (d. 1896), the architect of the Ferry Building.

Andrew Hallidie (d. 1900), the inventor of the cable car.

Elias S. Cooper (d. 1862), who established the first medical school in the Far West, the antecedent of Stanford University Medical School.

Peder Sather (d. 1886), a banker/philanthropist who built the University of California's Campanile and Sather Gate.

Kate Kennedy (d. 1890), prominent San Francisco educator who fought to achieve equal pay for women and the principle of academic tenure.

George Gordon (d. 1869), builder of the first San Francisco urban park neighborhood, South Park, which thrives to this day.

Charles Kimball (d. 1894), compiler of the first San Francisco City Directory in 1850.

Edward Gilbert (d. 1852), publisher of the San Francisco Alta, one of most prominent early newspapers in the city.

Theodore Barry (d. 1881) and **Benjamin Pattern** (d. 1877), proprietors of the city's most respected Montgomery Street drinking emporium, and authors of the acclaimed Men and Memories of San Francisco in the Spring of 1850.

Robert B. Woodward (d. 1879), proprietor of San Francisco's first amusement park, famed Woodward Gardens.

David Scannel (d. 1893), a legendary SF Fire Chief, placed in a special section of the mound reserved for firefighters.

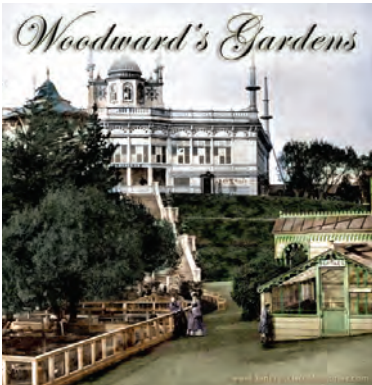
Phineas Gage (d. 1860), sans head, which was given to his doctor; Gage survived a severe industrial accident to the skull that earned him national attention and a place in every psychology and medical textbook at the time.



Painting by Charles Nahl



Sather Gate at UC Berkeley



(a)



(b)

From the President's Desk

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Bob Gordon Jr. comes from a California cemetery tradition that spans four generations of cemeterians serving the families of the Golden State. He truly is a Guardian of California's Heritage who will perpetuate the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation leadership as we continue to build on our programming of lectures/tours and care of Cypress Lawn as a significant repository of History, Art & Architecture.

As I depart for my retirement years, I remember the reason that we formed the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation in the year 2000, as expressed in our external statement: "Because the remains of more prominent Californians are found here at Cypress Lawn than any other cemetery in the Western United States. Taken as a whole, Cypress Lawn is a vast historic archive, an organic link to the original cemeteries in San Francisco; in many cases, the only remaining record of the men and women who shaped California. It is also a visual history of the American Cemetery movement from the late 19th century to present. The quality and quantity of the works of funerary art and architecture found in the verdant park like setting of Cypress Lawn continue to enrich the lives of the larger community by their great beauty and accessibility to the public. The preservation and enhancement of the rich cultural resources and natural assets of Cypress Lawn afford an enhanced and ongoing legacy for the families who care about Cypress Lawn. It provides the larger community with the unique benefits of a more accessible and tangible history through outstanding cultural and educational programs."

Reflecting back over the last twenty years, we have continued to honor this important cultural mission which includes our fiscal responsibility: the endowment care trust funds have grown three-fold during this period which ensures our continued commitment of preserving and communicating our shared history, art, architecture and horticulture. What a great honor it has been to be one of the leaders of Cypress Lawn over its one hundred and twenty five years of service to the community of San Francisco, the greater Bay area and Golden State of California. The work that we have done the last twenty years will live on in the new leadership of the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation. We have set a standard that they will continue and surpass as the new Leadership and Heritage Foundation community members push forward with the preservation and programming of the Foundation. As I look forward to the new adventures of my life after retirement from Cypress Lawn, I also look forward to supporting the new Leadership of the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation. In closing, I recall the words of Hamden Noble, the founder of Cypress Lawn, "that in the fullness of time, Cypress Lawn will form an extensive park, rich in foliage, flowers, statuaries and other works of art, a handsome gift to prosperity." As I retire, I can only hope that history will record that I helped in this quest and that the new leadership & membership embrace the mission of the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation.

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Cypress Lawn Habitat

**CYPRESS LAWN
HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

A non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation promoting Cypress Lawn Cemetery as a historical and educational resource for the Bay Area community

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