

Summer 2017

Volume 9 No. 2

CALENDAR May - August 2017

SATURDAY WALKING TOUR
May 6, 1:30 pm*
Introduction to Cypress Lawn Memorial Park
Docent: Terry Hamburg

HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE
May 7, 2:00 pm
Crosby-N. Gray, Burlingame
THE LAST CENTURION —
General Douglas MacArthur
Professor Michael Svanevik

SATURDAY WALKING TOUR
May 20, 1:30 pm**
SPLendor IN THE GLASS —
Stained Glass at Cypress Lawn
Docent: Terry Hamburg

SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE
May 21, 2:00 pm**
BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF, 1944 —
Greatest Sea Battle of World War II
Professor Michael Svanevik

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES
May 29, 1:00 pm
Lower Garden, West Side

HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE
June 4, 2:00 pm
Crosby N Gray, Burlingame
NEW YORK & NEWPORT —
Rise of an American Aristocracy
Professor Michael Svanevik

SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE
June 11, 2:00 pm**
San Francisco's Jewel City — The Pan Pacific International Exposition of 1915
Author Laurel Ackley, Book Signing

SATURDAY WALKING TOUR
June 24, 1:30 pm*
FINANCIAL TITANS —
Men Who Made the American West
Professor Michael Svanevik

HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE
July 2, 2:00 pm
Crosby N Gray, Burlingame
KING OF DIAMONDS —
France in the Age of Louis XIV
Professor Michael Svanevik

Continued on page 2

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE
Light Refreshments Served

EVENT LOCATIONS:

*Meet at Green Tent near the granite Entry Gate

**Reception Room, Cypress Lawn

SYMBOLISM IN STONE AT CYPRESS LAWN

Visual symbolism on grave markers has been present as long as such memorials have existed but the style and messages have changed over time. Throughout the 17th and a good part of the 18th century there was a preoccupation with mortality that produced symbols suggesting the dreaded fact of death and the tenuous uncertainty of life, witnessed by skulls, skeletons, coffins, scythes, and spent hourglasses. As attitudes softened over the following centuries, this harsh mortality symbolism gradually morphed into a more benign and gentler form of mourning imagery, such as draped urns, upward pointing fingers, and heavenly gates. The flower and plant symbols were especially popular in the Victorian era, which coincided with the garden cemetery movement. Victorians gave flowers special attributes, adapting many of the myths to Christian symbolism. There was also a tendency to use symbols that indicated occupation or social and professional association.

Sometimes there can be little doubt as to what a given symbol is communicating but on occasion we may find ourselves puzzled by images that are obscure or ambiguous. Hopefully, this brief study will give a deeper understanding of the messages tombstones are trying to convey. The symbolic markings found at Cypress Lawn are characteristic of the Victorian era, usually filled with hope and personal identification.



The draped cinerary urn represents a reverential accessory and the veil between earth and the heavens.

Please turn to page 4

From the President's Desk

Kenneth E. Varner

Surprise. I would have never guessed that we have a connection to the Underground Railroad that led slaves to freedom in the 1800's. Please see the remarkable tale of Samuel Burris in the Cypress Lawn Heritage Newsletter. This revelation came to us from a relative that was searching her family history only to find that Cypress Lawn was connected to that special history. This is a story that plays out over and over — a person uncovers a unique piece of history on our grounds. It usually comes from a curiosity about family genealogy or simply local history. Even though we have scholars that search our records and write books like "Pillars of the Past" there are a thousand stories at Cypress Lawn that are yet to be discovered.



Please turn to page 6



SATURDAY WALKING TOUR
July 8, 1:30*
*THE MAGNIFICENT ANGELS
OF CYPRESS LAWN*
Docent: Terry Hamburg



SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE
July 16, 2 pm**
*CURSE OF THE FOREIGN QUEEN –
Dangers of Political Matrimony*
Professor Michael Svanevik



SATURDAY WALKING TOUR
August 5, 1:30 pm*
INTRODUCTION TO CYPRESS LAWN
Docent: Terry Hamburg



HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE
August 6, 2:00 pm
Crosby N Gray, Burlingame
*THE ROCK –
Alcatraz, a Complicated Pile of Stone*
Professor Michael Svanevik



**REENACTORS VICTORIAN DAYS
WALKING TOUR**
August 12, 1:30 pm*
Docent: Terry Hamburg &
Special Historical Guest Star

SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE
August 20, 2 pm**
COOL, GREY CITY OF LOVE
Author Gary Kamiya, Book Signing

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE
Light Refreshments Served

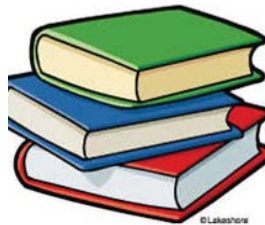
EVENT LOCATIONS:

*Meet at Green Tent near the
granite Entry Gate

**Reception Room, Cypress Lawn

CYPRESS LAWN TRIVIA QUIZ

Some of the most important mausoleums and memorials at Cypress Lawn are built on the commercial fortunes of certain products. Connect the merchandise with the merchant.



Gustave Niebaun
Claus Spreckels
Andrew Jackson Pope
William Fuller
Gertrude Atherton
Raymond Bocci
Charles de Young
Paul Kalmanovitz
Herman Nager
Charles Howard

Answers on page 6



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, statuary and other works of art ... a handsome gift to posterity."



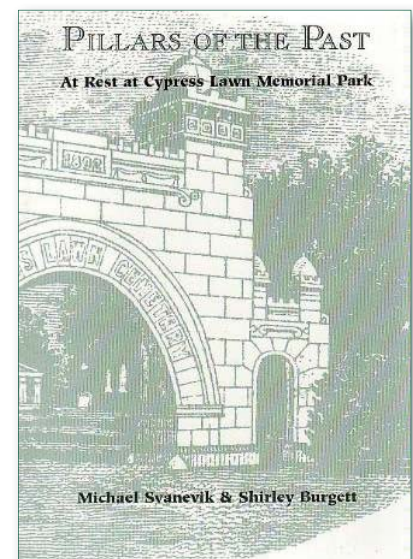
BOOK FEATURE

Pillars of the Past: At Rest at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park.

Co-authored by Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett, the book features a brief history of Cypress Lawn and is a guidebook to the outstanding personalities who have chosen Cypress Lawn as their final resting place. It features 285 major names not including equally outstanding family members mentioned in the actual descriptions.

A must read for everyone who decides to join the many scheduled walking tours of the Foundation. The 2017 walking tour season is in full swing.

Please check our website at www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.com





*Samuel D. Burris,
circa 1850*

SAMUEL D. BURRIS: Leader of the 19th Century Underground Railroad Discovered at Cypress Lawn

Cypress Lawn has learned that the remains of a remarkable but until recently little-known African-American “conductor” in the Underground Railroad, which surreptitiously guided slaves from the South to freedom in the North, was buried at Cypress Lawn.

Ocea Bolden Thomas, the great-great-great-grandniece of Samuel D. Burris, successfully petitioned the Governor of Delaware to posthumously overturn the “Enticing Away Slaves” convictions the activist abolitionist received in 1847. Mr. Burris was born free in 1813 to free parents in Delaware, which remained a slave state into the Civil War but had been in the process of phasing out the practice for decades. The Underground Railroad had a major presence in Delaware.

Well educated and eloquent, Burris was living with his wife and five children in Pennsylvania where he was an outspoken and respected member of the city’s abolitionist society. In 1845, he decided to join the Underground Railroad. This was a daring and dangerous decision, representing nothing less than enlisting as an undercover soldier in a very active war. His assignment—with his white abolitionist partner, a farmer and Quaker named Thomas Hunn—was to sneak into Delaware and Maryland, entice slaves to flee and provide safe passage back to Pennsylvania through a series of secret routes and safe houses. At 35 years old and never in bondage, Burris was literally putting his life on the line. His sentence if caught: to be sold into 7 years of slavery for each count against him.

We don’t know how many slaves he liberated but his luck ran out in 1847 when he was apprehended and charged with 2 counts, which meant 14 years in servitude. Abolitionist friends could not meet the exorbitant \$5000 bail so Burris languished in prison for 14 months. He wrote to friends that he doubted he could survive enslavement. His trial was a sensation in its day—the first free black to ever be tried for such a crime. Eventually convicted, Burris awaited his descent into slavery.

On the day of the slave auction, there was spirited bidding between two men when suddenly one stopped and Burris was sold for \$500. Unknown to Burris or anyone else, the auction had been infiltrated by Issac Flint, an abolitionist, who had never been at a slave auction but carefully observed and followed the behavior of the slave buyers there. Afraid he might run out of money and be outbid, Flint offered his main competitor \$100 in gold to drop out. The ploy worked and Flint was hammered the winner. As he was escorting his “property” away, Flint whispered in Burris’ ear: “Fear not, good sir, you have been bought with abolitionist gold and I will secretly spirit you back to Philadelphia.” Perhaps never had a man gone from despair to joy in such a brief time.

When the people of Delaware discovered the conspiracy, an addition to the sentence for a person convicted of such a crime for a second time was passed: 60 lashes, which was in reality a death sentence.

Samuel Burris remained active in Philadelphia abolitionist life until his move to San Francisco in 1855, where he joined his brother and family who had gone there a few years earlier. Until his death in 1863, he tirelessly raised funds for abolitionist causes, wrote and lectured. During the Civil War he solicited money specifically to be used to feed and shelter ex-slaves liberated by the Union Army.

Samuel Burris rests in Pioneer Mound where Cypress Lawn recently conducted a special dedication cemetery with Ms. Thomas present. His conviction and courage remains an inspiration to freedom loving people of all races and places.



*Above: Governor of Delaware signing
the pardon bill for Samuel Burris.*



*On Right: The dedication wreath on Pioneer
Mound at Cypress Lawn: In Memoriam to A
Great American Hero, Samuel Burris.*



*Above: Ms. Ocea Bolden Thomas,
great-great-great grandniece of
Samuel D. Burris,
at Cypress Lawn*

SYMBOLISM IN STONE AT CYPRESS LAWN *continued from page 1*





- 1&2 Anchor: A symbol of hope, based on Christian biblical passages.
- 3 Inverted torch image is found only cemeteries. It signifies death, but suggests that the soul (fire) continues to exist in the next realm.
- 4 Broken column: a symbol for the end of life and more specifically, life cut short.
- 5&6 Rocks in Christian lore are a powerful symbol of divinity and God. It represents permanence, stability, and strength.
- 7 Large cone statuary at mausoleum entrances depicts the cones from evergreens, which represent immortality and incorruptibility.
- 8 Laurel with palm leaf. Laurels, whose leaves do not wilt or fade, is usually displayed as a wreath and conveys victory, eternity and immortality. Adopted by Christians from the Romans. The palm leaf was another Roman symbol for victory. In Christianity, it is a symbol of a martyr's or believer's triumph over death.
- 9 Evening Primroses open in the early evening and close in mid-morning. Represents eternal love and memory as well as both hope and sadness.
- 10 Morning glories are a sign of the Resurrection since they close at night and open in the morning sun.
- 11 Daffodil is a Christian revision of the Greek Narcissus flower to mean triumph of divine love over selfishness and vanity.
- 12 Roses were adopted only later by Christians because of its earlier association with decadence. In religion, the red rose became symbol of martyrdom, the white rose purity.
- 13 Oak leaves symbolize strength, endurance, eternity, faith and virtue, especially in times of adversity.
- 14 Acanthus leaves are thorny, a symbol of the prickly journey of life to death, and ultimately, the final triumph of eternal life. Used to decorate hearses, tombstones and funerary garments as well as column capitals.
- 15 Ivy is eternally green even in harsh condition, thus associated with immortality and fidelity. Its three pointed leaves make it symbol of the Trinity.
- 16 Grape clusters represent the Eucharist wine and Holy Communion.
- 17 Olive tree is the most referenced tree in the Bible. Dove with an olive branch in beak symbolizes soul of the departed in the peace of God.
- 18 Stags represent solitude and contemplation because of belief they lead a solitary life. Antlers represent the tree of life.
- 19 Pelican: After the dove, the most seen bird in Christian funerary symbolism. Based on mistaken idea pelicans inflicts wounds to her body (which is actually her pouch) to feed its young, the bird came to represent parental self-sacrifice, the greatest love of a parent for its children and by extension, the self-sacrifice of Christ.
- 20 Lamb as symbol of innocence, the most common adornment for a child's memorial.
- 21 Cross with a crown is a symbol of the sovereignty and victory of the Lord.
- 22 Celtic Cross is the most effervescent of crosses, often embellished with intricate tracery and symbolism. Dozens of varieties, it is commonly associated with a person's ethnicity or clan.
- 23 Russian/Eastern Orthodox cross.
- 24 Foo Dogs are mythological animals that guard Chinese memorials. The male, with a ball under its paw, is always on the east. The ball is hollow, a symbol the "emptiness" of the mind in Buddhist spiritual beliefs. The female dog-lion has a baby under her paw. These paired creatures also represent the opposing forces of yin (female) and yang (male).
- 25-28 Oddfellows/Masons/Shriners/Islam

PRESIDENT'S LETTER *continued from page 1*

The use of symbolism in funeral memorials to signify ideas and qualities different from their literal sense is an ancient practice. We explore in this newsletter some of the most prominent and often obscure of these symbols. It is yet another one of those Cypress Lawn treasures that can be enjoyed by all that find fascination in our unique archive of history. Our grounds are a continual source of discovery and revelation, both for unique personal stories as well as the broad historic fabric of San Francisco and California.

Gladys Hansen, Chief Archivist of the San Francisco Library & 1906 Earthquake expert, passed on recently. She is known for her lifetime of work that uncovered thousands of additional deaths from the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake & Fire, instead of the official death toll of 478. Her groundbreaking 1989 book *Denial of Disaster* chronicled these facts and others. In 2006, when the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation was looking for a way to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the San Francisco Earthquake & Fire, we partnered with Gladys and her writing partner and son, David Hansen, to develop a special memorial to pay respect to the people of San Francisco who had lost their lives in the disaster, but were never recognized. This memorial was dedicated by Gladys and David in 2006 on the West Side of Cypress Lawn in our Laurel Hill garden, which contains some 35,000 pioneers of San Francisco who were moved to Cypress Lawn from the Laurel Hill Cemetery located on Lone Mountain in San Francisco.

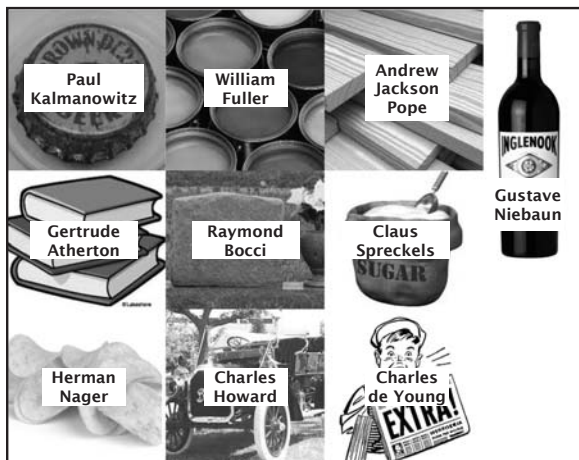
If you would like to do your own research at Cypress Lawn or participate in any of our events, please feel free to contact our Director of Development, Terry Hamburg.

PAST EVENTS

ODDBALL FILMS PRESENTATION: Historic Shorts Shot in San Francisco

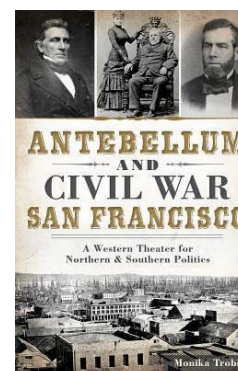


ANSWERS TO PG 2 TRIVIA QUIZ



April Lecture and Book Signing by Monika Trobits

In addition to writing books, Monika also leads walking tours in San Francisco. To learn more, visit her website at sanfranciscojourneys.com



Welcome to Monika's

San Francisco Journeys

leading tours since 1989

Upcoming Events

"Splendor in the Glass" Annual Tour

Date & Time: Saturday, May 20. 1:30 pm

Location: Meet in the Reception Room, Cypress Lawn
1370 El Camino Real, Colma

Light refreshments served.



Annual Memorial Day Commemoration Service

Date & Time: Monday, May 29. 1 pm

Location: Lower Garden, West Side

Light refreshments served.



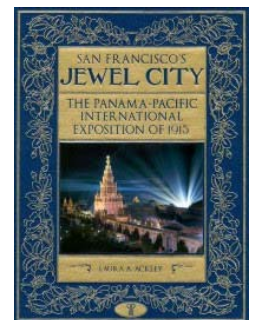
Sunday Afternoon Lecture and Book Signing

Date & Time: Sunday, June 11. 2:00 pm

Location: Meet in the Reception Room, Cypress Lawn, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma

Author Laura Ackley will have her book for sale: *San Francisco's Jewel City: The Pan Pacific International Exhibition of 1915.*

Light refreshments served.



"Magnificent Angels of Cypress Lawn" Annual Tour

Date & Time: Saturday, July 8. 1:30 pm

Location: Meet at the green tent near the large stone Entry Gate
1383 El Camino Real, Colma

Light refreshments served.

Victorian Days Re-enactors Annual Tour

Date & Time: Saturday, August 12. 1:30 pm

Location: Meet at the green tent near the large stone Entry Gate
1383 El Camino Real, Colma

The public is invited to come in costume (or not). Each year Cypress Lawn in association with the San Mateo County Historical Association hosts a Victorian Days Walking Tour of the grounds and monuments. You never know what historical figures will show up to entertain you! Meet & take a selfie with the surprise historical reenactor.

Light refreshments served.



**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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