



HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE CYPRESS LAWN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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

Summer 2015

Volume 7 No. 5

Calendar 2015

AUGUST

HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE
August 2, 2:00 pm*

Staring into the Rising Sun — Greetings from Mr. Buchanan
Lecturer: Michael Svanevik

WALKING TOUR

August 8, 1:30 pm**

Victorian Days Heritage Tour
Docent: Terry Hamburg

CYPRESS LAWN BOOK CLUB

August 13, 11 am***

California's Daughter: Gertrude Atherton & Her Times

SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE

August 16, 2:00 pm***

Show & Tell at Cypress Lawn (Antiques Appraisal)

Appraiser: Terry Hamburg

WALKING TOUR

August 22, 1:30 pm**

Landmarks and Destinations
Docent: Terry Hamburg

SEPTEMBER

HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE

September 6, 2:00 pm*

A Delicate International Confab - San Francisco, 1945

Lecturer: Michael Svanevik

WALKING TOUR

September 19, 1:30 pm

Meet at Reception Room
Who's Who in the West Gardens
Docent: Terry Hamburg

SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE

September 20, 2:00 pm***

Rasputin — Toppling the Russian Empire

Lecturer: Michael Svanevik

OCTOBER

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

October 3, 10 am-12 noon***

The Afterlife of Wills & Living Trusts: Probate, Trust Administration, and the Backend of Estate Planning

HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE

October 4, 2:00 pm*

Cattle on a Thousand Hills—California Before the Gringo Came

Lecturer: Michael Svanevik

WALKING TOUR

October 17, 1:30 pm**

Gargoyles, Foo Dogs & More: Cypress Lawn's Unusual Memorials
Docent: Terry Hamburg

SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE

October 18, 2:00 pm***

101 Tombs to Check Out Before You Do (Part 1)

Lecturer: Douglas Keister

SPECIAL EVENT

October 18, 4:00 pm***

Photography Seminar

Guest Photographer: Douglas Keister

WALKING TOUR

October 31, 1:30 pm**

Visiting San Francisco & Peninsula High Society at Cypress Lawn
Docent: Michael Svanevik

EVENT LOCATIONS

* Crosby N Gray, Burlingame
** Start by Archway, East Garden
*** Cypress Lawn Reception Room

The “Boss Gardener” of Golden Gate Park

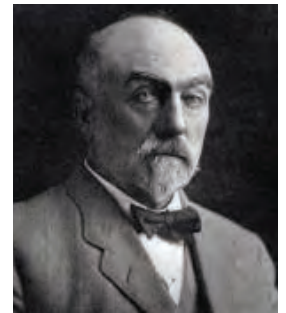
Christopher Pollok

Two men with distinctly different styles share the credit for the creation of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco: engineer William Hammond Hall, for the park’s framework and initial landscaping, and horticulturist John McLaren, who made the park his personal mission until his death.

McLaren’s long tenure often overshadows Hall’s expertise, but the determined efforts of both men led to what exists today. Legendary John Hays McLaren (1846-1943) presided over the park as its superintendent for 53 years.

Hailing from a farm in Stirling, Scotland, just west of the Firth of Forth, the stocky Scot learned his trade by working on nearby estates from the age of 16. Later he worked in Edinburgh’s Royal Botanical Gardens. At age 24, he sailed for America.

A short time after arriving on the east coast in 1869, he proceeded to the west coast by ships and by a train across the Isthmus of Panama. Finally settling in San Mateo County, McLaren worked on large estates for 15 years before joining the park. He was employed primarily on the lavish George H. Howard Estate, “El Cerrito,” and did work for other notables, such as financier William Chapman Ralston, rail-



John McLaren

Please turn to page 3



From the President’s Desk

Kenneth E. Varner

The summer months are here, and for Cypress Lawn it will be a summer of completing projects like the renovation of the historic Noble Chapel in our East Gardens, plus new events that include our participation in the San Mateo County Historical Association’s Victorian Days.

This year our Director of Development, Terry Hamburg has been busy setting up a very special tour during

Victorian Days on August 8th that includes an actor in period dress reenacting General John C. Fremont from California’s past. This is a first for us. Of special note, working with Mitch Postel, President of the San Mateo County Historical Association and Jim Wagner, Head Volunteer Storekeeper Woodside Store Historical Site, we will be donating and consecrating on this day a memorial at the burial site here for Robert Orville Tripp, who was the owner of the Woodside Store and one of San Mateo County’s first Pioneers. We are very honored and grateful to be able to donate the memorial for such an important man to the County of San Mateo.

Please turn to 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."



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Tree Spotlight: Cork Oak

Where do corks come from, Daddy? I didn't know, but I guessed: from the ocean. I was wrong.

They come from cork oaks, and Cypress Lawn has a stunning specimen (*Quercus suber*). The century-old tree is the only one of its kind in the cemetery.

The cork oak provides 99% of the world's natural cork which is used for a variety of purposes from bottle stopping to flooring to insulation, not to mention shoe insoles, dartboards and roofing panels. Cork oaks are native to southwest Europe and northwest Africa. The largest cork producing countries in the world are Spain and Portugal.

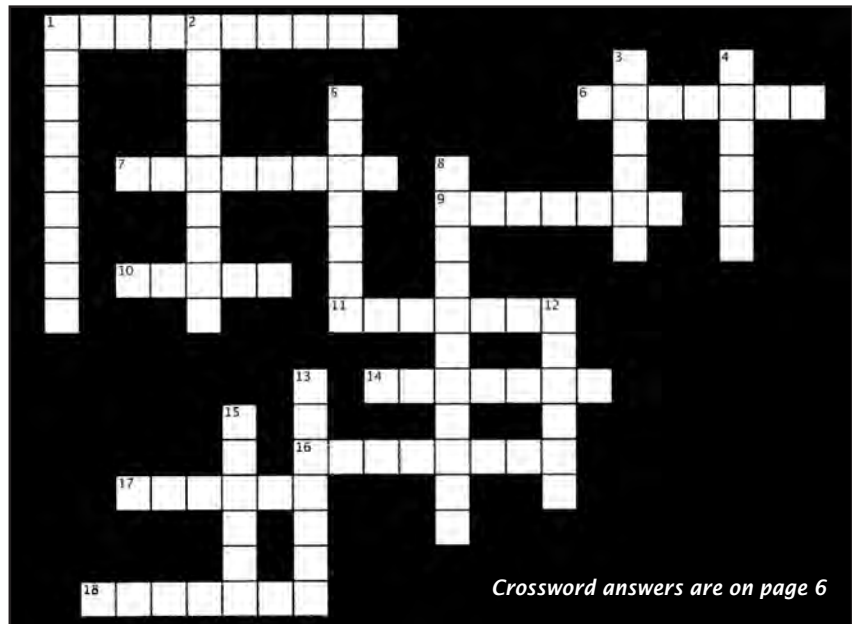
Cork oaks often live up to 200 years. Their thick corky bark can be peeled off the tree every ten years as a renewable resource which means that no tree is ever cut down to harvest its products.

Coincidentally, our cork tree sits in close proximity to three memorials of prominent winemakers: the Signorello Family, Gustave Niebaum (Inglenook), and the Tubbs Family (Chateau Montelana). ❖



Cypress Lawn Crossword Puzzle

All the name references are to people buried at Cypress Lawn



Crossword answers are on page 6

Across

1. Charles Howard, first major auto dealer on West Coast, is better known for his ownership of this racehorse
6. Famous publisher was assassinated
7. Famous "Muckraker" journalist, wrote Shame of the Cities
9. Egyptian symbol is a popular memorial at Cypress Lawn
10. Baseball great
11. First black conductor of a major symphony orchestra
14. One of many types of birds found at Cypress Lawn
16. Cable car inventor
17. Steamship empire
18. Lord of the parks

Down

1. Built San Francisco Legion of Honor Museum
2. Gustave Niebaum founded this winery
3. Made Headlines
4. Blew a mean trumpet
5. Seventh mayor of San Francisco had a major street named after him
8. Building housing only cremations
12. Beach Blanket Babylon creator
13. California Governor and Senator and VP candidate
15. Crooner found his niche here

The “Boss Gardener” of Golden Gate Park

continued from page 1

road tycoon Leland Stanford, and banker Darius Ogden Mills. He is responsible for the continuous rows of eucalyptus trees that still line El Camino Real along the Peninsula.

Following three years as assistant superintendent, McLaren became superintendent in 1890, overseeing 40 gardeners whose ranks would swell to 400 during his long tenure. Using experience and direct observation, the shrewd and aggressive superintendent worked diligently to keep politics and commercialism out of the park. He was held in great esteem but was also considered hard to work for by some. “Wild game is coming” was the muffled cry when McLaren came to inspect his workers.

McLaren’s landscaping philosophy was similar to Hall’s: he wanted to create a natural look by working with nature, not against it. He was an experienced forester and horticulturist who studied the local climate and what would thrive in it. Still a dynamo when he reached his 70th birthday in 1916, he was granted a special honor.

With McLaren’s mandatory retirement at hand, the board of supervisors passed special ordinances giving him lifetime tenure over the park. Blind at the end of his life, he relied on protégé Julius Girod to be his eyes.

McLaren’s work was not limited to Golden Gate Park but also included other emerging city parks and special events. He did landscaping for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition and for the 1939 Golden Gate Exposition on Treasure Island.

In appreciation, a special day was set aside at the PPIE to honor McLaren for his design work, and two local newspapers presented



John McLaren

him with an engraved loving cup (an ornamental vessel, or award); some 4,000 San Franciscans had contributed as little as a few cents each toward the gift.

Other accolades for the indomitable, self-described “Boss Gardener” included the naming of an avenue in the prestigious Seacliff District after him and the award of an honorary doctorate by the University of California at Berkeley. Upon his 80th birthday and his 40th year with the park, a 450-acre park in the Outer Mission was named after him. McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park honors his long-time contributions, and the East Bay’s Tilden Park has a meadow named after him.

After his death in 1943, at age 96, McLaren’s body lay in state in the San Francisco City Hall Rotunda, a tribute reserved for only a few San Franciscans. Later, the funeral cortege drove

his casket through Golden Gate Park, also a special honor, as the park commission normally discouraged corteges from entering the park. His final resting place is, appropriately, the garden cemetery of Cypress Lawn in Colma. ❖

Excerpt from San Francisco's Golden Gate Park: A Thousand and Seventeen Acres of Stories Portland: West Winds Press, copyright 2001, Christopher Pollock. John McLaren's photo courtesy of the author.



The Great Pyramid Of Wisdom At Cypress Lawn

Many have gazed with wonderment at the Whittell monument in Cypress Lawn. Six feet square at the base and equal in height, it is a miniature of Egyptian pyramids. On its sloping surfaces, Hugh Whittell had chiseled a poetic (and likely embellished) history of his travels on one side and his philosophy of mankind on the other.

The memorial attracted immediate attention when it was first placed in the Masonic Cemetery on Lone Mountain in San Francisco. Word soon got out that Whittell was still very much alive and living at the fashionable Occidental Hotel. He died in 1887 and his monument moved to Cypress Lawn later. We can authenticate that he was a passenger aboard the Pacific Mail steamship California, a 1-ton side-wheeler, the first steam vessel to sail around Cape Horn and through the Golden Gate Straight, arriving on February 28, 1849. ❖



THE FIVE DIVISIONS OF
THE WORLD I HAVE BEEN.
THE CITIES OF PEKING AND CON-
STANTINOPLE I HAVE SEEN.
ON THE FIRST RAILWAY I RODE BEFORE
OTHERS WERE MADE.
SAW THE FIRST TELEGRAPH OPERATE, SO
USEFUL TO TRADE.
ON THE FIRST STEAMSHIP THE ATLANTIC CROSSED,
SUFFERED SIX SHIP WRECKS WHERE LIVES WERE LOST.
ON THE FIRST STEAMER TO CALIFORNIA DID SAIL,
AND TO CHINA BY THE FIRST PACIFIC MAIL.
AFTER MY ENDEAVOR MY AFFAIRS TO FIX,
A SHORT TIME I WILL OCCUPY LESS THAN TWO BY SIX.

*On its sloping surfaces,
Hugh Whittell had chiseled a poetic (and likely embellished) history of his travels on one side and his philosophy of mankind on the other.*



ALL YOU THAT CHANCE,
THIS GRAVE TO SEE
IF YOU READ ENGLISH,
MAY LEARN FROM ME.
I TRAVELED READ AND STUDIED
MANKIND TO KNOW:
AND WHAT MOST INTERESTED THEM
HERE BELOW.
THE PRESENT OR THE FUTURE STATE AND
LOVE OF POWER,
ENVY, FEAR, LOVE OR HATE OCCUPIED EACH WAKEFUL HOUR.
ALL WOULD TEACH, BUT FEW WOULD UNDERSTAND,
THE GREATER PART, KNOW LITTLE OF EITHER GOD OR MAN.
LOVE ONE ANOTHER A VERY GOOD MAXIM ALL AGREE.
LEARN, LABOR, AND WAIT IF YOU WOULD SUCCEED.

Terry Hamburg,
Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation

See more at: www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org/blog/cypress-lawn-blog-the-great-pyramid-of-wisdom-at-cypress-lawn

Photography Contest

We are accepting entries for the **2016 Cypress Lawn Calendar Contest**. Twelve pictures from those submitted will be selected, one picture for each month. **The deadline for submission is November 1.** 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.



Winning entries from the 2015 Calendar Contest appear on the back page of this newsletter.

All winning entries for 2016 will also be featured on our website and Facebook page.

Send entries to thamburg@cypresslawn.com

Upcoming Events

SPECIAL TOUR: Meet General John C. Fremont in Person! — August 8th

Our annual Victorian Heritage Day, attended by the San Mateo County Historical Association, is open to the public. This year, members will don period costumes and the public is invited to dress up—even without Victorian attire, you are welcome. It's a great day for picture taking and gawking.

Plus we have a special guest—that great America explorer, general, patriot, and almost President, the legendary John C. Fremont (1813-1890). He knew personally many of the departed we shall visit on the tour and will offer his usual frank commentary. And he loves to pose for photos with his admirers.

Meet at the Archway, East Garden on Saturday · August 8, 2015 at 1:30pm.

There will be a new memorial re-dedication for Robert Orville Tripp, the original owner of the Woodside Store. We are honored to donate this memorial to a true San Mateo pioneer.



FREE Estate Planning Seminar — October 3rd

Part of Cypress Lawn's Continuing Series on Estate Planning

The Afterlife of Wills and Living Trusts: Probate, Trust Administration, and the Backend of Estate Planning

In this seminar, you will learn how to deal successfully with the many details and legal requirements that follow the death of a spouse or of someone who has named you executor of a will, or trustee of a living trust.

Topics featured include:

- Details you can't afford to ignore despite how you're feeling
- The consequences of putting off required paperwork
- How to get through probate and what to expect
- Managing a living trust for someone disabled or deceased

*Light
Refreshments
Served*

The seminar is for educational purposes only. No financial services or instruments will be offered. All participants will receive a complimentary estate planning organizer. There will be an opportunity to talk one-to-one with speakers.

The seminar is free but reservations are appreciated. Please call Cypress Lawn at 650.755.0580 or email thamburg@cypresslawn.com

Cypress Lawn's Reception Center · Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 10 am to 12 noon.

Photography Adventure Day at Cypress Lawn — October 18th

Our October 18th lecture will feature renowned photographer Douglas Keister. His subject: *101 Tombs to Check out Before You Do*.

At 4 pm on the same day, you can follow this renowned architectural and cemetery photographer for an exploration through acres of art, architecture, and horticulture in Cypress Lawn's East Gardens. In his workshop you'll learn camera secrets and techniques from an artist who has been called "America's most noted photographer of historic architecture."

The excursion will last approximately two hours, gradually traveling into the twilight—a perfect time of day to take pictures. There is a \$15 fee/\$10 for members of the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation. **This would be an ideal time to take photos to enter into our Cypress Lawn Calendar Contest, where 12 pictures will be chosen for our 2016 Calendar. Deadline for Contest entries are November 1st.**

For further information, call Terry Hamburg at 650.550-8812 or email him at thamburg@cypresslawn.com. To reserve your space please call (650) 755-0580

Cypress Lawn's Reception Center · Saturday, October 18, 2015 Lecture: 2pm, Tour 4pm.

Cypress Lawn Book Club

In June the Cypress Lawn Book Club met to discuss Evelyn Waugh's 1948 satirical novel, *The Loved Ones*, a parody of Forest Lawn Cemetery in Los Angeles, later made into a motion picture.

On Thursday, August 13 at 11 am we convene to explore one of more fascinating characters buried at Cypress Lawn—Gertrude Atherton, a prolific and critically acclaimed novelist at the turn of the twentieth century, whose 1923 best-seller *The Black Oxen* was made into a silent film of the same name. Also a feminist, political commentator and journalist, Gertrude Atherton died in 1948 at age 90.

Our book selection for this meeting is a biography/life & times by Emily Wortis Leider. ❖



From the President's Desk continued from Page 1

There are other new programs like our Heritage Foundation blog and book club. We are setting up another photo contest where we invite photography buffs to come to Cypress Lawn to compose their favorite pictures of the art and horticulture that make up our over two hundred acres of beautiful gardens. Winning entries along with photographer credit will comprise our 2016 Cypress Lawn Calendar.

At the Heritage Foundation we want Cypress Lawn and the resources we provide to continue to expand through a variety of programs so in the future we are a place where people can interact with history and horticulture. It is important that Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation be a beacon celebrating our past and the accomplishments of those individuals and families that are at rest at here. This is how we keep

memories and contributions to our greater community alive and relevant, as well as a guide to understanding where we have been and how far we have come in the care and creation of our community.

There are many ways that an individual or organization can support the Heritage Foundation's efforts. If you are interested, please contact Terry Hamburg. One of the ways that you can support our mutual history is through a planned gift. If you need more information on planned gifts and how you can use a planned gift to support organizations that you believe have value, we have now added two estate planning seminars to our regular schedule of events each year. If you are unable to attend our estate planning seminars, Terry Hamburg will arrange a private meeting with our planned giving expert.

Please continue to enjoy our scheduled tours and lectures. If you are a member of a group that is looking for speakers, we can provide one through our Speakers' Bureau. For more information please get in touch with our Director of Development, Terry Hamburg at thamburg@cypresslawn.com or 650.550.8812. ❖

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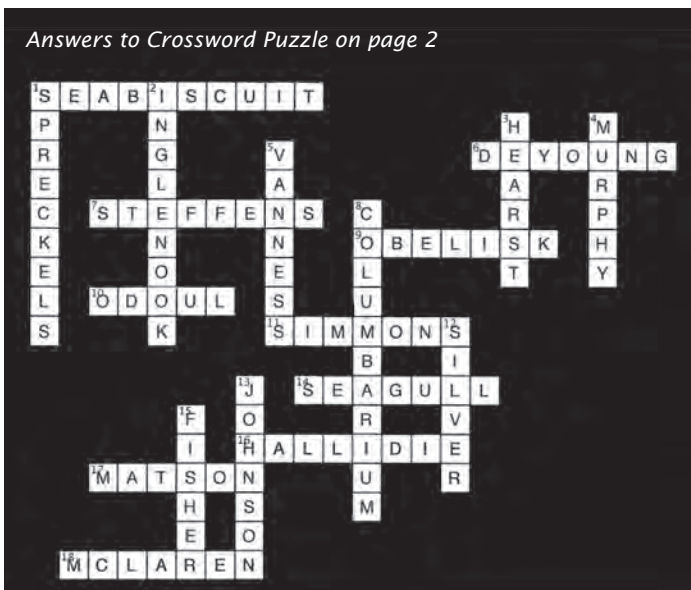
BLOG (on website)

www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org/blog/

TWITTER

[//twitter.com/cypressheritage](https://twitter.com/cypressheritage)

Answers to Crossword Puzzle on page 2



Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation Annual Appeal



Our 2015 Annual Appeal will officially begin this Fall. We wish to thank the many donors who contributed to last year's appeal. Your generosity helped to preserve the architecture and horticultural beauty of Cypress Lawn as well as underwriting our free cultural and education programs.

If you wish to make a contribution now to the Annual Appeal, we are set up to accept it. Go to the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation Website (cypresslawnheritagefoundation.com) and click on the SUPPORT CYPRESS LAWN & BECOME A MEMBER icon in the upper left hand corner.



There you will see the “Thank you” rewards for giving at all levels, and you have the convenience of online donation or traditional mail. ❖

Book Feature

Cypress Lawn: Guardian of California's Heritage

A coffee table full-color book featuring a lavish and comprehensive pictorial history of Cypress Lawn, capturing the beauty of the cemetery's landscapes, art, architecture, and stained glass while briefly recounting the fascinating stories of some of the prominent individuals and their families who have chosen Cypress Lawn to be their permanent neighborhood. The book is an elegant gift for anyone who appreciates cemetery history, artistic treasures, landscape, or architecture. It may be purchased at the Online Store on our website www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.com. ❖



**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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The *Heritage Newsletter*
is published by the Cypress
Lawn Heritage Foundation
a subsidiary corporation
of Cypress Lawn Cemetery
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Terry Hamburg
Director of Development
Managing Editor
650.550.8812

1370 El Camino Real
Colma, California
94014-3239

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**2015
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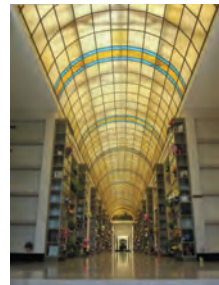
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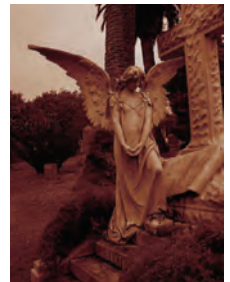
Photograph by Bob Gilis



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