

Old City Cemetery Committee Inc.



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The Epitaph

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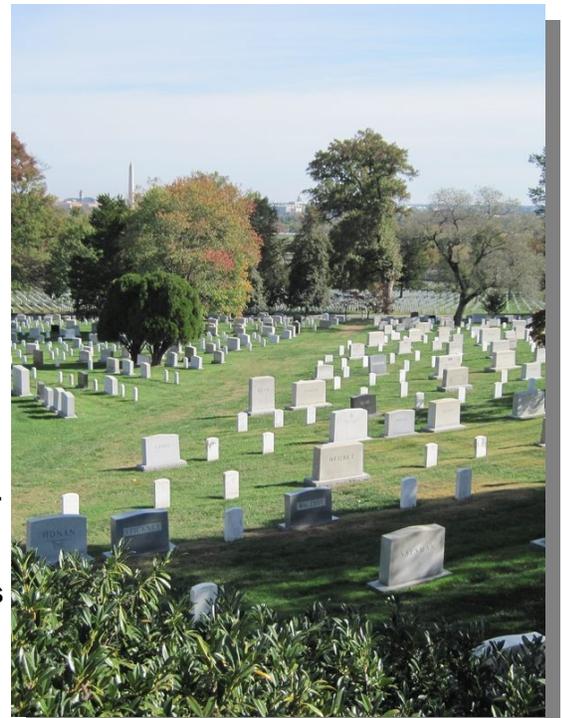
Ask a Cemeterian: The Business of Burials

Thank you, Dr. Bob, for this information.

Ask a Cemeterian: The Business of Burials with Dr. Elise M. Ciregna
Tickets, Tue, Jun 28, 2022, at 7:30 PM | Eventbrite

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cemeteries are, for many of us, sites of mystery, grounds belonging to those who lived in the past. In this course led by historian Dr. Elise M. Ciregna, we'll demystify these American landscapes of death, exploring their role as vital, evolving, and organic spaces that have historically and contemporarily been important places for the living. Together, we'll look at burial grounds throughout history, landing on the business structure and regulations of modern cemeteries. We'll then turn our attention to a range of burial practices and customs, from post-mortem photography to cast iron grave covers, and explore the cemetery as a public space—as well as possibilities for community engagement. Along the way, we'll ask questions like: How do cemeteries work? What do you need to know when you need a cemetery? How can we engage with cemeteries as places for the living?



<https://www.atlasobscura.com/experiences/ask-a-cemeterian-course>



Lin McNamara

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/oldcitycemetery>

WEBSITE:

www.historicoldcitycemetery.org

INSTAGRAM

Oldcitycemetery

YOUTUBE

Old City Cemetery Committee



Events, submissions, articles, book reviews and photographs for EPITAPH will be considered & may be submitted to OCCC President Lin McNamara or by email to The Epitaph at occc1849@gmail.com

EPITAPH EDITOR
Gail Patrice

President's Message

My term is almost finished as President. I have learned so much this last year. I do believe in planning for the future and I think that our new and returning Board Members helped OCCC do just that. It wasn't easy and there were many bumps in the road but I am very proud to say we, OCCC, have almost finalized Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City. It covers only Tours and Special Events. With gardens under the City's control, any volunteer work in the plots will be done by City volunteers – not OCCC volunteers. You may do both, OCCC and the city volunteer, if you would like.

Speaking of volunteers, we need a Social Media person. Are you interested in helping with our Facebook page and InstaGram? If so, please email us at info@historicoldcitycemetery.com. I would like to thank Theresa Hindle who has kept our Facebook and website going. She's taking a break. Allison Buchholtz has been doing a wonderful job with our website but she needs help. Social Media is definitely not a one-person job so if you can help out, please email us. These platforms are the public face of our organization.

And, how about the Board? You want to be in the room where it happens? We have a wonderful group of Board Members but our numbers are few. If you like to make a difference or like being part of a wonderful forward-thinking team, then please apply. You should have received an email with the information. We have some plans in the very beginning stages that are new and exciting once we have the MOU with the City.

The last item is our Big Day of Giving was again successful this year. We reached our goal and won two prizes of \$100 and \$500! This happens because of you, our members and friends. As I have said and truly mean, OCCC is nothing without our wonderful members.

June 25th is our Members' Meeting at 2:00 pm in the cemetery under the tree canopy on Laburum Avenue. Please join us with your questions and concerns and future ideas for OCCC. Parking is on the street unless you have a handicap placard. Please don't park at the Sellands parking lot but Target parking lot is open for our members.

Hope to see you at the cemetery!

Lin McNamara

Mission Statement

The Old City Cemetery Committee is a 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.



**HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY
To LOIS DOVE !!!**

*The Old City Cemetery
Committee
wants to wish a wonderful*

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY

*to one of our founding members
and archivist extraordinaire,
Lois Dove. Thank you Lois for
all you have contributed to
OCCC and for helping to save
the history of those buried in
Sacramento's Historic Cemetery
and documenting their part of
California's history.*

WOW! Where to begin?! Lois retired from the Ca. Highway Patrol and has always been very interested in genealogy. After retirement and with more time on her hands, she joined several genealogy organizations and learned the history and techniques of research.

If one looks at available resources for history of Sacramento, it is evident that many were contributed by Lois. She began volunteering with OCC in the late 80's and continued until 2015. She still contributed from home after that.

Beginning before computers, she did her research the old fashioned way by hand transcribing data from official documents from City, State and County offices.

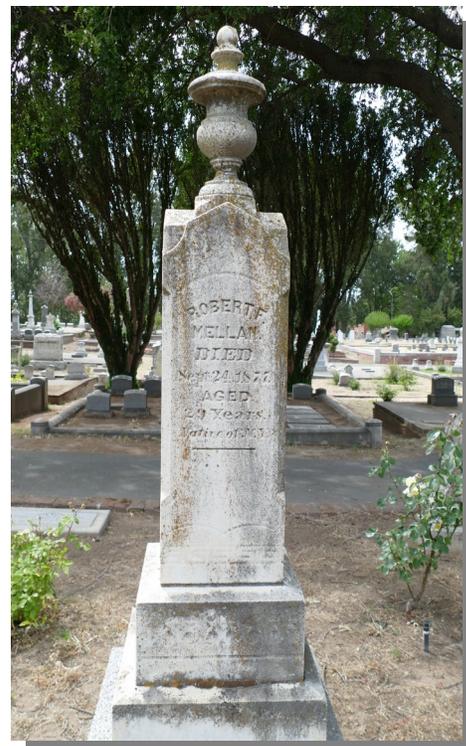
Volunteers in Old City Cemetery were always well prepared to respond to inquires from all over the world.

Lois Dove..YOU ARE OUR ROLE MODEL! Happy Birthday!

Jeanne Baldwin

**Catherine and Robert Mellon
by Carolyn Scott**

I originally told this as a love story during a "Romance of the Roses" Tour at the cemetery several years ago. It is based on my mother's (Marilyn Fuqua) family genealogy records, newspaper accounts, court documents and a little imagination. Many of the Mellon family are buried in A65-486. The story is told by Catherine Johnson Mellon, wife of Robert Mellon. My 3x great grandparents were Archibald and Jane Mellon.



My name is Catherine Mellon, but you can call me Kate, just like my dear husband, Robert. Our story begins in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, I was born there in 1822 and Robert in 1825. We came from hard working Protestant families and were looking forward having our own children when we married in 1845. Unfortunately that turned out to be the beginning of a terrible time for Ireland as a horrible blight began destroying the potato crop. Most Irish lived off the land and potatoes sustained the whole family. With crops rotting in the fields there was little food, little help from the government and very little other resources.

It was worse the next year and the year after that. As the Irish starved the British government seemed more concerned with trade and commerce than with providing food for destitute families. People were sent to work houses and given public work jobs but fed only soup and mush. Disease spread and conditions worsened. Within six years disease and starvation had killed over a million people and another million had immigrated to Australia, Canada or America.

As the oldest sibling and the only son in the family, plus with five younger sisters, Robert was anxious to provide for all . I wasn't surprised when my dear husband decided our best plan for survival was to leave Ireland for a better life. In 1847 Robert and I boarded the steamship Patrick Henry and sailed to America. We sailed in to New York Harbor sixteen days later and began looking for work.

I didn't like living in New York City, so many people, so much dirt, smoke and the smells and languages were overwhelming. Robert could only find work as a laborer so we lived in a crowded tenement building, on the 5th floor. My, it was hard carrying water up all those stairs, especially when Mary Jane and then little Robbie came along.

By this time all of Robert's family had also made their way to New York. We all decided the opportunities for a better life in the new state of California would make the long journey west worthwhile. Having heard and read about the growing city of Sacramento we made it our final destination and arrived here in the fall of 1855. Robert secured a job working for the Wells Fargo company and before long we had a lovely big house and stable on the corner of 10th and O Street and another daughter, Annie, was born. Robert's two oldest sisters and their husbands found employment, while Fannie, the youngest, finished her schooling. Martha and Mary Jane were employed as maids until they married.

cont. to 5

From pg. 4- Mellon family

The 1870's were a sad time for the Mellon family. Robert's sister Martha ended her unhappy marriage and divorced her husband for adultery and cruelty, only to die of pneumonia a short time later. Our sister Mary Jane and her husband took in the three orphans to raise as they had no children of their own. Robert's parents, Archibald and Jane Mellon, died soon after. But the hardest death for me was when we lost our dear son, Robbie. He died at age 29 of malaria fever.

Over the next decade we were busy. As Sacramento City grew Robert bought and sold land near us and also became a caretaker for the City Cemetery grounds. He was responsible for the general upkeep and tended the gardens. Our daughters, Mary Jane and Annie, married and started families. It was a blessing to have grandchildren nearby and we often strolled with them through the beautiful cemetery garden and along the paths.

Big Day of Giving Success 2022



May 5, 2022

With some help of 72 donations, the Old City Cemetery Committee raised \$5110 for our Lot Marker Project! We will have added to that amount another two prizes totaling \$600 and a percentage of the Golden 1's \$100K for any donations made with the Golden 1 debit/charge cards. Because of this we made our goal of \$5000 and we will be able to add over 550 markers to the cemetery grounds.

The Sacramento Region Community Foundation reported nearly 30,700 donors gave to 718 nonprofits for a total of \$13.4 million. 51% of donations were \$50 or less and 31% of the donors were first timers. The sponsors this year were: Western Health Advantage, Golden 1, Nugget Markets, 34 Strong, SMUD, The Cannady-Ford Family Fund, The Keller Family Pathway Fund and James & Susan McClatchy Fund. If you happen to come across any of these groups, please thank them for supporting their gifts to our area nonprofits.

The Sacramento Region Community Foundation has put on this event since 2013 raising an impressive \$78 million in 10 years. It is a tri-county event (Placer, Yolo and Sacramento) that begins in October with the start of our nonprofit planning and ends at the end of June with e-checks to those participating.

Next year's event will be May 4, 2023! Mark your calendars!

Sibling Tour

Our first sibling tour, "Oh Brother...and Sister Too," took place May 21, 2022. Led by two town gossips, Mary and Kate (Connie Clark and Carolyn Scott), our sold out audience was treated to ten tales from local residents. Along with tales of love, loss, and heartbreak were stories of accomplishment, adultery, shootouts and murder. Many thanks to all of the actors, veteran and new, who helped make this event a resounding success. Remember, *"It's not gossip if it's true!"*



Clint Virgen, Carolyn Scott, Jim Guida, Mathew Burlingame, Michelle Marzahn, Karen O'Hara, Iris Dimond, Jake, Stanford, Stephen Thompson, SalliAnne Malinguine and Connie Clark.

How do the Lantern Tours Happen?

Good question, the answer is with a lot of challenging work by many volunteers. Before COVID, as many as ninety volunteers helped during the four days of performance in October. Last year with a shortened program (no band, no stage show, no guest food), it was still nearly sixty volunteers. Our planning starts in late May with the decision of the theme and research begins on the possible storylines.

This year's theme "Gold 'n Consequences - Luck & Loss" will cover California's Gold Rush and a bit beyond. Our team leads are: Robin Kirk and Jo Weber Co-Chairs/Research, Connie Clark Actors and Greeter coordinator, Patti Bounty Spirits coordinator, Connie Bettencourt Volunteer Food coordinator, Eric Bradner and Carolyn Scott researchers, Media and Graphic Design coordinator Allison Buchholtz. The team is looking forward to providing you and your friends the opportunity to hear our special residents' tales come alive.

But still more volunteers are needed like the ushers, guest check-in, volunteer check-in, sales table, guest greeters, hosts, spirits and those who help out doing anything that needs to be done. All our volunteers have kept this tradition going.

The 2022 Lantern Tour dates are October 14th-15th and 21st -22nd. Remember as a member you have first dibs to purchase TWO tickets a week before the ticket sales open to the public. This event has been sold out – sometimes in years past, within the first day so mark these dates on your calendars. We'll let you know as soon as it possible when you may purchase your advance tickets. Catch the gold fever and join us!

TOURS !

- 6/4 5pm **BASEBALL**- a fun tour led by Alan O'Connor, Author of Gold On The Diamond, famous players buried in our cemetery and how they got their nicknames such as "Spider" & "Brick".
- 6/18 5pm **LOVE IS A MANY SPLINTERED THING**-love gone right and wrong, great tour for dating couples!
- 7/9 5pm **KIDS** 5pm -good for the younger set, no gruesome tales just fun facts.
- 8/13 6pm **MURDER & MAYHEM**- great juicy and gruesome stories back when Sacramento was the wild wild West.
- 8/27 6pm **MEDICINE BAG**- Led by our infamous Dr. Bob La Perriere, this tour highlights the many doctors of River City, their practices & roles in the community that found their final resting place here in Old City Cemetery.
- 9/10 3pm **A DOZEN WAYS TO DIE**- weirdest causes of death and the stories behind them!

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE! A Big Thank You !!!

To **Boy Scout Troop 136** (Land Park) and **Troop 118** (Elk Grove) who were busy on Friday, May 27th with our **OCCC** volunteers placing flags to honor our service men and women at each site in our Veteran's Plot.



Veteran & volunteer Richard Alcala, Don Harper, Scout Thomas Genereux (118) , a volunteer, & Scout Master Steve Genereux



 **Mailing Address for OCCC is**
1809 S Street, Ste. 101-388, Sacramento, CA 95811 

JOIN US !!!

*Speaking of volunteers, we need a Social Media person. Are you interested in helping with our **Facebook** page and **InstaGram**? If so, please email us at info@historicoldcitycemetry.com. I would like to thank Theresa Hindle who has kept our Facebook and website going. She's taking a break. Allison Buchholtz has been doing a wonderful job with our website but she needs help. Social Media is definitely not a one-person job so you can help out, please email us at info@historicoldcemetry.com These platforms are the public face of our organization <https://historicoldcitycemetry.org/>.*