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2018 Lantern Tours

Each fall we round out the year's tours and events with an annual fundraiser at the end of October. This event has proven to be a popular one, and has raised funds for repair of headstones and monuments in the Cemetery.

This year's themed event, "They Had It Coming," promises to be a lot of fun. Tours are scheduled at 7:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 8:00 pm, 8:30 pm, and 9:00 p.m. over Fridays and Saturdays, October 19 and 20 and October 26 and 27.

The evening will begin with period music, games of chance and fortune, and encounters with characters from Sacramento's past. You will embark on a lantern-led cemetery tour, meeting other eternal residents who will tell tales of crimes of passion, rash judgment, and just rewards. A stage show featuring merry cemetery murderesses, who dance, sing and explain that the murders they committed were not actually crimes because, well, "they had it coming." Along the way, you may encounter some ghostly – or is it ghostly? – spirits. It will be a lively night in the cemetery!

Tickets for this fundraiser are \$40 (includes ticket fees) and are available through <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3573625>. Price includes the tour, entertainment and light refreshments. Tickets go on sale at midnight on September 1 and sell out very quickly.





President's Message

Board members support activities of the Old City Cemetery Committee and provide leadership and strategic governance for our non-profit organization.

Responsibilities include the following:

- Advise members and volunteers concerning activities in the Cemetery.
- Review outcomes of activities designed to support cemetery activities.
- Participate in long-range planning in support of OCCC mission and goals.
- Review and approve the annual budget, audit reports and business decisions.
- Help to identify and recruit Board members.
- Partner with others to be sure Board resolutions and activities are carried out.
- Bring specific skills and knowledge to committees and perform special activities.
- Represent OCCC to stakeholders; serve as an ambassador for the OCCC to the City and members of the public.
- Ensure OCCC's commitment to a diverse Board and volunteers that represent the City of Sacramento.

I encourage OCCC members to participate by taking an active role in the organization. If you or someone you know is interested to serve on the Board of Directors, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss board membership with you. We are always seeking additional expertise and talent.

Thank you,

Judy Eitzen, President, OCCC Board of Directors
verlaine@citlink.net

Quiz—Oldest in California

Do you know what's the oldest in California?

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. State Park | 9. Restaurant |
| 2. Brewery | 10. Sourdough starter |
| 3. Bridge | 11. Building |
| 4. Winery | 12. Tree |
| 5. Lighthouse | 13. Shrub/bush |
| 6. Prison | 14. Lake |
| 7. Newspaper | 15. River |
| 8. City | |

While the east coast may have been settled first by Europeans, California has some old stuff, too.

Do you know what is the oldest tree in the state? Have you visited the oldest winery? Oldest brewery? Hopefully, not the oldest prison! Curious? Check out the answers on page 7.

Sources: various state and local websites.

Additional Fall Tours & Events

Through the fall, FREE history and garden tours and events will continue:

- September 1 - A Dozen Ways to Die - the Saga Continues
- September 8 - Rose Propagation Class
- September 15 - Medicine in the Old West
- October 6 - Haunted Sacramento
- October 13 - October Opulence Rose Garden Tour
- November 17 - Fall Color in the Rose Garden
- November 3 - Photography in Sacramento
- November 10 - Veterans of World War II



These FREE tours and events begin at 10 a.m. Meet at the front gate. Please park on the street.

TAC Update

The Technical Advisory Committee met on July 11 to present draft recommendations from the consultant's assessment of the cemetery and cemetery operations. Their primary recommendation stated a need for a single authority for cemetery operations—a Cemetery Manager. The manager would report to the Parks Department and consult with the City Historian regarding the historical artifacts and aspects of the cemetery.

The next meeting is planned for October 3 by which time, city staff and the consultants will have further digitized burial records and continued mapping the cemetery to develop the interactive database for public use. They plan to review needed maintenance and equipment, identify costs and funding sources to upgrade irrigation. The primary irrigation issue is to learn if the main line entering the cemetery is sufficient to adequately cover the entire property and how the use of hunter sprinklers might be reduced or replaced with localized plot irrigation. We also discussed bringing in an additional non-profit organization to support fundraising in support of cemetery infrastructure.

Gary Hyden (chair) announced a subcommittee to develop horticultural guidelines for the cemetery. The committee will include city and volunteer representatives. It is expected that the subcommittee will report back to the larger group at the October meeting. Cemetery representatives include Anita Clevenger, Cassandra Musto and Judy Eitzen.

Cemetery Visitor

The cemetery attracts visitors for many reasons – to see the beautiful grounds, walk the dog, attend a tour or event or simply spend time in a quiet oasis in the middle of a busy city. Many visit to learn about ancestors as did Rohn Beard one day this summer. His timing was lucky because while he arrived on a day the office was closed, he found a volunteer who had the information he sought.

Mr. Beard was celebrating his 81st birthday and had recently learned his great, great grandfather George Blake Cosby was buried in the cemetery so he decided to treat himself to a visit. Even though he had lived in Sacramento all his life, he had never been to the cemetery. Parks worker, Art Gonzales was on hand and brought Mr. Beard to Jean Robins a volunteer who was present to help with a tour and offered assistance. She not only knew of Mr. Beard's ancestor, she showed him the gravesite in the Pioneer Section. The ancestor was Brigadier General George Blake Cosby of the Confederate Army.

General Cosby was a prominent Sacramentan after the Civil War and cemetery volunteers had compiled information about his life which was shared with Mr. Beard. In fact, a commemoration was held a few years ago at his gravesite by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, California Division.

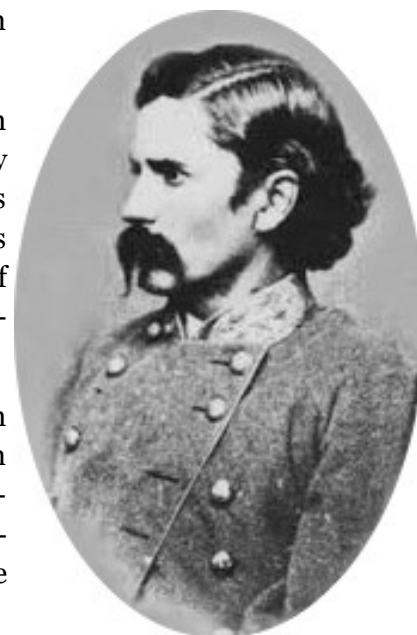
Brigadier General George Blake Cosby

Judy Eitzen

George Blake Cosby was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1830, received private schooling as a boy and graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point in 1852. During service in the US Army, he participated in surveying the 32nd parallel for a proposed railroad route to the Pacific, marching his command from Santa Fe to the Wichita Mountains (south west Oklahoma) and during which he engaged in raids against Comanche Indians where he suffered a wound to his arm. ⁽¹⁾ He was married at Fort Mason in 1860 to Antonia Johnson, niece of General R. W. Johnson of the Union Army in whose command Cosby had served.

He was promoted to captain on May 9, 1861 and resigned his commission one day later to serve in the Confederate Army as a captain. ⁽²⁾ Cosby served under General S. B. Buckner and when Fort Donelson fell, he was imprisoned at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor. Buckner spoke highly of his subordinate, noting in his official report that, "George B. Cosby, my chief of staff, deserves the highest commendation for the gallant and intelligent discharge of his duties." ⁽³⁾

Cosby was allowed ten days' liberty on parole, during which he effected an exchange of prisoners at Richmond, Virginia. He was himself exchanged in the fall of 1862. He was promoted Brigadier General in 1863 and led a cavalry brigade in General Van Dorn's command, serving in Jackson, Mississippi in the division designated to relieve the siege of Vicksburg. ⁽⁴⁾ During the last years of the Civil War he was stationed in West Virginia and Tennessee.



After the Civil War, Cosby went to Canada before moving to California's Butte County in 1868. He managed a mountain stage route and contracted to supply US Army posts and spent time as a sutler at Fort Warren in Oregon.

He re-entered public service by serving as secretary of the California state Board of Engineers from 1878 to 1883. From 1883-1887, Cosby served in the California National Guard as the ninth adjutant general. He superintended the construction of the US post office building in Sacramento, after which he spent time as a member of the board of visitors at West Point. In 1897 he was appointed receiver of public moneys of the Sacramento Land Office.

In 1903, he suffered a stroke that took a major toll on his physical and mental health. Many believe that this injury, along with the wound in his arm, suffered many years earlier, led him to take his own life in 1909. After receiving relief from prescribed drugs for some years, the medications lost effectiveness and Cosby died inhaling gas in his apartment. He is buried next to his wife, son and daughter-in-law.



Commemoration in Sacramento



Bust in the National Military Park
Vicksburg, MS

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- 1) Four routes were surveyed for the transcontinental railroad. Northern: 47-49th parallels; Middle route, favored by Senator Thomas Hart Benton, along the 37-39th parallels; Third route, 35th parallel route from Arkansas through New Mexico and across the Mojave Desert; Southern route (surveyed by Cosby) along the 32nd parallel, favored by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, from Texas along the Gila River to San Diego.
 - 2) As his father-in-law remained a Union commander, this must have made for interesting family discussions.
 - 3) California State Military Museums website: www.militarymuseum.org/Cosby.html
 - 4) There is a marker with a bust of General Cosby in the Vicksburg, Mississippi National Military Park.

Why Did They Die?

Judy Eitzen

As we consider the stories of those pioneers and early residents of Sacramento who now ‘reside’ in the Historic City cemetery, we learn many things about life in the 19th and early 20th century. We also learn about death. A tendency to think of one’s ancestors as having died of ‘old age’ is natural as we all hope to attain that status in our own lives. The truth can be a little scary – just how did Grandpa Arnold or Great Uncle Joe die?

A former volunteer, Dorothy Mills, spent some years researching those who died a violent death – murder, accident, suicide – but what happened to those who died of illness or ‘natural causes’? Life in early Sacramento, especially in the gold fields, could be precarious as seen by life expectancy statistics. In 1850, life expectancy in the US was a dismal 38.3 years, though that figure is somewhat misleading because of the high infant mortality rate. Life expectancy at age ten was 58.0 years and increased 3-4 years for each decade over ten years.

A quick scan of death records for the latter half of the 19th century lists different leading causes of death than today, though some diseases are still prevalent. Medical practitioners included spontaneous combustion,⁽¹⁾ drinking cold water, apoplexy, and near-misses from cannonballs as possible causes of death – yes, really!⁽²⁾ Other causes and diseases are unfortunately still with us today; cancer, heart disease, diabetes, angina, epilepsy.

So, what did gold miners and early Sacramentans have to contend with? First, there weren’t many doctors, so even the simplest slip and fall could become life-threatening. It is estimated that one in five miners during the gold rush died within six months of arriving in California.

A quick look at the burial records for the cemetery shows a number of unfamiliar terms as cause of death. “Ague” for malaria, “canine madness” for rabies, “dropsy” for edema due to kidney or heart disease, “ship fever” for typhus and “consumption” for tuberculosis are some of the terms used. Fortunately many of the conditions faced by pioneers are controlled today through vaccines or have been eradicated by modern medical practices.



Cholera is a waterborne bacterial disease that could kill in 24 hours. In 1850, even doctors did not know the cause and epidemics spread very quickly. A large number of those who died in Sacramento’s cholera epidemic of 1850 are interred in the Historic City Cemetery. Another common condition was scurvy caused by a lack of Vitamin C. California’s orchards had yet to be planted and fresh fruit was hard to obtain. Miners would pay a lot for a single lemon and citrus orchards began to appear from that time. Infectious diseases such as scarlet fever, smallpox, malaria, and diphtheria were indiscriminate killers.

Pioneers dosed themselves with folk remedies and patent medicines in the belief that the strongest-smelling, vilest-tasting treatments were the most effective.⁽³⁾ When a doctor was available, they were

limited by what supplies could be carried in saddlebags or a small buggy – homemade bandages, a stethoscope, forceps, a few drugs, plus knives and saws. Drugs consisted primarily of narcotics or purgatives. The greatest shortage was medical knowledge and training – just about anyone who called himself a doctor could be one. A variety of medical theories cropped up – steam bathing, secret herbs, special diets – all being vociferously supported by their practitioners.

Despite the number of untrained doctors on the frontier, many were dedicated men, struggling to find solutions to aid their patients in an era of limited knowledge. Pioneer medicine came to an end with the development of transcontinental travel and the focus on training and licensing for medical practitioners. Texas was the first state to establish licensing in 1873 and California passed the Medical Practice Act in 1876.



- 1) George Dvorsky, *New England Journal of Medicine*, June 25, 2012, ..."especially of brandy drinking men and women"
- 2) Ibid, a belief that close contact could shatter bones and even cause blindness
- 3) Groh, George, *American Heritage Magazine*, April 1963

OLDEST QUIZ ANSWERS—Many are near enough to visit—some in our neighborhood

1. Big Basin Redwoods state park in Boulder, dates to 1901, though discussion began in 1862.
2. Anchor Brewing Company in San Francisco was founded in 1871
3. The Bridgeport Covered Bridge was constructed in 1862. It is also the longest covered bridge in the US with a span of 230 ft. It is now limited to foot traffic.
4. Buena Vista Winery in Sonoma was founded in 1857 by Hungarian born 'Count' Agoston Haraszthy, considered the father of California viniculture.
5. Point Pinos Lighthouse in Pacific Grove was not the first—Alcatraz was replaced in 1909—but is the oldest extant built in 1855.
6. San Quentin State Prison in Marin County opened in 1852—criminal activity has been around as long as people, apparently.
7. The Mountain Democrat, published in Placerville has been covering the western slope of El Dorado County since 1851.
8. Of course, the oldest incorporated city is Sacramento (1850), though San Diego has been around much longer.
9. The Tadich Grill in San Francisco started as a coffee stand in 1849 and is known today for fresh fish and classic cocktails.
10. Can't talk California without sourdough and Boudin Bakery in San Francisco is still baking bread using a starter Isidore Boudin collected from various miners in 1849, so it could be even older.
11. Mission San Juan Capistrano's chapel was built in 1782.
12. A secret location guards a Bristlecone Pine somewhere in the White Mountains. It is 5,065 years old and is thought to be the oldest tree in the world!
13. There is a King Clone shrub in the Mojave Desert which is the oldest plant in the world estimated to be 11,700 years young.
14. Surprisingly, while most lakes live about 10,000 years, Clear Lake is 480,000 years old.
15. Geologically, the Sacramento River is relatively young, just a few million years, though it is the oldest in California.

Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc.

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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 TOURS
"THEY HAD IT COMING"



SACRAMENTO HISTORIC CITY CEMETERY
OCTOBER 19, 20, 26 & 27

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
WWW.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM/EVENT/
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1

TELEPHONE [800] 838-3006
TICKETS \$40.00
TAX ID #06-1674455

1000 BROADWAY, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95818
TELEPHONE [916]448-0811 WWW.HISTORICOLDCITYCEMETERY.ORG