



## Luper Marker

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### -Welcome Dawn to Dusk-

The cemetery is open to walkers and bicyclists, dawn to dusk, every day.

### 2015 Veterans Day

From 9 am to 4 pm on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 the main motor vehicle gate to the cemetery will be open. For people who are unable to visit the cemetery on Veterans Day, the gate will also be open the following Saturday, November 14, 9 am to 4 pm.

From our research, we know of 3 veterans buried at Luper. Sgt. Maj. Elias Henry Brodie, 2nd Lt Joseph C. Yates and Corp. William Addison Bushnell.

### 2014 & 2015--Two Remarkable Years

Luper Cemetery, Inc. volunteers have not only facilitated fantastic improvements to the cemetery grounds, but have also done much to tell historic stories.

In 2014 markers were found and restored, including: Anna Bell

Wadsworth, Harriet Wadsworth, Lavina Moore, and a two-year old child named John Paul Legate.

This past Memorial Day the cemetery was visited by President Abraham Lincoln in the person of actor Stephen Holgate who presented Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, and held an 1860 press conference under the Luper Maple. Many of the 150-plus attendees sat on the "Where They Fell" benches. (See more details in Maple Tree article)

As has been the case for the past few years, Memorial Day weekend also included historic information about the 1853 wagon train and many of the other 163+ people interred at Luper Cemetery.

We were able to have the Lane County Historical Society's Mobile Museum for the weekend. Linda Van Orden, a member of the Historical Society and volunteer with Luper Cemetery ran the booth.

Volunteer Russ Carey was on hand to share the many notebooks of historic information that he has compiled through his research. He also led tours through the cemetery with stories of many of the people buried there.

### Memorial Completed

As a result of research, we identified 28 people who are buried at Luper but have no remaining marker. Luper Cemetery Inc. was awarded a grant from the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries to create a Memorial Stone in memory of these people. In early 2015 the grant was completed when the monument was installed and native plants were added in the entrance area and immediately around the new monument. The monument is located at the entrance to the cemetery across from the information kiosk. Posted on the kiosk is more information on these 28 individuals.

### Maple Tree Damaged by Storm

The single largest and longest living feature at Luper Pioneer Cemetery took a hit from the ice storm that struck the Willamette Valley in February 2014. The Luper Maple is estimated to pre-date the founding of the cemetery in 1850s. Aerial photos from the 1930s show the Luper Maple on the north boundary with a large canopy. About one-third of the canopy was brought down by the weight of the ice. Volunteers cut several slabs from the down wood

to make benches and the remainder has been smoothed and finished. We refer to these as the “Where They Fell” benches.

## Scout Builds Benches

In order to complete his Eagle Project requirements, Kyle Sorensen organized, constructed, and installed two benches made from the slabs that were cut from the Luper Maple Tree. Kyle has had the support of his crew of Scouts to clear a place for one bench, finish the maple, and install the benches. He also arranged contributions from Bob Biswell and Gary Hansen to make the bench frames.

Be sure to enjoy these new benches as you visit the grounds.

## Visitor Input

The clipboard on the entrance kiosk receives comments from visitors throughout the year. These notes often recognize the beauty and serenity of Luper Cemetery. Recent entries include: “Here to reminisce.” – Jessica; “A good walk out- quiet, hawks and egrets out today – Sun & breeze. – Deb and Mike; “Thank you for allowing us to come and enjoy a peaceful, beautiful place. Good for the soul”. – Kari & Ginger; “I was married here in 2000.” – Rebecca.

## Legacy Fund Established

In order to keep the cemetery peaceful and well maintained in perpetuity, the board of Luper Cemetery Inc. established the “Legacy

Fund.” These funds are set aside for future care of this pioneer cemetery. Contributions are tax deductible and will help us preserve this historic sight. Checks can be made payable to Luper Cemetery, Inc. and mailed to PO Box 2588, Eugene, OR 97402. Please mark your contribution for the “Legacy Fund”. Or you can give online at our website, [lupercemetery.com](http://lupercemetery.com).

## Website Grows

The primary means of providing information to the public and encouraging involvement in cemetery restoration is the web site. The web site provides access to historical information diaries, and other sources. Detailed information and pictures have been collected and displayed. More web site development needs to be done that may require professional services.

## Luper 2016 Objectives

The mission of Luper Cemetery, Inc., described in Luper Pioneer Cemetery Management Plan is: to historically preserve and maintain the pioneer Luper Cemetery, honor those buried here, and engage the community in local history.

The board of Luper Cemetery, Inc. is in the process of setting goals for the coming year. Goals and objectives identified thus far include: information to the public, restoration of markers, removal of invasive plants, enhance native vegetation, completion of bench projects, installation of a “Welcome Dawn to Dusk” sign, raise funds for on-going and future maintenance, expanded website information, and improved event signage. After restoration of the cemetery is complete, our goal is to restore native vegetation around

the perimeter of the cemetery – like that which pioneers saw when living here in the mid-1800s. This will preserve a bit of the Willamette Valley oak prairie that drew early pioneers to this region.

## Wagon train history

Luper Cemetery is one of the oldest pioneer cemeteries in the southern Willamette Valley, dating back to the first burial in 1857, and recording of the original deed in 1865. There are 163 burials noted in historic records, 18 of which were pioneers on the 1853 wagon train that came by way of the Oregon Trail and Free Emigrant Road across central Oregon. Bylaws of the McClure wagon train described the destination of this company as “the fertile valley of the Willamette, located between the Cascade Mountains on the east and the Coast range on the west”. That is exactly where Luper Cemetery is located.

## How to Participate

Luper Cemetery, Inc. is a non-profit volunteer organization that meets monthly on the second Wednesday, and regularly holds work parties to maintain the cemetery. Meetings and events are announced on the website: [Lupercemetery.com](http://Lupercemetery.com). Everyone is welcome to attend and help with the reservation of the historic site.

In addition to the many volunteers who keep Luper Cemetery improving, the following organizations played important roles to meet Luper Cemetery goals: Santa Clara Fire District, Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, Oregon Historic Departments, Lane County Historic Society.