



Luper Marker

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Luper Cemetery, Inc.

Memories of Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a time to remember – recollect family stories, share events and history about people we may never have met.

Luper Cemetery's pioneer memories are many – from the 19th and 20th centuries. Memorial Day weekend 2012 (May 26, 27, 28) was a celebration of the pioneers who came to the Willamette Valley in the 1800s and the great work by volunteers and donors to restore the cemetery. On Memorial Day weekend 2012, more than 100 people visited the cemetery and shared stories from the past.

Information Kiosk Unveiled

A grant was received from Oregon Country Fair in early 2011 for construction of a kiosk and native plantings at the entrance. The Memorial Day event was our first display of information on the kiosk.

Luper Organization

Luper Cemetery, Inc. was formed in 2009 as a 501 C 3 tax- deductible non-profit organization to restore Luper (Irving) Cemetery. Luper has a 5-member board of directors selected every two years. Goals and objectives set by the board are

described on the reverse side of this newsletter.

Recognition of Contributions

Luper pioneer cemetery is maintained by volunteers. Contributions of money, materials, and services also make it possible to restore the cemetery. Generous contributions from contractors of their time and equipment by very favorable rates also make restoration of Luper possible. The following are examples of contributions in the past year:

-Ted Baker of Roberts Surveying Service worked on surveying the cemetery site to create a map of the graves and significant features. This map has been invaluable while working to improve the cemetery. Ted has followed up with confirming property corners and registering the map with the county.

-Mark Brown was elected to be a board member in 2012 and has been very active in restoration work, and most notably, leading the construction of the information kiosk at Luper Cemetery entrance.

-Kristin Meader is our board member keeping Luper in touch with the world through our web site, www.lupercemetery.com, and connections with social media.

-Russ Carey has been a constant presence at the cemetery to restore markers, locate buried markers,

Special Recognition

The Luper Board Recognizes the Exceptional Contributions made by Russell Carey in preserving and protecting the historic character of Luper Pioneer Cemetery.

clear debris, and maintain paths for safe access. He also has found pictures and documents about the history of Luper and the people buried there.

-Daniel Owen has constructed over 10 concrete bases to replace deteriorated sandstone bases for tombstones.

-Merilee Boulton is Luper secretary/treasurer and keeps us together with minutes of meeting, treasure's reports, reports, and work at the cemetery.

-John Moore is on the board and cuts out stumps and works to control the thistles, weeds, and invasive plants that try to take over the cemetery.

-Bruce Howard and Sally Donovan provided training, guidance, and restoration services (Arranged by Sharon Olson) to recover tombstones and historic characteristics of Luper Pioneer Cemetery.

-Wells and Sharon McCool, contributed time and equipment when helping to make the cemetery level and able to be maintained with small mowers.

-Peter Thurston is president of Luper Cemetery, Inc., and helps with various projects

-Redwood Northwest of Eugene contributed extra services when providing the kiosk laminated redwood display.

-Sperry Tree Service provided tree pruning advice and services to make the cemetery safer for visitors.

-Jeff Pinney provided plants and services to get them started.

-Kay Holbo assisted with planning.

-Molly Smith provided guided tours of cemetery history on Memorial Day weekend, and the list goes on . . .

On-going Maintenance

There are many ways to help maintain and restore Luper Pioneer Cemetery. If you live in the southern Willamette Valley you may come to monthly meetings of the Luper Cemetery board (6 pm on second Wednesdays) and participate in regular work parties to clear invasive vegetation and restore the tombstones. If you live far away, send a contribution through the web site, or by check, as described below. You may also be looking for a way to contribute to a Luper Foundation through a Will or trust. All contributions are tax deductible and will help to maintain the cemetery in perpetuity.

Ownership of the Cemetery
Lane County property records list

Irving/Luper Cemetery as a 1.4 acre site, including a specific legal description. The old fence lines (posts remain) are substantially consistent with the boundary description. Luper Cemetery is recognized by the state of Oregon as a historic pioneer cemetery. The earliest burials at Luper were in the 1840s, and the original deed was recorded in May 1865 and described as one acre of fenced off land on the farm of Thomas and Elizabeth Baker.

Updating the List of Markers and Interments

Decades of overgrowth, vandalism, and gophers working the soil have significantly deteriorated the markers and historic assets at Luper Cemetery. Our goal is to locate and restore as many markers as possible and identify the location of others that are missing. The best list of interments has 163 names. Most recent accounting of markers identifies a number of people, who are not on the list, and do not have a name on the stone. It is an on-going research, probing, and collection process to restore and maintain Luper. Come join the hunt. It's fun.

Memorial Day Celebrations

In addition to making the cemetery available to the public during daylight hours, we plan an annual Memorial Day historic interpretation celebration. Please see the Luper web site for information about walking the half-mile from Beacon Drive, or by making a special advanced arrangement to open the cemetery gate.

There are many stories to tell about pioneers interred at Luper. Seventeen were on an 1853 wagon train that crossed central Oregon on the Free Emigrant Road. Their

arrival doubled the southern Willamette Valley population. They were "headed to the fertile land between the coast and Cascade range" to build communities and raise families. The captain of the wagon train and his wife (Vincent and Sarah McClure) and the lieutenant of the train, James McClure are buried at Luper. Several diaries of early pioneers are listed on the Luper web site. They are loaded with stories of difficult crossings, survival, and search for fortunes in the California gold fields.

Luper Goals, Objectives and Budget for 2012

Luper Plans. Each year Luper's board creates specific objectives and a budget for the coming year. Our goals are to stabilize maintenance of the historic site and share information about the lives of the people who established farming communities in the 1800s. Come join the fun.

Ways to contribute to Restoration of Luper Pioneer Cemetery

Luper would not be in the condition described in this newsletter without the many contributions noted above, and other work and monetary contributions by visitors and community members. You can help to continue the historic restoration and maintenance of Luper by joining in regular work parties or contributing services, materials or funds to our tax deductible organization. Please visit the web site to contribute through PayPal, or send a check to: Luper Cemetery, Inc., PO Box 955, Marcola, OR 97454.

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