

# Washington State Cemetery Association

Issue 2 Number 1, January 2001

P.O. Box 103, Port Orchard WA 98366, email andimac@oz.net

## Western State Hospital Cemetery, Steilacoom, WA

By Andi MacDonald



Fort Steilacoom Park Barn, used to store headstones and picnic tables, was the site of the Western State Hospital Cemetery rededication held in October 2000. The gathering will be held each year to commemorate those buried at the Western State Hospital Cemetery. Photo courtesy Linda Pomeroy.

The Grave Concerns Association is in the process of developing their bylaws and articles in preparation for incorporation with the state as a nonprofit association dedicated to preserving the WSH Cemetery.

The cemetery has been neglected for many years, to the point that many did not realize a cemetery was actually there. Concrete markers etched with consecutive numbers had all but disappeared from the landscape. The stones were thought to have been stolen or disposed of. Employees realized the stones were in place but sunken beneath years of thatch. They immediately began meeting to discuss how they could generate interest in the cemetery, and hoped that in the process they could bring together employees, patients, and members of the community.

The hospital began when on August 19, 1871, it

opened to receive 21 patients. Eventually a total of 860 acres were acquired. In 1876 the cemetery was started for patients at Western State Hospital and continued until 1952 when burials ceased. During that time 2,777 graves were placed. A crematorium, located at the cemetery for many years, is now gone with only a concrete pad remaining. In addition to the burials, there are 866 known cremated remains with 282 placed at the Oakwood Cemetery Columbarium nearby. The remaining cremations are buried at the hospital cemetery in unmarked graves.

The only work done since 1952 is a bi-weekly mowing. A split-rail fence was set, possibly by Boy Scouts, at the entrance with a sign overhead. In the 1960's someone removed the few real headstones located at the cemetery into the barn adjacent where they sat undiscovered until 2000. Photos of these headstones cannot be released without the State's Attorney General permission as they fall under strict laws which cannot be penetrated even by the state's freedom of information act. The eventual release of names of those buried will have to come from the highest levels of the state, anything else would be illegal. It is hoped that permission will be granted in 2001.

Old beliefs and stigmas attached to the mentally ill necessitated the anonymous nature of the burials. With the strides in mental health over the last 50 years,

### Index

Washington State Hospital Cemetery .....	1
Cemetery Districts .....	3
Caring for a Cemetery .....	5
Cemetery Demography .....	6
E-mail .....	6
Association News .....	6
Comet Lodge Cemetery .....	9
Bills Currently Before WA Legislators .....	10

Continued next page

continued from previous page

and the archaic beliefs falling away, it is hoped that dignity will be brought to the deceased and the families they left behind. To that end, WSH had a rededication ceremony in October 2000 and hopes to continue having a yearly gathering to honor the deceased.

All their hard work has not gone unnoticed. The Lakewood Journal carried an article and the news spread. Soon the Tacoma News Tribune carried an article and U.S. News & World Report cited the work in an article they presented on disappearing cemeteries around the nation.

The work at the cemetery has not only brought media attention, the team of Laurel Lemke, Lisa Sechler, Kimberly Gorder, Charlie Jones, John Lucas, and community volunteer Jim Senko, was selected as an Outstanding Team for 2000 by Western State Hospital.

The team has been referred up to the regional level for consideration. In addition, Laurel Lemke was nominated for a Vision Award at the regional level.

The Graves Concern Association coincidentally started about the same time that other mental hospital cemeteries were coming to light around the U.S. Groups across the land are working on mental hospital cemeteries to ensure those buried are finally given the dignity they deserved in life. It has become a special interest group within the community of cemetery preservationists.

If you have materials or time to donate, or would like to become an active participant in meetings, contact Laurel Lemke at [lemkela@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:lemkela@dshs.wa.gov) or by phone at (253) 761-7575

*This article was first printed in The Empower Times, Volume 1, Issue 4, Fall/Winter 2000-2001. The Empower Alliance mission is working to sustain recovery while advocating education, creativity, peer support and outreach and to gain mutual effort, respect and dignity for those with a psychiatric label.*

*Empower Alliance recently moved into a new home in Tacoma, WA. Their new address is One Pacific Building, 621 Pacific Avenue South, Suite #9, Tacoma, WA 98402. 253.627.1116 or 1.877.606.8687.*

## **Bringing Respect and Dignity To Those Long Past at Western State Cemetery**

By Nathan Kelley

Within the boundaries of Fort Steilacoom Park, close to Western State Hospital's old farm buildings are the remains and graves of 3,338 former patients, a final resting place for many who resided at the hospital from 1876 to 1953. The gravesites were neglected and numbered markers were covered by decades of moss when John Lucas, a concerned staff member, took notice.

Determined that something must be done to restore the dignity to the graves, Mr. Lucas contacted Laurel Lemke, WSH Ombudsman, and they recruited hospital patients, staff, and community members. This group wished to hold an annual ceremony to uncover the buried grave stones and make them visible and to formally honor the people buried there.

Charlie Jones, hospital leisure horticulture leader, and patients from throughout the hospital planted flowers; Lisa Sechler a WSH payroll technician, did research at the state archives to identify individuals at their gravesites. Patient work crews have made great progress locating and resetting the covered stones.

On October 1, during Mental Health Awareness Week, there was a formal rededication ceremony held at the old cemetery complete with an honor guard and band from Fort Lewis, speeches by dignitaries and a tree planting ceremony.

Laurel Lemke states, "this is the most satisfying

project I have ever worked on. It is a hands-on activity to confront stigma and join consumers, staff, and the community." Her previous experience in recreation was instrumental in arranging the rededication. In preparing for ongoing work, the Washington State Cemetery Association provided technical assistance and a chance for partnership. The Empower Alliance has provided essential assistance for the Cemetery Restoration Committee to become a nonprofit organization and continuing upkeep.

Laurel has visited the former Northwestern State Hospital Cemetery in Sedro Wooley which has been planted as a wild flower field in the mid 1990's, but still needs to have a commemorate monument completed. Efforts were made to secure the cemetery at Eastern State Hospital in Sedro Wooley this past decade. State Hospital restoration projects have happened simultaneously nationwide. A handbook on these restorations was written by Larry Fricks, director of the Georgia Office of Consumer Affairs.

To learn more or to help with the W.S.H. project contact: W.S.H. Grave Concerns, Laurel Lemke, Drawer E, 253-761-7575, 9601 Steilacoom Blvd. S.W., Lakewood, WA 98498-7213, [lemkela@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:lemkela@dshs.wa.gov).

# Cemetery Districts

By Andi MacDonald

While many people know what a cemetery association is and does, they do not know what a cemetery district is or does. The easiest way to understand is to think of it as a cemetery association that has been set up by the voters in a county. When a cemetery district is approved, it may then seek money from the county to operate.

Cemeteries controlled and operated by a cemetery district are considered "public cemeteries." These cemeteries are governed especially by RCW 68.52, Public Cemeteries and Morgues.

To form a cemetery district in Washington state, more than 15% of a county's electors, who are residents within the proposed boundaries of the cemetery district, must file a petition with the county auditor. The petition must include; 1) the proposed boundaries of the district, 2) the objective of the proposed district, and 3) state the proposed district is in the best interest of the public. The petition must include an obligation to pay all fees for publishing the public notice signed by two of the petitioners. RCW 68.52.100

Within thirty days, the county auditor must examine the signatures and certify them with the county elections' board. After certification, the petition is forwarded to the board of county commissioners who, by resolution, enter it in their minutes and set a time and day for a public hearing. RCW 68.52.100 The hearing is to be no less than twenty or more than forty days from receipt of the petition by the commissioners. The county has no more than sixty days to complete its public hearings. RCW 68.52.110

The hearing process has explicit rules governing it. A copy of the petition without the petitioners names, along with a notice showing the time, date, and place of the hearing, signed by the clerk of the county commissioners board is sent to the appropriate newspaper for publication. The same clerk is to have the same items posted at least 15 days before the hearing in three public places within the proposed cemetery district boundaries. RCW 68.52.120

If the county commissioners determine the cemetery

district is for the good of the public, it provides the name and number of the district and fixes the boundaries. And, they authorize an election to be held for

the public within the proposed boundaries to vote on the formation. The same election is used to determine who the cemetery board members will be. The county commissioners name three registered resident electors as candidates for election as cemetery district commissioners. Others may place their names on the ballot by following local election laws. RCW 68.52.140

If two-thirds of all votes cast approve the formation

of the cemetery district, the county commissioners declare the proposed district duly organized. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes for cemetery commissioners become the first cemetery commissioners of the district. RCW 68.52.170

After a resolution is entered into the county commissioner's books, any person, firm or corporation who is not happy with the resolution, may file an appeal. After the five days are up, the formation of the district is complete and its legal existence cannot be questioned. RCW 68.52.180

Cemetery districts are municipal corporations under our state law. They are a corporation and have all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes. They "have full authority to carry out the objects of their creation . . . are empowered to acquire, hold, lease, manage, occupy and sell real and personal property or any interest therein; to enter into and perform any and all necessary contracts; to appoint and employ necessary officers, agents and employees; to contract indebtedness, to borrow money, and to issue general obligation bonds . . . to levy and enforce the collection of taxes against the lands within the district . . ." RCW 68.52.190

Is a cemetery district really worth all that goes into setting one up? Next issue we'll cover pros and cons of cemetery districts. You'll hear firsthand what some current and past cemetery board commissioners really think.

## Cemetery District Laws

### **RCW 29.21.015**

Non-Partisan Primaries and Elections

### **RCW 35A.68.010**

Acquisition — Care and investment of funds.

### **RCW 42.17.240**

Elected and appointed officials, candidates, and appointees — Reports of financial affairs and gifts.

### **RCW 68.52**

Public Cemeteries and Morgues

### **RCW 68.54**

Annexation and Merger of Cemetery Districts

### **RCW 79**

Public Lands

**What's wrong with this sign?**



There is no 'a' in the word cemetery! This sign is on Hwy 16 in Kitsap County, WA. WSCA will send a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting they check their spelling.

**Copies of transcriptions wanted**

WSCA is collecting copies of transcriptions. We will not publish your transcription (unless you specifically request we do so) but will maintain a copy in our files along with primary source citations. The information will then be added to our cemetery catalog, which is in development. When our catalog is complete, all records in our possession will be copied and submitted to at least three separate repositories (2 state and 1 local to the cemetery) and two online repositories. Send copies to WSCA, PO Box 103, Port Orchard, WA 98366, or email them in any format to [andimac@oz.net](mailto:andimac@oz.net).

Visit our Web site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wapsgs> for more information on these and other cemeteries

**Columbia County Cemeteries**

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Bicklehaupt Hill | Kellogg Hollow   |
| Bundy            | Marengo          |
| Bundy Hollow     | Mount Pleasant   |
| Cougar Canyon    | Newland          |
| Covello          | Pioneer          |
| Dayton City      | Pioneer Memorial |
| Eckler Mountain  | Robinett         |
| Evergreen        | Smith Hollow     |
| Hartsock Grade   | South Touchet    |
| Herres Ceemtery  | Starbuck         |
| Highland         | Turner           |
| Huntsville       | Whiskey Creek    |
| Jasper Mountain  |                  |

**Cowlitz County Cemeteries**

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Abernathy                     | Martins Bluff              |
| Abernathy Family              | Memorial Gardens           |
| Bozarth                       | Mount Brynion              |
| Brynion                       | Mount Pleasant             |
| Bunker Hill                   | Mount Solo                 |
| Burke Family                  | Mount View                 |
| Castle Rock IOOF              | New Horizons               |
| Catlin                        | Oak Point                  |
| Columb Heights                | Old Coweman                |
| Cowlitz County                | Olequa Area                |
| Cowlitz View Memorial Gardens | Ostrander, Abel Grave      |
| Eufaula                       | Pioneer Mount Solo Finnish |
| Finnish                       | Pleasant Hill              |
| Frank Able                    | Rose Valley                |
| Gardner Family                | Rosin                      |
| Green Hills Memorial Gardens  | Saint Pauls Lutheran       |
| Gunnari (single grave)        | Samuelson Family           |
| Hansen Family                 | Seeborg                    |
| Harris Family                 | Shafer                     |
| Hawk                          | Silver Lake                |
| Hayes                         | Smith-Tucker               |
| Hazel Dell                    | Stella                     |
| Higgins Family                | Stockport                  |
| Hubbard-Whittle               | Tower Road                 |
| IOOF                          | Tower Township             |
| Jackson                       | View                       |
| Kalama IOOF                   | Voight Family              |
| Kelso IOOF                    | Weist                      |
| Kern's                        | Whittle and Hubbard        |
| Laughlin                      | Woodland IOOF              |
| Lone Pine                     | Yale                       |
| Longview Memorial Pk          |                            |

# Caring for an Abandoned or Historic Cemetery: Getting Started

By Suzanne Perlmutter

It's the middle of winter, but any gardener knows that this is the perfect time to begin making choices about spring planting. And if you are interested in helping to preserve or beautify a cemetery in your community, you can follow some of the same steps one follows when making plans for a garden. In fact, taking care of an abandoned or historic cemetery — where interments no longer take place — is very much like taking care of a garden.

You can begin by carrying out what landscape professionals call a site analysis. The first step is for you and your group to begin learning as much as you can about the site — the size, the soil type, the types of plants, trees, and ground cover already present, and numerous other factors.

You and your group can save a lot of time, effort and money in the long run by doing some careful planning in the beginning. Anyone who has developed a large garden plot in a residential setting knows that this type of planning is essential.

Go to the site frequently and look around. Take a notebook or a sketchpad. Make careful notes and observations, including an inventory of existing plants, at least the ones visible in the winter. Make notes of the stones, which can give you clues as to the age of the cemetery.

Make notes regarding trees and shrubs that need to be pruned, or plants that seem to be diseased.

In terms of possible new plantings, take note of the areas in the sun and those in the shade, since this will affect where plants can be placed. Take note of any areas where sun is reflected back onto the site by any surrounding buildings, even after the midday sun passes.

Is the site on a busy street or in some other area where pollutants can be a factor? Think about a soil analysis: cooperative extension services at area colleges — such as the School of Agriculture at Washington State University —

can perform a soil analysis at a low cost.

When you have completed this initial phase, you and your group can begin making some choices about a design or planting scheme. This design can be relatively simple, of course, since the site does not need to be overwhelmed with elaborate plantings. This is another area where you can get a wealth of information from your cooperative extension service. They will be happy to help you with understanding site analysis and planning.

## Native Washington Plants/Shrubs

### Bulbs and Perennials

Camassia quamash (Common Camas)  
Fritillaria camschatcensis (Northern Rice Root)  
Xerophyllum tenax (Bear Grass)  
Cypripedium montanum (Mountain Lady's Slipper)  
Delphinium menziesii (Menzies' Larkspur)  
Viola langsdorfii (Alaska Violet)  
Cornus canadensis (Bunchberry)  
Iris tenax (Oregon Iris)

### Shrubs

Gaultheria shallon (Salal)  
Vaccinium uliginosum (Bog Blueberry)  
Cladanthamnus pyroliflorus (Copperbush)  
Kalmia microphylla ssp. occidentalis

---

*Suzanne Perlmutter is recent graduate of the University of Washington with a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture and is active in cemetery preservation in Washington State. Suzanne can be reached at [sperlmutter@hotmail.com](mailto:sperlmutter@hotmail.com).*

# Cemetery Demography

By Linda Severson-Shurtleff, M.S. Biology

Cemeteries are interesting to a lot of people. I'm sure some people may think searching through a cemetery is a morbid thing to do. We go to cemeteries, at least in part, because they give us a sense of mortality. Besides, you never know what you're going to find on a tombstone or maybe even an extremely interesting tombstone. (Like the one I found in a cemetery in Butte, Montana of a huge ship's anchor, but that's another story.) It's also physically good for you, because it gets you walking around outdoors.

However, there are another reasons for going to cemeteries. What about studying the populations in cemeteries? These types of studies are called cemetery demographics. Specifically, it is the study of human survivorship. You use a life table to do this kind of study. I know how backwards this sounds, but a lot of things can be determined by studying such populations, and the data is easily collected (and fun to do). Compiling that data maybe a little tedious, but it's worth the trouble. It produces patterns of human survivorship (or more to the point, mortality).

So, what can we find out? Comparisons can be made between the mortality of men and women, or between age groups. It can explain mortality events such as war or disease in a community, and it can tell us what ages or sexes were most affected by such calamities. By sharing information with other cem-

etry researchers, certain factors about populations can be determined. Comparisons can be made between communities and/or regions, such as between the Eastern and Western areas of the United States at any given time in history, provided the information is available.

Plagues involving Washington State	
1850	Yellow Fever
1850-1	Influenza
1852	Yellow Fever
1855	Yellow Fever
1857-9	Influenza
1873-5	Influenza
1916	Polio
1918	Influenza
1949	Polio
1952	Polio
After 1981	AIDS

I hope this article has given you a little insight into cemetery demography. It does take some work and the data has certain criteria that must be followed. Cemetery demography can be a very useful tool to communities and researchers. I hope I'll be able to help some of you with cemetery demographics in Washington State.

Details about doing life tables and cemetery demography can be found in part in the exercise "Cemetery Demography" submitted by Nancy Flood, University of Toronto, in the book "Experiments to Teach Ecology", published in 1993 by the Education Committee of the Ecological Society of America and is available from the ESA national office, Washington, D. C.

There are other examples of cemetery demographics at the site I am using. The information I have provided can be found at: <http://academicHamilton.edu/biology/ewilliam/cemetery/#demography>.

*Linda Severson-Shurtleff is a graduate of Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA. You can contact Linda at [SDougandlinda@aol.com](mailto:SDougandlinda@aol.com).*

## Email

Join our maillist for more information on Washington state cemeteries subscribe by sending a blank e-mail to: [wacemeteries-subscribe@listbot.com](mailto:wacemeteries-subscribe@listbot.com)

### Thurston County Cemeteries

I am attempting to help a very good friend find the gravesite for her father. His name was Colbert W. Starr and he resided in Olympia, Washington. Mr. Starr passed away in March (or perhaps February) 1998. I saw this email address connected with the Washington Cemetery Assn. and am hoping you can point me in the right direction to assist my friend in her search.

Thank you.  
Marianne Koester [10ac@san.rr.com](mailto:10ac@san.rr.com)

All Thurston County (Olympia) cemetery transcriptions are on line. I do not know how recent the information is, though. Go to <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wathurst/thurston.htm> and scroll down until you see Thurston County Cemeteries Now Online!

Hopefully, Mr. Starr will appear on one of the transcription records. If not, then at the very least you can see the names of all the cemeteries and their Township/Range/Section or driving directions so you can locate them on a map. Once you identify which cemeteries are in the locality near where the person died, check out an online yellow pages and get a phone number to call and see which might list the relative.

Andi [andimac@oz.net](mailto:andimac@oz.net)

### Cushman Cemetery, Tacoma, WA

I have been trying for almost 25 years to find out what happened to the records from the old Cushman? Indian hospital in Tacoma. My grandmother's brother was admitted to the hospital there and subsequently died and was buried in the cemetery at the hospital there. I have his death certificate (he died in 1936), and

have been to the Federal Records Center in Seattle, and they brought out his surviving records in a cardboard shoe box. They were unable to tell me where the hospital records had been taken to after it's closing. I have also been to the hospital cemetery, but could not see any grave for him. Do you have any idea where these records could be? Somewhere there must be some records showing exactly where the patients were buried. My husband and I are both natives of Washington, and have many of our families buried there, and my husband's sister lives in Port Orchard. We think you are doing a fabulous job. Many thanks,  
Dee [buddee@cybertrails.com](mailto:buddee@cybertrails.com)

Mom, age 87, & I both remember this hospital. It was called Cascadia, I think, & it can be seen from I-5 on the outskirts of Tacoma going north....just about when you get to the Puyallup Av. exit. It's a large brick bldg., 2-4 stories, sitting on top of a hill with the cemetery on the slope below it. Mom remembers when she was in high school (1929-1933), a lot of children with TB were brought there from all over, including Alaska. Hope this helps!  
Suzi Mickus  
El Dorado Co., CA, Pioneer Cemeteries Commission  
[suzi19@juno.com](mailto:suzi19@juno.com)

Thanks for the info. This hospital may have been Cascadia at one time, but when it was made into an Indian hospital, it was named U.S. Tacoma Indian Hospital. My g-uncle died there in 1936, and is buried in the cemetery on the grounds, which was named CUSHMAN Cemetery. I have just now looked at his death certificate, and this is the info on it. Thanks for giving Andi the directions. Maybe there are other people buried there, who were not Indians. Maybe someone will know who has the record's for the cemetery, and where all of the plots are.  
Dee [buddee@cybertrails.com](mailto:buddee@cybertrails.com)

## Association News

### 501(c)3 Status

Our 501c3 status has been granted. In response to the question, "Why has it taken it so long for our group to be granted their 501c3?", the IRS rep replied it was because we are a new kind of organization and the review process took longer.

Paperwork was received to confirm our nonprofit status and is now online for easy viewing at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wapsogs/admin/admin.html>.

It should be noted that our organization is not required to file a Form 990 until our income exceeds \$25,000.

I want to thank my fellow board members, Pam and Scott, for working hard on this project, it's a job well-done!

### Missing Headstones?

Do you know of a missing headstone or other funerary object? If so, let us know and we'll add it to our registry. Should an item be found matching the description/inscription, you will be contacted.

Send a photo with description of the item (or just a detailed description if no photo is available) along with your contact information to WSCA, PO Box 103, Port Orchard, WA 98366.

### Comet Lodge Cemetery

Work continues on Comet Lodge Cemetery (see article on page 8). It is hoped the cemetery will be complete by this spring with a rededication this summer.

In conjunction, WSCA will be submitting a grant application to various organizations for completing the Learning Center being built at the site for local school children.

If you have grant-writing skills, your help is needed. Contact Andi at [andimac@oz.net](mailto:andimac@oz.net) or phone 360.871.5694.

### Work on Cemetery Catalog Continues

Volunteer Thelma Chaffin continues her work on our cemetery catalog. The catalog contains legal information on all cemeteries in Washington state. Included are name and address of owners, legal description, where burial records are kept, where transcriptions may be found online or in print, driving directions, and other miscellaneous information.

Anyone can submit information on cemeteries. Send it to [thelmavchaffin@yahoo.com](mailto:thelmavchaffin@yahoo.com) or mail it to WSCA, PO Box 103, Port Orchard, WA, 98366.

Once complete, the information will be uploaded to our web site, freely available to anyone.

### Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Dani is developing a volunteer roster. If you would like to be added to the list, email her at [wyndrydr@zipcon.net](mailto:wyndrydr@zipcon.net). She can also be written at

Volunteers are needed for a variety of projects around the state. Don't hesitate providing your name just because you aren't in a specific geographic location. Some of our projects use online sources and anyone anywhere in the world should be able to work on them.

# Comet Lodge Cemetery, King County, WA

By Andi MacDonald



*Comet Lodge Cemetery in late fall 2000.*

Over November, December, and January, King County worked hard on “our” cemetery. King County personnel, Nick Masla and John Gallagher have made it a priority to complete the project by Spring. To achieve that, they’ve assigned and supervised work crews at least 2-3 days a week with work ramping up over the last few weeks of January.

Work crews have cleaned the property of almost every vine and blackberry bush, this month concentrating on the area along Graham Street. It is known that fewer incidents of desecration and theft occur when a property is completely open and viewable. In addition, ferns are being planted on the hill along 23rd Street, more plantings will come along as the weather improves. The grass took hold very well and most of it is still in place.

Damage from water runoff above the property is minimal, with none affecting the grass due to a new canal being built along the north end of the property. Previously, overflow from the storm drain came straight through the property and several graves had been washed out. (The graves and “ravine” were leveled out while still following the contour of the land.)

Work done in January included moving all the headstones and basestones to their correct spots. A backhoe on tank tracks (wheels not allowed on the property for fear of caving into a grave) was brought in for this. The driver knew the backhoe would damage the newly grown grass so careful attention was paid to drive over his tracks again

and again to limit the damage. Once the ground softens, new grass seed will be spread in the affected areas. In all, 27 items are being replaced. This includes mostly headstones, but in some cases only basestones in hopes the headstones will be returned. In addition, two curbingings will be replaced. One curbing is 12’x12’ and the other is a “baby” curbing only 2’x6’. Once a backhoe is no longer needed, the grass will be replanted and allowed to grow without further interference.

One of the most recent projects was to use the backhoe to remove huge old dead tree trunks covered in ivy. Again the backhoe driver found a buried headstone before anyone saw it (I am constantly amazed at backhoe operators who are so in tune with their equipment, they can feel something “different” in the ground before it can be seen!). The headstone is in perfect condition because it was submerged under a tree trunk (that’s why trees should NOT be planted within a cemetery—just the perimeter). The headstone is for Fannie Lyman Rardin, born October 15, 1858, died July 21, 1895. Fannie is not on our burial listing so we will have to research her to see what we can find out.

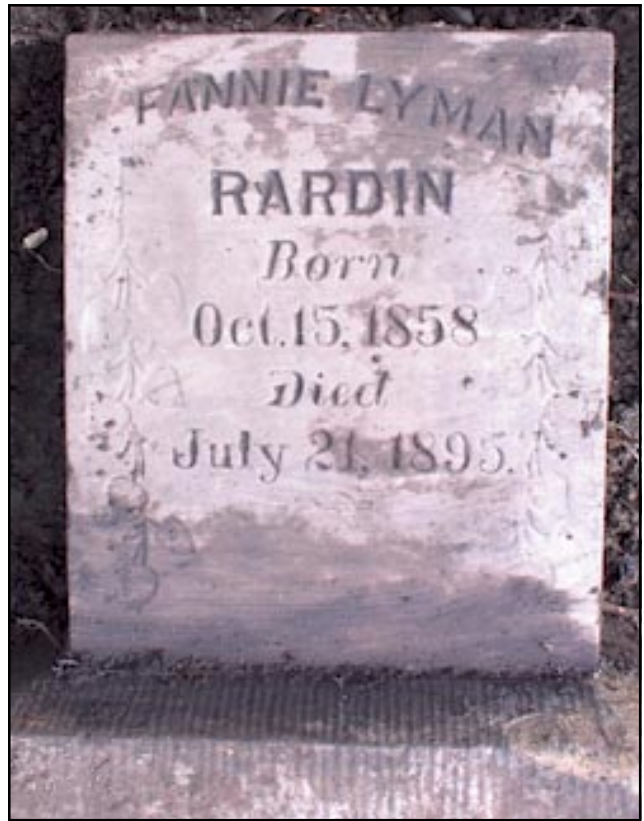
There are many basestones left over (their headstones were stolen, are buried, or broken). They were moved to the “Learning Center” being built. The Learning Center is scheduled for completion this summer.

One of the major concerns of any cemetery is theft or desecration. King County is taking every

precaution. Recently four headstones were stolen. It's unknown how many were stolen previously. To prevent further thefts, King County has worked with their carpenters and WSCA to determine an acceptable method of building footings into which the stones will be "pinned." King County carpenters became involved and determined the size of footings and built frames for them. I marked the spots where stones are to be placed and work crews dug holes for each frame. Carpenters will set the frames in preparation for concrete. Work crews will then wheelbarrow the concrete to each frame. When set, the stones will be "pinned" to the concrete using approved pins and adhesive. Once set, the stones will be grouted and cleaned.

Many members of the community have stopped by to say hello and tell us how wonderful the site is looking. One neighbor came to discuss the baby cemetery. The neighbor has lived just a block away for more than 70 years. She and her brother have visited the cemetery over the last 70 years off and on. She knows where the baby cemetery was and gave a description of it. She stated the babies were buried on the NW corner of the property

It is anticipated there will be a rededication sometime this summer.



*A new headstone was found by the backhoe operator. To date he has found four objects, this being the most valuable. Fannie Lyman Rardin is not on our burial listing so research is necessary before we can know much about her. If you know anything about this person or family, please contact us.*

---

## Brownsville Cemetery, Kitsap County, WA

Brownsville Cemetery, located in Kitsap County, WA, has been neglected for over 40 years. The last known caretaker died in the 1950's, and no one has carried on his work. The cemetery backs onto a dangerous ravine and one neighbor may be encroaching on the property.



## Bills Currently Before Washington State Legislators

### House Bill 1115

Title: Providing infrastructure financing resources for local governments.

Sponsors: Representatives Reardon, Pennington, Cairnes, Morris, Linville, and Veloria

Read first time Jan 17. Rreferred to: Trade & Economic Development.

Text relating to cemeteries:

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 34. A new section is added to chapter 68.52 RCW to read as follows: In addition to other authority that a **cemetery district** possesses, a **cemetery district** may provide any public improvement as defined under section 13 of this act, but this additional authority is limited to participating in the financing of the public improvements by agreeing to the tax increment financing as provided under section 16 of this act. This section does not limit the authority of a **cemetery district** to otherwise participate in the public improvements if that authority exists elsewhere.

### House Bill 1314 and Senate Bill 5346

Title: Making supplemental operating appropriations.

Sponsors: Representatives H. Sommers; Sehlin By Request of Governor Locke.

In House read first Jan 23. Referred to Appropriations.

In Senate read first Jan 19. Referred to Ways & Means.

Text referring to cemeteries:

Part IV, Transportation: Takes \$205,000 from the **state's cemetery account** to help pay for Transportation.

### House Bill 1315 and Senate Bill 5345

Title: Operating Budget

Sponsors: Representatives H. Sommers; Sehlin by Request of Governor Locke.

In House read first time Jan 23. Referred to Appropriations.

In Senate read first time Jan 19. Referred to Ways & Means.

Text relating to cemeteries:

Part IV, Transportation: Takes \$214,000 from the **state's cemetery account** to help pay for Transportation.

### House Bill 1418 and Senate Bill 5720

Title: Promoting community revitalization.

Sponsors: Representatives Gombosky; McMorris; Mulliken; Pennington; Ahern; Wood; Ogden; Benson; Reardon; Linville; Haigh; Miloscia; Simpson; McIntire; Santos; Rockefeller; Kessler

First reading: Jan 25

In House read first Jan 25. Referred to Trade & Economic Development.

In Senate read first Jan 31. Referred to Economic Development & Telecommunications.

Text relating to cemeteries:

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 21. A new section is added to chapter 68.52 RCW to read as follows: In addition to other authority that a **cemetery district** possesses, a **cemetery district** may provide any public improvement as defined under section 2 of this act, but this additional authority is limited to participating in the financing of the public improvements as provided under section 5 of this act. This section does not limit the authority of a **cemetery district** to otherwise participate in the public improvements if that authority exists elsewhere.

---

Concerned about one of these bills or want to know more? Contact your legislator and talk with him/her. Visit the Washington State Legislature Home Page on the Web at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/default.htm>.

### Contact Us

Washington State Cemetery Association  
P. O. Box 103

Port Orchard, WA 98366

Phone: 360.871.5694

E-mail: [andimac@oz.net](mailto:andimac@oz.net)

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wapsgs/>

Maillist: send a blank e-mail to  
[wacemeteries-subscribe@listbot.com](mailto:wacemeteries-subscribe@listbot.com)

## *West Coast Regional Conference 2001*

August 10-12, 2001

Conservation Workshop, Friday August 10, 2001

Lectures and Cemetery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, August 11-12, 2001

Visit <http://www.gravestonestudies.org> for updated information



San Francisco State College  
San Francisco, California

### West Coast Cemetery Alliance

#### **California Historic Cemetery Alliance**

Web Site: none  
E-mail: [chca@inreach.com](mailto:chca@inreach.com)  
Contact: CHCA  
P. O. Box 255345  
Sacramento, CA 95865-5345

#### **Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association**

Web Site: <http://www.oregoncemeteries.com>  
E-mail: [ohca@oregoncemeteries.org](mailto:ohca@oregoncemeteries.org)  
Contact: OHCA  
P. O. Box 802  
Boring, OR 97009-0802

#### **Oregon Pioneer Cemetery Commission**

Web Site: none  
E-mail: [Mirra.Meyer@state.or.us](mailto:Mirra.Meyer@state.or.us)  
Contact: OPCC  
1115 Commercial St. NE, Ste 2  
Salem, OR 97301-1012

#### **Washington State Cemetery Association**

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wapsgs>  
E-mail: [andimac@oz.net](mailto:andimac@oz.net)  
Contact: WSCA  
P. O. Box 103  
Port Orchard, WA 98366-5764

#### **Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria**

Web Site: <http://www.oldcem.bc.ca>  
E-mail: [oldcem@pinc.com](mailto:oldcem@pinc.com)  
Contact: OCSV  
Box 50004, #15-1594 Fairfield Rd.  
Victoria, BC, V8S 1G1  
Canada

---

### Call for Papers

Proposals are solicited for scholarly papers, 20-30 minutes in length, to be presented during the lecture sessions, and for participation sessions, 50 minutes in length.

Please send your proposals and abstracts for the lecture sessions to:

Barbara Rotundo  
9 Hemlock Drive  
Belmont, NH 03220-9803  
Telephone (603) 524-1092

Please send your proposals for leading a participation session to:

Claire Deloria and Barbara Aitken  
8221 Exeter Drive  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
Telephone (315) 638-4638  
Email: [BarbAitken@aol.com](mailto:BarbAitken@aol.com)

### WOODMEN OR MODERN WOODMEN??

Woodmen of the World is the group typically identified with tree trunk headstones, and we affectionately know them as WOW. Now known as "Woodmen", their web site is: <http://www.woodmen.com/>. Their history can be found at <http://www.woodmen.com/history.htm>.

The other group is Modern Woodmen of America, also known as Modern Woodmen, and their web site is <http://www.modern-woodmen.org/>.

Washington State Cemetery Association  
PO Box 103  
Port Orchard, WA 9836

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Washington State Cemetery Association (WSCA) is to research, protect, restore, and preserve old and abandoned cemeteries in Washington state, to maintain their history, and to provide education and awareness of old and abandoned cemeteries and their care to the public.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wapsgs/>

## Washington State Cemetery Association

# Membership Form

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Home phone

email address

Membership Type

Individual: \$12.00 per year

Student: \$6.00 per year

Cemetery(ies) you are interested in and their location:

please place any additional information you would like us to have on the back...

Members will receive

- membership package by return mail
- quarterly newsletter
- notification of new laws
- assistance with cemetery projects

Mail completed application and check or money order to

Treasurer  
Washington State Cemetery Association  
PO Box 103  
Port Orchard WA 98366