

### LONE FIR CEMETERY

The first burial was that of EMMOR STEPHENS in 1846, but the ground was not laid out as a cemetery until 1854, when Colburn Barrell set apart a small area and named it Mt. Crawford Cemetery. Later he increased the cemetery to thirty acres. The acreage now (1923) is less than twenty. The number of interments has been estimated at 20,000 or more. Since 1913, frequent proposals have been made for removal of the burials and conversion of the land into a public park, but the large number of graves, the objections of surviving family members and sentimental unwillingness to disturb the resting place of so many pioneers who bought lots for perpetuity, have been insurmountable obstacles. The cemetery is bounded by East Stark, East Morrison and East 26th Streets, and is paralleled by East 20th Street.

Originally, when the ground was first used for burials, beginning in 1846, Portland, west side, was a little more than a name. Until 1854, Portland used as a cemetery an area where later (1923) stands Skidmore fountain, between Ankeny, Pine and Front Streets. In conformity with a city ordinance of 1854, burials there ceased, and removals were made to other cemeteries of which there were several: Block 225, between Washington and Stark, 10th and 11th Street, and the contiguous area between Alder and Burnside, 11th and 12th Streets, as shown by a copy of a city map of 1853 of T. O. Travaillet made in 1854 by Edward Failing, now in the records of the Oregon Historical Society; another between Macadam, Hood, Abernethy and Lowell Streets, in South Portland, set apart by Elizabeth Carruthers and James Terwilliger; a third, in South Portland, between Hood, Corbett, Madison and Porter Streets, used for Jewish burials, the last grave being removed in 1886; and Lone Fir Cemetery on the east side.

These four early cemeteries on the west side have been overgrown by the City of Portland, and although many of the graves were moved, a considerable number were obliterated, so that some pioneers repose in unknown places beneath the city.

East Portland, as a town or village, did not exist when Mt. Crawford (Lone Fir) Cemetery was first established. A few pioneer settlers had land claims on the east side of the Willamette River. Dense forests and thickets of underbrush made travel difficult except along narrow trails. As a high sight, some two hundred feet above the river, this ground offered advantages for an abode of the departed. The land here was not heavy timbered, but had growths of small fir and maple trees, and numerous hazel bushes. There was an occasional large fir tree.

Here the body of EMMOR STEPHENS, pioneer of 1844, was buried by his son JAMES B. STEPHENS in 1846. In 1855, the graves of DAVID P. FULLER and CRAWFORD DOBBINS, victims of the Gazelle steamboat explosion at Canemah in 1854, were moved to this cemetery. Many graves were moved in 1857 from the cemetery in Lower Portland, as heretofore stated.

COLBURN BARRELL, after establishing Mt. Crawford Cemetery in 1854, changed the name to LONE FIR CEMETERY, at the suggestion of his wife, AURELIA J. MONTGOMERY BARRELL, to whom a solitary large fir tree hinted the name. Mrs. Barrell was a pioneer of 1852, and her husband, Colburn Barrell, a pioneer of 1849. She came to Oregon by the "Plains" route and he by sea. Her first husband, JAMES H. MONTGOMERY, died at Fort Hall, Idaho, in 1852, on the route to Oregon. She died August 27, 1899 at 69 years of age. Colburn Barrell died October 10, 1902, at 78 years of age.

Colburn Barrell bought the large part of the land in 1863, as part of the Seldon Murray donation land claim, and organized the Mt. Crawford Cemetery Company. He sold in 1866 with \$5100 capital. The incorporators were Levi Anderson, Robert Pittock and Byron P. Cardwell. Original stockholders were Levi Anderson, Robert Pittock, C. S. Silver, W. B. Fain, Jacob Mayer, D. W. Williams, Byron P. Cardwell, Ferdinand Opitz, L. Besser, Charles Barrett, Thomas Stephens, H. C. Coulson, J. A. Strowbridge, C. M. Wiberg, J. C. Carson, A. C. Brelsford, John Ewry and Colburn Barrell. At that time several hundred burials had been made,

two blocks were well filled with graves, the Masonic Order owned two other blocks and the Firemen's Association had a small area. Later the Masonic order bought two more blocks. As the cemetery grew, the clearing of trees and brush extended. Buyers of lots expended their own money and effort in this work and fought back the returning growth. However, brambles and thickets were so vigorous in recovering their primeval habitat that in 1867 a public fund of \$366.50 was raised to improve the cemetery. A contract was let to clear the ground of weeds and brush and to set wooden markers on the graves which were becoming obscure. (The Oregonian, July 17th, 1867, Page 3). Many graves could not be identified as "who these dead people were", says the Oregonian of May 1, 1887, "will never in all probability be discovered for the records of interments does not indicate where these bodies were buried."

The first graves are in the northwest corner, near East 20th and East Stark Streets, and along the west end, paralleling East 20th Street. A section for Chinese was in the southwest corner, near East 20th and East Morrison Street.

The soldiers monument in Lone Fir Cemetery was unveiled October 26th, 1903, costing \$3500, which was contibuted by some five hundred persons, the largest sum given bein' \$200 by Henry W. Corbett. It is a memorial to soldiers of the Civil, Indian, Mexican and Spanish American Wars, built by the Lone Fir Monument Association, which effected preliminary organization November 2, 1901, and incorporated February 9, 1902. Officers were M. L. Pratt, President, Edward Martin, Vice President, and J. W. Ogilbee, Secretary and Treasurer. The designer was D. D. Neer and the builder Otto Schumann. (See The Oregonian October 25, 1903, Page 16).

Don MacCleay built a mausoleum costing \$13,500 in 1877. (See The Oregonian June 5, 1877, Page 3).

Among the graves are those of the following: James D. Holman, Thomas J. Dryer, Eugene A. Cronin, Dr. J. C. Hawthorne, Charles A. Burckhardt, Samuel A. Moreland, Ralph Wilcox, Harry C. Coulsen, John H. Couch, Thomas J. Holmes, Dr.

William Weatherford, Dr. W. W. Royal, Peter Hansen, J. G. Flowerdew, Richard Hoyt, Samuel Sherlock, Sam L. Simpson, J. C. Moreland, W. W. Chapman, Levi Estes, Herman Wasserman, Horace Lyman, W. H. Frush, Justin Millard, J. W. Bloomfield, D. H. Lownsdale, Finice Caruthers, Philip M. Strowbridge, Henry Law, Dr. C. P. Elwert, Edward J. Northrup, Howard Northrup, John Phillippi, William Cree, Charles Barrett, Daniel Harvey, George L. Curry, Andrew Hurgren, Charles S. Mills, James W. Going, William E. Molthrop, Hillardy Cason, Austin Chittenden, George H. Carter, T. J. Sloan, John McLaughlin, Horace S. Lyman, William H. Barnhart, Harry Lane, Thomas A. Savier, Dr. Henry E. Jones, Levi Knott, A. J. Knott, Donald Macleay, Gideon Tibbetts, Dr. James R. Cardwell, Rev. J. H. B. Royal, Job McNemee, James H. Guild, Anthony Noltner, William L. Higgins, Richard Williams, Will Dierdorff, Z. C. Norton, Earl C. Bronaugh, Sr., Rev. Chauncy O. Hosford, Sylvester Pennoyer\*, Benjamin G. Whitehouse, Hollister D. McGuire, Frank Dekum, William Werschkul, John Kenworthy, Cincinnati Bills, Christian H. Meussdorffer, Robert McCracken, John Cotter, D. S. Southmayd, Dr. J. M. Roland, George J. Martin, Sr., G. D. Dammeier, John Ewry, Valentine Brown, James W. Robb, J. B. Backenstos. (See The Oregonian July 17, 1867, Page 3; June 5, 1877, Page 3; May 1, 1887, Page 1; August 29, 1899, Page 8; October 21, 1902, Page 10; October 25, 1903; June 10, 1906, Page 38; September 19, 1909, Page 12.)

Saint Mary's Cemetery (Catholic), north of Lone Fir Cemetery, on the opposite side of East Stark Street, was laid out as a burial ground in 1858. Archbishop F. N. Blanchet bought the land from Timothy Sullivan. The first interment was that of Louisa Frederica Koblite, wife of F. Koblite, October 12, 1858. Among the other graves were those of Daniel J. Malarkey, Sr., Patrick Raleigh, P. O'C. Newell, Barney Trainor, Joseph J. Reilly, Daniel Walter, Leon Vial, Daniel Shay, William J. Condon, David Gully, Captain D. Burns, Patrick Quinn, Dennis Spellan, Michael Malone, Bryan Brady, Phillips Lowene, Peter S. Williams, Michael Horan, Pierre Manciet, Terrence McLaughlin, John Wallace, Captain Dan McGill.

Riverview Cemetery was laid off in 1879 and 1880. The soldiers monument there was unveiled May 24, 1903.

\*Later removed to Riverview Cemetery

The plans of the Lone Fir Cemetery Lot Owners Association, which succeeded to the Portland Lone Fir Cemetery Company, to improve, beautify and maintain the cemetery grounds, the pioneer resting place of many of the early residents of Portland and the state, are rapidly being worked out. By next Thursday, when the Grand Army of the Republic bodies hold their Memorial Day exercises, the public will be afforded opportunity to see what has been accomplished. Wednesday and Thursday of next week (1912) the association will maintain booths in different portions of the grounds at the south entrance and at Memorial Square in the center, where attendants will give information as to the plans of the association and keep blanks for those who desire to make contributions to the improvement fund. It is expected thousands will visit the cemetery Wednesday and Thursday and those booths will be maintained as bureau of information as the association desires that the public should have full information as to the purposes and plans for the future of this pioneer cemetery.

According to the report of Secretary Strowbridge, so far \$3500 has been expended on the grounds. Something over thirty blocks have been partly and wholly improved. About \$5000 has been subscribed toward the expense fund and it estimates that fully \$10,000 will be required to keep the improvements and pave the roadways with crushed rock screenings. The names of about 1,000 lot owners have been secured by Secretary Strowbridge. Owing to lack of records these names were obtained only with much work and correspondence. Some of the lot owners live on the Atlantic Seaboard and many have written from the eastern cities.

In the cemetery there are 30,000 bodies buried. The money that has been subscribed and paid in has come from 170 lot owners. The Portland Railway Light and Power Company has contributed \$150 toward the erection of the stone waiting-room at the south side, besides donating cement and rock. As fast as the money comes in, it will be applied to the improvements until the grounds have been covered from the west to the east.

The association does not pretend to dictate what money lot owners shall pay, that being left wholly to the owners themselves, but it is desired that all interested should contribute something toward the improvement and preservation of the cemetery, which is sacred to the ashes of so many of the pioneers of this country. The improvements have been under the direction of Harold F. Wold, landscape engineer and were started in the space between the south entrance and north to the Fireman's plot. For a width of about 150 feet the grounds were cleared of the tangled brush and weeds, levelled and then seeded to grass. About the graves in this zone, the ground was graded without disturbing the graves or the grave stones. Hundreds of rose bushes were then set along this space. The effect of this improvement was immediate and pleasing as it opened a full view through the center of the cemetery to the north end, where are located the Fireman's plot and the Masonic plots.

When the waiting room has been completed, it will be possible to see from the room straight through the cemetery north, west and east, the clearing of the underbrush and superfluous shrubbery having made this possible. For many years the shrubbery was permitted to grow without care and ran riot over the graves, concealing them in the mass of brush and weeds. This was especially true of the zone extending from the south entrance which gave a very painful impression of neglect and disrespect to the dead and the first movement of the association was to dispel this impression. As soon as the grass has covered the lawn and the roses are in bloom, then the full effect of the initial plan will be excellent.

The main efforts so far have been expended in the older portion at the west side, which was the first ten acres let out as a cemetery, and which was in a wild, unkept condition, of shrubbery, broken trees, grass and weeds, wholly neglected. Here most of the pioneers are buried but more than seventy-five percent of the graves were hidden under the tangled mass. Within the past few weeks all this has been changed and this part of the cemetery has been vastly improved.

It is now possible to look through all portions of the west side of the grounds under the growth of small trees that have been permitted to stand, yet nothing has been sacrificed. Graves that had been covered for a quarter of a century were improved, ruined and broken coping was removed and the stone will be part of the waiting room under construction. The transformation has been complete. This work extend through to the north side where the Masonic part is located. At the start the work was done in this part of the cemetery largely as a demonstration. About forty-five men were employed for sometime, but at present fifteen men are at work.

The association has replatted the cemetery grounds for two purposes - to locate all the graves and also to secure a revenue for maintenance purposes. The lots of course are marked on the new plat and may be found at once. By this plat several of the roadways have been closed leaving a large number of burial places at the disposal of the cemetery association, the proceeds to be used to form a trust fund for maintenance purposes only. According to the provisions of 6820 Section of the Laws of Oregon, this maintenance fund becomes an irreducible fund, only the income from which can be used, and the principal must be kept in the bank or invested as a trust fund.

Many have asked what is to become of the cemetery after the association has completed the improvements, and this question may be answered that this irreducible trust fund will be built up out of the sale of the lots in the closed roadways. It is estimated that a considerable sum will be realized from the sale of these lots. Enough roadways will be left to give access to all parts of the cemetery grounds, and it is proposed to pave these remaining roadways with crushed rock. Some of these roadways have already been graded preparatory to paving with crushed rock. The roadways on the four sides of Monument Square have been graded and gravel paths are to be laid through the square from the four corners. The intention is to open the roadway near the center through the street at the south side of the cemetery through the space now occupied by the greenhouse, which

will be removed in a short time. The general plan is to continue the improvements through to the east side as far as the money will permit.

Erection of the stone waiting room at the south entrance has been started. As Colburn Barrell was the man who started Lone Fir Cemetery and his wife named it Lone Fir, their names will be perpetuated in this stone edifice. On one of the piers will appear the name of Colburn Barrell, who founded the cemetery in 1854, and on the other pier will appear that of his wife, who gave it the name of Lone Fir Cemetery. It was originally called the Crawford Cemetery but was renamed by Mrs. Barrell after the scraggy fir tree which stands near the Masonic Plot at the north side. Those in charge of the work believe it is fitting that the name of Mr. and Mrs. Barrell should be perpetuated in the walls of the waiting room as part of its history to stand for all time as a tribute to their memory.

The waiting room will be one of the artistic features of the cemetery. The roof is to be supported by solid stone piers and covered with glass. It is planned to make the entrance to the cemetery from the south side. A movement has been started by which it is hoped that the street part of East Morrison along the south line of the grounds will be paved and become the main entrance to the cemetery. The association will assist in this movement, and it is thought that the street railway company will interpose no objections to the improvements. The association also proposes to erect an artisans stone wall along the south line as soon as it can be done.

The association will clear the grounds and cut the grass before Memorial Day so that the cemetery will present a clean and attractive appearance. It has not been an easy matter to perfect and get this movement under way and it has been entirely a labor of love and patriotism on the part of all who have had anything to do with the work. Up to this time all efforts to take care of the cemetery have failed and this is the first time results were secured.

Those who had been doubtful of the success of this movement are now pleased over what has been accomplished and some who opposed the improvement as iconoclastic have been won over. The directors give large credit to the untiring work that Secretary Strowbridge has done toward this preservation movement and on his shoulders has fallen the bulk of the work which he has cheerfully carried in the last two years since the enterprise was projected and is still willing to carry. Being the son of a well known pioneer and deeply interested in the work undertaken, Mr. Strowbridge brought untiring energy and sound business principles to the execution of the work, with the assistance and advise of the Board of Directors.

The men associated with him as: Dr. S. E. Josephi; Dr. Day Raffety; George L. Story; G. F. Russell; H. S. Rowe; Judge Earl S. Bronaugh; M. C. Banfield; A. A. Dekum; M. O. Collins; Thomas M. Word; L. N. Guy; Alexander Muir; Joseph Buchtel; M. L. Pratt; John W. Ogilbee; Herman H. Jones; T. S. McDaniel; E. B. Williams; F. H. Whitehead; K. K. Kubli; Thomas A. Jordan; S. C. Pier; John H. Lewis.

#### EARLY DAY CITIZENS REST IN LONE FIR CEMETERY

Lone Fir Cemetery was originally known as Mt. Crawford Cemetery and was named for Crawford Dobbins, whose monument was the first to be erected in which is now Lone Fir.

Crawford Dobbins and Colburn Barrell, Jr., who came to Portland in 1849, operated a passenger boat between Portland and Oregon City. On March 18th, 1854, their side-wheel steamer Gazelle made her trial trip on the Willamette. On April 8th, while at the wharf at Canemah, her boiler exploded killing instantly the Rev. J. P. Miller of Albany, Judge Burch of Luckeamute, Mr. Morgan of Rickreal, Mr. Hill of Albany, Mr. White of Salem, Daniel Lowe of Oregon City, C. Watsworth of Milwaukie, and David Fuller of Portland, all of whom were passengers; and also David Page, superintendent of the Willamette Falls Company, one of the owners of the Gazelle, J. M. Gudge, salor of the Willamette, and Jacob Bloomer

J. K. Miller, Michael McGee, and Mr. Hatch, members of the crew; Henry Traul, the steward, and Mr. Brant, the second engineer. Among those badly injured were Dobbins, B. F. Newby, Robert Shortess, James Parklow, a pilot, and John Boyd, the mate. Crawford Dobbins died of the injuries and his partner, Barrell, buried him and also David P. Fuller, on his farm, which he had purchased from J. B. Stephens. After burying his partner and Mr. Fuller, Mr. Barrell set aside ten acres as a cemetery, named it Mt. Crawford Cemetery. J. B. Stephens had buried his father, Emmor Stephens, on his claim, not far from the claim of Seldon Murray, and Barrell agreed to take care of the grave of Emmor Stephens; and because the Stephens claim was so close to the line divid the Stephens claim and the Murray claim, Barrell also bought from Murray ten acres immediately adjacent to the claim of Stephens. The deed for this ten acres reads: "Portland, Oregon Territory, August 4, 1855, know all men by these presents, that we, Seldon Murray and Hiantha, his wife, do hereby sell and quitclaim in consideration of \$100 unto the said Colburn Barrell, Jr., for cemetery purposes forever, a parcel of land containing ten square acres."

When Dobbins died, Mr. Barrell had Dr. McCarthy, a Methodist minister, preach the funeral sermon and shortly after the burial, erected a monument over Dobbin's grave, first monument in the cemetery. Mr. Barrell took as his won lot, Lot 1, Block 1. In 1855, A. B. Hallock was county surveyor, and he made a plat of the cemetery, the plat being filed on August 9, 1855, under the title of Mt. Crawford Cemetery. On June 7, 1865, Mr. Barrell purchased thirteen additional acres, which he added to the cemetery. The following year he added seven acres more. Believing that the cemetery should be owned by the city, he offered to sell it to the city for \$4000. When the matter was brought before the City Council, they decided that the cemetery was too far away from Portland and refused to purchase it.

In 1862, Mr. Barrell donated Block 5 to the City Fire Department, and sold at a low price a block in the cemetery to Willamette Lodge, and also one to

Harmony Lodge of the Masonic Order. When the city refused to purchase the cemetery, Byron P. Cardwell, Levi Anderson, Robert Pittock and a number of other Portland residents purchased the cemetery for \$4000 and incorporated it on July 26, 1866. By that time there had been several hundred burials in the cemetery. When Mr. Barrell sold, his wife suggested that the name be changed to Lone Fir Cemetery and her suggestion was adopted.

In 1867, \$366.50 was raised by public subscription to clear the ground of weeds and brush and to put wooden markers on many of the unmarked graves. The records of interments were not kept at that time and many of the graves could not be identified.

More than 22,000 persons are buried in Lone Fir Cemetery. Among these are 460 veterans of the Civil War, 15 veterans of the Spanish American War, 7 of the Mexican War, a number of Indian War Veterans and one of the Veterans of the War of 1812. There are 75 former members of the Fire Department in the Fireman's plot.

Governor George L. Curry, Governor Sylvester Pennoyer\*, as well as Dr. Harry Lane, former mayor of Portland, United States Senator and First Oregon Territorial Governor, and a number of other former mayors and city officials also rest in Lone Fir.

In the fall of 1903, a Soldiers' Monument was unveiled. The cost of the monument was \$3500; this was contributed by more than 500 persons. It was erected as a memorial to the soldiers of the Civil War, the Spanish American War and to the Veterans of the Mexican and Indian Wars.

In 1877, Donald Macleay Mausoleum costing \$13,500 was built.

Prior to 1854, Portland used the ground on which the Skidmore Fountain now stands. No burials were allowed there after 1854.

Wilson Benefield, a native son of Oregon, born in Yamhill County in 1859, became superintendent of Lone Fir Cemetery in 1888 and had charge of it for more than 40 years.

\*Later removed to Riverview Cemetery

Many years ago Lone Fir Cemetery fell into neglect and was overgrown with a tangle of brush. After it had been taken over by the County, it was restored.

One who wanders through this city of the dead will see on the gravestones inscriptions in German, Hebrew, French, Italian, Bohemian, Finnish, Japanese and Chinese, though of course most of the inscriptions are in English. "Uncle Jimmie" Stephens, the original settler in what later became East Portland, and his wife and father are buried there in Lone Fir. On the monument is carved "J. B. Stephens, born in Virginia, November 19, 1806; Died March 22, 1889; Elizabeth Stephens, born in Kentucky, December 6, 1805, Died April 26, 1887. Here we lie by consent after 57 years, 2 months and 2 days sojourning on earth awaiting nature's immutable laws to return us to the elements of which we were formed".

Over the grave of Emmor Stephens is a stone on which is carved a wreath of oak and fir and an old-fashioned long-barrelled Kentucky rifle. His grave is near the symmetrical fir tree for which Lone Fir Cemetery is named. The inscription on his grave stone reads: "Emmor Stephens, born in Maryland, 1777, died 1846".

Lone Fir Cemetery, S. E. 20th Avenue between S. E. Morrison and Stark Streets, was begun in 1854 when Crawford Dobbins and David Fuller, victims of the Gazelle river steamer disaster near Oregon City, were buried here. In the cemetery are markers inscribed in English, Hebrew, German, Japanese, Chinese, French and Spanish. Here lie Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Pagans and Free Thinkers; white, yellow, black, red and brown men and women; bums and bankers; senators, governors and mayors. Among the graves in the cemetery are those of Samuel L. Simpson, early Oregon poet; William Hume, father of the salmon canning industry; George Law Curry, territorial governor; and W. H. Frush, early day saloon keeper. On the plot of the Frush grave, marked by a portentous monument, is a large marble urn in which he annually mixed his Tom and Jerries. On several occasions in late years the urn has been taken away and used for its original purpose, but is always returned.

Two sections of the cemetery were set aside for the graves of Fireman and many of the markers have elaborate carvings of hooks, ladders, trumpets and shields.

In earlier days, when the Oriental population of the city was larger than it is today, scores of Chinese were buried here, but the bones of those whose families could afford it have been disinterred and sent to China.

#### BROWN AND JOHNSON CASE

Another criminal case that was watched with unusual interest, was the case against Archie Brown, James Johnson and Joseph Swards, who, on the 23rd of August, 1878, entered the pawnshop of one O'Shea, locked the door behind them, knocked O'Shea senseless, and took from his safe, near where O'Shea was assaulted, some articles of value. They were seen leaving the shop, and being closely pursued by a constable, stopped and Brown fired at him but missed him and killed a boy, Louis Joseph. They then leaped into a wagon standing nearby and made their escape, but were finally taken, tried and convicted of murder in the first degree, after an exciting trial.

LONE FIR CEMETERY, on the East Side, is now in the city limits and F. J. Buckwalter, who lives in the vicinity, petitioned the council to discontinue its use as a burial ground. They report that that portion of the city is becoming thickly populated, and the cemetery is injurious to the health of the people in the vicinity. The petition was referred to the care of the judiciary committee. St. Mary's Cemetery, just opposite Lone Fir, has been out of service for a number of years.

#### WASHINGTON ELM

George Washington took command July 2, 1775. Tree brought to Portland "around the Horn" in 1852 by Colburn Barrell, descendant of Joseph Barrell, ship-builder of Boston, who was one of the committee of three delegated by the provincial congress of Massachusetts to meet Generals Washington, Schuyler and Lee, and escort them into Boston, whither Washington was found to take command of the Army.

Colburn Barrell came to Oregon in 1849 and in 1852 visited his home in Boston near which were growing the elms under which Washington became the Commanding Officer of the Army.

A group of persons, whose forefathers fought with George Washington in the Revolutionary War, gathered at Lone Fir Cemetery yesterday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock to hear the history of an elm planted there, which was once a slim young twig in the group of elms under which the first President of this country became the Commanding Officer of the Army. The occasion was the dedication of a bronze marker for the tree posted by the Willamette Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The text on the plaque now affixed to the tree reads: "This tree, a scion from the Washington Elm, was brought 'round the Horn in 1852 by Colburn Barrell, descendant of Joseph Barrell, who served with Washington throughout the Revolutionary War. Willamette Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution."

Miss Mary Agnes Kelly, State Historian of the Daughters of the American Revolution told the story of the tree which was brought from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Portland, by Colburn Barrell, who, two years following his settling here, had returned to the old home in Boston and had wished to bring something of historic significance back with him. He chose the young elm tree and planted it first in the yard of his home at Second and Main Streets. From there it was later moved to the Barrell farm where Lone Fir Cemetery is now located.

The unveiling of the plaque was part of a simple and impressive program conducted by Mrs. A. H. Workman, Regent of Willamette Chapter.

Those taking part in the program were: Mrs. John Y. Richardson, State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who gave the pledge to the Flag; Mrs. John Taggart, Chaplain of the Willamette Chapter, who gave the George Washington prayer; Mary Agnes Kelly, State Historian, who gave the history of the tree; Mrs. Joseph T. Peters, Chairman of the Committee on historic spots in Oregon; Mrs. Valley, who gave a review of the work of the group; Miss Genevieve

Eckelson and Kathleen Hayden from the Columbia Society of the Children of the American Revolution, who carried the Willamette Chapter Colors in the procession; W. L. Breichbeil, Portland Post No. 1, American Legion, who gave the bugle call; William Stalnaker, who played the Star Spangled Banner, a trumpet solo. Ross Giger, Scout Master who directed the work of the Scouts who took part in the program and N. O. Lundberg, Superintendent of the cemetery.

Fourteen descendants of Colburn Barrell, Oregon pioneer and descendant of Joseph Barrell, shipbuilding of Boston, were present. Mrs. Edna Barrell Giles and Vernon William Wright, both descendants of Colburn Barrell, unveiled the plaque.

#### G.A.R. BENCH

In memory of Civil War Veterans, Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War dedicated a bench at the foot of the Grand Army of the Republic monument in Lone Fir Cemetery, Portland, June 20th, 1935.

#### LONE FIR TREE

The original Lone Fir Tree for which Lone Fir Cemetery was named will be marked by a bronze plaque next Tuesday at 2:30 P.M., by the Pioneer Rose Association. B. F. Irvine will dedicate the plaque. Frank L. Maguire will speak.

"The Pioneer Rose Association marked with a bronze plaque the large fir tree in Lone Fir Cemetery, Portland, February 14th, 1939, in memory of the many pioneers buried there. Frank L. McGuire presented the lot on which the tree stands to Multnomah County."

As years pass by, historic interest attaches more and more to Lone Fir Cemetery, the pioneer burials tract of the city for there lie buried several who, during their tenure of life, were known to fame and many of the most honored pioneers of Portland. The cemetery has been in use since 1846 being at first ten acres in extent. It was opened by Colburn Barrell.

Among those who found their last resting place in this historic spot were William Evans, a brother of Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, retired; Samuel L. Simpson, the poet; Lt. Col. J. S. Backenstos, who commander the first military force to arrive in Oregon; Rodney B. Morris, son of Bishop B. W. Morris who when nineteen years of age lost his life in a vain attempt to save the lives of three persons; Eunice Torrance, who at the age of 86 years, crossed the plains of Oregon in 1860, and who was the oldest woman to accomplish this feat; Mary E. Miller, a niece of Joaquin Miller "Poet of the Sierras"; and Sylvester Pennoyer\*, W. W. Thayer and George L. Curry, each of whom occupied the post of Governor of the State of Oregon.

Many stories, tragic, pathetic and heartwarming could be told by those who lie buried in Lone Fir Cemetery were they able to speak. Enclosed in a neat hedge is the grave of a young college man which for years has been devotedly tended by a Portland woman who had promised to become his bride. Along one of the prettiest walks is the grave of Rosa Rankin young girl who lost her life by falling through a defective plank in the old Fourth Street Bridge of Sullivan's Gulch many years ago. When found she held still clasped in her hands two small pails which her mother had placed there.

In another part of the tract are the graves of David P. Fuller and Crawford M. Dobbins killed in an explosion on the steamer Gazette in April, 1854. They were buried in Mr. Barrell's family plot, and his remains were later laid to rest besides theirs. Many strangers and friends were interred by Mr. Barrell at his own expense and in many instances he also erected headstones to their memory. He erected neat monuments at the graves of the victims of the Gazelle explosion. A pathetic feature of the Gazelle tragedy was the fact that Mr. Fuller was soon to have married the daughter of a pioneer family, a very beautiful young woman. Her heart broken, the young woman lived only a few months after the death of her fiance.

\*Later removed to Riverview Cemetery

In 1880 William M. Evans, a young lawyer, was taken sick with typhoid and pneumonia. He was attended by his dearest friend, Dr. John T. Wells, of the United States Navy. When Evans breathed his last, the physician wept at the bedside. The two men had sat side by side on an old bench in a Virginia school house and had come to the Northwest together. Soon after his friend's death, Dr. Wells also passed away. The bodies of the two men lie side by side in Lone Fir Cemetery.

Lone Fir contains the graves of Johnson and Brown, two desperate young men who, detected in a robbery, lost their lives for committing murder. In shooting at the officers they killed an innocent boy who was crossing the street. They were hanged in the city. Every bit of an iron fence which enclosed their graves has been carried away by relic hunters.

In 1862 a well known character named Mitchell, who made his living by jig dancing, was frozen to death on an extraordinarily cold night, January 13th. His friends placed a monument to his memory on which is engraved the following:

Here lies one who has taken steps  
That won the applause of men;  
But grim death came and took a step  
Which he could not withstand.

Several young men who lost their lives in defense of the Stars and S<sup>T</sup>ripes during the Spanish American War are interred in Lone Fir Cemetery. The first to be buried was Eliot Ordway, a young man of 19. He was given a military funeral which was attended by more than two thousand citizens of Portland. Others, all members of the 2nd Oregon Regiment, also buried in this tract are: Jesse M. Robinson, Harry Anderson, Guy Millard, William Allen, Guy Packard and Joseph L. Berry. A beautiful monument stands in commemoration of those Oregon men who participated in the Spanish American War, Civil, Mexican and Northwest Indian Wars.

Among the pioneers of Portland and Oregon at rest in Lone Fir Cemetery are Captain John H. Couch, Dr. J. C. Hawthorne, Valentine Brown, James W. Robb,

Judge Earl E. Bronaugh, Sr., Dr. William Watherford, Dr. J. B. Pilkington, Dr. W. H. Watkins, Dr. Justin Millard, Judge E. D. Shattuck, James B. Stephens, Frank Dekum, Miss Emma Millard, Matthew Kieth, Mrs. James H. McMillan, Levi Estes, Bishop B. W. Morris, E. J. Northrup, Howard Northrup, Reverend Crawford Thoburn, W. W. Spalding, Captain Turnbull, Captain James Strang, George E. Cole, J. A. Strowbridge, Sr., A. G. Cunningham and W. A. McPherson.

Mr. Thoburn was a noted missionary and college president. Born in India in 1862 he died in Portland in 1892. "Ever a good and faithful servant" is the inscription on the headstone erected in his memory. John W. Robb was murdered in Astoria April 25, 1881. Miss Millard was organist of a Presbyterian church which stood on the ground now occupied by the Dekum Building. Mr. McPherson was a well known state editor for he edited the Roseburg Plaindealer and Ashland Tidings. George E. Cole, at one time, was Postmaster of Portland.

By an irony of fate, Samuel L. Simpson, Oregon's poet, is not buried in Riverview but at Lone Fir, away from the river, whose beauty once prevented him from committing suicide. For the story is that while despondent from the effects of a spree, Simpson went down to the Willamette intending to drown himself. It was at Salem and during a spring morning. The loveliness of the stream touched his poetic nature, penetrated the clouds of remorse and despair, Instead of throwing himself in the water, he wrote "Beautiful Willamette", expressing wonderings, tinged with thoughts of immortality.

An organization is now being completed, the object of which is to erect a \$15,000 soldiers' monument in Lone Fir Cemetery. The movement started in Sumner Post G.A.R. sometime ago by the appointment of a committee to ascertain the cost and particulars. Professor M. L. Pratt was made chairman and started correspondence with monument builders. The aid of the various posts in the city is being solicited. A general committee from all of the posts will be appointed with some outside men to take charge of the whole job. In Lone Fir Cemetery

are buried soldiers who responded to the call of their country in the Mexican, Civil, Indian and Spanish Wars. This monument will be a memorial to them all. It is proposed that each of the four sides will represent one of these wars.

Professor Pratt says: "This monument appeal is to the heart of every true patriotic American. Although no work has, as yet, been done in the way of soliciting subscriptions, yet many have early expressed their intention of subscribing to the fund. This is one of the oldest cemeteries in the city, and the dead buried there represent thousands of families who are interred not only in honoring their country's defenders who lie buried there, but are also interested in seeing this cemetery beautified in honor of their own dead. Such a monument as is contemplated will beautify this 'city of the dead' and stand as a solid symbol reminding future generations of the cost of self government and a testimonial to the patriotism and loyalty of the people of this commonwealth. This State had one regiment in the Civil War and furnished one for the late Spanish War. Members from each of these are buried in Lone Fir Cemetery. There have been some attempts to prevent any more burials in this cemetery and some talk about its removal. The first may be accomplished but the second is impossible. It will be improved and beautified and the effort to place a monument to our soldier dead who sleep there is only one of many which will be put forth in the future to make this hallowed spot one of the most beautiful in the city. There should be no difficult in placing a \$15,000 monument in this cemetery if all who are interested respond according to their means.

Indian War Veterans, members of Multnomah Camp, held their annual reunion and meeting at the City Hall this afternoon. - - - -

The Camp voted \$100 for the Lone Fir Soldiers Monument fund, a motion being put by Mr. Mendenhall to that effect, and a resolution with a similar intention being read by Sergeant Stuart, Secretary of the meeting. Captain Gustaf Wilson, Post Commander, presided. P. F. Castleman brought up the question

of a design for the monument which is to be erected in Lone Fir Cemetery. Mr. Castleman is a member of the committee on the monument and he said that he would like to have the Camp designate its choice as to the style and material of the memorial. He suggested that a bronzed monument had many points of superiority, chief among which were they most never colored bronze columns, while on the finest granite and marble there was always more or less expense all the time in keeping it in order and free from corrosion. Veteran McMillen made a motion after the appropriation of \$100 was made to the Monument fund, that the matter of making a choice of style of monument be laid over until a later date.

In the City newscolumn this morning appears a question under the caption "What Shall Be Done With Lone Fir Cemetery?" which sends a thrill of horror to many hearts. It seems to have been asked as a question of little moment and as though the thousands who have been laying their dear ones there from the early pioneer days down to the present have no rights in the premises, even though they have bought their lots and in many cases improved the same at great personal sacrifice.

From whom does this periodical agitation come? Almost entirely from those who have no sacred interest there but living or owning property in the neighborhood or beyond, the values of which will be largely enhanced by robbing us of our "City of the Dead" and converting it into a public park. Then there are minor matters such as mausoleums and other money making projects. For the honor of humanity we hope that at least a few of those who are giving seeming support to this movement are doing so without having had time carefully to consider it.

The claims of the living should certainly come first if it were a question of sanitation, but no such excuse now exists though we cannot but wonder concerning sanitary condition during and if there were such upheaval of thirty six acres of the dead as is now advocated.

Go out there in the evening as the writer has done for years and see parents, widows and children come to decorate and spend a quiet moment by the graves of their loved ones -- true, these are only the "houses" in which they have once lived, but they are precious and the moment uplifting. Call it sentiment if you wish, but it is sacred sentiment.

Perhaps one or two of a family interred there still survive, or a husband survives a wife, or wife her husband, and there are expecting when the final summons comes to be laid besides their own, but the worst feature of the whole thing is the disrespect for the bodies of our precious dead, many of whom, as a trenchant pen points out in the Oregonian "were the pioneers of our State and helped to make Portland what she is". For many more there interred not a voice remains to plead. The same pen also points out that Greenwood Cemetery in New York City remains undisturbed. It might be added that the graveyards of old St. Paul's and Trinity Churches still remain though located at the head of Wall Street on perhaps the most expensive property in the world.

So we will hope that here in Oregon wiser counsel will prevail and that saner heads and only hearts will rule that the graves of this great army of her dead shall not be desecrated.

(Signed) Angeline Berry

## IN MEMORIAM

Like voices from the long past, tombstone inscriptions in Lone Fir Cemetery -- Portland's first burying ground -- recount the names, and in part, the deeds of those hardy souls who ninety odd years ago made history when they pioneered a city and of those "characters" who gave the young community its color and atmosphere.

The modern metropolis has grown up and around the old cemetery -- where, except for those in family plots purchased many years ago, no earth has been turned in fifteen years or more -- for that long since, its broad acres have been filled with graves -- more than 20,000 of them.

And indeed, many of those originally laid away there were moved to other burials spots when Lone Fir fell into woeful unkemptness before the County finally took it over sixteen years ago to assure it proper care.

The tract was set aside as a cemetery in 1854, when Colburn Barrell acquired thirty acres of ground from the vast donation claim of Seldon Murray which extended from what is now N. E. 21st Avenue to N. E. 42nd Avenue, Stark to Division. Ten acres were designated as a cemetery by Mr. Barrell to honor a young friend, Crawford Dobbins, who was killed in an explosion on the steamer Gazelle near Oregon City. The Dobbins funeral and that of D. P. Fuller killed in the same explosion, were the first held, and in honor of young Dobbins, the cemetery was named "Mt. Crawford". A monument of beautiful marble was erected to Dobbins by Mr. Barrell and still stands. Across its base is carved the names of its makers: Roberts and Sharkle, Portland, O.T. (Oregon Territory).

Into the bosom of the new cemetery ultimately went the remains of those who created it, including Barrell and Murray.

The cemetery received also the mortal remains of pioneers who died in Portland and vicinity over a period of many years. In 1866 the first ten acres were largely bought up by pioneer families, and an additional twenty acres was added. At the same time a company was organized and the name of the cemetery was changed

to Lone Fir, because of a large fir tree that stood near the entrance. This tree was the only one on the entire tract at the beginning, the rest of the area having been previously cleared and farmed. As the cemetery grew the planting of small trees and shrubs became a custom. These trees once looking up at the tall shafts of tombstones, now spread shade over the entire area. There are some thirty varieties of trees, many with unusual histories. One elm brought around the Horn in a fruit jar by some of the Barrell family and planted near the Dobbins grave, grew to be one of the largest elms in this part of Oregon. It is said to have been a slip from the historic Washington elm at Cambridge.

Lone Fir continued as Portland's principal cemetery until the rapidly growing city finally surrounded the tract with homes and buildings, and then there were no more cemetery lots left to sell. With available revenue cut off, the cemetery company lost interest, and though some lot owners and descendants of the pioneers attempted to keep it up, the cemetery finally was "run down" to a point where the county legally assumed control in 1928 and restored the tract as a place of restful beauty, with a caretaker, N. O. Lundberg, in charge.

Lone Fir once was so far from Portland that a funeral was almost a full days' activity. From undertaking parlors on the West Side near the water front, funeral processions proceeded to the ferry landing at the foot of Stark street; ferried across the Willamette river (if weather permitted) and rattled thence over narrow dirt and corduroy roads through woods, ravines and marshes to what is now East 21st street, which was the entrance to the cemetery.

Never did its founders dream of Portland spreading out so far as to encroach on the city's burial place.

It is of record that of the 22,000 graves in Lone Fir, all save three are marked traditionally with headstones at the east, footstones at the west.

The exceptions are the graves of John Lake, Eleanor Lake and John Hawthorne, members of one family with heads facing south -- a special concession to request of survivors, in 1865 and 1877, that their departed might be buried facing the

beautiful woods that fringed the cemetery on the north.

On the cemetery's shafts and monuments and tombs of marble and granite, conventional in an earlier day, are carved the names of many who made history in Portland and Oregon. Scores of other markers, less conventional, are the more unique and interesting -- recounting the foibles and eccentricities of characters familiar in Portland when the city was young.

Among those buried in Lone Fir is Asa L. Lovejoy. It was he who flipped a coin with F. W. Pettygrove to determine whether Portland should be name Portland or Boston. Lovejoy lost and that is why Portland is Portland and not Boston today.

Other stones mark the graves of D. H. Lowndale whose name runs through many years of Portland's early struggles; George L. Curry, governor of Oregon Territory from 1853 to 1859; Sam L. Simpson, Oregon poet who composed "Beautiful Willamette"; Eloisa Harvey, daughter of Dr. John McLoughlin; the Macleay family after whom is named Macleay park and Macleay boulevard; Thomas J. Dryer, first editor of the Oregonian; Dr. James Hawthorne for whom Hawthorne avenue was named; Seldon Murray for whom Murraymeade district was named; the Rodneys, Dr. J. A. Chapman, an early mayor; Governor W. W. Thayer; Frank Dekum whose name graces one of Portland's buildings; Dr. William Caples, first practicing physician in Portland; H- Henry S. Rowe, a mayor; Hannah McNemee about whom there is a controversy as to whether she was the first or the second child born in Oregon, and hosts of others whose names are woven into the history of early Portland and Oregon.

In one corner almost in the shadow of neighboring buildings, stands a large marble slab inscribed, "In Memory of M. Mitchell who died January 13, 1862."

Beneath is carved this verse:

"Here lies one who has taken steps  
That won the applause of man;  
But grim death came and took a step  
Which he could not withstand."

This monument was erected to the memory of Mike Mitchell, a wandering minstrel who danced his way to fame in the amusement places of his day. He was known as

"the best jig dancer ever on the Coast," and was a fine gentleman it seems -- when sober, but hard liquor was his downfall. He became involved in a quarrel at his boarding house during one of his sprees and was kicked out.

The next morning his friends were stunned when they found his lifeless body in the snow just outside the door. They took up a collection to give their minstrel a decent burial, and to pay the cost of a headstone.

Nearby in a plot bearing markers of the Frush family stands a beautifully carved marble bowl, which, according to the records, once graced the long polished bar of a saloon on First street, operated by Colburn Barrell. The bowl, some thirty inches in height by eighteen inches in diameter, was a token of Portland's Christmas cheer in the years following 1849 as a receptacle for the Yuletide "Tom and Jerry".

For many years the marble bowl with a grotesque and scowling face protruding from the side, and with a beautifully carved lid, graced the Barrell bar. Among the ardent admirers of the Tom and Jerry Bowl was James F. Frush, a close friend of the elder Mr. Barrell. Frush presumably cherished many fond memories of Yuletide, made brighter by reason of the bowl, and he asked that the bowl be placed as a monument on his grave when he died.

Just how and when the request was granted, history does not reveal for sure, but the beautiful bowl was placed as requested. Mr. Frush died September 7, 1883. The carvings of the scowling face are still unmarred, but the lid has disappeared. Flowering plants now fill the hollow from which once was dipped the tasty Tom and Jerry at Christmas time.

A Negro who died at the age of 76, after years as a character of the barrooms and streets of early Portland, was remembered by friends with a monument bearing the words "Play Ball" carved across the flat top. His name was Julius Caesar and his greatest love was baseball. He was in the first rank of the baseball parades, and was always on hand to clown at the games. Throughout the year whenever he was

greeted, his invariable reply was a joyous "Play ball." His friends took up a collection to perpetuate his memory.

Another plot is graced with a costly monument in memory of John Ahl Beck, one of the early day jewelers of note. In the same plot rests a simple slab bearing the name of his wife who died years later, in need -- a far cry from the position she held as the most elegantly jewel bedecked lady in Portland's early days.

Another grave is occupied by a man who after being given a pauper's burial was found to have left a fortune.

Unusual was the idea for a monument for memory of Frederick Roeder who was drowned June 19, 1887. Carved into the marble headstone is a replica of the disaster which took his life. Among huge carved waves is a boat with the floating spar in the foreground, and the hands of the drowning man protruding from the water.

The husbands of two sisters who died a month apart in 1883 erected a beautiful double monument inscribed "Our Wives." Another artistic double monument marks the graves of two children who died a week apart in 1880.

Probably the most unusual monument in the cemetery is that in memory of J. B. Stephens and his wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1887 and 1889. On a slab of white marble about four feet square the carver has chiseled in bold relief the figures of the elderly couple standing as in real life, holding hands and smiling. It is said the carving was made from a photograph. The work is artistically done.

One of the most beautifully carved and most expensive marble monuments in the cemetery stands today with all marks of identification purposely effaced.

It was erected originally, according to its known history, by the madam of one of Portland's early French brothels, to the memory of her sister. Later for reasons which are a Lone Fir mystery, the body of the sister was removed and the names, dates and inscriptions were carefully chiseled from the monument. It was allowed to stand, but now marks no known grave.

Nearby is said to rest the remains of a race track and gambling character of pioneer days, who was known as the lover of the woman who had the monument erected. Whether his burial in the plot had anything to do with the later removal of the body of the sister is not known.

Another beautiful and costly marble shaft marks the resting place of another character of the French houses. Her body was found just before Christmas in 1885, hacked to pieces, in a frame house on the outskirts of the business section at 3rd and Yamhill streets. She was the victim of one of Portland's first hatchet murder mysteries. It is said her monument cost at least \$5,000.

Veteran and fraternal organizations have been instrumental in much of the work of improving and perpetuating Lone Fir as a historic center, and various monuments to groups such as war veterans, Masons, Elks, Eagles, Woodmen and other organizations have been erected and numerous plaques and plates have been placed.

#### BONES OF CHINESE RETURNED HOME

Remains of 559 Chinese who died in Oregon from 30 to 50 years ago today start on the long journey to family burial plots in China.

The graves in more than a dozen cemeteries of Oregon were opened within the last year. Bones were placed in metal containers which are then cased, six to a box, for shipment by the Portland Consolidated Benevolent Association to Tung Wah hospital in Hong Kong.

Placed in 93 cases, the human bones are being loaded on the Luxembourg Victory at West Coast terminal. From the hospital in Hong Kong they will be forwarded to the various cities and villages in Kwangtung province of which Canton is the capital.

All Chinese remains in the Chinese plot in Lone Fir Cemetery have been removed for the present shipment. Several remains were claimed by relatives and reburied in private plots in the cemetery.

At their deaths the Chinese whose remains are being returned ranged in ages

from 10 to 104 years. Graves were opened in Portland, Astoria, Baker, Coos Bay, Albany, Ontario, Ashland, Corvallis, Roseburg, The Dalles and Pendleton.

Kinsmen and friends of a Chinese buried in Vancouver, Washington cemetery arranged to have his remains included in the shipment.

More than twenty years ago, another similar removal of Chinese dead occurred. Members of the Consolidated Benevolent Association said only those who had no close kin in Oregon are included in the shipment. Chinese who died some fifty years ago had no kin in America.

Chinese born in America and with kin here at their death desire to have their remains rest in this country. Among the older generation deference for religious customs is strong. Respect for the dead, common in all civilizations, is high in China.

Caretakers at Lone Fir Cemetery have been astounded by the accurate records of the Chinese Benevolent society. Every grave, even the few without surviving markers, have been identified immediately.

Furthermore, the society reports that clans in China have records of the Chinese who died here as long as fifty years ago. Considerable sums will be expended by the clan to provide for transportation of the remains from Hong Kong to interior burial plots.

The Chinese plot at Lone Fir Cemetery is reported to have been among the first Chinese burial places in the Northwest. Remains have been shipped from there on several occasions to Kwangtung communities. Almost all Chinese who came to the Northwest from railroad jobs in California soon after the Civil war were from the western province of China.

Several years ago the Chinese altar at Lone Fir was removed and the building in which it was erected has been torn down.

Two years ago more than 120 elderly Chinese migrated from the Northwest to pass their last days and die in China. They boarded a ship in Portland.

After they ran out of railroad construction jobs in California, early Chinese moved into Oregon, many of them cut wood and did other jobs in Portland, worked in lower Columbia fish canneries and mined in Oregon and Idaho. Although they were mostly young men, the death rate among these people was high.

#### BONES SHIPMENT CASE DEVELOPS NEW TWIST

The case of the old bones, finding no peaceful rest in faraway Hong Kong came back to Portland Tuesday for Fred Chinn, Portland Chinese.

Chinn, whose Chinese name is Foo Lin, is under arrest, charged with larceny by bailee. He's in city jail under \$10,000 bond.

Complainant against Chinn is the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent association. The association itself is in the bite of a suit filed recently by the Pacific Far East Steamship line, which wants \$3259.44 from the association for freight storage, handling and wharfage costs for the shipment of 93 boxes of human bones from Portland to the Tung Wah hospital at Hong Kong.

The bones, mortal remains of Chinese, were shipped from Portland, July 5, 1949. They still rest on a dock in Hong Kong, only a short hop from their proper destination, a burial ground on the China mainland.

Chinn, 44, of 1228 S. W. Salmon Street, holds the restaurant concession of a Portland night club. He is the former operator of China Tradeways, an export-import firm with offices in the Dekum building. He is charged by the association with failure to fulfill the trust placed in him to handle the transaction whereby the bones of the foreign-born Chinese should find a final resting place in their homeland.

The case started two years back when the Chinese Benevolent association went to work collecting the mortal remains of their countrymen throughout the state in preparation for the traditional homeland burial. Most were exhumed from Lone Fir Cemetery.

Chinn, himself a member of the association, was entrusted with the mission of handling the shipment. He was also entrusted with a check for \$2484.33. Chinn arranged for shipment with the steamship line on a credit basis.

In September, 1949, the association learned the costs were still unpaid and wharfage costs in Hong Kong mounted daily.

Chinn then admitted he had converted the money to his own use, but said he would repay. And since Chinese prefer to keep their difficulties among themselves, the association agreed. Chinn wrote two checks to the association. Both bounced.

Since then Chinn has repaid \$941. But the costs now have reached \$3259. When Pacific Far East recently filed its suit, the association gave up on Chinn and went to the police, presenting its problems to Detective Sergeant Edward H. Clark of the check detail. The Chinese decided to prosecute Chinn and obtained a warrant for his arrest.

Chinn was arrested Monday night. He is accused of indorsing the association's check and converting the money to his own use.

And so Chinn rests in a city jail cell. The bones of 93 of his countrymen rest on a Hong Kong dock. There is little comfort at either end of the line.

#### WASHINGTON ELM

His name was Colburn Barrell. Because he loved New England he brought one to Oregon a century ago. The tree still living stands in Portland's Lone Fir Cemetery.

It is not surprising that a good deal of legend has grown up about this elm-- that some claim it is a scion of the historic Cambridge elm under which General George Washington took command of the Continental army in July, 1775. But facts to justify this belief are not conclusive, and the aging tree makes no statement for or against.

The story of this elm begins with the 1850 arrival by sailing vessel in Portland harbor of Colburn Barrell, a ship's carpenter. Leaving the sea, he

bought property at Second and Main streets. But not yet content to plant a home among the fir stumps of the new town, he soon returned East, to his native Massachusetts.

But in 1852 he came again to the frontier town on the Willamette. This time he brought with him more than his skill as a ship's carpenter -- he brought a young American elm in a keg.

Soon thereafter Barrell married. He seems to have had some money and was soon recognized as a "go-getter" in the business life of the young port. He built a residence that was among the best of the day, and owned one of Portland's earliest theatres.

About 1854, young Barrell purchased a portion of James Stephens' donation land claim, in East Portland. For some years "Pappy" Stephens had been operating a ferry from the foot of his property, to and fro across the Willamette to Portland's west shore. At first this craft was hand-propelled by Indian paddlers, but later it was mulepowered, by means of a mule walking in a treadle. Eventually, it became known as the Stark Street ferry.

The property purchased by Barrell was a good mile back from the river. On a portion of it lay buried Amos Stephens, father of the seller, and it was agreed that his grave should not be disturbed. There seems not to have been any plan then to continue the site as a burial ground, however.

But time and events have their way with men's lives, and when a few weeks later the Willamette riverboat Gazelle blew up at Canemah, near Oregon City, killing just two dozen persons, there was need for suitable earth to lay them in.

Of these dead, Crawford Dobbins was a friend and business partner of Barrell's. So it seemed desirable to bury him near the grave of the elder Stephens.

At first the site was called Mount Crawford but later was renamed Lone Fir Cemetery, for a particularly attractive tree which long stood there.

And now the scene grows less somber. In 1863, Barrell moved with his family to his East Side property. In this move he decided to bring his friend,

the young elm, along with him.

Bundling the dug-up roots about -- we do not know if he had help, although an elm exhibits only moderate growth in a ten year period -- he dragged the tree through the downtown Portland streets to the little mule-powered ferry at the foot of Stark Street. Here it was shunted across the moving water. From the opposite shore it was dragged up the trail eastward to his new home.

But arrived there with it, his wife suggested that it be placed in Mount Crawford Cemetery rather than at the new homesite. So in the new cemetery this New England elm was planted, the lone one of its kind. So it grew, gathering the years and legend about it.

And the legend that came to clothe its bare branches and green leaves with a new light was to the effect that this elm was a grafted scion of the celebrated Washington elm, then standing on Harvard commons. This association was given further credence by the statement that Colburn Barrell's grandfather had served with Washington throughout the Revolutionary War.

Only this much of fact prevailed:

Colburn Barrell's father, Joseph Barrell, served briefly, but not under Washington, in the closing days of the great conflict that freed the colonies.

The young Barrell's elm came from a location very near to Boston, possibly from Lynn, Massachusetts.

In this latter regard, Mrs. Leslie L. Giles, Barrell's granddaughter, remarked in 1933, that "she often heard her grandfather talk about the old tree when she was a little girl -- how he went to the grove near his old home and dug up a rooted sprout and planted it in a keg and brought it with him to Portland by ship in 1852."

(It is significant that the American elm does not start from the root of another elm; so that if Mrs. Giles' story is to be accepted, then the Barrell elm must have been a seedling.)

There is no record that Barrell himself ever said his Portland elm was scioned from the Washington Elm of Cambridge.

In 1930, the drives through Lone Fir cemetery were rerouted. In this program it was necessary to cut through the roots at one side of the Barrell elm, now evidently aging, and it was feared as a consequence the tree might die.

That its lengthening American lineage might be preserved, Mr. Lewis of the Russellville nursery made scions from the new wood of young branches and succeeded in rooting about thirty little elm trees. These then were distributed, through the Willamette Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, as Washington elms. All were planted as such -- on the authority of popular word.

Meanwhile, beneath the overshadowing branches of the ancient tree, Colburn Barrell lay asleep; he had died in 1902. His wife, Amelia, lay beside him, dead three years before him. Both were powerless to correct whatever error prevailed. There remained the old tree and the growing legend.

Thether the displaced New Englander, in his latter years waxing nostalgic for the elm groves of his boyhood home, quoted the facts of his Portland elm falsely, some may wonder. Perhaps it was indeed a scion of the Washington elm?

But to many, the seeming significance of the century-old American elm that stands today among the headstones of Portland's pioneer dead, is in the fact that it was probably the first New England elm to settle its roots in Oregon soil. In its arboreal way it represents the westward moving spirit of America -- the spirit of many New Englanders who came by the sailing route to make homes in the river ports of the Oregon country. And in this connection it should be noted that New Englanders were fairly numerous in the life of pioneer Portland. But where else on the Willamette was there one of her elms?

So the tree that began as a milestone has become a century marker. For in the past 100 years American elms have been scattered almost everywhere over the continent.

## LONE FIR CEMETERY

The first burial was that of EMMOR STEPHENS in 1846, but the ground was not laid out as a cemetery until 1854, when Colburn Barrell set part a small area and named it Mt. Crawford Cemetery. Later he increased the cemetery to thirty acres. The acreage now (1923) is less than twenty. The number of interments has been estimated at 20,000 or more. Since 1913, frequent proposals have been made for removal of the burials and conversion of the land into a public park, but the large number of graves, the objections of surviving family members and sentimental unwillingness to disturb the resting place of so many pioneers who bought lots for perpetuity, have been insurmountable obstacles. The cemetery is bounded by East Stark, East Morrison and East 26th Streets, and is paralleled by East 20th Street.

Originally, when the ground was first used for burials, beginning in 1846, Portland, west side, was a little more than a name. Until 1854, Portland used as a cemetery an area where later (1923) stands Skidmore fountain, between Ankeny, Pine and Front Streets. In conformity with a city ordinance of 1854, burials there ceased, and removals were made to other cemeteries of which there were several: Block 255, between Washington and Stark, 10th and 11th Street, and the contiguous area between Alder and Burnside, 11th and 12th Streets, as shown by a copy of a city map of 1853 of T. O. Travillot made in 1854 by Edward Failing, now in the records of the Oregon Historical Society; another between Macadam, Hood, Abernethy and Lowell Streets, in South Portland, set apart by Elizabeth Carruthers and James Terwilliger; a third, in South Portland, between Hood, Corbett, Madison and Porter Streets, used for Jewish burials, the last grave being removed in 1886; and Lone Fir Cemetery on the east side.

These four early cemeteries on the west side have been overgrown by the City of Portland, and although many of the graves were moved, a considerable number were obliterated, so that some pioneers repose in unknown places beneath the city.

East Portland, as a town or village, did not exist when Mt. Crawford (Lone Fir) Cemetery was first established. A few pioneer settlers had land claims on the east side of the Willamette River. Dense forests and thickets of underbrush made travel difficult except along narrow trails. As a high sight, some two hundred feet above the river, this ground offered advantages for an abode of the departed. The land here was not heavy timbered, but had growths of small fir and maple trees, and numerous hazel bushes. There was an occasional large fir tree.

Here the body of Emmor Stephens, pioneer of 1844, was buried by his son James B. Stephens in 1846. In 1855, the graves of David P. Fuller and Crawford Dobbins, victims of the Gazelle steamboat explosion at Canemah in 1854, were moved to this cemetery. Many graves were moved in 1857 from the cemetery in Lower Portland, as heretofore stated.

## Lone Fir Cemetery

COLBURN BARRELL, after establishing Mt. Crawford Cemetery in 1854, changed the name to Lone Fir Cemetery, at the suggestion of his wife, Aurelia J. Montgomery Barrell, to whom a solitary large fir tree hinted the name. Mrs. Barrell was a pioneer of 1852, and her husband, Colburn Barrell, a pioneer of 1849. She came to Oregon by the "Plains" route and he by sea. Her first husband, James H. Montgomery, died at Fort Hall, Idaho in 1852 on the route to Oregon. She died August 27, 1899 at 69 years of age. Colburn Barrell died October 10, 1902, at 78 years of age.

Colburn Barrell bought the large part of the land in 1863, as part of the Seldon Murray donation land claim, and organized the Mt. Crawford Cemetery Company. He sold in 1866 the Lone Fir Cemetery Company, which incorporated July 26, 1866 with \$5100 capital. The incorporators were Levi Anderson, Robert Pittock and Byron P. Cardwell. Original stockholders were Levi Anderson, Robert Pittock, C. S. Silver, W. B. Fain, Jacob Mayer, D. W. Williams, Byron P. Cardwell, Ferdinand Opitz, L. Besser, Charles Barrett, Thomas Stephens, H. C. Coulson, J. A. Strowbridge, C. M. Wiberg, J. C. Carson, A. C. Brelsford, John Ewry and Colburn Barrell. At that time several hundred burials had been made, two blocks were well filled with graves, the Masonic Order owned two other blocks and the Fireman's Association had a small area. Later the Masonic order bought two more blocks. As the cemetery grew, the clearing of trees and brush extended. Buyers of lots expended their own money and effort in this work and fought back the returning growth. However, brambles and thickets were so vigorous in recovering their primeval habitat that in 1867, a public fund of \$366.50 was raised to improve the cemetery. A contract was let to clear the ground of weeds and brush and to set wooden markers on the graves which were becoming obscure. See the Oregonian, July 17th, 1867, Page. 3. Many graves could not be identified as "who these dead people were", says the Oregonian of May 1, 1887, "will never in all probability be discovered for the records of interments does not indicate where these bodies were buried".

The first graves are in the northwest corner, near east 20th and East Stark Streets, and along the west end, paralleling East 20th Street. A section for Chinese was in the southwest corner, near East 20th and East Morrison Street.

The soldiers monument in Lone Fir Cemetery was unveiled October 26th, 1903, costing \$3500, which was contributed by some five hundred persons, the largest sum given being \$200 by Henry W. Corbett. It is a memorial to soldiers of the Civil, Indian, Mexican and Spanish American Wars, built by the Lone Fir Monument Association, which effected preliminary organization November 2, 1901, and incorporated February 9, 1902. Officers were M. L. Pratt, President, Edward Martin, Vice President and J. W. Ogilbee, Secretary and Treasurer. The designed was D. D. Neer and the builder Otto Schumann. See the Oregonian October 25, 1903, Page 16.

Don MacCleay built a mausoleum costing \$13,500 in 1877. See the Oregonian June 5, 1877, Page 3.

## Lone Fir Cemetery

Among the graves are those of the following: James D. Holman, Thomas J. Dryer, Eugene A. Cronin, Dr. J. C. Hawthorne, Charles A. Burckhardt, Samuel A. Moreland, Ralph Wilcox, Harry C. Coulson, John H. Couch, Thomas J. Holmes, Dr. William Weatherford, Dr. W. W. Royal, Peter Hansen, J. G. Flowerdew, Richard Hoyt, Samuel Sherlock, Sam L. Simpson, J. C. Moreland, W. W. Chapman, Levi Estes, Herman Wasserman, Horace Lyman, W. H. Frush, Justin Millard, J. W. Bloomfield, D. H. Lowndale, Finice Caruthers, Philip M. Strowbridge, Henry Law, Dr. C. P. Elwert, Edward J. Northrup, Howard Northrup, John Phillippi, William Cree, Charles Barrett, Daniel Harvey, George L. Curry, Andrew Hurgren, Charles S. Mills, James W. Going, William E. Molthrop, Hillardy Cason, Austin Chittenden, George H. Carter, T. J. Sloan, John McLaughlin, Horace S. Lyman, William H. Barnhart, Harry Lane, Thomas A. Savier, Dr. Henry E. Jones, Levi Knott, A. J. Knott, Donald Macleay, Gideon Tibbetts, Dr. James R. Cardwell, Rev. J. H. B. Royal, Job McNemee, James H. Guild, Anthony Noltner, William L. Higgins, Richard Williams, Will Dierdorff, Z. C. Norton, Earl C. Bronaugh, Sr., Rev. Chauncey O. Hosford, Sylvester Pennoyer, Benjamin G. Whitehouse, Hollister D. McGuire, Frank Dekum, William Werschkul, John Kenworthy, Cincinnati Bills, Christian H. Meussdorffer, Robert McCracken, John Cotter, D. S. Southmayd, Dr. J. M. Roland, George J. Martin, Sr., G. D. Dammeier, John Ewry, Valentine Brown, James W. Robb, J. B. Backenstos. See The Oregonian July 17, 1867, Page 3; June 5, 1877, Page 3; May 1, 1887, Page 1; August 29, 1899, Page 8; October 21, 1902, Page 10; October 25, 1903; June 10, 1906, Page 38; September 19, 1909, Page 12.

Saint Mary's Cemetery (Catholic), north of Lone Fir Cemetery, on the opposite side of East Stark Street, was laid out as a burial ground in 1858. Archbishop F. N. Blanchet bought the land from Timothy Sullivan. The first interment was that of Louisa Frederica Koblite, wife of F. Koblite, October 12, 1858. Among the other graves are those of Daniel J. Malarkey, Sr., Patrick Raleigh, P. O'C. Newell, Barney Trainor, Joseph J. Reilly, Daniel Walter, Leon Vial, Daniel Shay, William J. Condon, David Gully, Captain D. Burns, Patrick Quinn, Dennis Spellen, Michael Malone, Bryan Brady, Phillips Lowene, Peter S. Williams, Michael Horan, Pierre Manciet, Terrence McLaughlin, John Wallace, Captain Dan McGill.

Riverview Cemetery was laid off in 1879 and 1880. See The Oregonian, January 1st, 1880, prospectus; August 6, 1879, Page 3; December 16, 1879, Page 3; September 8, 1880, Page 3. The soldiers monument there was unveiled May 24, 1903. See Volume III, page 221, of this work.

FROM: History of the Oregon Country  
By H. W. Scott - Volume 5

## Lone Fir Cemetery

When the waiting room has been completed, it will be possible to see from the room straight through the cemetery north, west and east, the clearing of the underbrush and superfluous shrubbery having made this possible. For many years the shrubbery was permitted to grow without care and ran riot over the graves, concealing them in the mass of brush and weeds. This was especially true of the zone extending from the south entrance which gave a very painful impression of neglect and disrespect to the dead and the first movement of the association was to dispel this impression. As soon as the grass has covered the lawn and the roses are in bloom, then the full effect of the initial plan will be excellent.

The main efforts so far have been expended in the older portion at the west side, which was the first ten acres let out as a cemetery, and which was in a wild, unkept condition, of shrubbery, broken trees, grass and weeds, wholly neglected. Here most of the pioneers are buried but more than seventy-five percent of the graves were hidden under the tangled mass. Within the past few weeks all this has been changed and this part of the cemetery has been vastly improved. It is now possible to look through all portions of the west side of the grounds under the growth of small trees that have been permitted to stand, yet nothing has been sacrificed. Graves that had been covered for a quarter of a century were improved, ruined and broken coping was removed and the stone will be part of the waiting room under construction. The transformation has been complete. This work extends through to the north side where the Masonic part is located. At the start the work was done in this part of the cemetery largely as a demonstration. About forty-five men were employed for sometime, but at present fifteen men are at work.

The association has replotted the cemetery grounds for two purposes-- to locate all the graves and also to secure a revenue for maintenance purposes. The lots of course are marked on the new plat and may be found at once. By this plat several of the roadways have been closed leaving a large number of burial places at the disposal of the cemetery association, the proceeds to be used to form a trust fund for maintenance purposes only. According to the provisions of 6820 Section of the Laws of Oregon, this maintenance fund becomes an irreducible fund, only the income from which can be used, and the principal must be kept in the bank or invested as a trust fund.

Many have asked what is to become of the cemetery after the association has completed the improvements, and this question may be answered that this irreducible trust fund will be built up out of the sale of the lots in the closed roadways. It is estimated that a considerable sum will be realized from the sale of these lots. Enough roadways will be left to give access to all parts of the cemetery grounds, and it is proposed to pave these remaining roadways with crushed rock. Some of these roadways have already been graded preparatory to paving with crushed rock. The roadways on the four sides of Monument Square have been graded and gravel paths are to be laid through the square from the four corners. The intention is to open the roadway near the center through the street at the south side of the cemetery through the space now occupied by the greenhouse, which will be removed in a short time. The general plan is to continue the improvements through to the east side as far as the money will permit.

## Lone Fir Cemetery

Erection of the stone waiting room at the south entrance has been started. As Colburn Barrell was the man who started Lone Fir Cemetery and his wife named it Lone Fir, their names will be perpetuated in this stone edifice. On one of the piers will appear the name of Colburn Barrell, who founded the cemetery in 1854, and on the other pier will appear that of his wife, who gave it the name of Lone Fir Cemetery. It was originally called the Crawford Cemetery but was renamed by Mrs. Barrell after the scraggy fir tree which still stands near the Masonic Plot at the North side. Those in charge of the work believe it is fitting that the name of Mr. and Mrs. Barrell should be perpetuated in the walls of the waiting room as part of its history to stand for all time as a tribute to their memory.

The waiting room will be one of the artistic features of the cemetery. The roof is to be supported by solid stone piers and covered with glass. It is planned to make the entrance to the cemetery from the south side. A movement has been started by which it is hoped that the street part of East Morrison along the south line of the grounds will be paved and become the main entrance to the cemetery. The association will assist in this movement, and it is thought that the street railway company will interpose no objections to the improvements. The association also proposes to erect an artisans stone wall along the south line as soon as it can be done.

The association will clear the grounds and cut the grass before Memorial Day so that the cemetery will present a clean and attractive appearance. It has not been an easy matter to perfect and get this movement under way and it has been entirely a labor of love and patriotism on the part of all who have had anything to do with the work. Up to this time all efforts to take care of the cemetery have failed and this is the first time results were secured.

Those who had been doubtful of the success of this movement are now pleased over what has been accomplished and some who opposed the improvement as iconoclastic have been won over. The directors give large credit to the untiring work that Secretary Strowbridge has done toward this preservation movement and on his shoulders has fallen the bulk of the work which he has cheerfully carried in the last two years since the enterprise was projected and is still willing to carry. Being the son of a well known pioneer and deeply interested in the work undertaken, Mr. Strowbridge brought untiring energy and sound business principles to the execution of the work, with the assistance and advise of the Board of Directors.

The men associated with him are: Dr. S. E. Josephi; Dr. Day Raffety; George L. Storey; G. F. Russell; H. S. Rowe; Judge Earl S. Bronaugh; M. C. Banfield; A. A. Dekum; M. O. Collins; Thomas M. Word; L. N. Guy; Alexander Muir; Joseph Buchtel; M. L. Pratt; John W. Ogilbee; Herman H. Jones; T. S. McDaniel; E. B. Williams; F. H. Whitehead; K. K. Kubli; Thomas A. Jordan; S. C. Pier; John H. Lewis.

## Lone Fir Cemetery

### EARLY DAY CITIZENS REST IN LONE FIR

Lone Fir Cemetery was originally known as Mt. Crawford Cemetery, and was named for Crawford Dobbins, whose monument was the first to be erected in which is now Lone Fir.

Crawford Dobbins and Colburn Barrell Jr., who came to Portland in 1849, operated a passenger boat between Portland and Oregon City. On March 18th, 1854, their side-wheel steamer Gazelle made her trial trip on the Willamette. On April 8th, while at the wharf at Canemah, her boiler exploded killing instantly the Rev. J. P. Miller of Albany, Judge Burch of Luckeamute, Mr. Morgan of Rickreal, Mr. Hill of Albany, Mr. White of Salem, Daniel Lowe of Oregon City, C. Watsworth of Milwaukie, and David Fuller of Portland, all of whom were passengers; and also David Page, superintendent of the Willamette Falls Company, one of the owners of the Gazelle, J. M. Gudge, sailor of the Willamette, and Jacob Bloomer, J. K. Miller, Michael McCoe, and Mr. Hatch, members of the crew; Henry Traul, the steward, and Mr. Brant, the second engineer. Among those badly injured were Dobbins, B. F. Newby, Robert Shortess, James Parklow, a pilot, and John Boyd, the mate. Crawford Dobbins died of the injuries and his partner, Barrell, buried him and also David P. Fuller on his farm, which he had purchased from J. B. Stephens. After burying his partner and Mr. Fuller, Mr. Barrell set aside ten acres as a cemetery, named it Mt. Crawford Cemetery. J. B. Stephens had buried his father, Emmor Stephens, on his claim, not far from the claim of Seldon Murray and Barrell agreed to take care of the grave of Emmor Stephens; and because Stephens claim was so close to the line dividing the Stephen claim and the Murray claim, Barrell also bought from Murray ten acres immediately adjacent to the claim of Stephens. The deed for this ten acres reads: "Portland Oregon Territory, August 4, 1855, know all men by these presents, that we, Seldon Murray and Hiantha, his wife, do hereby sell and quitclaim in consideration of \$100 unto the said Colburn Barrell, Jr., for cemetery purposes forever, a parcel of land containing ten square acres."

When Dobbins died, Mr. Barrell had Dr. McCarthy, a Methodist minister, preach the funeral sermon and shortly after the burial erected a monument over Dobbin's grave, the first monument in the cemetery. Mr. Barrell took as his own lot, Lot 1, Block 1. In 1855, A. B. Hallock was county surveyor, and he made a plat of the cemetery, the plat being filed on August 9, 1855, under the title of Mt. Crawford Cemetery. On June 7, 1865, Mr. Barrell purchased thirteen additional acres, which he added to the cemetery. The following year he added seven acres more. Believing that the cemetery should be owned by the city, he offered to sell it to the city for \$4,000. When the matter was brought before the City Council, they decided that the cemetery was too far away from Portland, and refused to purchase it.

In 1862, Mr. Barrell donated Block 5 to the City Fire Department, and sold at a low price a block in the cemetery to Willamette Lodge, and also one to Harmony Lodge of the Masonic Order. When the city refused to purchase the cemetery, Byron P. Cardwell, Levi Anderson, Robert Pittock and a number of other Portland residents purchased the cemetery for \$4,000 and incorporated it on July 26, 1866. By that time there had been several hundred burials in the cemetery. When Mr. Barrell sold, his wife suggested that the name be changed to Lone Fir Cemetery and her suggestion was adopted.

## Lone Fir Cemetery

The plans of the Lone Fir Cemetery Lot Owners Association, which succeeded to the Portland Lone Fir Cemetery Company, to improve, beautify and maintain the cemetery grounds, the pioneer resting place of many of the early residents of Portland and the state, are rapidly being worked out. By next Thursday, when the Grand Army of the Republic bodies hold their Memorial Day exercises, the public will be afforded opportunity to see what has been accomplished. Wednesday and Thursday of next week the association will maintain booths in different portions of the grounds at the south entrance and at Memorial Square in the center, where attendants will give information as to the plans of the association and keep blanks for those who desire to make contributions to the improvement fund. It is expected thousands will visit the cemetery Wednesday and Thursday and these booths will be maintained as bureau of information as the association desires that the public should have full information as to the purposes and plans for the future of this pioneer cemetery.

According to the report of Secretary Strowbridge, so far \$3500 has been expended on the grounds. Something over thirty blocks have been partly and wholly improved. About \$5,000 has been subscribed toward the expense fund and it estimated that fully \$10,000 will be required to keep the improvements and pave the roadways with crushed rock screenings. The name of about 1,000 lot owners have been secured by Secretary Strowbridge. Owing to lack of records these names were obtained only with much work and correspondence. Some of the lot owners live on the Atlantic Seaboard and many have written from the eastern cities.

In the cemetery there are 30,000 bodies buried. The money that has been subscribed and paid in has come from 170 lot owners. The Portland Railway Light and Power Company has contributed \$150 toward the erection of the stone waiting-room at the south side, besides donating cement and rock. As fast as the money comes in, it will be applied to the improvements until the grounds have been covered from the west to the east.

The association does not pretend to dictate what money lot owners shall pay, that being left wholly to the owners themselves, but it is desired that all interested should contribute something toward the improvement and preservation of the cemetery, which is sacred to the ashes of so many of the pioneers of this country. The improvements have been under the direction of Harold F. Wold, landscape engineer and were started in the space between the south entrance and north to the Fireman's Plot. For a width of about 150 feet the grounds were cleared of the tangled brush and weeds, levelled and then seeded to grass. About the graves in this zone, the ground was graded without disturbing the graves or the grave stones. Hundreds of rose bushes were then set along this space. The effect of this improvement was immediate and pleasing as it opened a full view through the center of the cemetery to the north end, where are located the Fireman's Plot and the Masonic Plots.

## Lone Fir Cemetery

In 1867, \$366.50 was raised by public subscription to clear the ground of weeds and brush and to put wooden markers on many of the unmarked graves. The records of interments were not kept at that time and many of the graves could not be identified.

More than 22,000 persons are buried in Lone Fir Cemetery. Among these are 460 veterans of the Civil War, 15 veterans of the Spanish American War, 7 of the Mexican War, a number of Indian War Veterans and one of the Veterans of the War of 1812. There are 75 former members of the Fire Department in the Fireman's plot.

Governor George L. Curry, Governor Sylvester Pennoyer, as well as Dr. Harry Lane, former mayor of Portland, United States Senator and First Oregon Territorial Governor, and a number of other former mayors and city officials also rest in Lone Fir.

In the fall of 1903, the Soldiers' Monument was unveiled. The cost of the monument was \$3500; this was contributed by more than 500 persons. It was erected as a memorial to the soldiers of the Civil War, the Spanish American War and to the Veterans of the Mexican and Indian Wars.

In 1877 Donald Macleay mausoleum costing \$13,500 was built.

Prior to 1854, Portland used the ground on which the Skidmore fountain now stands. No burials were allowed there after 1854.

Wilson Benefiel, a native son of Oregon, born in Yamhill County in 1859, became superintendent of Lone Fir Cemetery in 1888 and had charge of it for more than 40 years.

Many years ago Lone Fir Cemetery fell into neglect and was overgrown with a tangle of brush. After it had been taken over by the County, it was restored.

One who wanders through this city of the dead will see on the gravestones inscriptions in German, Hebrew, French, Italian, Bohemian, Finnish, Japanese and Chinese, though of course most of the inscriptions are in English. "Uncle Jimmie" Stephens, the original settler in what later became East Portland, and his wife and father are buried there in Lone Fir. On the monument is carved "J. B. Stephens, born in Virginia, November 19, 1806; Died March 22, 1889; Elizabeth Stephens, born in Kentucky, December 6, 1805, died April 26, 1887. Here we lie by consent after 57 years, 2 months and 2 days so-journeying on earth awaiting nature's immutable laws to return us to the elements of which we were formed".

Over the grave of Emmor Stephens is a stone on which is carved a wreath of oak and fir and an old fashioned long-barrelled Kentucky rifle. His grave is near the symmetrical fir tree for which Lone Fir Cemetery is named. The inscription on his grave stone reads: "Emmor Stephens, born in Maryland, 1777, died 1846."

FROM: THE OREGON JOURNAL  
May 28, 1939 - By Fred Lockley

In 1853 Mayor Failing and some others proposed a location for a cemetery. Two blocks were involved - - this location is now 11th Avenue, Stark and Washington Streets.

At one time there was a Stump Cemetery in St. Johns. This has been done away with.

In the early days there were two small cemeteries out on the Canyon Road. They, too, are no more.

Until 1858 Portland used as a cemetery an area where later stands the Skidmore Fountain. - - Ankeny, Pine and Front Streets - - Burials were ceased there in 1854 and removals made to other cemeteries:

10th, 11th, Washington and Stark  
Macadam, Hood, Abernathy and Lowell - set apart by Elizabeth  
Carruthers and James Terwilliger  
South Portland: Hood, Corbett, Mead and Porter. This was Jewish.  
The last grave was moved in 1886, many to Beth Israel.

If ghosts prowl around Third and Burnside Streets during the early morning hours, it is their right for they are viewing the sleeping city while the din of speeding motor cars is at its lowest ebb. For here was Portland's first cemetery. Several weeks ago, a workman in the widening work of Burnside Street stuck his pick into the ground near the corner to strike a wooden box. Further investigation uncovered a human skull. Excitement ran high until George H. Himes, Secretary of the Oregon Historical Society called for an investigation of the matter.

Police and county officials agreed that the skull was many years old. The wooden box was in an advanced stage of decay. Himes spent several weeks investigating the matter and finally uncovered evidence that many of Portland's original settlers were buried on that spot.

The cemetery was started about 1850. It was found at that time that this part of today's Portland was far out of the City limits.

In time the cemetery was forgotten. Then the construction of Multnomah Hotel was begun. During the excavation of this building two distinct parts of a human

skeleton were found by a workman. As time went on this discovery was also forgotten, only to be revived by the discovery of the skull by the workman in the recent widening work.

The northwest is only one hundred years old, therefore the preservation of its historical buildings and places cannot be compared with that of the east where associations for this purpose have functioned for many years. The northwest is, however, beginning to realize the importance of this preservation; individuals and groups are working to collect its pioneer records.

Lone Fir Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Portland and is still in use. There is one older cemetery in Portland on the Couch Addition, at 2nd and 3rd Streets, between Ankeny and Burnside, but this was never incorporated and had no name. This was before the City of Portland was laid out and all remains were supposed to have been removed, but skeletons have been found in that neighborhood from time to time.

Lone Fir Cemetery was laid out in 1854 when Colburn Barrell set apart an area on the east side of the Willamette River, which he called Mount Crawford Cemetery. Later this area was increased to thirty acres consisting mainly of forest and underbrush. Colburn Barrell, pioneer of 1840, later changed the name from Mount Crawford to Lone Fir Cemetery, at the suggestion of his wife Aurelia J. Montgomery Barrell, who was a pioneer of 1852. A solitary fir tree suggested the new name.

The first burial <sup>book</sup> place in 1846 when Emmor Stephens, a pioneer of 1844 was buried there by his son. David P. Fuller and Crawford Dobbins, victims of the Gazelle steamboat explosion at Canemah in 1854 were buried there. The burials are not <sup>now</sup> estimated at 20,000 and the cemetery has been taken over along with several others by Multnomah County for upkeep.

Many years ago the caretaker's home was in the northwest corner of the

cemetery. The house burned and all records were lost. A new list of burials was made from grave markers but several hundred names and grave locations are missing from this list because of unmarked graves.

The oldest part of the cemetery is in the northwest corner at East 20th and Stark Streets. The southwest corner at East 20th and Morrison Streets was the Chinese Section. There is one entrance on East 20th Avenue and two gates on the East 26th Avenue.

There was a main entrance on East Morrison Street which was a street car stop, but with bus service now on Belmont Street this entrance is not used. An old gate on East Stark Street was closed years ago because the burn was too abrupt for any easy entrance.

One might call the old Chinese funerals colorful. The hearse was followed by paid mourners who in turn were followed by the family and friends. The funeral procession always passed the man's place of business, stopped for a few minutes, then went on to the cemetery. In the Chinese section there was a furnace where the deceased clothing and belongings were burned. Quantities of all kinds of food, including roast pigs and chickens, were placed near the furnace. Papers with holes punched in them were strewn all along the march, and in the cemetery. Great bunches of punk were burned at the grave. All these ceremonies had some special meaning for the Chinese people. The remains should be sent back to their birthplace in China within ten years after death. Wars and other conditions have prevented this being done, but within the last few years all the remains have been removed. Now most Chinese funerals are more Americanized, especially for those born in America. They still cling to the two old customs one of burning punk at the grave and the other of giving each person a piece of candy with a penny inside when the procession enters the cemetery. Since being moved from Lone Fir Cemetery the Chinese have a section at Lincoln Memorial Park, which also has a section for the colored people.

Lone Fir has many old fashioned tombstones. Now, according to cemetery

regulations all markers must be placed flat with the ground. Many of the old ones have been laid down but this change can only be made with permission of relatives. Several descendants of two pioneers of 1845, living in and near Portland, will not agree to have their ancestors stones moved to a flat position so it still remains upright. Cement walls and fences around several lots have been removed, making it much easier to cut the grass and keep the place looking uniform.

In the center of the cemetery there is a tall war veteran's monument where Memorial Day services are held.

The Firemen's lot near the center of the cemetery is still enclosed with a heavy iron chain fence.

One quite conspicuous place is a large section with only two graves: a man is buried at one end of the lot while his wife is buried at the opposite end, both tombstones are covered with ivy. There is room for several burials between these two graves.

Another unusual feature is one of the few Pioneer Rose Gardens. The collection of rose bushes are plants or cuttings from the original roses brought to the Oregon Territory. The cemetery also makes a perfect setting for several very old and very beautiful weeping willow trees.

In the Macleay vault all burials are made below ground. The names and dates on the front of the crypts can be read through an iron gate. The top of the vault is a little chapel which was used by the family in the early days.

It is difficult to understand the reason for vandalism in a cemetery. Some of this is, no doubt, done by teenagers in a mischievous way. For example: the Stephens tombstone is very unusual. The front side shows full length figures and Mr and Mrs Stephens and on the back their names and dates of birth and death. A report was made to the Superintendent's office that this marker has been defaced. Some one had used nail polish to redden the lips and nails of the figure of Mrs Stephens. It only required a little time for one of the men

to remove the color. At other times children come through the cemetery and see a marker which is unsteady and push it over. It does not seem possible that an adult would do such a thing. It is a shame that youngsters have to wait until maturity to learn respect.

One thing that few people realize is that a cemetery lot should be willed the same as any other property. Some one person should be recorded as owner. This party would then have authority to decide who could be buried there. In most cases this is not necessary if burials are members of the same family. Sometimes married children may wish their in-laws to be buried in the lot where space was reserved for the immediate family. Strong family arguments have arisen in some such cases.

Lone Fir Cemetery may be called very democratic. People from all walks of life are buried there: ministers, doctors, actors, musicians and laymen. Race, color or creed make no difference as there are white, blacks and orientals there. Half of the people buried in Lone Fir are pioneers or descendants of pioneers, three great generations in some cases. The pioneers are those brave people who came to the wilderness of the northwest before 1859 to settle and make homes for future generations. Those people who came in the 1860s did pioneering also.

Anyone who is interested in research can spend many hours walking through checking names, dates and old epitaphs.

Those brave pioneers made this part of the country a livable place. There is a welath of unpublished history which has gone to the grave with these people. There are fascinating, humorous and sorrowful stories if they were known.

God rest their souls!

#### THE WASHINGTON ELM

With all the brilliance of a perfect rainbow, the romance of America today spans the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

With the landing of the Mayflower on Massachusetts's rock bound shore came

Elder Brewster to administer to the spiritual needs of the brave little pilgrim band and to leave a splendid line of descendants to perpetuate American ideals. Of these one is today regent of our beloved Willamette Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Another, Joseph Barrell, early became a merchant and ship builder of Boston. Good Old Boston whose citizens rebelled at the Stamp Act, spilled their blood in the massacre and gave the most astounding "Colonial Tea" recorded in our annals.

After years of wrongs and impositions, the blood of the Puritans began to seethe in the veins of their children and they formed a well organized company of "Minute Men" to assert and defend the rights of their new world.

On May 10, 1775, the Continental Congress in session at Philadelphia adopted these "Minute Men" assembled at Boston as "Our Continental Army". And on the motion of Samuel Adams, George Washington of Virginia was elected Commander-in-Chief. Four days later Washington accompanied by Generals Schuyler and Lee were riding northward in answer to the call.

Thereupon the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts dispatched a committee of three to meet the Generals and escort them into Boston. Of these one was Joseph Barrell. On July 2nd, 1775 they reached Cambridge where they rested for the night and on the following day they walked out to the Commons, where in the shades of the Elms Washington drew his sword and took command of the poorly equipped but splendidly loyal forces of Patriots.

Throughout all the long heart breaking struggle they remained with Washington and at the close of the conflict he returned to his home and his Boston shipyards. Actuated by the wonderful spirit of helpfulness possessed by most pioneers, Joseph Barrell gave generously of his means for the establishment of education for the youth of the new republic. Yale College was but one recipient of his bounty. The old Barrell home, a brick manse still stands at 122 Elm Street, Boston, the street being named from the grove of Washington Elms transplanted from the parent stock at Cambridge.