

P.O. Box 50004, RPO Fairfield Plaza, Victoria, B.C. V8S 5L8
Telephone: (250) 598-8870

E-mail oldcem@pacificcoast.net

Web Site: <http://www.oldcem.bc.ca>

July – August 2017

Garden Party

The OCS Executive invites you to join them for an evening garden party at Ross Bay Villa on August 16th, 2017.

The grounds will be open at 5 p.m. and sandwiches, veggies, coffee/tea and dessert will be served. Bring a friend to introduce to our society and the activities we are involved in.

So we get enough food, please RSVP Gudrun Leys, 250-598-8870 or email oldcem@pacificcoast.net by August 11, 2017.

Cleaning and Restoration

Sharon Welsh & Wilf Bruch

We anticipate having a cleaning and restoration bee on July 15, and plan to have more in August and September. We will send the emails to the members and volunteers to let them know when bees are scheduled.

We started our cleaning season on June 17 in Section H with five volunteers, removing grass, dirt, leaves, moss and sweeping the curbs to expose the family namea. Wilf has a project in which he is photographing all the gravesites we work on for our database.

Our next Bee was held on June 24th, with six volunteers, in Section Q in the scorching heat. Wilf had completed photographing Section H and has moved on to Section Q.

Here are some before and after photos:



Douglas before



Moss before



Beaumont before



Douglas after



Moss after



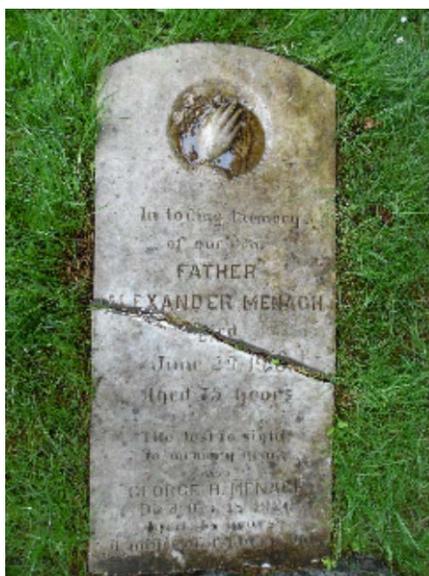
Beaumont after

This year, rather than pick one Section to work in, we will be having different ‘themes’:

- Work on a Sunday so that we can show the people on the tour what we are doing (and, perhaps join the tour)
- Work on favourite gravesites (Fernie’s, Nellis Cashman, family gravesites, forlorn, forgotten gravesites, etc)
- Connect with an upcoming Tour leader and tidy the graves featured in their tour
- Have a Mausoleum Day where all the mausoleums are swept and cleaned
- In Spring, sweep the newly cut grass from the gravesites

This summer we will work on restoring monuments in Block H as well as ones already committed. There are three categories of restoration and we will attempt to complete a few in each category.

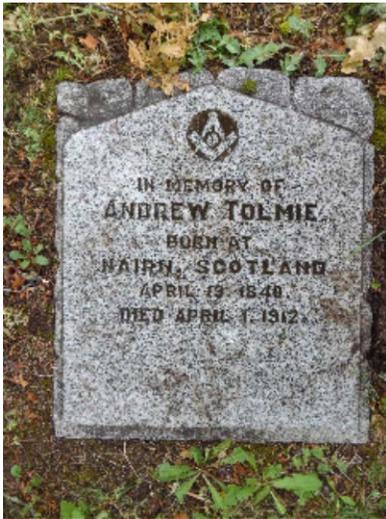
The first is restoration of tablet type markers that have been broken off their bases and now laying flat. This requires the marker to be re-assembled, glued and re-installed on it's original base or on a new base. Two examples are Alexander Menagh (H64W20) and William Johnstone (H80W22).



The second is curbing name plates that have sunk. These need to be dug out and re-installed at the correct height. This sometimes requires the adjacent curbing to be raised as well. Examples are W.A. Elliott (H77b78E16) and William Powell (H94W21A).



The third type is larger monuments that have toppled from their bases and are now lying on their sides. These can be very difficult as the original base has to be found, excavated and raised to the correct height before the monument can be re-installed. Examples are Andrew Tolmie (H87W21A) and T.O. Griffin (H81E21)



Watch for before and after photos on our facebook page and on our web site, www.oldcem.bc.ca . If you would like to get involved contact Wilf at oldcem@pacificcoast.net .

Here is an article from the Colonist Newspaper dated 02 April 1924 on Captain Griffin's retirement:

Capt T O Griffin retires from BC Coast Service of CPR, having passed his 65th birthday on Mar 22, after 33 yrs service. He started his career in 1875 aged 16 as an apprentice on the bark Abbey Holme, sailing out of Liverpool. In the process of becoming a deep sea master mariner he stretched his legs in almost every port of the seven seas. In 1886 he deserted sails for steam, skippering one of the Lambert & Holt steamers plying between Liverpool and S America. Two

yrs later he joined Leyland & Co, commanding one of their Mediterranean steamers. In 1890 he succumbed to the lure of the farm, left the sea and came with his aunt to Canada. For about 1 yr he lived in and near Winnipeg, but as his aunt could not endure the harshness of the winter there, he pushed on to the Pacific Coast. Two days after his arrival in Jul, 1891, he joined CPNC, which afterwards became CPR.

For a time he sailed with the late Capt George Rudlin as pilot on CPN steamers. His 1st command was the old Yosemite, then he skippered Charmer and Islander.

A few weeks after the Pr Victoria arrived on the Coast from England he took command of the new queen of the fleet on the death of Capt Rudlin. He navigated her on her 1st voyage to Vancouver, inaugurating the triangle route. He stayed on the bridge of Victoria until Princess Charlotte made her debut in BC waters. He remained on the bridge of Charlotte until she was laid up last Nov. The waterfront is now speculating on how long it will be before Capt Griffin responds once more to the call of the sea. He had not been on shore long enough to discover whether he really liked the life of a landlubber.

They do it in Vanuatu too!

Gudrun Leys sent a photo from a cemetery in Port Vila, Vanuatu, an island republic in the South Pacific, of friends there involved in cleaning in a local cemetery.



Obon Ceremony

On August 13 at 2:30 p.m. the annual Obon ceremony in observance of the Japanese Buddhist Day of the Dead will be held at the Kakehashi Monument in the southwest corner of Ross Bay Cemetery. The public are invited to the ceremony and to the reception following at Ross Bay Villa.

Old Cemeteries Society Pin



A handsome one inch diameter OCS Society pin is now for sale at our tours and activities! Price is \$5.00. Thanks to Patrick Lydon for all the time and effort he put into creating this pin.

BC Historical Federation Conference Bente Svendsen

The first day there was an archives boot camp and a presentation about how to take care of artifacts. In the evening there was a working dinner where presenters talked about how heritage groups can advocate for heritage protection, after which Tourism Chilliwack hosted a welcome reception at the Chilliwack Museum. Next morning there was a traditional welcome from the Stolo First Nation and the keynote address by Dr. Gwen Point, a member of the Stolo Nation and Chancellor of the University of the Fraser Valley. I then attended lectures on modern treaties and reconciliation in Canada, and on the Sikh Heritage Museum and National Historic Site of

Canada. In the afternoon there were concurrent field trips, and I chose to go on a downtown heritage walking tour with a very knowledgeable guide. We saw the interior of an old fire hall (now an architect's office), a heritage home and a heritage church. In the evening the designers of an exhibition at the museum called Grand Theft Terra Firma gave a presentation about the concept behind it. Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon, our honorary patron, attended. I cannot go into the details of the exhibition here, but google Grand Theft Terra Firma. On the final day I attended a lecture called Finding Chilliwack's Fallen, about local men and boys who fought in World War One. Next came the annual general meeting. Members of various societies read reports, including Joyce Mackie for the OCS, and new officers were elected to the board. That afternoon I went to a working old-style farm and the Atchelitz Thresherman's Museum. The conference ended with a BCHF book prize awards gala and banquet.

St. Andrew's Cathedral Columbarium



On June 03, 2017, St. Andrew's Cathedral had their columbarium dedicated by Victoria Bishop Gary Gordon. The columbarium is located adjacent to the southwest corner of the Cathedral, between the Cathedral and the View Street sidewalk. The facility comprises 199 "companion" size niches, each of which will accommodate two regular size urns. The niche assemblies are prefabricated structural aluminum, supported on/affixed to a reinforced concrete slab, with brick and/or granite cladding. A committee of St. Andrew's parishioners, overseen by the Pastoral Council and the Cathedral Rector, will administer the columbarium in accordance with the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act of British Columbia, the related Regulations, and the St. Andrew's Cathedral Columbarium By-Laws.

Nellie Cashman Fund Patrick Perry Lydon, Chair, Nellie Cashman Committee

At the May meeting of the Old Cemeteries Society the Board decided to apply for permission to the City of Victoria for a permit to start structural work on the Nellie Cashman gravesite. The Nellie Cashman Fund has over two thousand dollars and we are expecting some more funds from the O' Fallon Family in California. We have received additional funds from the Brophy Family in California; this family is related to the Cashman family. The main focus of the fund is to place a centennial stone in concrete on the grass section of the gravesite. The Sisters of St. Ann and the O'Fallon Family in San Diego, California has given their approval to this venture and we hope that the City of Victoria will offer support and encouragement.

On a recent visit to Midleton, Co. Cork, Ireland, I had an opportunity to review the old parish records from 1845 and was able to find the date of Nellie's christening in the Church of St. John the Devine. With the help of Pam Knightly, a nurse who has worked in Victoria at the Gorge Road Hospital in 1993, I was taken to all the important tourist displays that are evident in Midleton.

The photos below are of Pam and me at the Nellie Cashman monument that was unveiled in 2012 and of the "Nine Feathers" monument," that was built to commemorate a donation of monies to the Midleton area from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, during 1847, the worst year of the Irish famine.



Pam Knightly has worked in many parts of the world and spent years doing humanitarian work in Africa. Despite being very well known in her town of Doneraile, near Midleton, Pam was actually born in Nanaimo, where her Father worked as a scientist for the Canadian Government. I send her a Victoria calendar every Christmas, and I don't need a street or house address, as I just mail it to her town in Co. Cork!

I hope to report some progress on the Cashman centennial stone on our next update.

Tombstone Oddities



**TOMAS
JIMOTEO
CHINCHILLA**

1967-1989

**Rest in peace,
Now you are in Lord's arms.
Lord, watch your wallet**

Last Words

....from the electric chair....

George Appel -1928
"Well, gentlemen, you are about to see a baked Appel."

James French 1936-1966
"Hey, fellas, how about this for a headline for tomorrow's paper? 'French Fries'!"

-in a cemetery in Mexico-