



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD CEMETERIES SOCIETY
OF VICTORIA, PUBLISHED SIX TIMES PER YEAR

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July-August 2012

We're on Facebook! Fern Perkins

The Old Cemeteries Society is on the cutting edge! We have a Facebook page! The link to the OCS Facebook page is:

<http://www.facebook.com/oldcemeteriesociety>

We have already had a request from the Victoria Genealogy Society to connect to their Facebook Group.

If you wish to join the online social community you can be our friend, post your comments and we can all stay informed! Perhaps visitors, researchers



and students will be better able to find us now. We hope to have a Twitter account up and running soon. This new technology is an excellent way to get our news instantly to many groups and societies that share common interests with us. We are moving bravely into the realm of the next generation who will one day share the history.

2012 Summer Tour Program

RBC tours each Sunday at 2 p.m. starting outside Oregon's at the Fairfield Plaza. Other tours and events are as noted.

Gossip in the Graveyard is a lively tour about many scoundrels, characters and eccentrics at RBC you won't find in your history books! Glenn Perlstrom leads these lively tours which he fills with fascinating details.

Gold Rush! is about some of the colourful men and women buried at RBC who made history in the Fraser River Gold Rush of 1858 and other gold rushes. Yvonne Van Ruskenveld leads these tours, with many new stories each year.

July 1 *Gossip in the Graveyard*

July 22 *Gold Rush!*

July 8 *Gold Rush!*

July 29 *Gossip in the Graveyard*

July 15 *Gossip in the Graveyard*

Aug. 5 *Gold Rush!*

Aug. 12 Obon Ceremony at 2:00 p.m. at the Kakehashi Monument in the SW corner of the cemetery. (Traditional Japanese Buddhist ceremony for the dead.) A celebration of Japanese food and traditional dancing will follow the ceremony at Ross Bay Villa, 1490 Fairfield Road..

Aug. 19 Gold Rush!

Aug. 26 Gossip in the Graveyard

Members Summer Potluck Social

Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at Ross Bay Villa, 1490 Fairfield Road. 6pm to 9pm.

Please bring a dish to share with your fellow members. Dishes, cutlery, beverages (non-alcoholic) and a cake for dessert will be supplied. You should also bring a chair if possible and of course a sweater or jacket to ward off the Ross Bay winds.

Please let us know that you are coming at oldcem@pacificcoast.com

Last year was a blast with lots of prizes, food and just good conversation with new and old friends. Here are a couple of pics:



Leechtown Gold Rush Tour

Diana Pedersen

Our June 10th RBC tour featured the unveiling of a monument to Peter John Leech R.E. and his wife Mary MacDonald Leech. Leech's discovery of gold on the Sooke River led to a gold rush and resulted in early development of Vancouver Island.



A piper leads the way....



....and Dr. Lydon admires....



....the monument....

Cleaning & Restoration

Sharon Walsh & Wilf Bruch

Our work party on Saturday the 2nd of June was a great success! The weather looked a bit uncertain ... but by 10:15 the sun came out and it was a wonderful day! We had six volunteers and started in Section U power washing, scraping moss from monuments, lifting monuments, washing headstones, and housekeeping in mausoleums. Two half-buried headstones were discovered while lifting some fallen headstones. The headstone for Guy was in pieces but we were happy to discover only a small portion of the top is missing. The pieces were hand washed in order to prepare them be glued together, placed

in a frame and reinstalled on a new base. On your next visit to Ross Bay Cemetery, check it out at Block U Plot 79 west of row 53.



Before....



....and after

We are working on two more badly broken marble slabs in Block B and T. Also have a good look at the condition of the Houston Mausoleum (P90/91WR). We will be working on its restoration during the summer months and hope to have it restored by November.

Esquimalt Buccaneer Days Gerry Buydens

OCS members operated a booth at Buccaneer days in Esquimalt on June 9th and 10th. Nine members spent some time at the booth answering questions relating to OCS and Ross Bay Cemetery. Everyone felt it was a worthwhile project and we hope to attend again next year. Thank you to those members who freely gave of their time.

Esquimalt Centennial Sherri Robinson

You are invited to the Esquimalt Community Celebration Day on Saturday, September 8th 2012 at Esquimalt Gorge Park. Come and be part of this once-in-a-lifetime celebration that will honour Esquimalt's storied past and celebrate the community in the here and now. There'll be musical entertainment on three stages including a main stage, garden stage, and kid's stage. Children's events and attractions, community displays, sponsor tents, water events and competitions, local food and beverages are all part of this wonderful celebration.

A shuttle service will operate from the Archie Browning Sports Centre for all those who wish to park and ride. For more information visit www.esquimaltcentennial2012.ca

The Tynemouth Bride Ship Leona Taylor

Abstracted from Victoria Daily Colonist.

February 15, 1923, 6 – “I wonder if there are any Victorians of 1862 left who remember the arrival of *Tynemouth*... Some weeks before the arrival of that interesting vessel, she was traced up the Coast and used as an advertising medium by a well-known business man. He knew of the number of young men who were said to be looking for sweethearts and wives, and it was well known that *Tynemouth* had 60+ women, young and middle-aged, on board. Well, the well-known business man, in the meantime, had stated ‘the

vessel had left San Francisco, and it would be here in a few days, and it was important that the young men of Victoria should appear in new suits of clothes to meet them.' So he announced in the morning paper that:

'Rich and rare are the suits they wear, who buy of David Green;
Within his shop a splendid stock is always to be seen.'

Another advertisement was something like this: 'The Wharf Street Dude called on the seeress yesterday, and asked her where he could get the best clothes. Immediately the room became darkened, and in letters of fire appeared the words, 'Go to the IXL Store'.'

The 'Wharf St dude' was a well-known young man of Victoria in the days of 1860, and I have wondered several times, when recalling the past, what has become of him? If he were in the land of the living, he would surely have written to an old friend. Maybe he did after all these years. But out of sight, out of mind." Edgar Fawcett

*

Also from Victoria Daily Colonist. Died March 29, 1919 at Langley, BC, Adelaide Eliza, 83, widow of Daniel F. Adams. Came to Victoria via Panama in 1862, n/o Saint John, NB. Survived by 3 sons: W. F.; J. B., of Victoria, and George, Langley, and daughter, Mrs. A. A. Davidson. One son, Charles E., was killed in action at Vimy Ridge 1917. She lived for 40 years on Gorge Road. Pallbearers: F. H. Hewlings, Samuel Sea, C. W. Newbury, E. J. Hewlings, J. Stewart, W. F. C. Pope. Q 065b066 E V

Epitaphs

Wilf Bruch

A truly Happy Person is.... one who can enjoy browsing old cemeteries!

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|--|---|
| Harry E. Smith of Albany, New York: | Born 1903--Died 1942.
Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down. It was. |
| In East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia: | Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102.
Only the good die young. |
| In a London England cemetery: | Here lies Ann Mann, who lived an old maid but died an old Mann. Dec. 8, 1767 |
| In a Ribbesford, England cemetery: | Anna Wallace
The children of Israel wanted bread,
And the Lord sent them manna.
Clark Wallace wanted a wife,
And the Devil sent him Anna. |
| In a Ruidoso, New Mexico cemetery: | Here lies Johnny Yeast.
Pardon him for not rising. |
| In a Silver City, Nevada cemetery: | Here lays The Kid, We planted him raw.
He was quick on the trigger, But slow on the draw. |