



## Spring Newsletter 2022



It has been a very busy beginning of the year and we have accomplished many things and have some great upcoming happenings.

Two graves that were often vandalized have been made secure. We asked the City to spread gravel on the Wallace plot in the IOOF section because someone continually moved the loose rocks and bricks around making the monument unstable. This has been done.

One of the worst incidents occurred in January. The Eddy crypt seems to be a target for vandals. First it was painted red late last year, then a sledge hammer was used to create a large hole.



We are very proud of the repaired Eddy Crypt. The repair was done by Roman Marble Shop in RWC and we think it looks great! Maybe it will get the respect it deserves now.

Perhaps our best story is about Ernest Williams, a young man who is NOT buried at Union Cemetery. I was contacted months ago by a gentleman who helps us prune the roses every



year. He found a headstone in a dumpster in San Carlos and not wanting to leave it there, he emailed me. We now have it and Maggie, our colossal researcher, found that Ernest Williams was a 19 year old orphan and

in 1888 died of starvation and exposure in jail. The Odd Fellows buried him in their cemetery in SF. However, that cemetery closed in 1932 and thousands of unclaimed bodies were moved to a Colma cemetery and their headstones were used to build seawalls and marinas in SF. We have no idea how his marker got to San Carlos, but we are grateful that Jerry found it and took the trouble to bring it to us. We are planning on placing it in our IOOF section with a narrative about Ernest Williams' short, sad story.

The annual rose pruning went extremely well with many organizations helping out. We thank the Redwood City Woman's Club, the Peninsula Rose Society, the Master Gardeners, Gaspar de Portola chapter of DAR and all the friends who came to lend a hand. Now please come and enjoy the roses while you stroll around.

Two of the volunteers who helped us work on the roses are terrific people who are very interested in Union Cemetery. They expressed a desire to help out more and showed up repeatedly to work. They are now our two newest HUCA Board Members; Bridget Cottrell and Ellery Dake. We are delighted to have them.



*Here's a great rose tidbit for you. We have about 305 rose bushes in the Cemetery.*



## Memorial Day

*We are planning on a "normal" Memorial Day event this year. We will have speakers, color guard, music, decoration of soldiers' graves and Anvil firing!!*

*Please make plans to join us on **May 30th at 10am** for the commemorative event. Parking is a hassle, so please try to carpool. We will have Boy Scouts directing traffic.*



Tree pruning has finally begun! After a false start, Davey Tree is on the premises Monday through Friday pruning and removing trees. The Cemetery will be **CLOSED** M-F and re-open Saturdays and Sundays. This will continue until about the end of April. Watch our FB page (@UnionCemeteryRWC) page for the opening date.

Since December, we have been offering monthly tours. Watch for a banner near the Cemetery entrance and Facebook (@UnionCemeteryRWC) for the next dates. They are always on Saturdays at 10AM. They last about 1 hour and are an easy, level walk. Please join us for one soon! TOUR SCHEDULE:

April 16

May 7

June 18

## Membership

We will continue offering some "members only" events in 2022 and hope you have joined HUCA so you can participate.

Annual Dues is \$25/individual

\$50/family & business

If you are not a member, you can now sign up via PayPal. In your PayPal account enter:

[hucamembership@gmail.com](mailto:hucamembership@gmail.com).

You can also go to the new website and join under the CONTRIBUTE tab.

If you'd prefer to join via mail, send a check to HUCA, PO Box 610033, Redwood City CA 94061

**Thank you for your continuing support.**

Historic Union Cemetery Assn.

Kathy Klebe, President

Jean Tomatis, Treasurer

Joyce James, Secretary

Maggie Coleman, Membership

Don Tomatis

Roy Klebe

Dee Liotta

Janet Lawson

Barry Kuhl

Don Bach

Ellery Dake

Bridget Cottrell

Within the last year, we have had some families of people buried at Union Cemetery contact us about finding the plot of their family member or creating a marker or headstone for a family member. We're doing everything we can to help these families and are delighted to have their family histories to add to our data.

I found this lovely poem and I dedicate it to all you family members who are making a connection to your ancestors. Enjoy!

Dear ancestor  
Your tombstone stands among the rest  
Neglected and alone  
The name and date are chiseled out  
On polished, marbled stone  
It reaches out to all who care  
It is too late to mourn  
You did know that I'd exist  
You died and I was born  
Yet each of us are cells of you  
In flesh, in blood, in bone  
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse  
Entirely not our own  
Dear Ancestor,  
The place you filled  
one hundred years ago  
Spreads out among the ones you left  
Who would have loved you so  
I wonder if you lived and loved  
I wonder if you knew  
That someday I would find this spot,  
And come to visit you.