

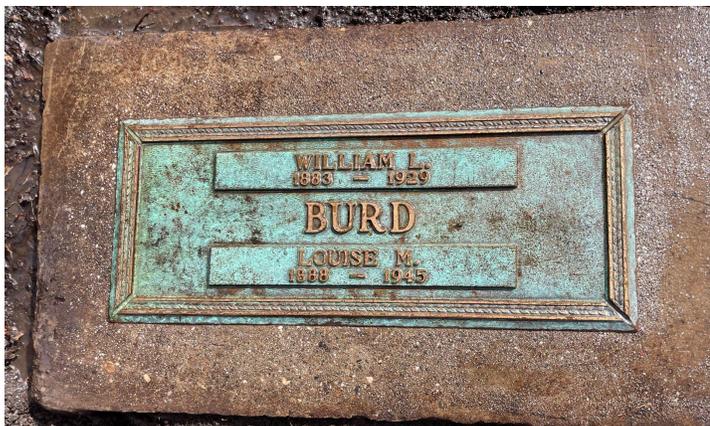


Spring 2023 Newsletter



When I took over as HUCA President a couple of years ago, never in a million years did I expect to do so many interesting things and meet so many dedicated people. Almost weekly, we find something new about the Cemetery or its "residents". For example, Maggie learned that we have a veteran whose grave we couldn't find. She knew roughly where it was and that it had a metal plaque on it. Together with Bridget, also a Board member, they used a metal detector and uncovered the marker for William and Louise Burd!

I requested that they look specifically at the area outside the fence along Woodside Rd. for any evidence of human remains. It has long been said that the Paupers and Indigent graves were paved over when the road was widened in the 1960's, but we had no proof. According to the report, the dogs did pick up the scent of human remains between the fence and Woodside Rd., so now we can confirm the long held belief.



Additionally, we have discovered we have at least one man who was a slave at one time. Plans are underway to place a marker on his grave and add a QR code to the location.



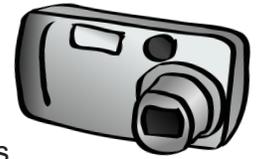
Speaking of new discoveries, we once again hosted the Institute for Canine Forensics on Feb. 18. They used their time at Union Cemetery as training and showed HUCA members how the dogs work.



Soon it will be April and then MAY which means Memorial Day at Union Cemetery. We will have a commemoration as we have in the past with Sequoia HS singers, patriotic speeches, decorating the graves of veterans with flowers and the Anvil Firing!
Please join us May 29 at 10am

In addition to all this good news, we are thrilled to announce that we have 2 new board members.
 Tim Lawson, Janet’s husband, has been cleaning headstones with her for a long time and has become a valued volunteer.
 Nancy Radcliffe is a huge cemetery fan and has been visiting Union Cemetery for years.
 We are so glad to have these two new and very capable Board Members!

PHOTO CONTEST



Once again the Historic Union Cemetery Association is having our photo contest with this year's theme being "SpringTime in Union Cemetery". We will have two categories; one for **students** attending San Mateo County High schools and the other for amateur **adult** photographers. The contest is now open and entries will be accepted through May 5. Photos must be taken on the cemetery grounds. <https://bit.ly/HUCAphoto> is the link to send photos.

Prizes will be awarded to first and second place photos in each division.

We hope to have the printed photos on display for our Memorial Day event.

Tour schedule

Many of you know and may have attended our monthly tours. Here is the schedule for 2023. Please join us for an easy 1 hour walk sometime. The tours are always at 10am.

3/18	6/10	9/23	12/16
4/22	7/22	10/28	
5/13	8/2	11/18	

We thank those of you who are members of HUCA and encourage those who are not to join us. Join here:

<https://historicunioncemetery.org/membership/>

Kathy Klebe, President
 Janet lawson, VP
 Bridget cottrell, Secretary
 Jean Tomatis, Treasurer

Roy Klebe	Don Tomatis
Joyce James	Don Bach
Maggie Coleman	Dee Liotta
Barry Kuhl	Ellery Dake
Tim Lawson	Nancy Radcliffe

We have decided to include a biography of one Cemetery “resident” in each seasonal newsletter. This month it is Sarah Wallis who is buried in Plot 115.

Sarah Wallis

SARAH ARMSTRONG

Sarah Armstrong was born in Ohio in 1825. Her parents later moved to Missouri and at the age of sixteen she was orphaned. To support herself she went to work for a local dentist, Dr. John Townsend.

SARAH MONTGOMERY THE PIONEER

At the age of nineteen Sarah married gunsmith Allen Montgomery. In the spring of 1844, Sarah, her husband along with the Townsend family, joined the Stevens-Murphy party on the very first wagon train that migrated to California over what is now known as Donner Pass in the Sierra Nevada mountains. As we all know, the Donner party tried the same route two years later and had to spend the winter of 1846-47 snowbound in the mountains. The Stevens-Murphy wagon train successfully completed the journey over the pass without incident. Afterwards, the Montgomerys stayed at Sutter’s fort in Sacramento during the winter of 1844-45 while Allen worked as a tree cutter. There, twenty-year-old Sarah learned to read and write by listening to a woman teach her five-year old. She also learned how to speak Spanish, one of the very few women at the time to do so in the area. After arriving in San Francisco in the spring of 1847, Allen Montgomery abandoned Sarah and left for Hawaii, never to return to California.

SARAH GREEN

Sarah’s second husband was Talbot Green, a very popular society and political person in San Francisco. While Green ran a campaign for mayor of that city, it came out that Green was really Paul Geddes who had a wife and family in Pennsylvania and was also accused of bank fraud! Green returned to Pennsylvania to “clear his name”, but never returned to San Francisco. Sarah was six months pregnant with his baby when he abandoned her.

SARAH WALLIS

Sarah’s third and last husband was lawyer, judge and state senator, Joseph Wallis. Wallis adopted Green’s son, Talbot, as his own. Sarah, wealthy in her own right, had acquired a 250 acre property known as Mayfield farm in the location now known as

Barron Park of Palo Alto. At the time of her marriage to Wallis, married women were not allowed to own property and Joseph would now be the legal owner of Mayfield farm. This was a decisive moment in Sarah's life that formed her future dedication to the women's equality movement. The Wallises built a beautiful Victorian mansion on Mayfield Farm where they entertained lavishly, the ultimate party was in 1877 where president Ulysses S. Grant was the guest of honor.

SARAH AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Sarah became very interested in Susan B. Anthony's struggle for women's rights, and in her early forties she began to devote her life promoting equality for women. Sarah founded a suffrage society in Mayfield, the largest suffrage organization in California, and in 1870 was elected the first president of the California Suffrage Association. Both Susan B. Anthony as well as Elizabeth Stanton met with Sarah and other concerned women at Sarah's Mayfield farm, their travels were funded by Leland Stanford.

BURIAL IN THE HISTORIC UNION CEMETERY OF REDWOOD CITY

Sarah Wallis, her third husband Senator Wallis, and son are all buried in the same plot in Union Cemetery of Redwood City. A replacement headstone was installed and dedicated to them in 2020 to honor their place in the State of California and Santa Clara county's history.

NOTABLE PLACES

- Townsend Street in San Francisco is named after Dr. John Townsend. The town of Murphys is named after the co-leader of the Stevens – Murphy wagon train party.
- Stevens Creek Blvd is named after the co-leader of the Stevens – Murphy wagon train party.
- Green Street in San Francisco is named after Talbot Green.
- Sarah Wallis Park in Palo Alto is named after Sarah Wallis.