

# SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

*A newsletter for the families and friends of  
the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery  
(Across from McArthur Court)*

SPRING 2023

## **Rev. Enoch Pinkney Henderson (1813-1893)**

*Teacher, Pastor, and Abolitionist*

by Jane Lake

Rev. Enoch P. Henderson is at rest in Plot #2 of Cemetery Block No. 218 – located immediately South of the Cemetery Maintenance Building. His wife, Elizabeth Schroyer Henderson (1826-1903) is at rest beside him.

In 1856 at the age of 43, Rev. Enoch P. Henderson was recruited by his brother James Henderson to be President of newly chartered Columbia College in southwest Eugene. He arrived by steamer with his wife Elizabeth Schroyer and their two children and was immediately tested in his first leadership role.

Three days after classes started in November an arsonist set the building on “College Hill” ablaze. While a temporary structure was being built, Henderson adeptly arranged for the 52 enrolled students to take classes in a makeshift hotel-tavern.

“It did passably well. In spite of the incommensurable housing,” described a student named George Stowell in a document from the Oregon Historical Society. “The school was efficiently organized, and the branches of studies were prosecuted with a zeal and morale that were commendable. This was largely due to Professor Henderson who was an inspirer of his pupils.”

For two years, the recently ordained Presbyterian minister and eventual Doctor of Divinity taught “physics, math and languages” alongside another



**Rev. Enoch P. Henderson's Marker  
(Cemetery Block 218, Grave Plot #2)**

professor who covered philosophy, geography and other courses. A second temporary campus structure was completed in 1857 but that burned down in 1858. A replacement for it was never built due to the impact of another crisis: The American Civil War.

By 1858, the majority of the college's Board of Trustees were members aligned with a pro-slavery faction of the Presbyterian Church based in Kentucky. However Henderson was a “free soiler” abolitionist who took an institutional stand against slavery.

Henderson forbade discussion of

## **What's in this issue?**

### **Page – 1**

Rev. Enoch  
Pinkney Henderson  
(1813-1893)

### **Page – 2**

Rev. Enoch Pinkney  
Henderson  
(1813-1893) (Cont.)

Eugene Pioneer  
Cemetery's Gracious  
Donors

### **Page – 3**

Replacing/Upgrading  
Electrical Wiring in the  
Maintenance Building

Seen Recently in the  
Cemetery

### **Page – 4**

2023 Memorial Day  
Ceremony

Annual Meetings of  
EPCA & E.P.C.E.F.

Schedule for  
2023 Spring Work  
Party

Any Comments or  
Questions?  
Please write or  
phone us!

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## **Enoch Pinkney Henderson (1813-1893) Cont.**

The subject by any societies connected to the school. It was said he avoided references to the “disturbing subject of slavery” in lectures and on school premises.

With the nation on the brink of the Civil War, Henderson was forced to resign at the end of his contract in 1859. His replacement was a pro-slavery “fire-eater” from Maryland. Henderson successfully sued the college for back-wages and re-located with his wife Elizabeth and their children to California until 1862. (When the College went bankrupt and closed its doors.)

His teaching roots were deep, as was his faith. Henderson (now a father of five) soon returned to Oregon. First, he was a principal in Harrisburg then served as the principal/pastor of a Presbyterian church south of Woodburn.

Years earlier in Pennsylvania, Enoch had

humbly taught in country schools, filling in a pulpit and splitting rails as needed. Now with his advanced degree Henderson qualified for various education, pastoral and civic positions.

Known as a “righteous pioneer and public servant” he was a school master in Eugene and Philomath. While an educator, in 1864 Henderson was elected Chief Clerk of the Oregon State Senate. Throughout his life he surveyed townships for the federal and state government; and took the 1870 census for Lane County, which was still thinly settled. He occupied numerous civic positions including justice of the peace. It was an era where a man of learning was needed in many capacities. Rev. Enoch P. Henderson passed away in 1893 at the age of 75.

*Jane Lake is an EPCA member who lives in New York City. She enjoys contributing to Spirit of the Pioneer. Her website is stedi-education.com.*

## **EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY’S GRACIOUS DONORS**

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery is a historic place. Our goal is to honor the men and women who are at rest here. The Cemetery is an open and inviting green space in a busy urban where visitors can: *Cherish the Past, Look to the Future, and Live in the Moment.* All this is made possible by your generous donations. During 2022, the following gave donations to Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association and/or the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund.

### **Up to \$49:**

Karen J. Bender  
Allan R. & Judith Cameron  
Barby England  
Elisabeth A. K. Goebel  
Loraine Graeber  
Velma Hammer  
Carol Y. Henderson  
Bonnie L. Murray  
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Jeanne Spaziani  
Lawrence A. Svarverud  
George F. Tolefson  
Jill S. Willets

### **\$250-\$499:**

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Central Lutheran Foundation  
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Roy L. Hoiland  
Quentin A. Holmes  
Ada Ruth Whitmore

### **\$50-\$99:**

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Glenn & Karen Smeed  
Ralph Smeed  
Rob Smith  
June E. Strand  
Dorothy Vangsnes

### **\$500 or more:**

Gary D. Christian  
Peter D’Anna  
Gary W. Hayes  
Ruth Lake Holmes Trust  
Helen & Peter Jensen  
Sara Leiman

# REPLACING/UPGRADING ELECTRICAL WIRING IN THE MAINTENANCE BUILDING

by Quentin A. Holmes

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery's Maintenance Building has served us well for more than 65 years old. Unfortunately, all of its electrical wiring is also more than 65 years old. We recently upgraded the electrical panels and much of the wiring in the Maintenance Building to minimize the risk of an electrical fire. Our goal was to bring everything up-to-date and into compliance with today's building codes.

EPCA Board Member George Beebe solicited

bids, and Jco Heating A/C Electrical of Springfield, Oregon was selected to perform the work. This firm came highly recommended based on their previous work at another location.

Major items replaced/upgraded included: (A)The Inside Circuit Breaker Panel; (B)The Outside Meter & Electrical Box; Room Light & Switch in the Hand-Tool Storage Room. In addition, (C )LED Lights that come on each night were installed on both front corners of the Maintenance Bldg.



**NEW CIRCUIT BREAKER PANEL**  
Inside the Maintenance Building



**NEW ELECTRIC METER/BOX**  
On South Side of Maintenance Building



**LED NIGHT LIGHTS**  
On the Front Corners of Building



**JASON SANDERS**  
The Electrician from Jco Heating A/C Electrical.  
Jason did an excellent job!

**SEEN RECENTLY  
IN THE CEMETERY**  
Daffodils in Bloom  
on the Campbell Lot



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **2023 Memorial Day Service at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery**

Our Annual Memorial Day Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Civil War Veteran's Plot. Organized by Eugene American Legion Post #3, the formal ceremony will include members of the Sons of Union Veterans dressed in Civil War military uniforms, and a Three-Volley "Black Powder Salute" in honor of all veterans who are at rest in our cemetery. The inspiring Shasta Middle School Band and Choir will perform patriotic songs. Plus, the Master Gardeners will have Heritage Rose Starts available for purchase. Come, pay your respects, and enjoy this inspiring celebration!

### **Combined Annual Meetings of Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association and Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund, Inc.**

Will be held Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.  
LOCATION: Daneland Mobile Home Park - at the Recreation Hall  
99 N. Terry Street  
Eugene, Oregon 97402

### **Schedule for 2023 Spring Work Party**

We now have just one major work party each year. This Work Party has to be set up months in advance. Our Spring work party will be held just prior to Memorial Day weekend:

Walk-Thru: Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 11:30AM.

Work Party: Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 9 AM. - 3 PM.

Come join us if you are able, we can always use your help!

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED