

# SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

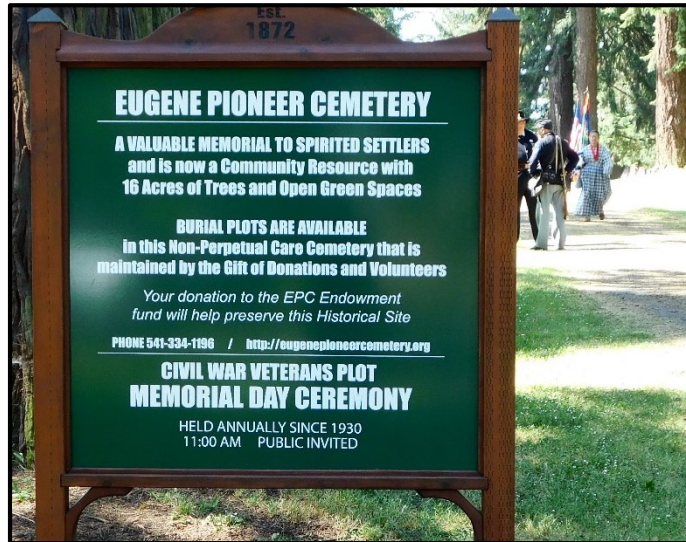
A newsletter for the families and friends of  
the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery  
(Across from McArthur Court)

FALL 2023

## MEMORIAL DAY - 2023

by Quentin A. Holmes

Memorial Day is the highlight of the year at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. The program is organized by Mr. James Walsh of American Legion Post #3. This event brings together veterans, scouts and scout masters, school boys & girls and their music directors, and lot owners and friends of the Cemetery – older adults and youth alike gather together to honor veterans and others who are at rest in our historic Cemetery. This year more than 300 people attended.



### WELCOME SIGN

Memorial Square in Eugene Pioneer Cemetery

As a prelude, the Eugene-Springfield Fire District Pipes and Drum Corps played several rousing tunes. Scouts from Troop No.182 stood respectfully by the North side of the Civil War Lot as the colors were paraded in by the Colonel Edward D. Baker Camp/ Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

James Walsh, Commander of American Legion Post #3, welcomed everyone (see Photo **A** - on page 2). After an Invocation by Tony Pasillas, we sang *The National Anthem* and recited *The Pledge of Allegiance* in unison. Next came a stirring musical presentation by the Shasta Middle School Choir singing *America the Beautiful* (see Photo **B**). Rev. D.H. Shearer read General Order No. 11 of Gen. John J. Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued May 1862 (see Photo **C**). Cadet Elisabeth Niderost from the Univ. of Oregon ROTC gave a touching Keynote Address (see Photo **D**). Elisabeth told of her service during two tours of duty as an enlisted person in the U.S. Army, and why she is attending college so she can become an officer in the U.S. Army. Jesse Lohrke recited *In Flanders Fields* written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. Reenactors from the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War took us back in time to the 1860's by performing a Three-Volley Black Powder Salute (see Photo **E**). Rev. D.H. Shearer / SUVCW performed *Taps* on a Civil War Era Bugle (see Photo **F**). The formal ceremony ended with the Retiring of the Colors by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Thank YOU, James Walsh, Commander American Legion Post #3, and all who took part!

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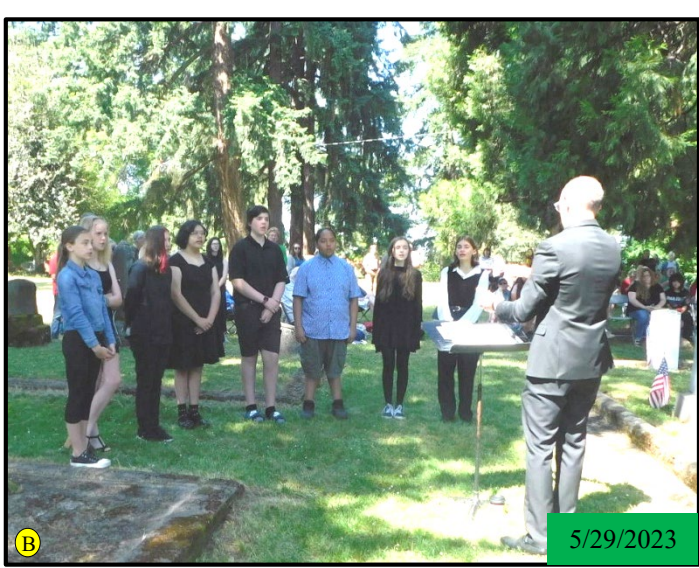
Any Comments or  
Questions?  
Please write or  
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**WELCOME! — James Walsh / American Legion Post #3  
MASTER OF CEREMONIES**



**Shasta Middle School Choir - Ryan Dixon, Conductor  
SINGING *America the Beautiful***

5/29/2023



**Rev. D.H. Shearer / SUVCW  
READING GENERAL ORDER #11 of GEN. JOHN J. LOGAN**



**Cadet Elisabeth Niderost, Univ. of Oregon ROTC  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
THREE-VOLLEY BLACK POWDER SALUTE**

5/29/2023



**TAPS — Bugled on a Civil War Era Bugle  
Rev. D.H. Shearer / SUVCW**

5/29/2023



## ANDREW HRUBY - Achieves Eagle Scout Rank

by Quentin A. Holmes

Two years ago, Andrew Hruby from Scout Troop 282 asked if the Cemetery had a project suitable for an Eagle Scout project. Dorothy Brandner suggested making holders for small flags to go on the graves of all the veterans. Thus was born "The Flag Holder Project." Andrew's proposal for his Eagle Scout Service Project said, "The proposed project is to support the Historic Eugene Pioneer Cemetery and honor Veterans in making flag holders for the 330+ US war veterans buried within. The project includes making and painting flag holders out of electrical conduit and permanently inserting them in the ground at the designated location next to each veteran's headstone. This project will provide ease of identification of war veteran's headstones/burial site and a permanent place for the US flags on Veteran's and Memorial Day holidays." The project also involved getting younger people to volunteer and help out at a historic cemetery and honor our fallen veterans. Andrew's father, Skip Hruby, served as the troop's Committee Chair for this project. EPCA Board Members George Beebe & Dorothy Brandner served as Beneficiary Representatives.

Andrew designed a mandrel to form a flag holder out of a short length of a 1/2" diameter pipe. He then organized a production line of close family friends & older scouts from Troop 282 to make more than 300 flag holders. Andrew also developed a tool to insert a holder into the ground. He then organized a work party at the Cemetery to do the work of inserting over 300 flag holders into the ground prior to Memorial Day 2022.

The design tasks required engineering innovation by Andrew. The production and installation of the flag holders required leadership by Andrew of more than 30 people from Troop 282 - including older cub scouts entering their troop. Getting an assembly line running efficiently and producing a quality product was challenging for Andrew. As was keeping the groups on task throughout the tedious process of finding, marking, checking, and placing the flag holders.

Several of the veteran's graves in EPC are covered with concrete slabs. So, Andrew also developed a way to insert a flag holder when doing so involved drilling through concrete!

The final paperwork for Andrew's Eagle Scout Award was completed in June 2022; the award ceremony for it was held on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

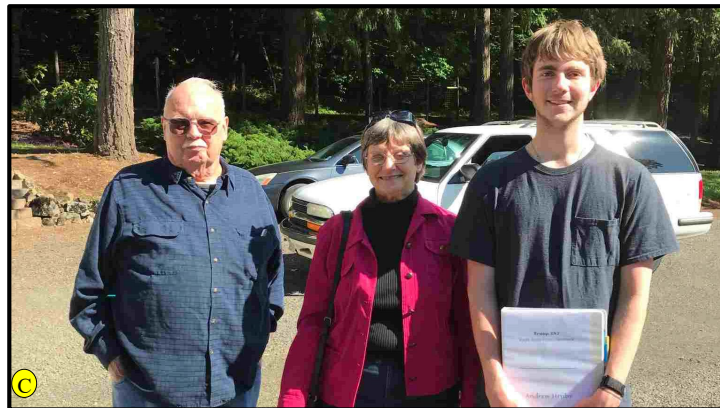
Our congratulations - and our heartfelt thanks - go to Andrew Hruby, Eagle Scout!



MEMORIAL DAY – Scouts and Small Flags at EPC



HOLDER FOR A SMALL FLAG (The Red Object in the Center)



COMPLETION OF FINAL PAPERWORK  
George Beebe, Dorothy Brandner, and Andrew Hruby



ANDREW HRUBY – EAGLE SCOUT!  
Skip Hruby, Andrew, and "AJ" Hruby



## CARING FOR HERITAGE ROSES IN EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY

by Quentin A. Holmes, EPCA President

Back in the 1800's and Early 1900's, when a loved one passed away people often took a rose bush from home and planted it on their grave. For decades and decades, the roses in EPC were treated with "benign neglect."

Amazingly, a number of the roses survived. Beginning in 2007 Master Gardeners have been caring for the Heritage Roses in our historic Cemetery.

Pruning, weeding, mulching, fertilizing, and enjoying – all of this is a labor of love to the Master Gardeners.

At our EPCA Annual Meeting, Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association entered into a Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with Eugene Heritage Rose Group (EHRG) so they could apply for, receive, and execute Grants.

On Memorial Day 2023, many of Master Gardeners brought their favorite rose blooms to the Cemetery for a Rose Show. They also had a number of "Rose Starts" available for purchase by the public.

Thank you, Master Gardeners and EHRG, for all that you do to preserve & care for our Heritage Roses and share the beauty and joy they bring. Visitors to our historic Cemetery frequently comment on how beautiful the roses look and their delightful fragrance!



5/29/2023

HERITAGE ROSE SHOW AT THE CEMETERY ON MEMORIAL DAY 2023

## Chauncey Meachum (1847-1943)

### *Distinction from Beginning to End*

by Jane Lake

By 1865, 17-year old Chauncey Meachum was a battle-tested Civil War veteran. By the time the war ended the teenager from upstate New York had seen nearly two years of extensive action in Virginia and the Carolinas with his Union regiment.

At the end of his life at age 95, when Meachum passed away in Springfield in 1943, he was known as the last Union Veteran in Lane County. The star-shaped marker on his headstone indicates that distinction.

Between those dates is the story of a young man and farmer who served his country well.

Born in 1847 in Vermont, Chauncey grew up in a prosperous farming family in Dickenson, New York. He was 14 years old when Confederate soldiers attacked Fort Sumter in 1861, kicking off America's civil war. He, his brother Sidney and mother Lucetta watched his 50-year father Washington leave the farm and enlist in the 60<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry. (Washington was discharged with disability in 1862.)

Finally In 1864, at age 16, Chauncey enlisted and then signed on with Company F of the 142<sup>nd</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry. Only one month in, Chauncey was wounded in the Battle of Chaffin's Farm in Virginia. After recovery, he continued to serve in battle at Fort Fisher and in the Carolinas until the end of the war.

Still a young man, Chauncey eventually returned to New York in 1871 and married Elizabeth "Libby" Wood. They settled, raised two sons and farmed the family estate for several decades.

Then in 1905, Chauncey, Libby, their two sons, his brother Sidney and mother sold the New York property and moved west. Little is known about the circumstances surrounding the decision to relocate or their journey.

The Meachums first settled in Eugene. By 1910 Chauncey, a skilled carpenter, moved to Springfield and built a house that is now listed in the historic Washburne District. His brother Sidney moved to Drain, Oregon.

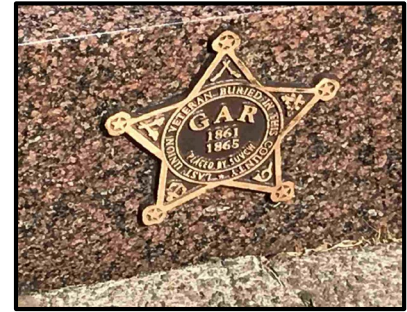
Local newspapers reported numerous trips by Meachum back east to Gettysburg and New York during their more than 65 years of marriage. Civically involved, Chauncey was a delegate from Eugene's Grand Army of the Republic, (G.A.R), a brotherhood of Civil War Union Soldiers. Post 7 was one of the largest in the state, and year-after-year Chauncey attended more than 80 memorials of fellow veteran soldiers as time marched on.

Happier moments included a ride on an airplane in 1927 for Chauncey's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. A notice in the Register-Guard newspaper reported that Meachum and a friend took to the skies in a private plane. "Chauncey acted like a kid after the ride was over," the friend told the reporter.

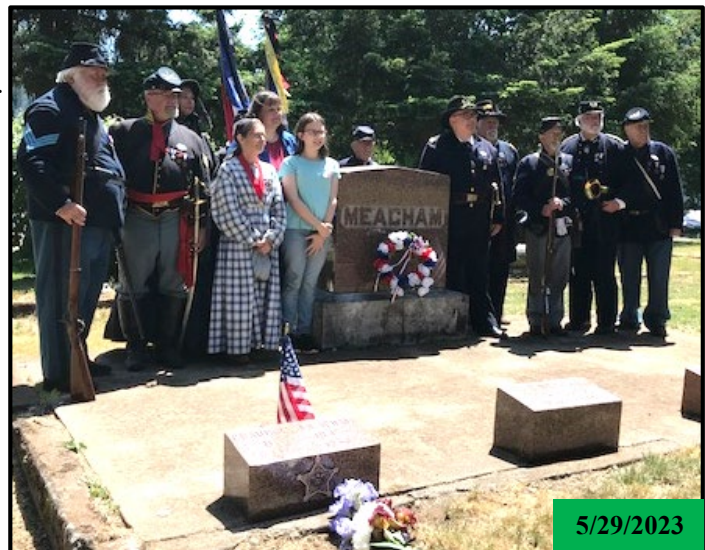
Chauncey Meachum is at rest in the family plot next to his wife Libby, son Roy and grandson (and namesake) Chauncey Wayne Meachum, who is a veteran of World War I.

On Memorial Day 2023, the Col. Edward D. Baker Camp of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War bestowed a special G.A.R. star on Meachum's grave recognizing him as the last Union Veteran of the Civil War to be buried in Lane county. The group seeks to add stars to the markers of all last Civil War Veterans to be buried in each of Oregon's 36 counties.

*Jane Lake is an EPCA member who now lives in New York City. She enjoys contributing to Spirit of the Pioneer. Her website is [dabadelic.com](http://dabadelic.com).*



**STAR-SHAPED MARKER**  
"Last Union Vet in Lane Co."



**CEREMONY – Honoring Chauncey Meachum (1847-1943) as the last Civil War Veteran to be buried in Lane County**

5/29/2023



## EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND

*by Quentin A. Holmes, EPCEF Board Member*

The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery was established in an era before perpetual care cemeteries. Back then people relied on relatives who lived nearby to clean up the family burial plot and help keep the Cemetery grounds looking nice. Today a small number of lots are still actively maintained by their owners. However, most of our members are older and no longer physically able to care for their family lot. We live in an era when younger generations often live far away from where they were born and grew up. Our historic cemetery relies on annual donations to the Association and interest earned on the Endowment Fund to pay for mowing, pruning, upkeep and improvements. Please consider a donation to the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund, now, or in your estate plans. Your contributions to the Fund will be preserved permanently to generate income that helps with each year's expenses. Your donations are tax deductible. The Endowment Fund's non-profit registration numbers are: Federal: 51-0175540; State: 110200-13.

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

c/o Quentin A. Holmes  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED