

SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

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

SPRING 2024

Dr. Norton E. Winnard (1864-1933)

Medical Doctor and Gold Prospector

by Jane Lake

Dr. Norton E. Winnard is at rest in Grave Plot #1 of Block No. 466A in our historic cemetery.

Years before he helped found the Eugene Hospital in 1922 with Dr. William Kuykendall and Dr. M.G. Howard, Norton E. Winnard was a young physician who succumbed to the 1897 Alaska Gold Rush.

At age 33 the newly married Chicago physician put together an “outfit” including a pharmacist and dentist. With gear and a dog they boarded a train for Portland, Oregon. Enroute to the Copper River in Valdez, Alaska, Winnard fell in love with Oregon.

A big man at 6 ft. 2 in. Dr. Winnard was known throughout his life as a kind, humorous and skilled general practitioner. Adventures led him to situations where he was called upon to treat fishermen mauled by bears, dysentery in a Native American village, and repair a man’s ear that was torn off by the hoof of a draft horse after being thrown from it.

Born in Michigan in 1864, Norton grew up on a farm in Iowa. He was the middle of three brothers with a younger sister, Rhoda. Their mother saw to it that all the children were well educated.

At age 18 Norton traveled to Nebraska to teach school alongside Rhoda, who had moved there a few years earlier.



**Dr. Norton E. Winnard’s Marker
(Cemetery Block 466A, Grave Plot #1)**

When he had saved enough money, Norton left teaching to attend Rush Medical college in Chicago. In 1892 Winnard got his M.D. and shortly thereafter married Charlotte “Lottie” Goodman.

By 1898 newspapers were reporting easy gold strikes in Alaska. Like so many others, Dr. Winnard got carried away with enthusiasm. Lottie sold her beloved piano to help finance the Alaskan adventure. On the train west he wrote a letter to his brothers on the farm in Iowa describing the mild West Coast winter. He even suggested they relocate.

Winnard and his crew made it to Alaska’s interior on “a miserable little tugboat called ‘Chilkat.’” Once over the steep glacier the team prospected the Copper River and found nothing. The “Valdez Glacier Trail” was a hoax promoted by steamship companies.

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**Any Comments or
Questions?
Please write or
phone us!**

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Dr. Norton E. Winnard (1864-1933) Cont.

Winnard started for home and temporarily stayed in an encampment near Klutina Lake fearing to go home “broke.” Several letters to Lotte relayed the bad news. “I hope that you will not scold because I come home empty handed. If anyone had found gold I would stay.”

He continued to describe how fine Oregon would be as a place to live. “I will start down the Copper River in about three weeks. I plan to stop at Dyea and Skagway, then come on to Seattle. Want you to come west and meet me in Seattle.”

Lottie joined him. From there they went to Heppner, Oregon where he established a practice. His son Norton Goodman Winnard was born in 1900. Daughter, Charlotte, was born in 1903. Their family moved to Albany, then on to Eugene in 1919 where he set up general practice and obstetrics. In 1922, he helped found the Eugene Hospital.

Every year Dr. Winnard went back to Rush or to the Mayo Clinic to learn the latest advances in medicine. He spoke to a regional physicians' conference on the different causes of arthritis.

Dr. Winnard made health inspection trips to outlying logging camps, and did house calls,

usually on his bicycle because he knew the health benefits of exercise. At a time when a broken hip in the elderly was fatal, Winnard treated his 87-year-old father-in-law with surgery reserved for the young. The old man recovered and lived in good health another seven years.

From 1919 until their deaths in the 1930s, both Dr. Winnard and Lottie were greatly involved in the social life of Eugene and in charitable causes.

Embarking on a motor trip to California in 1931, near Cottage Grove Dr. Winnard lost control of his car in loose gravel, and they left the road and hit a fence. Lottie was thrown against the dashboard, sustaining a fatal internal injury. Their daughter Charlotte was also in the car, but survived along with her father.

In November of 1933, at the age of 69, Dr. Winnard passed in a hospital after several weeks of illness. Although he did not strike gold as a young physician, Winnard helped others on that arduous trip and in every place he lived afterward.

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.

3rd SATURDAY WORKPARTYS AT EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY

by Quentin A. Holmes

Rain or shine, we hold a workparty from 9AM – 3PM on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Most of the individuals who come need to earn credit for Community Service. Our Resident Caretaker, George Dull, and Yours Truly work right alongside them. Occasionally, I share the story of a remarkable individual who is buried near where we are working. It is a win-win situation! Here are representative pictures:



Cleaning Markers on the Zumwalt Lot (November 18th, 2023)



Raking up Fall Leaves (December 16th, 2023)



Picking Up Downed Limbs – after the Horrific Ice Storm (January 22, 2024)

HERITAGE ROSE SALE TO BE HELD ON MEMORIAL DAY

Heritage Roses in our cemetery are lovingly cared for by the Master Gardeners. Throughout the year they trim, mulch, fertilize, and water them. Cuttings are often nurtured into Heritage Rose Starts. Heritage Roses will be display in front of the Maintenance Building this Memorial Day (May 27th, 2024). Eugene Heritage Rose Group are bringing starts/divisions from their own gardens; Roses may be purchased from 10AM- 11AM, or after 12:Noon. Contact either Helen Liu at: Helenliu45@gmail.com or Cindy Wise at Cindyawise@Comcast.net for information.



Dr. W. Van Fleet



Donau!



Mme. Alfred Carriere

EUGENE PIONEER CEMETERY'S GRACIOUS DONORS

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery is on the National Registry of Historic Cemeteries. 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 setting where visitors can: *Cherish the Past, Look to the Future, and Live in the Moment.* All this is aided by your generous donations. During 2023 the following gave donations -over and beyond annual dues- to Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association and/or the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund:

Up to \$49:

Karen J. Bender
Sandra S. Bristow
Shelley Coleman
Nancy & Dexter Danielson
Barby England
Mona Goguen
Velma Hammer
Laurist M. Olson
Elizabeth Walton Potter
Lawrence A Svarverud
George Wickes
Prof. Daniel Wojcik

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Gary E. Mertz
Helen M. Reed
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Julie Strand / Triple J&S Signs

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Dale Christian
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David W. Lightfoot
Jo Ann Purscelley
Cathryn Susak
Cori V. C. Taggart

\$500 or more:

Gary D. Christian
Peter D' Anna
Ruth Lake Holmes Trust
Deahn C. Kincaid Trust
Sara Leiman

UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 Memorial Day Service at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery

Our Annual Memorial Day Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, May 27th, 2024 at the Civil War Veteran's Plot. Organized by Eugene American Legion Post #3, plans for the formal ceremony 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 performing patriotic songs. Plus, Master Gardeners will have Heritage Rose Starts on display and 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 11th, 2024 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Daneland Mobile Home Park - at the Recreation Hall
1199 N. Terry Street
Eugene, Oregon 97402

Schedule for 2024 Spring Work Party

We now have only 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 16th, 2024 at 11:30AM.

Work Party: Friday, May 24th, 2024 from 9 AM. - 3 PM.

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

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

c/o Quentin A. Holmes

40338 Mohawk River Rd.

Marcola, Oregon 97454 - 9741

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED