

June 2023

The R.S.P. Report

P I O N E E R S ' C E M E T E R Y A S S O C I A T I O N



Memorial Day was celebrated this year with the return of our official flag raising ceremony, procession of historic organizations, TAPS and guest speaker Steve Schumacher, City of Phoenix Historian.

PCA thanks Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of AZ; Sons of Union Veterans Civil War, Picacho Peak Camp #1; Sons of Confederate Veterans, Arizona Division; Sons of the American Revolution, Saguaro Chapter; 1st New Mexico Volunteer Infantry Co B; Arizona Civil War Council; Maricopa Chapter, National Society Daughters of American Revolution; Hallie Orme Thomas Society, Children of the American Revolution and the Phoenix Chapter, Order of the De Molay for their participation in this event. Also thank you to all those PCA volunteers who prepared for the weeks before and the day of this event.

Patty Gault, President
Pioneers' Cemetery Association



Smurthwaite House
1317 W Jefferson St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

PCA Mailing Address:
PO Box 33192
Phoenix, Arizona 85067

Memorial Day



AI (Artificial Intelligence) Meets PCA Historians

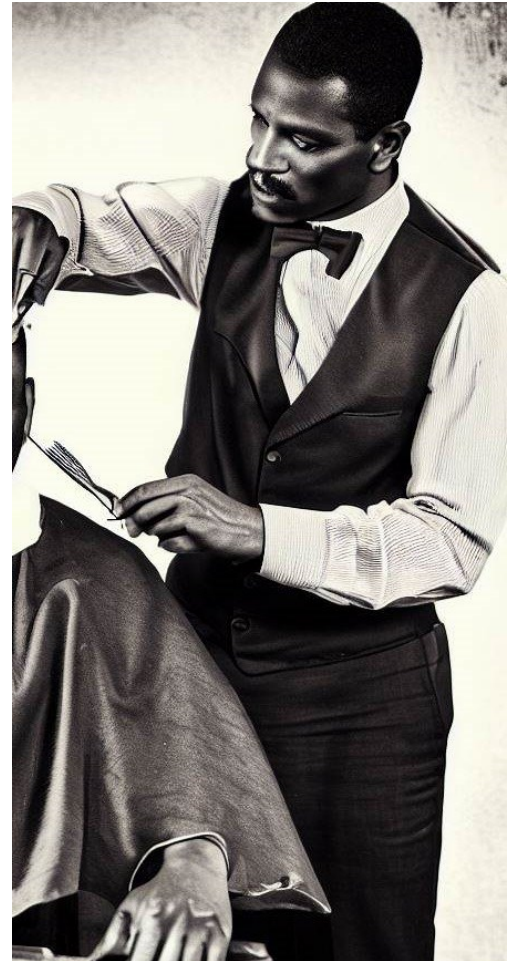
by Val Wilson

The Pioneers' Cemetery Association has been writing bios and newsletters for its website, www.azhistcemetries.org, as well as blog posts for its blog, www.behindtheepitaph.blogspot.com for quite some time. One of the challenges that many historians face, depending on the time period, is finding pictures for content. In many cases, a person, event, or location has either never been photographed or the image is unlocatable. Enter the world of "AI".

Today's artificial intelligence is able to generate pictures from text descriptions, among other things. Val and Donna have been trying to craft the perfect "AI prompts" to generate pictures that represent our interred at the PMMP, as well as general glimpses into the 19th Century. Donna has also been working her magic with Photoshop with some of these images (sometimes AI likes to add or subtract fingers when it generates a person), while Val has been trying to "speak" Python (a programming language for AI models). The images that they have created are nothing short of amazing.



AI (Artificial Intelligence) Meets PCA Historians



Bryant Pilcher's Casserole

by Cindy Lee

- 1 1/2 pounds of ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 15oz can tomato sauce
- 1 small pkg cream cheese, 3 oz.
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 4 cups flat noodles, cooked

Brown the meat with the green pepper and onion. Add tomato sauce and simmer. Add cream cheese and sour cream. Layer in a casserole dish, starting with noodles on the bottom. Put sharp cheddar cheese on top. Heat in as 350 degree oven for 30 minutes. It serves 3-6 people.

- Recipe in "Food to Die For", 2005



Mother's Day Brooch Open House

by Debe Branning



Fifteen guests attended the Make a Brooch for Mother's Day Fundraiser on Saturday morning, May 6, 2023. They were excited to learn the art of creating Victorian brooches that could be worn on a lovely hat, sweater, or favorite shirt.

There were lots of giggles as everyone created their beautiful pieces of jewelry. The treasures were fashioned from recycled beads, pearls, broken jewelry, cameos, and more. Guests were shown how to add pieces of chain, pin backs, and other embellishments to their project.

A raffle was held so guests could win small jewelry boxes to take home and store their lovely project. Light refreshments were served.

The event is one of the small, ongoing fundraisers that help support the Grave Marker Preservation Project.





Create a decorative Victorian Fan to take home, and learn The Secrets of Fan Etiquette.

We welcome you, the public, friends, family and PCA Members, to attend this unique fundraising activity.

Join us and create a Victorian Fan.
All materials will be supplied.

Only \$15.00 for one Victorian Fan.
All supplies included in the price. Proceeds go to the Grave Marker Preservation Project.

Saturday, July 15th, 2023
10:00 am until 1:00 pm
Smurthwaite House, 1317 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85007
RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
May pay cash at the event

Register with Debe Branning at nazanaza@aol.com ASAP

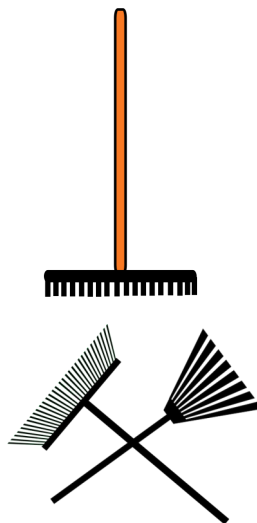
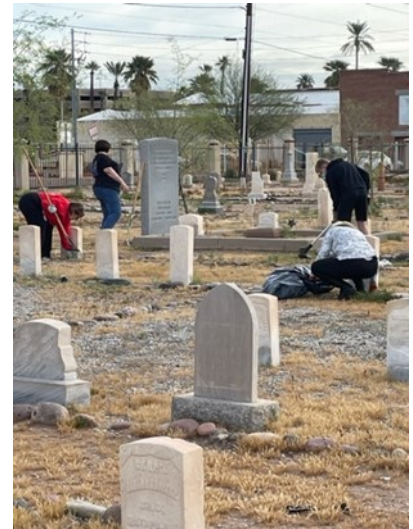


Example made by Megan Taylor

Thank You for Your Work and Support!

by Patty Gault

The Daughters of American Revolution Chapters Piastewa Peak and Maricopa helped clean up Porter Cemetery in March. Thank you for all of your weeding, washing, raking, and various other truly wonderful tasks that you did in our cemetery. We are always appreciative of your efforts to preserve our history.



Florence Card Mann, Educator

by Val Wilson

In March, the Anasazi DAR chapter in Glendale, Arizona honored one of our pioneers in the City Loosely Cemetery for Women's History month. Her name was Florence Mann, and she was an educator in Phoenix in the 1890s. We extend our sincerest thanks to the Anasazi DAR chapter for having us at their wonderful event and honoring one of our enterprising ladies of the PMMP. Thank you so much! Please feel free to watch the presentation below on Florence Mann, which was written, illustrated, and narrated by Val with demonstrations of grave marker search techniques and history notes by Patty.



[Florence Mann- Arizona Territorial Educator](#)

(click on link to watch, or go to our website to view)



Grateful for PCA Open House Days!

by Lezlee Alexander

Our thanks to the volunteer team of Pioneers' Cemetery Association! Our group, Hallie Orme Thomas Society of the Children of the American Revolution, stopped by for a tour in April on an Open House day. Patty Gault gave a fabulous tour of both the historic cemeteries and Smurthwaite House, answering questions along the way. Donna Carr was huge in helping us find our namesake's interment site at Greenwood Cemetery. It was quite an adventure finding the site and getting the hang of how cemeteries are organized to find burials!

Our group is part of an educational non-profit created to "train good citizens, develop leaders, and promote love of the United States of America and its heritage among young people", which is the N.S.C.A.R. Mission. As our organization is based on membership of children, active members regularly change. We assist PCA with projects as needed as part of our community service and to connect the children with our group's heritage.



Grateful for PCA Open House Days!

by Lezlee Alexander



A New Map for Rosedale

by Ed Dobbins

At PMMP, we have plats for each of the seven cemeteries in the park, but one is incomplete. There is no known copy of the map for the north half of Rosedale. Yet, the orderly arrangement of graves confirms that a guide of some sort was followed when the cemetery was active. Organizers of the original Pioneers' Cemetery Association were the first to remark on the absence of a plat map for Rosedale North in the late 1930s.

The file drawers at the Smurthwaite house contain several attempts by past volunteers to create a workable map of North Rosedale. All succeeded to a certain extent, but the schemes were discarded because they were unable to accurately locate enough of the best documented graves. In Rosedale, there are 46 graves that can be used to test a proposed layout. For each of these, we have the individual's name, a matching legible gravestone in the field and a corresponding grave block number in the records. All this information is needed to confidently identify the block of graves where an individual is buried. The acceptability of a proposed scheme to replace the original north Rosedale Cemetery plat map is determined by its ability to accurately locate the best documented graves.

Several months ago, a reworking on paper of the pathways and grave blocks in North Rosedale resulted in a plat map that places 42 of the 46 best documented graves in their correct locations. This new map with grave block numbers can be seen in Figure 1. In Figure 2, the locations of gravestones have been added to demonstrate the accuracy of the map. Graves whose locations on this plat agree with the database are shown in black and those that do not agree are in gray.

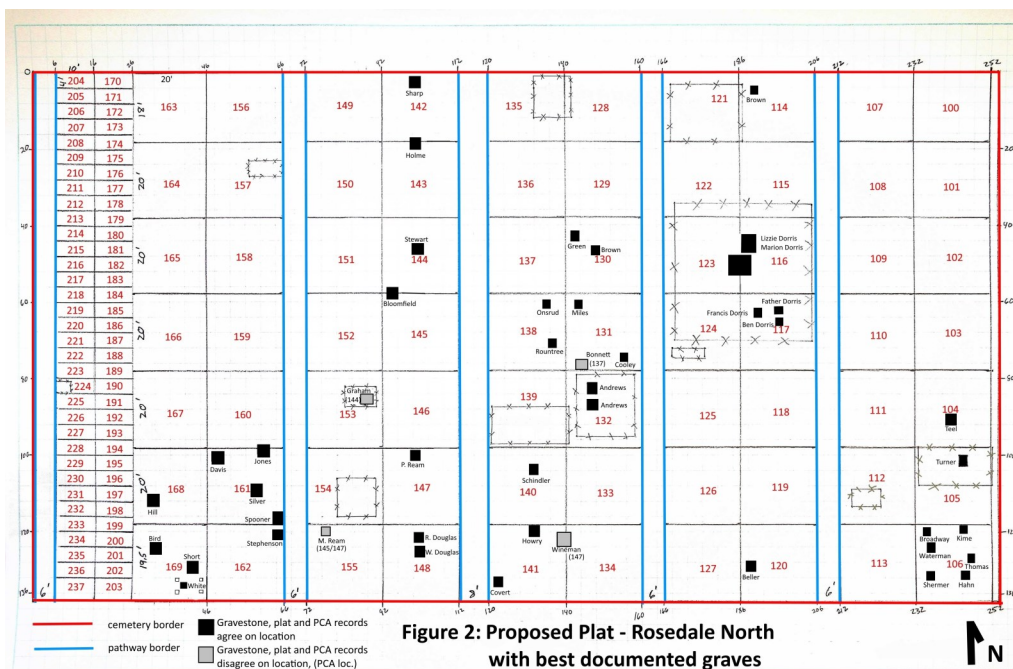
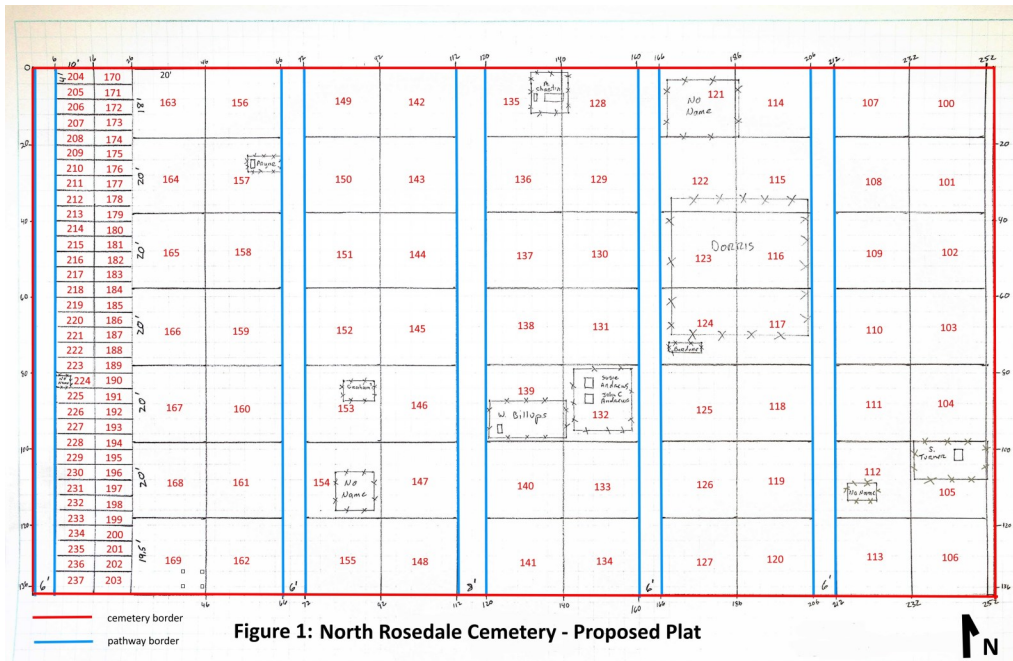
North Rosedale on the new plat is divided into large grave blocks numbered 100 to 169 from east to west. Most are 20 feet square although the northern tier measures 18 by 20 feet and the southern 19.5 by 20 feet. Burial records indicate large grave blocks could hold up to ten individuals. An additional 68 smaller "single" grave blocks along the west edge are numbered from 170 through 237. Access to the grave sites is provided by five north/south oriented footpaths. The center path is eight feet wide, and the remaining paths are each six feet wide.

Although an attempt was made to use divisions that were similar in size and shape to the South Rosedale section, the cemeteries are not exact matches. The North Rosedale layout combines features conforming to information obtained from the burial data and practical concerns: 1) there are both single and large grave blocks present, 2) the blocks are numbered with the low range to include 102 and the high range extending to at least 221, 3) pathways to the grave blocks are present and can be visualized in the field and 4) everything fits within the 138 by 252 feet dimensions of the cemetery.

This new plat will be a useful guide for visitors wishing to easily locate specific marked graves or approximately locate unmarked graves in Rosedale North. To prepare for that eventuality, the river cobbles currently outlining parts of the cemetery should be moved to agree with the map. The largest discrepancy between the plat and the field are the rocks defining the westernmost path which need to be shifted to the western boundary of the cemetery. The remaining paths appear to closely align with the map paths, but should be measured in the field. Future tasks may include adding the plat to the master map of PMMP and identifying the cemetery sections and grave blocks with signage for easier reference.

A New Map for Rosedale

by Ed Dobbins



FREDERICK BALSZ, 1831-1910

by Patty Gault



Frederick “Fred” was born August 18, 1831 in Jugenheim, Germany, to Bartholomew Balsz and Phillipine Gerisch. The couple had eleven children born between 1814 and 1836, several of whom came to the United States. Frederick’s mother Philippine is believed to have died around 1836 in Germany shortly after the birth of her last child, David. Bartholomew, a butcher, then immigrated to the United States with some of their younger children, settling in St. Louis, Missouri.

Young Fred is thought to have married at the age of 17 in St. Louis and had a son he named Frederick, Jr. The name of Fred’s first wife is unknown, but she died about 1849.

Soon thereafter, Fred left his son with family and went west with his brother David, who would have been 13 years old. The brothers drove a team of oxen along the California Trail to Sacramento, where they found work as butchers. They remained there until Fred eloped with his second wife, Mercedes Gonzales, around 1860.

The couple had three boys and one girl before Mercedes died about 1867. Shortly after, Fred married Eliza Tapia who was about 16 years of age on November 12, 1867. She bore him five more children before her death in 1878.

By this time, Fred’s younger brother David had opened a slaughterhouse north of Phoenix in the Arizona Territory, so Fred moved his family there. Between Fred the butcher and David the cattleman, they had the perfect vertical business model.

Fred married his fourth wife, Sotela Bracamonte, on October 29, 1879 in Phoenix. She was about 17 years old; he was 48. Fred and Sotela would add at least ten more children to the family. Between Fred’s family and David’s family, they had enough children to open their own school, Balsz School, which still exists today in Phoenix.

Fred continued to work as a butcher, going into business for a short time with Frank D. Wells in Phoenix. That partnership was dissolved in 1884, by which time Fred’s sons were in business with him. Sotela died February 8, 1899, in Phoenix of heart disease and was buried in the family plot in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Fred did not remarry this time, but he had plenty of children to care for him in his final years. The number of children he fathered fluctuates by different accounts, but in 1906 he said he had had 19 children by his four wives.

Fred died at the home of his son Joseph on June 13, 1910. He had suffered a bout of pneumonia the year prior and never fully recovered. He was buried next to Sotela.

Sam Korrick, 1871-1903

by Derek Horn and Debe Branning



Samuel Korrick was born in April, 1871, in Grodno, then part of tsarist Russia. After coming to the United States around 1890, he worked briefly as a dry goods clerk in New York before moving on to another store in El Paso.

In 1895, Korrick was on his way to California when he stopped in Phoenix. Something about the up-and-coming city attracted him, and he decided to stay.

Despite his relative youth, he was able to combine his previous experience in the dry goods business with a flair for merchandising, determination and hard work. He set up his first store in a narrow space at 218 East Washington Street. To make his shop sound more sophisticated, he called it the New York Store.

Korrick was a savvy businessman. Newspaper advertisements for his store trumpeted quality merchandise, low prices, seasonal and annual clearance sales. The ads noted his buying trips to Eastern markets, which must have added a certain cachet for his customers.

Korrick was more than just a successful merchant. He joined the Freemasons and the Elks, and he donated handsomely to Sisters' Hospital, now St. Joseph's. He was active in the local Jewish community and ran newspaper notices announcing the Jewish high holy days.

Running the New York Store left Korrick little time for a private life; he never married. As the business expanded, he brought his younger brother Charles over from Russia in 1899. Charles became his understudy in running the business.

Tragically, Korrick's health began to decline in 1901 and he died on March 23, 1903, at the age of 32. According to Korrick's obituary, no other man had "left such a deep impression upon the mercantile life of Phoenix". Customers and competitors alike esteemed him as an honest and upright businessman.

Korrick's funeral service was an ecumenical affair. After the reading of Jewish rites, a Methodist minister delivered a eulogy. The hearse was accompanied by a long cortege, and Korrick was interred in accordance with Masonic rites in the Masons Cemetery.

Membership!

Come one! Come all! Our cemetery is now open to the public during Open Houses from 10am—2pm, and has a treasure trove of information and memorabilia at your fingertips. We are always looking for volunteers and new members.

If you'll be renewing your membership and no information has changed, simply make sure we have your name and note on the form or with your check "no changes" – happy to save you a few steps!



MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Membership Categories:

Individual \$25 _____ Family \$30 _____

Organization \$50 _____

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Date _____

Make check payable to:

Pioneers' Cemetery Assoc., Inc.

Mail to:

PO Box 33192

Phoenix, AZ 85067

Memberships are for one calendar year and dated from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Membership dues are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ I AM INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

- ☐ Cemetery Tour Guide
- ☐ Smurthwaite House Docent
- ☐ Gift Shop
- ☐ Volunteer Coordinator
- ☐ Researcher
- ☐ Reenactor
- ☐ Record Keeping Assistance
- ☐ Grounds Beautification
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Special Event Volunteer
- ☐ Grave Marker Preservation
- ☐ Publicity & Marketing
- ☐ Graphic Artist & Designer
- ☐ Grant Writing
- ☐ Academic Liaison
- ☐ Newsletter Contributor
- ☐ Other _____

Pioneers' Cemetery Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization, IRS 501(c)(3) status.

Rev. 11/2017

Membership Benefits

PCA Officers

President:
Patty Gault

Vice President:
Cindy Lee

Treasurer:
Val Wilson

Secretary:
Vacant

Historian:
Ed Dobbins

- Access to research materials of Pioneer & Military Memorial Park (P&MMP)
- May attend monthly Board and Membership meetings
- Free attendance at open house events
- Free walking tour guide and map of P&MMP
- Free tour of the historic 1897 Smurthwaite House
- Quarterly electronic newsletter
- Your opportunity to acknowledge and support Arizona history

pioneercem@yahoo.com

azhistcemeteries.org

A Few Notes About the Editor.....

Val Wilson has been editor of the RIP Newsletter for four years. She adores Arizona history, and strongly believes that cemeteries should be preserved and cherished, and the stories and history of the departed should be told. During the day, she is an elementary teacher, and in her spare time (when she is not grading papers), she is president of her town's art commission, and does research for the PCA.



If you have articles or news to submit,
contact our editor at:

pioneercem@yahoo.com

We are always looking for submissions. Photo submissions need to be photos in which the copyright belongs to you, and any research articles need to be cited. Thanks so much!