

The R.I.P. Report
Pioneers' Cemetery Association

March 2024





Happy March! Please check out our blog and website. We have tons of bios and Irish cultural tidbits going on there. Plus, come visit some of our Irish interred who contributed greatly to Phoenix!

Open Houses are on the 4th Saturday of the month from 10-2.

If you are not currently a member, please consider being a part of our organization as we preserve the history of Phoenix and its pioneers. Hope to see you at Smurthwaite soon!

Patty Gault, President
Pioneers' Cemetery Association
Facebook @pcacemeteries

Website: azhistcemeteries.org

Blog: behindtheepitaph.blogspot.com

Winter Song – An Irish Poem

Alfred Perceval Graves

Take my tidings!
Stags contend;
Snows descend—
Summer's end!

A chill wind raging;
The sun low keeping,
Swift to set
O'er seas high sweeping.

Dull red the fern;
Shapes are shadows:
Wild geese mourn
O'er misty meadows.



Keep cold limes
Each weaker wing.
Icy times—
Such I sing!
Take my tidings!

Phoenix History Month 2024

BY STEVE SCHUMACHER



Mayor Kate Gallego, in 2023, proclaimed the month of March as Phoenix History Month. This proclamation serves as a touchstone for all citizens of Phoenix to take time out and celebrate, even for a moment, the people who gave birth to our community. As we celebrate Phoenix History Month 2024, think about our predecessors and their ingenuity in creating the Phoenix we know today.

First and foremost, Phoenix History Month serves as a platform for acknowledging the ancestral lands of Indigenous peoples upon which the city now stands.

Recognizing the contributions and enduring presence of Native American communities, such as the Huhugam, highlights the deep-rooted history that predates the city's establishment.

In March, 1868, Jack Swilling and a group of men from Wickenburg successfully brought water from the Salt River into open fields where crops would eventually thrive. Once harvested, those crops were sold to the soldiers at Fort McDowell and the miners in Wickenburg. On March 12, specifically, water began flowing into the irrigation ditch that was inspired by the work of the Huhugam. Thus, Phoenix was born.

Ultimately, knowledge of early Phoenix pioneers fosters a sense of belonging, civic memory, and rootedness among residents, strengthening community cohesion and civic engagement. By honoring the stories and sacrifices of those who came before, we are inspired to uphold the values of resilience, grit, and innovation that define Phoenix's identity. In this way, understanding the legacy of early pioneers is not just an exercise in historical curiosity but a vital aspect of nurturing our vibrant and forward-thinking city.



Clean Up at the PMMP!



We are grateful to the Piestewa Peak and Maricopa Chapters of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and their families for helping in a cleanup of Porter Cemetery. They cleared out a large portion of weeds and debris. We are so fortunate to have them as partners for the preservation of our beloved cemeteries. Thank you so much for your time and efforts!



Spirits of the West

- Cindy Lee

On February 24th, guests were treated to visits from our interred “guests” in Spirits of the West. Folks participated in a tour visiting several graves of our beloved citizens of 19th century Phoenix. They also enjoyed some snacks and tales from Territorial Phoenix. Proceeds went to the Grave Marker Preservation Project!



Valentine Make and Take!

- Cindy Lee



On January 27th, we made Valentines!

Several creative patrons came to our cemetery and made some beautiful cards. Materials, such as lace, paper, flowers, doilies, and many other beautiful items were fashioned into gorgeous pieces.

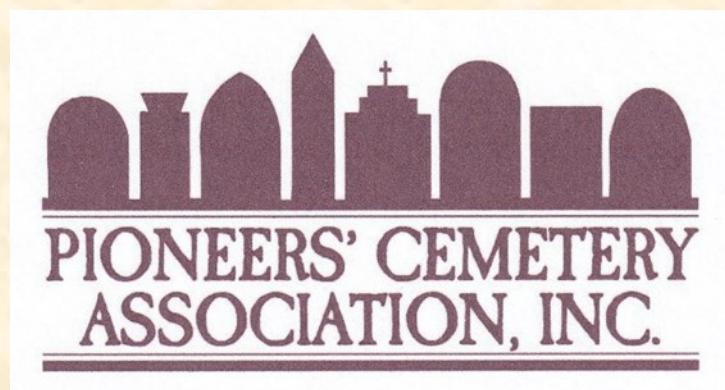
Several also joined PCA, as well as bought T-shirts, purchased cookies and candies, and experienced a whole lot of fun!

Thank you to the volunteers who made this fundraiser for Grave Marker Preservation another big success!



The Story Behind the PCA Logo

- E d D o b b i n s



Dan Craig and his artistically talented co-worker Jay Casmiri created the current PCA logo in 1983. The design consists of a row of eight gravestones in different sizes and shapes above “Pioneers’ Cemetery Association, Inc.” in two lines. The text is written in Caslon Antique font in Bold and framed by two sets of thin and thick bars. Its plum/mauve color recalls the popular palette of the late Victorian Era when the cemetery started.

A few years ago, Dan provided the PCA board with interesting background on the gravestones that he chose to include in the logo. The following summaries of Dan’s reasoning for selecting each gravestone proceed from left to right.

The first headstone on the left recalls military issue markers provided by the federal government for graves of war veterans. In this case, an example of a Union marker from the Civil War was used.

The second stone was based on a pedestal marker with a book on top located in Rosedale. After finding the book did not show well in the silhouette style of the logo, Dan’s friend Jay replaced the book with the more recognizable outline of a bowl. The result resembles a bird bath.

Third from the left is a rounded peak marker displaying a classic gravestone outline.

The fourth stone was based on the Henry Wilky obelisk in City/Loosley Cemetery. Stone number five is an amalgam of two heavy rectangular markers, Dayton Reed’s and Samuel McElhaney’s, with step cuts near the top. The cross was added as an enhancement by Dan.

The Story Behind the PCA Logo

- E d D o b b i n s

Number six is the King S. Woolsey marker in Loosley/City. The rectangular outline of marker seven is based on Edmund Wallace's monument in Porter.

Finally, the last marker is a combination of the first and third stones creating a third variation that provides a balanced terminus to the series.

The logo image has remained unchanged for forty years, which is a testament to the appropriateness of its design. We probably each have our own interpretation of the logo.

To me, the arrangement of the markers looks like a downtown skyline, an appropriate image reflecting the urban location of the Pioneer and Military Memorial Park.



Mountain Climbers of Swiss Graveyards

- Ed Dobbins

The Matterhorn is a 14,691-foot-tall peak in the Swiss Alps that was first ascended by seven climbers in 1865. Tragically, this first group's rope broke on descent and four of the men fell to their death. Since that time, there have been at least two hundred deaths on the peaks in this area of the Alps near the ski town of Zermatt. Many of the fallen climbers are buried in the town's two cemeteries.

One is home to a large granite monument dedicated to the 'Mountain Guides, Victims of their Profession.' Several of the nearby grave markers portray or include the deceased individual's ice pick, climbing boots and other mountaineering equipment.



Hiking boots on marker



Metal Marker with Ice Pick and Rope



Membership!

Thank you for your interest in the Pioneers' Cemetery Association! Membership is January 1 through December 31. The PCA is a 501(c)(3) corporation, and membership dues are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Membership benefits include:

- Access to research materials of Pioneer & Military Memorial Park (P&MMP)
- Attendance at 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 - "Rest In Peace (RIP)"
- The opportunity to acknowledge and support Arizona history

The PCA headquarters is located in the Smurthwaite House at 1317 W. Jefferson;
email: pioneercem@yahoo.com. Check out our website at www.azhistcemeteries.org and find us on Facebook at "Pioneers' Cemetery Association."

The Mission of the Pioneers' Cemetery Association, Inc. is to conserve and protect the historic physical remains, grave markers, artifacts, and buildings of Pioneer & Military Memorial Park and provide a safe, accessible community resource for present and future generations; to acknowledge, celebrate, and promote Arizona's Pioneer History, represented by those interred in Arizona historic cemeteries, through research, education, conservation, preservation, and community engagement.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: ___NEW ___RENEWAL

DATE _____ NEW MEMBERS REFERRED BY: _____

NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

Membership Categories: Individual \$25 _____ Family \$30 _____

 Organization or Sustaining \$50 _____ Donations greatly appreciated \$ _____

Make Check payable to: Pioneers' Cemetery Assoc., Inc.
 PO Box 33192
 Phoenix, AZ 85067

A small convenience fee will be added for credit card purchases.
You can become a member via our website gift shop!

- I AM INTERESTED IN BEING A VOLUNTEER! Tour Guide Grounds Beautification
 Fundraising Special Event Volunteer Grave Marker Preservation Social Media
 Publicity & Marketing House Cleaning Graphic Artist & Designer Grant Writing
 Newsletter Contributor Other Talents _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Date: _____



PCA Officers

President:
Patty Gault

Vice President:
Cindy Lee

Treasurer:
Val Wilson

Secretary:
open until filled

Historian:
Ed Dobbins

Membership Benefits

- Free access to research and materials of Pioneer & Military Memorial Park (Cemetery)
- May attend monthly Board and Membership meetings
- Free attendance at monthly open house events
- Free walking map of the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park (Cemetery)
- Quarterly electronic newsletter
- Your opportunity to 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!

Smurthwaite House:

1317 W Jefferson St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

PCA Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 33192
Phoenix, Arizona 85067

