

Olive Hill Cemetery Association Inc.

Newsletter

No. 14 AUGUST 2006



Memorial Day Meeting 2006

OHCA Chairman Nina Lay taking care of the cemetery's administration business in a unique setting, a pristine landscape where every word and step emphasize family connections.

Pictured with Nina, Terry Lay and Kathy Faulkner are reviewing the treasurer's report.

From The Chairman:

Some of you may have noticed that the "honors plaque" near the cemetery gate has new names on it. As per the decision made at an earlier OHCA meeting, the names of Paula Fuhrman Cail and Bob M. Lay have been added. Paula was the secretary-treasurer of OHCA for 13 years and worked hand-in-hand with Chairman Dorothy Meeker Choate to accomplish numerous improvements. Paula is the daughter of Don and Winifred Bailey Fuhrman, and the great great granddaughter of the cemetery founder Olive Hand Bailey. My grandfather, Bob Lay, has helped maintain Olive Hill since he was a child. In those days mowing often involved scythes and sickles, as it was a pre-mower era. Later, when his mother Berta Bailey Lay lived on the adjoining farm, Bob helped his Uncle Fred with mowing; and for the plants he hauled water from the pond. Just thinking about those days makes us appreciate our current mowing and watering system! Bob has been an active in OHCA for more than 4 decades. His contributions will benefit Olive Hill for generations. He installed the security flood light and paid the electricity bill for it himself. He donated generously to build the iron fence and established a plan by which most of the Bailey cousins have willed mineral rights to OHCA, thus helping us look to the future with greater financial security. Bob is the great grandson of founder Olive Hand Bailey. On behalf of all of us at OHCA, many thanks to Paula and (Papa) Bob for your years of service to the cemetery.

Nina C. Lay - OHCA Chairman

News and Notes:

Like all of us in the OHCA, I have a special interest in those cemeteries that are maintained and preserved by families. This year I was captivated when visiting Salzburg, Austria and the St. Peter's Cemetery (next to the small church of St. Peter). With small but beautiful ornamented graves, a lot of flowers, and small trees, it looks more like a garden than a cemetery. It has been used continuously since the 17th century. It's not grassy; instead each gravesite is a nice little garden that is replanted by the family each spring. A family plot is quite literally that- many generations share the same small gravesite. How do they manage? Our guide said that most of continental Europe has the same scheme for OLD graveyards. She said that they take the term "ashes to ashes, dust to dust" literally... but not always via cremation. They only allow use of wooden coffins and each country has a time limit for reuse of the same site, but it's pretty short, 5-10 years. That way, the same site can be used for all generations of the family.

L. Brooke Stabler - OHCA Secretary/Treasurer



St Peter's Cemetery - Salzburg, Austria

From the Historian:

THOMAS JEFFERSON MEEKER was born Feb. 6, 1846, in New Albany, Ind., to Mr. Elijah and Elizabeth Meeker. While yet a small boy the family moved to a farm in Illinois, where he grew to young boyhood. While here the Civil War broke out and Thomas, who was just past fifteen and his brother Halsey, who was 17, decided life on the farm was monotonous, so the boys ran away from home into Missouri and enlisted in the army. He joined Co. H of the 11th Missouri infantry as a fifer, but later became a corporal. He was in actual service for his country for 4 years, 7 months, and 28 days, and was in all the important battles of the South and, Southwest, yet he never received a wound, though he was seriously ill at one time. At the close of the war, the boys returned home, but an older brother and a brother-in-law had died in service for the Union. The two boys soon moved on to Missouri. In 1869 Thomas married Sarah Margaret Killey. They lived in Missouri until 1880, when they moved to Cook County, Texas, near Marysville. Later the family went to Indian Territory where they remained until the opening of Oklahoma in 1889. In that year Mr. Meeker secured the homestead on Bluff Creek, 10 miles southwest of Edmond. This remained the family home until after the death of Mrs. Meeker on July 16, 1921. Sons William, Carl, and Grover, and daughter Miss Ada were present at his bedside at the time of his death Sunday morning, December 9th.

- From "The Edmond Sun" OBITUARY of Thomas Jefferson Meeker: 12/20/1928

[Thomas and Sarah are memorialized at Olive Hill along with 3 of their 7 children - William, Charles, and Ada]



Olive Hill Cemetery

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Memorial Day 2006.

Pictured here is the view facing the north fence. Notice that the landscaping **does** block the view of the medical center (our new neighbors). All the members agreed that the cemetery landscape has never looked better.

During the Memorial Day meeting OHCA officers were discussing ways of repairing or removing the sidewalks that were originally built in 1933.

