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### **March-April 2015**

#### **Report on the Annual General Meeting for 2015**

Gerry Buydens

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria was held on Wednesday, February 11 at the Greek Orthodox Church on Elk Lake Road. There were 43 people in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Gerry Buydens, President of OCS. The treasurer's report was presented by Gudrun Leys. Gerry Buydens summarized the highlights from the president's report & the committee reports. He thanked the executive for their support and also thanked the many volunteers. OCS has a high number of volunteers.

We did not participate in the Thrifty's Smile Card Project in 2014 as there was no one to coordinate the project. We are giving some consideration to potential projects for 2015 and hopefully will be putting in an application for a new project after May 4, 2015.

**The Executive for 2014 will be Gerry Buydens - President; Wilf Bruch – Past President; Vice President – vacant; Gudrun Leys - Treasurer; Michael Halleran - Secretary; and Members at large are: Bente Svendsen, Drew Waveryn, Linda Richards, Stewart Dashwood, Pat Lydon, and Sharon Welsh.**

The business portion of the meeting ended at 8:00 PM. After a refreshment break, the group was treated to a presentation and tour of the Greek Orthodox Church by Nikos Smilitopoulos.

A copy of the Treasurer's Report and all other Committee Reports are available upon request from the office. Sunday Tour Brochures will be delivered by volunteers to the various public libraries and the local archives, namely Esquimalt, Victoria and Oak Bay. They are also available at the Sunday tours or from the office.

#### **Membership Dues for 2015:**

We would like to express our appreciation to the members who have submitted their membership dues for 2015 and we encourage those who have not yet done so to please submit your dues as soon as possible. Membership cards are no longer mailed, but will be provided to members who request them.

Invitation to participate in the Sunday April 19, 2015 Veteran's Cemetery (God's Acre) Tour

John Azar

**April 1915: Canada Enters The Fray**

April 22, 2015 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Second Battle of Ypres and the date the Canadian Division's first engagements in Great War where they were subjected to the first use of poison gas in the war.

To commemorate this event, "Into the Fray" will be the theme of the annual Old Cemetery Society tour at the Esquimalt Veteran's Cemetery (God's Acre). As well as providing an overview of the series of battles called Second Ypres, stories will focus on the various roles played by Canadian military personnel.

**Your Invitation to Participate**

Following a practice initiated in November 2014, four or five spaces on the Sunday, 19 April 2015 tour will be available for OCS members and other participants to speak about family members' Great War experience—no matter what country your relative served with or where they are buried. (The invitation will also be made to members of the Victoria Genealogical Association and the Pacific Coast Branch of the Western Front Association.)

OCS members wishing to share a First World War-related family story during the 2015 Veterans Cemetery tour are invited to contact John Azar to discuss possibilities.

While participating members will be encouraged to tell their own story during the tour, those uncomfortable with public speaking can have their story told for them.

*Contact: John Azar E-mail: jazar@islandnet.com Tel: 250.595.3407*

**March Tours**

Sunday tours start at 2 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Cost is \$2.00 for members, \$5.00 for non-members. Tours at Ross Bay Cemetery are signified RBC. Gather in front of Oregon's, Fairfield Plaza, 1516 Fairfield Road. Other tours start where noted. Reservations are not needed. Copies of the 2015 tour brochure are available at most public libraries and from the box on the parks office in Ross Bay Cemetery.

**Sunday March 1 RBC. St. David's Day.** Bring a daffodil or leek and help celebrate the Welsh national day by visiting graves of people from Wales who lie buried at Ross Bay. There are quite a few of them, ranging from quasi-pirates to upstanding members of the community. John Adams will tell their fascinating stories and participants will be invited to decorate the graves he includes.

**Sunday March 8 RBC. Emily Carr.** Emily Carr's grave is one of the most visited at RBC. This year marks the 70th anniversary of her death on March 2, 1945. This tour is a favourite annual event led by an OCS team that will visit the graves of many people Emily knew. At each grave, Molly Rahe Newman, well-known Emily impersonator, will read from Emily's writings.

**Sunday March 15 RBC. Ides of March.** Today's tour will reveal stories of gruesome deaths, dire warnings, conspiracies and other unpleasantness, all in keeping with the negative associations with the Ides of March, based on the murder of Julius Caesar in Rome on this date in 44 BC.

**Sunday March 22 RBC. Ross Bay Villa Tribute.** Hear the fascinating stories of the many families who lived at Ross Bay Villa and whose graves are now located in RBC across the street. Tour starts at Oregano's (Fairfield Plaza) and ends at Ross Bay Villa. Proceeds from this tour will be donated to the Ross Bay Villa Society.

**Sunday March 29 RBC. Music in Early Victoria.** Music was an important part of culture in nineteenth-century Victoria. In today's first-time tour, historian and performer Kate Humble will visit the graves of singers, musicians and music teachers to tell their stories and sing some of the tunes that were popular in their day.

### **Cleaning 2015**

**Sharon Welsh**

We are going to change the cleaning parties in 2015. We will start with having one work party each month for between 4 – 6 hours, instead of 2 hours every weekend except on long weekends.

Weather permitting, we will start in mid to late May. We invite you to drop by for a couple of hours or for the whole time. Just bring some gloves!

An e-mail will be sent prior to each cleaning party to let you know where to find us in the cemetery. If you have any questions please call Sharon at 250-995-1322 or e-mail at [afterprior@telus.net](mailto:afterprior@telus.net)



**The Saanich Pioneer Society** had their Spring Opening on February 19 – 21. The Log Cabin Museum is now open for the season. For more details on the activities of the Saanich Pioneer Society, check their website at [www.saanichpioneersociety.org](http://www.saanichpioneersociety.org).

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints** is again doing a family history seminar entitled Family Discovery Day on February 28, 2015. The seminar is FREE and open to all who want to attend (basically 12 years and up). All the information is at this address: <http://genealogyvictoria.org>



Images by Susan Henderson

**British Columbia Historical Federation Annual Conference**  
**May 21- 23, 2015** **Quesnel, BC**

Thursday May 21

- Welcoming Reception Beer Tasting with Barkerville Brewery

Friday May 22

- Full day trip to Barkerville, Cottonwood House, Blessing's Grave & Wells
- Movie Night at the Museum

Saturday May 23

- BCHF Annual General Meeting
- Lunch with Keynote Speaker Richard Wright
- The Road to the Gold Fields
- Cariboo Pioneers and Cariboo Portraits
- Author's Fair
- Cemetery Walk
- The Cariboo Caravan
- Awards Banquet with "The Bride of Barkerville" by Danette Boucher

Registration: Full Conference \$225 Saturday Only \$120  
 Additional reception tickets \$25 Bus trip \$60 Banquet \$55

Accommodation: (Ask for the BCHF Rate)  
 The Billy Barker Casino Hotel 1-855-792-5533  
 Best Western Tower Inn 1-800-663-2009

**Tombstone Oddities**



**Ann Jewson Crisp** is buried in London's Highgate Cemetery with her dog. The inscription on the monument reads:

HER FAITHFUL DOG EMPEROR  
 IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
 ANN JEWSON CRISP,  
 FORMERLY OF LYNN NORFOLK.  
 DIED 20 JANUARY 1884 IN HER 94th  
 YEAR.

In his description of Highgate Cemetery, Elbert Hubbard called Emperor ". . . as vicious-looking a cur as ever evaded the dog tax."

**Last Words**

Alex, an African grey parrot died 2007  
 "You be good. See you tomorrow. I love you."

Alex was used in comparative psychology at Brandeis University. Spoken to his handler when she put him in his cage for the night. He was found dead the next morning.