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January – February 2020

Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Old Craighflower School.

If the parking is tight park in Canadian Tire's lot across the bridge.

Speakers: John Adams of Discover the Past will give an illustrated talk about Chinese burial traditions.

Election of Officers for 2018

Elections to the Old Cemeteries Society Board for 2020 will be held and are usually very brief. The Board consists of Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Members at Large. All positions on the board are filled at the moment, but we are still required to open nominations for the year 2020.

Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings (third Wednesday of the month) to guide the Society's activities and discuss issues. Potential board members please contact Gerry Buydens, Nomination Committee Chair, at gbuydens@shaw.ca or 250-383-4873 as soon as possible.

Amber Woods Honoured

The 2019 British Columbia Jewish History Research Prize has been awarded to Amber Woods by the Jewish Museums and Archives of BC in recognition of her book *Guide to Victoria's Historic Jewish Cemetery*. The citation reads in part: "Through clearly written prose, it demonstrates the complex and interconnected nature of the early Jewish community of Victoria, touching upon paths of migration, establishment of Jewish community institutions, and intercultural relations in the spheres of commerce, politics, and society."



Dedication of the Smith Gravestone at Ross Bay Cemetery

Judy Thompson & Wilf Bruch

On October 25, 1918, the SS *Princess Sophia*, a CPR coastal liner, sank in Lynn Canal, north of Juneau, Alaska. An estimated 367 passengers and crew perished. Twenty-one of those who perished are buried at Ross Bay Cemetery and there are memorial stones for two others whose bodies were never found.

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For the 101st anniversary of the loss of SS *Princess Sophia*, the Maritime Museum of British Columbia (MMBC) dedicated a gravestone in Ross Bay Cemetery for three members of the Smith family who were returning to Victoria. William Peter Smith Sr., 47, had gone north with his two sons. They were employed by the White Pass & Yukon Route on the SS *Dawson*. The brothers, aged 17 and 15, were deckhands and their father was a fireman on the ship. The bodies of William Sr., and Roland were transported to Vancouver by the *Princess Alice*, referred to as the "ship of sorrow."

William, Sr. and Roland, father and son, were buried at Ross Bay Cemetery on November 17, 1918. William Smith, Jr.'s body was recovered in July and his funeral was held July 19, 1919. Their grave was never graced with a marker until now. (P97/98WW) On the day of the dedication, the MMBC learned of another burial in the same plot. The Old Cemeteries Society informed us that a woman named Priscilla LeRoy was also buried in the plot. She was William Sr.'s wife and the mother of the two boys. She was buried under her maiden name so it was not listed under Smith. She died in 1961 at the age of 85 and had lived in Colwood.





The Psychics



The psychic had everyone walk toward her with their hands up to see if they can feel a change in the energy where she is standing.



The psychic sensed strong energy at the Todd family grave.

Photos From Some Recent Tours

Thanks to Dawn Goodwin and Pat Lydon



Billy Barker's grave



Chris Adams as
Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie



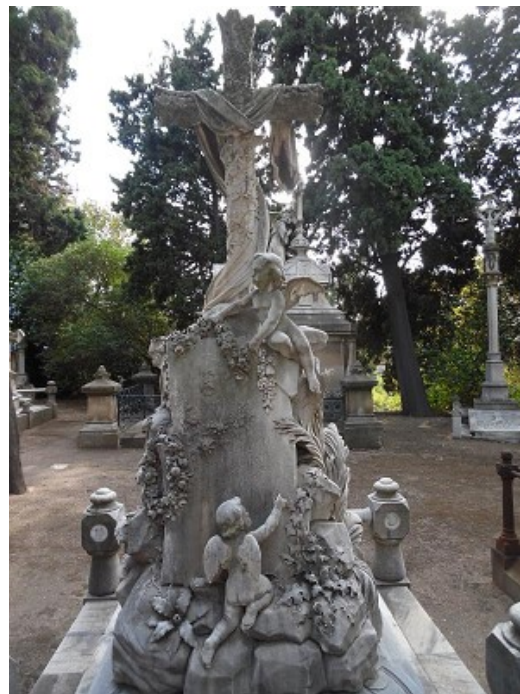
John Adams
at the Carr grave

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Cemetery Tourist

Wilf Bruch

The "Cementiri de Montjuic" on the hillside outside of Barcelona is by far one of the most beautiful cemeteries I have visited. It was opened on 17 March 1883 by the city of Barcelona as its main cemetery, supplanting the older cemetery at Poblenou in the east. It now contains over one million burials and cremation ashes in 150,000 plots, niches and mausolea.





Jerusalem's New Underground Necropolis

A massive, new underground necropolis is being built in Jerusalem to help overcome a looming shortage of gravesites for Jewish people in the holy city. The mile-long labyrinth, with 23,000 burial chambers lining the walls and ground, was tunneled into the hillside beneath Jerusalem's main Jewish cemetery, Givat Shaul, which is quickly running out of space.



Chevre Kadisha, the main group overseeing Jewish burials in Israel, has invested some 300 million shekels (\$86 million) in the modern twist on an ancient burial practice that it hopes will ease the pressure on the city's cemeteries. Dozens of graveyards in Israel have already closed their gates to new burials. Non-Jews, who make up a minority in Israel, are buried in separate cemeteries.

The first 8,000 graves will be ready to use at the end of the month. "According to our plan, after we finish the first part of 23,000 graves, probably we will have enough space to continue digging underground," Chananya Shachor, director of a local chapter of Chevre Kadisha, said on Sunday as the media got a first glimpse of the work. "We will continue if people will accept this new method of burying."

Cashier Wanted!

Would you like to help the cashier team to sell tickets for Sunday tours? Please email oldcem@pacificcoast.net if you are interested. Thank you!!!!

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Thank you to Thrifty Foods

Thrifty's donated the funds that paid for the refreshments for the people that attended our Ghost Walk Tour on October 27. The Fairfield Branch of Thrifty's Foods has supported the OCS in this manner for many years.

A Veteran Reminisces

The following is a transcript of a birthday note written by Frank Row to his brother John on the occasion of John's 69th birthday. Both of them, as well as their brother Sydney, had served with the 27th (Winnipeg) Battalion during World War 1. Their father served as a medical sergeant. Miraculously, all survived.

April 9th - 1965

Dear Brother John:-

Note the above date. On April 9th 1917 – 48 years ago the 27th Battalion with the help of God and a few eighteen pounders took Vimy Ridge. If I'm not mistaken it was on Easter Monday. The day was cold and windy with intermittent snow flurries and sunshine.

Later on in the day I escorted some prisoners back carrying Sergeant Whiting on a litter. That was the day our schoolmates Maurice and Albert Duquette and our cousin Ford Hawkes were killed.

Well happy birthday anyhow.

F.D. Row



Tombstone Oddities

*Remember Man as you go by
As you are now so once was I
As I am now so shall you be,
Prepare yourself to follow me*

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This epitaph is replicated in many versions, in many countries, on many tombstones. Here are some examples from cemeteries in Ireland:

The Shannon headstone erected in 1857 in Balmoral Cemetery, Belfast, offers one variant on this refrain:

*Stop traveller and cast an eye,
As you are now so once was I,
Prepare in time make no delay
For youth and time will pass away.*

The headstone erected by Widow Gentle in Knockbreda graveyard, County Down, to the memory of her husband Matthew offers another:

*Once I stood where thou dost now,
And viewed the dead as thou dost me,
Ere long thou'lt lie as low as I
And others stand and look on thee.*

A third version adorns the gravestone of John McCavitt at Killeney, who died in 1873:

*Good people dear as you pass by,
On my cold grave do cast an eye
As you are now so once was I,
As I am now so shall you be,
Prepare for death and follow me.*

Last Words

Roderic Borgia

1431-1503



Pope Alexander VI and father of Lucrezia Borgia

“I have provided in the course of my life for everything except death, and now, alas, I am to die unprepared.”

Leonardo da Vinci

1452-1519



".....I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have."

Michelangelo

1475-1564



"I give my soul to God, my body to the earth, and my worldly possessions to my nearest of kin, charging them to remember the sufferings of Jesus Christ."

Voltaire

1694-1778



When asked by a priest to renounce Satan he said "Now, now, my good man, this is no time for making enemies."

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*A Merry
Christmas*



*and a
Happy
New Year*

Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your OCS membership for 2020 and for the board to thank you for your past support of our activities. Please circle type of membership: Individual \$30 Family \$45 Student \$20 Donations are greatly appreciated. \$_____ Receipts given for amounts of \$10 & greater.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E- MAIL: _____

Please make cheques payable to The Old Cemeteries Society and mail to P.O. Box 50004, RPO Fairfield Plaza, Victoria BC, V8S 5L8

NB: Membership cards are issued only if requested.