

Greenwood Hills

Portland, Oregon
Estab. 1882

9002 SW Boones Ferry Road • Portland, OR 97219
Open 8:00am to Sunset

Portland pioneer George J. Ainsworth

One of the earliest burials in Greenwood Hills Cemetery was that of George J. Ainsworth.

Ainsworth was born in Oregon City in 1852, the son of Capt. J.C. Ainsworth. The historic Ainsworth house has been preserved and can be seen in Oregon City. As a side note, Ainsworth school in SW Portland and NE Ainsworth Street were named after Capt. Ainsworth.

George Ainsworth was one of the first twelve students to enter the University of California's four year class. The twelve were known as "the Twelve Apostles." He later returned in 1883 as a regent and held this position until his death in 1895.

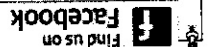
After graduation from the University of California, he returned to Oregon in 1875 to become a purser on the Steamship Welcome. The ship was owned by the Oregon Steam and Navigation Co. George's father, Capt. J.C. Ainsworth, was one of the founders of this company. History showed this company as being one of the most complete monopolies that ever existed in the northwest. Discovery of gold in the Upper Columbia was the proximate cause for the creation of Oregon Steam and Navigation Co. The company had steamships running to the Cascades Rapids (around Cascade Locks) and owned railroad portages around the rapids on both sides of the river. Different ships then would take freight and passengers to below the Cello Falls and again portage around the falls on both sides of the river. Freight and passengers were then placed back on ships to travel up the Columbia. At its peak, in one year, more than 100,000 passengers and 60,000 tons of freight were moved up river from Cello Falls.

George Ainsworth worked many jobs for the company and became a licensed master and pilot and eventually commanded numerous steamships. In 1877, George was made a director of the company.

The company merged with North Pacific Railroad and became the Oregon Railway & Navigation Co. When North Pacific ran into financial troubles, the company was reacquired by the Ainsworths. George became Vice-President of the company. The company was eventually sold for \$5,000,000 in 1892.

George joined his father in Oakland and under his direction succeeded in transferring a barren waste land into one of the finest commercial ports in the country. Developed was a magnificent hotel, a narrow gauge railroad and a wharf that would accommodate the largest ships afloat at that time. George remained in charge of these vast properties until the death of his father. George returned to Oregon and administered his father's estate until his death in 1895 at the age of 43 years.

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Search for us by using Greenwood Hills Cemetery.



We Offer These Services
Our Archivist provides quick and
courteous records search,
grave site location, and
grave marker location services.
Interments in GHC are
available to those who hold
deeds to family plots with available space.
River View is our preferred provider of grave marker and interment services. If we are unavailable, call River View directly at: 503-246-4251.



Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining the grounds of Greenwood Hills Cemetery in a manner that respects the dead, honors the living, and preserves a valuable connection with our rich pioneer history. Through responsible stewardship of resources, we strive to maintain a safe and beautiful open space where people can come to remember the past and enjoy the natural world which we hold in sacred trust for the future.

Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Assoc. • PO Box 80701, Portland, Oregon 97280 • chair@greenwoodhillscemetery.org
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www.greenwoodhillscemetery.org