



Greenwood Hills

CEMETERY

Portland, Oregon

Estab. 1882

Fall 2023

9002 SW Boones Ferry Road • Portland, OR 97219

Open 8:00am to Sunset

Did you know
Greenwood Hills
Cemetery has its own
Facebook page?



Search for us by name, then Like
the page to share stories, news, photos,
and connect with the community of
people who care about this unique place.

**We've made it even easier to
donate to Greenwood Hills by
accepting PayPal**

**Click the "Donate" link on
our website or Facebook page
to set up a one-time or
recurring donation to help
ensure the preservation of
this wonderful property.**

Need a Grave Marker?
*Ordering through us helps
with the maintenance costs
of Greenwood Hills Cemetery.*

We Offer These Services:

Our Archivist provides a quick and
courteous record search. Any
physical locating will be subject to a
fee, starting at \$50.

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.

A Lumber Baron, Laid to Rest

In 2019, the historic summer home of a
Portland, OR lumber baron located in
La Center, Washington was curiously
listed for sale for the low price of
"free." The owners, Marsha and Lloyd
Lytton, were aging and the house they'd
purchased in 2012 was proving to be
more trouble than they deemed worth.
What the Lyttons really wanted was for
their own new house to eventually be installed on the property, which couldn't be done unless
the existing one was removed - so they listed the home for \$0 in hopes someone would be
willing to relocate it. When they originally purchased the property, the Lyttons were advised
to either bulldoze or burn down the old home, but they couldn't bring themselves to do it
because of their appreciation for its history.



The Aagaard summer retreat in La Center, WA

The farmhouse was built in 1889 as a summer home retreat by Olaf Bernhard Aagaard, who
owned and operated the West Highland and East Highland Mills in La Center which provided
a great share of the ties for the building of the railroad in the Pacific Northwest.

Brothers Olaf and Martinus Aagaard arrived in the United States from Norway in 1875. Stone
masons by trade, they soon found work in Rhode Island. After a couple of years assimilating
and learning the language, they set out for the West to begin building their dream. They
stopped to work on farms and ranches along the way, and learned the logging trade in the
forests of Northern California and Southern Oregon. They learned and worked every aspect of
the business, and arrived in Portland, Oregon in March of 1880. Not satisfied with city life,
they saw opportunity elsewhere and by June, had crossed the Columbia River. Olaf filed a
land claim on 160 acres of old growth forest near the small town of La Center, Washington.
They soon purchased a drag saw, and set about the business of building a house and barns.
During this time the brothers met other local families including fellow Norwegian immigrants
the Sorensens. Olaf began courting the eldest daughter, Alma, and they were married in
September 1880.

Olaf started the Aagaard Lumber Company in the spring of 1881. He began with one sawmill
at the homestead, and within 10 years had established mills, lumber claims and mining claims,
loading platforms and docks in several locations in Oregon and southwest Washington. Men
liked working for Olaf because he treated them with respect. They in turn respected him
because he could draw a misery whip, swing an axe, or set a choker as well as any of them.
Business was booming- the summer house in La Center was built in 1889.

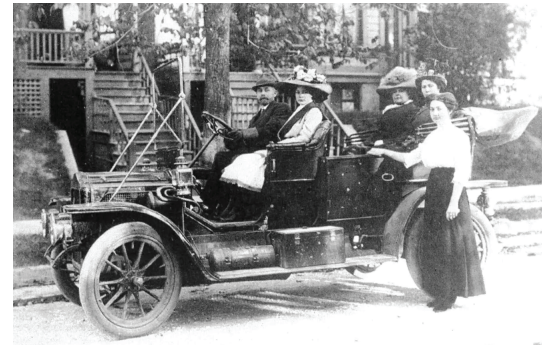
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Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining the grounds of Greenwood Hills
Cemetery in a manner that respects the dead, honors the living, and preserves a valuable connection with our rich pioneer 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.com
www.greenwoodhillscemetery.org • Archivist/Chair: 503-781-1698 • Facebook: Greenwood Hills Cemetery

Hit hard by the market crash and Great Depression, Olaf began selling his holdings – the property, mills and mines. The shareholders in Aagaard Lumber Company all had their initial investments returned to them, to the penny. This practice, of course, didn't leave much for Olaf and Alma. Olaf defended his actions by saying, "That money wasn't mine to begin with; it wouldn't be right to keep it."

During the Depression, all of the men sought out what work they could find, often in what logging and lumber camps that were left. Olaf, at 70 years old, returned to felling trees. For a time, Olaf and Martinus put their skills as stone masons to work in the CCC program, and helped build what is now known as the Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway. Their stone work can still be seen in places from Interstate 84 in the form of the old stone guardrails.



Aagaard with his wife and other family members in a Franklin Touring Car

Olaf B. Aagaard died March 2, 1941 aged 75 and is laid to rest in Greenwood Hills (Section 2, Lot 150, Grave 2). While his summer home may not have ever found a new resting place and is still standing, his great-niece, Jenny Janac, does share a piece of their family history that continues on: At Christmas time in 1880, Olaf set out to town in a snowstorm to retrieve Alma's Christmas gift from the Post Office in La Center. The 10-mile round trip took him almost 3 days to complete. The gift, a large china platter, was a small bit of luxury in a world of tin plates. This same platter will enter its 143rd year of holiday service this year.

Many of the details of this story were furnished by Jenny Janac via a story she wrote for the La Center Historical Museum.

Clean Up 2023

It was an exceptional day weather wise for the 2023 annual clean up. 83 degrees with broken clouds greeted the over 32 hard working volunteers that participated. This year we did 'bring your own lunch' and it was a big hit. We provided water, chips and of course cookies. We can't keep the gates open without all our wonderful friends and neighbors that help out. We also can't say it enough. Thank you for all the effort you give us, at the clean up, and for some of you all year around.

WE NEED DONATIONS

Scan with your smart phone's camera to donate via PayPal

This is for everyone: If you are new or long-standing visitors to Greenwood Hills Cemetery, you should all know where you are walking. We are a privately owned cemetery run by volunteers, funded only through donations - both monetary and in-kind. We supply bags and garbage cans for your use and make regular trips to the city dump to keep our property as nice as possible. This does not come free. If we cannot sustain our donations, we will be forced to close the gate permanently. We offer PayPal to easily make any donation. Nothing is too small and can be set up on a monthly basis if you like. The QR code can be found on our bulletin board and on our website and right here on this newsletter. If you enjoy this very special place, please consider contributing to its care. Give back to the neighborhood. Thank you! - GHCMA



Please be sure to include this completed form with any accompanying donation. Thank you!

I want to help maintain and restore Greenwood Hills Cemetery!

NAME _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

ADDRESS _____

\$ _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

GHCMA Tax ID #94-3052123

Thank you! We truly appreciate your support.

**Reply to:
GHC Maintenance Association
PO Box 80701
Portland, OR 97280**