



Greenwood Hills
CEMETERY

Portland, Oregon
Estab. 1882

NOVEMBER 2012

9002 SW Boones Ferry Road • Portland, OR 97219

Open 8:00am to Sunset



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

Visit us for some interactive fun. Share stories, post pictures, and don't forget to Like us! Search for us using our name: *Greenwood Hills Cemetery*.

Durham—Lake Oswego's Founding Family

The first pages of the history of Lake Oswego, Oregon can be said to be written by two pioneers now lying in peaceful graves at Greenwood Hills Cemetery.

Albert Alonzo Durham and his wife, the former Miranda White, exchanged a comfortable home and an established business in Springfield, Ill. for the towering forests of Clackamas County. Their neighbor and friend was Abraham Lincoln.

Durham, 33, who arrived in Lake Oswego on Oct. 1, 1847, claimed most of downtown Lake Oswego but needed Attorney Lincoln's advice for his next step. Durham was too busy to complete the red tape involved with registering his massive plat with the proper authorities. Evidently, believing in the power of the press, Durham left his dream plat with the editor of the Spectator in Oregon City. According to the Oct. 31, 1851, issue of the newspaper, all interested parties were invited to inspect it there.

Durham, an experienced sawmill operator, filed claim for the land just north of Sucker Creek that covered the area to about A Street. He named it Oswego in honor of an earlier home of his in Oswego, N.Y. Albert and Miranda came to Oregon by slow-moving trains and wagons beset with adventures including thieving Indian raids. During their travels, the couple was accompanied by their three-year-old son, George.

After getting his sawmill rolling, Albert turned adventurer again and headed for gold on the banks of the American River in California. Surprisingly, the newly-turned prospector bagged up to \$300 a day in gold dust. When he felt his poke was heavy enough, Albert returned to Oregon.

With his new wealth, Albert bought out his partners on the Clackamas River and ran the mill for several years. He then looked for new forests to conquer. That's when he decided on a new location—where Sucker Creek and the Willamette

Need a grave marker?
Ordering through us helps with the maintenance costs of Greenwood Hills Cemetery.

We Offer These Services
Our Archivist provides quick and courteous records search, gravesite 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.

River converge. This new location was blessed with one-third mile of tall trees and a 100-foot waterfall. Sucker Creek is now a part of Lake Oswego and, to this day, still trickles into the Willamette River.

Over the years, the Durhams added two more sons to their family, R.L., born in 1849 in Oregon City and Silas A. who was born in Lake Oswego in 1854. The bustling businessman continued writing his history in Lake Oswego for 19 years. He sold his interests in 1869 only to erect a new sawmill near his new home. When the Oregon Electric Railway opened a depot close by, it named the resulting community in his honor, Durham, Oregon.

Five Descendants of Albert and Miranda are buried near the Durham obelisk in Greenwood Hills Cemetery.



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.

Cleanup Day 2012—A Day of Transformation Realized

In May of 2012, Greenwood Hills was witness to a few records—record high temperatures, beautifully dry weather, and the attendance of over 40 volunteers for Cleanup Day. In preparation for Memorial Day 2012, hardworking volunteers spent their Saturday limbing trees, uncovering headstones, raking leaves, doing basic pruning, and string trimming (weed whacking). With a dump truck donated by Monaghans' Landscape Maintenance, Inc., we filled 5 truckloads that Monaghans hauled away for free!

Special thanks goes out to our volunteers for the exceptional work they do to transform the cemetery each year. Without their dedication, Greenwood Hills would meet the fate of many small Pioneer cemeteries. Thus, we cannot thank our volunteers enough for their hard work and dedication.



Davis Parchment hard at work gathering limbed branches.

Look What's New—A Beautiful Addition



The picture at left is the result of a long-planned project of the maintenance board—a cemetery bulletin board and information center. After considerable research and hard work on the part of our Cemetery Chair, Hattie Mead, the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries awarded us the grant that made this all possible. This beautiful new addition to the cemetery was constructed by our Treasurer, Ken Mead, along with the help of our Archivist, Brendan McGillicuddy.

A general map of the cemetery grounds with lot locations will be added to the board along with GHC history and background. Space will also be made available for lost and found notifications as well as miscellaneous information. A BIG thanks goes out to the State of Oregon and their much-appreciated grant program.

Contributions are Appreciated!

Greenwood Hills Cemetery relies on charitable gifts to maintain the cemetery and make necessary improvements. Please consider increasing your donation or including GHCA in your charitable giving plans if you have not done so before. Every little bit truly helps and is *greatly* appreciated.



I want to help maintain and restore Greenwood Hills Cemetery!

Add my name to the volunteer list.

Name _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

Address _____

\$ _____.

GHCMA Tax ID #94-3052123

Phone _____

Reply to:

GHC Maintenance Association
PO Box 80701
Portland, OR 97280

E-mail _____

Thank you! We truly appreciate your support.