



Greenwood Hills  
CEMETERY

Portland, Oregon  
Estab. 1882

APRIL 2014

9002 SW Boones Ferry Road • Portland, OR 97219

Open 8:00am to Sunset



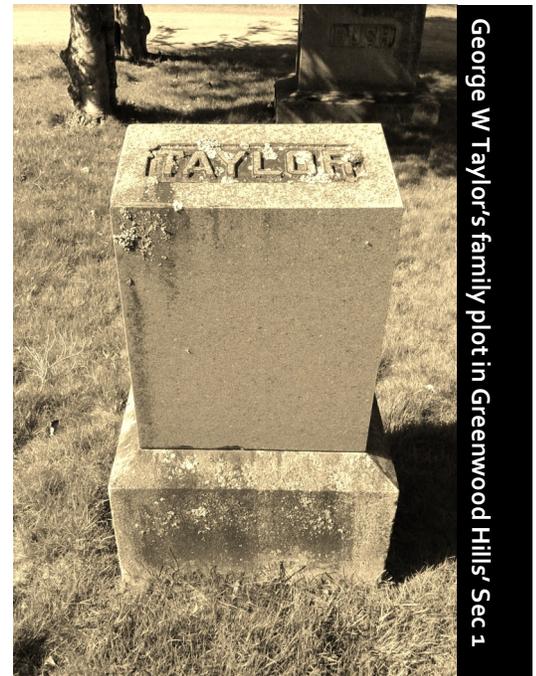
Did you know that Greenwood Hills Cemetery has its own Facebook page?

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

## Captain George W. Taylor—Early Pioneer and Steamboat Builder

You may not know this, but there is yet another early pioneer Captain who is buried in one of our oldest sections of the cemetery. Captain George W. Taylor, with family history dating back to 1664 in America, was captain of the steamer Salem and a pioneer of Oregon who is long connected with the navigation of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. He is also buried in Greenwood Hills' oldest section—Section One. Not to be confused with John Taylor of Taylor's Ferry Road, George was a native of Missouri and was born March 5, 1831. His father, was William Taylor of Kentucky and his mother was Mary Turnwalt of Missouri.

One of four children, Captain George Taylor lived in Iowa as a child, and his family later moved to Van Buren County, Illinois where he was raised on a farm and attended school only during the winter months. In 1851, Captain Taylor married Mary Whetstone of Ohio. In 1852, at the age of twenty-one, George and Mary started on the perilous journey across the American plains with a team of oxen. With a company of thirty wagons, their journey was full of incidents common to a 2,000 mile drive at the time; four of the company died of cholera and Native Americans tried to steal their cattle. However, they succeeded in getting through and they arrived in Portland in October 1852. From there, George worked at saw-milling at Oregon City as well as farming and mining—trying all the



George W Taylor's family plot in Greenwood Hills' Sec 1

**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.

ways pioneers had at that time of living and making money. Later, he teamed between the Dalles and Clearwater hauling supplies.

In 1862, George came to Portland and purchased the steamer St. Claire just above Oregon City falls, and he took the risk of having her run over the falls at high water.

Nevertheless, the little steamer made the run in safety with none but her captain and engineer on board. George proceeded to run the St. Claire on the Willamette and Columbia Rivers carrying freight and lumber. In 1864 he ran the sternwheeler E.D. Baker from Portland to the Cascades. In the spring of 1865, George went to the Burnt River Mines and engaged in placer mining with only moderate success. A year later, he engaged in the draying business at Portland and followed this business successfully for six years. In 1872, he purchased a propeller, the Commodore Perry, and used her for towing from Astoria to Portland and the Cascades. He used the Commodore for six years until she was worn out,

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.



## George W. Taylor (continued)

as the business was a tedious one. George then built the tug, Oswego, as well as numerous other barges. George did quite a large business in that space and experienced moderate success. Captain Taylor still owned the Oswego in 1889 and purchased an additional steamer, Salem, to run during towing services.

Altogether, George and Mary reared five children who all married and lived in Portland—William W., Mrs. Mary Kene, Mrs. Elizabeth Keman, Mrs. Georgiana Thompson, and Tarpley Early Taylor. In 1885, George was married a second time to another Mary, Mary Jane Riley. Captain George Taylor owned a half block of land on the corner of SW Alder and Tenth Streets. At this time, it was considered out of town but is now the heart of the city. George built five houses upon this corner and resided in one. It was a very comfortable home and was numbered 235 Alder Street. He also had other houses on SW Alder and Lownsdale Streets and additional real estate in other parts of the state. The Captain was a life-long Democrat, but he never sought or accepted offices. He is described as a genial, pleasant man, and he had many friends who were also amongst the first pioneers of Oregon.

### St. Claire (steamer)

On the upper Willamette the steamer St. Claire was built by Green C. Davidson and John Davis at Ray's Landing to run opposition to the James Clinton and the Yamhill. Her owner operated her a few months and then consolidated with the Yamhill Steamboat Company, which was composed of J. D. Miller, U. B. Fellows, George La Rocque, Albert Fopperly, John B. Piettete, and Thomas R. Fields. The company was capitalized at \$12,000. The St. Claire people received three-twelfths of the stock, and the boat was laid up. The St. Claire never amounted to much, and her chief claim to distinction is that she is the only steamboat that was ever successfully sent over the falls at Oregon City. This feat was accomplished in 1861 with Capt. George W. Taylor in command. E. W. Wright, *The Oregon Steam Navigation Company, Growth of British Columbia Marine Industries, Lewis & Dryden's Marine History of the Pacific Northwest*. New York: Antiquarian Press, Ltd., 1961, p.86.

## Cleanup Day 2014: Volunteers Needed

Mark your calendars for this year's Cleanup Day 2014. The continued success of this transformative event is inspiring. Volunteers, family, friends and neighbors are welcome and encouraged to participate. Kindly **R.S.V.P.** to 503-781-1698 or email your R.S.V.P. to [info@greenwoodhillscemetery.org](mailto:info@greenwoodhillscemetery.org).

**When:** Saturday, May 17, 2013

**Where:** 9002 SW Boones Ferry Road, Cemetery Entrance

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**What to bring:** Pruning shears, loppers, brooms, gas string trimmers, rakes, tarps, gloves, and a chair.

**Benefits:** The power of transformation, great company, exercise, and free food and beverages including coffee to wake you up!

## Upcoming Holiday & Board Events



### Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday—Monday  
May 24, 25, & 26  
10am—4pm



### Annual Meeting

Wednesday— June 11  
7pm

## 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 GHCMA 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.***