



Past, Present and Future

Rachael Woods

Vice President & Secretary

Camp Polk Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Committee

camppolkpioneercemetery@gmail.com

“Cemeteries are a good place to rest. Heave a sigh, sit down. In spite of all the pain and suffering, there is a lot of accumulated wisdom here. This can be a place to find answers. The past is under my feet, the future is above my head, and for this short time, I exist entirely in this moment and know peace. This helps me understand my end. It also helps us understand why it is SO vital to engage in cemetery preservation.” - Kelly Madden, Deschutes Land Trust



1908 - burial of George Taylor, Martha Taylor Cobb Hindman Olsson's brother.

The first burial

Samuel Hindman first homesteaded the Camp Polk Meadow area between 1868-1870. His barn, west of the cemetery, is the oldest now standing barn in Deschutes County. 2.1 acres of Samuel Hindman's holdings became known as Camp Polk Cemetery (also "Old Fort Cemetery" or "Hindman Cemetery"), established on the knoll overlooking the meadow in 1880 after the death of Thomas Summers.

History of Ownership (and lack thereof)

1880–1940

Camp Polk Cemetery was a part of the Hindman property.

1940–2022

Abandonment. In 1940 the 2.1 acre cemetery parcel is separated from the Hindman property and deeded to Thelma Roberts along with approximately \$10,000. Thelma did not return to care for the cemetery. Burials continued.

2022–Today

Camp Polk Pioneer Cemetery is owned and maintained by the Camp Polk Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Committee, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Cemetery Timeline

Oregon State Mortuary & Cemetery Board (OMCB) formed, along with a new set of administrative rules requiring death care facilities to be licensed through and all burials be reported to OMCB.

First burial

Preservation

1880

1940

1983

1985

2022-2024

2025+

Cemetery separated from Hindman property in probate. Previous owner dies, property is deeded to Thelma Roberts.

Designated a Deschutes Co. Historic Landmark

Local citizens come together to clean up cemetery. CPPCPC is formed and seeks and is awarded ownership of the 2.1 acre cemetery property. Licensure to bury initially sought, but the process proved to be cost prohibitive.

What We've Accomplished So Far

Legal ownership

501(c)(3) status

Property Improvements

Branding - Professional logos & website

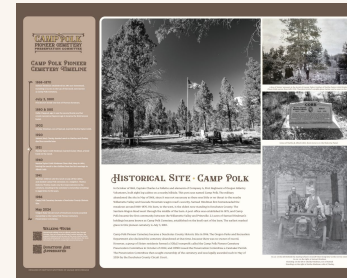
Grant awards

Added signage, including a large educational kiosk currently in progress

Heart of Oregon Youthbuild & Veterans annual clean-up day

Educational Walking Tours during Spring, Summer & Fall

Collaborations with Deschutes County Historical Museum, Sisters Veterans, Sisters Museum, Deschutes Land Trust, Citizens for Community, Economic Development for Central Oregon and more



Current Large-Scale Fundraising Efforts

❑ **Ground Penetrating Radar**

A non-invasive burial mapping technique that will provide a map of all burials. There are currently at least 70 unmarked graves. This will also identify collapsed graves in order to have them filled to prevent injuries.

❑ **Security camera**

Deter illegal burials & intentional property damage.

❑ **Accessibility improvements**

Increase accessibility while continuing to prevent vehicle entry. Road repair/paving.

❑ **Property Survey**

Update property markers to encompass all burials.



Everything Else - Perpetual Care

- General landscaping
- Fire hazard abatement/Tree care
- Trash removal
- Future monument repairs
- Operational costs -liability insurance, website, etc.
- Legal fees
- Miscellaneous fees - DOJ, SOS, etc.

www.camppolkpioneercemetery.org



Thank You from our board of directors:

Marianne Straumfjord, President

Rachael Woods, Vice President & Secretary

Liz Wise, Treasurer

Eric Strobel, Member at Large

Bob Renggli, Member at Large

camppolkpioneercemetery@gmail.com

