



FRIENDS of EAST UNION MEMORIAL CEMETERY

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501(c)3

P.O. Box 591 Manteca, CA. 95336

“Restoring, and Preserving, our cemetery and its history for future generations”

President’s Message by Janice Zacharias

I still have trouble explaining to people why I’m the president of a cemetery board—I get some odd looks. But the satisfaction comes from being able to work with some of the best volunteers anywhere! We have twelve diverse and dedicated people, along with veterans from both the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars who willingly donate their time digging graves, making repairs, doing landscape or cement work, or anything else they are asked to do. We have spoken many times to each other about what pulls us here, and I think it’s because we want to honor those who came before us, preserve the sacred spaces where they are buried, and solve some of the mysteries of incomplete or inaccurate records. We’ve become pretty good detectives!

We have had so many wonderful things happen during the three+ years we have dedicated to this project. One of the most important was the creation of a cemetery map. We walked the entire cemetery, row by row, and wrote down each marker we saw. We then cross-referenced what we could see with the records that had been found in the cemetery garage [about 40 sets of old records in various stages of preservation] to make as complete a burial record for each individual as we could. Steve Stroud and Janet Fiore installed Pontem software on the office computer in order to computerize our findings. We have worked with the California Cemetery and Funeral Bureau to successfully assist numerous families each year with a pre-need contract before 2008 [when the cemetery license was revoked] to bury their loved ones, all with the assistance of volunteers.

One of our board members, James Carter, took and passed the Cemetery Manager test, and we now have a licensed manager! “Jim” has been a member of the current board since its inception June 3, 2015.



Last but not least, we recently got word that the paperwork portion of being issued a ‘Certificate of Authority’ has been accepted by the State of California! This is a big step toward getting our license, and being able once again to sell plots to those who would like to be interred in our historic cemetery. We are continuing to work on site improvements, as there will be a physical inspection of our maps, grounds, and office by a field representative from the Cemetery and Funeral Board. We will probably shout it from the rooftops when our license is finally granted—so many people have worked so hard to get to this point, and we are all very excited to once again be able to serve our community.



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“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much” - Helen Keller



Many of you have noticed other construction going on, and we're excited about it! Thanks to a very generous bequest by Tsuneko Leonard, we are in the midst of getting all new **asphalt roads**, and a beautiful **wrought-iron fence with electronic gates**. There are often many delays in construction—since we didn't have accurate maps of the old irrigation system, many pipes and electrical connections were broken and repaired over the last couple of months. But everything is now in good shape, and we are ready to proceed—it should be fun to watch.



Other improvements have been made to our buildings and grounds with the help of Eagle Scout Projects. Spencer Brammel canvassed the cemetery, working with old records to determine where many unmarked baby graves were located. Spencer Ogden surveyed the cemetery, found and glued about 40 loose cement headstones to their bases, and raised and leveled out 15-20 more headstones. Spencer Oberman took on two painting projects, updating the trim and doors of the cemetery office to a lovely shade of green, and repainting all of the wrought iron—windows, fence, and gazebo—a shiny new black. [Yes, we had three Scouts each named Spencer!]

Finally, Joshua Taylor took on the huge project of re-siding the pump house, which involved removing/replacing all the old siding, painting it and the trim to match the office, installing a new door and deadbolt, and making some small electrical repairs. We love our Eagle Scouts! They have fundraisers or get donations to pay for their project, inspire others to help them work, and have been respectful and eager to find ways to help and preserve our cemetery.

Finally,



“Volunteers are love in motion” ~ Author Unknown

“Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time; they just have the heart” ~ Elizabeth Andrew

PIONEER DINNER FUNDRAISER!

Recently we had our 3rd Annual Pioneer Dinner, held again in September at the Manteca Senior Center. This was a sold-out event, all 250 tickets—and we had so many great raffle prizes! We ate a very tasty menu of delicious pork and chicken, excellent scalloped potatoes, green beans almandine, and Aunt Jan’s famous homemade peach crisp. We sang pioneer songs—led by Jay Holmes and his lovely wife Jeanne—in between raffling, a bit of auctioneering by Mayor Steve DeBrum, and good conversation. Since this is our only fundraiser, we really appreciate the efforts made by so many people to gather together and share a meal. All profits made from this event go toward the care and maintenance of our lovely old cemetery.



“Only a life lived for others is worth living” ~ Albert Einstein

Headstone Dedication



**Commander, Jim Monteton
Sons of Union Veterans, Camp 22
Sacramento, CA.**



The volunteers at East Union Memorial Cemetery respect the Veterans who have chosen Manteca's cemetery as their final resting place and look for ways to honor them.

Janet Fiore, office secretary, has a special interest in genealogy and attempts to gather as much historical information on the souls resting at EUMC. Her latest project was requesting headstones from the Veteran's Administration for three of the Union Soldiers who had no headstones at all. Due to the fact that she is not related to any of the three and she was not able to find a next of kin she had to send to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. for the soldier's military service records and as office secretary submitted the military service records and was granted the three free markers.

We were very excited and wanted to do something really special so we invited the Sons of Union Veterans, Camp22 from Sacramento to officiate the headstone dedication!

The ladies at the cemetery dressed in period dress and felt right at home among the dapper uniformed Union soldiers who were present for the dedication.

The public was invited and following the ceremony we shared a light meal of BBQ hot dogs, chips, fruit and beverages.



SOLDIERS HONORED FOR THEIR UNION SERVICE DURING THE CIVIL WAR

VICTOR GILLIAM

Pvt. 3rd Independent Battery, Kansas Light Artillery

ALBERT SHEARER

Pvt. Co. A, 3rd Reg't Calif. Infantry

JAMES E. EVANS

Co. H. 12th Reg't, Indiana Infantry

“Do small things with great love” - Mother Teresa

“FRIENDS OF EAST UNION MEMORIAL CEMETERY”

BOARD

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John Harris

Jay Holmes

Pat Metzler

Janice Zacharias

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY

TO PRESERVE

OUR

HISTORICAL

CEMETERY

If you have any questions please feel free to drop by the cemetery office Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or call (209) 823-8533.

The “Friends of East Union Memorial Cemetery” is operated and maintained through generous memberships and gifts to benefit the care and maintenance of the all-volunteer historical East Union Memorial Cemetery.

2019

January—December

Please make checks payable to “Friends of East Union Memorial Cemetery”

P.O. BOX 591—Manteca, CA. 95336

We are a 501(c)3 organization

Student	\$5.00	Business/Industry	\$250.00
Associate/Individual	\$15.00	Sponsor	\$500.00
Patron/Couples	\$25.00	Benefactor	\$1,000.00
Family	\$50.00	Lifetime Member	\$5,000.00
Sustaining	\$100.00	NEW MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organization	\$100.00	RENEWAL	<input type="checkbox"/>

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