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January-February 2018

Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Old Craighflower School.

There is lots of free parking.

Speakers: Drew Waveryn will give an illustrated talk about his trip to VIMY 100.

Election of Officers for 2018

Elections to the Old Cemeteries Society Board for 2018 will be held and are usually very brief. The Board consists of Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Members at Large. All positions on the board are filled at the moment, but we are still required to open nominations for the year 2018.

Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings (third Wednesday of the month) to guide the Society's activities and discuss issues. Potential Board members please contact Gerry Buydens, Nomination Committee Chair, at gbuydens@shaw.ca or 250-383-4873 as soon as possible.

Unveiling of the Nellie Cashman Memorial

Patrick Lydon

On Wednesday, October 18, 2017, the new memorial stone on the gravesite of Nellie Cashman at Ross Bay Cemetery was unveiled. The distinguished guests met at Ross Bay Villa at 1:00 p.m and included Councillor Thornton-Joe, acting Mayor of Victoria, Sister Marie Zarowny and Sister Patricia Donovan, representing Sisters of St. Ann, Jim O'Fallon and wife Nancy from San Diego, California, representing the Cashman Family, and Brendan Flynn and wife Theresa, from Vancouver, representing the Ireland Canada Monument. Bruce and Donna Chaytor represented the Vancouver Island Placer Mining Association. (VIPMA)





The Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Judith Guichon, arrived at Ross Bay Villa at 1:15 p.m. and was met by Gerry Buydens, President of the Old Cemeteries Society, and by Patrick Lydon, Chairman of the Nellie Cashman Committee. The Lieutenant Governor was introduced to the guests and then had a tour of the Villa. A display of artifacts relating to Nellie Cashman was on display including the original portrait painting that had been painted in China, and is now in the possession of Jim O’Fallon.

At 1:50 the guests braved the very wet weather and walked to the Nellie Cashman gravesite on the east side of the cemetery. Patrick Lydon, the MC for the unveiling, announced that because the weather was so bad, he would forgo his prepared speech and go directly to the unveiling. Jim O Fallon said a few words about his gratitude to the Old Cemeteries Society for their care of the Nellie Cashman gravesite and made some positive comments about the care of the cemetery by the City of Victoria. The Lieutenant-Governor then spoke about Nellie Cashman and highlighted her courage, her compassion and her great determination to complete the difficult tasks she undertook. Her Honour mentioned that she had recently met the new Governor General of Canada, the Honourable Juliette Payette, and was struck by the fact that these two women shared many similar interests.

The Lieutenant-Governor and Jim O’Fallon unveiled the new memorial stone, which bears an image of the lovely photograph of Nellie Cashman taken in 1874. Photographs were taken by Susan Henderson, despite the heavy rain, and most participants appeared to enjoy the situation. The Lieutenant Governor was presented with a signed and dedicated copy of *“Gold Rush Queen”* by author Thora Kerr Illing, and Gudrun Leys presented Her Honour with a gold nugget from Bonanza Creek in the Klondike as tokens of esteem and gratitude from the Nellie Cashman Committee.

Following the ceremony, the new stone was permanently placed on the gravesite by Mortimers Monuments. The gravesite now looks resplendent and the memorial stone will automatically become a centennial stone in the year 2025.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the donors to the Nellie Cashman Fund and to the members of the Old Cemeteries Society who have been so supportive these past two years. I offer a special thanks to the members of the Nellie Cashman Committee, Gerry Buydens and Gudrun Leys, who have worked so hard on this endeavor, and I would like to thank the members of the Ross Bay Villa Society, who have so kindly allowed us to use their heritage House to hold this celebration. Finally I would like to offer our thanks to Mortimers Monuments for their patience and understanding in producing this beautiful memorial stone.

A Little Mystery

Russ Stewart

Wilf Bruch recently sent me the following:

“In our fast moving society, it seems at times that the younger generations care little about the stories our forefathers left for us. They seem to have little time for the past in general. That is the way I felt until the other day.

As I was walking through Ross Bay Cemetery on Saturday September 23rd 2017 I noticed a piece of paper on or close to the Blinkhorn grave in Block A. Always one to try and keep the cemetery clean, I naturally picked it up, intending to dispose of it in a nearby garbage container. As I picked it up, however, I noticed writing on it and curiosity took over. The paper was folded in half and addressed. The inside Just about brought tears to my eyes. Maybe there is hope that we will be remembered and our stories told. I have tried in vain to find a Henry and Sarah buried in that general area but I will keep looking. Wilf”

**To: Henry and Sarah and the whole gang!
From Maya and Julia!
25 Aug. 2017 Victoria BC Canada.
Hi our names are Maya and Julia. We are your great, great,
great granddaughters. The year is 2017! And we had just
went to the Royal Muesum of BC! They had a painting of you
and Sarah! Julia and I live in Kelowna! 4 hours away from
Vancouver.**

So who are Henry and Sarah? Your intrepid editor took up the challenge. Wilf found the paper near the Blinkhorn grave. Their niece, Martha Cheney, who accompanied the Blinkhorns to the island, married Captain Henry Ella. Henry and Martha built Wentworth

Villa, which survives at 1156 Fort Street. They had descendants named Henry, but nowhere in their family tree could I find a Sarah.

I turned to Leona Taylor, our authority on local pioneers. She named three possible couples, but in her own words “The first possibility, and I think the most probable, is Henry & Sarah Crease.” That would be Sir Henry Pering Pellew Crease and Lady Sarah Lindley Crease. Sir Henry was a prominent lawyer, politician and government official in British Columbia’s early days. Their grave site is a hundred or so meters from the Blinkhorns, but the bit of paper could have blown to the Blinkhorn grave or someone could have picked it up and later discarded it. The other couples seemed less likely to be Maya and Julia’s forebears.

Next stop- the Royal BC Museum. I e-mailed the art curator and promptly heard back from Don Bourdon. The museum did indeed have portraits of the Creases, painted by Sophia Theresa Pemberton, a talented local artist.



So there you have it. Evidently Maya and Julia are descended from the Creases. Proof positive? Perhaps not in a court of law, but close enough for most of us.

Cleaning [Sharon Welsh](#)

Thank you to everyone who came out this year for Cleaning. We will begin again in June 2017. Emails will be sent to the membership well in advance of the first Cleaning Bee.

Cashier Wanted!

Would you like to help the cashier team to sell tickets for Sunday tours? Please email oldcem@pacificcoast.net if you are interested. Thank you!!!!

A Happy New Year to all!

Tombstone Oddities

A firm in Slovenia are giving tombstones a 21st-century makeover, with 48-inch interactive screens that can show pictures, video and other digital content. The Pobrezje cemetery on the outskirts of Maribor, Slovenia’s second largest city, recently set up a prototype of a weather-proof and vandal-proof digital tombstone that can interact with visitors.

At first glance, it looks like any other but standing in front of it for a few seconds activates its sensors and brings it to life, turning it into an interactive screen capable of playing just about any kind of digital content.



“This tombstone makes it possible to put anything next to the deceased person’s name and surname, you can write an entire novel if you like. You can put pictures, or a film there,” said Saso Radovanovic, head of the company Bioenergija that sells the screens.

Samuel de Champlain 1574 - 1635

Champlain died in Quebec City on Christmas Day. He was the first prominent European to consider himself a Canadian, and he can truly be called a founder of modern Canada. His explorations are well recorded and he was governor of New France in all but name, but his origins are obscure. He begat no offspring, left no direct heirs and no recorded last words. A small chapel was built to house his burial place but it burned in 1640 and the location of his grave has been lost.



It’s time to renew your OCS **Membership Renewal Form**

membership for 2018 and for the board to thank you for your support of our activities.

Please circle type of membership: Individual \$30 Family \$45 Student \$20

Donations are greatly appreciated \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Make cheques payable to The Old Cemeteries Society and mail to P.O. Box 50004, RPO Fairfield Plaza, Victoria BC, V8S 5L8

Membership cards are issued only if requested.