

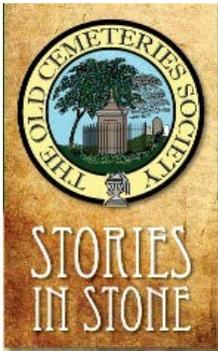
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### July - August 2018

## A New Publishing Endeavour



**Stories in Stone** is the new publishing imprint of the Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria. The **Guide to Victoria's Historic Jewish Cemetery** by **Amber Woods** is the first in a series of publications dedicated to telling the social history of this and other communities through those buried in our heritage cemeteries. Each book will have the same size and design template to make **Stories in Stone** publications easily recognizable. While the cover design will be generic, the cover images will relate to the topic of the book.

The **Guide to Victoria's Historic Jewish Cemetery** includes a history of the cemetery, information on Jewish burial customs and a self-guided tour. It tells the stories of many of Victoria's early Jewish pioneers and others who have been part of the Jewish community's, the city's and the province's development. A book launching and signing was held on Monday, June 18, at Congregation Emanu-El.

**Amber Woods** has been researching and publishing articles on various aspects of the early Jewish experience in Victoria. She conducts tours of the Congregation Emanu-El synagogue and assists on walking tours which focus on Victoria's early Jewish history.

Copies of the **Guide to Victoria's Historic Jewish Cemetery** can be ordered via the website: [jewishvictoria.wordpress.com/ordering/](http://jewishvictoria.wordpress.com/ordering/)



## Cleaning and Restoration

Sharon Welsh & Wilf Bruch

**Grab your gloves and sunscreen!** The first cleaning bee for the season will be held on Saturday, July 7th from 10 a.m. until noon. This year we will be cleaning in Section C and G and will be able to utilize the nearby working waterpipes to wash the gravesites and monuments. All the equipment needed (brooms, scrapers, shovels, buckets, soap, and brushes for washing, etc) will be supplied, along with drinking water. You only need to bring some sturdy and/or water repellent gloves & sunscreen. An email reminder will be sent to the membership and volunteers 4-5 days prior to an upcoming cleaning or restoration bee. Hope to see you there.

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## The Garden Party

The OCS executive invite you to join them for the annual evening garden party at Ross Bay Villa on August 15, 2018. The garden will be open at 5 p.m. and sandwiches, veggies, coffee /tea and dessert will be served. Do bring a friend to introduce to our society and to the activities we are involved in. In order that we provide sufficient food, please RSVP to Gudrun Leys, 250-598-8870 or email [oldcem@pacificcoast.net](mailto:oldcem@pacificcoast.net) by August 11, 2018.

## Obon Ceremony

On August 19 at 2:30 p.m. the annual Obon ceremony in observance of the Japanese Buddhist Day of the Dead will be held at the Kakehashi Monument in the southwest corner of Ross Bay Cemetery. The public are invited to the ceremony and to the reception following.

## Change to our scheduled August 11 tour

Due to a conflict with a church activity scheduled for August 11, we have had to move our August 11 tour to Ross Bay Cemetery. The tour originally scheduled for August 11 will be moved to next year's schedule. Content of the tour revolved around people buried in St. Stephen's Church Cemetery. We will hold a tour at RBC on August 11 called Pioneer Farmers. Sylvia van Kirk discusses the role played by farmers and their families in the development of early Victoria. Some farmers were brought out by the Hudson's Bay Company; some stayed after the gold rush. Note the change in location and content of the tour, and please advise anyone who might contemplate going.



Kate Cino Images

## Members who have passed on Gerry Buydens

It is a great loss when some of our older members who were very active in the society slow down and pass away. The three members that I am aware of who passed away are Rex Pendril Brown, Norm Preston and Dorothy Sweet. There may well have been others.

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Norm Preston was John Adams's stepfather and was very active in the activities of OCS when he was a bit younger. He was 96 when he died. He led a very active life as outlined in his obituary. He'd been a teacher at Victoria High School and made a point of attending our annual general meeting most years.

Dorothy Sweet was known for her lifestyle, annually spending six months in the United Kingdom and six months in Canada. Every time she went to the UK she had a list of research projects that she would pursue. She discovered that Billy Barker was not a Cornishman, he just hung around with Cornishmen in the gold fields. She also tracked down some of Billy Barker's relatives in the UK. Dorothy was also 96 years old. She was one of the authors and researchers who produced the first book on the history of Ross Bay Villa.

Pen Brown worked as a banker for fifteen years and then decided to become a lighthouse keeper. He eventually moved to the Coast Guard Office from which he retired. He was active and very supportive of OCS activities.

All three will be missed and we're grateful for their support and contributions.

## The Old Cemeteries Society Library Bente Svendsen

Are you looking for a book of humour with a local twist? What about books about churches and cemeteries? How about ones on history and/or the military? Then consider the OCS library! We have around 175 titles on churches, cemeteries, humour, military, Victoria, professions, British Columbia, Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, Canada, reference, and general and miscellaneous reading. Many of these are rare and/or out-of-print. For example, we have *Portraits of the Premiers: an Informal History of British Columbia*, *Rattenbury, Mayne Island and the Outer Gulf Islands: a History*, *Kanaka: the Untold Story of Hawaiian Pioneers in British Columbia*, *From Amor to Zalm: a Primer on BC Politics and its Wacky Premiers*, *Cristobal Colon Cementario*, *Outlaws in British Columbia*, *Faithful Friend: the Story of Florence Nightingale*, *Comic Epitaphs From the Very Best Old Graveyards*, *A Small Book of Grave Humor*, *The James Bay Athletic Association: the First 100 Years*, *A History of Funeral Service in Alberta*, *Discovering Battlefields in Southern England*, and *First Water, Tigers!: a History of the Victoria Fire Department*. So if you're looking for some unique reading materials, check us out! For a full list of books and/or to browse the collection, contact the office at 250-598-8870 or email [oldcem@pacificcoast.net](mailto:oldcem@pacificcoast.net) and put "library" in the subject bar.

## Do you have a story to tell?

The demise of the OCS journal *Stories in Stone* left us with no place to publish longer articles that our members might want to share. In an effort to partly fill the gap, *Stone Cuttings* has been publishing longer items submitted by our members. Examples are A Vimy 100 Diary in the Nov/Dec 17 issue, A Little Mystery in the Jan/Feb 18 issue, A Tombstone Tourist in Iceland in the Mar/Apr 18 issue, A Tombstone Tourist in Corsica in the May/June 18 issue, and Wilf Bruch's item on the Hope disaster in this issue. While there is no strict limit on length, articles should be reasonably brief and of general interest to our members. Book reviews and photos relevant to your article are welcome. Submit articles to [rste00@shaw.ca](mailto:rste00@shaw.ca) The editor reserves the right to edit or reject any item.

### The Hope Disaster

Wilf Bruch

Marine disasters are not strangers to the British Columbia coast. This disaster is especially sad because it is all but forgotten and the men who lost their lives are not remembered. That is, all but one.

October, 1925, was not kind to seafarers on the Strait of Juan De-Fuca. The 15<sup>th</sup> of October saw the Holland-America freighter Eemoyk go aground on Bentinck Island in heavy fog. The Salvage Queen had been sent out to re-float her and was making progress with the help of a large crew of longshoremen working round the clock. The freighter was being off-loaded to lighten her in preparation for the next high tide.

At about 5 p.m. the tugboat Hope cast off from its mooring in Victoria. She was an older wooden vessel, built in 1881 in Seattle Washington. She had recently been acquired by Harold Elworthy for his new company, Island Tug and Barge. She carried a crew of six and on this night was ferrying twenty-eight longshoremen to the stricken Eemoyk. The weather was calm but the tide was running strong. Captain Fred Forrester steered the Hope toward the Salvage Queen and stricken Eemoyk intent on tying up to the Queen. However, the extremely strong tide had other ideas. Hope came in too fast with engines in full reverse. She lightly bumped the Queen and carried on down her side and under an anchor line holding the Eemoyk in place. That tore off the Hope's funnel and wheelhouse. She rolled over and capsized.



By 7:55 p.m. it was all over. In less than three minutes, the Hope had capsized and sunk. There were thirty-four men in the water scrambling for their lives. Seven did not make it. Charles J. Bailey, J. Duncan and Arthur Rust drowned and were never found, but

wives and children were left to morn their passing. There were no bodies to bury and I have found no records of funerals or memorials. E. Forrest, William Watson and John Hanley were all new to the city with no relatives listed. Today we would call them transient workers. Again, no bodies were found and I have found no record of funerals or memorials.

That leaves only one, Thomas G. Elliott. Thomas was also a new worker on the Victoria waterfront and listed as living on Short Street with a wife Mary. The 4<sup>th</sup> of December 1925, a full Forty-eight days after the tragedy, a body was discovered at the mouth of Sooke Harbor. The remains were taken to McCalls Funeral Establishment and

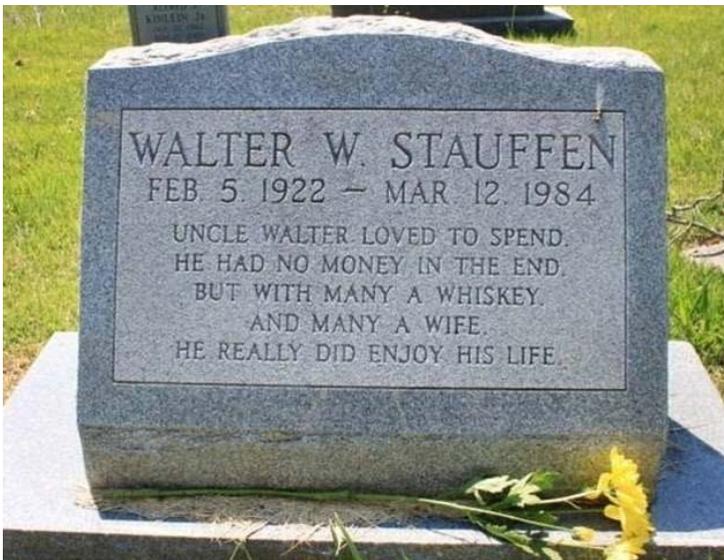


subsequently identified as Thomas G. Elliott by one of his fellow longshoremen. And so it is that only one grave is left to mark the Hope disaster. Thomas G. Elliott was laid to rest at Ross Bay Cemetery on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1925. He rests in block W plot 002 east of row 38, five plots from the waters that claimed his life.

### **A Message to Our Smaller Members**

We have a few T-shirts and sweatshirts in small and medium sizes for sale at bargain prices: \$5 for a T-shirt, \$8 for a sweatshirt, and ball caps at \$5 each. If you are interested in any of these items, please contact Gudrun Leys at 250-590-5850.

### **Tombstone Oddities**



In a Baltimore Cemetery

### **Last Words**

David Goodall  
1914-2018



Scientist who chose medical assisted suicide at age 104.

“This is taking an awfully long time.”