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Fairmount Memorial Association's latest historic marker memorializes a woman who was orphaned on the Oregon Trail and later survived an Indian massacre.

Catherine Sager Pringle's great-great granddaughter, Beverly Madsen, and great-grandson, Bill Bentley, attended the April 14 dedication at Fairmount Memorial Park. During the dedication, a monument detailing Catherine Sager Pringle's place in local history was unveiled.

Catherine Sager was only 9 when her parents, Henry and Naomi Sager, packed up the family and left Ohio for Oregon Country in April 1844. Five weeks into the journey, Naomi Sager gave birth to her seventh child. During the trip, many of the pioneers became sick with typhus, including Henry and Naomi Sager.

Henry died at the end of August and his wife succumbed not even a month later, leaving their seven children orphaned on the Oregon Trail.

It had been Naomi Sager's wish that her children would be delivered to Dr. Marcus and Narcissa Whitman's Waiilatpu mission in the Walla Walla Valley. The families on the wagon trail cared for the children until they arrived at the Whitman Mission in November. The Whitmans took in the Sager children and raised them as their own.

In 1847, a measles epidemic was devastating the Cayuse Tribe. Dr.

Whitman did his best to treat the sick, but the Indians did not fare as well as the whites and began to believe Dr. Whitman was poisoning their children. Traditionally, the Cayuse would kill a medicine man when they lost faith in him and Dr. Whitman was no exception. In November, the Indians attacked the Whitmans.

The Whitmans were killed, along with the two Sager boys and others. The five Sager sisters and 45 others were held captive and tormented. Five days into captivity, one of the Sager girls died from the measles. The four living sisters and other captives were ransomed and released on Dec. 19, 1847. Catherine Sager, now 13, and her three sisters were taken to the Willamette Valley to be cared for by foster families. At 16, Catherine Sager married Clark Pringle. She made a home for her sisters and she and Clark raised eight children of their own.

Catherine Sager's life epitomized the spirit and tenacity of a pioneer in the 1880s.



City to Commend Fairmount's Flag Programs

Spokane Mayor Mary Verner, on May 31, will declare the entire month of June as "Respect Our Flag Month" in the city and recognize Fairmount Memorial Association for its flag programs. In a proclamation that will be read and released during that day's City Council meeting, Mayor Verner will commend both the Boy Scouts of America and Fairmount Memorial Association for their dedication and respect and efforts to promote public awareness of the history of the American flag.



The mayor will commend Fairmount Memorial Association for its 40-year-old Veterans Memorial Flag Program, its establishment of an American Flag Memorial at Greenwood Memorial Terrace, and the opening of the Spokane Flag Museum in the Rock Chapel at Fairmount Memorial Park.



Flag Museum Opening May 30, 2011

Memorial Day will mark the opening of Fairmount Memorial Association's new Spokane Flag Museum.

The Spokane Flag Museum will be housed inside the historic Kirtland Cutter Rock Chapel at Fairmount Memorial Park, 5200 W. Wellesley Ave., Spokane. The museum will be dedicated to the display of historic flags of the United States to help Spokane-area schools, youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and the public gain a greater appreciation of the historic flags of our country and the flags' roles in the events that shaped our national heritage.

At the museum's opening, Fairmount Memorial Association will release a new publication, Fairmount Memorial's 100 Historic American Flags. The book is a stand-alone narrative of 100 of the most interesting historic flags of the United States, but it will also serve as a guide to the many flags displayed at the museum. The book is also available at Fairmount community cemetery offices for a donation of \$10.00 or more to the Boy Scout Flag Fund.



Museum hours have yet to be announced, but tours for civic and youth groups will be available by appointment. For information e-mail flagmuseum@fairmountmemorial.com.

Memorial Day 2011

Remembering Bob Hope and the USO is the theme of this year's Memorial Weekend celebration at Heritage Funeral Home.

Activities are planned at Heritage Funeral Home, Riverside Memorial Park and Greenwood Memorial Terrace from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 28 through Monday, May 30. Memorabilia on Bob Hope and the USO will be displayed at Heritage Funeral Home. Entertainment is planned for each day at noon and 1:30 p.m. in the Heritage Chapel. The funeral home will also be the site of Veterans and Aerospace displays and the Tree of Remembrance. Refreshments will be served in the reception room and an antique and classic car display will be outdoors.

An outdoor band concert will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday at the Cross of Inspiration at Greenwood Memorial Terrace. Veteran's programs will be held on Memorial Day at Spokane Memorial Gardens at 10:00 a.m. and at Fairmount Memorial Park at 11:30 a.m. The events are free and open to the public.



Fairmount Collects Unserviceable Flags For Retirement

*B*oy Scouts and Fairmount Memorial Association collect American flags that have become unserviceable for Solemn Retirement in accordance with Section 8 of the United States Flag Code.

Simply drop off old and unserviceable American flags at the Spokane Boy Scout Council Office, 411 W. Boy Scout Way, or any one of the Fairmount Memorial Association Community Cemetery offices.

If the flag is to be retired in the name of a specific deceased veteran, please pin a note to the flag with the veteran's name and (if available) service rank and branch, to ensure proper designation. During Respect Our Flag Month this June, Fairmount offices and the Boy Scout Council Office will be giving out 3x5 foot all-weather replacement flags for a donation of \$25 or more to the Boy Scout Flag Fund.

For more information call (509) 747-4029 or e-mail veteranflags@fairmountmemorial.com.

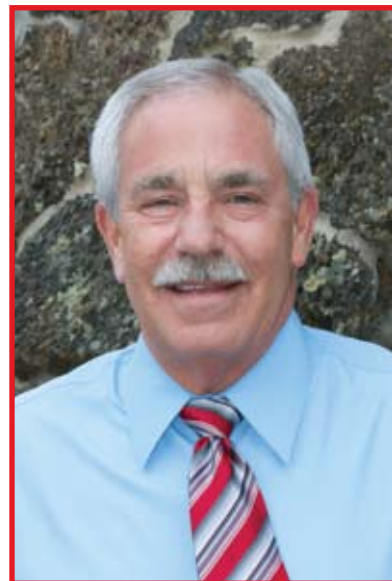


Employee Spotlight

*W*hen it comes to the funeral business, there aren't many people who have a pedigree like Stephen Luby.

The black and white pictures in Steve's office at Heritage Funeral Home offer a glimpse into five generations of experience in the funeral business. One picture shows his great-great-grandfather, great-grandfather and grandfather on the wraparound porch of the family's funeral home in Pittsford, New York. That was before the family came to Spokane and, in 1889, opened a funeral home near a train stop in Hillyard. The business was moved to Downtown Spokane next to the Elks and then to the current day location of the Federal Building before their new funeral home was built in 1911 on Riverside Avenue.

In addition to the funeral home, Steve's family owned farmland from Spokane to Ritzville and started the first casket company in the Northwest. Steve joined the family business in 1968 after graduating from Ferris High School and became a licensed funeral director and embalmer in 1971. Nine years later he began working as a Family Service Representative with Fairmount Memorial Association and helped individuals and families preplan cemetery arrangements.



When Heritage Funeral Home opened in 1995, Steve began helping families with funeral preplanning needs and arrangements. "I believe preplanning and organizing your cemetery and funeral plans together with your loved ones is the most thoughtful gift we can give our families and ourselves," Steve said.

Steve and his wife, Mary, have crypts reserved at Sunset Mausoleum, not far from the mausoleum his great-grandfather built, which houses the remains of 24 relatives.

Steve says that "preplanning" provides peace of mind, removes the emotion from the situation and lessens the financial burden on loved ones. "It's a proven fact that you will spend less money on yourself than your children will," he said.

Steve and Mary have two children and four grandchildren, all who live in Spokane.

In his spare time, he enjoys visiting the family's longtime lake home at Priest Lake's Luby Bay – named after the family in 1911.

For further information and advice on preplanning your funeral and cemetery needs, please call Steve at (509)838-8900 or his cell at (509)991-3402.

Veteran's Memorial Flag Program Draws National Attention

For the two weeks leading to Memorial Day this year, crews at Fairmount Memorial Association's five community cemeteries will be busy removing 3,286 5-foot-by-9 1/2-foot flags from carefully marked storage areas to display each on a 14-foot aluminum flag pole throughout the cemetery grounds. The work is meticulous, as well as time consuming, because each flag displayed is a specific flag donated by a deceased veteran's family, or a replacement for the original flag, and each flag has its own flag holder designated for that veteran's flag and no other.

"These flags entrusted to us are family heirlooms and memorials to the proud servicemen and women of the United States," said Grounds Superintendent Dave Ittner. "We take the flags' care and preservation quite seriously."



Title 38 of the United States Code, Section 2301, directs the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs to present the next of kin or a close friend or associate of all deceased honorably discharged, released or retired veterans of the United States with a "flag to drape the casket" of the veteran at his or her funeral. The law requires that the flags be "wholly produced in the United States" even down to the cotton that is grown for the flags' thread.



Funeral homes usually apply for a decedent's flag through a local Post Office and present it to the deceased veteran's family at the funeral, but individuals can also apply for the flag directly through the Postal Service – and even on behalf of veterans long deceased whose families did not apply for and receive it at the time of a veteran's death. Only one flag is given out for every deceased veteran.

Forty years ago, a husband and wife -- both veterans -- approached Fairmount Memorial Association with a logistical problem of how to memorialize a veteran loved one whose physical remains were buried far away or never recovered from a foreign battlefield. The couple, George and Bessie Brown, presented Fairmount with the funeral flag of Marine Pfc Claude Shoemaker who was killed in the Solomon Islands in World War II. Although Pfc Shoemaker's remains were eventually repatriated and reinterred in a cemetery in Springfield, Missouri, the Browns had re-located to Spokane and desired a local memorial for their loved one. Fairmount agreed to create a "Flag Memorial" to Pfc Shoemaker in a specific and permanent place in Fairmount Memorial Park, and Fairmount's Veterans Memorial Flag Program was born.

Since the receipt of Pfc Shoemaker's funeral flag on July 30, 1970, flags have been sent to Fairmount from all over the United States in honor of deceased veterans and Memorial Day at Fairmount's cemeteries has become one of the nation's most colorful memorials. "We are not aware of any other program like it in the county," said Fairmount President Duane Broyles. Unlike Arlington National Cemetery's flag program, Fairmount's flags are large and line the roads and pathways of its cemeteries by the hundreds.

All that is required for a flag donation (along with a 5 by 9 1/2 foot flag) is a \$35 endowment fee, which goes toward the periodic purchase of a new funeral size flag in a veteran's name when weathering requires its eventual replacement. If the original flag is no longer available, for an additional fee (\$75) Fairmount will purchase a replacement outdoor flag, and place it in the program permanently for the \$35 endowment fee.

Each flag is assigned a permanent spot in one of Fairmount's five community cemeteries that loved ones and friends can re-visit

cemeteries. “Often a Memorial Flag is placed by loved ones and friends living far away who have heard about the program or people whose deceased love one has no other memorial for their remembrance,” said Fairmount Flag Representative John Caskey.

The flags are displayed every Memorial Day holiday. For a \$350 additional fee, Fairmount will engrave an 8-by-16 inch granite ground marker for the foot of the veteran’s assigned flag base with relevant information as to the veteran’s name, birth, death and military service.

For more information on Fairmount’s Veterans Memorial Flag Program, call (509) 747-4029.



Walking With Ancestors Returns



*H*istory will once again come to life as *Walking With Ancestors* returns to Fairmount Memorial Park.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 27 and is sponsored by the Fairmount Memorial Association and the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society. *Walking With Ancestors* kicks off at 9 a.m. at the Rock Chapel with presentations by Shirley Penna-Oakes and Donna Potter Phillips of the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society, and Fairmount President Duane Broyles.

Guided tours of the cemetery begin at 9:30 a.m. with stops at historic gravesites where genealogical society volunteers in period costumes will portray the individuals buried there. Visitors will learn about the individuals’ accomplishments and contributions to Spokane’s history.

Tours will run approximately every 30 minutes throughout the day. Demonstrations throughout the day include: Beginning Genealogy, Photographing Tombstones, Grave Stone Rubbings, Stories in Stones and Properly Cleaning Headstones.

Displays include the Rock Chapel Flag Museum, Eastern Washington Genealogical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution and Washington Civil War Association.

The event is free to the public and a free lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. courtesy of Fairmount Memorial Association.

For information contact Shirley Penna-Oakes at firebugvw@gmail.com or (509) 276-1740.



Wreath's Across America



*F*airmount Memorial Association and the Spokane Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution joined Dec. 11 for Wreaths Across America. Participants in the event included the US Air Force, US Army National Guard, Marine Corps League, The Patriot Guard Riders, The Sons of the American Revolution, The Daughters of the American Revolution and Boy Scouts of America Pack 419.

The nonprofit Wreaths Across America organization sprang from the Arlington Wreath Project, which was started in 1992 by Morrill Worcester of Worcester Wreath. He donated and placed 5,000 wreaths in what would become a national tradition. Today more than 400 cemeteries participate in Wreaths Across America.



American Flag Memorial Dedication

Fairmount Memorial Association will dedicate a new memorial on Flag Day, June 14, for the ashes of American Flags that have honorably flown over the cities and towns of Eastern Washington. The American Flag Memorial is located in the shadow of the 85-foot high Cross of Inspiration at Greenwood Memorial Terrace. The permanent memorial will be used for the disposal of ashes from flags retired in one of the quarterly Solemn Flag Retirement Ceremonies sponsored by Fairmount Memorial Association and the Boy Scouts of America.

Fairmount Memorial Association has made flag decorum and respect one of its most important missions since the institution of its Veterans Memorial Flag Program in 1970. The Downtown Exchange Club has twice recognized Fairmount Memorial Association with the *So Proudly We Hail Award* for excellence in the display and protocol of American flags.

The United States Flag Code directs that American flags soiled or weathered beyond repair “should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.” When original veterans’ flags weather to the point of being “unserviceable” under the law, the flags are replaced by Fairmount Memorial Association through an endowment and flag fund established as part of the Veterans Memorial Flag Program. Each year, more than 100 flags in the Veterans Memorial Flag Program are replaced.

Fairmount used to donate the old flags to various patriotic organizations for retirement, but concerns were raised about the inconsistent handling of the flags. Fairmount Memorial Association decided to join forces with the Sons of the American Revolution to sponsor Solemn Flag Retirement Ceremonies at the community cemeteries. The ceremonies provide an opportunity to train Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the proper methods of flag care, decorum, and retirement at the end of its serviceable life. Patriotic and veterans groups from all over Eastern Washington participate in the process of burning flags to the sound of Taps that frequently brings participants and visitors to tears.

Today, old flags no longer serviceable from all over Eastern Washington and some governmental installations are dropped off at one of the four Fairmount cemetery offices in Spokane for retirement in one of Fairmount’s ceremonies. “Even the Boy Scouts of America now bring their flags to us,” said Grounds Superintendent Dave Ittner.

Following Solemn Flag Retirement Ceremonies held at the top terrace of Greenwood Memorial Terrace in 2010, Fairmount President Duane Broyles directed that the American Flag Memorial be established in front of the Cross of Inspiration overlooking the city of Spokane and historic Spokane Falls. A permanent vault was installed in the ground to house American flag ashes after retired flags have been burned. Eventually, a monument to the American flag will be placed at the head of the vault.

The American Flag Memorial is at the highest point of Greenwood Memorial Terrace. “These flags honorably flew in watch over our country when they were displayed.” Dave Ittner said. “It is fitting that their ashes permanently rest in an honored high place still watching over us.”

For more information on Fairmount Memorial Association’s Veterans Memorial Flag Program or the American Flag Memorial, or to donate flags or money to Fairmount’s Endowment and Flag Fund, call (509) 747-4029 or contact Fairmount’s Historical Preservation Officer at veteranflags@fairmountmemorial.com.



Upcoming and Ongoing Events

Heritage Family Album Classes, - Ongoing

Fairmount Memorial Association invites you to create a family album at the free Heritage Family Album scrapbooking classes offered monthly at the Sunset Chapel at Fairmount Memorial Park.

A Family Heritage Album and Creative Memories scrapbooking supplies will be provided free, compliments of Fairmount Memorial Association. Learn the valuable tradition of creating albums to capture your family's heritage.

Scrapbooking information, instructional ideas and personal assistance are available. Fresh coffee, juice and pastries will be served. You only need to bring 10 to 12 family pictures to get started on your album. Classes are 9 a.m. to noon the first Wednesday of each month. Class dates for 2011 are: June 1, July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7. Please RSVP to Fairmount Memorial Association by calling (509) 747-4029



For more information on events visit www.fairmountmemorial.com

Endowment Care

Endowment care is what keeps Fairmount Memorial Association's cemeteries looking beautiful and green.

The board is responsible for what President Duane Broyles describes as a "constant balancing act." "We are committed to remaining here for eternity," Broyles said. "Therefore we have to preserve and grow the principal of the funds while earning a reasonable enough return to maintain the property."

In the past – and even today – some prefer to be buried where the grass, and even weeds, grow tall. Greenwood Memorial Terrace and Riverside Memorial Park both have areas that are non-endowed.



At the time the non-endowed areas were created, it seemed like a good idea. Families took responsibility for tending loved ones' graves. How-

ever, those relatives either died or moved elsewhere, the lack of upkeep began to show. "It can start looking shabby," Broyles said.

Signs are posted on the properties that say non-endowed. "We still make burials in them," Broyles said. "We have some people who prefer to be in a wild, uncared for area."



Dump Hunger

Fairmount Memorial Association employees recently collected 415 pounds of food and \$2,918 to benefit the "Dump Hunger" food drive campaign.

Fairmount Memorial Park's crew led the way collecting \$338 plus 344 pounds of food (equivalent to 2,034 pounds of food). Greenwood Memorial Terrace wasn't far behind with \$380 and 71 pounds of food collected (equivalent to 1,971 pounds of food).

"Dump Hunger" is a six-week, post-holiday food drive sponsored by Western States Equipment. The timing of the food drive corresponds with the months of the year when food banks are in most need of donations. Fairmount Memorial Association's contributions, along with contributions from other individuals and businesses, totaled 528,319 pounds of food – enough to fill seven dump trucks.





Fairmount Memorial Park
509-326-3800



Greenwood Memorial Terrace
509-838-1405



Riverside Memorial Park
509-838-1405



Spokane Memorial Gardens
509-448-2620



Woodlawn Cemetery
509-326-3800

www.fairmountmemorial.com