

# THE PCA TODAY

## The Pioneers' Cemetery Association Inc.

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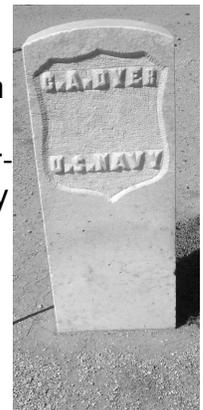


### CZAR JAMES DYER

An Arizona Pioneer

By Rose' Sullivan

Although he was an authentic Arizona pioneer, the gentleman with the extraordinary first name---Czar---was born in the state of Michigan. What we know from historical records is that C. J. Dyer was born February 2, 1846 in Jackson, Michigan. He was second of the five children of James A. Dyer and Eliza J. Brownell. At age 18, he enlisted in the United States Navy during the American Civil War. C. J. Dyer never married, and did not father any children.



He served in the United States Navy as a "Powder Monkey" aboard the **U.S.S. Mattabassett** during the Civil War from August 20, 1864 to July 28, 1865. Upon discharge, he received a small pension because of some injury to his eyes. The 1880 census shows that C. J. Dyer lived with Frank and Nellie Jones in Oakland, Alameda County, California. His age was 31, and gave his occupation as an artist. C. J. Dyer came to Phoenix, Arizona Territory in the early 1880's. The exact date is not known. His Phoenix addresses, 27 East Van Buren Street is the only one on record. It was there that C. J. Dyer resided when he died on March 28, 1903 at age 52.

C. J. Dyer arrived in Phoenix when the city was in a period of rapid growth and development. A personable fellow, "C. J." as he was popularly known, made acquaintance with many key individuals in town, thus immediately involving himself in local commerce and government affairs. An artist, specifically a cartographer by profession, Dyer was appointed

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#### Our Mission

The mission of the Pioneers' Cemetery Association is to research, preserve, and protect the history and physical remains of Arizona pioneers buried in historic cemeteries throughout the state. We accomplish our mission through individual volunteerism and the support of other organizations who share our interest in the preservation of historical resources.

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official mapmaker for the growing city. In 1886, Fire Engine Company #1 was organized in Phoenix and C. J. Dyer was made an honorary fireman. C. J. Dyer was a two-term city council member in the Second Ward during the mid- 1880s, and an interim mayor for three and a half months in 1889. Notwithstanding his prominence in Phoenix politics of the time, and his participation in business and industry, no photograph, sketch, or any likeness of him is known to exist. There are pictures of every mayor of Phoenix, *except* Mayor #18---C. J. Dyer. Historians and genealogists alike hope that some descendant, some near relative of this man, or a descendant of one of his many friends will come forth with a photograph, or artist's sketch of him.

C. J. Dyer is buried in Rosedale Cemetery in the ***Pioneer and Military Memorial Park*** cemeteries located at the southeast corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jefferson Street in Phoenix, Arizona. The grave marker is a standard military marble stone. The marble quarried in Massachusetts is sculpted in relief, but marked incorrectly, with an 'A' for his middle initial instead of inscribed with a 'J' for 'James.'

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9, 2008

Monthly maintenance meeting for City-owned cemeteries. When and where: 8 AM at Smurthwaite House at 1317 West Jefferson.

October 12, 2008

Monthly meeting of the Pioneers' Cemetery Association. When and where: 2 PM at Smurthwaite House at 1317 West Jefferson. Prospective members are cordially invited to attend.

October 29, 2008

Last day to register for the tour of Holy Hope Cemetery, Tucson, on November 1st. The charge is \$10 without lunch, and \$15 with lunch. For a printable registration form, see the ASGS website at <http://www.azsgs.org/events.htm>

November 1, 2008

Tour of Holy Hope Cemetery, Tucson, sponsored by the Arizona State Genealogical Society. Re-enactors in period dress will portray eight of Tucson's notable residents from the past. When and where: south entrance of Holy Hope Cemetery, 3555 North Oracle Road, Tucson. Check in at 10 AM and 11 AM for tours beginning 10:30 AM and 12:30 AM after lunch. For more information, see ASGS website at <http://www.azsgs.org/events.htm>

November 6, 2008

Dr. Reba Wells Granddrud will be the presenter at the "Arizona Women's Hall of Fame" at the Carnegie Center.

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November 9, 2008

Annual meeting of the Pioneers' Cemetery Association, with election of officers. When and where: 2 PM at Smurthwaite House at 1317 West Jefferson.

November 13, 2008

Monthly maintenance meeting for City-owned cemeteries. When and where: 8 AM at Smurthwaite House at 1317 West Jefferson.

November 15, 2008

Open House at Cementerio Lindo, co-sponsored by the Phoenix Parks Department and the Pioneers' Cemetery Association. There will be information booths and refreshments served. Please help us identify people buried in this historic cemetery. When and where: 9 AM to noon at Cementerio Lindo, 15th Avenue and Durango in Phoenix.

December 11, 2008

Monthly maintenance meeting for City of Phoenix-owned cemeteries. When and where: 8 AM at Smurthwaite House at 1317 West Jefferson.

December 14, 2008

PCA Appreciation Day. When and where: Noon at the Smurthwaite House. The Pioneers' Cemetery Association would like to show it's appreciation for all our members and volunteers who have helped and supported us this year. Food and drinks provided.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

- \* Research Cementerio Lindo records
- \* Adopt a Pioneer
- \* Newsletter help
- \* Researchers
- \* Open House and Special Events
- \* Inventory of Arizona Historic Cemeteries (IAHC)

Contact us at 602 534-1262 or e-mail [pioneercem@yahoo.com](mailto:pioneercem@yahoo.com) for more information on these opportunities.



## THANK YOU!

Cathy, Diane, Ellen, Marge, Reba, and Teri:

One year ago this week I drove to the Smurthwaite House, met a couple of you ladies, liked what I saw and heard, and joined PCA. Since then you have taught me and let me help you, corrected me (repeatedly), interrupted me as well as let me interrupt you (more than once), slapped my hands, been patient with me, listened to me, etc., and, importantly, have gently guided me into an area of historic research that has really become nearly an uncontrollable passion.

I thank each and every one of you for the flavor and aroma that, as individuals and dedicated volunteers, you bring to the PCA table. Needless to say, I greatly appreciate your encouragement, faithfulness, and especially your friendship. You make all of the long hours, hard work and sacrifice not only worth while, but a true pleasure.

But this has only been my first year, and there's much more exciting work to be done. I look forward to working with all of you during this next year and can't even imagine all that can be accomplished working together.

Stay happy, keep focused, and remember to do what Maxine does when she's troubled or irritated: Eat Chocolate!

*Editors note:*

*The writer of this note wants to remain anonymous but we want him to know how much we appreciate his friendship and box of See's Chocolates.*

## CEMENTERIO LINDO OPEN HOUSE

Between 1890 and 1951, more than five thousand early Phoenix residents were buried in the first Maricopa County Cemetery (also known as the Salt River Cemetery) now located at South 15th Avenue and Durango, just north of the I -17 freeway. They were tuberculosis patients, indigents, children and "just plain folks".

The cemetery was closed to new burials in 1951. Around 1961, Maricopa County deeded the property to the City of Phoenix and it was renamed Cementerio Lindo. During the 1970s, workers employed under the City's LEAP program beautified the cemetery with shrubs and trees. Between 1990 and 1992, annual remembrance ceremonies complete with Maruichi bands were held there. Nevertheless, the dead have not been forgotten. Bouquets of flowers continue to appear year after year on the graves that were still identifiable.

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To combat the neglect and vandalism of the remaining headstones, the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is working with Pioneers' Cemetery Association (PCA) to improve conditions at Cementerio Lindo. As with any project of this nature, public support--your support--is needed.

November 15, 2008 is the date for the open house at the Cementerio Lindo. The City of Phoenix is planning the event with support from the PCA and the Phoenix Revitalization Project. PCA President Frank Barrios encouraged all PCA members to attend. The PCA will gather information from attendees about the cemetery, burials, and the history of the surrounding neighborhood.

PCA now has a copy of the archaeology study done at Cementerio Lindo. This list of burials included only a sampling of years from the death records. In order to compile a comprehensive list of burials, PCA will need to conduct an orderly search and abstraction of the death records. Please contact Diane at [pioneercem@yahoo.com](mailto:pioneercem@yahoo.com) if you are able to assist in this project. (This can be done at home, online and is easier with a high-speed connection.)

## MEETING NOTES

### **Ongoing Projects**

P&MMP National Register plaque will be mounted on a large rock that is in place near the Avenue of Flags.

PCA members attended the September 11, 2008 Tax Initiative Meeting and President Frank Barrios spoke to encourage continued support for landscaping and maintenance at PMMP and Cementerio Lindo.

Inventory of Arizona Historic Cemeteries (IAHC) Update –Diane Sumrall reported that a small group of people working on the IAHC Legacy project will meet to discuss how (or whether) to include the Native American cemeteries in the project. Reba Grandrud believes that a letter needs to be sent to the tribal authorities allowing them to decide if they wish to be included. Another task force meeting/ seminar is being planned at the Carnegie Center on November 21 for further training and problem solving in the process of collecting data for the inventory.

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## **New Business**

Nomination/ Elections - Frank Barrios, Dede Branning, Donna Carr, Ellen Edwards, Adam Falk and Linda Lamm have agreed to serve on the Board next year. The office of Secretary/ Treasurer has not been filled.

Plaque for Algona Winslow- Marge West and Tammy Parker are formulating the wording for a bronze plaque for Algona Winslow and will consult with Algona's daughter before presenting their draft. Algona and her husband, Philip, were charter members of the PCA. Algona served on the Board of Directors until 2001. She was responsible for the transcription the mortuary, church, and county records that were used in compiling the P&MMP burial list.

## **Individual Reports**

Website Updates- Donna Carr has been updating the website. She presented a graph of the website traffic. There are over 400 visits to the website monthly with peaks of over 700 visits in April, May and June. She is currently working on an events page.

A PCA Appreciation Day is being planned for December 14<sup>th</sup>. Dean Isaac suggested that PCA provide food and invite the City staff and others who assist the PCA .

Planning is in progress for a cemetery workday in December at P&MMP for general cleanup and cactus pruning. Jason Johnson, from the City, will schedule a day prior to the workday to instruct PCA members in proper care when pruning.

Debe Branning announced that the MVD Ghostchasers have agreed to offer two cemetery walks in the P&MMP - one in March and another in October of 2009. Re-enactors in period dress will portray people buried in the P&MMP cemeteries. It was suggested that a small fee (\$5) could be charged as fundraising.



## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members:

Old Paths Cemetery, Melva Burgmann

Deborah and Bill Williams

John Rogers

Rosé Sullivan

Ron Rayner, A Tumbling T Ranches

## PROJECTS

### **P&MMP Grave Marker Survey**

Of the nearly four thousand graves in the seven cemeteries that comprise the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park, only about six hundred still have markers. Time, vandalism and the unforgiving desert climate have taken their toll. Many of the remaining headstones will also be lost unless funds can be found to preserve them. The first step to securing such funding is to document each monument's current condition by measuring, photographing and recording the inscriptions and artwork on it.

### **Cementerio Lindo Burial List**

The PCA has undertaken to reconstruct the list of persons buried in the old County Cemetery. While the total number of graves is unknown due to a fire in 1951 that burned most, if not all, of the County burial records, it is thought that there may have been over five thousand burials at this location. Although the original records have been lost, death certificates for the vast majority of people interred here are available online. These records are searchable by name, year and county but --unfortunately--not by cemetery. Volunteers are needed to help search the online database, something which can be done on your own computer from the comfort of your own home.

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## **Inventory of Arizona's Historic Cemeteries**

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is committed to preserving Arizona's historic past for future generations of Arizonans...and old cemeteries are a part of that past.

The Inventory of Arizona's Historic Cemeteries (IAHC) is the Pioneers' Cemetery Association's Legacy project for the Arizona state centennial in 2012. It was conceived to record the location and condition of forgotten graves and graveyards associated with Arizona's ghost towns, missions, homesteads, ranches, mining camps, dams, disaster sites and state and federal forest lands. Many such lonely graves are in danger of being inadvertently destroyed by off-roading vandalism, landfills, road construction and future housing developments.

To help with these projects call the PCA at 602 534-1262 or e-mail [pioneercem@yahoo.com](mailto:pioneercem@yahoo.com)

## PCA Board of Directors

Frank Barrios, President  
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The PCA Today

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Membership Categories: Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization or Sustaining \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check payable to: Pioneers' Cemetery Assoc., Inc.  
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Phoenix, AZ 85082-3342

Memberships are for one year and are dated from the month of initial application. Membership dues are deductible to the extent allowed by law. PCA is a 501 c (3) non-profit organization.