

Jacksonville

C E M E T E R Y

The Jacksonville Cemetery, a quiet wooded place where deer roam, is the final resting place of over 4,000 citizens of the Rogue Valley and continues to serve Jacksonville today. The headstones of pioneer families from the 1850s, prominent merchants and lesser-known laborers, and victims of Indian attacks, foreign wars, epidemics, and mining and farming accidents all have stories to tell.

J.N.T. Miller, an early landowner, deeded the land for the Jacksonville Cemetery to the city in 1859. The cemetery was officially dedicated in 1860.

There are several sections organized around religious or fraternal affiliations such as the Roman Catholic and Jewish sections and the Masonic Order, International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), Redmen (largely German-speaking immigrants), and City of Jacksonville. In 1996, a marker honoring the 133 people buried in the "potter's field" section was erected. This section, located on the north side of the main cemetery, includes African Americans, whites, American Indians, Hawaiians, possibly Chinese, and others. A Chinese mortician removed remains of several Chinese graves in the 1920s as custom requires that they be buried in their homeland.

Elaborate marble and granite headstones decorate many family



plots. Marble was quarried in Italy and Vermont while granite came from nearby Williams in Josephine County or a quarry southwest of Ashland. In Ashland in 1865 James and Ann Russell opened the first monument works in Oregon south of Portland. J.C. Whipp opened his Marble Works in Jacksonville in 1883. Ornamental wrought iron fences, stone curbing, and engraved entry stones mark other family plots.

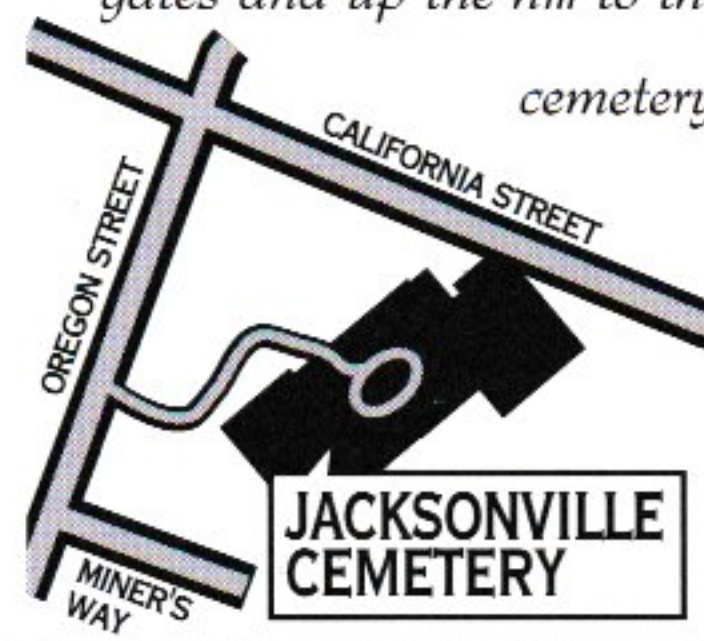
The granite and marble monuments speak to us about life and death in early Jacksonville. Death by causes once common, but now nearly unknown are described: epidemics such as measles, diphtheria, smallpox; lead poisoning; and "Indian War."

Many of the names of pioneers buried here are familiar today as the names

of streets and communities. Others will be recognized as names on historic homes or businesses. Still others leave a legacy of artistic accomplishment.

DIRECTIONS:

From Medford follow Highway 238 to Jacksonville where the highway turns into 5th Street. Continue to "E" Street and turn right. Follow "E" Street across Oregon Street, through the cemetery gates and up the hill to the cemetery.



Enjoy walking through the Jacksonville Cemetery, but please remain well away from fragile and/or leaning tombstones. Years of shifting ground and growth of tree roots have left some monuments unstable. Vandalism has also resulted in considerable damage. Be alert for poison oak. Begin your tour at the building nearest the drinking fountain. The tour as described in this brochure will take approximately

one hour, but many hours could be spent strolling through and studying the rows of monuments. Monthly work parties are held to maintain the grounds.

For more information call:

WAYNE MAXSON, SEXTON
CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
541-899-1807

SEXTON'S TOOLHOUSE

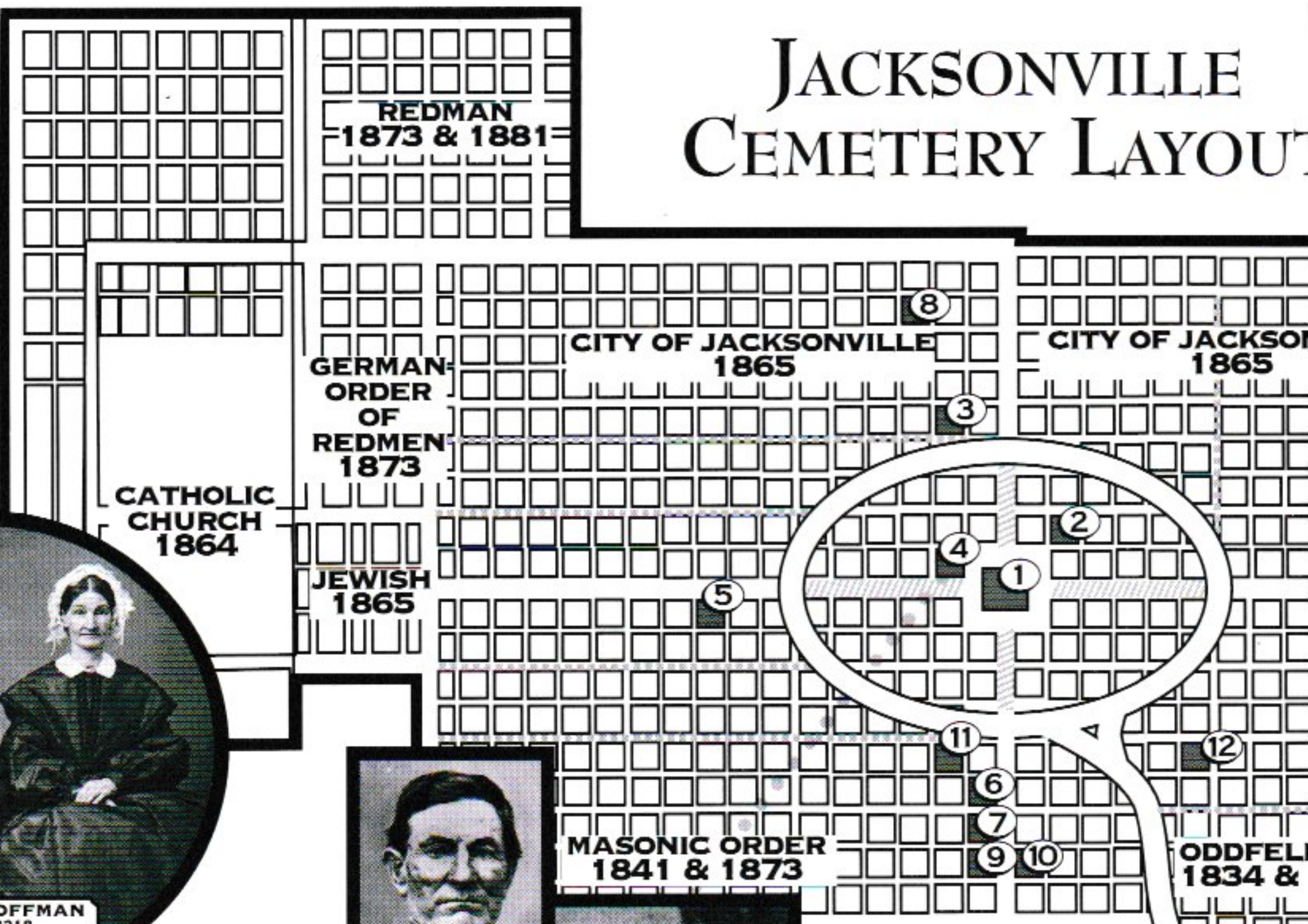
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The sexton, the person who maintains the cemetery grounds, stores tools in this shed. In earlier times, the building also served as a mortuary—bodies were kept in a ground vault until they could be buried. The shed was built in about 1878 by brick mason George Holt and carpenter John Hockenjos.

WILLIAM "SQUIRE" HOFFMAN (1801-1885)



William, wife Caroline, and six daughters came to the Rogue Valley in the 1850s via the Oregon and Applegate trails as members of a wagon company that included several preachers. The daughters all married prominent Jacksonville citizens, including banker Cornelius C. Beekman, carpenter David Linn, and stonemason J.C. Whipp. Carrie Whipp, J.C.'s daughter, is buried in her grandparents'—the Hoffmans—plot. Her grave is marked by a French-style marker shaped like a cradle. This type was often used on the grave of a small child and planted with flowers. Reverend Moses Williams, the Hoffman's minister and friend, is also buried in the family plot. He was the first Presbyterian minister in Southern Oregon, and preached to congregations in Ashland, Gasburg (Phoenix), and Jacksonville.



WILLIAM GREEN T'VAULT (1806-1869)



William T'Vault edited Jacksonville's first newspaper, the *Table Rock Sentinel* (later the *Oregon Sentinel*) and had mining operations near Gold Hill. He was an early politician in Oregon, holding several important offices. He died in a smallpox epidemic in 1869. T'Vault's wife, Rhoda Boone Burns, was related to Daniel Boone.



DAVID LINN (1826-1912)

Linn was an early carpenter in Jacksonville. He owned a lumber mill and woodworking business. He made furniture, mining equipment, coffins, and even baseball bats! He also built the Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville in 1881. Linn married one of William and Caroline Hoffman's six daughters, Anna Sophia, and together they had seven children. Anna Sophia and two of her sons died as a result of contracting tuberculosis from the milk of a diseased cow.

CEMETERY ROAD

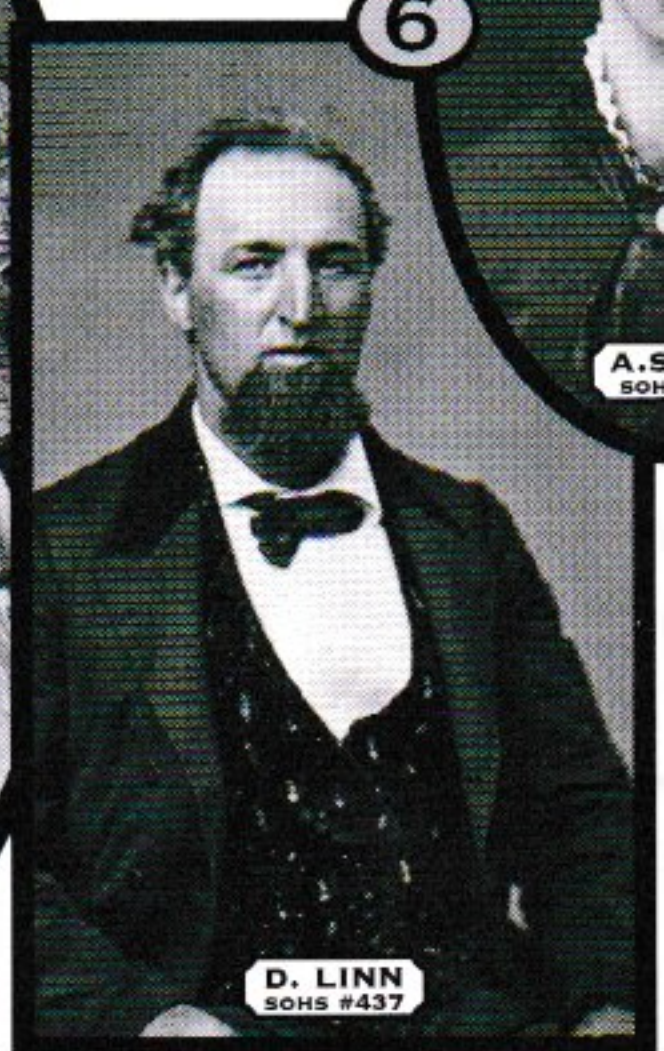
PETER BRITT (1819-1905)



In 1852 Peter Britt and three other Swiss travelers crossed the plains on the Oregon Trail. Britt stopped first in Portland, but soon came to Jacksonville to search for gold. Unsuccessful in mining, he opened a photographic studio. He was the first person to photograph Crater Lake. He also took thousands of pictures of early Southern Oregon people and places. His other interests included meteorology, horticulture, and real estate. Britt's wife Amalia, stepson Jacob Grob, and children Amalia, Arnold, and Emil all are buried in this plot.

REGINA DORLAND ROBINSON (1892-1917)

Daughter of Dr. James and Matilda (Tillie) Robinson, Dorland was born shortly after her sister Leah and brother Willie died of diphtheria in 1890. The stone angel in the Robinson plot was one of Leah and Willie's favorites when they passed Whipp's Marble Works on walks with their father. Dr. Robinson purchased it for their graves. Dorland demonstrated an artistic talent for painting and was a very promising young artist. After a short-lived, unsuccessful marriage, she committed suicide in 1917.



8 MARGARET LOVE (1786-1859)

Margaret was the first person buried in the Jacksonville Cemetery. Because her son John was a prominent businessman, the city allowed her burial even though the cemetery was not officially open. Her marker was shipped around Cape Horn from Italy. Mrs. Love and her son traveled over the Oregon Trail in the same year as the Hoffmans. John married the daughter of Mary Ann Harris Chambers.

JOHN BILGER (1831-1877)

John Bilger was a successful Jacksonville tinsmith. When the Bilger monument was erected, it cost \$1,200. A similar marker today would cost about \$25,000. John and Amanda Scheck Bilger's home still stands on Jacksonville's Blackstone Alley.

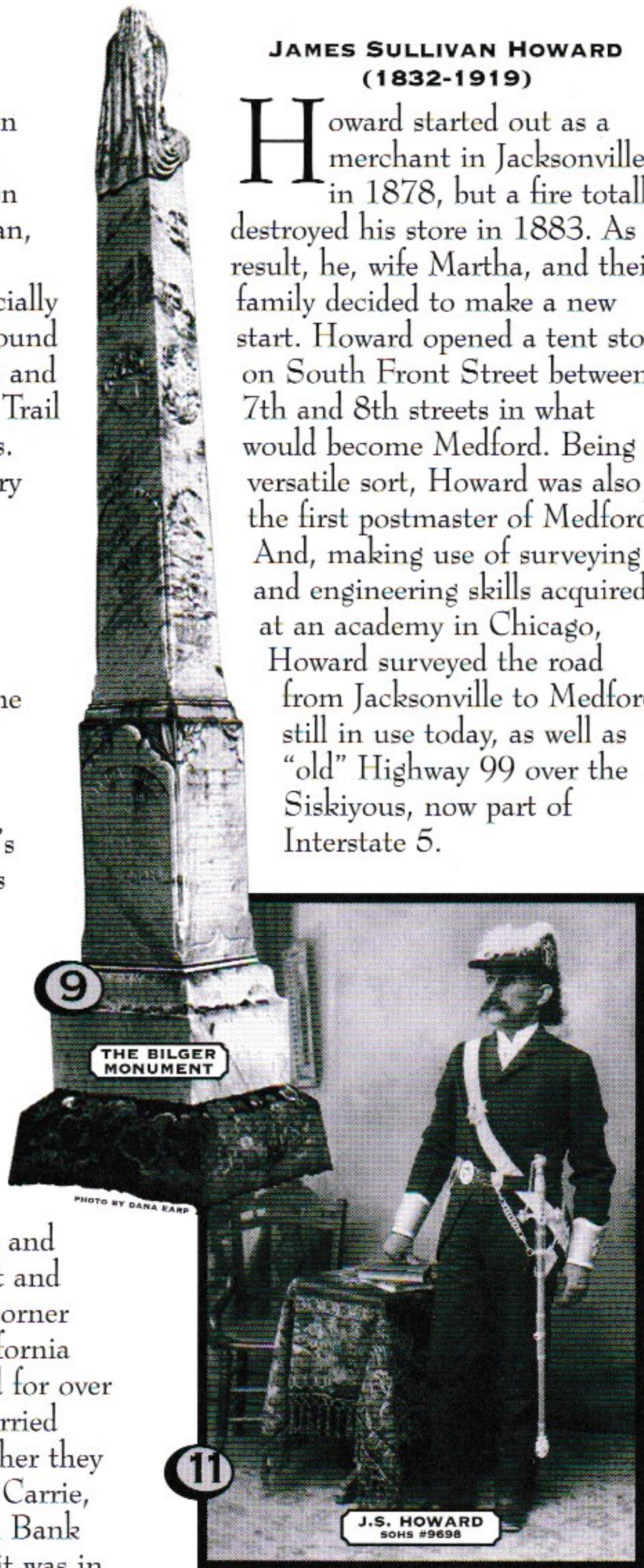
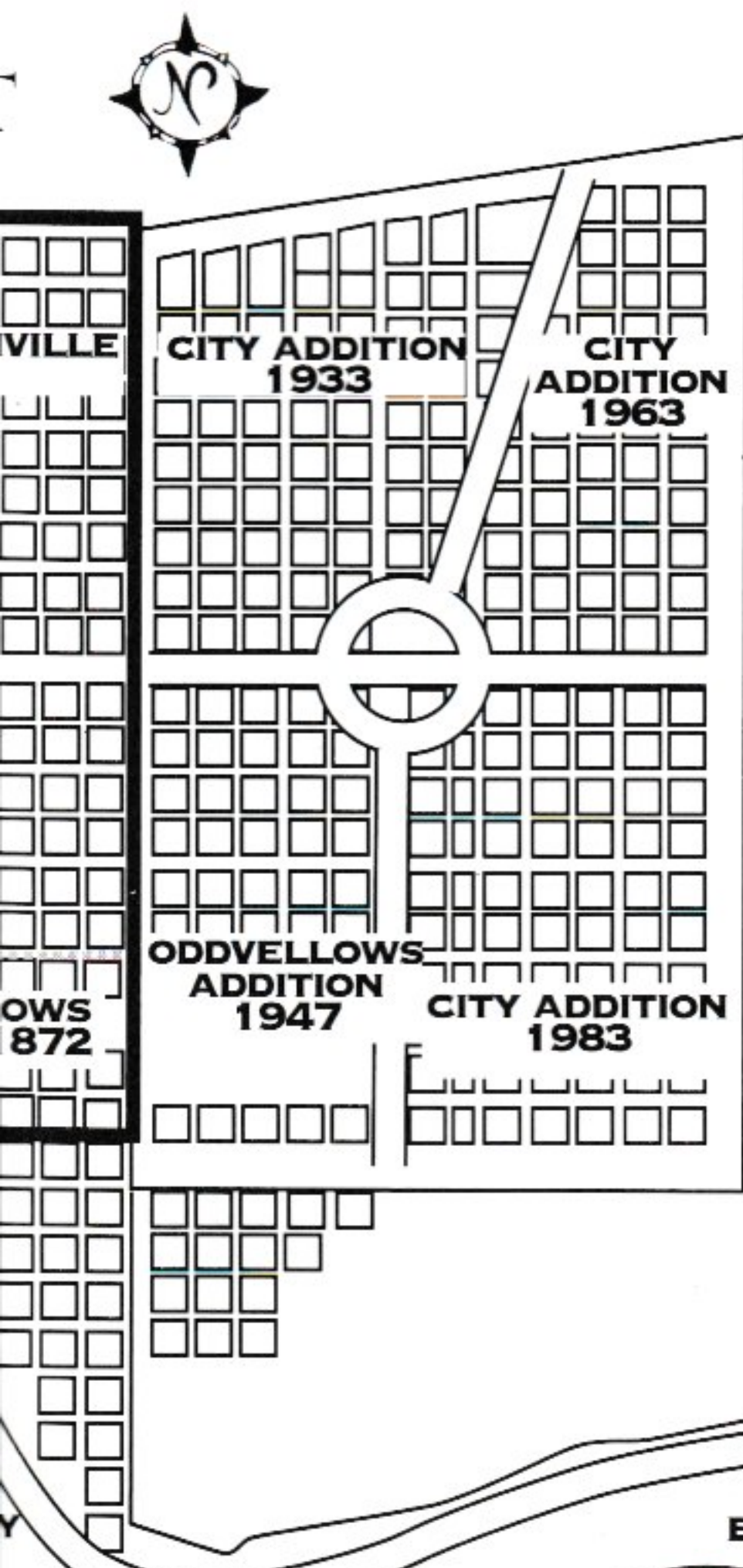
CORNELIUS C. BEEKMAN (1828-1915)

Cornelius Beekman came West across the Isthmus of Panama to seek his fortune. He mined for gold in Yreka, came to Jacksonville and worked as an express agent and then built a bank at the corner of North Third and California streets which he operated for over fifty years. Cornelius married Julia Hoffman and together they had three children, Ben, Carrie, and Lydia. The Beekman Bank is available for viewing as it was in 1915 when Beekman died. The

C.C. Beekman home, located at the corner of California and Laurelwood streets in Jacksonville, may be seen as part of the Southern Oregon Historical Society's living history program, open Memorial Day through Labor Day, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. daily.

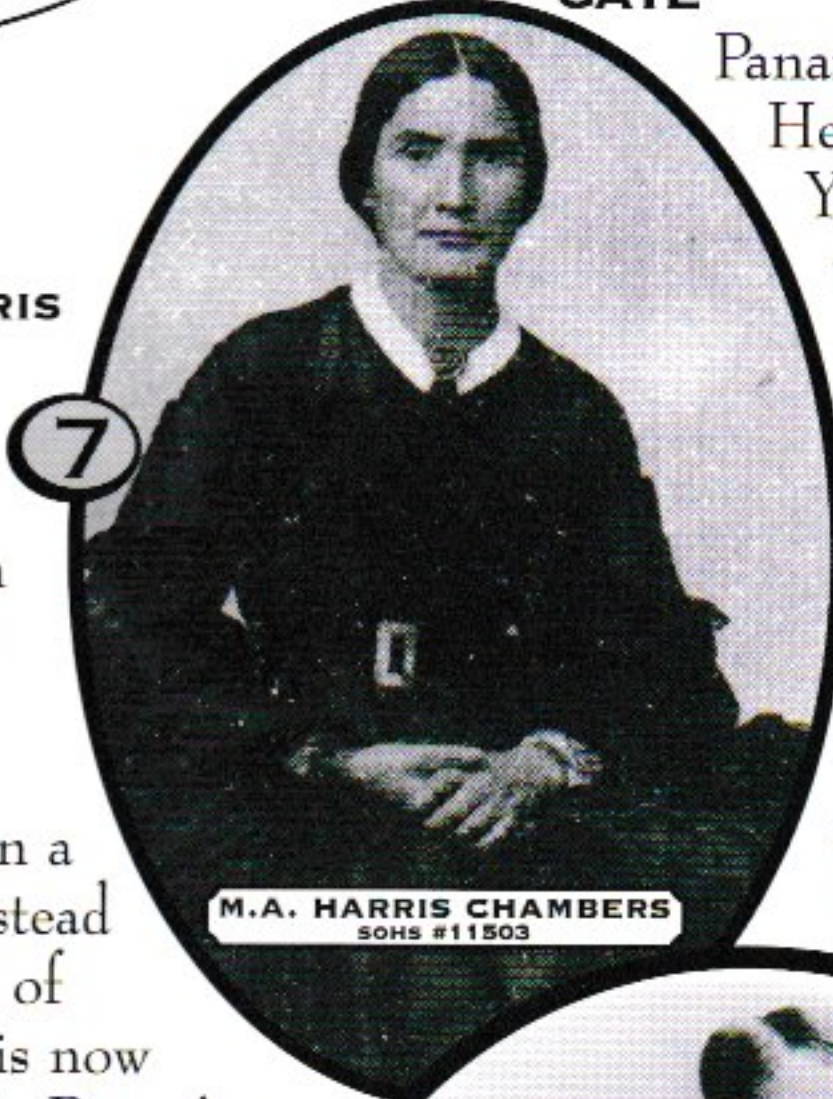
JAMES SULLIVAN HOWARD (1832-1919)

Howard started out as a merchant in Jacksonville in 1878, but a fire totally destroyed his store in 1883. As a result, he, wife Martha, and their family decided to make a new start. Howard opened a tent store on South Front Street between 7th and 8th streets in what would become Medford. Being a versatile sort, Howard was also the first postmaster of Medford. And, making use of surveying and engineering skills acquired at an academy in Chicago, Howard surveyed the road from Jacksonville to Medford, still in use today, as well as "old" Highway 99 over the Siskiyou, now part of Interstate 5.



MARY ANN HARRIS CHAMBERS (1821-1882)

Mary Ann and George Harris lived on a homestead north of what is now Grants Pass. An attack by Indians on October 9, 1855, left Mr. Harris dead, a daughter wounded, and a son missing. Mrs. Chambers held off the attack from inside their cabin until rescued. She later married Aaron Chambers, but according to custom, she was buried with her first husband.



Jacob sold his estate and slaves in Virginia to escape the Civil War, and he and wife J. Ellen Ish moved to Jacksonville. The Ish family purchased a large ranch—over 5,000 acres including the site of the present Rogue Valley International Airport—just a few miles from Jacksonville. Jacob Ish became well-known as a livestock producer and supplied provisions to the troops stationed at Fort Klamath. The elaborate headstones, an engraved entry stone, and wrought iron fencing make this plot one of the most impressive in the cemetery.

JACOB ISH (1823-1881)

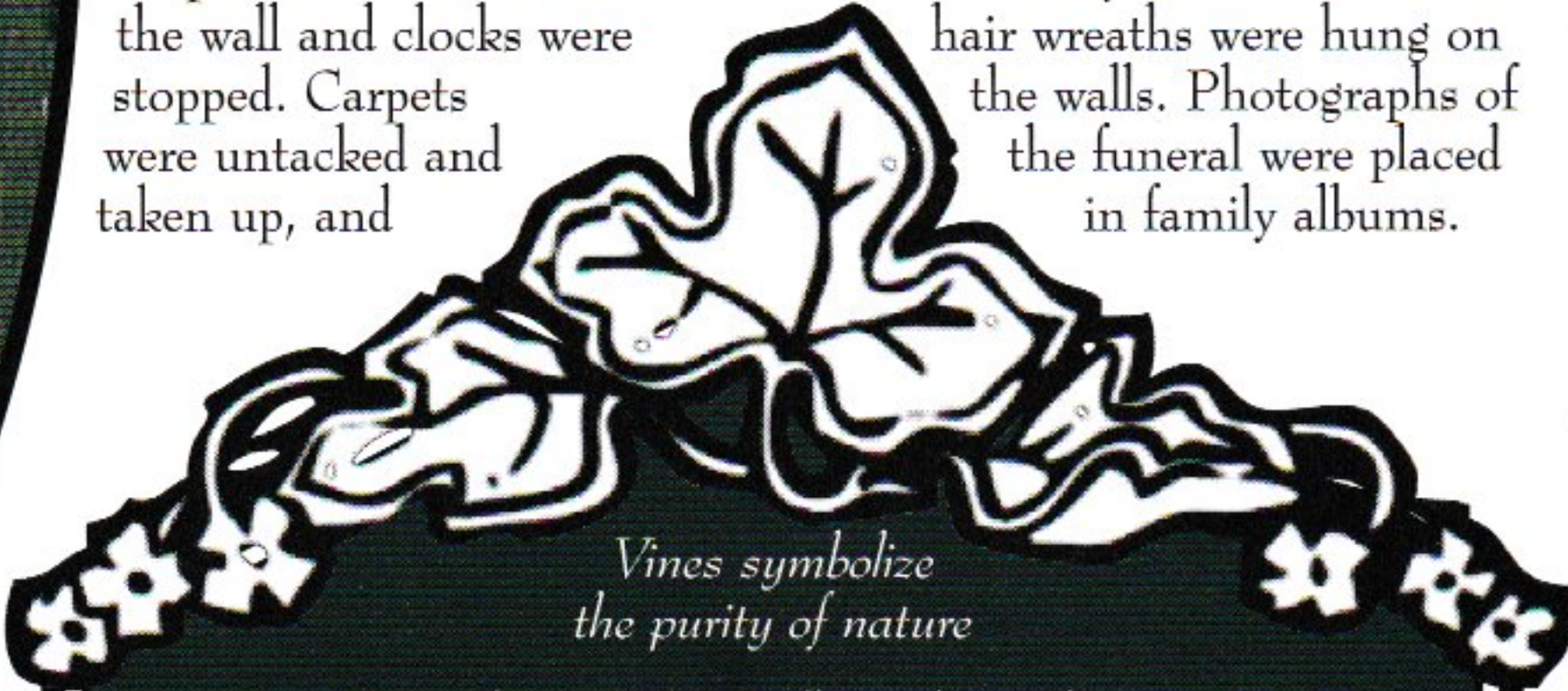
VICTORIAN MOURNING RITUALS



SOHS #2349

Our Victorian era ancestors mourned by outwardly expressing their grief and following formal ways of mourning. Because it was common for people of this time to die at home, the family was closely involved in the funeral arrangements. Upon the death of a loved one, blinds were drawn, shutters closed, and drapes pulled. Black crepe fabric, the symbol of a house in mourning, was hung on the door. Inside, mirrors were draped or turned toward the wall and clocks were stopped. Carpets were untacked and taken up, and

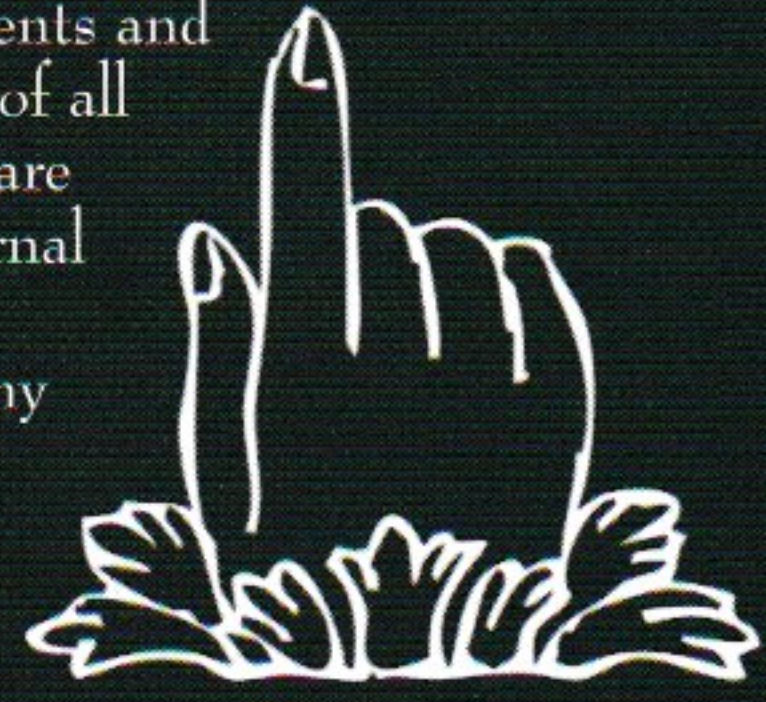
the bedding was taken out and washed. The deceased was dressed in his or her Sunday best and placed in the casket. Between the death and the funeral, the casket rested in the parlor. A black-edged death notice was sent to family and close friends as a formal invitation to the funeral. An obituary or a death notice was printed in the local newspaper and included details about both the life and the death of the deceased. Mourners accompanied the coffin to the cemetery in a funeral procession. After the funeral, mirrors were uncovered and clocks started. Items to commemorate the deceased became a part of the home's decoration. Memorial cards were set into showy frames. Elaborate hair wreaths were hung on the walls. Photographs of the funeral were placed in family albums.



Vines symbolize the purity of nature

CEMETERY SYMBOLISM

19th century monuments and headstones are full of all kinds of symbolism. Some are symbols of lodges and fraternal organizations such as the Oddfellows (I.O.O.F.). Many of the messages are easy to decipher, but some carved figures may have had meanings in the past that are unclear to us in the present. These different designs represented nineteenth century people's feelings about death. Some people like to collect their favorite symbols by taking photographs of headstones. This causes less wear and tear on the stones than rubbings.



hand pointing upward toward heaven



I.O.O.F. lodge symbol

CEMETERY SEARCH

As you walk through the cemetery, find

- one of the symbols on this page.
- someone born in another country.
- a veteran's grave. In what war did s/he fight?
- someone who died before the age of five.
- the oldest date.
- a broken stone. Was this damage caused by nature or by a human?

