



Greenwood Hills
CEMETERY

Portland, Oregon
Estab. 1882

November 2013

9002 SW Boones Ferry Road • Portland, OR 97219

Open 8:00am to Sunset



Did you know that Greenwood Hills Cemetery has its own Facebook page?

Visit us for some interactive fun. Share stories, post comments, and don't forget to Like us! Search for us using our name: *Greenwood Hills Cemetery*. We're happy to post pictures for you.

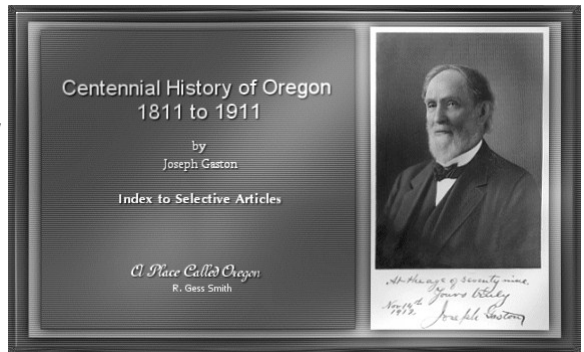
Joseph P. Gaston Historian, Journalist & Railroad Builder

Tucked away in Section 2 of Greenwood Hills Cemetery is the grave site of one of Oregon's most prominent historians, journalists, and railroad builders—Joseph P. Gaston. Joseph Gaston was born in Ohio in 1833 and was reared in the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Jean Fowler. Obtaining whatever education he could in a country log schoolhouse during three month winter sessions, the remainder of his year was devoted to farming. When Gaston turned sixteen, he taught at the country school and also worked in the saw mills.

For five years before coming to Oregon in 1862, Gaston studied law in St. Clairsville, Ohio. During that time, Gaston married Narcissa Dodridge Jones. He then moved to Jacksonville where he opened a law practice and was editor of the *Jacksonville Sentinel*. This all changed in 1864 when he took on a project to build a railroad from the

Columbia River to the southern boundary of Oregon. He completed surveys on the railroad during the years 1864-1865. Gaston moved to Salem in 1864 where he also practiced law and was editor of the *Salem Statesman Newspaper*. While in Salem, he became publisher of Salem's first farm journal, *The Agriculturist*. As well, from 1870-1875 Gaston published *The Daily and Weekly Bulletin of Portland*, a competitor of *The Oregonian*. In 1880, he retired from his railroad work and moved to a small town in Washington County named Gaston out of respect for his hard work in the community.

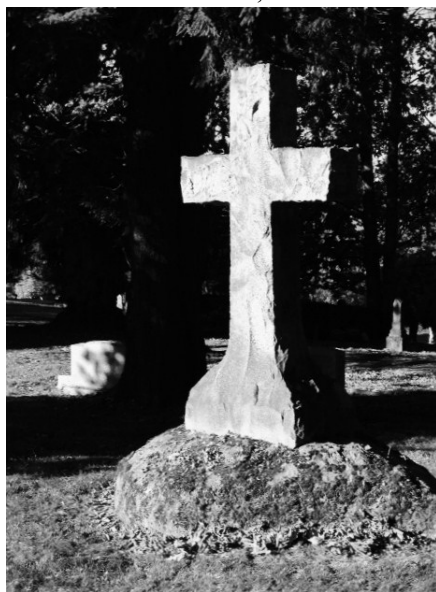
While in Gaston, Joseph spent the first two years draining the disease-breeding Wapato Lake. He remained in Gaston for 16 years and created a beautiful 1000-acre farm on the drained lake bed. Gaston and his wife also raised money to build the Gaston Union Church. In 1896, he sold the farm and



moved back to Portland. His home, The John Gaston House in the Goose Hollow area is on The National Register of Historic Places. While in Portland, Gaston devoted his time to both a fruit farm on the Columbia River and to the management of a manufacturing enterprise in Lake County—the development of the soda-borax mines of Akali Lake.

Mr. Gaston never ran for public office. However, in 1894, he was nominated for Justice of the Supreme Court by the Socialist Party—he lost. Later in life, Gaston published two significant works, *Portland, Oregon, Its History and Builders* and *The Centennial History of Oregon, 1811 to 1911*. His first work was a 700-page, 3-volume set published in 1911. The second, an even larger work, was a 4-volume set completed shortly before his death in 1913.

Joseph P. Gaston's Grave Marker



Need a grave marker?
Ordering through us helps with the maintenance costs of Greenwood Hills Cemetery.

We Offer These Services
Our Archivist provides quick and courteous records search, gravesite location, and grave marker location services. Interments in GHC are available to those who hold deeds to family plots with available space.

River View is our preferred provider of grave marker and interment services. If we are unavailable, call River View directly at: 503-246-4251.

Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining the grounds of Greenwood Hills Cemetery in a manner that respects the dead, honors the living, and preserves a valuable connection with our rich pioneer history. Through responsible stewardship of resources, we strive to maintain a safe and beautiful open space where people can come to remember the past and enjoy the natural world which we hold in sacred trust for the future.





Community Volunteers of The Year Ken & Hattie Mead

Did you know that two of Greenwood Hills Cemetery board members were honored in June? GHC's Treasurer, Ken Mead, and our Chair, Hattie Mead, were both recognized as Community Volunteers of the Year. Ken and Hattie volunteered and were accepted on the board of GHCMA in 2006; under their leadership and with the help of a 6-person board, they petition for contributions and they recruit friends, family, and neighborhood volunteers to help maintain GHC. While overseeing our partner landscapers to mow the lawn, trim, prune, and fill pot holes, Ken and Hattie also partner with our sister cemetery, River View, by providing guidance on the location of plots for marker placement and new interments. Ken and Hattie were also instrumental in partnering with Dunthorpe/Riverdale Security to help keep the cemetery safe from after-hours activity and vandalism. Additionally, Ken and Hattie

facilitate and organize Clean-up Day once a year to prepare the cemetery for the Memorial Holiday visitors. A big thank you goes to Collinsview Neighborhood Association for honoring these two board members.

Cleanup Day 2013—A Day of Transformation becomes a Tradition

Despite threatening skies and cool temperatures for our May Clean-up Day 2013, we far exceeded our usual number of volunteers. This year, we had over 60 volunteers. Neighborhood volunteers, family and friends brought with them tools, equipment, and a lot of energy for our annual Day of Transformation. 2013 saw some new faces—Willamette Masonic Lodge # 2 and Portland Masonic Lodge # 55. Each lodge brought a number of brothers who joined Greenwood Hills in our transformational maintenance efforts. A total of 15 lodge representatives helped to raise and clean over 140 headstones in Sec 10 in our back loop. Lodge brothers also assisted with the harrowing task of loading and unloading multiple trailers of debris headed off to the landfill.



Trees were pruned, branches were rimmed, and headstones were cleaned. Volunteers were treated to lunch and dessert before heading back out to finish the job just ahead of the rain. We are so very grateful for our volunteer force and we feel we can never thank them enough for their ongoing efforts and dedication to helping us keep Greenwood Hills Cemetery a beautiful and well-maintained green space. Lastly, you may or may not know that Greenwood Hills Cemetery was originally founded in 1884 as the Portland Masonic Cemetery. Hence, we appreciate our lodge brothers for becoming involved again during these modern times. Their presence helps restore a vital piece of our rich pioneer history.

Contributions are Appreciated!

Greenwood Hills Cemetery relies on charitable gifts to maintain the cemetery and make necessary improvements. Please consider increasing your donation or including GHCMA in your charitable giving plans if you have not done so before. Every little bit truly helps and is *greatly* appreciated.



I want to help maintain and restore Greenwood Hills Cemetery!

Add my name to the volunteer list.

Name _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

Address _____

\$ _____.

GHCMA Tax ID #94-3052123

Phone _____

Reply to:

GHC Maintenance Association
PO Box 80701
Portland, OR 97280

E-mail _____

Thank you! We truly appreciate your support.