




At Mountain View Cemetery, we welcome thousands of visitors each year. Some come to remember loved ones; some come to appreciate a Bay Area landmark designed by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted; some come to enjoy the peace, tranquility, inspiring landscaping, and sweeping views of the Bay Area; and some come to visit the graves of community and industry leaders and learn more about the wealth of history that lies among our beautiful hills.

Whatever connects you to this remarkable place, we invite you to learn more.

Our goals for this newsletter are to help you discover the cemetery's natural beauty and historical significance, invite you to attend our special events throughout the year, give you behind-the-scenes details about current and future projects, and create a way for you to become involved in our ongoing preservation and restoration efforts. 

*The Friends of Mountain View Cemetery is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. Your donation is tax-deductible.*



Friends of  MOUNTAIN VIEW C E M E T E R Y

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MOUNTAIN VIEW C E M E T E R Y

5000 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 94611  
founded 1863 • a not-for-profit association  
[www.mountainviewcemetery.org](http://www.mountainviewcemetery.org)

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November	Fall foliage display
Saturday, 11/11/06 10 a.m.	<b>Free docent tour led by Stafford Buckley and Linda Castellani</b> — <i>Stafford, a third generation Oaklander, enjoys sharing information about the natural history of Mountain View. Linda shares intriguing “rags to riches” stories of self-made Californians dating back to the Gold Rush.</i>
Saturday, 12/9/06	No docent tour scheduled this month
Monday, 12/25/06	Christmas Day
Saturday, 1/13/07 10 a.m.	<b>Free docent tour led by Gaye Lenahan</b> — <i>Gaye will discuss the history of Mountain View Cemetery, including details about the Stranger’s Plot, the ethnic roots of decedents, and customs of Victorian funerals and burials.</i>
Saturday, 2/10/07 10 a.m.	<b>Free docent tour led by Elwood Gerrits</b> — <i>Elwood, a history major, speaks about the main mausoleum, part of Millionaires’ Row, and much more. He also takes special requests for specific tour destinations whenever time permits.</i>
Saturday, 3/10/07 10 a.m.	<b>Free Women’s History Month docent tour led by Silvia Lange and Joyce Temby</b> — <i>Silvia highlights the stories of fascinating women who played a part in California’s rich history. Joyce, a former teacher and third generation native of the Golden State, has held a lifelong interest in cemeteries and California history. She stresses the significance of gravestone carvings and keeps an eye out for mysteries!</i>
Friday, 3/30/07, through Sunday, 4/1/07 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	<b>Tower Chapel Tulip Exhibition</b> — <i>Walk amidst spectacular floral arrangements created by Bay Area florists, garden clubs, and local college horticultural departments. It’s free! For more details, visit <a href="http://www.mountainviewcemetery.org">www.mountainviewcemetery.org</a> before the event.</i>
April	<b>Tulip Extravaganza</b> — <i>Visit the cemetery for a magnificent showing of 30,000 tulips in bloom!</i>
Saturday, 3/31/07, and Sunday, 4/1/07	<b>Ching Ming Festival</b> — <i>Visit the cemetery in observance of Ching Ming this weekend and enjoy complimentary refreshments. For details, visit <a href="http://www.mountainviewcemetery.org">www.mountainviewcemetery.org</a> prior to the event.</i>
Thursday, 4/5/07	Ching Ming/Remembrance of Ancestors Day
Sunday, 4/8/07	Easter
Saturday, 4/14/07 10 a.m.	<b>Free docent tour led by Cindy Haines</b> — <i>Cindy, who loves California history and also leads tours around Oakland, discusses interesting characters— from the astute to the quixotic.</i>
Saturday, 5/12/07 10 a.m.	<b>Free docent tour led by Silvia Lange</b> — <i>Silvia highlights the stories of fascinating women who played a part in California’s rich history.</i>
Sunday, 5/13/07	Mother’s Day
Monday, 5/28/07 10 a.m.	<b>86th Annual Memorial Day commemoration program</b> — <i>Presentation of colors, salute to the fallen, and guest speakers.</i>
Monday, 5/28/07 11:30 a.m.	<b>Memorial Day Civil War Plot tour led by Dennis Evanosky</b> — <i>Dennis, who has also led tours at the Pardee Home and Oakland’s Preservation Park, gives a general tour with special emphasis on the Civil War and the role California and Californians played in the conflict.</i>

Visitors may leave gravesite decorations seven days before and after New Year’s Day, Ching Ming, Easter, Mother’s Day, and Father’s Day—and from seven days before Christmas through January 10. Flags may be placed seven days before and after Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans’ Day.

## Plot 77 Expansion Makes Room for Additional Lots

In June of this year, we completed an expansion of existing Plot 77 by narrowing the asphalt road between Plot 77 and Plot 76. The road, which was 38 feet wide, dominated the landscape and was not an effective use of space. Many of our families wanted additional burial plots in that area so that they could memorialize family together, and the completed expansion does that. In addition, it provides an opportunity for future growth of a pleasing canopy of plum trees and converts several thousand square feet of asphalt into turf, which is better for drainage. 🌱

## Upright Monument and Architecturally Designed Plots Approved

In July of this year, the Board of Trustees approved phase two of grading for our new Plots 78, 80, and 81. These plots will include the first expansion of upright monument plots in the post-Olmsted part of the cemetery. We believe that many of our families want the opportunity to memorialize friends and family with the feeling of permanence and strength conveyed by an upright monument. In addition, we will include sites for architecturally designed family lots. Plot 80 will include a reflection pool nested within a series of granite rings elevated slightly above the focal point of the garden. Plot 81 will feature an outdoor columbaria that looks upon a cremation garden featuring flowering pear trees, each one set within a cremation lot to remember and renew spirit and faith. 🌱

## Concrete Walkway Improvements Coming

The native clay soils and topography at Mountain View undergo seasonal soil expansion and contraction—a fact that continues to impact our aging concrete walkways. We are researching long-term improvement solutions. In our new plots and in our new cemetery entrance, you will find a mix of crushed granite and golden-colored gravel stabilized by a porous grid of rings placed just below the surface of the path. This construction allows water to flow through into the native soil, thereby reducing runoff and erosion. These installations have been met with favorable feedback, so we will continue to monitor them with an eye toward future maintenance and replacements. 🌱

## Spectacular Fall Foliage

Fall is a beautiful season at Mountain View Cemetery, and we invite you to take some time to stroll the cemetery grounds and enjoy the seasonal colors. Look for the turning leaves of our Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra Italica*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), and Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair tree) trees.

If you enjoy visiting the Crocker angel, be sure to stop by and see her framed by fall color. If you have never seen her, now is the time to seek her out. She’s located on the Crocker monument in Plot 35. 🌱

## Next Spring: Flowering Plum Trees Encircle Plot 18

During the expansion of Plot 77, we transplanted a number of purple-leaf flowering plum trees (*Prunus cerasifera ‘Krauter Vesuvius’*) to Plot 18. They now encircle the plot and the Main family vault. Like the cypress trees in Plot 55 and the redbud trees around Plot 33, these plum trees will brighten the landscape of Plot 77 with their periodic color—and architecturally define this space. Make a note to stop by next spring and enjoy their lively blossoms. 🌱

## Stately New Redwoods

Although they don’t bloom like our tulips and cherry trees, redwoods are statuesque parts of our landscape. Last winter, the cemetery planted more than 40 redwood trees (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Most were planted at the cemetery entrance, with the long-term goal of creating an evergreen frame. Others replaced trees that have been felled due to age or weather in locations throughout the cemetery. We look forward to their grand growth. 🌱

## Free Docent Tours Every Second Saturday

Want to learn more about the legendary leaders of industry, government, education, and art at Mountain View Cemetery? Join one of our free docent tours, which begin at 10 a.m. the second Saturday of every month (except December). No RSVP is necessary; simply meet in front of the administrative office and wear comfortable walking shoes. Each tour lasts approximately two hours. For more information or to arrange a special group tour (including wheelchair-accessible tours), contact the cemetery office at 510.658.2588. 🌱

## John Marsh (1799–1856)

*Pre-Gold Rush overland immigrant who urged other Yankees to settle in California*

*By Barbara Smith, Mountain View Cemetery Docent*

Massachusetts-born John Marsh was a new Harvard graduate in 1823 when he headed for a Michigan Territory Army post as a tutor for the children of the post commander. He intended to earn enough money to pay for Harvard graduate studies in medicine, and to prepare himself, he “read medicine” under the post surgeon.

Marsh’s plans, however, were met with obstacles. First, the post surgeon died prematurely, bringing Marsh’s studies to an end. Plus, he fell in love with a French Canadian-Indian woman, Marguerite Decouteaux, who had their child out of wedlock. Feeling he could not now return to New England, he accepted a job as Indian agent, but ran afoul of the law when he sold guns to the local

**Plans are progressing to create a John Marsh State Park on several thousand acres of the old Rancho Los Meganos, with his great stone house as its focal point.**

Indians. Finally, Marguerite died, leaving him with a small son to care for.

In 1833, Marsh left his son, Charles, with friends in Illinois and moved on to start a business in Missouri. The business failed, and in 1835 he traveled southwest to the Spanish settlement of Santa Fe. He stayed there a few months before moving on to Los Angeles, arriving there in 1836. Los Angeles in 1836 was a dusty little cow town of 2,228—a population that included 553 “domesticated Indians” according to the official census, the first taken by the Mexican government. When Marsh learned the village had no doctor, he assumed that position using his Harvard diploma, written in Latin, as his medical credentials. For a year he accepted cattle and hides in payment for his medical services, and in 1837 when he had accumulated enough wealth, he bought the 55,000-acre Rancho Los Meganos east of Mt. Diablo overlooking the San Joaquin Valley.

There, over the next 19 years, Marsh established an agricultural empire, planting vast acres of grain; orchards of pears, apples, plums, figs, and almonds; and two flourishing vineyards. His frequent letters to friends in the Middle West praising the opportunities in California started a flood of wagon trains heading across the plains, including the 1841 Bartleson-Bidwell Party, the first important overland wagon train to come here. His wise counsel to other Americans was that the best way to make California American was to settle it with Americans, rather than by armed conquest.



*John Marsh’s frequent letters to friends started a flood of wagon trains heading across the plains. Photo courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society.*

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*Continued on the next panel*

His first house was a small adobe to which he brought his schoolteacher bride, Abbie Tuck, in 1851. He promised to build her the grandest house in California, which, according to a San Francisco newspaper, he did. In 1852 their daughter Alice was born, and John began work on a great stone house.



*Marsh’s stone house will be the focal point for John Marsh State Park, now in the planning stages. Photo courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society.*

But there was to be no happy ending. In 1854, Abbie fell ill, and after lingering for a year, she died. In September of 1856 when the house was almost finished, John moved a few things into one of the upstairs rooms. He spent a few nights there, but on September 24, John Marsh was murdered while driving his buggy to Martinez on his way to the ferry for a business trip to San Francisco.

Although their deaths predated Mountain View Cemetery’s 1865 opening, John and Abbie Marsh lie side by side in Plot II (they were moved there later by their family).

*Gravesite photo to come. Caption: You can visit the gravesite of John Marsh and his wife Abbie in Plot 11.*

A new chapter, however, is about to be written in the story of John Marsh. Plans are progressing to create a John Marsh State Park on several thousand acres of the old Rancho Los Meganos, with his great stone house as its focal point. When the project is complete, the full story of John Marsh’s far-reaching influence on the development of California will be shared with us all. 🌿

Do you have an interesting story to share about a family member, friend, or colleague at Mountain View Cemetery? If so, please write and tell us about his or her life and accomplishments, and we may feature it in an upcoming newsletter.

## The Cogswell Monument

*By Gaye Lenahan, Mountain View Cemetery Docent*

The first major monument built in Mountain View Cemetery was “the Mausoleum to the Worthy Dead,” erected by Henry Daniel Cogswell for the future burial of himself and his wife, Caroline. Cogswell, who followed the lure of the “gold rush” from Rhode Island to San Francisco and practiced dentistry under the “Sign of the Golden Tooth,” invested cleverly in real estate and made a fortune.

In 1880, Cogswell purchased Mountain View Plot 7 to hold the monument he had designed. In the center of the monument, as described by Cogswell, a granite obelisk would rise 70 feet high. This obelisk would be topped with a small dome—copied from the one on the nation’s capitol—and support a ten-inch crystal star. Larger-than-life-sized statues of Faith, Hope, Charity, and

*Cogswell monument photo to come. Caption: The Cogswell monument’s granite pieces were transported from the East Coast to Oakland on 38 freight cars.*

Temperance would ring the base. Surrounding this marvel would be extensive coping and other decorative features. The trustees of the cemetery were enthusiastic and had many meetings and considerable correspondence with Cogswell preceding the great undertaking. In 1880, the dentist paid \$1000 to the cemetery—not for the lot, which was gratis, but for “perpetual repair.”

Soon the monument’s granite pieces were on their way from the East Coast to Oakland on 38 freight cars—a trip that constituted the heaviest shipment yet made at one time across the continent. Also on board was a specially built 24-horse wagon to carry the 15-ton obelisk to the building site. The wagon proved inadequate, so a house-moving capstan was employed to carry the obelisk from the railhead to the intersection of Broadway and Cemetery Avenue (now Piedmont Avenue)—where it broke down. Finally, a traction engine ferried over from San Francisco completed the moving job.

Mr. McDonald, the man assigned to put the granite pieces together, came from Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Boston. An experienced monument builder, he explained to the newspaper reporters covering this unusual event that the monument was earthquakeproof because of the way the stones were fastened together. Each stone had a hole in its upper surface that matched a corresponding hole in the lower surface of the adjoining stone; a chunk of granite (two to three feet square) filled each cavity and braced the stones solidly together.

While construction was underway, the locals went in numbers to watch the work. Cogswell himself went every couple of weeks to check on the progress until its completion in 1887. In 1900, Cogswell was laid to rest beside his great monument—still the tallest edifice at Mountain View. 🌿

A free map showing plots, listing points of interest, and identifying graves of notable persons is available at the cemetery office or online at [www.mountainviewcemetery.org](http://www.mountainviewcemetery.org).

The infrastructure of a mature cemetery such as ours lives in a simultaneous state of perpetual maintenance and growth. One purpose of the Friends of Mountain View Cemetery is to share some of our restoration challenges with you—challenges where your financial support can help us make important progress.

## Main Mausoleum Stained Glass Restoration Project

The beautiful and inspiring stained glass panels in our main mausoleum need restoration because many of the leaded frames enclosing and supporting the stained glass are sagging. This project will require dismantling hundreds of lead frames, reworking the frames with new lead and fresh solder, and carefully safeguarding the stained glass while the work is being completed. If you haven't yet seen the magnificent stained glass panels that enrich the interior of our main community mausoleum, we invite you to stop by—then consider making a contribution to this worthwhile restoration project. 📍

## Italian Cypress Tree Project

In his original design for the cemetery, Frederick Law Olmsted called for the use of many Italian Cypress trees to create a sense of human scale within this expansive landscape. Recently we installed a ring of Italian Cypress around the entrance fountain—a project that was received with great enthusiasm by families and guests who visit the cemetery.

Now we have selected another site to plant a ring of cypress trees: Plot 55. This plot is a small but no less important site, down slope from a series of historical family vaults. As with the entrance circle, this new ring of cypress trees will define and elevate this plot's place in the landscape. Your donations will help us complete this exciting landscape beautification project. 📍

## Stone Wall Restoration Project Complete

We recently replaced an aging wall with a new stone veneered retaining wall at the east end of Plot 3I. The color and finish of the stone complements the rock memorial of Plot 3I, and the newly planted ring of redbud trees will grace the area with spring color and take a step toward integrating this spot with the flora recently planted at the cemetery entrance.

Your donations are vital to maintaining and improving the Mountain View Cemetery grounds. To make your tax-deductible contribution, please complete and return the donation form printed at the end of this newsletter. If you have a favorite project, you can earmark your donation to be used for it. All of us at Mountain View, including our families and visitors, thank you for your support. 📍

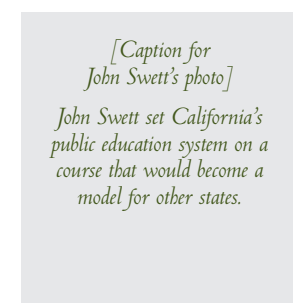
## John Swett (1830–1913)

*Father of California's public education system*

*By Barbara Smith, Mountain View Cemetery Docent*

When John Swett arrived in California in February of 1853, he headed for the gold fields near Marysville where he spent five unhappy months. Swett had received a “normal school” (teacher's training) education in Massachusetts, and decided to put it to work in San Francisco.

His education made him the successful candidate for the post of principal at Rincon Grammar (High) School, where he embarked on a career that would have far-reaching influence on California's public education system. At Rincon, his experience with physical exercise for students set the foundation for what later would become the first state physical education law in the United States.



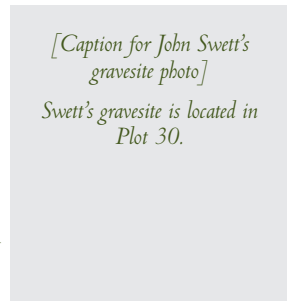
*[Caption for John Swett's photo]  
John Swett set California's public education system on a course that would become a model for other states.*

In 1862 he was elected California's fourth State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and he assumed the office early in 1863. For the next four years, Swett worked to set California's public education system on a course that would become a model for other states. Among his accomplishments were: abolition of tuition and its replacement by tax support for schools, changes in teacher licensing, state funding of teachers' institutes, organization of

schools into grades, establishment of school libraries, creation of a state board of education, and lengthening of the school year. Thanks to the efforts he initiated, by 1875 every California child could go to a free public school. It is for these reasons that John Swett is recognized as the father of California public education.

Despite his outstanding accomplishments, he was defeated for reelection in 1868, and in 1869 he returned to teaching—first as San Francisco's deputy Superintendent of Schools, and then as principal at the Denman School. In 1876, Swett became principal at the Girls' High School on the condition that they add to the three-year undergraduate course a post-graduate course of one year to prepare girls either for entrance to the University of California or to become elementary school teachers. This fourth year was known as the “Normal” class, and proved a popular choice for young women wanting to become teachers. Swett served in this post until 1889. From 1890 to 1894 he was San Francisco's Superintendent of Schools, completing his illustrious career as a California educator.

Upon his retirement in 1894, John Swett and his wife Mary settled on their Martinez property, Hill Girt Ranch, near their good friends John Muir and his wife Louie. Swett died in 1913, and rests in Plot 30. 📍



*[Caption for John Swett's gravesite photo]  
Swett's gravesite is located in Plot 30.*

**YES**, I'd like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Friends of Mountain View Cemetery to help restore, preserve, and enhance the beauty of the Mountain View Cemetery grounds.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

\$10  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please use my donation for (check one):

- Main Mausoleum Stained Glass Restoration Fund  
 Italian Cypress Tree Fund  Civil War Plot Restoration Fund  
 Preservation and Restoration Fund  Wherever my donation is needed most

Form of payment (check one):

Check enclosed (please make your check payable to *Friends of Mountain View Cemetery*)

Credit card:  Visa®  MasterCard®

Card no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tax-deductible donations may be mailed to:



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*Thanks to Our Contributors*

*Our special thanks to those who have recently contributed \$50 or more to support our ongoing preservation and restoration efforts: David Clayton • Donald and Peggy Craig • Joseph Der • Maria Fuger • Ruth Hatch • Linda Huber • Audrey Kaprielian • John Lob • Old City Cemetery Committee Inc. • Shirley C. Wong*

*The Mountain View Cemetery Association, established in 1863 by citizens of the East Bay, is a non-sectarian, community nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing comfort to families in a setting of great beauty. We are a private organization and receive no public funding. While most areas of the cemetery grounds are maintained through an endowment fund, there remain a number of significant projects that are important to the preservation and restoration of this extraordinary cemetery. It is through your generous, tax-deductible support that we can continue completing this historically critical work.*

Phone: 510.658.2588 • Fax: 510.652.2726 • www.mountainviewcemetery.org

Grounds open: 7 a.m.–sunset daily (entrance gates close a half hour before sunset)

Office hours: Weekdays 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., weekends and holidays 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Mausoleum hours: Weekdays 8 a.m.–4 p.m., weekends and holidays 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

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