$19 No. 698

ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY

MARSHFIELD, OREGON

This Indenture Witnesseth That

EMMA POOKE

Has paid the sum of NINETEEN DOLLARS

For Lots 1–4, in Block 1, in the

Odd Fellows Cemetery

Marshfield, Coos County, Oregon; and that said EMMA POOKE his heirs and assigns are entitled to the exclusive use of the same for burial purposes, FOREVER; Said lot to be subject to such General Regulations and Assessments for Cemetery Purposes only, as the Directors of the ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY CORPORATION, a Corporation duly organized under the laws of Oregon, and grantor herein, may hereafter determine.

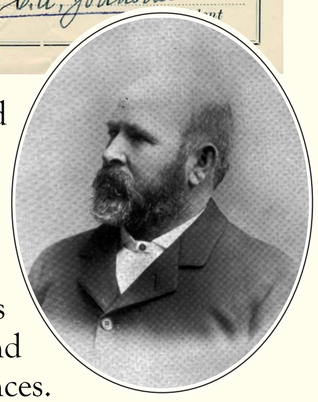
In Witness Whereof the said ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY CORPORATION has hereunto set its hand and affixed its Corporate Seal by its duly authorized officers.

Dated this 9TH day of FEBRUARY A. D. 1915

John F. Hall — Secretary

By C. A. Johnson

Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation

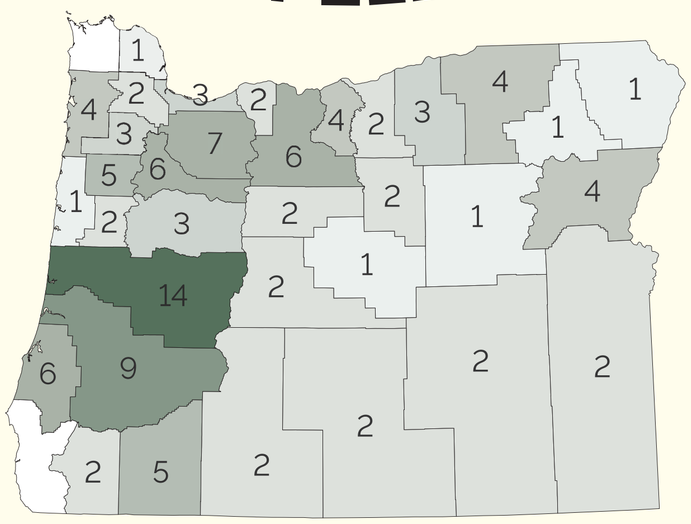


John F. Hall, a respected Marshfield attorney, served as the cemetery corporation's secretary for nearly 30 years. He was responsible for overseeing the corporation's records, signing deeds, and managing the finances.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

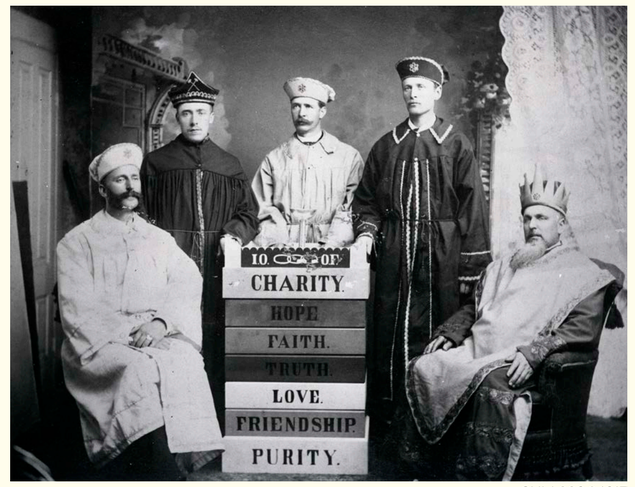
F L T

FRIENDSHIP
LOVE
TRUTH



The Odd Fellows established six cemeteries in Coos County - in Bandon, Coos Bay, and Coquille - and a total of 116 cemeteries across the state.

Marshfield's Sunset Lodge No. 51 started in 1875 with ten charter members who were all prominent local businessmen. Six of those men, including Thomas Hirst (center) were buried in the cemetery. By 1907, the lodge had more than 180 members as well as a separate women's auxiliary, Western Star Rebekah Lodge No. 27.



CHM 992.8.1217

From its earliest beginnings in 18th-century England, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows strove to provide a social safety net for its members. Initially founded as a working-class alternative to Freemasonry, membership provided resources for laborers who weren't eligible to join a guild or union. With the motto, "Friendship, Love, and Truth," the Odd Fellows embraced the injunction "to visit the sick, to relieve the distressed, to bury the dead, and to educate the orphan."

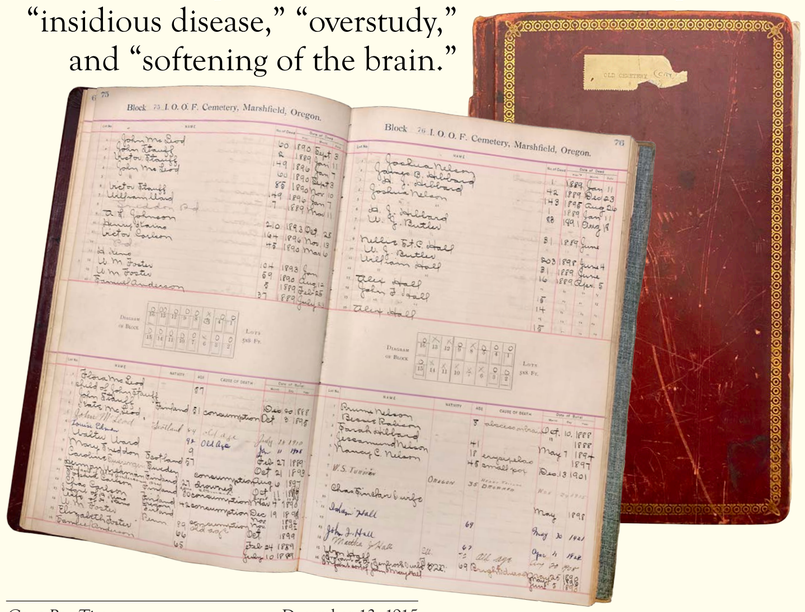
In 1819, members organized the first lodge in the United States. By the end of the century, the Odd Fellows were the country's most successful fraternal order, with lodges flourishing in every state.

Lodges established cemeteries for their members' benefit, covered the costs of funerals, and cared for deceased members' widows and orphans. Affordable lots were also made available to non-members, and in many small cities and towns, the Odd Fellows cemetery served as the primary public burying ground.

PREMATURE DEATH FROM ACCIDENT OR DISEASE WAS A REALITY OF LIFE IN THE EARLY 1900S. THE ODD FELLOWS PROVIDED A CRITICAL COMMUNITY SERVICE BY OPERATING A PUBLIC CEMETERY WITH AFFORDABLE PLOTS WHERE ANYONE - FROM INDIGENT LABORER TO TOWN LEADER - COULD BE RESPECTFULLY INTERRED.

Cemetery ledgers documented each burial, noting the name, birthplace, age, cause of death, and date of burial.

Conveyed to the recorder by word-of-mouth, specific details - like names of European-born immigrants - could be subject to interpretation. Often lacking a medical basis, unique causes of death included "dissipation," "insidious disease," "overstudy," and "softening of the brain."



TUBERCULOSIS ~ 9.1%
Highly contagious, "consumption" was a leading cause of death until scientists discovered antibiotics capable of curing TB in the 1940s.

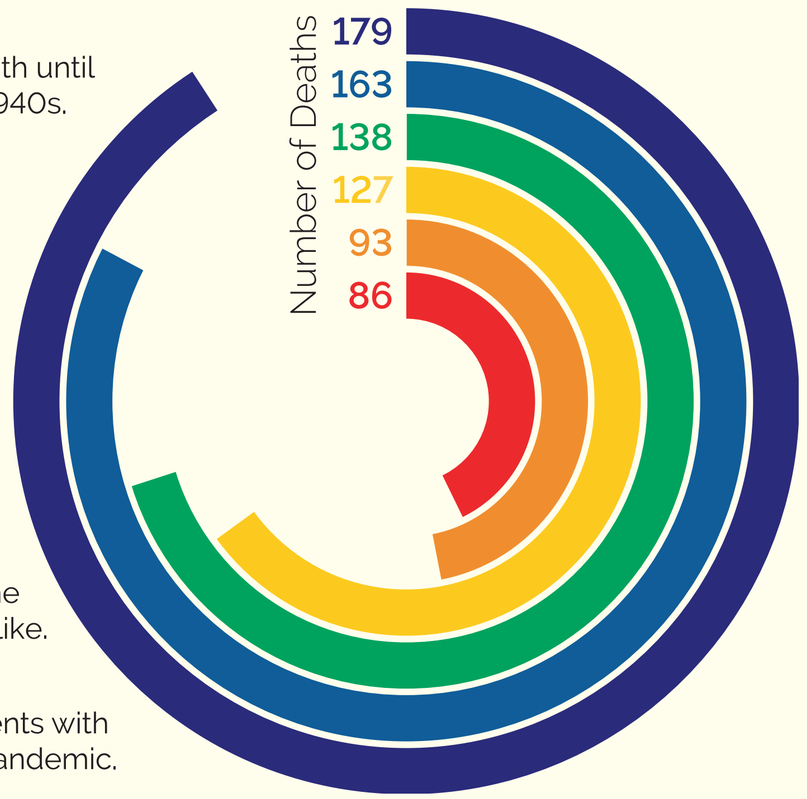
HEART TROUBLE ~ 8.3%
With limited capacity to diagnose specific heart conditions, doctors in the early 1900s used "heart trouble" as a catch-all.

ACCIDENT ~ 7.0%
Men working in the local coal mines, logging camps, and sawmills faced the daily threat of serious injury or death.

OLD AGE ~ 6.5%
Some local residents lived into their 80s and 90s - well past the average American life expectancy in 1900 of 47.3 years.

DROWNING ~ 4.7%
With strong tides, swift currents, and chilling temperatures, the waters of Coos Bay claimed the lives of children and adults alike.

PNEUMONIA ~ 4.4%
Pneumonia often developed as a secondary infection in patients with comprised immune systems, such as during 1918 influenza pandemic.



Coos Bay Times December 13, 1915

YOUNG WIFE IS VICTIM OF TUBERCULOSIS AT LIBBY

Trip to California Fails to Regain Health

Coos Bay Times May 1, 1908

NORTH BEND MAN FALLS DEAD

Man, Almost Eighty Years Old, Stricken by Heart Disease While Giving Children a Ride in Wheel Barrow.

Coos Bay Times February 25, 1908

MINERS' LIVES SNUFFED OUT

Two Men Killed While Blasting for Tunnel at the Beaver Hill Mine.

Oregon Daily Journal March 21, 1916

Oldest Pioneer of Coos County Dies

Woman Drove Yoke of Oxen Across the Plains and Taught in First School.

Los Angeles Times January 21, 1912

LAUNCH IS LOST; FIVE DROWNED.

Break in Engine Leaves Boat at Mercy of Tide.

Evening Record January 28, 1919

SOLDIER DIES WHILE WAITING A DISCHARGE.

A Victim of Pneumonia, He Was at Vancouver Awaiting Mustering Out of Service.

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