

History Through Headstones at Albany Hebrew Cemetery and the Houston Cemetery

By Cathy Ingalls, Albany Regional Museum board member



Miss Pauline Kline and her family's story of arriving in Corvallis in the mid-1860s and operating "dry goods, fancy goods, millinery and gents furnishing goods" stores in Albany and Corvallis will be recounted during the annual July cemetery tour in Albany.

Kline, who was born to Russian and Polish Jews in 1860, died in 1939 in Corvallis and is buried with other family members in the Albany Hebrew Cemetery in the 3100 block of Salem Avenue S.E.

That cemetery and the Houston Cemetery across the street will have docents on hand from 7 p.m. to dusk Wednesday, July 25, to talk about some of the people buried in the cemeteries during the free 11th annual History Through Headstone Tour sponsored by the Albany Regional Museum.

Kline is one of about 140 people buried in the cemetery that opened in April 1878, when Leon and Lena Senders needed a place to bury their infant daughter, Clara.

Over the years, a small Jewish congregation has maintained the cemetery grounds, which in the beginning served as a burial site for area Jews, since the other nearest cemeteries were in Portland and Ashland.

Besides the Kline's family's story to be told by Rabbi Yisrael Tubman of Salem, Rabbi Eli Herb also of Salem will describe the lives of Dr. Carl Yaillen and Rose Bikman Yaillen; while Rachel Peck and Amy Buccola both of Corvallis will recall stories of Benjamin Brenner, his wife Sarah and their children of Albany. Brenner

owned a dry goods store in Albany; and Joni Plotkin of Philomath will explain grant opportunities for the cemetery and ongoing cemetery work.

Also buried at the cemetery but whose lives will not be recounted are A.G. Senders, former mayor; Herb Aschkenasy, former president of Oregon Freeze Dry; Joseph Julius, Civil War Union veteran and owner of a grocery and cigar store; and Samuel Bikman, for who the Bikman Building is named.

In the cemetery is a kiosk with a map of early burials, and eventually it will contain information about the historic figures buried in the cemetery, Jewish burial customs and any upcoming events.

At the Houston Cemetery, Keith Lohse, the executive director of the museum, will discuss members of the Houston family who are buried there.

Robert and Mary Brown Houston, who are thought to have had five sons, came to Oregon in 1848. The family's donation land claim included what is now the Albany Municipal Airport and the Linn County Fair & Expo Center properties.

The first burial of record at the cemetery is in 1851 for Robert Houston Jr., a child. The second is for Mrs. Houston, who died in the same month and year.

There are about 100 graves in the cemetery.



Dr. David Fitchett also will be on hand to narrate the life of Anderson Cox, who came to Albany in 1845 and for who the nearby creek is named.

Cox, who was born in Ohio in 1812, was an early Albany educator in a school held in a shed on the Houston property. He was elected twice to the territorial legislature, the first time

traveling to the capital by canoe. He was instrumental in fixing the boundary line between Marion and Linn counties, and he named Linn County.

Those wanting to take the tour can park in the Waverly Park lot next to Waverly Lake and walk to the Houston Cemetery. Or parking is available at the Waverly Cemetery with access to the adjacent Jewish cemetery.

A third option is to ride the Albany Visitors Association streetcar to the cemeteries that will leave the museum parking lot, 136 Lyon St. S., at 6:45, 7:30 and 8:15 p.m. The streetcar will return twice to the museum.

On the way to the cemeteries, museum docent Bill Maddy will entertain riders with stories about the early houses, buildings and residents of Albany's east Hackleman District.

He also will explain for whom streets are named, note the political and social divide in Albany during the Civil War and point out where the Oregon Electric Railroad ran through the Hackleman District.

Anyone with questions about the tour can contact the museum at 541-967-7122. The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.