



# Missoula City Cemetery

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## Stories and Stones Historical Tour

Sunday, Oct. 25

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

One of Missoula's oldest cemeteries presents an afternoon of history brought to life through the stories of individuals from Missoula's past. All are invited to come enjoy this vastly popular event for all ages.

Missoula City Cemetery is proud to feature exciting new stories and storytellers for this year's tour:

- \* Have you ever wondered about the meaning behind the names of many of our local landmarks such as: Blackfoot River, Rattlesnake Creek, Grass Valley, Council Groves, and Missoula? Will Cave is noted as a renowned local historian, the first volunteer in the U.S. Spanish-American War, and Missoula County's first auditor. Come hear about this fascinating man and learn the meanings behind places we visit every day.
- \* John Lehsou barely survived a harrowing journey over the Bozeman cutoff trail in 1865 on his way to deliver a load of mining supplies to the Bitterroot Valley. John saw financial promise in the mining operations happening in the Garnet Mountains and soon established a stage station in Bear Town, invested in the water rights throughout the Garnet hills, and finally bought out the mining claims that needed his water source to operate. Come find out what incredible treasure John left hidden away in a bank vault that his heirs did not discover until more than 70 years after his death.
- \* A smooth-talking "baron" promising a life of riches in his Montana palace swept Anne Lester O'Keefe, a descendant of Scottish royalty, off her feet. Wed after a three-day courtship, they set out for Montana, where the palace was actually a rough-hewn log shack with dirt floors in the mountains of Missoula. The will and strength of frontier women ran strong, and Anne Lester O'Keefe was no exception. Come hear her incredible story.

Do you know that at the Missoula City Cemetery you will also discover...

- \* Which sheriff masterminded the robbery of a county payroll to fund his socialist activities?
- \* How a minister's wife firmly raised her family of rowdy men while quietly and proficiently tending to all the needs of her husband's congregational flock?
- \* What influence the Norwegian community has played in the growth of Missoula?
- \* Which federal agent was gunned down on the courthouse lawn during the war on Prohibition?
- \* These stories and so much more!

Volunteers will tell up to 40 stories. Come see individuals dressed in times of old as they capture your imagination by reenacting people of our past. Enjoy food and music to make this a perfect fall afternoon event. **Admission is FREE!** This event is sponsored by generous donations from the public.

**Cemetery Contact for this event:** Mary Ellen Stubb at 552-6070