

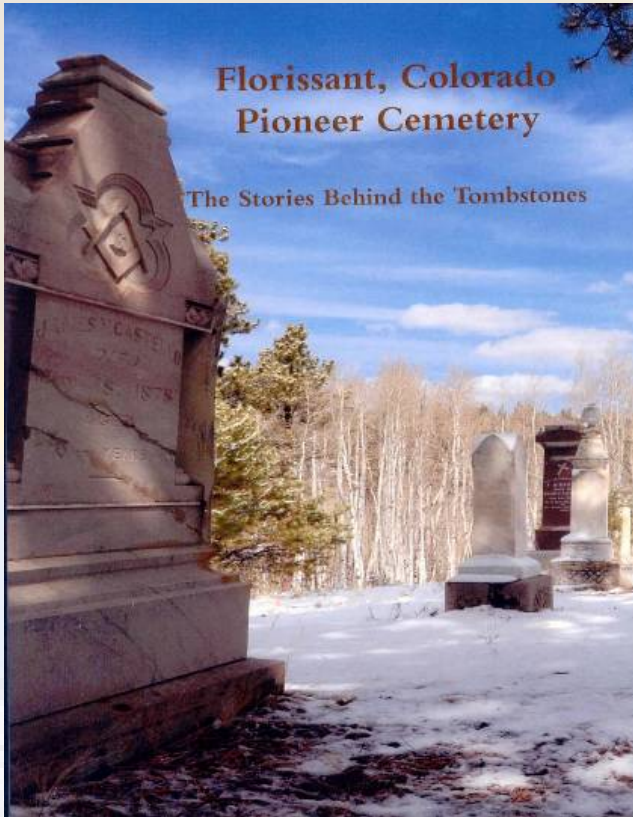


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STORIES BEHIND THE TOMBSTONES

Posted by Dave Hughes on May 16, 2009 at 3:30pm [View Blog](#)



Review, "Florissant, Colorado Pioneer Cemetery"

Laura Moncrief and Nancy Boyd"

Published by authors, Copyright 2009

Laura Lee Moncrief

The subtitle of this well illustrated, professionally printed, 209 page book is "The Stories Behind the Tombstones"

Laura Moncrief, with four prior titles to her credit retired to her home in Florissant, about four miles from the Cemetery, in 2004. Her long interest in genealogy spurred her interest in unraveling the mysteries behind many of the tombstones in the Pioneer portion of the larger Florissant cemetery.

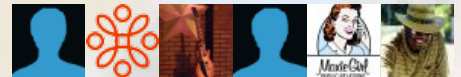
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PHOTOS



DR. EINSTEIN'S GRAVE STONE

by Tanja Britton

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DR. OTTO EINSTEIN

by Tanja Britton

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Laura has done a brilliant study, in an astonishingly short period of time - less than a year. She did more research into not only those lying beneath the tombstones, but their family histories than most genealogists studying cemeteries accomplish over 10 years.

She found the stories of 109 families with kin buried there. She was unable to track down the stories on only 4 graves.

I became aware of just how deeply Laura probed into the names, families, circumstances and time of death, and even the design of the tombstones when she visited our Old Colorado City Historical Center. She was looking into our Polk City Directories that go back to 1880, looking for an 'Arthur Hughes' - no relation to me as it turns out - but a relatively young man of 35 who not only died from an industrial accident in the Midland Railroad car repair yards of Colorado City in 1905 while his home was in Florissant, 35 miles away but he had a Woodman of America insurance policy of some kind. He got a much nicer tombstone than his family would have afforded without it. Laura dug that information out trying to find out why the stone was so handsome.

She has included no less than 118 good black and white photographs, most, not all, of the tombstones themselves, with directions how to find them - often hard to do in most cemeteries. The inscriptions are visible, with a view of their backsides when they are informative too.

In most cases, she includes a "Next Generation" section that reaches back to the origins, time and place of the original family. Very extensive genealogical research. The book contains more than just who is buried there and when.

One touching family grave has a vertical stone with the words "Infant Children of J and M Hurtgen" engraved on one side and the names of their 3 children who died, one at 8 months, on the other three sides.

The 770 detailed footnotes citing sources in just 209 pages of the book attest to the detail Ms Moncrief has gone to link the buried families with their living relatives, then and now.

While Laura did the bulk of the research in Colorado her working partner in the book venture is Nancy Boyd who lives in Iowa. All the book's proceeds go to the Pikes Peak Historical Society as the Trustees for the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery.

The slick color photograph cover of the book, picturing several of the large, 1880 era decorated tombstones against a winter Colorado scene beautifully captures the solitary winter mood of that small, remote Pioneer Cemetery in the Colorado Rockies.

At 19.95 it is available both in the Old Colorado City History Center and by purchase and shipping from the Society's online website at

http://history.oldcolo.com/index.php?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage.tpl&product_id=321&category_id=1&keyword=florissant&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=106

Dave Hughes, Old Colorado City

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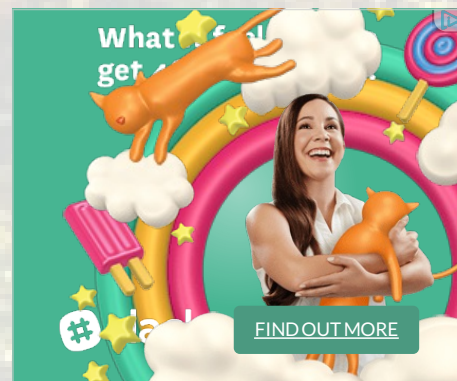


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