There was never any doubt about the contributions of women throughout Portland’s history. The first settlers had survived conditions we can barely imagine just to get here and then had to do their parts building a society from nothing while raising families at the same time. Women had given birth and lost husbands on the Oregon Trail, leaving everything they knew behind, maybe forever.

Due to their independence and persuasive personalities, women wove their place into Portland’s fabric from the first, commanding a bit more parity in society than women in some other places. This tour will take you to memorials for several interesting women from Lone Fir Cemetery’s first hundred years.……..

Eloisa McLoughlin Harvey, ‘Princess of the Columbia’, daughter of Dr. John McLoughlin, Chief Factor for Hudson’s Bay Company. Schooled at a convent on Lake Erie, she thoroughly enjoyed her life at Fort Vancouver, where she led quite a cosmopolitan life, meeting people from all over the world at the British trading fort. Eloisa married Daniel Harvey, a manager in her father’s woolen mill in Oregon City, where she lived for many years. She is buried here with her family. Her home in Oregon City is open to the public.

Aurelia Barrell crossed the Oregon Trail as a young (22) mother of two girls. At Fort Hall, Idaho, her husband died of cholera. Aurelia continued on with the girls, driving her team to Oregon alone, narrowly missing Indian attacks on more than one occasion. Within a year of arrival in Portland, Aurelia married Colburn Barrell. They had six more children, living a life of relative wealth, with numerous business ventures. When one of their steamships exploded, victims were buried on the family farm and the cemetery was begun. Aurelia suggested the name ‘Lone Fir’.

Charlotte Terwilliger Moffett Cartwright crossed the Oregon Trail at three years of age, and was one of the first pupils in the first school in Portland. She went on to be involved in many civic movements, from the Portland Woman’s Club to suffrage, history and pioneer groups, setting a high bar for civic involvement. She also organized a lending library for rural counties, answering a profound, unmet need.

Angeline Berry was a prominent civic worker, helping found the local Human Society, YWCA, and Good Samaritan Hospital. A sustaining member of the Episcopal Church, she donated the land for Grace Episcopal Church in the Irvington neighborhood. She also founded a church mission to China.

Dr. Esther Lovejoy was the first woman to direct a city department of health, here in Portland. She began a system of regulating the milk supply, earning Portland a reputation for sanitation. She was credited with saving Portland from an outbreak of plague. Her Medical Women’s International Association, which she ran for 47 years, grew until operating in thirty countries, serving injured war victims. She was also active in the suffrage movement, public health, prohibition, and the formation of the League of Nations. She also ran for congress, working for poor farmers and against a banking system set to profit from their misfortunes.
A Self-Guided Tour of Portland’s Historic Lone Fir Cemetery

Map of Lone Fir Cemetery

Notable Women of Lone Fir

- Aurelia Barrel Block 1
- Charlotte Cartwright Block 2
- Eloisa McLoughlin Harvey Block 8
- Angeline Berry Block 8
- Dr. Ester Lovejoy Block 34