



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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~ Media Advisory ~

**DISCOVERY AND RECOVERY
A Look at the Stevens' Family Pioneer Cemetery**

The mysteries unearthed in May at Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend will be presented during the October 14 Historic Commission meeting at Springfield City Hall. The presentation will be lead by Tom Connolly, Director of Research, UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History, who conducted the recovery excavation of 12 gravesites at Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend after a backhoe operator noticed what appeared to be a human bone in the soil.

"The remains recovered in May were apparently missed during the initial disinterment more than 100 years ago," Connolly said. "It appears that they were forgotten or missed when others were relocated to another cemetery. Once we determined the full extent of the recovered items, we turned our attention to identifying whose items we'd found."

An examination of historic records revealed that the RiverBend site is located within the pioneering land claim of William M. Stevens. In 1847, Stevens, his wife, and the couple's 10 children traveled from Missouri to Oregon in a covered wagon before settling on a 640-acre land claim near the McKenzie River. Only two other settlers lived in the area at the time -- Eugene Skinner, the founder of Eugene, and Elijah Bristow of Pleasant Hill.

What: Presentation on the recently recovered Stevens' Family Pioneer Cemetery at Riverbend. The public is encouraged to attend.

When: Tuesday, October 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: City Hall Library Meeting Room in Springfield at 225 Fifth St.

Information: Contact Molly Markarian @ 726.4611

Sponsored by: The Springfield Historic Commission