

Cypress Spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*)

Cypress spurge was introduced to North America from Europe. It is also known as graveyard spurge and graveyard weed. Seeds and cuttings were available for sale from garden catalogs. Cypress Spurge was commonly placed on graves in early years.

Augusta Billings told the Kuse family that a small baby brother was buried in the area of the Kuse gravel pit. The grave was unmarked. Augusta told the Kuse family to be alert to the fact that the grave might be found when removing gravel from the area. The place where Cypress Spurge grows is adjacent to Billings Avenue and was never excavated by the Kuse family. It may be the area of the grave. Perhaps this child was buried there before the time when Medford had a cemetery. The presence of Cypress Spurge gives evidence that it may have been placed on the grave of the Billings child.

Gucker, Corey L. 2010. *Euphorbia cyparissias*. In Fire Effects Information System, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory (Producer). Retrieved November 22, 2016 from <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/forb/eupcyp/all.html>