



MOUNTAIN CEMETERY

walking tour

This brochure spans a time period from 1807 to 1994. The primary purpose of the brochure is to highlight the many historical interests associated with the Mountain Cemetery. The Mountain Cemetery was established in 1841 and is one of the oldest operating cemeteries in the western US.

The Mountain Cemetery is situated directly adjacent to the Sonoma Overlook Trail and to Schocken Hill, location of former basalt quarries important to Sonoma's economic and immigrant history. It seemed like a natural to connect these dots for a brochure.

Basalt deposits run along the mountains from Sonoma to Santa Rosa. The quarry industry and demand for stone pavers part ways brought railroad lines to serve the transportation of this stone, as well as for agricultural produce: fruit, nuts, dairy, eggs, turkeys etc.

The quarries produced millions and millions of blocks for regional street paving and building. Much of the stone in the cemetery, in some buildings on the Plaza, in local homes, bridges and walls, and barn foundations comes from these quarries.

You will find interesting cross-overs with this brochure and the Sonoma Walking Tour brochure centered around the Plaza. From the historical sign on the upper loop of the Overlook Trail you can look out over the valley to Schellville, Wingo and Sears Point and see where the old rail, sail and steamship routes took quarry block and agricultural produce down to San Pablo Bay and then to the urban core. The people participating in this life and work are buried in the cemetery.

In this self-guided tour you will meet cowboys, Indians, ranchers, agriculturalists, martial arts instructors, murderers, builders, bakers, real-estate tycoons, quarrymen, map-makers, accountants, leaders, pipefitters, blacksmiths, bootleggers, bankers, grocers, hoteliers, stone masons, fraternal order members, speculators, young, old, among others. Enjoy!

This brochure is available for free at the Visitor's Center and the Overlook Trail kiosk.

Visit: www.sonomaecologycenter.org/overlook-trail to download a PDF of this brochure and link to online cemetery photo gallery.

Many thanks to: Fred Allebach: writer/ research, Sonoma Overlook Trail Steward; Scott Summers: cartography, graphic design & production.

Sponsored by the Sonoma Overlook Trail Stewards. For further information contact the current Chairperson, at joannakemper@gmail.com.

November 2013. 1st edition.

- (A) William Montini Sr.**, 9/27/1889 - 2/24/64, from Lago de Como, Italy, California dairyman for 58 years. Luisa Vallejo Emparan sold him land (part of Montini Ranch) in 1934 with provision to keep it open space. A new public access trail is expected in 2012.
- (B) H. T. "Ted" Riboni**, 9/9/1910 - 11/21/94, made 50 or 60 stills during Prohibition, in Cavedale and Lovall Valley. Prohibition (1919-1933) hit just when Sonoma Valley resort industry was really going. People liked to come to Sonoma from San Francisco because Sonoma is hot and not foggy. The climate is as much a draw as anything.
- (1) Agostino Pinelli**, 12/30/1850 - 12/17/1923 stone worker from Italy, built Pinelli Building 1891 of local "plum stone" basalt, with 8-10 workers built several local commercial bldgs., contracted with Vallejo to quarry, managed Schocken's quarry. Bought Blue Wing in 1895 that housed quarry workers. A. Pinelli offered to donate to the city all the stone for its new City Hall, April 5 1902.
- (2) Charles N. Cheney** 1875-1946 shod Schocken's quarry horses.
- (3) C.F. Leiding**, from Bremen, Germany, sailed around Cape Horn in 1850-51, arrived in Sonoma, grew vegetables, had merchandizing business. In 1875 had 42 acres fruit.
- (3A) George Fetter**, 1879- 1964, founder Fetter's Hot Springs. Headstone has a cross and Jesus' head with crown of thorns. The plot is a hodge podge of different stone materials and brick.
- (4) Batto, John** 1843-1925, **Fred** 1873-1963, **Arthur** (Attilio) 1874-1919, built Batto Building on Plaza in 1919 where Fred had a grocery and bank, Batto Station train stop on 8th Street East at Denmark where family had orchards and fruit company.
- (4A) John C. McCracken** (cover photo) 1815-1870, an original pioneer of Sonoma; descendant of one of the founding families of North Carolina. Arrived at Sutter's Fort 1846 with his family, traveling part of the way with the Donner party. Served under Fremont in the California Battalion. Mined gold on the Feather River. His original house and farm was built between 1850-1852 and is a heritage site called "Magnolia Farms," located at 19745 Eight Street East.
- (5) S. Sebastiani**, 1874-1944, wagon driver hauling block in early quarry days, migrated to Sonoma through connections with Augustino Pinelli. Many Italians from the quarry regions of northern Italy came to Sonoma through a phenomena known as chain migration, i.e. founders establish a foothold and the rest follow.
- (6) Olof Emil Hanson** 1863-1906, Woodmen of the World headstone, WOW was one of many fraternal organizations in early Sonoma, WOW is Omaha based and provides private insurance for members. These tree stump headstones can be found in cemeteries nationwide and were discontinued in the late 1920's.
- (6A) Henry Ernest Boyes**, 1844- 12/11/1919, from England, while drilling a well in 1888 he hit 112 degree water at 70', started a bath house, then built a hotel, and his hot springs became a real destination.
- (7) Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo**, 1807-1890, founder of Sonoma, his life spanned the Spanish, Mexican and American periods of California history. His heyday was during the Rancho Period where he exercised political and military dominance over much the whole North Bay. As American modernization began to outstrip the older colonial lifestyles, Vallejo said: "I had my day..."
- (8) Ettore Calderin** 1876-1952, from Venice, his copper relief bust and its reverse side were sculpted by Marion Brackenridge 1903- 1999, look for inscriptions on the side of the headstone for Ettore's spouse.
- (9) Gottlieb Ritz** 1866-1952, Buena Vista farmer, Ritz land is now developments behind and around Old Winery Road, this area was formally known as the Town of Buena Vista.
- (10) Lee F. Thornsberry** 1882-1956, Thornsberry Road is named for the Thornsberry family.

- 11 **Franklin Sears** 1817- 1904 from Missouri, family was in livestock raising, emigrated at age 27 across the plains to Oregon, 1845 to CA, served under Fremont, then became a successful gold miner, finally settled in Sonoma 1851. He owned both a 740 acre farm in Sonoma Valley and a 3,000 acre ranch that once occupied the area of Sears Point. County Recorders office records show Mr. Sears involved in many real estate transactions.
- 12 **Ercole Chiodi** 1867-1932, bookkeeper 15 years for Samuele Sebastiani, died and buried alone in the US, he was survived by his wife in Italy, he probably would not have built such a nice crypt planning to buried alone. Payment for the crypt by a friend and any debts thereby brings an association with Grateful Dead folktales, where debts are paid so the corpse can be buried, and later a stranger who turns out to be the grateful dead man, offers help to the friend.
- 13 **John Joseph Steiner** 1883-1927, from Switzerland, hotel keeper, namesake of Steiner Street in San Francisco.
- 14 **Indian child**, buried in the early days of Sonoma. 900 known Indians are buried near the Mission.
- 15 **Luisa Vallejo Emparan** 1866-1943, oldest surviving child of M.G. Vallejo, bequeathed Vallejo Home to California State Parks, sold land to William Montini Sr., land that became the Montini Ranch and now will be the site of new hiking trail on the hill behind the Vallejo Home.
- 16 **Billy Ray King** 1939-1955, died at age 16, his picture is on a photographic plaque on his headstone; this style of photo plaque precedes the newer types that are etched directly into the stone itself, the newer photo plaques are not seen in the older portion of the Mountain Cemetery.
- 17 **Jeanette Yvonne Grooms** 1942-1943, next to Toyon trailhead, buried alone without family at age one, what could be her story? Many headstones give pause for consideration.
- 18 **Paride "Pete" Basaglia**, 1880-1951, native of Italy. Expert block loader in the quarry above the cemetery. He built the Castex Bldg Annex in 1911, also his own house 369 Napa St. West. Successful stone and cement contractor, bridges, culverts, dairy barns, farm buildings. "The most beautiful vaults in Mountain Cemetery were built by him." Look for his stamp in various cemetery cement work.
- 19 **Frank Atsuo Matsuyama** 1886-1957, the only Japanese in old cemetery. Fruit dryer, gold fish importer, martial arts instructor, police dept. employee/instructor, movie actor, vaudeville entertainer and US Navy veteran. He married into the German immigrant Wallman family: George Wallman 1851-1922, Georgiana Wallman Matsuyama 1886-1978, George Dolcini 1906-1988, Alvin J. Wallman 1927-2005. Georgiana married Frank after she divorced the father of George Dolcini. Two Wallman/Matsuyama children, one of which was Alvin, were taken to a Japanese internment camp on the San Francisco Peninsula during WWII. All Matsuyama children changed surname to Wallman to avoid discrimination. Frank avoided internment by moving to Denver and working for the police there. In a dispute over inheritance of the Dolcini property after George died, Alvin killed his sister point blank with a shotgun in a fig packing shack on south Broadway at the site of the Middle School.
- 20 **Carl Jacobson** 1887-1944, from Norway, wife Allie, from Texas, 1886-?, Allie not buried with Carl, she didn't show up for eternity.
- 21 **John T. MacQuiddy** 1851-1922, Initial City Hall contractor, corner stone laid 2/1906. Stone masons were on strike trying to get \$1.50 a day, then the 1906 earthquake happened, banks closed, MacQuiddy left the job.
- 22 **Luigi Basaglia** 1853-1905, from Italy, never learned English, foot crushed in a quarry accident, 3 toes were amputated, died disillusioned, Paride "Pete" Basaglia (#18) is his son.
- 23 **Philip Bill** 1861-1923, Johanna Brandt Bill 1867-1936. Florence Bill Evert, their daughter, was the only phone operator ever in Sonoma. Phillip worked ranches on the east side of Sonoma and owned ranch at 680 Napa St. i.e. The Shaw House, sold part of the land for the Catholic cemetery on East Napa Street.
- 24 **James Dixon** 1887-1930 PG&E Gas Construction Gang, grave is fenced by gas pipe.
- 25 **Hiram C. Manuel** 1837-1913, in 1882 he worked a quarry to NE of town, 40-50 men, 16-20 horses, average production of 80,000 blocks a month, for S.F., San Jose, Stockton.
- 26 **Julius A. Poppe** 1823-1879, from Prussia (Berlin), leader of local German community. Bought 1500 acre ranch from Vallejo, imported carp which escaped to Sonoma Creek, fishermen could get them with pitchforks and spears.
- 27 **Otto Van Geldern** 1852-1932, made 1875 map of Sonoma, Otto's inscription and small marker are to the left side of the Chas. Van Geldern monument.
- 28 **Kellogg, Sheppard, Lewton**, nice bench in the shade, broken statuary, Eliza Sheppard was Jack London's step-sister.
- 29 **Gabilello Cartalne** 1844-1933, historian's challenge, who was he?
- 30 **John Burris**, d. 2/24/41 age 90, from China, noted as "Chinaman" in funeral records. Wife's name was Sing A. John was the Burris family cook; funeral expenses charged to Frank Burris. John is buried in the back left of the Burris plot.
- 31 **Norrbom, Peter Gustav**, from Sweden, wife Sarah O'Connel, from Ireland, emigrated in 1849, homesteaded 360 acre ranch at the end of Norrbom Road. He and sons hand dug Norrbom Road.
- 32 **John Tivnen** 1832-1890, from NY, started bakery in Sonoma in 1859, he was the original in bakery bldg., notary public, insurance agent.
- 33 **Murial Joy Cassidy** 1901-1907, nice little headstone with bird.
- 34 **Carrie Appleton Burlingame** 1875- 1975, Renaissance woman: grew up with M.G Vallejo's children, naturalist, horseback rider, friends with Charmian and Jack London, Sierra Club member, mountaineer, color photographer, watercolor painter, pioneer automobile traveler/ car camper, vernacular architect.
- 35 **Leonido Quartaroli** 1865-1933, from Tuscany, Italy, rented Toscano Hotel in 1886 and turned it into a working man's hotel for Italian immigrants hired to quarry basalt in hills behind the hotel. Charged \$1 a night, workers make \$4-7 a day in quarries. Leonido was accused of selling liquor to Indians in March of 1899 and was later cleared.
- 36 **Frederick T. Duhring Jr.**, son of German immigrants, big impressive vault, shows class difference with more simple markers. Built Duhring Building on the Plaza.
- 37 **E. Mazzuchi** 1871-1926, interesting metal marker, the only one of its type in the cemetery.
- 38 **Captain William Smith** 1768-1846. Veteran of the Revolutionary War. Sailor from age 11, his colorful life included 8 round the world voyages.

MOUNTAIN CEMETERY

0 100 feet

