

Vintage Rose Information



**SANTA ROSA
RURAL
CEMETERY**

Cemetery Rose Categories

Alba	Floribunda	Moss
Banksia	Hybrid Bracteata	Noisette/Hybrid
Bourbon/Hybrid	Hybrid Multiflora	Noisette
Bourbon	Hybrid Musk	Polyantha
China & Hybrid	Hybrid Perpetual	Portland
China	Tea and Hybrid Tea	Rambler
Damask	Large Flowered	Shrub Rose
Eglantine	Climber	Species/Wild Rose

The Legend of the White Moss Rose

We had heard that decades ago, a White Moss rose had grown in Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery. The legend of the white Moss rose was documented by a woman who last year presented Rose Brigade member, Judy Enochs, with a bloom from a White Moss rose, which she said she propagated from a cutting of a rose growing in the Rural Cemetery decades ago.

Well, guess what! (a drum roll, please), we are thrilled to report that the legend of a white Moss rose is no longer just a legend. While walking her dog in the Rural Cemetery several months ago, Judy Enochs made an astonishing discovery--she discovered the legendary white Moss rose with an open bloom and several buds.

Now you are probably wondering, how can this be? After all, we know all the roses growing in the Rural Cemetery. Well, we were aware of a small rose growing in the Eastern Half Circle, but it was continually accidentally weed-whacked down by the maintenance crew, so we had never seen it bloom. Were we ever surprised to find it was the white Moss Rose all along!

Last Stand for Historical Tea Rose, *Devoniensis*, In Rural Cemetery

Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery is the cemetery that Vintage Rose Expert, Greg Lowery, credits for returning the exquisite Tea rose, *Devoniensis*, back to the world.

Greg says that *Devoniensis*, which is reported to be the first Tea rose bred in England in 1838, and is often referred to as "one of the loveliest roses known," had become lost to cultivation, until, that is, he found it growing 10-feet tall at a gravesite in Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery. Fortunately, Gregg took cuttings and was able to propagate the rose before it was cut back and died. He then sent the rose back to Europe, thus saving it from extinction.

I have heard Gregg tell this story on more than one occasion, and it gives me goose bumps every time I hear it.

—SANDY FRARY