

How You Can Get Involved

The Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Preservation Committee has an active group of volunteers who maintain the pathways, repair gravestones, keep vegetation under control, raise funds for ongoing maintenance and encourage families and organizations to ‘adopt’ and maintain small parcels of the cemeteries. An annual schedule of tours and special events is available on the website and from the Recreation & Parks Department.

If you are interested in getting involved, please visit the website (www.srcity.org/ruralcemetery) or call (707) 543-3279 for more information.

Donations can be made to Rural Cemetery, c/o Recreation & Parks Department, 2060 West College Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.



www.srcity.org/ruralcemetery

Prepared by the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Preservation Committee

For accessible information, call 707-543-3292/TDD 707-543-3289 (M-F 8am-5pm)

1/2020



SANTA ROSA RURAL CEMETERY

Where History Comes to Life

Self-Guided Tour

About the Rural Cemetery

A unique part of Santa Rosa’s history is found in a 17-acre plot of land which borders Franklin Avenue in the northeast section of the City. Here on the weathered gravestones of the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery is written the passage of more than 160 years of Sonoma County’s development, with some fascinating insights into the lives of some of its residents.

This land has been used as a burial site since the mid-1850s and is comprised of four cemeteries: the Old Rural Cemetery, the Fulkerson Cemetery, the Moke Cemetery and the Stanley Cemetery. The Rural Cemetery occupies the majority of the parcel. It is divided into the East and West Half Circles and the Main Circle. It was first surveyed in June of 1879 and plots were sold by the Cemetery Association until the late 1930s. Immediately southeast of this cemetery is a section of land owned by Sonoma County and used for the burial of the remains of those without means for private burial.

In 1965 the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Association was formed because of a common concern for the site’s maintenance and cultural value, and in 1979 the City of Santa Rosa acquired ownership of the four cemeteries. In 1985 the City’s Board of Community Services organized a trail through the property for the benefit of visitors who share an interest in the sites. In 1994 a plan for a permanent cemetery organization was approved by the Santa Rosa City Council. The plan called for the organization of the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Restoration Committee to assist with improvements and ongoing maintenance and fundraising. In 1997 the Santa Rosa City Council awarded the Rural Cemetery City Historic Landmark status.

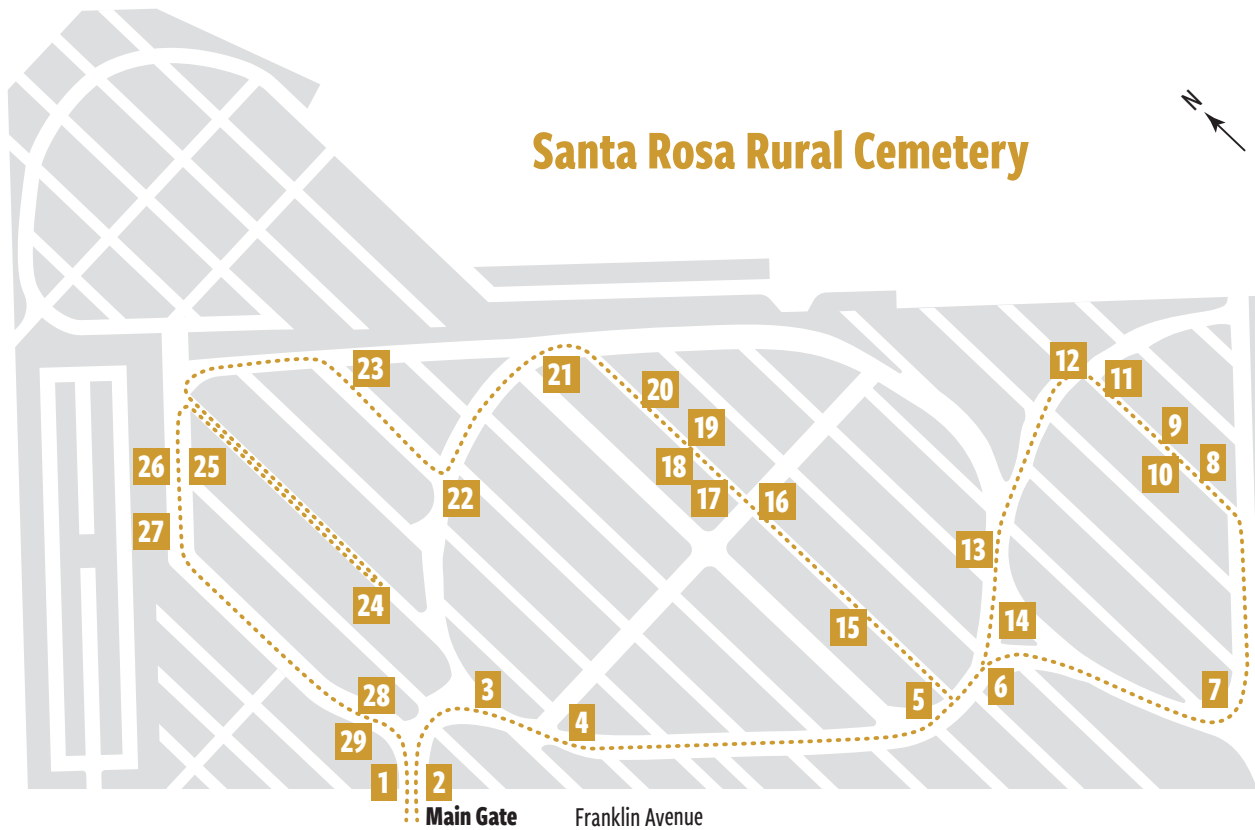
The historical beginnings of the 160-year-old site are not readily apparent to today’s visitor. Olivier Beaulieu purchased the land, which included the Cemetery, from Julio Carrillo in 1851. He granted permission for the first burial in 1854. The Cemetery site was sold to John Lucas in 1857, and in 1867 to the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Association.

The *California* Carrillo family members were among the first non-native people to live in the area. Doña Maria Carrillo, a widow with many children, brought her family here from Southern California in 1837 at the invitation of her son-in-law, General Mariano Vallejo. She received an 8800-acre land grant from the Mexican government in 1841. The Mexican grant, known as the Rancho Cabeza de Santa Rosa, included the cemetery site and much of the present-day City of Santa Rosa. One of Doña Maria’s sons, Julio Carrillo, helped found Santa Rosa in 1854 and is buried here.

Family gravesites whose nineteenth-century dates show many deaths over a brief span of years attest to the fragility of life in a society without medical means to combat smallpox, diphtheria, typhoid and influenza. Several grave markers erected during the years of the Great Depression are obviously homemade, reflecting the financial hardships of the period. The attention to detail, the materials used in the making of grave markers, and the sentiments inscribed on the monuments speak of a society rich in cultural variety and a timeless interest in preserving family heritage.

This brochure is a guide to the monuments and headstones whose inscriptions offer a glimpse into local lifestyles of a past era. The City of Santa Rosa expresses great appreciation to many volunteers who have helped preserve, maintain and interpret this historic treasure.

Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery



1 This plot is a memorial to the 80 to 100 people who died in the Great Earthquake of April 18, 1906, and is the burial site of 15. Note the numbered plots marking the burials of unidentified victims. Many other victims of the earthquake are buried in private plots throughout the cemetery.

2 This monument was erected and dedicated in 1915 to commemorate war veterans. You will see veterans' gravesites throughout the cemetery that mark conflicts spanning time from the War of 1812 to the Korean War.

3 Marking a shameful period in Santa Rosa's history, this locust tree is believed to be a sprout from the tree that was used to hang three men for their roles in the killing of the Sonoma County Sheriff and two San Francisco policemen in 1920.

4 Immediately in front of you is the grave of infant Harry Barkas, Jr., born and died during the Depression in October of 1933. The marker is homemade, reflecting the state of the nation's economy. Behind you is the Native California Habitat and Memorial Garden. Started in 2001, this garden displays California native plants well-adapted to our soils and climate and providing homes and food for native birds and insects. It is also a location for Memorial stones for those who do not have a burial location.

5 Elijah T. Farmer held the offices of City and County Treasurer and was a founder of Santa Rosa Woolen Mill, and the City's first bank. Farmer's Lane, several miles from the Rural Cemetery, was named for the Farmer family, who came to this area in the 1860s.

6 Colonel James Armstrong is the highest-ranking Civil War veteran in the Cemetery, having served in the 134th Ohio infantry. He became active in the Sonoma County lumber industry in 1874, and in 1880 started the process of donating 490 acres of old growth redwoods as the first parcel toward the 805-acre Armstrong Woods State Preserve.

7 From this vantage point look to the south and you will see McDonald Avenue. This was the original main entrance into the cemetery. Funeral processions would drive up McDonald Avenue to enter the cemetery.

8 Thompson Mize, d. 1854, is the earliest known burial in this cemetery. He came to California by covered wagon and died by drowning just three months later. His tombstone is located to the left beyond the bush.

9 Samuel Harris, d. 1864, and Phoebe Fulkerson Harris, d. 1899, were in-laws of Thompson Mize. Samuel, a veteran of the War of 1812, was eighteen years old when he served in the Battle of New Orleans with Andrew Jackson.

10 Sgt. Thomas M. Goodman, d. 1886, was a veteran of two wars—the War with Mexico and the Civil War. Sgt. Goodman was the lone survivor of the Centralia Missouri Massacre of 1864. The metal fence, just to the west, encloses his stone.

11 The Bacigalupi family plot is a reminder of the Italian immigrants who helped settle Santa Rosa. Natale Bacigalupi was a director with the Bank of Italy—which later became the Bank of America. The stone is to the east of this site, beyond the olive tree.

12 Downhill to the right are the graves of about 36 Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans. Although Chinese burials were prohibited in the Rural Cemetery until the 1930s, Japanese were permitted. Further downhill beyond the eucalyptus trees is the Sonoma County Burial Site, burial location for about 500 people buried here by the County since 1943. The previous county site, with about 1500 burials, was the Chanate Cemetery on Chanate Road. It also is now in the process of rehabilitation and open for tours.

13 This monument marks the plot of the Grace family, founders of Grace Bros. Brewery on W. Third St, now the of Vineyard Creek Hotel.

14 Dr. Annabel McGaughey Stuart, d.1914, was a Civil War nurse and Santa Rosa's first female physician. Her admiring patients called her "Dr. Dear."

15 Feodor Hahman, d. 1883, is referred to as one of the founding fathers of Santa Rosa. His stone is to the west on the next aisle. Hahman Drive bears his name.

16 John McMinn, d. 1884, is one of three veterans in the Cemetery of the War of 1812, in which the British burned the White House.

17 Dr. John F. Boyce, d. 1898, was Santa Rosa's first physician. He started his practice in Franklin, a town that preceded Santa Rosa and was located near the of the Flamingo Hotel. He came to California during the Gold Rush. His home on A Street just south of St. Rose Church still stands.

18 Julio Carrillo, d. 1889, was one of the founding fathers of Santa Rosa. Julio, brother-in-law of Gen. Mariano Vallejo, sold and donated parcels of land that today make up most of downtown Santa Rosa, and donated the Plaza (Courthouse Square). In June 1997, Carrillo descendants and Masons rededicated a new marble headstone in his honor.

19 The McDonald plot commemorates a prominent family who was involved in Santa Rosa's civic affairs and utility ownership for many years. Lake Ralphine and McDonald Ave were named in their honor, and Mableton Mansion was their home.

20 Isaac DeTurk, d. 1896, was one of the early wine producers in Sonoma County, planting vineyards in 1856. He built the still-standing Round Barn at 8th and Donahue to house his prize racehorses, including Anteeo, the fastest trotter in California during the 1885-86 racing season.

21 Winfield S.M. Wright, d. 1892, was one of the richest men in Sonoma County. Wright's Beach, Wright Road and Wright School are named for him. His wife, Sarah, was a granddaughter of Daniel Boone. Of particular interest is the small tombstone of Davis Wright, a "colored boy," no doubt a slave child freed when the Wrights reached California, who died in 1865 at the age of twelve. He was a member of the household of Sampson Wright, father of W.S.M. Wright.

22 Manville Doyle, d. 1916, a prominent citizen in Santa Rosa, started the Exchange Bank. Doyle Park and Doyle Scholarships distributed to students attending Santa Rosa Junior College, are current testaments to the Doyle family legacy. Behind you is the Taylor stone which for decades was engulfed by and leaned on by a huge California live oak tree. It fell in 2013. A portion of the tree is attached to the stone.

23 Lt. Col. John G. Pressley, d. 1895, was a Confederate veteran of the Civil War. The Pressleys came to California to escape the post-Civil War South and became prominent in local affairs. Behind you is the grave of John Ferguson, another soldier of the War of 1812.

24 Otho Hinton, d. 1865, was a wealthy entrepreneur and held the rank of Brigadier General in the 1840s in Ohio. He was never engaged in combat. He fled the law in Ohio but became a major philanthropist in Santa Rosa, landscaping the Square and donating the first fire house and horse-drawn engine. Hinton Ave which used to exist on the east side of the Square was named for him. Retrace your steps to the right to 25.

25 John Richards, d. 1879, born a slave, was a very popular black barber in Santa Rosa and assisted freed slaves after the Civil War.

26 Thomas Hall, d. 1918, was a British émigré who served under General Pershing during the Mexican border conflicts in 1915. He joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War I and is buried under the maple leaf after dying in the great influenza epidemic in 1918.

27 The Fulkerson family vault and their marble monument is to the right. Downhill from this are the graves of 37 veterans of the Mexican, Civil and Spanish-American wars. It was used by the County in 1889 to fulfill a State mandate that veterans have a decent burial site. About 180 Civil War veterans lie in the Rural Cemetery, including about 18 Confederates.

28 The Fujimoto tombstone is a reminder of the many Asians who played a part in Santa Rosa's history.

29 Established in 2011 as a memorial to Santa Rosa victims of the 1906 earthquake, this garden displays a large variety of old-fashioned roses of the sort planted in this cemetery in the late 19th and early 20th century.