

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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State Owned Cemetery

We wonder how many readers have known that the State of California has owned and operated a cemetery for more than a century, offering free burial plots to State officials and legislators simply for the asking. We recently read a story written from Sacramento, conveying this interesting bit of news

According to the story there have been few takers for this little-known state government service. Only 21 persons have been buried in the carefully tended 68 by 68-foot area since State Sen. W. I. Ferguson of Sacramento County became its first occupant in Sept. 1858, at the untimely age of 33 years four months and five days

Although there is space for more than twice that many plots, there have only been five burials since the turn of the century. The latest of these was Dr. Anna R. Douglas who was buried there March 13, 1951 beside her husband Dr. G. H. Douglas, Crescent City assemblyman, who died in 1923.

The article goes on to tell of the various other burials interred in the shadow of two towering palms is California's 13th governor, William Irwin who died in 1886 and whose monolithic granite monument dominates the terraced burial ground in the heart of the historic 44 acre Sacramento cemetery.

At rest nearby are two former secretaries of state, two chief justices of the supreme court, a state treasurer, a state librarian, a state printer, a state entomologist, two state controllers, four other assemblymen and Senator Ferguson.

The names and inscriptions on the weathered granite and marble markers, monuments, pillars and crypts of the state and city cemeteries reads like a virtual "Who's Who" and an abbreviated history of California.,

The Sacramento City Cemetery now a registered historical landmark, grew out of an original 10-acre gift to Sacramento by Capt. John A. Sutter on Nov. 28, 1849. The city subsequently donated the state burial ground to the people of California. Many of the people buried in the city cemetery died in the cholera epidemic of 1850.

The city section also contains the graves of John Bigler; Newton Booth; Mark Hopkins, co-founder of the Central Pacific railroad; Gen. Albert M. Winn, founder of the Native Sons of the Golden West; William S. Hamilton, son of Alexander Hamilton, and E. B. Crocker, founder of the Sacramento Crocker Art Gallery.

Mrs. Issler, curator of the Stevenson House on Houston Street, Monterey, has received a letter, from Mrs. Genevieve Angione, the owner and curator of a Doll Shop in Rochester, N.Y., asking to purchase 100 of the post cards which picture the doll collection in the children's room at the Stevenson House, She reports that there are many doll collectors throughout the country today who also compile scrap books on the subject. She had been shown one of the postcards from the Stevenson House and was sure she could dispose of the 100 duplicates very quickly. The sale of the postcards in the various state owned buildings in Monterey is a project of the Monterey History and Art Assn, with the permission of the State Division of Beaches and Parks.