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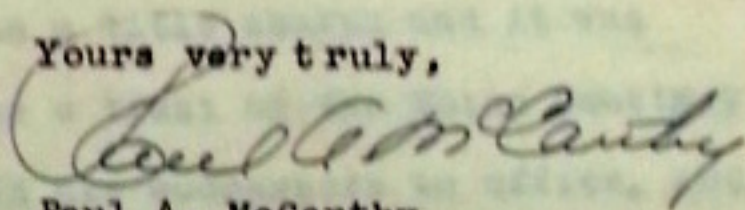
July 13, 1945

Dr. F. M. Stanger
San Mateo Junior College
San Mateo, California

Dear Dr. Stanger:

I am enclosing herewith a story written by Mrs. R. E. Cereghino of Redwood City on the Union Cemetery. I consider this such a fine job that I am sending it on to you with the idea that you might wish to retain it as a historical document of the county's history. To my knowledge it is the only complete history of Union Cemetery that we have.

Yours very truly,


Paul A. McCarthy

Mary Cereghino
Mrs. Brewster A.
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Cereghino, Tel. 1494W

For release Thurs. July 12. 1945

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Upkeep of Union Cemetery will shortly be shared 50-50 by the state and Redwood City taxpayers, thanks to funds voted by the legislature's finance committee, according to announcement made last night by Commander James Whitehead at a meeting of the American Legion post No. 105.

The cemetery, which was opened in 1859 and has 230 plots, including areas of 75 graves each for the Grand Army of the Republic, the Odd Fellows and the Masons, as well as family and individual plots, was in such a state of neglect that in 1937 Floyd Granger was named head of a veterans committee of the United Veterans Council to see what could be done to establish responsibility for the property, said Whitehead.

Co-incident with Granger's appointment, the Legion post voted \$25. to start work on a title search and it was found that the original deed was a trust of the Union Cemetery Association to the governor and his successors in office, and that it had been legally accepted, in writing, by the then Governor John B. Weller. The Redwood City council then voted to reimburse the Legion for its \$25. outlay.

Immediately unsuccessful efforts were made to have funds set aside for the cemetery's care, during both the

Frank Merriam and Culbert L. Olson administrations. However, Earl Warren, before his Governorship, had visited the cemetery at the invitation of the then Mayor Granger, came to the assistance of the Redwood city committee and advised means of presenting their project. Senator Harry Parkman worked on it during the Merriam and Olson terms and Assemblyman Harrison Call has carried on more recently. Much of the work in behalf of the municipality, in persuading the state to accept its ownership, was carried on through the office of City Attorney Albert Mansfield and more recently through his successor, Paul McCarthy.

The sum of \$3750. per biennium was approved by the finance committee at the last legislature. The money will come to the city of Redwood city and will be administered by City Manager Robert Mead, who will have markers painted and grave fences and barriers rebuilt and repainted. More trees and shrubs are to be added and the present lawn area extended, according to plans outlined.

From 1937 to date, the City of Redwood City has voted taxes to care for the cemetery and during the year ending June 30, 1938, the sum spent was \$713; 1939, \$902; 1940, \$1,082; and \$700 each year for 1941, 1942 and 1943. This was used for a gardener to maintain the lawns on the plots used for the burial of veterans, a hedge along the southerly and westerly sides, some shrubbery and the annual spring removal of weeds from the balance of the cemetery.

According to Mr. Whitehead, no appropriation was made before 1937 and no care given the area since 1918 when the last meeting of the Union Cemetery Association was held. Two of the last remaining directors were James Crowe and H. E. ~~XXXXXX~~

Eikerenkotter, both now deceased.

During the past ten years there have been only ten burials in the cemetery, among them Superior Judge George J. Buck and Annie Sears, for whose family Searsville was named. There are approximately 1700 graves in use while 150 bodies have been disinterred for removal to other cemeteries, according to records of Lewis Franklin, local undertaker, who has the plot map of the burial ground. No plots may now be used except by descendants of the original holders of certificates in the group association.

The San Mateo County Title Company's report shows that the title to the cemetery was vested in 1859 in *John B. Weller, Governor of the state of California and his successor in office in trust for the use and ~~benefit~~ benefit of the Union Cemetery Association* and also shows that the Governor's acceptance was countersigned by Ferris Forman, Secretary of State on March 20, 1859.

The title search also shows that a map was filed on March 12, 1860, listing the first officers as John V. Diller, president; Charles N. Fox, secretary and treasurer; James W. Turner, superintendent and the following contributing members S. M. Mezes (in whose honor Redwood City was known as Mezesville), John V. Diller, John W. Ackerson, Chew and Hilton, Baird and Berry, Charles Hanson, George H. Howard, Alex Garbi, J.W. Turner, J.C. McLeod, Finger and Beyer, M. L. Britton, Charles N. Fox, B.G. Lathrop, William G. Beck, John Q.A. Thurber, Charles Ayers, John I.

Ellet, W.T. Gough, Z. Ostrom, J. M. Curtis, William H. Douglass, Douglas, T. G. Phelps and Horace Hawes. Among the early plots was the name of C.D. Judah.

The property, consisting of 6 acres bordering Woodside road, sold for the sum of ~~\$500.~~^{\$500.} and was part of the Rancho de las Pulgas. The deed to Governor Weller was made by James Berry, Curtis and Rachael Baird, Soledad O. de Arguello and Jose Ramon Arguello and S.M. Mezes, who came here when 22 years old to manage the Arguello ranch. He had previously managed a bank in Porto Rico until his health failed. He is buried in the Union cemetery, as is James Pease, a sailor who jumped ship in San Francisco in 1829 or 1830 and came here. He is believed to have been the first white resident.

That that period was definitely pre women's rights was reflected in the deed notation made by B. G. Lathrop, county clerk, to the effect that "the said Rachael Baird, wife of Curtis Baird, having been by me first acquainted with the contents of the instrument, acknowledged to me, on examination apart from and without the hearing of her husband that she executed the same freely and voluntarily, without fear or compulsion or undue influence of her husband and that she did not wish to retract the execution of the same."