

Noted: August 29, 1993
Helen Graves' research

Re: Masonic Plot Burials: 45 so far

To date, I have documented 45 burials in the Masonic Plot, using these 5 sources:

1. Union Cemetery Burial Register -- it contains 27 names, including several children. The second person buried in the Masonic plot was August Eikerenkotter, age 13, who died Oct 2, 1866. I'm assuming he was the son of Augustus, but I have not researched the Eikerenkotter family so I don't know. It could be that the Eikerenkotter's didn't buy a family plot until much later. They could have moved young August, or left him in the Masonic Plot -- we will never know as the burial register has only the entry for his original burial in the Masonic plot.
2. Crowe Mortuary Ledgers... (4 adult males between 1920-1929)
3. Layng & Tinney Ledgers.... (3 adult males: 1930, 1935, and 1936)
4. The 1937 list prepared by the DAR when they transcribed the stones ... the DAR list contains 24 names ... indicating that when they walked the plot and took down the names, there were 24 stones -- which means as of 1937, there were 21 MORE people buried there which had no stones
5. inscriptions from the stones read by Helen Graves in 1988

In 1988 when I took a survey, there were 21 markers and 2 bases without markers.

ODDITY: The oldest stone left in the plot is for Frederich A. Koch who died August 21, 1875, according to his stone. Strangely, there is NO ENTRY for him in the burial register -- and there should be one. This is unusual in that he lived in Redwood City when he died. I checked his obituary and it said he was living in RC.

The only thing that would account for this would be if some mortician other than Crowe buried him ... and somehow the entry was never placed in the book. This can lead to speculation that not all burials were entered into the cemetery burial register -- especially during the period 1859 -1875, as there were several undertakers (James Turner and John Shelley) in town before Crowe got here and became cemetery superintendant.

The first burial in the Masonic Plot was that of Luther Childs, age 72, who died 7-25-1866. Mr. Childs does not have a stone.

Some "notables" in the Masonic Plot are:

1. 1st Lt. George E. Filkins who died 5-15-1887 before the GAR got their plot.
This is the fellow who was the officer of an "all colored" unit during the Civil War.
His stone is quite unique -- it is engraved with all the Civil War battles in which he participated. Filkins may have been one of the men who helped found the local GAR post. This has to be checked. Filkins was a lawyer who had offices in SF; he belonged to the SF post of the GAR, and when there were enough Civil War veterans here to warrant making a separate post, he transferred from SF to the new George S. Evans Post of the GAR.
2. S.M. Murch (1822-1886). This man may have been a Master of the Masons, but I'm not sure.
3. Samuel M. Cook died 12-31-1883. He may also have been a Master.
4. Henry C. Finkler 1858-1930. He was a clerk of the Calif. Supreme Court.
(His death was a suicide, but I can't remember why ... I think old age and poor health. Before he shot himself, he called the coroner and the funeral parlor; they found him dead in his mansion, just where he told them to look.) The Finkler Estate was up off Edgewood.

Jean has her obituaries and probably can come up with whether some of these men were high in the Masonic order or not. Some might have been founders of the lodge and/or officers.

I haven't researched the Masonic Lodge (see Schellens). My project has been to abstract all burial records to determine where people were buried and then compare the records to the existing stones.

The last burials were 2 men in 1936 ... Addison Sumner and John A. MacPherson. Sumner died in October, so the "last burial" was MacPherson who died Dec. 23, 1936 and buried Dec. 26, 1936. He was a retired teamster, age 72.

At this time, it is safe to say:

"There are 45 persons buried in the Masonic plot, including some wives and a few children."

Attached is p. 48 for Aug 1898 - Feb. 1899.

I selected this page just to show a sample so you can see a typical page of entries.

This particular page also lists the last Cooley placed in the Cooley plot (#176), which could be a daughter in law. I don't know as I've not done much research on his family, only on Lester Cooley, the first one buried in the plot in 1882. The computer will be able to sort all people in this plot, including Will Frisbie (the man Lester's widow married after he died).

There are 7 public grave burials and 3 locations not designated. Of those 3, two also could be p.g. (the about 45 male dead at a sawyer camp and the 1 mo old infant are strong possibilities).

The 12 yr old boy born and dead in San Gregoria MIGHT not have been placed in a p.g. Maybe it was an oversight not to list his plot designation.

UNLESS a marker is found, we will never know where the undesignateds are buried.

UNLESS we can find information telling us a specific location for the "public ground" or "County", or "potters field" (all these terms are used for listing pauper-type burials) we won't know specific grave locations. At best, we might be able to give a "vicinity" for the "public ground".

CAVEAT: There are 9 entries which say "on the Ave. near County Rd."

This could mean ... "Near El Camino Real" or "Near Woodside Rd." as both were called "County Rd." What "on the Ave." means is up for speculation. Does it mean just buried beside the road, i.e. in no particular plot? Look at any cemetery map and you'll see that it is a challenge trying to interpret correctly what was meant by "on the Ave. near County Rd." Some of the roads in the cemetery are called Avenue. But, there was also a road (long gone) that led into the cemetery from Woodside Rd. It shows on no map ... but it was the entrance road into the cemetery, which cut from Woodside into the point of the triangle at some sort of angle. Without having it on the maps, we are hard pressed to figure out if they could have been buried alongside this road some place ... perhaps between the road and El Camino.

It sounds logical, but . . . it's only a guess until we can find new information.

-- Helen Graves 8-13-93

RC Archives
Masons.1
Union Cem.

August 1988 Stone Inventory of the Masonic Lot
Union Cemetery History Site, Redwood City

On August 31, 1988, there were 21 stones and 2 bases without markers in the Masonic lot.

Stone #15 could not be read because it was leaning down face forward. (It will be read later.)

Stone #16 is badly broken where the name was engraved, so only a guess could be made as to the name on it.

Worth noting:

1. Regarding the death dates recorded on the stones, note that 7 out of 21 occurred AFTER 1917 -- the last year for the Union Cemetery Burial Register.

2. The oldest stone in this lot is for Frederick A. Koch who died August 21, 1875.

Mr. Koch's death was NOT recorded in the Union Cemetery Burial Register, which is unusual as he lived in Redwood City and his obituary says he died in Redwood City.

His wife Maria C. Koch died February 11, 1905, and is buried next to him. She has a separate, smaller stone.

3. The newest stone in this lot is for Addison V. Sumner who died in 1936.

4. Stone #14 (see map) is inscribed James M. "White", 1830-1888. The burial register lists his name as James M. "WAIT".

5. According to the Union Cemetery Burial Register, the first burial in the Masonic lot was:

7-25-1866... Luther Childs, age 72

There is no stone for Mr. Childs.

6. According to the Union Cemetery Burial Register, from 1866 - 1917 (51 years), there were 26 burials in this lot.

RC Archives
Masons. 2
Union Cem.

August 1988 Stone Inventory of the Masonic Lot

Map:

1. Richard F. Rumbol 1830-1920
2. Constantine C. Jameson 1891-1920
3. Henry C. Finkler 1858-1930
4. K. K. Nielsen 1869-1931
5. Clinton H. Coff 1860-1922
6. Jonathan White 1827-1903
7. Maria C./wife of F. Koch 2-11-1905
8. Frederick A. Koch 8-21-1875
9. base only
10. John Lindstrom 12-1-1900
11. Addison V. Sumner 1881-1936
12. Pompeo Righetti 1879-1935
13. base only
14. James M. White 1830-1888 ("Wait" in register)
15. base/leaning stone to be read later
16. "Geo F. C---been", "England", a broken stone (*Broken on DAR list*)
17. Samuel M. Cook 12-31-1883
18. base only
19. 1st Lt. George Edgar Filkins 5-15-1887 or 3-15-1887 in DAR
(stone carved with his Civil War service record)
20. S. M. Murch 1822-1886 (*Murch on DAR*)
his wife Eliza Jane 1835-1912 (her death not in register)
21. John Johnston 11-5-1883
22. Thomas A. Johnston 11-25-1886
"wife" stone
23. Louis Pfeifer 5-3-1897

(The above map is not to scale.)

Masonic Lodge

California ^{Lodge} No. 1 - the first lodge of The Masonic Lodge
in Calif.
Charter dtd 11-9-1848 in Wash. D.C.

The Masonic principles of liberty, equality & fraternity.

Free and Accepted Masons.

The first meeting was held on Oct 17, 1849 in a small water front bldg on S.F.

The first Masonic Hall ^{was} bet in Calif was built in Benning
in 1850 for Benning Lodge No. 5. - the fifth lodge
to be chartered in the state.

L + T: Masonic Lodge Plot

on DAR

year 1. Finkler, Henry age 72 b. CA ^{child} 18 NOV. 1930 Clerk of Supreme Ct of Calif.

year 2. Reghetti, Pompeo age 55 b. Switzerland 15 NOV. 1935 labour

year 3. Mac Pherson, John A. 73 b. Nova Scotia 23 Dec 1936 ^{retired} banker

4.

5.

6.

MASONIC PLOT

I. Union Burial Register

Total: 27 (Men: 20 Women: 2 Children: 5
Boys 1
Girls 3 ?

First burial: 1866
Last burial: ~~1888~~ 1905

II. Layng & Tinney Burial Records (Graves)

3 (1930, 1935, 1936)
additional males

III. Burial books at Redwood Chapel (Asmes)

~~4~~ (1920-29) males
1988 Site meeting

1937 DAR list: 24 ^{from} stones
2 bases

1937 DAR list for stones
ADD Burial reg (not on DAR)
ADD 0 from L & T list
ADD 4 from Asmes list

1
24
17
0
4
45 loc. burials

Problem

DAR says David W. Aldrich had stone in 1937; died 1865.
Burial register says buried in lot 52 on 3/29/1865.
" " lists Luther Childs as 1st to be buried in the plot.