

Tulocay Cemetery Self-guided Tour B

(1) The Former Office

This Craftsman Style building was constructed of native stone by stonemason James Newman in 1906. In the post-WWII era of “redevelopment” in Napa, the cemetery board, used great foresight and chose to remodel the building, rather than tear it down. When it was remodeled for the second time in 1989, they received a Civic Improvement Award from the Napa Chamber of Commerce.

(2) Juarez Grave Sites

Don Cayetano Juarez , 1809—1883, and his wife Maria Higuera Juarez, 1815—1890 are buried with matching markers in this plot. In 1841, during California’s Mexican era, Juarez received his Tulocay Rancho from General Mariano Vallejo. The rancho was some 8, 865 acres in size and extended along the East side of the Napa River. One of his adobe homes “The Old Adobe” is still standing. In December of 1858, when the committee to found the cemetery was first meeting, Juarez gave almost 49 acres of his land to them for the cemetery. He was paid a token amount of \$5.00.

(3) Chancellor Hartson 1824-1889/Reverend Richard Wylie 1841-1923

Hartson was an early attorney in town who became a judge and served in the state legislature. He and his wife Electa are remembered as benefactors of the church that became Napa’s First United Methodist Church.

Next to the Hartson plot is the Wylie grave site. Reverend Richard Wylie was minister of Napa’s first Presbyterian Church from 1867 to 1922—55 years. Reverend Wylie made his pastoral calls on a bicycle until the church bought him an automobile. He was also noted for the tartan scarf that he wore. It was a subdued plaid favored by the clergy in Scotland.

(4) Edward Z. Hennessey, M.D. 1862-1924 Hennessey came to Napa in 1886 and was appointed the first county physician, a position he held for many years. He also was the physician at the Veteran’s Home in Yountville, in addition to having a private practice with an office on Main St. His home, now a bed and breakfast inn, still stands on Main St., next to the Jarvis Conservatory of Music.

Edwin R. Hennessey, 1894-1952 Edward Z Hennessey’s son was manager of the Bank of America in Napa until his death in 1952. He also served on the board of Tulocay Cemetery for over 15 years. Active in the affairs of the county, he had a major part in developing Lake Hennessey, which was named for him.

(5) Family Mausoleums The pioneer family mausoleums here and throughout the cemetery reflect the Victorian ideal that cemeteries should be “parks for the living with mansions for the dead.” Important names in this area are Migliavacca, Goodman and Duffy. The Duffy Mausoleum was built after the tragic death of Agnes Ann Duffy, who died in 1913 at the age of 21 of a ruptured appendix en route to a hospital in San Francisco.

(6) Captain John Greenwood, 1830-1912 This restrained marker hides one of early Napa's most dramatic murder mysteries. Greenwood was a retired sea captain who had a ranch and home on the present site of the Doctor's Insurance Company. In February of 1891 he and his wife were attacked there by robbers. Greenwood survived, but his wife Lucina was killed. Eventually both thieves were caught and Billy Rowe, who committed the murder, was tried and hanged in Napa's Courthouse Square in 1897. This is believed to have been the last official public hanging in the state of California.

There are legends that Rowe haunts the Old Napa Courthouse at night, while Lucina's spirit has been blamed for computer glitches at the Doctor's Company.

(7) Brown Mausoleum 1885 The metal door of this mausoleum has what is believed to be a bullet hole from the 1948 "Shoot Out at the Cemetery." Two suspicious characters were arrested in Napa, but one escaped and led the police a merry chase, while commandeering cars from unlucky passers-by. He drove into the cemetery but escaped on foot while under fire.

(8) Nathan Coombs, 1826—1877 Coombs was a native of Massachusetts who came to the Napa Valley in 1845. He purchased farm land from Salvador Vallejo (see tour one.) He also received land from another early settler for doing carpentry work for him. After the United States was the victor in the Mexican -American war of 1846, ending Mexican rule, he felt that a center of government would be needed for this area and he founded the city of Napa in 1847. He was the first of four generations to serve in the State Legislature.

Many admiring articles were published in the local papers about the beauty of this mausoleum, when it was under construction. The statue which soars over it is called Resurrection. It was imported from Italy at a cost of \$1000.

(9) Mausoleums and roses Now walk east along the mausoleums from the most recent additions to the original section on the east end. Completed in 1940, this section was the first above ground, multi-burial mausoleum built at Tulocay. At one time it contained a chapel and holding vaults. The seed money for the building was donated by the Luther Evans family, because they saw how difficult it was to keep up with burials during the Influenza Epidemic of 1918.

The bright red Altissimo roses planted here, along the mausoleums, came from the late John Dallas, of John's Rose Garden.