

## Old City Cemetery Committee

The Old City Cemetery Committee was organized in 1986 by a group of concerned citizens who were appalled by the ravages of vandalism that toppled and maliciously marred many of the City Cemetery's beautiful old stones and monuments. Disquieted by the years of obvious neglect and mistreatment, they decided to become a voice of concern over the future of this important community resource.

In 1987, the group became a standing committee of the Sacramento County Historical Society. In January of 2003, a new independent nonprofit support group was formed as the Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc. and has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as an IRC 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt corporation. The new organization continues its dedication to the restoration, beautification and preservation of this historic burial ground.

Public interest for the Cemetery is growing. Maintenance has been improved, primarily due to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers, City Staff and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department and its Work Release Project Program. The preservation of this historic landmark is becoming a community concern.

The Cemetery has been refurbished with plants, flowers, and bushes. It also includes three major dedicated garden areas - Historic Gold Rush era roses (Historic Rose Gardens, Bruner and Cadwalder areas; Perennial Plants (Hamilton Square area); and Native Plants (near Veterans Sections E and F).

If you would like to get involved or make a tax deductible contribution, please send you inquiry or check to:

**Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc.**  
1000 Broadway • Sacramento, CA 95818  
(916) 448-0811 • [www.OldCityCemetery.com](http://www.OldCityCemetery.com)

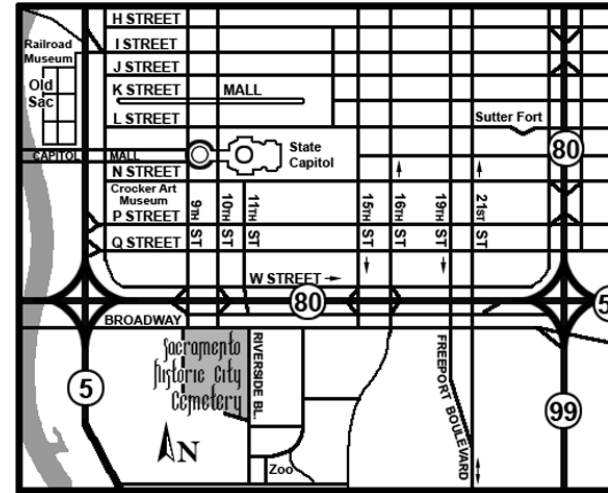
## The Historic City Cemetery

History at Sacramento's City Cemetery began in the mid 19th century. California, by virtue of Jim Marshall's 1848 discovery of gold at Coloma, became the focal point of world interest and the terminus of one of the greatest migrations of humanity ever known. Sacramento, the gateway to the Northern Mines, became the assembly point for thousands of would-be miners who brought with them their hopes and dreams of finding the "Golden Fleece." Unfortunately, many also brought with them disease, and Sacramento became the spawning ground for contagion and death. For many, Sacramento would become the last resting place. The need for a new, larger and more permanent burial site became imminent. A search for a suitable piece of ground was undertaken.

Captain John A. Sutter established the Sacramento City Cemetery in late 1849 with a ten-acre gift to the City. It was referred to in the City Ordinance of December 1849, as simply the "Public Graveyard." The cemetery's expansion, dictated by the needs of a burgeoning city, continued until 1880, when the benevolent Margaret Crocker donated the final acreage on the hill. This brought the cemetery's land holdings to nearly 60 acres. Today, after gaining and losing sections of land, the cemetery's acreage has been reduced to 28. Included within its confines are over 25,000 burials, many of these being pioneers from every part of the globe.

Using the self-guided tour map inside, take a leisurely stroll back in time and catch a glimpse of Sacramento's past.

*Discover  
California History.  
Discover the  
Sacramento Historic  
City Cemetery.*



### Sacramento Historic City Cemetery

#### Location

Broadway at 10th Street  
Sacramento, CA

#### Cemetery Hours

Open Daily  
April through September 8 am to 7 pm  
October through March 8 am to 5 pm

#### City Administration Office

Monday through Friday  
8 am to 3 pm  
(916) 264-5621

#### Archives and Research Center

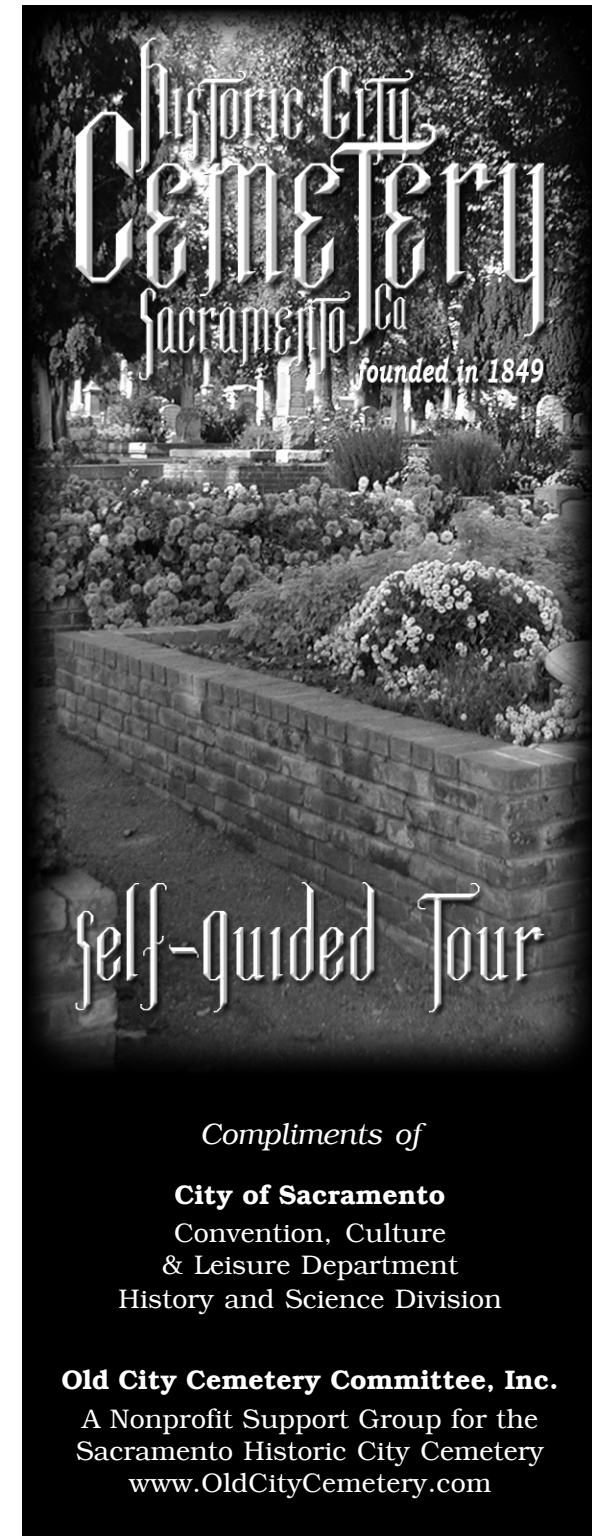
Monday through Friday  
10 am to 3 pm  
(916) 448-0811

#### Tour Reservations & Information

Public, Private, and School Tours  
(916) 448-0811  
[www.OldCityCemetery.com](http://www.OldCityCemetery.com)

RT Metro bus lines 2 & 51  
stop at the Cemetery.

Updated 01/2006



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## Points of Interest

### 1. John A. Sutter, Jr. .... 1826-1897

Although his father built the fort and established an empire call New Helvetia, the credit for planning and founding the city of Sacramento in 1848 goes to John Jr. A disagreement with his father over the town would cause him to leave in 1850. He died in Acapulco, Mexico, in 1897.

### 2. Hardin Bigelow ..... 1809-1850

Arriving in San Francisco in February of 1849 on the Mail Steamer "California", his was the first ship to reach California from the East Coast bringing miners to the Gold Fields. Bigelow is credited with building Sacramento's first levee system and becoming its first elected mayor in 1850.

### 3. Newton Booth ..... 1825-1892

Lawyer, merchant, politician. This native of Indiana became one of our state's most artful statesmen. He was elected State Senator in 1862, California's eleventh governor in 1872, and United States Senator in 1873. His business firm, Booth & Company, was located on Front Street, between J and K.

### 4. General George Wright ..... 1801-1865

A graduate of West Point in 1822, his battlefield gallantry earned him commendations: from the Seminole War in Florida, to the Mexican War, to the Indian Campaigns in the Pacific Northwest. His loyalty to the Union also earned him President Lincoln's appointment as Military Commander of the entire Pacific Coast during the Civil War.

### 5. Old Wooden Headboard ..... Circa 1876

One of the few remaining examples of carved headboards left in City Cemetery. Wood, very plentiful and far less costly, was an alternative to expensive marble and granite stones. At one time there were thousands of headboards in the cemetery. Today, only a few have survived.

### 6. Edwin Bryant Crocker ..... 1818-1875

Lawyer, politician, patron of the arts. Although remembered primarily for his passion for art and building the finest art gallery west of the Mississippi, he was also a Justice on California's State Supreme Court (1863) and Chief Counsel for the Central Pacific Railroad Company (1864 1869).

### 7. High Point in The Cemetery

The highest point in this cemetery may also be the highest elevation in Sacramento, as well. During the flood of 1861 the cemetery served as a safe haven from high waters. Hundreds of tents were described as being visible on its hills.

### 8. Jesse Haycock ..... 1850

Arriving here in 1849, Haycock, a native of Boston, MA, was a victim of the cholera epidemic that claimed nearly a thousand lives in Sacramento in 1850. He died October 26.

### 9. Mark Hopkins ..... 1815-1878

A Forty-Niner, one of railroad's legendary "Big Four" and Treasurer of the Central Pacific Railroad is entombed in this magnificent 350-ton granite structure that dominates the Pioneer Section. He died March 29, 1878, and was buried in San Francisco until the completion of his tomb in 1880.

### 10. Albert Maver Winn ..... 1810-1883

Elected to Sacramento's first City Council in 1849 and selected as its President, he was ex officio the first mayor of Sacramento. But unlike Bigelow, he was not elected directly to the office. He would later (1875) found the Native Sons of the Golden West. His monument is the cemetery's tallest.

### 11. William Stephen Hamilton ..... 1797-1850

The Youngest son of Alexander Hamilton, first Treasurer of the United States. He came to California in 1849 and died here in Sacramento August 7, 1850. He is the cemetery's most restless resident. He died once (1850), was exhumed twice (1877, 1889), and was buried three times in three different locations.

### 12. Governor John Bigler ..... 1806-1871

Elected to California's first legislature in 1849, he became the first Speaker of the Assembly. He was elected this state's third governor in 1852 and re elected in 1854, being the only governor to serve more than one term from 1849 until 1939. As governor, he was instrumental in bringing the Capitol here to stay in 1854.

### 13. Grand Army Of The Republic Memorial

Dedicated in 1889, the Grand Army Monument is reputed to have been the first Civil War memorial in the state of California.

### 14. Capt. James T. Homans, USN ..... 1805-1849

This is the earliest known burial in the City Cemetery. Capt. Homans died July 20, 1849, and was initially buried in the Tier Grounds, located in the front of the cemetery. When his son died in 1858, Mrs. Homans purchased this lot and had her husband and son buried together. The stone is circa 1858.

### 15. Historic Volunteer Firemen's Plot And Bell

Sacramento has the distinction of forming the first Volunteer Fire Company in the state, organizing in February of 1850. The gallant volunteers served until 1872, when a paid Department came on line. The old 1,900 steel fire bell, cast in 1859 in Sheffield, England, came around the Horn and was placed in service in 1863.

