



# Historic Matthew Kilgore Cemetery

Self-Guided Tour and Fee Schedule

City of  
Rancho Cordova



# Matthew Kilgore Cemetery

is owned and operated by the

City of Rancho Cordova



## Preserving our Past for the Future

At the City Council Meeting on September 6, 2005, the County Historical Cemetery Association designated Matthew Kilgore Cemetery as a historical cemetery and presented a plaque to the City Council for placement at the property.

# History of Kilgore Cemetery

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*Established in 1874*



Matthew Kilgore

March 14, 1801—March 6, 1882

Massa McGuire Kilgore

November 10, 1798—April 8, 1876

The first purchase of the property that would become Matthew Kilgore Cemetery is recorded in a deed executed on May 12, 1874. Landowners James and Ann Locy signed and transferred the property to the original trustees Matthew Kilgore, George M. Kilgore, and F.A. Evans. The original deed stated "manage said grounds as a public cemetery and grounds for a Church". Prior to the establishment of Kilgore Cemetery, all area residents were buried in the Kinney schoolyard, and over the next 14 years members were moved and re-interred into the cemetery site. On March 26, 1888, the residents of the Kinney School District met at the American River Grange Hall for a special

meeting to secure the future care and maintenance of their cemetery. They decided to incorporate their Association and elect a Board of Directors to draft Articles of Incorporation. These were recorded as the "Matthew Kilgore Association Incorporated". The cemetery was mapped and recorded on June 1, 1888 with the Sacramento Recorder's Office. The Kilgore Association and its Board of Directors worked very diligently to make all necessary improvements to the cemetery and to enhance the beauty of the land. The Association cared for Kilgore Cemetery for over 50 years with hardly a problem.

Between 1962 and 1972, the Association turned over the property to Miller Funeral Home of Folsom, California. In return for the property, Miller Funeral Home provided care of the cemetery until May 1972 when the 18 members and Board of Directors decided to sell the property to Howard Keene and Dale Snyder in hopes that care for the cemetery would continue. Unfortunately, over the years, neglect and a lack of interest caused the property to fall into disrepair. Kilgore Cemetery lay virtually dormant until the City of Rancho Cordova assumed ownership in 2005 and spent nearly \$1 million to restore and improve the property, with the addition of a parking lot and a niche wall for cremated remains.

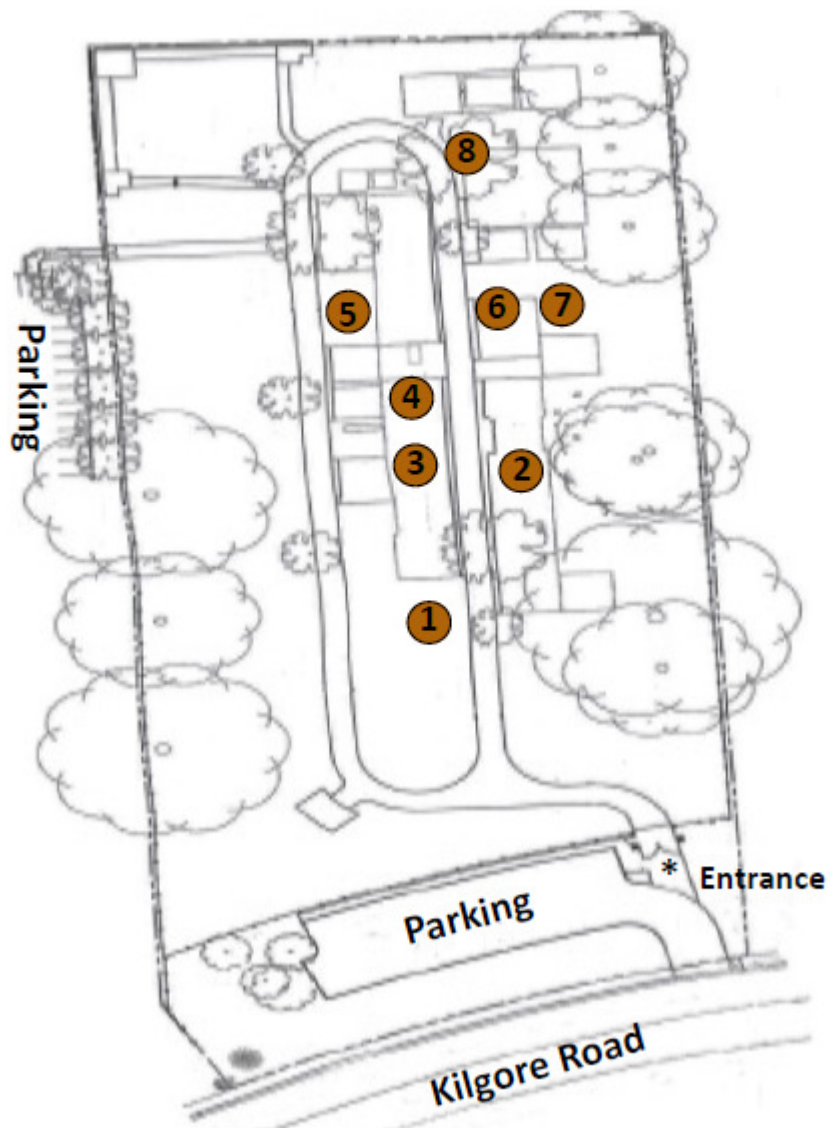
Today, the cemetery still displays a horseshoe shaped driveway lined with elm trees planted in the 1880's as well as a row of eucalyptus trees planted around the perimeter of the property. At the City Council meeting on September 6, 2005, with several descendants of these pioneers in attendance, the County Historical Cemetery Association designated Matthew Kilgore Cemetery as a historical cemetery and presented a plaque to the City Council for placement at the property. Our City Council members are devoted to maintaining the historic Matthew Kilgore Cemetery as a revered landmark for its City residents.



## Tour of Notable Grave Markers

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Each number corresponds with the location of the burial site of the person(s) identified in the Notable Biographies.



## Notable Biographies

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**① Yost Family:** The Yost family is descended from Jacob Yost who was born in 1813 in Switzerland. His parents left Switzerland in 1815, landing in Pennsylvania, then settled in Ohio where they farmed 320 acres. Jacob married Niklaus Fankhauser's sister, Elizabeth, and they had twelve children, two of whom died as young adults. One of their children, Noah married June Torrace Shaver in Ohio. In 1884, Noah, June and their first five children, including George Orlonzo, moved to California. Noah was only 32 years of age. Their children attended the Ney School. George and his brother John (Jack) Peter Yost were among the first in San Francisco to help after the earthquake and fires, staying for 15 months. That's where George Orlonzo and Annie Lee Biggs met. They were married in 1910 in Folsom, lived on the ranch and had four children who attended the Ney School; Nanne (Norma T.) Paul, Torrence Anne, and George Ney, called junior. George Orlonzo was a Grange Master and one of the people who spent many years helping care for the cemetery. George Orlonzo died in 1946 and Annie died in 1947. George Ney Yost married Rose (Rikki) Frank of Sacramento and they had three children. Both Diane Yost Goldman and her twin sister, Debbie Yost Fruits, graduated from Cordova High in 1971 and teach at the school. Their brother, Scott John Yost died in 1997 and is buried with his parents in Kilgore Cemetery. Carrying on the family tradition, all of the Yost family have continued to be involved with the American River Grange and Kilgore Cemetery.



Photo By Steve Harriman

**② Deterding Family:** Heinrich Friederich William Deterding was born in Germany in 1818. He married Miss Wilhelmina Rosenberg in 1845. They lived in Germany until 1846 when he immigrated to St. Louis, Missouri. His wife arrived in New York in 1848. Drawn by the Gold Rush, they came to Placer County, California in the early 1850s. They had four sons and five daughters. In 1857, the Deterdings moved to the "Fifteen Mile House" on Upper Placerville Road (now known as White Rock Road) in Sacramento County. His 518 acres of surrounding farmland was valued at approximately \$18,000 at the time. In 1885, their son Charles W. married Mary A. Shields. In 1907, Charles and Mary purchased a 425 acre site along the north bank of the American River, now known as Ancil Hoffman Park. Mary and her brother, Peter J., were two of seven children whose parents were John and Elizabeth Shields. They lived on a farm at Mills, then known as Hangtown Crossing. Mary attended St. Joseph's Convent in Sacramento and her brother, Peter J., became a Sacramento Superior Court judge, and founded the University of California Davis as an agricultural college. Charles and Mary's son Charles W. Deterding, Jr. served as a Sacramento County executive in the 1940's. Their other son, J.R. Deterding operated a plumbing company and their daughter, Mary married A.D. (Arch) McDonell. The McDonell's still live in Carmichael today.





**3 John B. Studarus** was born in the Alps, St. Gall, Switzerland on December 10, 1824. He came to Allegheny City in 1847. In 1848, he met and married Miss Mary Reich. They both came to Diamond Springs, California in 1853, and arrived in the Sacramento Valley a year later. He rented a farm on the American River at Brighton, and later he purchased the squatter's title to the farm. Mr. Studarus became a charter member and director of the Sacramento Cannery. They had a total of thirteen children. He was a charter member of the American River Grange. Their son, John B. Jr., married Hansine Lauridson, sister of Laurids and Neils Hanson Lauridson. Their son Charles married Anna Florence Taylor, daughter of John B. Taylor. Mary passed away November 1873, and John B. died May 10, 1899.

**4 John B. Taylor** was born in Baltimore County, Maryland in 1826. He lived there until 1844, when his family relocated to Ohio. John Brown Taylor worked as a carpenter until he joined a group of young men setting out for California. They reached Sacramento August 1849. John B. engaged in mining along the north fork of the American River. He accepted a partnership with John M. Goetschius, a merchant in El Dorado County. He then returned to Ohio and married John's sister, Ann E., on March 17, 1853. John B. and Ann returned to California in 1853. He owned 488 acres of land which he farmed and mined from 1857 until 1859, during which time he was a member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. They had three daughters, Amelia, Anna Florence who married Charles Studarus, and Margaret Isabella. John B. died in 1889 and Ann died February 1917.

**5 Biggs Family.** Annie Lee Biggs, born in 1876 in West Virginia, was the daughter of Lewis Tomlinson Biggs and Nancy Jane Lorain. Later that year, they came across the plains to California in a wagon and settled in Granite Township. Eventually, there were a total of eight children. Annie and George Orlonzo Yost were born on opposite sides of the Ohio River in 1876, but of course, did not meet until they came to California. Lewis Tomlinson Biggs' brother, Joseph Theodore Biggs married AnnaLenah Lorain, Nancy's sister. AnnaLenah



died in 1925. Lewis died in 1932, and Joseph and Jane died in 1936. They are all buried in Kilgore Cemetery, as are many of their relatives, including Elizabeth Biggs, Lewis and Joseph's mother, who died in 1891.

**6 George Kilday Ney** was a Pennsylvania native. He and his brother, John, relocated to Granite Township, California in 1850. George engaged in placer mining above Auburn. In 1865, he began farming and raising stock on land he owned west of Prairie City Road and north of the Upper Placerville Road (now White Rock Road). At the time of his death in 1887, he owned 4,012 acres of land worth \$50,000 in 1880. The Ney School was built along the Upper Placerville Road and was ultimately moved to Folsom. George passed away in 1887, and left his entire estate to his sister Jane (who married Peter Shaver and remained in Ohio) and her children. Her daughter, Clara, cared for George during the last year and a half of his life. Ultimately, Clara married David Groves Fankhauser who had also come from Ohio. Ney's grave offers its own commentary on the fading memories of the past. The first line of his epitaph, now barely legible, reads, "We only know that thou hast gone..."

**7 James Locy** was born in 1831 in Ohio. He married Ann Evans Badger in 1852 in Iowa. By 1867, they had relocated to Brighton, California. They had three children, Henry Shuck, William Steward and Allen Macy. James died April 1, 1884 and Ann died January 5, 1915. All but Henry are buried in Kilgore Cemetery. Their great grandson, David, lives in Carmichael.

**8 Matthew Kilgore** was born in Ohio on March 14, 1801. Kilgore lived there until 1837. He served as a county supervisor for three years in Ohio, where he was a prominent farmer and gardener. He married Massa McGuire in 1822. They had five sons and three daughters. Kilgore came to California in a covered wagon train during the Gold Rush to try his luck in the gold fields. A few years later he returned to the Midwest, gathered up his family and moved to Northern California. They first settled in Santa Clara, then built a house in what is now Rancho Cordova. The Kilgore's 150-acre farm was one of the largest and most productive in the area.

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# City of Rancho Cordova

## Matthew Kilgore Cemetery Fee Schedule

	*Resident	Eligible Non-Resident
Niche Endowment	\$500	\$625
Niche Purchase		
Row A	\$1,900	\$2,375
Row B	\$2,100	\$2,625
Row C	\$2,650	\$3,313
Row D	\$2,100	\$2,625
Row E	\$1,900	\$2,375
Niche Face Engraving	<i>Paid directly by customer to engraver</i>	
Urn	<i>Included in niche purchase</i>	
Niche Inurnment (Monday—Friday)	\$300	\$375
Niche inurnment (Saturday)	\$900	\$1,125
Transfer Fee	\$200	\$250
Plot Inurnment (Monday - Friday) **	\$600	\$750
Plot Inurnment (Saturday) **	\$1,800	\$2,250
Plot Interment (Monday - Friday) **	\$800	\$1,000
Plot Interment (Saturday) **	\$2,400	\$3,000
Hourly Late Fee	\$200	\$250

\*Resident means any resident or property taxpayer of the City of Rancho Cordova

\*\* Fee schedule for plots pertains only to the historic area in which plots are already owned.  
No additional plots are available for purchase at this time.



# Contacts

## Location

Kilgore Road, between Trade Center Drive  
and Sun Center Drive  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

## Contacts

**City of Rancho Cordova**  
2729 Prospect Park Drive  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
*Phone: 916-851-8700*

*[www.cityofranhocordova.org](http://www.cityofranhocordova.org)*

Open Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Mindy Cuppy, CMC - City Clerk**  
*Phone: 916-851-8721*  
*[mcuppy@cityofranhocordova.org](mailto:mcuppy@cityofranhocordova.org)*

**Tony Ingalls - Accounting Technician / Cashier**  
*Phone: 916-851-8768*  
*[tingalls@cityofranhocordova.org](mailto:tingalls@cityofranhocordova.org)*

## Historical Information

**Rancho Cordova Historical Society**  
*[info@RanchoCordovaHistory.com](mailto:info@RanchoCordovaHistory.com)*  
*[www.ranhocordovahistory.com](http://www.ranhocordovahistory.com)*

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