

NORTHERN NEVADA MENTAL SERVICES CEMETERY MONUMENT DEDICATION, RENO, NEVADA, JANUARY 21, 2011

By David A. Davis, PCC, Camp Senior Vice Commander, Historian and Civil War Memorials Officer, Department of California and Pacific Historian

On Friday, January 21, 2011, the Northern Nevada Mental Health Services held the dedication of a monument to the 700+ people buried in the main cemetery on the institution's grounds along 21st Street in Sparks. The cemetery had been in use from 1882 to 1947, and a smaller cemetery on another part of the grounds was used from 1947 to 1949. While the cemetery was maintained through the early years, it fell into neglect and vandalized after the turn of the 20th century. By the 21st century, it had been all but forgotten, and was in danger of being built over. Through the efforts of the Friends of the Northern Nevada Mental Health Services Cemetery, the cemetery has been fenced, remains removed from the small cemetery to the large one, a city park removed from the northern third of the large cemetery, and a monument containing the names of those interred will be dedicated. At least four men buried there were veterans of the Civil War and Spanish-American War.

The speakers included: Dr. Harold Cook, Administrator, Mental Health and Development Services; Reverend Norman King, Pastor, Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Parish, Sparks; Rabbi Teri Appleby, Temple, Reno; Brian Worcester, Secretary-Treasurer, Carlin Camp 25, SUVCW; Rosie Cevasco, Historic Reno Preservation Society; Sue Silver, Historian and Cemeterian; and Carolyn Mirich, Northern Nevada Mental Health Services Cemetery.

At the end of the dedication, members of the Comstock Civil War Reenactors and the First Nevada Volunteers gave a salute and Ray Arenholtz of the FNV played "Taps" on his bugle. Following the dedication, refreshments were served in a meeting room containing cemetery displays at the new Nevada Dept. of Agriculture Building adjacent to the cemetery.

Brian's speech was as follows:

At the conclusion of our Nation's great Civil War Union Veterans formed the first veteran's organization called the Grand Army of the Republic. The GAR fought for veteran's benefits. However, as their numbers became smaller over the years they wished to transfer their responsibilities to their heir organization the Sons of Union of Union Veterans of the Civil War, this was accomplished by Act of Congress.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, of which I am a member, keeps alive the accomplishments as well as the goals of those Union veterans. We the members of this organization are actual descendants of these veterans.

I commemorate the Civil War, Spanish American War and Indian War soldiers who lay in this historic cemetery and encourage their final resting place be marked with the headstones provided by the Veterans Administration. Their names are Timothy Burk, Robert Hope, John Cooper and John Balback.

In 1862 Civil War Major General Daniel Butterfield was commanding a brigade in the Army of the Potomac. After a particularly hard day of fighting the troops settled down for the night along the James River. On this night General Butterfield felt that the evening bugle call was not as it should be. He felt the day's final call should bring comfort and peace to tired troubled men. With the help of his bugler Oliver Norton, Butterfield composed the music to what we all know today as TAPS.

Later in that campaign a funeral was being held during a lull in the fighting. The bugler played TAPS for the first time in lieu of the usual three volleys of musket fire. This was done because it was feared gunfire would renew the fighting.

The playing of TAPS was eventually written into Army regulations as part of the honors to be paid at military funerals.

I would like to conclude with the original words written for that Bugle Call.

Day is done, Gone the sun, From the lakes, From the hills, From the sky,
All is well, Safely rest, God is near.

Fading light, Dims the sight, And a star, Gems the sky, Gleaming bright,
From afar, Drawing near, Falls the night.

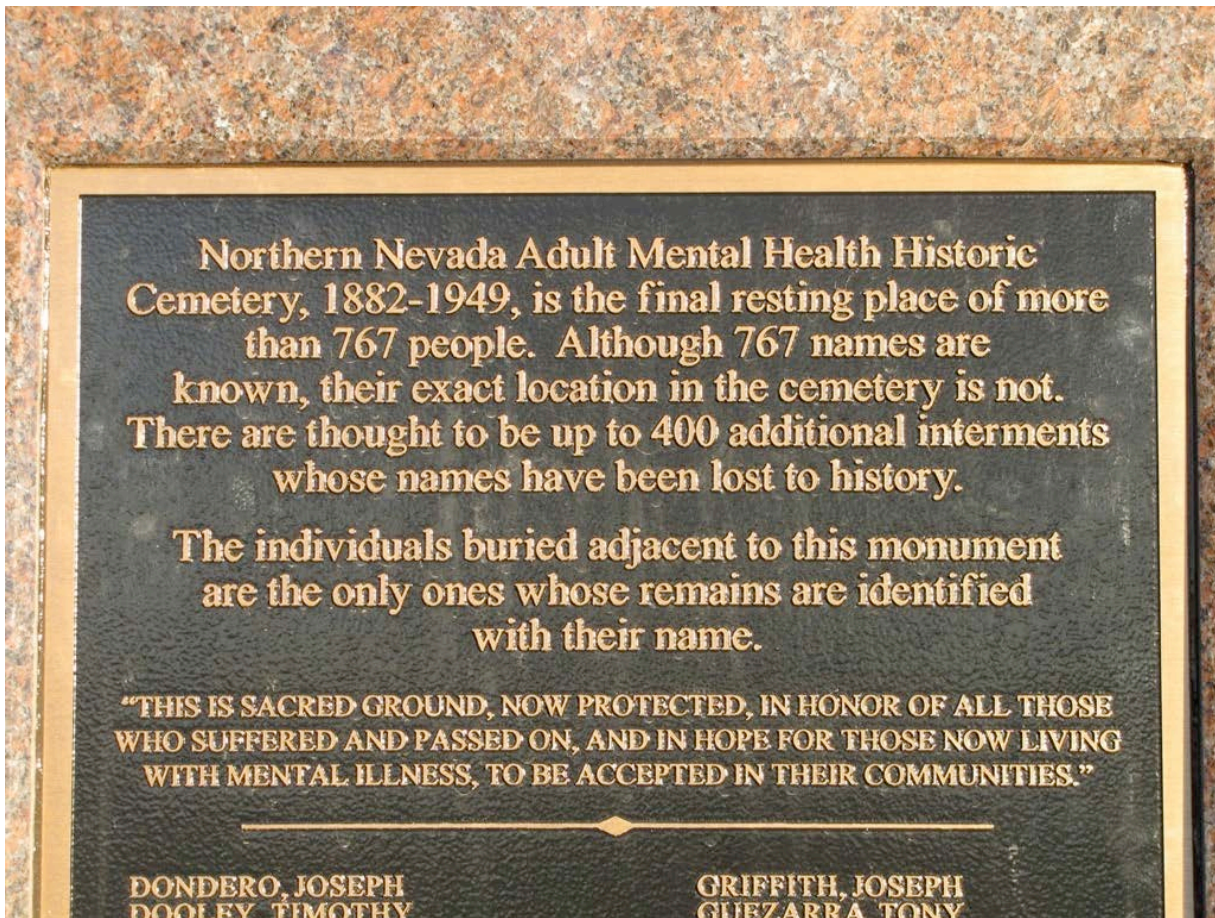
Thanks and praise, For our days, Neath the sun, Neath the stars, Neath the sky,
As we go, This we know, God is near.



The monument in what had been Pinion Park. Pinion was discovered to have covered the northern third of the cemetery. The areas in stone are where bodies from the small cemetery were moved to.



The monument is a granite obelisk with bronze plates on all four sides listing the known burials.



The verbiage briefly describing the cemetery and monument.



The veterans are marked with a star. Robert Hope is a Civil War veteran buried somewhere in the cemetery.



Brian Worcester speaking with Dr. Harold Cook to the left.



Members of the Comstock Civil War Reenactors and First Nevada Volunteers.