

# **HISTORY AND MEMORIALS REPORT**

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## **UNIONVILLE REMAINS**

During the February meeting, I reported on potential soldier's remains found near Unionville in 1982. I had a meeting with Bryan Hockett, Lead Archaeologist, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, and he allowed me to copy most of the file involving the remains, which included the original Pershing County Sheriff's report, several archaeological reports and analyses, a location map, and pertinent correspondence. What was not copied was some redundant e-mail correspondence. I gave a copy of the report to Ray Ahrenholz to study closely. Bryan Hockett said he would contact Gene Hatori at the Nevada State Museum about having Ray and I view the remains. It has been a couple of weeks since I last heard from him and will e-mail him tomorrow evening if I don't hear from him by then. If for some reason this does not happen, we at least got the report.

It appears the soldier died from an apparent blow to the head, not from being shot in the head. I have been doing a little research on the Unionville area. Unionville sprang up with the discovery of gold and silver in 1861 in Buena Vista Canyon on the east side of the Humboldt Range. The Buena Vista and several other mining districts were formed and the mines were prosperous into the late 1860s before declining. The towns at best had a few hundred people each, and the Indian problems tended to be more to the north, especially in Paradise Valley north of Winnemucca.

The timing of the soldier's demise is the question. The 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Artillery did Cavalry duty along the emigrant trails, but the emigrant trail followed the Humboldt River on the west or opposite side of the range from Unionville. If the remains were pre-1861, we would need to find a report on any activities they had on the east side of the range. The soldier's demise may have then been due to a skirmish or an accident. If they date to after the rise of mining in the area, the soldier's demise may be due to homicide. The remains were apparently found a couple of hundred yards over the line onto BLM land. They were less than half a mile out of town, which seems odd he would not have been brought into town if he died with other troops. Also, the area would have been carpeted with mining claims, not to mention a house about a quarter of a mile away and the telegraph line a half of a mile away on the 1871 public land survey map. Several prospect pits still exist apparently a few hundred yards from the site. The part of Unionville closest to the site of the remains was populated with southern sympathizers, which were said to get into occasional brawls with the more numerous pro-Union supporters on the other end of town. Also, crime was a major problem with iffy justice.

The local newspaper was the "Humboldt Register", but it did not start publication until mid-1863. It only mentions Indian problems starting in 1864. Soldiers were stationed at Dun Glen in 1863 and late 1865, and Unionville reportedly hosted soldiers in 1863 before they went on to Dun Glen. Dun Glen is 25 miles north of Unionville and had no newspaper. I haven't found records of the 1863 expedition yet, and the post records for the 1865 expedition only cover two months. A newspaper article did mention troops passing through Unionville on their way to Camp Winfield Scott in 1866. More research needs to be done, and hopefully we'll get to see the remains, which may shed light on the timing.

## **MARKERS AT MITCHELL POST 69 CEMETERY FOR VETERANS BURIED AT OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS**

Three Civil War veterans – Patrick Keating, d. 9/3/1901; Martin Kennedy, d. 5/29/1912; and Patrick Reynolds, d. 12/15/1892 - have Civil War veterans' markers in the GAR O. M. Mitchell Post 69 Cemetery at Hillside. However, lists show that they were originally buried in the old Saint Thomas Catholic Cemetery, which was along Virginia Street across from Lincoln Hall at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). By 1965, the cemetery was full and sold to UNR. Several dormitories now sit on the site. The remains were moved mostly to Our Mother of Sorrows Cemetery. The Mitchell Post

Cemetery was renovated by the Johanna Shine Tent No. 82 of the DUVCW and Isaac Crist Camp No. 28 of the SUVCW in the 1960s, which included acquiring 39 new markers. The markers for the three Civil War veterans mentioned do not contain the words "In Memory Of", which would have indicated the remains are elsewhere. Several years ago, the late Commander John Riggs and I recently visited the office to Our Mother of Sorrows. Records there show that Keating, Kennedy, and Reynolds were disinterred from Saint Thomas and reinterred in the Old Saint Thomas Section of Our Mother of Sorrows. Records note about where they are buried in the section, though it might still not be easy to find them exactly. Also, I just recently found a newspaper article mentioning a Confederate veteran buried at Saint Thomas, but have not had time to follow up with our Grave Registration Officer Don Huffman and Our Mother Sorrows.

Several weeks ago, I was at Our Mother of Sorrows, and mentioned it to the Operations Manager. She said that if we could get markers, she would waive the fees if we set the stones, which would require a little shovel work. They could also get markers at their cost, but I assume they'd be expensive. Sorrows only takes flat markers now, and the ones at GAR are standard Government issued uprights. Also, it's probably not likely the VA will send new flat ones if they know other ones already exist elsewhere. Brew suggested moving the existing ones to Our Mother of Sorrows and laying them flat, which I have seen done at some other cemeteries. The next time I go to our Mother of Sorrows, I'll enquire about that. Also, American Legion Post 1 looks after the Mitchell Post 69, and it would likely take their okay, too, to move any of the markers.

### **ANOTHER DEAD SOLDIER**

On August 4, 1860, the "Territorial Enterprise" reported Mr. Roberts and Mr. Ruffin of the Pony Express Service arrived in Carson City with the mail. Part of the time, they had travelled from Robert's Creek Station about 300 miles away. For a few days they happily travelled with soldiers under the command of Lieutenants Perkins and Weed who were also travelling with their surgeon Dr. Perkins. The article mentioned a soldier named Miller died from an apoplectic attack at Smith's Creek. Smith Creek was apparently a Pony Express Home Station in western Lander County. I passed the information on to our Graves Registration Officer Don Huffman. Don found him listed on Findagrave and as well as in other records. Private Joseph Miller, Co. B, 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Artillery died July 15, 1860. He has a marker in the Camp Floyd/Crittenden Cemetery in Utah, where the 4<sup>th</sup> Artillery was based. The caveat is whether or not he is really there or still out near Smith Creek, which is now a ranch. The cemetery had 84 original markers, but there were no records to say for certain who was buried where, and these markers were removed and destroyed and replaced with the Government markers there now. However, ground-penetrating radar found only 37 burials - see <http://campfloydceemetery.blogspot.com/>.