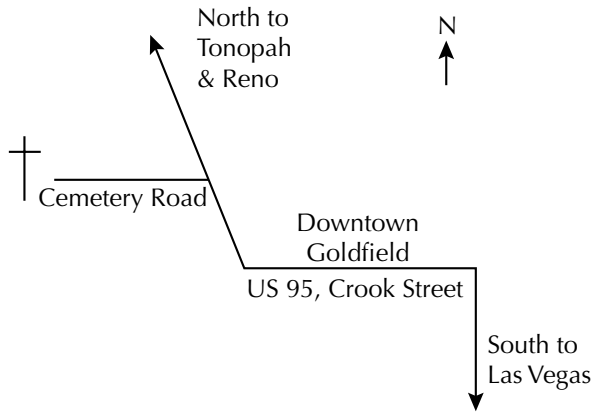


FOR MORE INFORMATION

Central Nevada Museum
PO. Box 326, Tonopah, NV 89049
www.tonopahnevada.com/central-nevada-museum


Goldfield Historical Society
PO. Box 393, Goldfield, NV 89013
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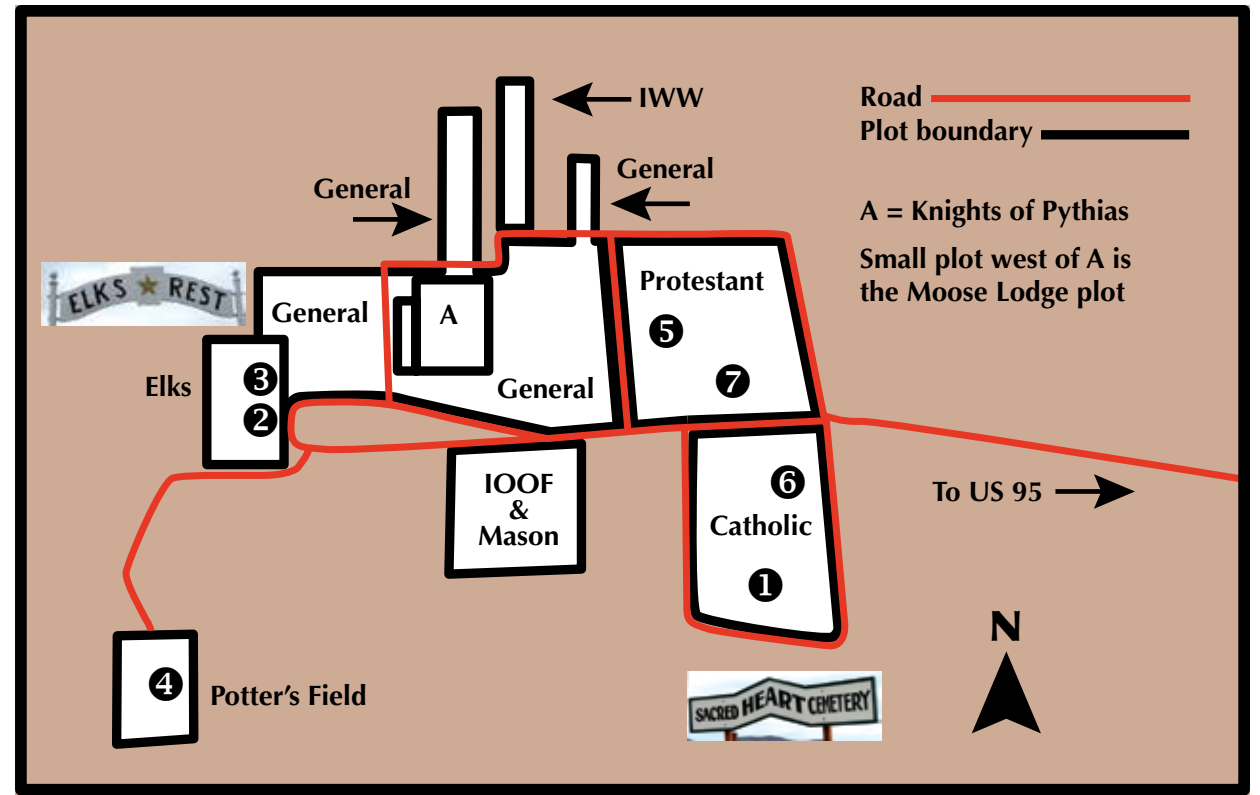
Research: Allen Metscher
Photos: Jim Price, Central Nevada Museum



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GOLDFIELD'S HISTORIC CEMETERY

A Brief Visitor's Guide to Over 100 Years of Boomtown Graveyard History



INTRODUCTION TO GOLDFIELD'S HISTORY AND ITS CEMETERY

Goldfield, Nevada, was once considered to be the “Greatest Gold Camp Ever Known,” founded in 1902 and peaking at an estimated 20,000 people by mid-1907. Today, Goldfield is still the Seat of Esmeralda County and about 300 people call it home. But many folks have lived, and died, in this town over the years. And hence Goldfield’s Cemetery is large, and historic!

The original cemetery was located downtown, near the Las Vegas & Tonopah Railroad Depot. But the residents of Goldfield decided to relocate the cemetery so that visitors would not be walking on the graves of the deceased.

To the southwest of the main cemetery is an area called Potter’s Field. Why these burials are separate from the rest of the cemetery is unknown.

The Goldfield Cemetery is divided into sections — some by religious affiliation, service club or the “general” area.

Inside this brochure are unusual stories about some of the cemetery’s “residents.” The number by each person’s name is shown on the map above.



COUNT CONSTANTINE DE PODHORSKY ①

Count Constantine de Podhorsky was from Poland and worked as a mining promoter. On March 21, 1907, John C. Hines shot and killed the Count while he was enjoying a meal at the Victor Ajax French restaurant on South Main Street near Goldfield's Red Light District. After shooting him, his killer stated, "Ladies and gentlemen, I want to say that this man seduced that woman," pointing to his wife. "He ruined my life and now I am prepared to pay the penalty for slaying the dog." The Count is buried in the Catholic plot, Row 2, Grave 17.

WILLIAM J. BARTSCH ②

William J. Bartsch, a miner working in the gold-laden Hampton Stope near Goldfield's Combination Mine, lost his life when the mine workings caved in on September 25, 1909. That fateful morning when he left for work, he kissed his wife and baby and left, but returned home minutes later to kiss his wife and baby again — a first. She never saw him alive again. Bartsch is buried in the Elks Plot next to Thomas and Lucy Heslip in Row 1.



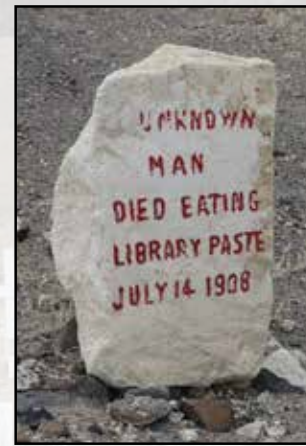
THOMAS & LUCY HESLIP ③

Lucy Heslip, age 31, from Germany, was taken before her time on August 16, 1909. Mrs. Heslip and two friends were talking on her porch one evening when a drunken Patrick "Pegleg" Casey came by and attempted to shoot Mrs. Heslip's friend Mrs. Alice Mann because she had rejected his advances. Pegleg shot and injured Mrs. Mann and then shot and killed Mrs. Heslip. He then attempted to kill himself, but failed. Lucy's husband, Thomas, couldn't live without her and the following day he ingested a fatal dose of cyanide and died. They are buried next to each other in the Elks Plot of the Goldfield Cemetery, Row 1, Graves 7 & 8.



PASTE EATER (UNKNOWN) ④

An unknown man died July 14, 1908, after eating library paste. The doctor concluded that the man was starving and in poor shape, and had eaten the contents of a glass jar of library paste. The doctor said "the digestive and respiratory organs showed a badly run-down condition." The only thing he



had on him was a letter addressed to a man named Ross. He is buried in Potter's Field in Row 4, Grave 14.

JESSE B. FINLEY ⑤

Jessie B. Finley from Georgia, a porter at the Goldfield Hotel, died October 1, 1915, in Goldfield, Nevada. On October 2, 1915, Mrs. Metscher, a maid at the hotel, came in to do her work and passed by Jesse Finley's room. The door was open and Mr. Finley was standing in his room. Mrs. Metscher said "Good morning," and Mr. Finley nodded his head in response, and she went about her work. In the lobby at the end of the day the front desk clerk commented to her, "It's too bad about Mr. Finley." She asked, "What do you mean? I just saw him and he looked fine." The desk clerk said, "You couldn't have. He committed suicide last night." He is buried in the Protestant Plot, Row 12, Grave 11.

JOHN F. MEAGHER ⑥

John F. Meagher, a Goldfield grave digger and cemetery sexton, exposed a large rock while digging a grave on March 17, 1918. After drilling a hole in the rock and loading it with blasting powder, he lit the fuse. He fell back into the grave while trying to climb out, and the explosion killed him. He was buried in that grave — in the Catholic plot, Row 1, Grave 8.

MILDRED JOY FLEMING ⑦

On August 30, 1907, Mildred Joy Fleming, a young girl whose family was getting ready to move to the East, passed away from diphtheria. The family could ill afford a headstone, so she was buried in an unmarked grave. Her mother was very distraught about her daughter being left behind and forgotten.



So, waiting until the town was asleep, she borrowed a child's wagon and took it to a local school under construction, where she took a block of stone. She brought the stone home and carved "JOY" into the stone. Later, she hired a horse-drawn wagon to take the stone to the cemetery where she then placed it on her daughter's grave. Now her daughter would not be forgotten. Joy's grave is in the Protestant Plot, Row 5, Grave 2, next to the only Joshua tree in the cemetery.

