

September 2005 Reconnaissance to Pine Hill Cemetery

November 25, 2005,



Pine Hill Cemetery is a public county cemetery located in Bitterwater Valley in San Benito County, California.

A digital orthophoto quadrangle (DOQ) is a computer-generated image of an aerial photograph. These images provided courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey in conjunction with Microsoft Corporation via the TerraServer website at <http://terraserver.homeadvisor.msn.com>.

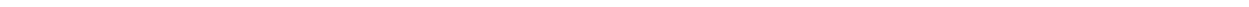
The topographical map segments in this report are USGS maps taken from the *National Geographic Seamless USGS Topographic Maps on CD-ROM* for California.

All photographs are provided by Ray Iddings or as credited. Photographs are copyrighted and subject to terms described on Three Rocks Research website at <http://www.3rocks.org>.

All GPS coordinates use the 1927 North American Datum in a UTM format. All UTM values are for UTM zone 10 north. GPS values, distance measurements and compass bearings are derived from *National Geographic Seamless USGS Topographic Maps on CD-ROM*, version 2.6.8; many GPS values were field verified using a Garmin Corporation, eTrex (software version 2.11); many compass bearings were field verified using a Brunton Eclipse 8099 compass preset for 15½° east declination; many distance estimates were verified by visual estimate.

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Reconnaissance Summary

Three Rocks Research conducted a brief surface reconnaissance of the Pine Hill Cemetery on September 18, 2005 to observe the condition of the cemetery. Field reconnaissance was conducted by Ray Iddings (president of Three Rocks Research), and Chris Schmidt, a descendant of the Rudolph/Schmidt family who sold the property to the Pine Hill Cemetery Association. Both Mr. Iddings and Mr. Schmidt have previous experience with this cemetery. Mr. Iddings lived in Bitterwater Valley during 1960s and Mr. Schmidt grew up on the ranch that borders the southern edge of the cemetery property.

Although our last visits to this cemetery were about thirty years ago, we were both disturbed by the terrible ruin that neglect has accomplished upon Pine Hill Cemetery. Certainly the remoteness of the cemetery has contributed most to its general abandonment, and thus we expected a degree of natural reclamation caused by overgrowth, earthquakes and ground squirrels. What we found were broken boundary fences that previously impeded livestock access. Cattle have transgressed the cemetery and have displaced nearly all of the old wooden grave markers, have broken many of the marble stones and have otherwise uprooted and destroyed the entire cemetery. Additionally, severe bioturbation caused by ground squirrels may be surfacing human remains.

Access to the public cemetery is via wading west from Highway 25 at the oil field access gate. This is part of the original county road that passes the cemetery's entrance.

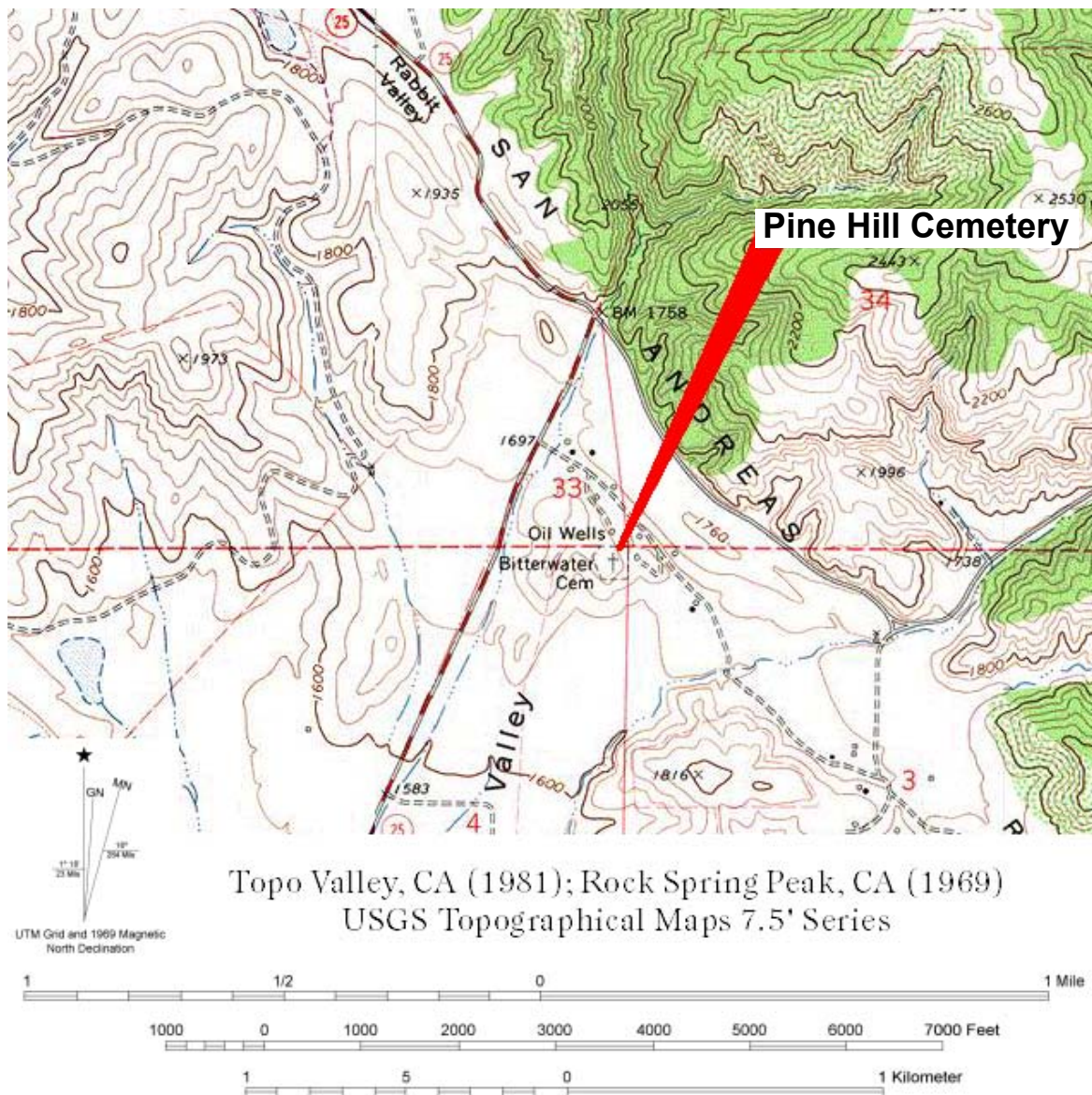
Pine Hill Cemetery

The Pine Hill Cemetery represents an important historical and cultural resource of San Benito County that reflects upon the county's history and pioneer families who contributed significantly early California. Many descendants of people buried in this cemetery still reside in the Bitterwater community and surrounding area.

The first recorded burial at this site is the baby of Edward and Maria (Lupe) Tully in 1873; one year later, Chresten and Ellen Rudolph buried their baby here. Eighteen people were buried at this cemetery before the two-acre property was sold to the Pine Hill Cemetery Association on April 17, 1897 by the Rudolph family, thus giving official title, both in deed and name to Pine Hill Cemetery. The last burial at Pine Hill Cemetery was Elmer Boutell in 1969. There are thirty three recorded burials at this cemetery and it is believed that some unrecorded pre-1870 burials may be located here as well.

Pine Hill Cemetery is a public county cemetery located on a northern foothill of Bitterwater Valley about ½ mile southwest from the Highway 25 / Coalinga Road intersection in southern San Benito County. (UTM Zone 10 MDM, NAD 27 680107mE 4030054mN, elevation 1711 feet.)

Figure 1 Location Map for Pine Hill Cemetery



Recommendation

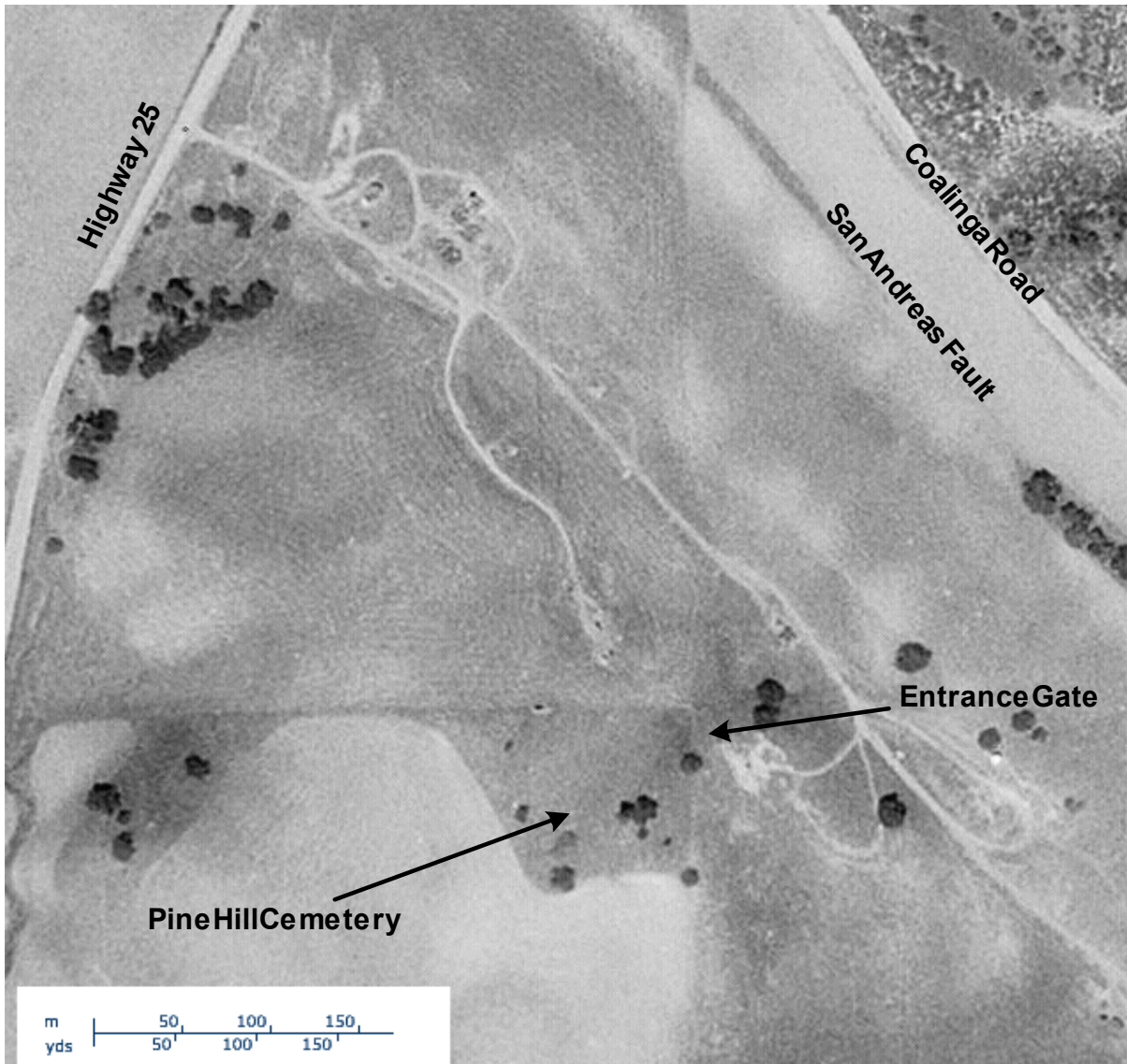
Pine Hill Cemetery is nearly lost, and given its remoteness and general abandonment, it is unlikely that the site will receive the attention needed to salvage it. Pine Hill Cemetery requires immediate intervention to repair the surrounding fence and restrict cattle. Work is also needed to arrest the bioturbation, and to find and rebury exposed human remains.

Additionally, before remediation (except for surrounding fence), the site should be carefully surveyed for recordation with the California Office of Historic Preservation. While this could otherwise be an expensive undertaking, Three Rocks Research remains committed to this endeavor by volunteering their services to community projects to accomplish proper recordation and remediation of Pine Hill Cemetery.

References

- ⊗ Barrows, Henry D. *A Memorial and Biographical History of the Coast Counties of Central California*. The Lewis Publishing Company. 1893.
- ⊗ Sardoch, Dee. "Transcriptions of San Benito County Newspaper Abstracts"
- ⊗ Schmidt, Andrew R. *The Neils N. Schmidt and Anna Rudolph Schmidt Family*. August 2000
- ⊗ Wilson, Richard S. "San Benito County Cemeteries, Historical Society, Libraries, and Newspapers." *CAGenWeb: part of The USGenWeb Project*. 2005. <<http://www.cagenweb.com/sanbenito/sbencem.htm#Pine>>.

Figure 2 Aerial Photograph of Pine Hill Cemetery



Appendix A - Photographic Record

Figure 3 Henry Chambers Head Stone



The headstone has fallen from its mount in westerly direction.

Figure 4 Henry Chambers Grave and Other Unidentifiable Markers



View looking west. The wood markers are fragile and easily damaged by cattle that have gained access to the cemetery.

Figure 5 Western Side of Cemetery



Notice that all of the head stone have fallen over.

There are several old wooden markers located along the fence line.

Figure 6 Dislodged Aluminum Markers



These two aluminum markers have been dislodged and damaged by cattle.

Figure 7 Damaged Grave Site



The post found beneath this oak tree once supported wood railing that marked an associated multiple burial. The cattle rest in the tree's shade and have destroyed this grave site.

Figure 8 Westward View of Pine Hill Cemetery



This photograph shows some of the bioturbation caused by ground squirrels.

Figure 9 An Undamaged Wooden Grave Marker



One of the few remaining marker that has somehow survived.

Figure 10 A Shattered Wooden Grave Marker



This wooden grave marker is dislocated and shattered from being walked on by cattle.

Figure 11 Damaged Fence Allowing Livestock Access



The fence is collapsed in several places, including the cemetery entrance (not shown).

Appendix B - Pine Hill Cemetery

Table 1: Pine Hill Cemetery Burial List

Name Last, First Middle	Sex	Death Date Year/Mo/Day	Age Yrs/Mo	Notes
Akers, Amanda Harlow	F	1879/01/04		
Akers, Elsie	F	1887/09/15		
Ash, Josepha Cota	F	1937/12/25	84 yr	
Baldwin, John Morris	M	1893/05/08	20 yr	
Boutell, Arthur	M	1957/03/03	77 yr	Rock Marker
Boutell, Elmer	M	1969/05/13	90 yr	Alum Marker
Boutell, George Washington	M	1935/11/09	87 yr	Alum Marker
Boutell, Susan Amanda	F	1931/11/10	93 yr	
Bowden, (Baby)	M	1882/12/06		
Bowden, Mrs.	F	1883/08/27		
Chambers, Frank	M	1890/05/23		Wood Marker
Chambers, Henry	M	1888/05/16	60 yr	Headstone
Chambers, William Yancey	M	1901		Wood Marker
Chavez, Augustine	M	1942/05/10	77 yr	
Hill, Mary Esther	F	1904		Headstone
Kane, Mr.	M	1881/12/07		
Mathews, Laura Logwood	F	1878/03/21		
Mcguire, Frank M.	M	1914/11/12	75 yr	
Mcguire, Lucusda	F	1904/12/18	58 yr	
Morellini, Charlotte	F	1924/05/16	83 yr	
Mossop, R. G.	M	1885/01/27	56 yr	Headstone
Prater, Melvin	M	1912/03/02	9 yr	
Rudolph, Baby	M	1874/08/26		

Name Last, First Middle	Sex	Death Date Year/Mo/Day	Age Yrs/Mo	Notes
Sawyer, Fred	M	1881/03/20		
Sawyer, Samuel	M	1904/05/24	83 yr	
Selleck, David Munson	M	1907/10/09	75 yr	
Selleck, Hannah G.	F	1884/12/14		
Smoot, Elsie	F	1878/03/03	or 1	Elsie "Grandma Smoot" Miller
Tully, Baby	M	1873/07/19		
Villa, (Child)	?	1882/05/13		
Villa, Mrs. Domingo	F	1883/03/16		
Villa, Susannah	F	1882/05/13		
Wolfe, William A.	M	1933/04/01	52 yr	

Appendix C - Newspaper Abstracts

Courtesy Dee Sardoch. "Transcriptions of San Benito County Newspaper Abstracts."

The Pacific Coast, Hollister, April 2, 1881

Bitterwater -- Fred Sawyer died of typhoid pneumonia on the 19th inst. His funeral took place on the 22d, and was attended by fully 150 persons, which is an unusually large gathering for this place. He was an honorable young man and his sudden death is regretted by a large circle of friends.

The Free Lance, Hollister, May 23, 1890

Died -- Chambers -- at Bitterwater, May 9th, Frankie Chambers, aged 1 year, 11 months, 21 days.

The Free Lance & The Advance, Hollister, December 19, 1890

Died -- Rubell -- at King City, Dec. 15, W.H. Rubell of Bitterwater, a native of Tennessee, aged 67 years, of Bright's Disease. [... his wife lives in Monterey ... he had lived with his son, C.F. Rubell the last 6 months ... Mrs. W.H. Rubell and daughter, Lida, arrived at King's City on the afternoon train ... the remains were taken to Bitterwater for interment. On Wednesday, the burial took place at the Bitterwater cemetery ... he was born Jan. 1, 1824. He was married on May 14, 1849 to Miss Talitha E. Johnson, of Tennessee. The same year he started for California, but he remained in Springfield, Missouri until 1856, when the journey across the plains was made with ox teams. He reached California in Dec. ... settled on Pine Creek in Butte county ... went to Oregon in 1864 ... in 1884 he came to Bitterwater where he settled on a claim adjoining that of his son, C.F. Rubell, and upon which he made final proof last Saturday ...]

The Free Lance, Hollister, May 19, 1893

Died -- Baldwin -- at Bitterwater, May 8, John Morris Baldwin, aged 20 years & 9 months.

The Free Lance, Hollister, February 11, 1898

Died -- Smith -- at Kings City, Feb. 6, Madge, infant daughter of the late Mrs. Geo. Smith. [... after a lingering illness. The remains were interred in the Bitterwater cemetery.]

The Free Lance, Hollister, 27 May, 1904

From the *Salinas Journal* -- Undertaker H.V. Muller left yesterday for Bitterwater to disinter the remains of Mrs. Mary E. Fitch, a widow who recently came from Connecticut for the benefit of her health and was visiting the Selleck family at Bitterwater. Mrs. Fitch died Saturday in King City and was buried Sunday at Bitterwater. A dispatch to send the remains to Connecticut was received a few hours after the interment. Mr. Muller embalmed the body and last night shipped it east.

The Free Lance, Hollister, 23 December, 1904

Mrs. Frank McGuire, mother of Mrs. John Reed, died at her home in Bitterwater, last Saturday.

The Free Lance, Hollister, 29 September, 1905

Died -- Garcia -- at Bitterwater, Sept. 19, Miss Laura Garcia, beloved daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Trinidad Garcia, aged 25.

Appendix B - Brief Biographies

Amanda Akers

Amanda Harlow, daughter of John R. Harlow & Elsie "Grandma Smoot" Miller, was born in 1842 and married Anderson B. Akers on Dec. 1, 1858. They had eight children.

Amanda became very ill in December 1878 and died at their Hernandez Valley home of tuberculosis Jan. 1, 1879. She is buried at the Pine Hill Cemetery in Bitterwater. Her mother Elsie Smoot died three months later is buried beside her. Amanda daughter, Elsie died in 1887 at the age of ten is also buried beside her.

George Boutell

George Boutell was Born in Ohio in 1849. He ran the last horse-drawn stage between San Benito and Hernandez.

Henry Chambers

Henry was born in Estill County, Kentucky on December 15, 1827. Henry and his brother-in-law Anderson Akers can west together and Henry finally settled Bitterwater Valley where his descendants remain.

Henry was the son of James Chambers (born about 1786) and Elsie "Grandma Smoot" Miller (born 1810 in Estill County Kentucky). He married Sarah "Sally" Akers (born October 14, 1834) on February 17, 1852 in Williamson County Texas. Together they had fourteen children. Henry died May 16, 1888 in Bitterwater Valley, Californian and is buried at the Pine Hill Cemetery. Sarah died September 2, 1923 in Bitterwater Valley and is buried in King City, California.

Excerpt from *A Memorial and Biographical History of The Coast Counties of Central California*, 1893:

This lamented pioneer of California was born in Estill county, Kentucky, December 15, 1827. He was a life-long farmer, coming to California in 1852, from Texas, and located in Fresno county. In 1869 he removed to San Benito county, and located in the Hernandez valley, and there remained until he located in Bitter Water.

In 1852 Mr. Chambers was married, in the State of Texas, to Miss Sarah Akers, a daughter of Henry Akers, a farmer and an early settler of Fresno county. Mr. Chambers died May 16, 1889, leaving his widow a comfortable estate and the following children: Amanda, born January, 1853; Rebecca, born March 2, 1855; James M., born December 10, 1857; Ellen, born February 17, 1859; Mary A., born May 19, 1861; William Y., born April 9, 1863; George W., born January 22, 1865; Emma, born February 3, 1867; Jesse M., born April 25, 1869; Ida and Inez (twins), born October 9, 1871; Edward W., born November 4, 1873; Thomas H., born August 25, 1876; and Annie, born July 3, 1879. The Chambers home is one of the best located in the Bitter Water Valley, and the entire family enjoy the respect and esteem of all who know them.

Rudolph

Excerpt from *A Memorial and Biographical History of The Coast Counties of Central California*, 1893:

Christian Rudolph, one of the most independent and prosperous early settlers, is a leading agriculturist of Bitter Water valley, San Benito county. He was one of the first to locate in this favored region, where he has become so highly esteemed.

Mr. Rudolph is a native of Denmark, where he was reared to manhood and fought in the Danish army, from 1863 to 1864. At this time he went to Germany, and from there sailed for America, landing in New York. He came almost immediately to California, via Panama, and upon reaching San Francisco he proceeded to Watsonville, where he worked six years on a farm. Mr. Rudolph then purchased of Mr. Rufus Small and Mr. Matthis a squatter's right to about 400 acres of land, 200 acres of which is tilled.

Our subject was married, in 1872 to Ellen M. Smith, a daughter of P. Smith. Mrs. Rudolph is a native of the same land as her husband, and came to America from Denmark when only nineteen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph have six children, namely: Louis, born June 19, 1873; Peter, born July 16, 1875; Katie, born May 8, 1877; Annie, born April 21, 1879; Paul, born March 31, 1881; and Allen, born July 23, 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph are highly esteemed among their fellow townsmen as being very honorable, upright people, and all agree that they richly deserve the good fortune they now enjoy.

D. M. Selleck

Excerpt from *A Memorial and Biographical History of The Coast Counties of Central California*, 1893:

D. M. Selleck, one of the leading citizens of Bitter Water valley, has been a resident of California since 1858. He was born in Fairfield county, Connecticut, December 6, 1831. His father, Nathaniel Selleck, and his mother, Eunice Hall Selleck, were both natives of Connecticut. Our subject left home when about twenty-two, and first obtained money to face the world by clerking in various stores. He next went to sea, shipping "before the mast," making voyages to China, Chili, Peru, and then clerked in a ship chandler's store for some time, in Hong Kong, China. In 1860 he located at Pájaro, Monterey county, where he engaged in farming and remained until 1873, when he located on his present farm in Bitter Water valley, San Benito county, where he now owns 500 acres of good farm land and a fine stock range.

Mr. Selleck married in Santa Cruz county, California, in 1867, Miss Christina Rudolf, a native of Denmark. Five children, now living, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Selleck, namely, Eunice, David, Katie, Oliver F. and Emma L. Mr. Selleck is a substantial citizen, and is universally esteemed by all.

Tully

The Tully baby was born to Edward and Lupe Tully who among the earliest pioneers to settle the Bitterwater area. They moved to *Agua Amargosa* (Bitterwater) in 1860 and leased

part of the San Lorenzo (Sanchez) Grant for sheep pasture. He built an adobe house in the middle of the Bitterwater Valley and become its first English-speaking resident. Other early settlers in Bitterwater were Domingo Villa, R. H. Small, Claudius S. Rudolph, José Olivas, Fred Sawyer, Ernest Zoelin, Trinidad Garcia, Martin Griffin, Joe Cullumber and Fred Rist. Tully Mountain is named for his sake.

E.C. Tully was elected on the Democratic ticket to the State Assembly for three terms (1867, 1873 and 1889) and was instrumental in the formation of San Benito County from Monterey County in 1874.

R. G. Mossop

Richard George Mossop was captain of the ship "Lizzie Iredale." On voyage from Liverpool to San Francisco his ship picked up survivors from "The Bremerhaven" that foundered in the Atlantic 3 Oct. 1877. Crew landed at Philadelphia 20 Oct. 1877. Captain Mossop was awarded the Silver Medal by Liverpool Shipwreck And Humane Society in 1878.



Figure 12 Lizzie Iredale

Courtesy of Jim Schnetzler a relative of Capt. Mossop

