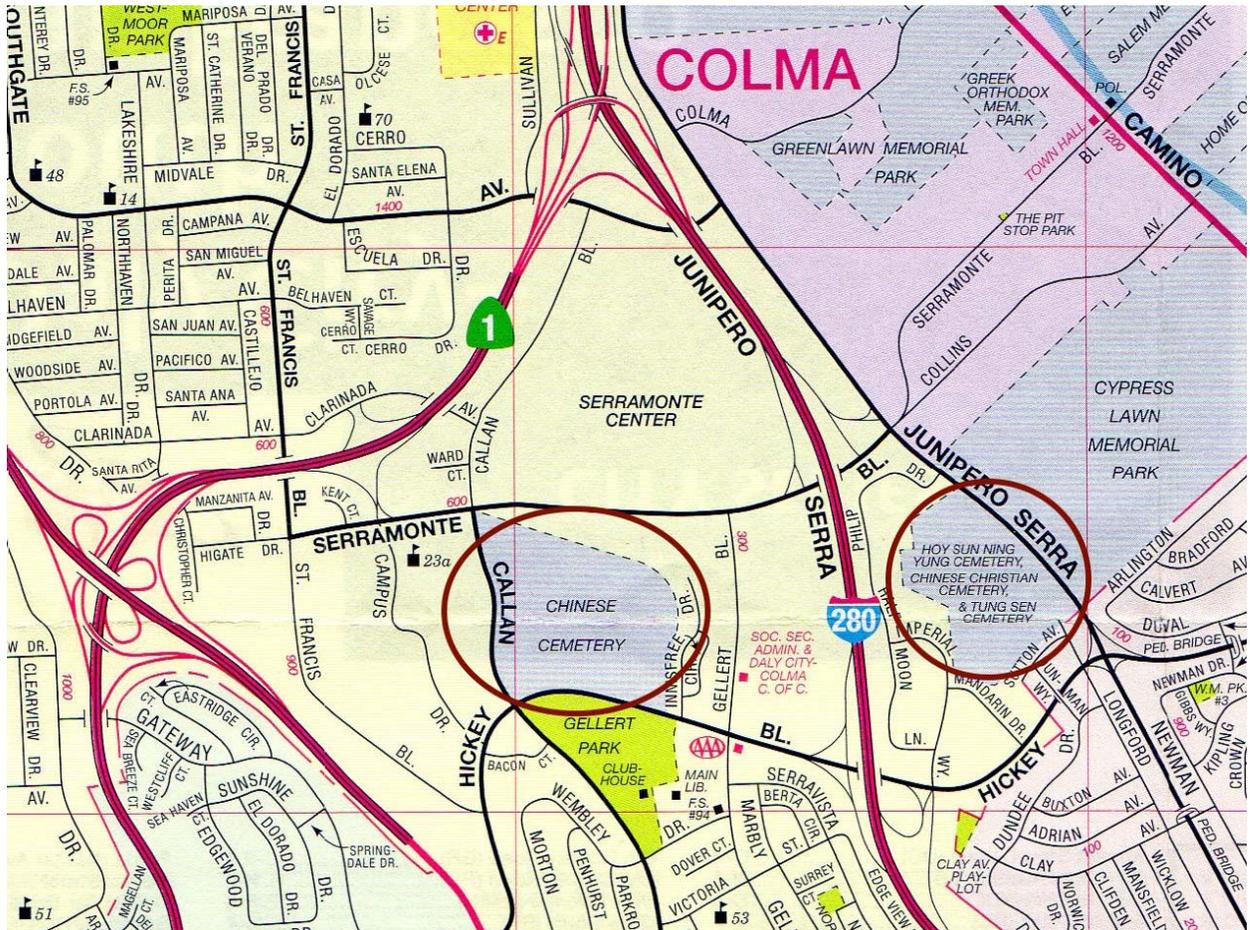


# DALY CITY'S CEMETERIES



**Chinese Cemetery**

**Chinese Christian Cemetery**

**Chong Seen Cemetery**

**Ning Yung Cemetery**

**Russian Cemetery**

**Tung Sen Cemetery**

## DALY CITY CEMETERIES - INTRODUCTION

Everyone has heard of the multitude of cemeteries in Colma, but adjacent Daly City has four active cemeteries, on inactive cemetery and one cemetery that was never developed. The lands for these properties were acquired from the descendants of two Irish-American families, Bridget and Patrick Morgan Brooks and Elizabeth and Owen McMahan. These two pioneer families held land comprising today of southern Colma, northern South San Francisco and southern Daly City.

During the last decade of the nineteenth century, as civilization marched westward through the Western Addition and the new district known as the Richmond, the "City Cemetery" and others became a target for closure by residents and developers. Situated above Lands End, the former cemetery is now occupied by the Veterans Administration, the Palace of Legion of Honor and Lincoln Park and its golf course. The cemetery was home to a number of ethnic groups and organizations along with a section for paupers.

The Chinese Cemetery bounded by Arguello, California, Euclid and Palm (or Jordan) Streets was also affected. The Ning Yung Company had on its books fully one-half of all Chinese in the United States.

The closing date for burials of 01 March 1898 was extended to 01 April 1898 to provide time to locate property elsewhere for burials in San Mateo County. The undertakers feared a backlog of burials on the horizon and immense disposal problems. The Hagan brothers started acquiring lots in a block in the Abbey Homestead across from Cypress Lawn Cemetery (Sunset Cemetery) on the east side of Hillside Boulevard to be used for paupers. The Serbian, Jewish and others followed to Colma.

The Chinese, victims of discrimination, had no such opportunity in the Colma cemetery area. Ellen Maria McMahan Barry, daughter of pioneers Elizabeth and Owen McMahan, sold 40.17 acres on 21 February 1898, for a **Chinese Cemetery** for an undisclosed amount of money. This cemetery, now slightly reshaped to 32.326 acres by the development of Serramonte in Daly City, lies at the intersection of Hickey Boulevard and Callan Boulevard.

Pioneer Patrick Morgan Brooks, former County Supervisor, sold 5 acres of land for \$2,500 on 25 March 1898, to the **Ning Yung Benevolent Cemetery**

**Association** including his authorization for establishing a cemetery. The Ning Yung Benevolent Cemetery Association acquired its 5-acre northern section from J. A. Christen on 18 June 1948, for an undisclosed amount of money.

*The San Francisco Call* stated “none will be interred but those belonging to that [Ning Yung] society, while other cemetery members will find a temporary resting place until their bones are removed for transportation to the home of their forefathers.

“... The Superintendent of the City Cemetery charged them [Chinese] \$2.50 for the opening of every grave against \$1.00 to all others who had a grave opened within the enclosure. The distance of fifteen miles [to the new cemetery], however, is a matter that annoys them somewhat, as it will cost more to convey the bodies and the funeral eatables for the defunct on his long journey to the land of the rising sun.

“Each cemetery will have a white man for superintendent, as the Chinese do not favor grave digging.

“The rest of the article notes the prejudice against the Chinese; the two-tiered rate structure against the Chinese [noted below] and the grave contractors’ financial and contractual responsibility to bury the dead even though the cemetery has closed.”

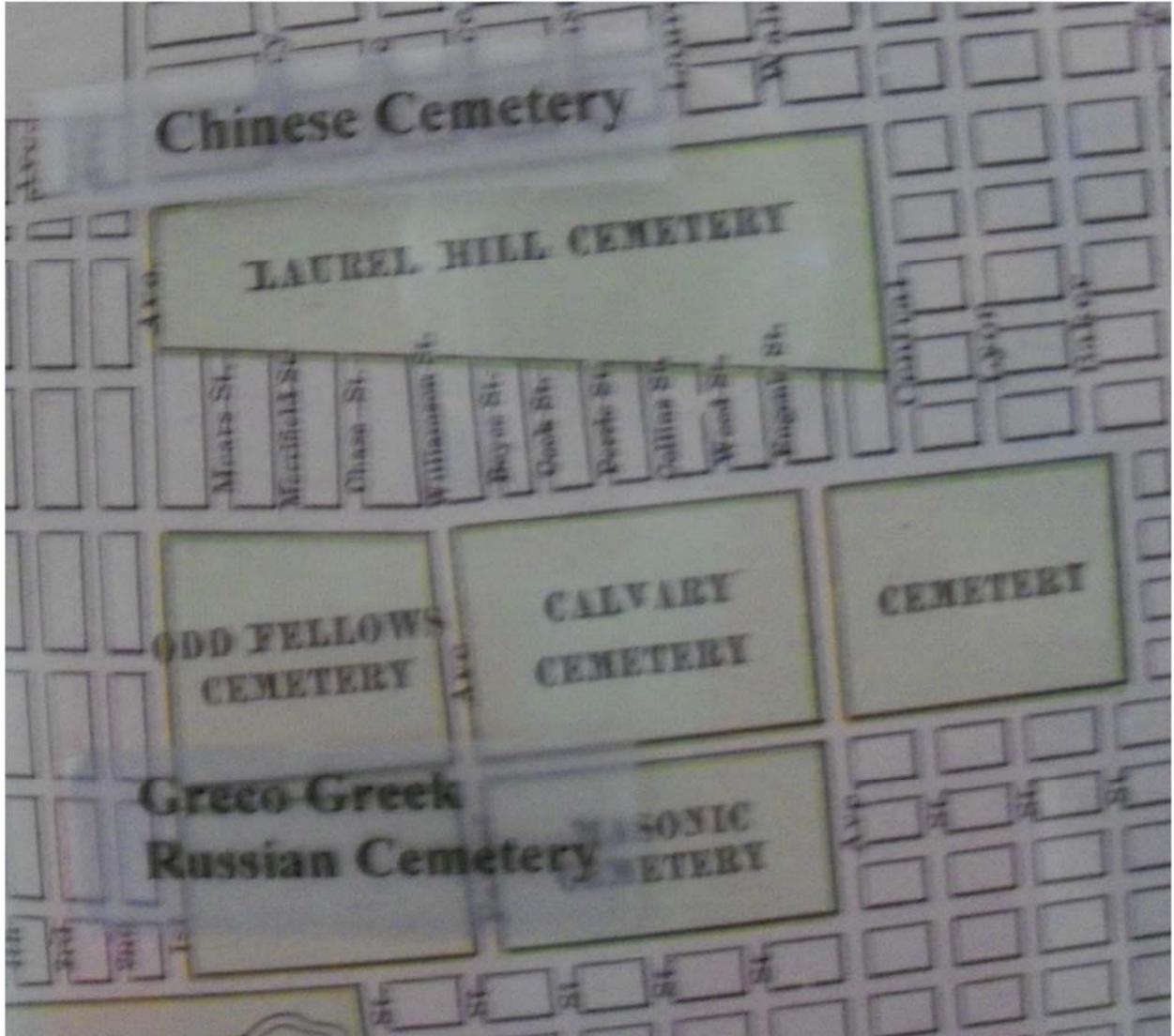
Patrick followed this by selling two acres to the **Chinese Christian Cemetery Association** on 26 July 1898 for \$1,000; sold two acres to Edward Kelly on 09 Dec 1898, which is now known as **Chong Seen Cemetery**, and appears inactive, and his daughters sold 25 acres to the City and County of San Francisco on 07 February 1905, for \$8,750 for a **City Cemetery**, which was never developed. This land was on an extremely steep slope on the north side of what is now Hickey Boulevard. It would have been a pauper’s cemetery, but it is now occupied by other uses.

The City, in turn, sold 3.35 acres to the **Russian Sectarian Cemetery Association** on 30 November 1932 for \$3,350, and sold 4.9 acres to the **Tung Sen Cemetery Association** on 14 January 1937 for \$4,900.

These five smaller cemeteries were annexed to the City of Daly City on 01 April 1974, so they could have a back up water supply at in-city rates.

## CHINESE CEMETERY IN SAN FRANCISCO

It enclosed an area bounded by Arguello, California, Euclid and Palm (or Jordan) streets as shown on the Map of the City and County of San Francisco, drawn by V. C. Henkenus, publish by Warren Holt, 1884.<sup>1</sup>



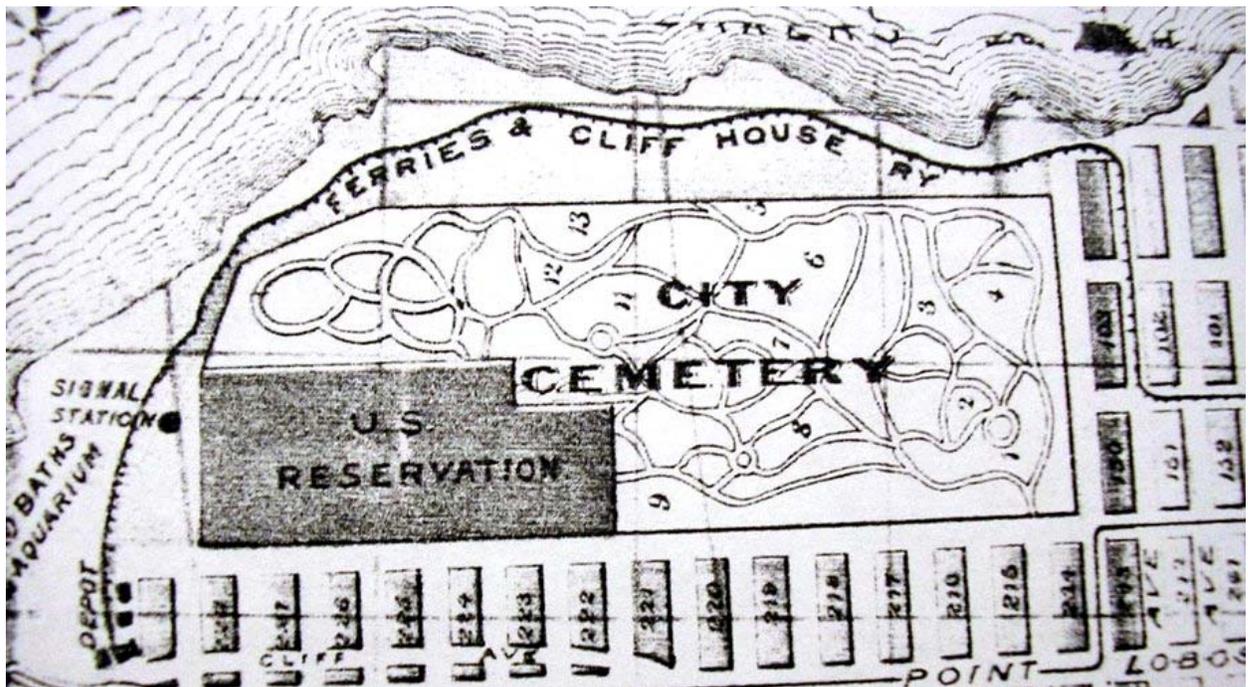
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<sup>1</sup> sfgenealogy.com

18 Dec 1890

## GRAND JURY'S FINAL REPORT

The Western Addition and the new district known as Richmond are fast becoming densely settled, and the close proximity of the cemeteries is becoming undesirable and obnoxious. They also crowd the park on the other side. As the cemeteries are all of them full, or nearly so, and as it would be but a proper regard for the living and their health to discontinue all future burials in these cemeteries, all burial grounds should hereafter be located outside the limits of the city and county of San Francisco. The **City Cemetery** use should also be discontinued, in the various plats of the same heretofore given away by the city should be bought back, and the 200 acres comprising it should either be added to the park or sold, and the proceeds applied to the removal of the cemeteries as the place they now occupy will be needed before long by the wants of our fast-growing city. Proper foresight would favor this being done soon and before such a thing as the purchase of a large tract of land for a permanent resting-place for the dead will almost [be] impossible to obtain in close vicinity of the city or become highly expensive.<sup>2</sup>



1898 Map of the City Cemetery at San Francisco

<sup>2</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Thursday, 18 December 1890, page 7, columns 1, 2 and 3.

09 Apr 1895

### **PROPOSAL FOR BURIAL OF INDIGENT DEAD<sup>3</sup>**

In accordance with resolution No. 12,040 (Third Series) of the Board of Supervisors, SEALED PROPOSALS will be received in open session of the board on MONDAY AFTERNOON April 15, 1895, from 3 to 3:30 o'clock, for the interment of such indigent dead in the **City Cemetery** as are required to be buried at the charge of the City and County of San Francisco, including the City and County Smallpox Hospital, for the term of one year, beginning July 1, 1895 and ending June 30, 1896.

..... The coffins to be made of three-quarter-inch surface redwood clear lumber, to be lined with muslin and pillowed inside and to be shellacked and varnished outside, and the tops to be fastened down with not less than six screws. In all smallpox cases the coffin shall be lined with No. 10 zinc instead of muslin, and hermetically sealed, and all coffins used must be subject to the inspection and approval of the officer in charge of the Institution from which the body of the decedent is to be buried .....

Note: A consortium of undertakers, known as The Pacific Undertakes Company was the usual awardees of this contract. The successful contractor always faced the reality of delayed payments by the city or the city's lack of sufficient funds for payment.

.....  
29 Dec 1897

### **CLOSING OF THE CITY'S CEMETERY**

#### **Richmond Residents Jubilant Over the Crowning of their Fight Resolutions Passed Thanking "*The [San Francisco] Call*" for Its Valuable Assistance**

The members of the Richmond District Club are feeling particularly jubilant at present over the crowning of their efforts to have the city cemetery closed.

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<sup>3</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Tuesday, 09 April 1895, page 9, column 6.

They had a long and uphill fight, many having been opposed to them on the theory that if one cemetery were removed others might suffer a like fate. On the first of the year [1898] the ordinance passed by the Supervisors some months ago will go into effect, and no further burials will be permitted.

The cemetery was originally intended for a burial ground for indigent dead, but a number of societies reaped a harvest by the sale of lots and its beneficent purpose was defeated.

This state of affairs will end on the beginning of the year, and property owners in the district surrounding the cemetery are happy, as it means a long stride toward the improvement of their portion of the city.

The Richmond district people have always felt that the cemeteries within the city's limits should be removed to accommodate the westward growth of the city, and that the dead should not retard the progress.

President Charles H. Hubbs of the Richmond District Club, in speaking of the improvement of his district yesterday, said: "I have been a resident in the Richmond district for a great many years and have watched with pleasure the many residences that have been erected. There are still a great many acres lying idle owing to their being located near cemeteries. People have a natural aversion to living near a burying ground, and therefore the land remains unoccupied. We worked hard to have the city cemetery condemned as it was a menace to health and prevented the improvement of our district. We hope that ultimately all other cemeteries within the city limits may be removed, and our efforts shall be in that direction."<sup>4</sup>

The official date prohibiting further interments in the City cemetery was 01 March 1898.

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16 Jan 1898

**UNDERTAKERS PERPLEXED**  
**The Closing of the City Cemetery Brings About Disadvantages**  
**The Chinese Will Purchase a Tract of Land in San Mateo County**  
**for a temporary Resting-Place**

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<sup>4</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Wednesday, 29 December 1897, page 11, column 1.

Notwithstanding the long notice given by the Supervisors that the City Cemetery would be closed for all interments on and after the first of the present year, nothing has been done by those societies and the undertakers having the responsibility of providing a final resting place for the indigent dead. The same condition of affairs has existed with the Chinese.

....The time now being extended to the first of April, steps will be taken by the Chinese to procure a tract of fifteen acres in San Mateo County for a temporary resting place for their dead [actually a five-acre tract and a ten-acre tract].<sup>5</sup>

.....

28 Feb 1898

Ellen Maria Barry, daughter of Owen McMahon, sold 40.77 acres of her recent inheritance to the Chinese Cemetery [now on Callan Boulevard] in an area know as Happy Valley. The sale price was not stated.<sup>6</sup>

The Grantees were Chun Hong; Chew Foy; Chun Fong Chow; Quan Fi\_n?; Lum Lu\_?; Shee Wai and Wong Wai.<sup>7</sup>

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08 Mar 1898

**THE CHINESE HAVE PURCHASE TWO TRACTS OF LAND  
IN SAN MATEO COUNTY – OWN THEIR CEMETERIES**

Henceforth the Chinese will not be compelled to contribute to the San Francisco treasury for the interment or exhumation of their dead.

The closing of the City Cemetery compelled the Mongolians to seek a temporary resting place for their dead countrymen ... by purchasing two tracts: The Ning Yung Company, which has on its books fully one-half of all

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<sup>5</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Sunday 16 January 1898, page 9, columns 5 and 6.

<sup>6</sup> *Becoming Chinese American: A History of Communities and Institutions*, H. Mark Lai, 2004, page 117 [Google Books].

<sup>7</sup> Volume 77 of Deeds at page 206, San Mateo County Records.

Chinese in the United States, bough five acres from ex-Supervisor Patrick Buckley [Brooks] of san Mateo County, adjoining [near, not adjoining] that of the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Holy Cross. This was purchased at the low figure of \$500 an acre.

Two miles farther [Callan and Hickey] out toward San Mateo the Yung Wo, Chong Chow, Sam Yep, Shoo Hing and Hop Woo companies purchased ten acres at a much higher figure than that paid by the Ning Yung Company. In the Ning Yung Company's cemetery none will be interred but those belonging to that society, while other cemetery members will find a temporary resting place until their bones are removed for transportation to the home of their forefathers.

..... the Superintendent of the City Cemetery charged them \$2.50 for the opening of every grave against \$1.00 to all others who had a grave opened within the enclosure. The distance of fifteen miles, however, is a matter that annoys them somewhat, as it will cost more to convey the bodies and the funeral eatables for the defunct on his long journey to the land of the rising sun.

Each cemetery will have a white man for superintendent, as the Chinese do not favor grave digging.<sup>8</sup>

The rest of the article notes the prejudice against the Chinese; the two-tiered rate structure against the Chinese [noted below] and the grave contractors' financial and contractual responsibility to bury the dead even though the cemetery has closed.

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## **PATRICK BROOKS' CEMETERY GRANT**

07 Feb 1898      Patrick Brooks petitioned the county Board of Supervisors and was granted permission to operate a cemetery **on 200 acres** of his northern property across from Holy Cross Cemetery. Excluded from the proposed cemetery were "the

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<sup>8</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Tuesday, 08 March 1898, page 5, column 5.

hotel, black'smith [sic] shop, cottages, [and] stoneyard facing the said San Jose County Road.”<sup>9</sup>

- 5 acres were sold to Ning Yung Benevolent Association Cemetery.
- 2 acres were sold to the Chinese Christian Cemetery.
- 2 acres were sold to Edward Kelly's Cemetery.
- 25 acres were sold to the City of San Francisco for their “City Cemetery.”

### **CASSERLY'S CEMETERY**

07 Feb 1898 Patrick Casserly filed a petition with the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors for a cemetery to be located at the ‘Top of the Hill’ area in now Daly City.<sup>10</sup> After many postponements, his petition was authorized 02 May 1898.<sup>11</sup>

Coincidentally, Patrick received title to the land proposed for a cemetery on the same day in a judgment from Elizabeth Angelo's estate.<sup>12</sup>

He then sold this rocky land to the Crocker Estate Company on 31 May 1898.<sup>13</sup> It later became part of the Crocker Estate Tract No. 1 subdivision.

### **NING YUNG BENEVELENT CEMETERY**

07 Feb 1898 Patrick Brooks filed a petition for and received authorization from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to establish a cemetery.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Board of Supervisor's Minutes, 07 February 1898, Volume 10 at page 326 and 344.

<sup>10</sup> San Mateo County Board of Supervisor's Minutes, Volume 10 at page 326.

<sup>11</sup> San Mateo County Board of Supervisor's Minutes, Volume 10 at pages 392 and 393.

<sup>12</sup> Volume 78 of Deeds at page 348, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>13</sup> Volume 77 of Deeds at page 344, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>14</sup> San Mateo County Board of Supervisor's Minutes, Volume 10 at pages 326 and 344.

25 Mar 1898 Patrick Brooks sold 5 acres of land for \$2,500 to the Ning Yung Benevolent Cemetery Association in an area that is now Daly City including his authorization for establishing a cemetery.<sup>15</sup>

18 Jun 1948 The Ning Yung Benevolent Association Cemetery acquired its five-acre northern parcel from the descendants of J. A. Christen for an undisclosed amount of money.<sup>16</sup>

Feb 2010

### **Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association/Hoy Sun Ning Yung Benevolent Association:**

With the diminishing amount of burial spaces available at the New Ning Yung Cemetery, Ning Yung Association has approved the construction of a building near the entrance that will have for 20,000 1'x1' spaces of urns. Questions were raised that cremation may not be widely accepted and the amount urn spaces may be too excessive. Architectural drawings of the structure are available at our Association for review. Questions and any concerns may be directed to Director Danny Yan.<sup>17</sup>

### **CHINESE CEMETERY**

21 Feb 1898 Ellen Maria Barry, daughter of Owen McMahan, filed a petition for authorization from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to establish a cemetery of 40.17 acres.<sup>18</sup>

28 Feb 1898 Ellen Maria Barry, sold 40.77 acres of her recent inheritance to the Chinese Cemetery [now on Callan Boulevard] in an area know as Happy Valley. The sale price was not stated.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Volume 78 of Deeds at pages 174 through 177, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>16</sup> Volume 1466 of Official Records at page 480, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>17</sup> Minutes of the 21 February 2010 meeting.

<sup>18</sup> San Mateo County Board of Supervisor's Minutes, Volume 10 at pages 326.

<sup>19</sup> *Becoming Chinese American: A History of Communities and Institutions*, H. Mark Lai, 2004, page 117 [Google Books].

The Grantees were Chun Hong; Chew Foy; Chun Fong Chow; Quan Fi\_n?; Lum Lu\_?; Shee Wai and Wong Wai.<sup>20</sup>

- 07 Mar 1898 Ellen's petition to operate a cemetery was approved by the Board of Supervisors.<sup>21</sup>
- 28 Oct 1963 The largest Chinese Cemetery was included in the Christen Ranch [Serramonte area] Annexation to the City of Daly City.<sup>22</sup> The cemetery was downsized to 32.326 acres in January 1967.<sup>23</sup>

### **CHINESE CHRISTIAN CEMETERY**

- 26 Jul 1898 Patrick Brooks sold 2 acres of land for \$1,000 to the Chinese Christian Cemetery Association in an area that is now Daly City.<sup>24</sup> There is no record of this land use appearing before the Board of Supervisors.
- 07 Mar 1899 The Chinese Association sold 0.2 acres of land to the Spring Valley Water Works for \$210.00. The property was located near the eastern boundary of the cemetery.<sup>25</sup>
- 20 May 1908 A re-conveyance was file by the Chinese Baptist Church to the Chinese Christian Cemetery. No amount was stated.<sup>26</sup>
- 31 Jan 1940 The Spring Valley Water Company returned the 0.2 acres of land to the Chinese Christian Cemetery.

### **KELLY'S CEMETERY / CHONG SEEN CEMETERY**

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<sup>20</sup> Volume 77 of Deeds at page 206, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>21</sup> San Mateo County Board of Supervisor's Minutes, Volume 10 at pages 363.09 Jun 1910

<sup>22</sup> City of Daly City, Ordinance No. 588.

<sup>23</sup> Serramonte Unit No. 7, Volume 66 of Maps, pages 8-11, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>24</sup> Volume 77 of Deeds at pages 402 and 403, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>25</sup> Volume 908 of Official Records at page 341, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>26</sup> Volume 150 of Deeds at page 216, San Mateo County Records.

09 Dec 1898 Brooks sold 2 acres of land for \$1,000 to Edward Kelley, which was used as a cemetery for indigent and pauper burials due to the closing by the City of San Francisco of its City Cemetery.<sup>27</sup> There is no record of this land use appearing before the Board of Supervisors.

This would be commonly known as Kelly's Cemetery. Today [2011], it is known as the Chong Seen Cemetery.

09 Jun 1910 The Court ordered the distribution of the estate of Edward Kelly, and Vernon E. Kelly, as Executrix and widow, was awarded the custody of the cemetery property. Notice of this action was not filed in San Mateo County until 09 March 1922.<sup>28</sup>

22 May 1922 Vernon E. Kelly sold the two acres to H. G. Whelan.<sup>29</sup>

19 Sep 1925 LOO YEE KERN acquired the property of the former Kelly Cemetery for the Ruth T. and H. G. Whelan for an undisclosed sum.<sup>30</sup>

*Harry Gabriel Whelan was the grandson of Patrick Brooks.*

*•Loo Yee KERN did not grant or agree to any change in property ownership between 1925 and 31 December 1973, except as noted for 1970.*

*• CHONG Seen Tong Cemetery was not the recipient of any property or agreement between 01 January 1963 and 31 December 1973 except as noted for 1970.*

Renamed Chong Seen Cemetery.

12 Mar 1970 DECLARATION OF INTENTION

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<sup>27</sup> Volume 81 of Deeds at pages 46 and 47, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>28</sup> Volume 32 of Official Records at page 348, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>29</sup> Volume 37 of Official Records at page 361, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>30</sup> Volume 188 of Official Records at page 242, San Mateo County Records.

CHONG SEEN TONG, a non-profit association, hereby declares that it intends to use all of the following described property for cemetery purposes ... described as follows:

Two acres more or less lying on the north line of a private road lying opposite Block 14 of Winston Manor No. 2 [South San Francisco] and bounded on the north by the Ning Young Cemetery.

By Jordan N. Peckman, General Counsel, Chong Seen Cemetery.<sup>31</sup>

01 Jul 1970

#### DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Chong Seen Tong, a non-profit association, hereby declares that intends to use all of the following described property for cemetery purposes.

A four sided polygon: 257.72 feet on the north; 410 feet on the west, 430.00 feet diagonally on the south; and 76.56 feet on the east.

Loo Yee Kern, President.<sup>32</sup>

July 2011

Letter of inquiry to Mr. David Loo, 2365 Benham Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-6456, was unanswered.

### **RUSSIAN SECTARIAN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

09 Nov 1932

Incorporation date of the Russian Sectarian Cemetery Association. The San Mateo County Assessor's office has the date as 29 November 1932 for the starting of the business.

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<sup>31</sup> Volume 5759 of Official Records at page 1, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>32</sup> Volume 5807 of Official Records at page 528, San Mateo County Records.

- 30 Nov 1932      The Russian Sectarian Cemetery Association, incorporated earlier in the month purchased 3.35 acres for \$3,350.00 from the City and County of San Francisco for a cemetery.<sup>33</sup>
- 14 Jul 1964      The Cemetery and Suburban realty Company made a minor land trade of equal areas, which realigned the western boundary of the cemetery to a north-south direction.<sup>34</sup>

## **TUNG SEEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

- 14 Jan 1937      The Tung Sen Cemetery Association acquired its 4.9-acre parcel from the City and County of San Francisco for \$4,900.00 cash.<sup>35</sup>

## **SAN FRANCISCO – CITY CEMETERY**

01 Aug 1901

The San Francisco Board of Supervisor's ordinance prohibiting and interments anywhere in San Francisco became effective.

07 Feb 1905

A resolution was adopted accepting the offer of the [Patrick] Brooks estate to sell to the city twenty-five acres of land for \$8,750, to be used as a site for a city cemetery for San Francisco. **The site adjoins the Chinese Cemetery and the city cemetery owned by Edward Kelly**, one of the contractors for the burial of the indigent dead. The final acceptance of the offer is subject to the City Attorney's approval of the title. An appropriation of \$5,000 was made in this year's budget for the purpose, and the balance of \$3,750 will be raised in the next budget.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Volume 582 of Official Records at page 472, San Mateo County Records. Correction to the deed description filed in Volume 825 at page 482.

<sup>34</sup> Volume 4777 of Official Records at pages 387 and 388, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>35</sup> Volume 730 of Official Records at page 61, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>36</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Tuesday, 07 February 1905, page 9, column 4.

- 30 Nov 1932      San Francisco sold 3.35 acres of their “cemetery” land to the Russian Sectarian Cemetery.<sup>37</sup>
- 14 Jan 1937      San Francisco sold 4.9 acres of their “cemetery” land to the Tung Sen Cemetery.<sup>38</sup>
- 14 Apr 1950      San Francisco sold the remaining 16,75 acres of its “cemetery” land to Lucille Grigsby.<sup>39</sup>

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18 Dec 1898

### **CHINATOWN MOURNED**

Dee Won Sou, who, next to the Consul General, was considered the most important man in Chinatown, and who on Wednesday last died of consumption, was borne to his grave in the **Sing Ying Cemetery in San Mateo [county]** yesterday at noon. Amid ceremonies that surpassed anything of a similar nature ever witnessed in Chinatown. The deceased was at the head of the great See You Company, and every member, or Celestial that owed allegiance to it turned out to do honor to their departed chief. Chinatown was crowded with Chinese and Americans eager to witness the novel rites. A local band attempted to play a dirge while the ceremonies went on, but were sadly routed by the beating of tomtoms and the wailing of priests and hired mourners. Over 150 carriages were in the funeral procession. The scattering of papers through which the devil was to crawl before he reached the soul of Sou and the glazed pigs and other fancy roasts – the product of Chinatown chefs – attracted great attention as the funeral cortege moved through the streets of the city.<sup>40</sup>

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15 Jul 1901

### **SAN MATEO TO EXACT REVENUE OF CHINESE**

#### **County Imposes a Tax Upon Bodies Removed From Its Cemeteries**

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<sup>37</sup> Volume 582 of Official Records at page 472, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>38</sup> Volume 730 of Official Records at page 61, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>39</sup> Volume 1907 of Official Records at page 144, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>40</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Sunday, 18 September 1898, page 11, column 2.

REDWOOD CITY, Jul 15. – An ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County to-day which imposes a tax of \$10 upon each body disinterred and removed from a cemetery in this county to any place outside the county. The ordinance is aimed principally at the Chinese, who have a cemetery in the north end of the county in which their dead are buried temporarily. In form the ordinance is a health regulation; in effect it is a revenue producer.

Many Chinese are buried in the county whose remains ultimately find there way back to China. Under the ordinance before a body may be removed a permit must be obtained from the health officer, to whom the \$10 fee is paid. It does not apply to bodies removed from place to place in the county.<sup>41</sup>

.....  
24 Jun 1905

**DECENT BURIAL DENIED PAUPERS**  
**Treatment of Bodies of the Poor of San Francisco Offends Citizens of**  
**Colma**  
**BUY NEW GRAVE YARD**  
**Investigation Made by Local Officials May Result in Reform**  
**That is Much Needed**

COLMA, June 24 – Twenty-five acres of land near here have been sold for cemetery purposes, and it is understood that the ground is to be utilized for the burial of the indigent dead of San Francisco. The property is part of the Patrick Brooks estate.<sup>42</sup>

Officials from San Francisco have been here making an inquiry into the methods pursued by the undertakers who have in charge the interment of the pauper dead of San Francisco. The conduct of these contractors has long been a matter of public scandal and offense in this neighborhood. Complaint has been made without result, and suggestions of a remedy have been without avail. The contractors have secured small parcels of land on the side hills and have enclosed them with cheap wire fences.

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<sup>41</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Tuesday, 16 July 1901, page 9, column 1.

<sup>42</sup> Volume 101 of Deeds at page 253, San Mateo County Records.

Interments have been made without and of the simple rites or ceremonies the decency demands, and the grave are unmarked even by a head board of the cheapest character.

The efforts of the San Francisco authorities to put a stop to this evil will be fully seconded by the governing body of San Mateo county. It is hoped that the purchase of the tract for the burial of the unknown and pauper dead is the first step in a much needed reform.<sup>43</sup>



## SAN FRANCISCO CITY CEMETERY IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

07 Feb 1905

### CITY TO BUY CEMETERY

A resolution was adopted accepting the offer of the **[Patrick] Brooks** estate to sell to the city twenty-five acres of land in San Mateo County for \$8,750, to be used as a site for a city cemetery for San Francisco. The cemetery site adjoins the Chinese Cemetery and the city cemetery owned by **Edward Kelly**, on of the contractors for the burial of the indigent dead. The final acceptance of the offer is subject to the City Attorney's approval of the title. An appropriation of \$5,000 was made in this year's budget for the purpose, and the balance of \$3,750 will be raised in the next budget.<sup>44</sup>

18 Jun 1905

### INTERMENT OF UNFORTUNATES

The Board of Supervisors will at tomorrow's meeting pass an ordinance providing for the burial of the indigent dead by the city directly instead of by contract heretofore. The ordinance will provide for the appointment of **J. Kelly as superintendent** of interments, together with an assistant and gravedigger, to be selected by him. Kelly will furnish the necessary horses and dead wagon, the city to be put to no expense for keeping them. The charge for burials will be \$6 per body and the disinterment charge will be \$10. Kelly will take all bodies to the cemetery purchased bi the city in San Mateo County and will pay for the permits in the county

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<sup>43</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Sunday, 25 June 1905, page 36, column 6.

<sup>44</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Tuesday, 07 February 1905, page 9, column 4.

named. He will also keep a record of all burials, which will be made with due decency and respect.<sup>45</sup>

01 Sep 1905

### **CITY CEMETERY IN SAN MATEO COUNTY**

The City and County of San Francisco purchased from Sarah A. Whelan and Della F. Spellman, Patrick's daughters], administratrices (sic) of the estate of Patrick M. Brooks for \$8.750, 25 acres of land adjacent to the Ning Young [Yung] Benevolent Association Cemetery.<sup>46</sup>

26 Oct 1907

### **NEW ROAD**

The [finance] committee will take steps to make available the city's cemetery in San Mateo for the burial of the indigent dead. A roadway will be built to the cemetery. The health board will conduct the burial and in the meantime M. Hagan, who has the contract for the work, will furnish the committee with a record of all burials.<sup>47</sup>

18 Apr 1912

### **INVESTIGATION**

An investigation was made into the manner in which the city's indigent dead are buried by the undertakers, J. Hagan & Co., a complaint being made that Hagan charged more for burial in certain cemeteries than in the graveyard which he owns in the rear of the Cypress Lawn cemetery. Hagan explained that he charged the city \$3.50 for each case, and then relatives or friends of the dead desired a more elaborate funeral he sometimes charged them more, in which case he put no bill to the city. His explanations were satisfactory.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Sunday, 18 June 1905, page 24, column 4.

<sup>46</sup> *Real Estate owned by the City and County of San Francisco*, by the Board of Supervisors, 01 July 1909, at page 196 [Google Books, August 2010]. Volume 101 of Deeds at page 253, San Mateo County Records.

<sup>47</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Saturday, 26 October 1907, page 11, column 6.

<sup>48</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Thursday, 18 April 1912, page 5, column 2.

01 Apr 1974      The City of Daly City annexed the area known as the “Five Cemeteries”.<sup>49</sup>

08 APRIL 1913

**LA FRANCE TO ANSWER**

SAN BRUNO. – Frank La France was held to answer in the superior court here today to a charge of assault with a deadly weapon, following a duel a short time ago with James Hagen, a San Francisco undertaker, over the digging of a grave in the Chinese cemetery. La France fired five shots, but declared in court today that Hagen fired back at him.<sup>50</sup>

**EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY BURIAL PROBLEMS  
AT SUNSET CEMETERY [PAUPER’S CEMETERY]**

30 May 1905      **THE COST OF BURIALS**

Bids for the burial of the indigent dead were opened from William Hagan who bid \$9 for each body interred; Edward Kelly, \$8.50; Joseph Hagan, \$7.49; Joseph Riley & company, \$8.95 the bids were referred to the Health Committee after D’Ancona had given notice that the committee may recommend that the city buy its own indigent dead, instead of awarding a contract for the same.<sup>51</sup>

13 Aug 1905      **SEEK TO OBTAIN CONTRACT FOR BURIAL OF PAUPER DEAD**

**Kiley & Hagan Petition Superior Court To  
Compel Supervisors To Give Them The Work**

Failing to obtain the award of the yearly contract for the burial of the city’s indigent dead from the Board of

<sup>49</sup> County of San Mateo, Resolution No. 32315

<sup>50</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Wednesday, 09 April 1913, page 15, column 3, and Thursday 28 September 1905, page 16, column 4.

<sup>51</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Tuesday, 30 May 1905, page 11, column 2.

Supervisors the undertaking firm of Kiley & Hagan has filed a petition for a writ of mandate to compel the board to give it the contract.

The affidavit of Joseph Kiley alleges the bid of \$7 per body made on May 17 last was the lowest bid submitted to the board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906. Despite this, the plaintiff alleges that the board refuses to award the contract and has entered into another agreement to pay \$450 a month to another party for the burial of the indigent.<sup>52</sup>

16 Jan 1906      The petition of William Hagan that he be given the contract to bury the indigent dead for \$350 per month was referred to the Health Committee. Ed. A. Kelly has the contract now at \$450 per month.<sup>53</sup>

26 Jan 1906      **CITY WILL PAY DEARLY TO BURY INDIGENT DEAD  
Supervisors Ascertain That Work Can Be More  
Cheaply Done By Private Contract**

The petition of William Hagan to be awarded the contract to bury the indigent dead for \$350 per month was taken under advisement. It was ascertained that it will cost the city \$1,125 to equip its own plant to bury the indigent dead and \$695 per month for maintenance. As the city is now paying \$450 per month for the work the committee questioned the advisability of the city to assume charge, and decided to visit the cemetery recently purchased by the city in San Mateo [County] at a cost of \$5,000 [initial payment] in order to determine the cheapest plan. It will cost several hundred dollars to grade the site.<sup>54</sup>

27 Aug 1907      Action was postponed on the award of contract for the burial of the indigent dead to James Hagan for \$3.50 a body. Sullivan said that decent burial could not be given a dog for

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<sup>52</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Sunday, 13 August 1905, page 26, column 4.

<sup>53</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Tuesday, 16 January 1906, page 9, column 5.

<sup>54</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Friday, 26 January 1906, page 7, column 4.

that amount, and the health committee was directed to prepare a plan for the burial of the indigent dead by the city.<sup>55</sup>

30 Apr 1908

**ASKS HIGHER RATE**

James Hagan, who has the contract for burying the indigent dead, is anxious to enter into a new agreement with the city. He claims that his present price, \$3.50, is insufficient, as he has to pay a toll of \$1 for each body taken to San Mateo county for interment. Hagan's new offer is to bury the indigent and those dying from contagious diseases for \$350 a month.<sup>56</sup>

06 Sep 1911

James Hagan asked that his compensation for burying the city's dead be increased from \$3.50 per person to \$5. He said the \$3.50 barely paid the expense. The matter was referred to the finance committee.<sup>57</sup>

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**CEMETERIES DENIED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**BO YEN FONG CHINESE CEMETERY**

"The Petition of Bo Yen Fong for permission to establish and maintain a Chinese Cemetery on land belonging to Messrs. Swanberg and Westphal situated on San Pedro road about four <4> miles from the town of Colma, heretofore presented and continued to this time for consideration."

- Petition denied 20 June 1898.<sup>58</sup>

Petition initially presented 06 June 1898.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Tuesday, 27 August 1907, page 5, column 1.

<sup>56</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Thursday 30 April 1908, page 7, column 7.

<sup>57</sup> *San Francisco Call*, Wednesday 06 September 1911, page 1, column 3.

<sup>58</sup> Board of Supervisor's Minutes, Volume 11 at page 435.

<sup>59</sup> Board of Supervisor's Minutes, Volume 11 at page 414.

## ROBSON CEMETERY

07 Jun 1897      THE HEARING ON PETITION

“The Petition of Geo. C. Ross praying that the right be irrevocably granted to him, his heirs, assigns or successors in interest forever, To acquire, establish, maintain and use for Cemetery purposes all of that certain piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the County of San Mateo, in the State of California, all that land known as the **Robson Tract**, containing 128 acres, more or less, and more particular described as follows:

“Commencing at a point on the new San Pedro Road at the Northeast corner of said land where it intersects the Southeast corner of Domingo Zenone’s 24 acre tract of land; thence West to William Bartley’s land where it intersects Zenone’s 40 acre tract, 20 chains [1,320 feet]; thence South following East side of Zenone’s 40 acre tract, 20 chains [1,320 feet]; thence West 20 chains [1,320 feet] to Zenone’s Southwest corner of his 40 acre tract; thence South following Zenone’s East line of his 80 acre tract of land to the Buri Buri Ranch [Rancho] North line; thence Easterly following the Buri Buri line to a point where it intersects the new San Pedro Road; thence Northerly following the meanderings of the said new San Pedro Road to point of beginning.

“Together with its tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any manner appertaining, - was prescribed and read

“District Attorney Henry W. Walker being present stated to the Board that he knew of no legal objection to the granting of said petition and privilege.

“On the motion of Supervisor Tilton, it is ordered that the said petition be and the same is hereby granted.” -- Board of Supervisor’s Minutes, Volume 10 at pages 212 and 213.

Petition carried over to next meeting and then denied.

- 19 July 1897 - Petition denied.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> Board of Supervisor’s Minutes, Volume 10 at pages 212 and 213. [Transcriber’s notes incomplete]