



Hopland Cemetery Newsletter

WELCOME



We hope you are enjoying our Hopland Cemetery Newsletter! We have created this project to keep our community updated on work and improvements at our beloved historical cemetery, thank those that help, and keep you informed.



GET INVOLVED

Next cleanup date: TBD

Join us and help keep our cemetery beautiful.
Contact us at HoplandCemetery@gmail.com
for more information.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meet the volunteers who oversee Hopland Cemetery and ensure it carries on to support our local community.

Chair - Joan Norry

Joan Norry moved from the bay area to Hopland in 2012 and began as a Trustee in 2020. She has been dedicated to preserving the beauty and history of the cemetery and visiting friends that are resting there.



Secretary - Bob Gaston

Bob has been a Hopland resident since 1989 when he married his wife Priscilla Hawksworth raising 3 children in the township. He has a great appreciation for the local history and community members especially the "old-timers" and became a Trustee in 2024.



Treasurer - Nina Kaiser

Nina has been a Trustee since 2020, and resident of Hopland full time since 2012. Living on Full moon cattle ranch with best friend and family. Dedicated to preserving the area and history of Hopland.



Trustee - Bill Janusz

Hopland is his hometown. His family from grandparents, parents, aunt and nephew are buried in this cemetery along with many friends and acquaintances. He became a Trustee in 2022.



GET INVOLVED!

The Hopland Cemetery currently has one open position on the Board of Trustees. To apply, you must be a resident of Hopland. Would you like to join our board?

Email us at HoplandCemetery@gmail.com.

CEMETERY HISTORY

Originally the Feliz Family burial ground, the Hopland Cemetery was founded in the early 1780's by Spanish land grant. By 1840, it became the cemetery for the settlers from the nearby town of Sanel. The railroad arrived in 1888 bringing pioneers from across the globe seeking a new life in the healthy climes of the West. The town of Sanel was renamed "Hopland" in the early 20th Century in an effort to attract visitors to the then location of the largest hop farm in the country. The surviving monuments represent only half of the residents buried here and many of the original families continue to reside in the surrounding area.

Our newsletter will feature the history of people interred at Hopland Cemetery. If you would like us to feature the story of your beloved, email us at HoplandCemetery@gmail.com.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who can buy a plot in the cemetery if space is available?

Hopland residents for 5 years or family members of already purchased plots with proof of purchase and rights of ownership may purchase a plot in the cemetery if one is available.

2. If I have a family member buried in the cemetery, can I be buried with them?

You can be buried with your family member:

If there is proof of purchase for more than one plot (and receipt) or if there is proof of ownership, family succession with family lineage, evidence of inheritance or burial rights affidavit.

3. What paperwork is required besides the documents mentioned in question 2?

The internment order is required in addition to prior notice to the cemetery trustees one to two weeks in advance of requested burial date by contacting the cemetery at HoplandCemetery@gmail.com.

4. Who is in charge of the cemetery?

Hopland Cemetery District is voluntarily run and does not employ a caretaker or gravedigger. It is a special district under Mendocino County, California. The cemetery is administered by a volunteer Board of Trustees.

5. Are there rules and laws that govern the cemetery?

Yes. The cemetery is governed by the following law: California law, government code title 3, health and safety codes, the Brown Act and Senate Bill 827.

IN MEMORY

Alfred and Jane Higgins

Alfred and Jane Higgins coming out west in 1850 with all the kids in tow. Census of 1850 had them in Sacramento. Shortly after they went down to Angels Camp, mined for two years, then went by boat to Panama crossed over to the Gulf, went by boat to Texas. Toured parts of Texas. Spent the winter in Arkansas. 1853-54 back to Tennessee, liquidated all their holdings and came out west again with a herd of oxen.

Thats me next to my great,great grandmother and grandfather Jane and Alfred Higgins headstone. Some of the others are Uncle's and cousins. Alfred, Jane and children came out to California twice. They showed up in Sacramento for the 1850 census. Spend some time down near Angels camp mining.



IN MEMORY

Alfred and Jane Higgins (continued)

By 1852 they were in Texas by way ship to Panama then by ship to Texas. They spent a few month's roaming Texas, spent the winter in Arkansas. Went back to Tennessee to liquidate their holdings and in the spring of 54 started again back west with the family and a herd of oxen. This time they settled near Mt Diablo. Not for long, spring of 1855 Alfred once again up rooted the family and moved to Sanel.

The family finally settled down and cleared land and farmed. Oldest son John, alone with his brothers Edward, and James took up farming. Married and had families of their own.

James Preston Higgins is my great grandfather. He's buried in Ukiah. His only son Carl Preston Higgins, my grandfather, was a woodsmen. Started very young, worked his way up to be a boss of a wood camp. Buried in Ft Bragg. His son, Hubert Preston Higgins, my dad, born in Santa Rosa. Buried in Santa Rosa. Then there is me, Ronnie Carl Higgins.

Clarissa Andrews, the daughter of William Andrews, buried in Hopland, and Maria Juana Felis who is buried in Santa Rosa. James Preston Higgins father, Alfred Higgins, and wife Jane, are buried in Hopland along with some of my great, great Uncles and of course 3 great grandfathers, back Fernando Feliz and his wife Maria.

Submitted by Ronnie Higgins

Please share a story of your family members that reside in the Hopland Cemetery and we will publish it in a future edition.

Nina Kaiser, Trustee

CLEAN UP DAY MAY 16-17, 2026

Thanks to Hopland Fire for helping. We are thankful to Pete Gallegos who showed up with the big kid equipment. He got in a lot of our fire break and cleared several feet of the side of the road..great work pete!!



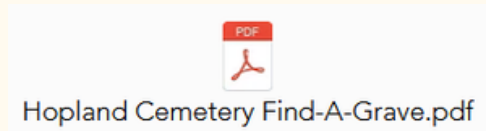
FUNDRAISER AT CAMPOVIDA!

The Hopland cemetery fundraising event at Campovida was lots of fun, it was a line dancing work out led by Mo Mulheren in the beautiful green barn. A variety of wine beverages and beer were available for sale. There were 30 community members kicking up their boots and dropping in a donation at the door for Memorial Day celebration of veterans.



FIND-A-GRAVE FEATURE

We have updated the **The Find-a-Grave** lookup on the Hopland Cemetery website at HoplandCemetery.org with more detailed information. There is a link at the top of every page to a PDF file containing current records and location of graves.



As always if you need assistance, please email the Board of Trustees at HoplandCemetery@gmail.com.

THANK YOU DONORS

Thank you Pete and all those who contributed their time and efforts during our May cleanup day! Also, thank you to Campovida Winery for hosting the fabulous dance and fundraiser!

