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2022

Greenwood Cemetery

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Recommended Citation

Starba, Randall and Miller, Ashely, "Greenwood Cemetery" (2022). *IdeaFest 2022*. 30.

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Diggin' up the Past at Greenwood Cemetery

Background:

Greenwood cemetery marks the location where the first European settlers of Arcata are buried, dating back to the 1800s. This plot of land was used as a gravesite about 10 years before it was designated a public cemetery. Today, it marks an important location for people to observe and pay their respects to loved ones and local figures. This site also pays homage to the local veterans who fought in wars dating back to World War 1. By having a designated place of burial, they can have a physical location that contains documents, photos, and articles that will tell the story of Arcata.



Historical Figures of Arcata

This cemetery holds the remains of many prominent figures of Arcata history. For example, George Hamilton Wentworth was an Arcata local who worked for the ATF and was shot and killed in action. He was then buried at this cemetery.



Goals

The goal of our project is to highlight the opportunities for interdisciplinary studies that the cemetery presents. For example:

- GSP - can be used to map out gravestones and create a digital archive with an interactive map
- Religious studies – forms the relationship between a community and the afterlife
- History – With cabinets full of files, history students can do research on local figures and log their findings in the digital archive.
- Computer Science – the cemetery also requires a better database for recording its files.



RS 393: Death, Dying, and the Afterlife

This course is taught by Dr. Sara Hart, allowing students the opportunity to understand how a community has developed with the reality of dying and their relationship with death. This class studies poetry, sacred text, and non-fiction while meeting weekly to clean gravestones. This is a great way to connect with our history and form a better grip on life and death.