

Adge, Mary Jane - Died 2/19/1894, at age 37. Raised in Iowa Hill by her parents, Philip and Eliza Cavanaugh. Mary Jane, **Edward Donaldson**, age 67, and her son, Isadore, were passengers on the stage from Iowa Hill to Colfax. As they were crossing a raging stream, the stage overturned, drowning Mary and Edward. She was the proprietress of the Central Hotel in Iowa Hill, and left a husband, Frederick, and three children. Edward was an early Pioneer resident who came to Iowa Hill in the early 1850's. His wife died in 1882. He was a carpenter from South Carolina.

Behlty, August - Died 1877. Engaged in mining at Prospect Hill with two brothers. Brothers, Albert and August were drinking wine at a winery near Iowa Hill, and got into a quarrel. Albert left, returned with a gun, and shot his older brother. Newspaper articles described Albert as always being a little "Loony". Constable Pursley brought him to jail. A trial was held, and Albert was judged insane and taken to the Stockton insane asylum by Constable John Papa, where he remained for over twenty years.

***Behlty, Conrad** - Born in 1778, died at age 93, on 4/28/1871. A native of Germany, he was the father of August, and Albert. He was described as a war hero, decorated on the field of battle by his commanding generals. His last battle was Waterloo (in the Napoleonic Wars).

Christian, Minna Therisa - Died at age 34, in 1899, under questionable circumstances. A Doctor Hiedrich from Dutch Flat visited Iowa Hill the week that Minna suddenly took ill and died. An investigation was held regarding malpractice. The coroner's inquest felt there was evidence of an abortion, in which she lost her life. A trial was held, and the Doctor was exonerated. She ran the Excelsior Hotel. It was noted in the Colfax Sentinel, that "*Charity was one of her greatest virtues*". Two months after her death, her husband, unable to care for her two remaining small children, took them to "Dacota", a Masonic home. She was buried in the I.O.O.F Cemetery.

Chubb, Margaret - Only 20 years old, died 7/28/1860, fifteen days after giving birth to her second child. Thirty minutes before her death she requested those present to sing the following beautiful verse which she led: "*Oh sing to me heaven when I am called to die, sing songs of holly ecstasy, to wait my soul on high*".

Colby, John - In 1855 Capt. Hill's reservoir containing a depth of 12 feet of water, burst. It carried a house away, killing John, his un-named **daughter**, and another man named **Bostwick**. Mrs. Colby was severely injured and not expected to live. No other information was obtained about her. The accident cast a gloom over the whole town. It is unknown in which cemetery the victims were buried.

Dorer, Anna - Died in 1871. Wife of Richard Dorer, they came around the Horn in the early 1850's to Humbug Canyon. He never remarried, but along with his brother Leopold, raised the three children at the Dorer Ranch near Humbug Canyon. Richard died 33 years later and is believed buried next to Anna.

***Entwistle, Thomas (Tommie)** - Age 22, died 7/1/1874. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth. He was hauling hay with **Matthew Mott**, age

36, in 1871 on the turnpike road from Wisconsin Hill. The wagon plunged over the cliff. Matthew died two days later. Tommie suffered three years before succumbing to his injuries. He and Mathew are buried near each other, in the Catholic Cemetery. His father **Thomas Sr.**, died 6/8/1880. He was an officer of the I.O.O.F., an old and respected foreman of the Aurora Claim, where he was killed when he was washed through a flume. He and his family lived in Independence Hill, on the Masonic Claim. He is buried across the street from his son, in the I.O.O.F section of the Protestant Cemetery.

Farber, Joseph (Joe) - A miner, age 43, and native of Germany, died on 2/16/1899, leaving a wife and two children. He was below the Big Dipper reservoir when it burst. Farber was washed down New York Canyon and died. Five Chinese, working in New York Canyon, were also killed.

Frank Brothers, Henry and George - Natives of Germany. They perished in 1868, along with their partner's 8 year old son, **Clemon Pelster**. The men were removing tools from the base of a hydraulic claim at Fords Bar, on the North Fork of the American River. The bank caved in, killing them instantly. A large group of citizens retrieved the bodies and brought them to Iowa Hill for interment. They are in unmarked graves in the Protestant Cemetery.

***Gleeson, James Patrick** - Pioneer resident of Iowa Hill. Died 7/13/1907. Ditch Proprietor, and miner. Did much to develop the mines of Iowa Hill, including the Gleeson, which still remains with his descendent. His wife, Marcella (sister of Adelia Hill), son, Michael R., daughter in law, **Olive (Pashby) Gleeson** and grandson, Clyde, age 8, predeceased him. He was survived by daughters Mary T. Gleeson, and Mrs. D. J. (Eliza) Sullivan. He was well known, and on one visit to Auburn, was described as being his usual jolly old self. He was remembered as a "*Number one man and a splendid citizen*".

Greenbower/Greenbauer, Joseph - Died tragically on 7/1/1865 at age 33. Proprietor of the Boomerang Saloon. He was a business owner with 1/2 interest in the Morning Star Bakery, houses and lots in Iowa Hill, Schmidts Stables, gardens and a soda factory. Joseph committed suicide by drinking sulfuric acid. He thought he had lost \$280.00 given to him for safe keeping. Ironically, the money was later found. He left a wife, Magdalene and at least one child. Mrs. Greenbower married Joseph's partner and estate administrator, Michael Schmidt, one month later on August 1, 1865.

***Hall, John** - Died 1876, age 48, in a mining accident. His wife **Eliza** died six months earlier, leaving their 6 month old child, Eliza Jane. John's cabin, land, and mining interests were sold, and the money used to care for one year old Eliza until she became of age. She was raised by a court appointed guardian in Iowa Hill.

***Henry, John** - Born Loraine, France. Veteran of the Mexican American War. Married Sarah Welsch, a Cherokee Indian, in Monona Flat, in 1874. A miner by occupation, he survived three severe mining accidents,, and died of heart failure in 1890. He was a trustee for the Iowa Hill School District in 1886. Buried next to his son **Louis**, who

died, at age 12, in a buckboard accident in 1887.

Henry Lubke, Thomas Jones, and Samuel Mead - On 5/5/1860 these three men were hydraulic mining a bank approximately 100 feet in height at the Jamison mine. The bank caved in killing all three. It took about 7 hours to recover the bodies. It is unknown in which cemetery the victims were buried.

Hill, Adelia - Died at age 77. Early prominent Pioneer woman. Married Capt. John T. Hill in 1855. He died and left her at age 26, to manage the mining ditches, gold mines, and business property. She lived the remainder of her life in Iowa Hill, until she became ill in the 1890's, and was taken to a private institution in the Bay area. Upon her death, she was returned to her home for burial in the Catholic Cemetery.

Leonard, Amelia -Two-year-old daughter of Nancy and John Leonard, died in 1857, and is buried on a hillside near their home at Bird's Flat. Her grave stone still remains, with the inscription: "*Kind angles watch her sleeping dust, 'til Jesus comes to raise the just. Then may she wake with sweet surmise and in her Savior's image rise.*" The family moved to Monona Flat where John was a miner. Ten years after her death, her brother **John G.**, while walking home from school with his mother, dropped his lunch bucket, and while trying to retrieve it, fell into an air shaft, and was drowned. In 1876, her father **John** took ill and died from congestion of the brain. He is buried in the Protestant Cemetery, we assume near his son. Nancy Leonard remarried, and moved away with her remaining family.

***Macy, Charles F** - Early Pioneer came to California in the late 1840's. Charles eventually settled in Iowa Hill. He was a prominent mine owner and developer, druggist, Justice of the Peace, and Secretary of the Iowa Hill Canal Company. He remained in Iowa Hill for his lifetime. He and his wife **Mary Elizabeth (Nahor)** raised three children. One child **Ella** died at age 11 from typhoid fever. Charles died in 1910 and is buried alongside his wife in the I.O.O.F. section of the Cemetery. His descendants still have close ties to the Community.

Manuel, John Jr. - Died 1/8/1869, age 16. John came from England a year earlier to join his father who was the owner and operator of the "Rich Claim". He was hydraulicng at a bank approximately 125 feet in height, when it suddenly caved in, killing him instantly. Four years later, **John Manuel Sr.** was killed in a similar accident at the Casco Claim. Father and son are buried in unmarked graves in the Protestant Cemetery.

***Myrick, John** - Died 1886. Owner of the Iowa Hill Water Works, mine owner, Trustee in the Methodist Church. In his will he provided money owed by Jennie Little for water, to be paid by giving music lessons to Addie Wheeler. He also requested a Masonic funeral, with a Methodist sermon, and directed that his body be decently buried with proper regard to his station and condition in life. He wanted a marble head stone with a proper inscription, and a neat iron fence surrounding the grave. As per his request, his marble marker and iron fence can still be seen in the Masonic area of the Community Cemetery.

Murphy, Julia - Died at her home in 1894 of cerebral hemorrhage at

age 68. She came to Iowa Hill in 1859 to join her husband, esteemed pioneer James Murphy, and remained here throughout her lifetime. Married in 1854, James left a few days later, seeking the gold fields. Four years later she braved a voyage around the Horn, narrowly escaped ship wreck and came to Iowa Hill. The Colfax Sentinel reported: *"the beautifully toned bell of the Catholic Church on Banjo Hill sounded a last farewell 68 times during the progress of the funeral procession. During a requiem of moaning pines and sighing cedars, Julia Murphy was laid to rest"*. That same bell is on display at the St. Dominic's Catholic Church in Colfax.

Papa, Frank - Died 1904. Injured his knee in the Big Dipper Mine in 1898. He suffered with that injury until 1902 at which time he went to San Francisco to have his leg amputated. It failed to heal and it was amputated again. He never recovered. He left two brothers, Arthur and John of Iowa Hill. *"Deceased bore his many afflictions with great fortitude and was a young man, well liked in the community."*

Pashby, Etta - Died 1/17/96, age 20. Engaged to marry Richard Edwards in December 1895, the wedding was postponed until spring, due to death in the family. Shortly before her wedding day, she became ill and suddenly died. Etta was buried in her wedding dress at an I.O.O.F. funeral. She was said to *"have a sweet disposition, and a nature kind and noble...She lived a life of sunshine."* She was the daughter of Robert and Isabel Pashby, and left three sisters. Her sister Olive (Olie) Gleeson predeceased her.

***Patrick, George** - Died 1880, at age 42. A native of Scotland, he came to America as a child. He worked at the Red Point mine in Damascus. When a cave in occurred, killing him and four Chinese, a group of forty men in snowshoes brought him out to Iowa Hill on a sled for burial. As typical of the times, the names of the Chinese were not identified.

Purslev, James D. - Died 1896. An early pioneer who came to California in 1850. He was a Constable at Iowa Hill for many years. He was a confirmed bachelor. When visiting Auburn, he would buy presents for the ladies of Iowa Hill. He died at the age of 68, an old and respected resident who was greatly missed.

Schmidt (Smith), John - Died 1880. After Joseph Greenbower's death in 1865, John became partners with Michael Schmidt in many business enterprises at Iowa Hill. He was a Brewer. In December 1880, John, age 54, went to bed, not feeling well. His son was sleeping near him and heard him breathing with difficulty. The boy alerted his mother, to no avail. John died, leaving a wife and 6 children. The Masons took up a collection to help the family.

***Schwab, Charles F.** - Died 4/7/1878, age 35. A well-known and prominent young miner of Iowa Hill. Killed by a powder explosion. It seems he had charged a quick silver container with explosives and set it near his claim at Wisconsin Hill to try to catch thieves who were robbing his sluice boxes. He went to check his claim and somehow the device exploded. He was married in 1871 to Josephine Hawkins, daughter of merchant George Hawkins, and left three children, George, age 5, Theodore, age 3, and Annie 10 months. He was buried in the Protestant Cemetery. His poignant marker reads; *"If love and care could death prevent, Thy days would not so soon be spent"*. Josephine married

George W. Cross, a prominent merchant, in 1880. They later lost infant twins who are buried next to Charles.

Smith, Stanbury - Died in 1/18/1879. A story of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. A contractor placed 40 pounds of frozen powder in the side of a tunnel. In an attempt to thaw the powder, and placed a hot rock in the powder box. Shortly afterwards, the car man, Smith, was passing by when the powder exploded, killing him. Smith had previously requested that if he died in California, his body should be sent to his home in Michigan. Due to the severity of his injuries, this could not be done, and he was buried here.

***Smiley, Johnnie** - Age 13, died 6/23/1880. Eldest son of **John** and **Naomi** Smiley. While cutting wood with a companion, a tree fell the wrong way, striking Johnnie and killing him instantly. His parents had a store in Monona Flat for several years before moving into Iowa Hill. They also lost **two infants** in 1876 and 1883, who are buried beside him in the Protestant Cemetery.

***Sparhawk, Jared** - Died 4/12/1898, age 76. He was married to **Sibyl (Cass)** in 1847, and came to California in the early 1850's by way of the Isthmus. He moved to Iowa Hill about 1854, and purchased a share in the Hazel Green Mine which was located adjacent to the Jamison Mining claim. He enlisted in the army in the early 1860's taking the oath in San Francisco. He fought in the Civil War and was wounded at the Battle of Cedar Creek, losing two fingers on his hand. When the war ended, he returned to his old home in New York, then Kansas where he farmed for a few years. In 1879, he returned to his home in Iowa Hill. He and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1897. He is buried in the Protestant Cemetery beside his wife.

***VanDiver, John F.** - Died 4/4/1882, at age 60, of lung congestion. Partner in the VanVector and VanDiver mining claim at Independence Hill, and prominent business man. He was a cultured gentleman, buried in the Masonic area of the Protestant Cemetery. He owned a home 1/2 mile east of town at Centerville. He had no relatives living in California. James Gleeson noted in his diary, how upset he was at not being able to attend his good friend's funeral, as he was not able to leave work on the ditches that day.

Wimbish, Milton - A colored man, age 25. Died in 1897. He was a brakeman on a timber wagon hauling wood to the Morning Star Mine. He was standing by the rear wheel of the wagon when the brake broke and the wagon crushed him. Mr. Wimbish's brother was contacted, and a funeral was held at the I.O.O.F. Hall. He is buried in an unmarked grave in the I.O.O.F. section of the Protestant Cemetery.

***Webster, Plumber** - Age 30, was killed in February, 1859 at the Southpoint Mine in Iowa Hill, a result of a premature mining explosion. He was buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery. When Plumber's parents in Ohio were informed of his death, they wrote a letter to the residents of Iowa Hill, regarding the news of the *"death of our dear beloved son,"* thanking them for caring for their son in his time of need. Records show that he had a fondness for apples. In the week before his death, he bought about 14 pounds of apples, and one book from A. Block and Co. Merchandise Store. Plumber was the only resident to be a member of all three of the Iowa Hill militia companies.

HISTORIC IOWA HILL CEMETERY

PROTESTANT, MASONIC, I.O.O.F. (ODD FELLOWS)
ST. DOMINIC'S (AKA ST. JOSEPH'S) CATHOLIC



Iowa Hill Protestant Cemetery

PRESENTED BY THE IOWA HILL COMMUNITY CEMETERY, INC.

This is the final resting place for the many pioneers who, along with their descendants, overcame almost insurmountable odds in their quest for gold, and a life among these hills. This brief view into their lives is a testament to them.

Donations to the Iowa Hill Community Cemetery, Inc., a charitable non-profit corporation, are gratefully accepted. They can be sent to PO Box 3233, Iowa Hill, CA 95713 or be placed in the drop box by the kiosk at the cemetery.

Inquiries about burials in the cemetery may be sent to ihcemetery@gmail.com

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