

History of the Old Tonopah Cemetery:

The first burial in the Old Tonopah Cemetery was in May of 1901. In 1911, the tailings from the Tonopah Extension Mill were washing over and destroying the graves. The Tonopah Extension Mine donated property for the new Tonopah Cemetery, and burials at the Old Cemetery ceased.

About 300 people are buried in the old cemetery. Residents have died from plague, injury, the Belmont Mine Fire, suicides, and even murder!

Please, take your time and enjoy exploring our amazing Old Cemetery!

Check out the YouTube video created by Tonopah High School! Just search "Tonopah Old Cemetery Tour"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxReOquhJ6g>

NEVADA
A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.



Town of Tonopah

140 S Main Street

Tonopah, NV 89049

Phone (775) 482-6336

Email: townoftonopah@frontiernet.net

www.tonopahnevada.com

Old Tonopah Cemetery (1901-1911)

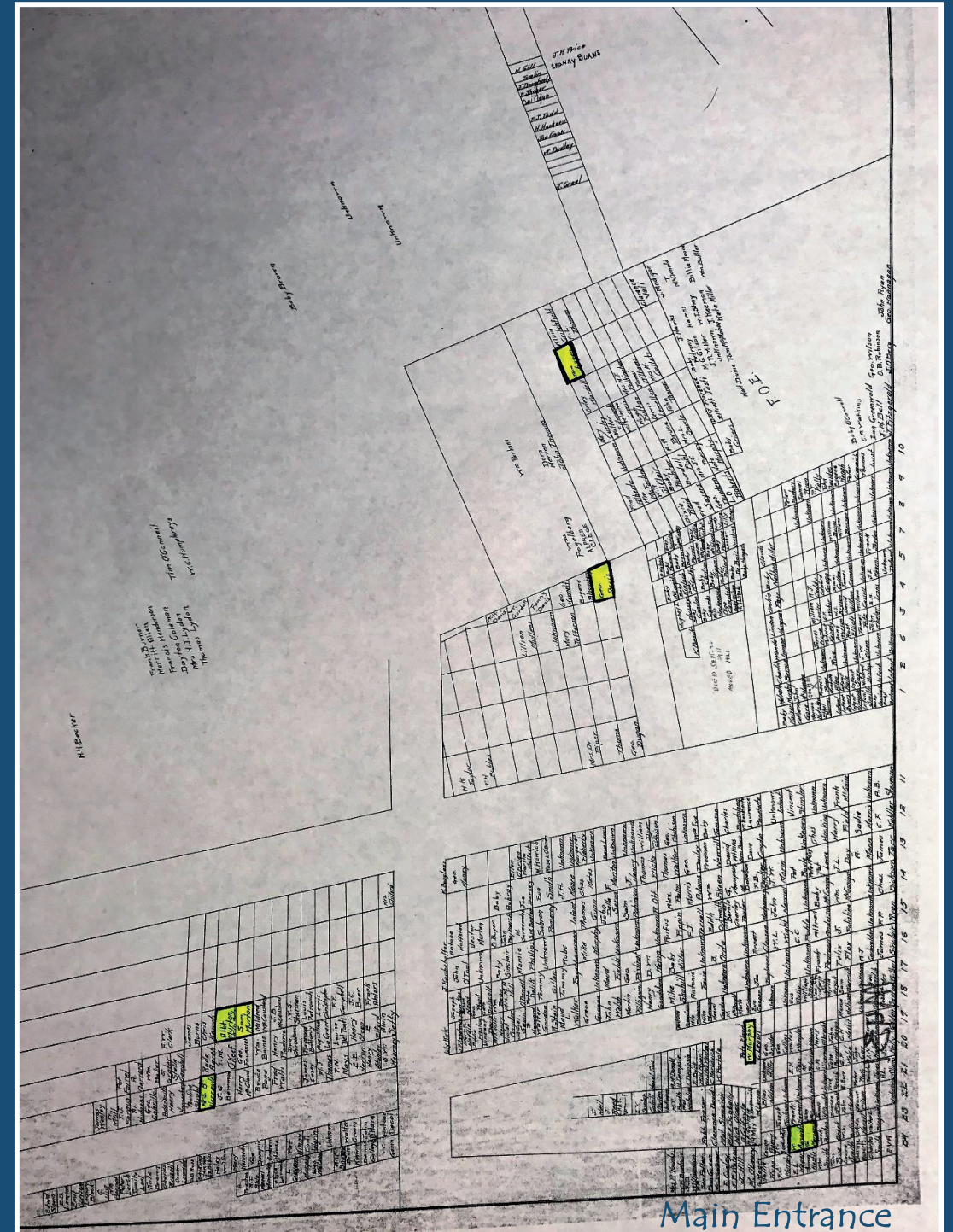


Discover the amazing stories behind some of our "permanent residents"

Located near the Clown Motel
521 N Main St.
Tonopah, NV 89049



Original Map of the Old Tonopah Cemetery



Main Entrance

THE MAROJEVECH BROTHERS



Frank and George Marojevech died on June 20th, 1907

due to a horrific accident at the Belmont Mine. That day, George went to visit his brother, Frank, at the mine. As they were talking, Frank noticed that a loaded ore cart had gotten away and was coming down the hill. Frank swung onto the cart and pulled the brake handle trying to stop it. Unfortunately, the brake handle had previously broken and been replaced with an old shovel handle. He fell underneath the ore cart, and it ran over him, killing him instantly. George tried to save him, but the ore cart ran over his ankles. He was taken to the hospital, where they amputated both his legs. George's injuries were too severe, and he died that night.

WILLIAM "BIG BILL" MURPHY



Big Bill is Tonopah's local hero, due to his courageous actions during the Belmont Mine Fire.

On February 23, 1911, 17 miners were killed, Bill included, when workings at the 1100-foot level of the Belmont Mine caught on fire. Bill went down in the mine cage a number of

times to rescue stricken miners. On the last trip, from which he never returned, Big Bill said,

"Well, boys, I have made two trips and I am nearly all in, but I will try again."

A statue honoring Big Bill can be found in front of the post office on Main Street. There is also a mural depicting the funeral procession, which took place during a blizzard.

GEORGE "DEVIL" DAVIS



George "Devil" Davis was the first African American in Tonopah. He was known for being a joker and a prankster, and was beloved by the entire community, regardless of race. George worked hard, becoming the political leader of the African American community and eventually came to own his own saloon, the Eureka Saloon. However, George had a dark side. Witnesses said that George was an abusive husband. On the night of June 22nd, 1907, his wife, Ruth, came into the saloon and shot George in the back. She continued to fire as he went down. Ruth only served 1 year for his killing.

SHERIFF THOMAS LOGAN



Sheriff Tom Logan was serving his 3rd term as Sheriff when he was shot to death by an unruly gambler in the

Manhattan Red Light District on April 7, 1906. According to his great-granddaughter and author Jackie Boor, Logan was unarmed and dressed only in his nightshirt. His last act was to prevent the piano player from shooting his assailant, who was later acquitted of the murder. Logan was credited with making early Tonopah "the most peaceable mining camp in the world." His loss profoundly affected the community.

THE 3 MERTEN BROTHERS



The three Merten brothers all died between

September

of 1908 and July of 1910. First, Albert Merten died of typhoid fever. Next, Sam Merten was killed in an accident in the Montana Tonopah Mine. William Merten was the last brother to pass away. At only 17 years of age, he died of heart failure. Just as they do today, Tonopah residents came together to hold benefits and raise money for the boys' mother and Albert's widow.

BINA VERRAULT



Bina Verrault's story starts in New York City. There, she and her friend, Izella Browne, ran a

"Love Syndicate". The women claimed to be wealthy widows. They would seduce rich men into giving them expensive gifts and money. One man fell in love with Bina. When she refused his attentions and did not return his gifts, he went to the authorities. Bina was arrested. It was estimated that the two women collected about \$100,000 in fine clothing, jewelry, and money, which in today's dollars is about 2.5 million. During the trial, Bina pawned some diamond rings and fled. About a year later, she found herself in Tonopah. Her time on the run had taken its toll, and she died of alcoholism. Her death made headlines around the world.

Special thanks to:

Allen Metscher, President of the Central Nevada Historical Society, who has been working to preserve the Cemetery for almost 40 years.

Tonopah High School Youth Leadership Council, Dr. Tom Whelan, Shari Bombard, and Keli Fossett.

TravelNevada for the grant funding to make this project possible.