

*Civil War Veteran Graves of
Orange County, California*



Survey of 9 Local Cemeteries

*By
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While studying for my land surveyor's exam in 2004, I came up with an idea to combine my land surveying experience with a current project I was involved in locating Civil War Veteran graves of Orange County, California.

First, here is some background information about this graves project. In 1999 the Civil War Round Table of Orange County spearheaded by Paul Gillette (also with Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War "SUVCW") documented approximately 725 Civil War Veteran graves in nine local cemeteries. Those cemeteries are: Anaheim Cemetery; El Toro Memorial Park; Fairhaven Memorial Park & Mortuary; Good Shepherd Cemetery; Loma Vista Memorial Park; Magnolia Memorial Park; Old Mission Cemetery; Santa Ana Cemetery and Westminster Memorial Park.

Another earlier contributor to this project is Gordon Bricken, the former Mayor of the City of Santa Ana and a member Sons of Confederate Veterans Captain James Iredell Waddell Camp #1770 assumed the responsibility of maintaining the graves database after completion by the Civil War Round Table of Orange County. My project documents these findings.

I became a participant in this project in 1999 by researching the old local newspapers on microfilm at the Santa Ana Public Library during my lunch hour to find additional names and I helped locate some of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Post records for the four GAR Posts that existed in Orange County. Glen Roosevelt (SUVCW) was another participant who helped greatly in locating these GAR records in Orange and Los Angeles Counties and in the State of Arizona. With the newspaper articles, partial GAR records, we were able to add additional names to the list as not every grave stone is identified as showing they were a Civil War Veteran.

The goal for my project was to photograph and determine the latitude and longitude coordinates on every grave and plot the graves on aerial photographs. As the project was coming to an end, I realized that this project will also help preserve the grave stones that are aging with time and are becoming very difficult to read.

I started my project with a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) unit which the results are +/- 30 feet radius of the actual location. Seven of the nine cemeteries had a smaller numbers of graves (from 1 grave to 56 graves) with two cemeteries (Fairhaven Memorial Park & Mortuary and Santa Ana Cemetery) containing the majority of the graves. I used a handheld GPS unit for the first seven cemeteries.

After my land surveyor's exam in April 2006, I wanted to make a final push to complete this project. I approached Ray Mathe, the County Surveyor for the County of Orange and he agreed to loan me the Leica SR530 RTK GPS unit. Kurt Hoehn of HB Land Surveying agreed to loan me his Total Station instrument and data collector. My new approach was to use the GPS unit to quickly set accurate control points so I could use the Total Station instrument, data collector and the established control points to locate the graves at the last two cemeteries. With advanced planning, volunteers and the loaned survey equipment, both cemeteries were over 90% completed during two weekends. My previous results of +/- 30 feet was now reduced to +/- 1.00 feet for each grave.

I also went back to the other seven cemeteries and established control points with the GPS unit and reestablish new coordinate values for those graves.

The final results of the coordinate values for this survey are +/- 1.00 feet for each grave.

The aerial photographs that I have created show the plotted grave locations and their correct location to the other graves for each cemetery.

This project has identified the following known Civil War Veteran graves:

1. Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Graves: 701
2. Confederate States of America (CSA) Graves: 89

Total of 790 known Civil War Veteran graves were located.

Here is some statistical information documented during this survey:

- 26 GAR graves were found unmarked. Four graves were marked with Civil War Monuments in December 2005 & November 2006, leaving 22 unmarked graves currently
- 4 CSA graves were found unmarked
- 1 cenotaph located (Grave marker Memorial with no body buried there)
- 2 graves were not located at Loma Vista Memorial Park and not counted in my summary
- 1 Civil War Veteran served on both sides, and is included in the GAR summary because his Civil War Monument shows service with GAR

This survey also established coordinate values on GAR and CSA Monuments located at Anaheim Cemetery, Loma Vista Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery.

Yes, there are more graves out there that have not been identified that contain Civil War Veterans. The future will yield more Civil War Veteran graves of Orange County.

I have also included on this DVD, recent local newspaper articles pertaining to each cemetery and the Civil War Veterans that I have collected over the past 8 years. In a folder named "Database for Orange County Civil War Veterans" is a file titled "Orange County CW Database Nov-2004.pfd" that Paul Gillette compiled in 2004, listing additional information on the known Civil War Veterans at that time. Since that time many more names have been added and will not appear in this listing.

Please disregard any previous coordinate values that were published for these graves. The coordinate values contained in this DVD are the most accurate than any previous published coordinates.

The Civil War Veteran names, photographs and coordinates contained in this DVD are also located at Find-A-Grave at <http://www.findagrave.com/>. The SUVCW also maintains a National Graves Database at <http://www.suvcwdb.org/home/>. Additional information may be obtained from this site about military service. If you locate a person in this project, you will want to conduct additional research to verify name spelling and Civil War service.

I want to thank the Civil War Round Table of Orange County, Paul Gillette and Gordon Bricken for their foresight and hard work in locating these grave sites. Their hard work made it easier for me to come back and locate these graves for my project.

I like to knowledge and express my personal appreciation to Ray Mathe and Kurt Hoehn for loaning me the use of the survey equipment to make the results of this project as accurate as possible. I would also like to knowledge my personal appreciation to all of the volunteers who help me complete this project and I acknowledge them under each cemetery they assisted me.

There are no restrictions on the use of the information contained in this DVD. I only ask that you credit me as the author/source for the coordinate values, photographs and aerial photo maps I created. This project was completed on my own time and is one of my contributions to the Civil War Legacy of Orange County, California.

A hard copy of this data and a copy of this DVD will also be available at the Santa Ana Public Library in the History Room.

Last September I was notified that I had passed my land surveyor's exam and I am now a Professional Land Surveyor for the State of California.

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