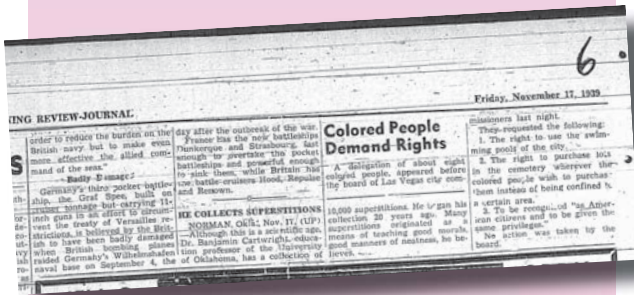


struck it rich. Davis was killed in 1949 by a taxi cab in Las Vegas. Others of note are "Nick the Greek" Dandolos, a famous gambler who lost \$500 million before he died penniless in 1964, and eight civil war veterans.

WOODLAWN MANAGEMENT chose the gravesites for black citizens until 1939, when black residents asked for the right to choose their own plots. The city allowed a delegation from the black community to choose a section of the cemetery exclusively for black burials, and promised that Woodlawn would provide proper care of the graves.

WOODLAWN CEMETERY was the unofficial veterans' cemetery until 1989 and is the home of Veterans Memorial Circle.



Las Vegas Review Journal, November 1939



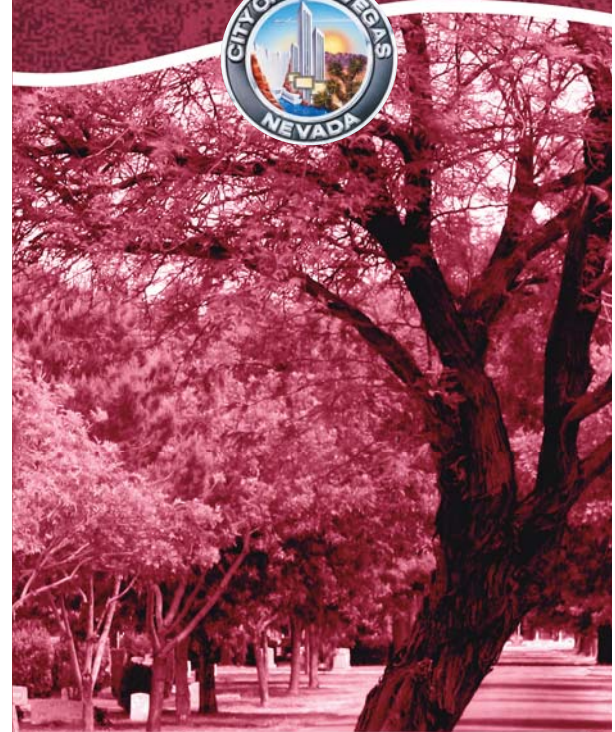
Civil War Headstone.

The Civil War is memorialized at Woodlawn with a joint grave of two Civil War veterans who fought for opposite sides. Although enemies in combat, William Keith, who was with Co. K, 12th Iowa Infantry, and Joseph Moore Graham, a Virginia cavalryman, became close friends after moving to Las Vegas in the early 20th century. The monument is dedicated to all Civil War veterans in southern Nevada.



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HISTORIC WOODLAWN CEMETERY

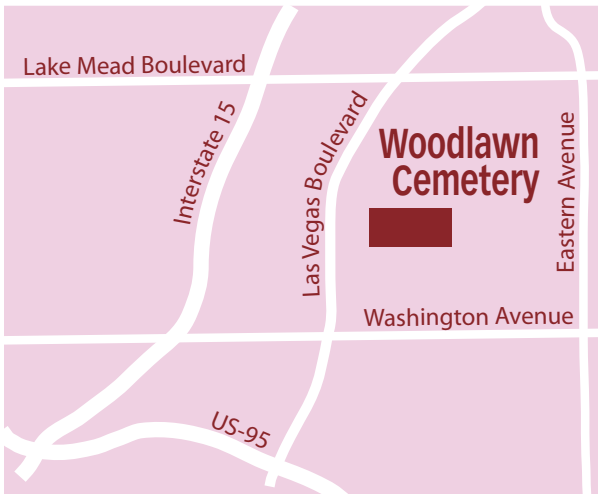


WOODLAWN CEMETERY
City of Las Vegas



Phone: (702) 229-5260
www.lasvegasnevada.gov/hp

Historic WOODLAWN CEMETERY



WOODLAWN CEMETERY was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on Nov. 21, 2006, and the city of Las Vegas Historic Property Register on Aug. 6, 2008.

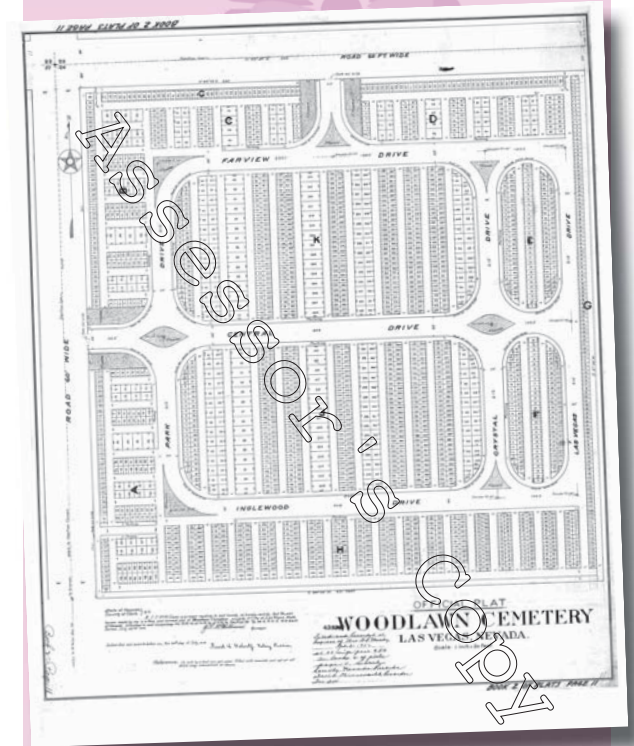
IN 1914, several prominent local women, including Helen J. Stewart, persuaded the railroad to donate ten acres of land just south of the unofficial "boot hill" to be dedicated as a city cemetery. The city accepted the gift and chose the name Woodlawn. Helen J. Stewart had arrived in the Las Vegas Valley in 1882 with her husband Archibald after acquiring the 960 acre Las Vegas Ranch. Archibald was murdered



Helen J. Stewart.

two years later, allegedly by ranch hands from the neighboring Kiel Ranch (located at Losee and W. Carey in North Las Vegas). Mrs. Stewart continued to operate the ranch (now the location of the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Park, E. Washington and Las Vegas Boulevard North), until selling much of the ranch to the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad in 1902.

WOODLAWN CEMETERY is located approximately one mile north of the historic Las Vegas town site on the southeast corner of Las Vegas Boulevard, north and Owens Ave.



J.T. MCWILLIAMS was the civil engineer who designed the layout for the original 10-acre Woodlawn Cemetery; the completed plans were signed and dated July 22, 1914. McWilliams was a master of his trade and was responsible for nearly every major civic civil engineering project in the early historic period of the formation of the community of Las Vegas, and Woodlawn Cemetery is the best remaining example of his work. McWilliams and his family are interred in Woodlawn Cemetery.

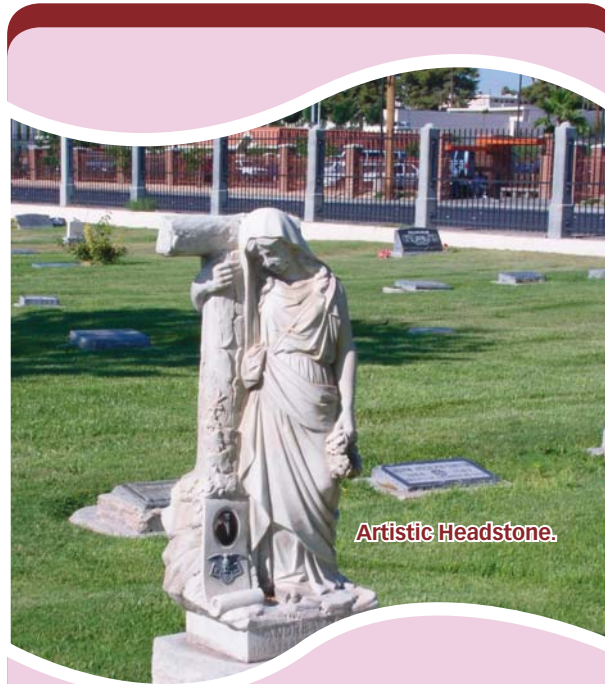
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THE INITIAL PHYSICAL DESIGN

and formation of Woodlawn Cemetery was unique in the fact that it did not have natural elements of landscape to create buffers between plot sections or challenges in construction that typical predecessors in other communities might have encountered. There were not any existing hills or water obstacles to maneuver around and no existing trees or landscape to selectively thin. Woodlawn Cemetery was given a near flat empty canvas to create the planned nature that would separate the cemetery from the harsh undeveloped desert landscape that dominated the Las Vegas Valley.



Woodlawn Cemetery.



Artistic Headstone.



Las Vegas Age, May 1910

LOCATED EAST of the original caretakers' building near the southern boundary of the cemetery is a well that dates to May 1916. The well was constructed by local contractors Beckley and Laubenhimer for \$905 to provide water for cemetery needs. This well was one of the first wells to be drilled in the Las Vegas Valley and is unique as early water needs were typically filled by natural springs and the Las Vegas Creek. This well is no longer in service and has been capped but still remains on the property.

THE PHYSICAL HEADSTONES and statuary found on the grounds of Woodlawn Cemetery constitute some of the earliest forms of artistic expression found in the Las Vegas Valley. Many of these examples are artistic achievements in their own right and provide a wealth of information with regard to the availability and use of materials during particular times in Las Vegas' history.

WOODLAWN CEMETERY is the foremost representation of a community that has grown to become one of the most successful cities founded in the 20th century. Patterns of extensive growth influenced by mining, railroad, construction, military and gambling have created one of the largest, yet youngest, great cities in the western region of the United States. Las Vegas is of great significance at a national level as the individuals who formed this community at inception are representative of migration and travel patterns that are directly tied to the technology of the period. A full representation of the diversity and complexity of the community does not exist in any other physical form.

THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS

with compelling and contributing histories are buried at Woodlawn Cemetery including members of nearly every major pioneer family that lived in the Las Vegas Valley during the formative years.

One such pioneer interred at Woodlawn is Yonema "Bill" Tomiyasu, a Japanese immigrant who became a local farmer. His fresh tomatoes, asparagus, luscious watermelons and canteloupe fed the construction workers building the Hoover Dam. Mr. Tomiyasu went on to fight for the United States in World War II, delivering food to soldiers at the airplane gunnery school in Las Vegas (now Nellis AFB).

Also interred here is Korean Immigrant Frank Kim, another early farmer that became successful at raising melons, tomatoes, and onions in the poor desert soils during a time when it was very difficult for Asian-Americans to own property. The produce was available to customers who could pick them up at his home near Bonanza Road and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

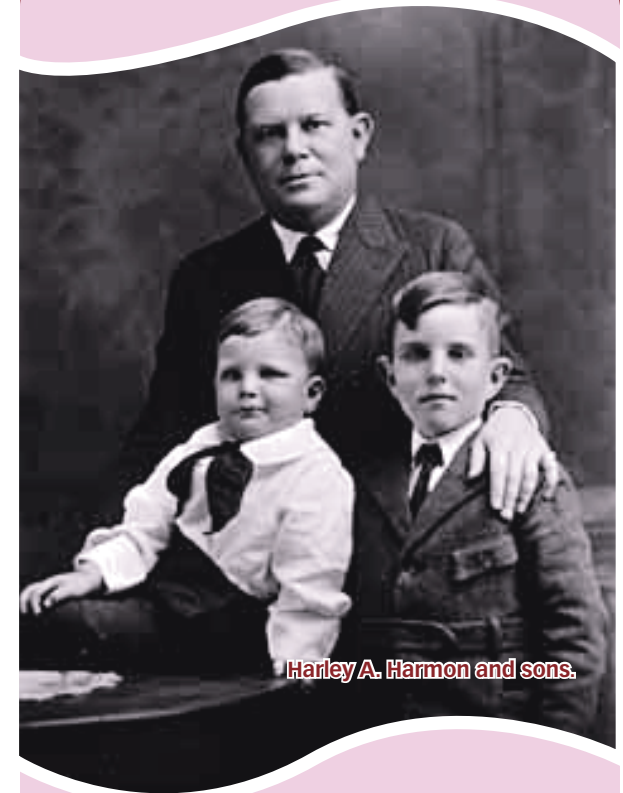


Bill Tomiyasu.

Image provided by
UNLV Special Collections.

WOODLAWN CEMETERY provides the silver lining as a yet untapped resource of a remarkable past.

WOODLAWN CEMETERY became the indicator of a cohesive society that invested a long term commitment to the future of Las Vegas. Woodlawn Cemetery is the supreme example of a broad group of people who gathered early in the 20th century to form the impetus of one of the last great western cities. The cemetery is not simply a Las Vegas cemetery, it is "the" Las Vegas cemetery with a rich, deep connection to countless important historic associations from Las Vegas' early period of settlement.



Harley A. Harmon and sons.

OTHER NOTABLE and colorful Las Vegas are interred at Woodlawn, including prominent local attorney and first Clark County Clerk Harley A. Harmon, who was credited with "stemming the rising tide of lawlessness which swept the area with the start of Boulder Dam construction," (Las Vegas Review-Journal). Also interred here is gunslinger "Diamondfield" Jack Davis who had served time in prison for the murder of two shearers in Idaho. He was later pardoned, and moved to Nevada to establish mining camps where he eventually



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