

INVESTIGATION REPORT

LOCATION: Pioneer Cemetery	Page 1
DATE OF INVESTIGATION: <u>9/22/2007</u>	ADDRESS: <u>Cold Springs Road Coloma, CA</u>
NAME OF LOCATION: <u>Pioneer Cemetery</u>	
CONTACT: <u>None</u>	PHONE #: <u>N/A</u>
CONTACT EMAIL: <u>N/A</u>	
CONTACT ADDRESS: <u>N/A</u>	
REFERENCE MATERIAL USED:	<u>Internet- Pioneer Cemetery Web Site: http://www.cagenweb.com/eldorado/cemeteries/coloma.htm</u>
DATE OF INITIAL CONTACT: <u>9/22/2007</u>	WHO?: _____
INVESTIGATOR(S): <u>Christine B., Vickie C., Lee Anne and Colin M., and Carol A.</u>	
CONTACT SUMMARY OF EVENTS:	
No contact was made. The cemetery had been in many books about ghosts and is reportedly haunted by The Burgundy Lady.	
HISTORY OF LOCATION:	
<p>The Pioneer Cemetery is located across the street from the infamous Vineyard House in Coloma. The cemetery has been called by many different names throughout its history: Sutter Mill, Coloma Protestant and Vineyard Cemetery. It was first organized on April 22, 1850, but it is unknown when the first body was buried here. The earliest known grave site dates back to 1849, however.</p> <p>Robert Chalmers, who was the man who built the Vineyard House, and his family members are buried in this cemetery. Chalmers was the original (earliest recorded) owner of the land. Mary Kane and her family passed on title of the cemetery to the County of El Dorado, who deeded the cemetery property to the California Department of Parks and Recreation in August of 1981. It is now part of the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historical Park, which is down the road on Highway 49.</p> <p>There are more than 600 people buried in the cemetery. One of these “residents” reportedly walks the cemetery grounds. She is known as “The Burgundy Lady.” This spirit has been seen standing near the graves of the Schieffer family with her hair severely pulled back and wearing a long flowing burgundy dress. She has also been seen by many astonished motorists as she beckons them up to the gravesites. It is unknown who she is, but it is believed she is the spirit of May Schieffer.</p>	

INVESTIGATOR'S SUMMARY OF EVENTS:

Christine B., Vickie C., Carol A., Lee Ann and Colin M. arrived at the cemetery at approximately 1 pm. in the afternoon. The weather was cool and raining/drizzling. The rain was coming down hardest when we first arrived, but soon tapered off.

Christine and Vickie took several photographs of the headstones in the cemetery. Carol took a video of most areas of the cemetery. Lee Ann and Colin made GIS readings of several locations on the grounds, and most especially at the Schieffer family plots and stones. Christine also took several readings from the Gauss meter, but there were no fluctuations registered anywhere in the cemetery.

No one felt anything unusual or out of the ordinary during our investigation. No orbs were present in any of the photographs that Vickie or Christine took. We could find no paranormal activity while we were present on the cemetery grounds.

Submitted by Christine B. 9/23/2007

Sunset Magazine, Oct, 1992 by Jeff Phillips

The first thing you must understand is that this was not a dark and stormy night. It was, rather, one of those balmy, moonless spring evenings you can luck into in California's Gold Country. The sky was full of stars, crickets and frogs were singing, and the air was warm and as sweet as honeysuckle.

. . . Go ahead, roll your eyes. But even now I can recall the eerie chill that enveloped us as we passed the steep hillside of the Pioneer Cemetery. There was something up among the mossy granite tombstones, and that something got me to wondering if maybe, just maybe, there is some truth to all those stories about ghosts in the Gold Country. Although the supernatural isn't yet touted on Mother Lode tourist brochures, ask around, and in almost every old mining town along State Highway 49 you'll hear accounts of mysterious rattlings, unexplained lights, and haunting apparitions.

Gold Country writer Nancy Bradley insists that this is one of the nation's spookiest regions. Over coffee one afternoon in Coloma she explains: "With its history of hardship, greed, and violent death, the Gold Country was charged with so much spiritual energy that it's not surprising so many strange phenomena are reported."

"Dad, I'm cold," she said. "I want my sweater." We stopped and, strangely, it was noticeably colder. There seemed to be a mist among the trees, and the crickets, which had been chirping raucously when we left, were suddenly quiet. In fact, the night was deathly still.

"Are we alone?" Jill asked, a little louder than necessary. We looked around. "I feel like someone is following us ... or watching us."

Up and down the road there were no cars, no other walkers, nothing. It was dark beneath the trees, and on the hillside above us the thin, wraithlike wisps of mist seemed to be collecting among the twisted black trunks. The hair on the back of my neck stood straight on end. Was it some kind of a reflection, or was part of the mist--some vague, almost human shape--faintly glowing?

"What is it?" Jill whispered, as we pushed the children on down the hill. "Is something up there?"

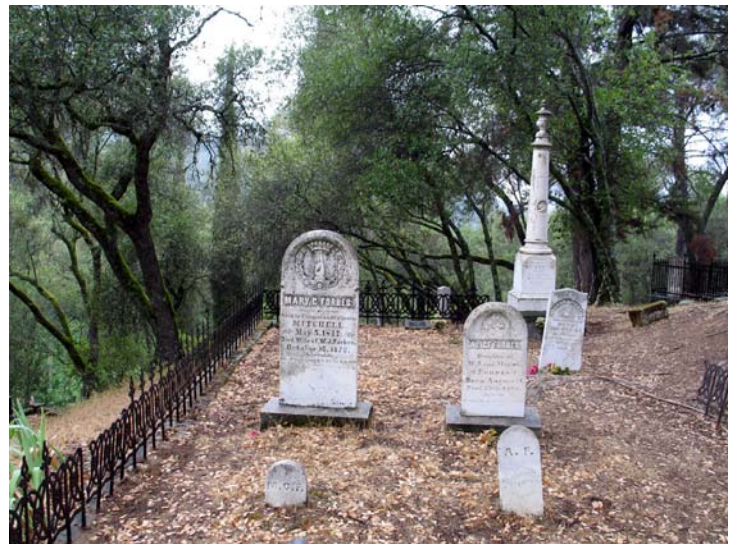
Author Bradley says yes, something was up there, probably the Lady in Burgundy, the image of a woman in a flowing skirt of that color who is often seen near the family tombstone of Charles Schieffer and two of his children. Who is this woman? When Schieffer died at age 42 did he leave a grieving wife? A relative? A mistress?

Park rangers and local volunteers restoring the cemetery can't help. All Bradley knows is that the Lady in Burgundy seems agitated when she appears (she beckons to those who see her), and that across the cemetery is the very modest grave of a woman named Catherine Schieffer, who was born in 1862 (two years before Charles's death) and died in 1916, her life also a complete mystery.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF LOCATION



The Burgundy Lady could look like the photo above. These tombstones are in the Schieffer Family plot area.



Vickie C. looking over the map of the Pioneer Cemetery and the list of names who are buried there.



End of report