

The Kneebone Family Cemetery Contains Eleven Graves Dating From 1853 to 1991

Grave Site 1.

Captain William Thompson, born 1809, died 1853. A ship captain who left his ship in San Francisco Bay in 1849 and came to the Bridgeport area with his wife, Mary Ann Thompson, and their daughter, Fannie Thompson. Captain Thompson died here of an unknown illness at the age of 44 years.

Grave Site 2.

Fannie Thompson, born 1850, died 1856. The only daughter of William and Mary Ann Thompson. She died at six years of age from an unknown cause.

Grave Site 3.

Mary Ann Thompson Cole, born 1831, died 1900. The widow of William Thompson and wife of Charles J. Cole. The Coles owned a farm at Bridgeport and collected tolls at the covered bridge. They had three daughters and a son. Mary Ann was 82 when she died.

Grave Site 4.

Charles J. Cole, born 1831, died 1916. Charles arrived in the Bridgeport area in early 1850. He married the widow of William Thompson at Thompson's request before he died. Charles homesteaded 160 acres in 1861 and built the Bridgeport house, a stage and wagon stop, in 1862. This is also the year the present covered bridge was built. Charles was 85 when he died.

Double Grave Site 5 and 6.

Eugene Joseph Kneebone, born 1913, died 1984, and **Mary E. Washburn Kneebone**, born 1915, died 1984. The brother of Milton Kneebone, Eugene was born in San Francisco, lived in Spenceville, and became a mining engineer. He and his wife Mary were interned in a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines during WWII. After the war they returned to Grass Valley. Eugene worked as a mining engineer at the Idaho-Maryland mine in Grass Valley before he died. His wife Mary followed in death six months later.

Grave Site 7.

Andrew Reed Kneebone, born 1860, died 1934. Born in Cornwall, England, he joined his family in Spenceville in 1876 after completing his education. Andrew learned "teamstering" from his father,

becoming one of the finest and best-known teamsters in the Gold Country. Married Victoria Cole in 1886 and had five sons from 1888 to 1897. After his wife Victoria died, Andrew obtained 1/3 of the Bridgeport ranch and his four living sons received 1/6 shares. Andrew lived a short time at Bridgeport before he died at the age of 73.

Grave Site 8.

Victoria Marie Cole Kneebone, born 1862, died 1930. Victoria was born at Bridgeport, the youngest of the three Cole daughters. She married in 1886 to Andrew Reed Kneebone in Marysville and lived at Andrew's Spenceville ranch. Victoria had five sons; only one was born at Bridgeport. All were raised at the ranch in Spenceville. She obtained the Cole farm when her brother and sister deeded their share of the Cole estate to Victoria in 1921. She was 68 when she died in Spenceville.

Grave Site 9.

William H. Kneebone, born 1897, died 1919. The youngest son of Andrew and Victoria, he was born at Spenceville. William died at the age of 21 in San Diego. The probable cause of death was pneumonia. William was the only son of Andrew and Victoria to be buried at Bridgeport.

Grave Site 10.

G. H. Graves, born 1831, died 1900. Graves and Charles J. Cole obtained a 40-acre General Land Patent for placer mining in 1888. Graves granted Cole his share of the placer mining patent for his care, shelter and maintenance. Graves was 69 when he died.

Grave Site 11.

Milton E. Kneebone, born 1916, died 1991. He was a grandson of Andrew and Victoria. Born in Grass Valley, Milton attended school in Spenceville and spent summers at Bridgeport helping at the swim resort. He was the brother to Eugene Kneebone. He died at age 75.

*Compiled by docents Marlene Linstadt and John Tamagni, with the gracious advice and assistance of Lucille Kneebone Brandt, descendant of pioneer resident Charles J. Cole. (Revised September 2000; rearranged and reformatted September 2007, HEL)



The Historic Kneebone Family Cemetery at Bridgeport

1. Wm. B. Thompson
1809 - 1853
2. Fannie Thompson
1850 - 1856
3. Mary Ann Cole
1831 - 1900
4. Charles J. Cole
1831 - 1916
5. Eugene J. Kneebone
1913 - 1984
6. Mary E. Washburn
Kneebone
1915 - 1984
7. Andrew Kneebone
1860 - 1934
8. Victoria Kneebone
1862-1930
9. Wm. H. Kneebone
1897-1919
10. G. H. Graves
1831 - 1900
11. Milton E. Kneebone
1916 - 1991

