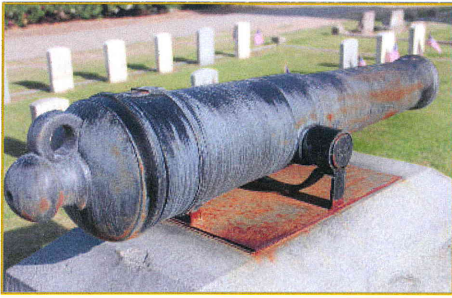


Take a Walk through Bakersfield's History at Historic Union Cemetery



Since 1872, Union Cemetery has been the final resting place of early area pioneers and settlers, old west cowboys, soldiers, judges and politicians - many of whom reside in our historic Pioneer Section. Below are some of the more notable sites, but it is far from complete. As you stroll along the cemetery's fascinating monuments and mausoleums, let this be the start of a fascinating journey into Bakersfield's unique and colorful past.

Historic
UNION CEMETERY
EST. 1872

A. Jacob Niederaur - Town's First Undertaker **Block 1**

Jacob Niederaur was Bakersfield's first undertaker and the first sexton of Historic Union Cemetery. He was born in Germany and moved to Bakersfield after serving in the Union Army in the Civil War. The first of Niederaur's many businesses was a cabinet-making shop, followed by a furniture store. He erected Bakersfield's first downtown shopping block and helped develop a hotel, a gym and a hall for opera. Niederaur died in 1903, a self-made man who added much to his adopted community.

B. Col. Thomas Baker - Founder of Bakersfield **Block 61**

Colonel Thomas Baker was the visionary founder of the city of Bakersfield and its most important resident. He arrived in Kern County, California in 1850 with a dream of building "an important city" and began an agricultural and business center. To entice settlers, he planted an alfalfa field where travelers could refresh their livestock. "Baker's Field" soon became the name of the burgeoning town. Baker died in 1872 and rests under a striking stone obelisk in what is now Historic Union Cemetery.

C. Ellen Baker Tracy - Pioneer/Col. Baker's Wife **Block 61**

Ellen Baker Tracy, third wife of Colonel Thomas Baker, founded Bakersfield's first school. She was born in Michigan in 1837 and met her husband in Visalia, California in 1854. Resourceful and strong, she was the classic pioneer woman and an active partner to her husband as they toiled to build their new town. After Col. Baker's death, she married another Bakersfield pioneer, Ferdinand Tracy. Ellen Baker Tracy remained active in community life and helped found an orphanage, the Children's Shelter. She died in 1924.

D. Benjamin Brundage - First Superior Court Judge **Block 62**

Benjamin Brundage was a celebrated jurist who made Bakersfield a political power center and helped draft a controversial new constitution for California in the 1870s. He was born on a farm in Ohio in 1834 and later moved to California to practice law. Brundage was instrumental in moving the Kern county seat from Havilah to Bakersfield. He also served one term as Kern County's first Superior Court judge and remained a prominent citizen until his death in 1911. The city named a street, Brundage Lane, in his honor.

E. Solomon Jewett - Bakersfield's First Banker **Block 72**

One of Bakersfield's first business magnates, Solomon Jewett made his first fortune supplying wool for Union Army uniforms in the Civil War. A descendant of the Pilgrims, Jewett was born in 1835 on a Vermont sheep ranch and later moved to California to raise sheep. As he prospered, Jewett diversified, opening a store and the area's first bank, the Kern Valley Bank. He also raised cattle and alfalfa and started an oil company. Jewett became active in civic affairs, serving on the county board of supervisors. He died in Bakersfield in 1905.

F. George Chester - First Postmaster **Block 112**

Pioneer George Chester accomplished several "firsts" for Bakersfield, including acting as its first postmaster and first telegraph operator and starting its first general store. George arrived in 1866 with his brother Julius and opened the store, which spurred the development of the business district. Chester Street, named for the brothers, became a bustling main thoroughfare in Bakersfield. Despite his initial business success, George Chester was not a rich man when he died in 1903. He was however, beloved in the community. His obituary called him "the friend of everyone and the enemy of none."

G, H, I. Joss House Old West Shootout **Bert Tibbett, Block 118; Jeff Packard, Block 135; Will Tibbett, Block 132**

On April 19, 1903, Bakersfield was the scene of one of the great gun battles of the Wild West. Notorious desperado Jim McKinney was holed up in a fortified Chinese joss house (temple) at the corner of L and 22nd Streets. Officers surrounded the house and Deputy Sheriff Will Tibbett and City Marshal Jeff Packard called for McKinney to surrender. McKinney opened fire, killing Tibbett instantly and mortally wounding Packard. Bert Tibbet, Will's brother, returned fire and killed McKinney. Tibbet and Packard were solemnly laid to rest in Historic Union Cemetery, their graves an eternal reminder of Bakersfield's Wild West past.

J. American Civil War Soldiers **Blocks 204, 205, 214, 215, 224, 225**

A Civil War-era cannon tops the striking monument that marks the final resting place of 86 veterans of the Civil War on the Union side. These soldiers were members of The Grand Army of the Republic, a national Civil War veterans' organization that played a major role in American politics through the middle of the 20th century. Bakersfield was home to G.A.R. Hurlbut Post 127, which purchased the section for its members. The post was named for U.S. Army Major General Stephen A. Hurlbut, one of the founding fathers of the G.A.R. There are an additional 11 Union soldiers buried elsewhere in the cemetery, as well as 17 Confederate soldiers.

K. Wood Grave Markers - Bakersfield's "Boot Hill" Block 361

Here is a taste of old Boot Hill: the few remaining wooden markers from over a century ago. Many early grave markers were constructed of wood or other impermanent materials, most of which have been eroded or removed over the decades, only some of which have been replaced with stone. This means that many of the spaces not marked in the Pioneer Section are nonetheless occupied. These two wooden markers identify the graves of Mary L. (Anderson) Wilkinson and her daughter, Mamie E. Wilkinson, both of whom who died in 1892.



L. Faustino Noriega - Businessman/Hotelier Block 330

Faustino Noriega was a leader of Bakersfield's Basque community and founder of a famous Bakersfield hotel. Born in Spain in 1856, Noriega immigrated to California as a teenager. The Basques are great sheepherders, and Noriega raised his own flocks while managing sheep operations for other farmers. In 1893 Noriega opened a traditional Basque "ostatu," which combined a boarding house and restaurant. Now called the Hotel Noriega, it is still the center of Bakersfield's Basque community. Noriega also opened other businesses, including a bank. He died in 1922.

M. Capt. Elisha Stephens - California Trailblazer Block 345

A classic frontiersman, Elisha Stephens was the first to guide a wagon train safely over the treacherous Sierra Nevada mountains, opening Northern California to overland migration. His trail was later named the Donner Pass. He then became a farmer and trapper in the remote Kern River Valley near the future site of Bakersfield. Although a good friend of city founder Colonel Thomas Baker, Stephens' heroic accomplishments were largely forgotten at the time of his death in 1887. He is now regarded as one of the great pioneers of California and the West.

N. Alexis Godey, Frontiersman and Scout Block 272

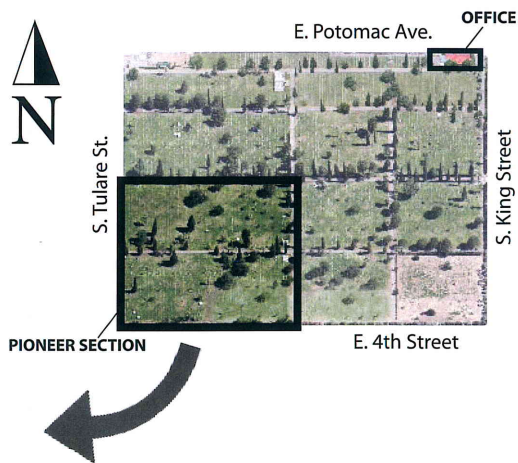
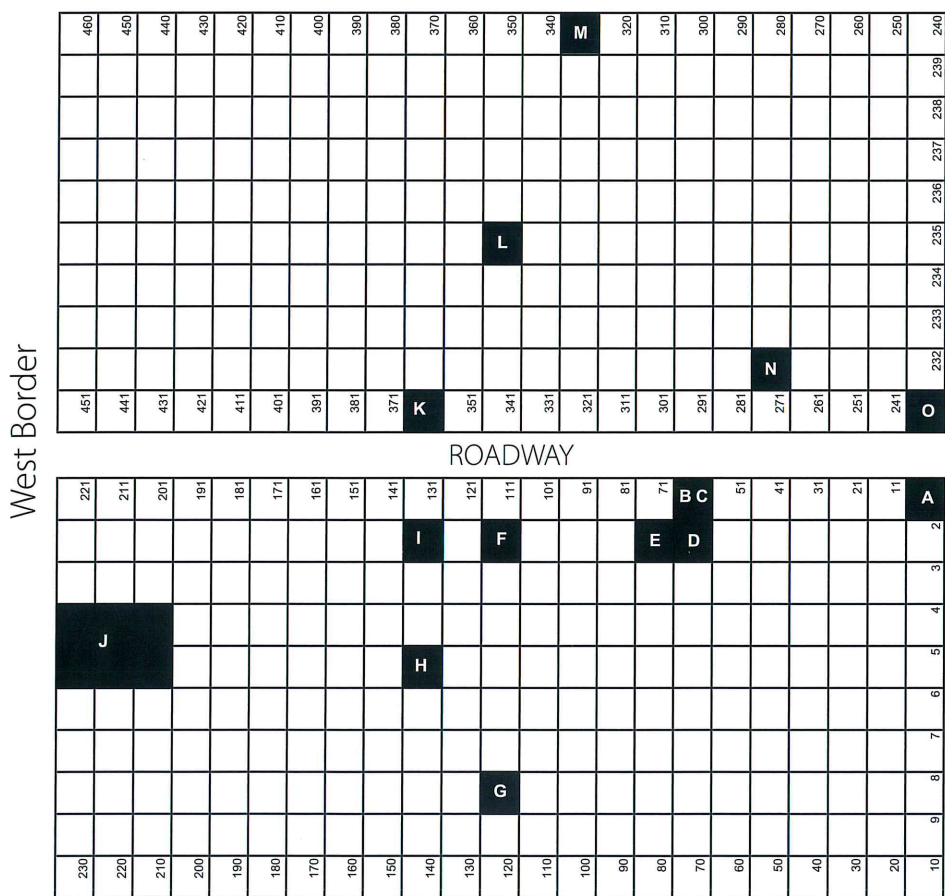
Born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1818, Alexis Godey had established himself as an experienced trapper, hunter and Indian trader in the western territories. In 1843, along with fellow guide Kit Carson, he joined John C. Fremont's second western expedition and subsequently guided Fremont's next two expeditions. When war broke out with Mexico during the summer of 1846, Godey participated in the Battle of San Pasquel and the capture of the pueblo of Los Angeles. After the war, Godey settled in California, working as a miner, guide, Indian agent and ranch hand, moving to Bakersfield in 1883. Godey died of an infection from a scratch he received from a circus lion on January 19, 1889.

O. Paul Galtes - Community Builder Block 231 (Galtes Mausoleum)

A born entrepreneur, Pablo "Paul" Galtes was one of Bakersfield's pioneer businessmen. He was born in Barcelona, Spain in 1840 and reached California via Cuba in 1871. Galtes built a small grocery store into one of the most successful general stores in the town. A business booster, he built Bakersfield's first brick shopping block in 1878 and followed it with a hotel and a theatre. Becoming a prominent citizen, Galtes served as one of the first trustees of the town. He was also active in the Union Cemetery Association and the Kern County Pioneer's Association. Galtes died in 1920.



Historic Pioneer Section - southwest corner of Union Cemetery



Numbers in grids represent "blocks". Each block contains 16 grave spaces. Letters correspond to historic descriptions above.

Historic
UNION CEMETERY
EST. 1872

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