

Information on Graves at Steamboat Springs Cemetery

Prepared by Jim Stanko, Cemetery Board member

Numbers correspond to attached map

1. James Crawford and wife Margaret—founders of Steamboat Springs, Margaret (Maggie is main character in three books, “Maggie by my Side”, “Cabin at Medicine Springs”, and “Shining Mountains”, written by granddaughter Lulita Crawford Pritchett). The first Crawford cabin is depicted on the headstone.
2. John Rolfe Burroughs—famous Steamboat author, wrote “Where the Old West Stayed Young”, one of the best histories of Northwest Colorado, and “I Never Look Back: the story of Buddy Werner”. He was also a Navy veteran, captured at Wake Island and held as a prisoner of war for 4 years.
Also in the lot is the Michetti/Compestine site which is the only one in the Cemetery that has the iron fence and European-influenced style.
3. Charles Laub—Civil War veteran, headstone is the Civil War-style military headstone. Each war has a different style headstone.
4. James Noyce—Steamboat’s first WWI aviator. Raised on a ranch in the Southside neighborhood, he joined the Army in 1917 and was sent to flight school in Texas. He died during pilot training in an airplane crash.
5. William Harvey—had a homestead in Pleasant Valley, he was a Civil War veteran, but is famous for killing 56 bears, which is written on his headstone.
6. Charles Graham—was a Civil War veteran, ran a business in Steamboat, and was the first person to be elected to the Colorado Senate from Steamboat and ran as a member of the Populist Party.
7. Only headstone in the Cemetery written in a foreign language. The language has been identified as Lithuanian. He was a coal miner from Oak Creek, who died during the coal strikes of 1910-1913. The town of Oak Creek refused to let striking miners be buried in the Oak Creek Cemetery, so the United Mine Workers bought six lots in the Steamboat Springs Cemetery. This is the only plot used.
8. I. Belle Cantrell—the first burial in the Steamboat Cemetery, Sept. 4, 1882. The original headstone was replaced by the family in the 1960s.
9. Wither Memorial—monument depicts the famous Wither Cabin at Hahn’s Peak and recognizes one of the oldest Routt County families. Also of note, some of the styles of headstones in the Original Addition of the Cemetery.

10. Many families on the West hillside put their lots into stonewalls because they were afraid that someday the hill might slide and compromise the graves. Graves shown are those of an old Elk River ranching family and also reflect some early cowboy art.
11. Potters Field—where County burials were made. There are over 60 graves in this area, most are not marked or identified. Many took place during the Flue epidemic of 1918 and the early depression of the 1930s. One of the three Civil War Confederate graves is located here. The grave is marked with a Confederate headstone placed by the Sons of the Confederacy Colorado Chapter in 2008.
12. Rock walls on the West end of the Cemetery can be seen here.
13. Grave of Guy Utter, son of a Twentymile Park rancher killed during the battle of Verdun, Oct. 25, 1918. Out of the 25 Routt County soldiers killed in World War I, he is the only one whose body was brought back. His funeral was held on Memorial Day, 1922, and ever since the American Legion and VFW have held a Memorial Day Ceremony.
14. Graves of Tuffy Wren and Gordon Wren. These two graves represent the heritage of Steamboat Springs and Routt County. Tuffy was Gordon's father and in his youth he was a world class bronc rider as depicted on his headstone. His son Gordon became a world-class skier and placed the highest of any American in skiing in the 1948 Winter Olympics.
15. Located in this area are the three Steamboat soldiers killed during the Korean Conflict. They are: Ben Ehle Jr., K.I.A. Sept. 1950, Leonard Officer, K.I.A. Oct. 1951, and Frank Finch, K.I.A. Oct. 1952.
16. Grave of Gerold Boggs—son of long-time hardware store owner, Vietnam veteran, was killed in Oct. 1993 by a woman who was supposedly his wife, in what is known as Steamboat's version of a "Black Widow killing".
17. The only two Routt County soldiers killed in Vietnam are buried here. John Vialpondo from Steamboat was killed in Dec. 1968, and David Fogg from Yampa, killed in July 1969.
18. James Chew—the only Steamboat Springs Police Officer to be killed in the line of duty. He was shot while trying to apprehend a jail inmate that had escaped in July 1972. He was also a Vietnam veteran.
19. Graves in the 3rd Addition of the Cemetery which represent a different style of headstones featuring what is called headstone art, which depicts the lifestyle of those buried. Some of the notable graves in this area are: Si Lockhart, Tom Duckles, Walt Weber, Leland Harms, Jerry More, Ashley Stamp, and Dave Pinkerman.

20. “Snowball” Ralph Herberlee—one of Steamboat’s well known characters. Snowball came to Steamboat in the 1950s, he had no family and never married. He was Steamboat’s handyman. He did odd jobs, met every Trailways bus at the Harbor Hotel to help passengers with their luggage, and hand-dug every grave in the Steamboat Cemetery from the late 1950s until the early 1970s. He died Dec. 1990.
21. Carl Ramunno—famed Steamboat Springs High School wrestling coach. He coached Steamboat to its first State Wrestling Championship in 1958 and won five more State Championships during his coaching years. He also coached many state wrestling champions. He was a Korean Conflict veteran.
22. Cemetery Columbarium—provides niches for cremains of deceased that family members do not want to bury or scatter.
23. Veterans Memorial and flag pole—placed in the Cemetery in 1978 by American Legion Post #44 and VFW Post #4264 as an area to conduct Memorial Day services, and to recognize the veterans buried in the Cemetery. Memorial services for veterans are also held there.
24. Dr. F.E. Willett—one of Steamboat’s early doctors, established the first hospital in Steamboat and ran the hospital until 1952. He was well known for serving the rural community and making house calls. He delivered a majority of the babies born in Steamboat and the surrounding area from 1912 to the early 1960s. He also served as Steamboat’s mayor in the 1920s.
25. Wallace “Bud” Werner—hometown boy that became one of the United States’ best skiers. He was the first U.S. skier to win major European ski races, and he competed in two Winter Olympics. He was killed by an avalanche in Europe while making a ski film. Storm Mountain, was was the site of a developing ski area, was renamed Mt. Werner in his honor in 1965.
26. Memorial Lake. Area where family members can do memorial benches or memorial plaques for family members. The stone chairs have historical significance as for years, they were used in local parks, such as near the Soda Spring. They were found and donated by the May family and now serve as an honor to the pioneer family.
27. Children’s memorials. Sadly there are a lot of children buried in the Cemetery. One of the most common monuments for children was a lamb figure. An angel carved on the headstone was also common. In the last few years, the practice of placing toys on the headstone has become popular.