

1852-04 Woodbridge Masonic Cemetery

Summary:

The Woodbridge Masonic Cemetery was often called simply “the Woodbridge Cemetery.” Once fenced to keep out cattle and now fenced to keep out vandals, the gate is open on Saturdays from 10am until 3pm.

Find a Grave:

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1978693/woodbridge-masonic-cemetery>

In the News:

[Starting in 1881 many newspaper articles are found that describe burials at this cemetery. Contrasted with today, a higher percentage of those burials are for children. At the time, there was no concept of “patient privacy” so many of the articles are explicit regarding disease, disfigurement, and injury. This paper will focus on aspects of the cemetery itself and internments of unusual circumstances.]

Lodi News-Sentinel Sat, Nov 13, 1886 ·Page 3

A handsome monument for Jas. P. Folger has arrived on two rail cars from the Folsom quarries. The monument proper is in six parts and will stand about sixteen feet high. The base stone is a foot and a half thick and about five feet square; a second and third pediments surmount the largest one. The main shaft is polished granite five feet high, topped with a beautifully carved cap-piece.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036203986/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

The Record Fri, Feb 15, 1901 ·Page 4

Secret 1870 burial still a mystery. Three men silently buried a man believed to be a member of the British Parliament who arrived by steamer to San Francisco. The three men, prominent members of the Woodbridge Masonic fraternity, had sworn to never discuss the circumstances, and they never did. The grave is at the rear of the cemetery near a large tree. The headboard bears the almost obliterated initials of a family title.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609723624/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Thu, Feb 03, 1910 ·Page 1

Captain McQueen in early days resided on the Mokelumne river, back of where the Woodbridge cemetery is now located. In those early days what is now known as Smith's lake was called McQueen's pond.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036166358/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Sat, Mar 25, 1911 ·Page 10

The Woodbridge Cemetery Improvement club will hold a meeting. Mrs. A.L. Rutledge, president.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036257123/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

The Record Wed, Jun 26, 1912 ·Page 7

"Dick" Biggs was racing James Anderson in their autos when the train from Valley Springs entered the railroad crossing. Biggs swerved into the cemetery, ripping out about forty feet of palings and bringing his auto to a stop in the shade of a granite monument. [Three autos had run into the fence that month.]

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609773712/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

The Record Tue, May 08, 1917 ·Page 6

Lodi Justice Holds Session at Gate of Woodbridge Cemetery – Justice Solkmore fined an eighty-year-old lady \$10 for speeding her big automobile on Lower Sacramento.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609809280/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Tue, Dec 30, 1924 ·Page 1

Mrs. Rena Miller, aged seer of the Woodbridge gypsy camp, died at the camp Saturday night. The deceased was laid to rest in the Woodbridge cemetery after gypsy tribal rites. She was believed to be 110 years old. King George, who runs the camp, says that she was the grandmother of several older people in the camp. Mrs. Miller was born in a Siberian gypsy camp about the time of the Naval war of 1812 and spent all her life roaming the world.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036257472/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Tue, May 22, 1928 ·Page 2

The Woodbridge Cemetery is being cleaned up for Memorial Day. Running water has been provided.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036326838/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Sat, Feb 23, 1929 ·Page 12

Meeting in the Masonic hall called to plan for upkeep of Woodbridge cemetery. Unless some immediate action is taken, it may fall into the same deplorable condition as some of the other Pioneer Cemeteries in the vicinity.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036273481/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Sat, Jul 13, 1929 ·Page 5

Workers are clearing weeds and cleaning the walks at Woodbridge cemetery.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036288684/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

The Record Fri, Dec 13, 1929 ·Page 31

Sam Pelegata ran his car into the Southern Pacific train that was crossing at Woodbridge cemetery.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/843379375/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Fri, May 02, 1947 ·Page 1

Remembering William Louis Manning, the Hero of the Death Valley, who's buried in Woodbridge cemetery. We should take better care of the cemetery.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036557037/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Fri, Dec 26, 1947 ·Page 1

The solid granite tombstone shaft of Dr. James Hull, 4 or 5 high, has been stolen from Woodbridge cemetery. [It was found dumped in a vineyard.]

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036564256/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

The Record Tue, Jul 20, 1948 ·Page 2

Tall hedge at Woodbridge cemetery is a traffic hazard when crossing the railroad tracks.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/843973260/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

The Record Fri, May 18, 1956 ·Page 33

Deluxe Trailer court will be built on Main Street in Woodbridge just north of the Woodbridge cemetery.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/844761444/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Sat, Sep 15, 1956 ·Page 2

The caretaker of Woodbridge cemetery, who lives in a one-room cabin in the cemetery, was burglarized but little was taken.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1033496049/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

The Record Tue, Apr 23, 1957 ·Page 16

Lodi Lake park expansion toward Woodbridge cemetery – good photo

https://www.newspapers.com/image/844824342/?match=1&clipping_id=new

Lodi News-Sentinel Wed, Oct 09, 1957 ·Page 12

Woodbridge cemetery caretaker guilty of throwing brick through woman's windshield

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036484885/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Wed, Apr 30, 1958 ·Page 1

Woodbridge Grange is replacing many broken wooden grave markers with concrete markers

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036465075/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Tue, Jul 21, 1959 ·Page 5

Caretaker cabin broken into again

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036649440/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Sat, Mar 04, 1961 ·Page 10

An unidentified elderly man was overturning headstones and hurling rocks. He was taken to the Stockton State Hospital for observation.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036602495/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Mon, Jun 24, 1963 ·Page 6

Lodi expands again – residents of the Mason Lake Home subdivision and as far north as the Woodbridge cemetery voted 21 – 12 in favor of annexation to Lodi.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036650603/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

The Record Page 1 Wednesday, July 29, 1964

The Woodbridge Cemetery Committee hopes to restore monuments

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/845221385/?match=1&terms=%22woodbridge%20cemetery%22>

Jan 8, 2000 Cemetery home to Woodbridge history

<https://www.recordnet.com/story/news/2000/01/09/cemetery-home-to-woodbridge-history/50814078007/>

Jan 23, 2005 Upkeep of historic cemetery is important for Masons

https://www.lodinews.com/news/article_0f375086-a9fb-54ce-8a83-25f0f0e640e1.html

Who's Buried in the Woodbridge Masonic Cemetery?

<https://sanjoaquinmagazine.com/2022/10/whos-buried-in-the-woodbridge-masonic-cemetery/>

YouTube:

Grave Time: Woodbridge Masonic Cemetery

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga_orOZDQGE

Lodi Historical Society newsletters:

- [Early Woodbridge](#) - Fall 1996. This issue with many photos describes the early Pioneer settlement of Woodbridge, near Lodi. French Canadian fur trappers from the Hudson Bay Company first worked the Mokelumne River. In 1849 brothers, J.P. Sargent and Roswell Sargent, arrived and started farming. Two more Sargent brothers joined them along with other Pioneers. Woodbridge gets its name from Jeremiah Woods who built a cabin for his family in 1852. Woods created ferry service across the river and urged San Joaquin County to bring a road from San Jose to Sacramento through his property, which was then called Woods Ferry. This road was named Lower Sacramento Road. Woods replaced his ferry service with a toll bridge. A big flood carried off the bridge in 1861. Woods died at age 43 in a dispute over his dog. The town's growth continued until it was bypassed in 1869 by the Central Pacific Railroad, who chose Lodi's generous offer over Woodbridge's. The issue also describes the Woodbridge Fig Tree, which was planted in 1857 and grew to a 309-foot circumference, spreading 95 feet north to south. It was cut down to make Woodbridge's River Meadow subdivision.
- [The Word on the Streets](#) - Autumn 2024. Lodi's Turner Road, Kettleman Lane, Ham Lane, and Hutchins Street memorialize School Superintendent Frank Turner, Cattleman David Kettelman, Judge William Ham, and real estate magnates John, Edward, and Ada Hutchins. This issue also contains a Walking Tour of Woodbridge with maps of historic Woodbridge and the Woodbridge Masonic Cemetery.