

VESTIGES of *Lands End*

Golden Gate Cemetery

In 1868 the land where the Legion of Honor and Lincoln Park Golf Course sit today was reserved by the city for Golden Gate Cemetery. The first interment was recorded in July 1870.

The cemetery was divided into sections including Chinese Six Companies, French, German, Italian, French, Russian, Jewish, Orthodox Easter Greek Church, Ladies' Seaman Society, Knights of Pythias, Grand Army of the Republic, Colored I.O.O.F., Old Friend's Society, Slavonic Illyric, St. Andrews, Japanese, and Chinese Christian. A Potter's Field was set aside for the indigent.

By 1887, there were over 11,000 interments including more than 4,000 Chinese. By 1893, the total number of interments had grown to 18,000 which included over 11,000 poor and indigent burials in Potter's Field.

By the 1890s Adolph Sutro and other prominent citizens were in favor of condemning the cemetery, which they considered an eye-sore and menace. This would allow the federal Government to acquire the land for defense fortifications. But the city asked too much for the 200 acres and the government only purchased 54 acres for fortifications that eventually became Fort Miley.

The SF Board of Supervisors banned all burials within city limits in 1901. By 1909 Golden Gate Cemetery was ordered to move. From this land the Park Commission created Lincoln Park and the Lincoln Park Golf Course. The graves of Golden Gate Cemetery were exhumed and moved to cemeteries in Colma.

Today, Seaman's Memorial and a Chinese style tomb/gateway in Lincoln Park are the only visible reminders of Golden Gate Cemetery.



Top: Chinese gateway in Lincoln Park Golf Course, 2012;
Bottom: Seaman's Memorial in Lincoln Park Golf Course, 2012.