





Niku meets Dr. Bowden

Our relationship with our veterinarians is very important. Our dogs are more than companions, they are working partners. As working dogs they are more exposed to dangers in the field. We want a veterinarian who understands the kind of work we do and can recommend the kinds of medications, vaccines or treatments they might need. We are trained in emergency care for our dogs because many times when we are in the field we are far from help.



Funerary Customs

Gold Rush Era Chinese Burial

Thousands of Chinese immigrants came to California for the Gold Rush; they played a huge role in our history. As a source of cheap labor, they were used for mining and to build the transcontinental railroad. The Chinese population in California in 1850 was only a few hundred increasing to almost 35,000 by 1860. The Chinese had few rights, were not allowed to own property and not allowed to be buried in Anglo cemeteries. Most planned to strike it rich and then return home with their fortune. Many never made it home and most did not strike it rich.

As gold became more difficult to find, animosity and hostility increased for Chinese and other foreign workers. In 1850 the California legislature passed the Foreign Miners Tax Law taxing all foreign miners \$20.00 a month. This tax made it impossible for many workers to keep mining.

When work on the Transcontinental Railroad began in 1863, neither Union Pacific nor Central Pacific wanted to hire the Chinese immigrants. This was due to the general prejudices of the time. Central Pacific realized that it was difficult to recruit railroad workers and keep them on the job. Central Pacific's part of the project included the Sierra Nevada mountains. This segment was treacherous and included high elevations and the need to use dynamite to blast tunnels. The company needed thousands of laborers and had only been able to find a few hundred. In addition, the Irish workers it had managed to hire

were requesting higher wages. Central Pacific's portion of the railroad began in Sacramento. Since there was already a relatively large Chinese population in northern California the company decided to begin recruiting Chinese laborers.

In 1882 the Federal Chinese Exclusion Act was passed suspending all immigration of Chinese laborers. It was not repealed until 1943.

Chinese Funerary Practices

Chinese immigrants, which were mostly men, clung to their traditional burial rituals that connected the living to the dead. They wanted their bones sent back to their homeland where their spirit could be protected by family. (The few immigrant women, however, were not given this privilege.) The immigrants believed keeping the family bones together harnessed powerful energy and brought the family good luck. Immigrant bodies were buried in shallow graves so the flesh would decompose, which took approximately seven years. Families would contact companies in San Francisco that would dig up the bones, clean them and arrange them in boxes or clay pots to be shipped home where they could be properly buried with their ancestors.

Chinese burial practices were not understood and viewed as "pagan", barbaric, disgusting, and not proper so they were banned from using traditional Anglo cemeteries.

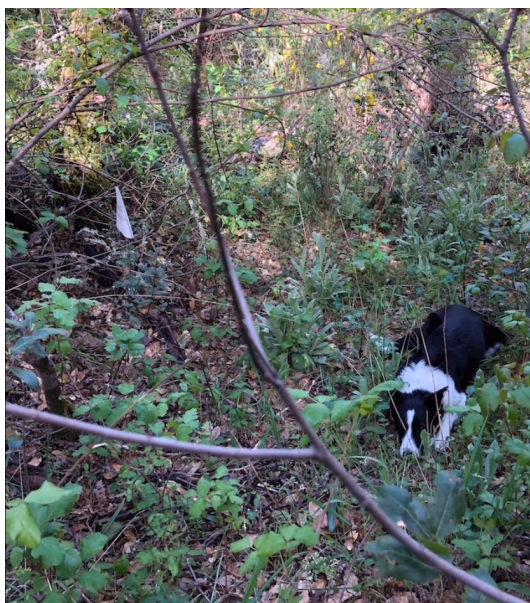
In many historic Chinese cemeteries you can still find depressions of exhumation pits where the bones have been removed. Not all the deceased were lucky or rich enough to be taken back to their homeland to be buried and cared for by family. Most of the early remaining burials are not marked or the markings and / or documentation is missing.

Our experience working the Historic Gold Rush era Chinese cemeteries with our dogs is the depressions have very strong scent. Grave soil still contains the biological material that our dogs will recognize as human remains. I have been looking for more information on burial practices to see if there is documentation about re-using the pits after bones had been removed. During the winters digging graves would be very difficult and since many of the Chinese wanted their bones shipped home it would make sense to leave the pits open for the next burial.

~Adela~



Some Chinese burial locations were marked with rocks. Rhea alerts in a depression in a known historic Chinese cemetery.



Piper and Jasper both alert next to large pits in a newly discovered Gold Rush Chinese cemetery. Piper alerts down hill from a large depressions because there was no room for her to lay down in the depression since it was full of vegetation.

Forestvale Cemetery "China Row" Montana

As part of the Cemetery Preservation Technology workshop put on by the Montana History Foundation in 2018, the ICF team was asked to work a gold rush era and historic Chinese cemetery. The Chinese gold rush era cemetery called "China Row" was outside of the main Forestvale Cemetery. The Chinese community would like to restore and clean up the historic cemetery, add

documentation for visitors to read, as well as mark some of the unknown graves.

The questions they were trying to solve were:

- Are there any unmarked burials?
- What are the boundaries of the Chinese burial area?
- Are the remaining stones at burials?

You can read more about the "Using Technology for Cemetery Preservation" at <https://www.mthistory.org/cemetery-preservation/>

~Adela~



Left: Jasper alerts on stone in China Row.



Right: Jett alerts next to unmarked pit in China Row.



Left: Bricks from the cooking area where food was prepared for burial ceremonies.

Right: Broken headstone flagged by dog alert.



Royal Geographical Society Conference 2019

Last Fall I was asked if I would be interested in presenting a paper at the Royal Geographical Society's conference in London on Using Dogs to Locate Recent, Historic and Prehistoric Human Remains in Challenging Geographies. After careful consideration and discussions with a few ICF associates, we decided that we should do this. The abstract below was written, with assistance from the organizer, Lew Toulmin, and submitted. It was accepted and will be a part of a 2-session presentation on Geographies of the Missing and Lost: Famous Cases and New Developments (Air and Sea, and Land), August 28th.

<http://conference.rgs.org/AC2019/50>

"The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) is the UK's learned society and professional body for geography. It was founded in 1830 for the advancement of geographical science and has been among the most active of the learned societies ever since. The largest geographical

society in Europe, and one of the largest in the world, the RGS operates at a regional, national and international scale.”

<https://www.rgs.org/research/annual-international-conference/programme/>

Abstract:

For thousands of years, canines have been companions and helpmates to humans, and in a recent development they are now being used to solve geographical mysteries involving lost, missing or murdered persons. Historic Human Remains Detection (HHRD) dogs of the Institute for Canine Forensics (ICF) have been successful at locating numerous recent, historic and even prehistoric human burials.

Different from bloodhounds or air-scenting search dogs, HHRD dogs are trained to distinguish fragments of ancient human bone, teeth (or other remains) from identical-looking fragments of wood, or even from animal bone. The dogs have worked in tropical climates, blistering deserts, and in the Alaskan wilderness. They have protected the cultural environment by proving the presence of ancient American Indian burials at proposed building sites. They have assisted police departments in locating recent crime victims, on occasion, even under water! Currently they are being utilized to find previously cremated human remains in the aftermath of massive wildfires in California.

This presentation highlighted four projects that presented unique hazards and challenges, the 2017 expedition to Nikumaroro in search of Amelia Earhart, a project in Alaska as winter was about to close in, the southern California desert in the summer heat and the cremains recovery in the aftermath of the Camp Fire. The presentation was well received, as were those of the other presenters in our sessions.

- Lynne Engelbert -



Presenters from the "Geographies of the Missing and Lost".

From left, Sarah Begum, RGS fellow; Lynne Engelbert, ICF; Ric Gillespie, TIGHAR; Lew Toulmin, FRGS and Explorers Club; Robert Koester, FRGS, dbS Productions; Jared Doke, Natl. Alliance for Public Safety; Kimberly Frank, Fellow of Explorers Club (wife of David Concannon); David Concannon, Explorer Consulting Inc., Kenton Spading, US Army Corp. of Engineers; and Paul Doherty, Natl. Alliance for Public Safety.



Check out our past issues on
our website -

[CLICK HERE](#)



(650) 503-4473 | info@ICFK9.org | www.ICFK9.org

We are happy to talk with you about your project and
how our dogs might help locate human remains or burials.

Call, email, or check out our website.

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