

# The History of Fort Lowell Cemetery

Here rest many of the Men, Women, and Children who saw the beauty and value of this land, and chose to settle here in the Tucson Basin. They are loved and remembered every day.

Que en paz descansen  
May they rest in Peace

Cemeteries are the history of a people, a community and a lifestyle. They provide an important place for mourning and religious observation, and are visited by family, friends and everyday people through the years. Try to imagine life in El Fuerte during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when lives revolved around church, school and family, and the year was marked by fiestas and saint's days, weddings and funerals. Life was hard and families depended on themselves and each other.

The Fort Lowell Cemetery represents the cultural heritage and silently acknowledges the perseverance of people with strong roots to their community. The first interment is unknown on this long-established funerary ground, as markers are missing, or names and dates are no longer visible. From the late 1800s, paisanos "countrymen" from Magdalena, Ures and Huepac in Sonora, Mexico, as well as Santa Rosalía and La Paz from the peninsula of Baja California, Mexico, resided in and around the decommissioned Fort Lowell Military Post. They were not immigrants from one nation to another, rather relocating from one part of the land in which they were born to another area of the Sonoran Desert.

The settlement grew into the village of El Fuerte, "The Fort", and these paisanos were known as Los Fuerteños, "The People of the Fort". This one-acre site is the final resting place of the earliest Fuerteños. Interment is restricted only to their descendants. This tradition continues to this day. The time-honored burials are hand-dug by family members. Traditionally, during Día de los Muertos, "Day of the Dead", visitors honor their ancestors and friends by decorating their graves, reciting prayers or leaving mementos. The Fort Lowell Cemetery was given to the Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Association, Inc. by its former owner, Jean Dun Porter, in 1997. She felt it belonged to the historic neighborhood and is part of the history and tradition of its people.

## Conservation & Preservation

The Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Association, Inc. has a defined role working towards the conservation and preservation for the Fort Lowell Cemetery. The customs and religious affiliations of those buried in the cemetery will be considered. The cemetery is an expression of a community, including the cultural beliefs that make the community unique; respecting the dead means extending respect to their descendants.

Conservation efforts will be directed towards the property and its use as a cultural heritage funerary ground, including gravesites, markers, architecture, and recorded documentation of burials. It also provides research that will further the knowledge of those who lived in the Fort Lowell area of Tucson years ago. Additional maintenance and management is essential to protect the cemetery from the natural exposures to age, weather, unforeseen circumstances and vandalism.

# Fort Lowell Cemetery Guide

Visitors are welcome to visit the cemetery, located approximately one mile west from the San Pedro Chapel, at the corner of Fort Lowell Road and Laurel Avenue. Walk among the creosote bushes and mesquite trees that flourish amid the graves; review the names of those buried there; imagine the stories and say a prayer.

Please help us preserve the graves for future generations.

Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

No burials allowed without approval

No digging or burial preparation without approval

Reserved only for Los Fuerteños descendants from Fort Lowell's El Fuerte Village

No maintenance of grounds or planting without permission

No bicycles or motorized vehicles on premises

Not responsible for lost or damaged items

No rubbings of grave markers

No firearms or hunting

No pet waste. Please take it with you and dispose of it properly

Visitors enter the cemetery at their own risk and will have no claim against the property owner for any injuries on premises.

The use of metal detectors is prohibited, as is removing, damaging, defacing or tampering with gravesites, markers, rock outlines or cemetery architecture. Violators will be prosecuted under § A.R.S. 41-856; 41-841 to 41-846, 41- 865, 31- 2194.20. 32-2194.29.



## Guide to Burials at the Fort Lowell Cemetery – 2009

*Un = Unmarked grave  
? = Writing unclear*

### Row A

A1 Un. Wooden cross.  
A2 **Romero, Enrique**, 1900 – 6-19-1978.  
A3 Un. Wooden cross.

### Row B

B1 Un. **Quintero, Armida Bennett**,  
4-14-44 to 3-14-07.  
B2 **Bennett, Frank Y.**, 1907-1987 –  
“Beloved father”.  
B3 **Bennett, Armida R.**, 1905-1947 –  
“Recuerdo de su hijo”.  
B4 Un. Cement rounded slab with crucifix.  
B5 Un. Rounded cement slab.  
B6 Un. Mound with stick.  
B7 Un. Mound.  
B8 Un. Cement cross on mound.  
B9 Un. Wooden cross and mound.  
B10 Un. White slab with brown  
decorative tile.  
B11 Un. Cement slab.  
B12 Un. Cement cross.  
B13 **Ochoa – Pallecio**, “MLR”, Feb 19 de  
1933.  
B14 Un. Cement cross.  
B15 and B16 **Diaz. DOUBLE GRAVE**  
**Julian** 10-98 (1910-1998).  
**Emilia** 15-01 (1915-2001).  
B17 Un. Cement marker, died 1933.  
B18 Un. **Grijalva, Francisco**, died 1957.  
B19 Un. Baby **Montano**, died 1957.  
B20 Un. Mound.

### Row C

C1 **Romero ?**, cement cross.  
C2 Un. Wooden cross.  
C3 Un. Funeral marker.  
C4 Un. Cement cross with mound.  
C5 Un. Cement cross with mound.  
C6 Un. Rocks.  
C7 Un. Rocks.

### Row D

D1 **Lujan, Gabriel R.**  
D2 Un. Mound.  
D3 Un. Mound.  
D4 **Lujan, Carmen R.**, 1907-1947.  
D5 Un. Mound.  
D6 Un. “Q.E.P.D.” – Cement cross.  
D7 Un. Funeral marker.  
D8 Un. Wolf stone with cross and colored tile.  
D9 Un. Wolf stone with cross and colored tile.  
D10 Un. Metal stake.  
D11 **De Los Reyes, Guadalupe C.**, 1896-  
1926, “E.P.D.”.  
D12 Un. Cement cross, “E.P.D.”  
D13 Un. Tile on wolf stone.  
D14 **Romero, Rachel**, “R.C.R.”.  
D15 Un. Mound.  
D16 Un. Wooden cross with mound.  
D17 Un. Wooden cross with mound.

### Row E

E1 **Duarte, Maria**, 1901-1980.  
E2 **Duarte, Vicente C.**, born 5.3.1893,  
died 1.11.1973, “EPD”.  
E3 Un. Mound with rocks.  
E4 **Romero, Guadalupe**, “Mother”, Nov.  
9, 1883–June 8, 1960.  
E5 Un. Ringed with rocks.  
E6 **Lujan, Porfirio**, “Baby”, 1934-1935.  
E7 Un. Stone coffin with statue.

E8 Un. Stones and cross.  
E9 **Cardenas**.  
E10 Un. Stone cross inlaid with stones.  
E11 Un. Stone cross inlaid with stones.  
E12 Un. Stone cross inlaid with stones.  
E13 **Jacobo, Jesus**, “Recuerdos de su hija  
refugia; 1938”.  
E14 **Diaz, Trinidad J.**, “Beloved Mother,  
1894-1941, in loving memory from  
her sons and daughters. Thy will be done.”  
Un. Wooden cross.  
E15 Un. Mound.  
E16 Un. Wooden cross with cement base.  
E17 Un. **Grijalva, Jesus**, 1954.  
E18 **Montano, Joseph**, “Beloved son, 1950-  
1969 Recuerdos de tu familia”.  
E19 Un. Metal cross  
E20 **Montano, Onofre Sabory**, 1907-1980,  
age 73. “OSM”.  
E21 Un. Mound with rocks and funeral  
marker.  
E22

### Row F

F1 **Miller, Frank Bennett**, Apr. 8, 1952 –  
Jan. 22, 2004.  
F2 **Romero, Pascual N.**, “Querido esposo  
y padre”. Aug. 9, 1911 – June 2, 1991.  
F3 **Romero, Mariano**, 1902-1982. Wooden  
cross.  
F4 Un. Mound, broken wooden cross.  
F5 **De Jacobo, Clara M. Urias**, 1902-  
1922. “Recuerdos de sus hijas,  
Margarita, Ramona y Virginia”  
F6 Un. Mound.  
F7 Un. Mound.  
F8 Un. Mound.  
F9 Un. Mound.  
F10 Un. Mound.  
F11 **Villa, Luis Ochoa**, “In loving memory,  
June 21, 1864 – March 12, 1942.”  
F12 Un. Mound with stone cross.  
F13 Un. Arched stone with mound.  
F14 Un. Mound.  
F15 **Villa, Angela O. de**, “murio Nov. 15,  
1924, edad de 62 anos. *Su esposo y  
hijos Dedicar Este Recuerdo.*  
L.O.V. E.P.D.”.  
F16 Un. Stone cross.  
F17 Un. Mound.  
F18 Un. Stone cross.

### Row G

G1 and G2 Un. **DOUBLE GRAVE**  
Wolf stone with iron cross.  
G3 Un. Mound.  
G4 **Navarro?** Stone cross.  
**Navarro, Josephina**.  
G5 Un. Mound with broken cement.  
G6 Un. Mound.  
G7 **Garcia, Ramon T.**, “Come unto me  
and I will give you rest. Beloved  
father, 1910-1956”.  
G8 **Campuzano, Celia**, Feb 11, 1942 –  
June 8, 1963.  
G9 **Diaz, Ramon R.**, “Beloved father,  
1886-1968. In loving memory from  
his sons and daughters. Thy will be  
done”.  
G10 **Montano, Rafael Z.** “RZM” 1898-  
1982.

### Row H

H1 Un. Stone cross.  
H2 Un. White metal cross.  
H3 Un. White wooden cross.

H4 **Mazon, Senora Lucarda R.**,  
 "Un recuerdo, fallecio el dia 12 de enero  
 de 1930 departe de su esposo Luis Mazon  
 y hijo y hijas. QEPD"  
 H5 Un. Metal cross.  
 H6 Un. White wooden cross.  
 H7 Un. White wooden cross.  
 H8 Un. Two wooden crosses.  
 H9 Un. Cement cross.  
 H10 Un. Mound.  
 H11 Un. "D.J.D."  
 H12 Un. Cement cross.  
 H13 Un. Cement cross.  
 H14 and H15 **Diaz DOUBLE GRAVE**  
**Diaz, R.**, "murio Oct. 9, 1916 – Edad  
 65. Nacio 1881 Abril 5"  
 Second grave Un.  
 H16 **Lopez, Eufemia**, 1849-1942. "To my  
 beloved mother; your son, Gilberto".  
 H17 **Gamez, Teofila**, 1856-1946. "To my  
 beloved aunt; your nephew, Gilberto".  
 H18 **Romero, Francisco**, 1908-1945.  
 H19 **Figeroa, SRA Carmen**. Died July 15,  
 1959.  
 H20 **Zamora, Baby Girl**, on funeral marker.  
 Wooden cross.  
 H21 Un. Metal cross.  
 H22 and H23 **Gamez DOUBLE GRAVE**  
**Gamez, Maria Elena**. "Beloved  
 mother, 1887-1967. Recuerdo de sus  
 hijos y family".  
**Gamez, Eliazar P.** 1917-2003. "In  
 memory by Ralph & Mary."

Row I

I1 Un. Wooden cross.  
 I2 Un. Wooden cross.  
 I3 Un. Wooden cross on ground.  
 I4 Un. Mound. Cement rectangle.  
 I5 Un. Cement cross.  
 I6 Un. White metal cross.  
 I7 **Jacobo, Angelita P.** 1916, "Recuerdos  
 de su hija Refugia".  
 I8 **Corrl, Antonio**. 1866-1910. "Recuerdo  
 de su esposa y hijos".  
 I9 Un. Mound.  
 I10 Un. Mound.  
 I11 Un. Mound.  
 I12 **Villa, Amelia Jacobo**. 1899-1942.  
 I13 Un. Wooden cross.  
 I14 Un. Cement cross.  
 I15 **Romero, Guadalupe**. "Querida madre.  
 1917-1972 Recuerdos de la Familia  
 Romero".  
 I16 **Figeroa, Juanito M.** "Our baby boy.  
 June 7, 1970 to Jun 13, (1970)".  
 I17 **Zamora, Augustine F.** Nov. 18, 1941  
 – July 26, 1969. "In memory of family".  
 I18 **Zamora, Antonio A.** 1915-1979.

Row J

J1 Un. Cement cross with funeral marker.  
**Sanchez, Lupe**.  
 J2 Un. Wooden cross.  
 J3 **Sanchez, Y.O.** 1873-1944.  
**Sanchez, Susana**.  
 J4 Un. Wooden cross.  
 J5 Un. Wooden cross.  
 J6 **Guerrero, Manuel**.  
 J7 Un. **Martinez, Jesus**. White metal  
 pipe.  
 J8 **Martinez, Pofira D.** 1882-1932.  
 J9 **Zamora, Juana F.** Apr. 29, 1914 –  
 Apr. 28, 2003. "Forever in our hearts.  
 Beloved mother, grandmother and  
 sister".

Row K

K1 **Sierra, Mario N.**, 4-11-1944  
 9-24-1984 "R.I.P".  
 K2 **Sierra, Fransco Mario**.  
 "Nino. 8-21-71 4-27-81  
 RDO De sus padres y hermana  
 Asia falta un angel en el cielo por eso  
 Dios te escojio a ti alla pide por  
 tus padres y hermana".  
 K3 **Ochoa, Isidro O.**, 1902-1967  
 "Recuerdos de su esposa y hijos".  
 K4 **Olivas, Ricardo**, 1877-1962.  
 Wooden cross.  
 K5 **Ochoa, Mercedes O.**, "Junio 26, 1869 -  
 Junio 25, 1959, Recuerdo de sus hijos".  
 K6 **Martinez, Refugio**, 1856-1953, "IHS.  
 Recuerdos de su esposa y familia".  
 (Modesto Martinez added to foot.)  
**Diaz, M. R.** 1947.  
 K7 **Diaz, Francisco R.**, "Mi Querido  
 Padre, 1881- May 17, 1951,  
 Recuerdos de su esposa y familia".  
 K8 **Diaz, Martin M.** "Arizona, Tec 5  
 5730 QM Laundry Co. World War II  
 Jan 30, 1913 - June 21, 1967".  
 K9 **Diaz, Rita M.** "Mi querida madre,  
 Dec. 27 1894 – June 26, 1968.  
 de parte de sus hijos y hijas y nietos".  
 K10 **Jacobo. DOUBLE GRAVE**  
 "In Loving Memory from their  
 daughters and grandchildren".  
**Michaela**, 1894-1960  
**Santos**, 1885-1960  
 K11 and K12 **Cardenas, Maria J.** 1970 "Recuerdos  
 de su hermana Refugia".  
**Jacobo, Anasacio**. August 12, 1976.  
 Age 88 yrs.

Row L

L1 Un. Rectangular rock.  
 L2 **Ochoa, Florencia, M.** "Recuerdo de  
 sus hijos October 12, 1909 –  
 December 25, 2003".  
 L3 and L4 **Villa. DOUBLE GRAVE**  
 "For God so loved the world that He  
 gave His only begotten Son" John 3:16  
**Maria M.** Jan. 15, 1916 - Aug. 8, 2007  
**Jose O.** July 5, 1908 - Nov. 12, 1997.  
 L5 Un. White cement cross.  
 L6 **Carranza, Antonia Mazon**, died 1963.  
 Un. White wooden cross.  
 L7 **Carranza, Roberto Mazon**, 1947-1963.  
**Diaz, Sgt. Ramon M.** Army – Airforce  
 Apr. 1, 1921 – \_\_\_\_\_.  
 L8 **Diaz, Richard G.** "From his beloved  
 family. June 9, 1957 – Dec. 16, 1991.  
 God took him home, it was His will but  
 in our hearts he liveth still. Rest in  
 peace forever. Thy will be done".  
 L9 Un. Wooden cross.

Row M

M1 **Gonzales, Francisco, J.** Pvt US Army  
 Vietnam Jan 29, 1952 – Dec. 13, 2003.

Row N

N1 **Gastello, Beatriz Romero**, June 5,  
 1929 – December 15, 2005.  
 N2 **Romero, Rogelio "Roy"**, 6-11-27 –  
 4-11-99.  
 N3, N4, and N5 **Alvarez. TRIPLE GRAVE**  
**Julian Romero Alvarez** "RM 3 US  
 Navy World War II".  
 Jun 2, 1925 – Aug. 29, 1980.  
 Un. Cement cross.  
 Un. Wooden cross.