

## The Howard Ranch Cemetery, Ukiah, California



The Howard Ranch Cemetery is located east of the Russian River nestled peacefully in the Deerwood Park housing development just west of the residence of 1600 Deerwood Park. It was maintained by that homeowner for many years but today is it overgrown and in much need of extreme makeover and containing only a few marked graves.

The cemetery, containing about 30 relatives, is the family plot of Mark William Howard. The graveyard, which was marked off to hold a very large family, is surrounded by a wire fence held up by concrete fence posts. It is believed, the first person to be buried in the family graveyard was the infant daughter of J.L. and H.M. Howard. She died March 1, 1884. A lamb was carved on top of the little headstone. It is now gone. Caroline E., wife of Ira Bidwell, was the next person buried in the family plot. She died May 28, 1891 at the age of 51. Her marker said she was a native of Missouri. Her headstone was broken off its base, probably by vandals and rests against the base.

When the graveyard was researched by the Mendocino County Historical Society, there was an inscription at the foot of Lucy Howard's grave. The words were Mark Twain's, with Lucy's name inserted. *"Cool southern wind blow gently here, Warm southern sun shine brightly here; Soft stars of night shine bright, bright, Goodnight, dear Lucy, Goodnight, Goodnight."* It is gone; now, stolen. Two unmarked graves were noted on documents at the Held-Poage Library. One of the graves had been marked with a small cardboard marker, but the cardboard is now gone. The other spot appeared to be a grave, but no tombstone or marker was around, according to the documents. Thomas Benton Howard is the only other son shown to be buried with his parents.