

---

## LOUIS WOLF AND THE LOUIS WOLF TOMB

Louis Wolf was born in Alsace in 1833 and according to records he arrived in San Francisco in 1852. By 1857 he made his way to Temecula and became a partner of John Magee who had the first store in this area. Magee's store burned down and Louis Wolf started his own store which became the focal point of many activities.

Louis Wolf became the Postmaster, his store was the stage coach stop, he was the Justice of the Peace, and Secretary of the Board of Education. Trials were held in the saloon where the jury and he sat around with their feet on a desk and a drink in hand. Sometimes the trials and the drinks went on all day. In addition to Louis Wolf's busy life, he decided to be a developer of an area he named Louisville. He was probably the first developer in Temecula.

He was married to Ramona who was one half Indian. Helen Hunt Jackson who wrote the book, *Ramona*, stayed at the Wolf's home for some time and although she used a few other Ramonas in the area, she used Ramona Wolf as well, as the main character in her story. The Wolfs had several children, some of whom are buried in the tomb.

Wolf's Tomb is near the Pechanga Reservation, on a knoll above Wolf Valley. Ramona is reported in an aged newspaper as having died in a home just south of Fallbrook and another article states that she was buried in the old cemetery at the San Luis Rey Mission. The Wolf family was Jewish and she was Indian; she could not be buried with her family.

Incorporated in January of 2001, the Temecula Valley Historical Society set its first goal to restore and preserve Wolf's Tomb as Louis Wolf was a major figure of historical import. The property is owned by Norman Pico, the great, great, great, great grandson of Pio Pico who was the last Governor of California under Mexican rule. Norm Pico is also the great grandson of Louis and Ramona Wolf. The tomb is in great distress as it has been there since 1887. The pillar and top of the marble headstone have disappeared, kids and vandals have removed bricks and made a large hole in the top of the sarcophagus. This property has been registered with the State of California as a Historic Cemetery.

The Historical Society has been given the blessing of Norman Pico to restore and beautify the property by making it similar to a park with paths and plants and flowers indigenous to the area at Wolf's time. Norm Pico would like the solid wood fence hiding this historic structure torn down and replaced by a wrought iron fence with a gate in front bearing a bronze plaque identifying the property and tomb. Names of organizations and persons who support the project with major gifts will be listed on the plaque.

Estimates are currently being accepted for soil testing as the sarcophagus is in need of heavy support and may need to be slightly moved and re-set to accomplish this. A mason will be required to replace missing bricks and plaster, a new pillar placed over the marble headstone and work done to set a sprinkling system and garden.

JANUARY 4TH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING OF THE SOCIETY



JOHN HUNNEMAN delivering his speech on Butterfield



EVE CRAIG presiding over the meeting and program



Partial view of the guests in attendance



CODY GLOTFELTY with his mother Rhoda