

## **Alvarado Cemetery, Georgetown, Clear Creek County, Colorado**

The cemetery is located off Highway I-70 about 40 miles west of Denver on the frontage road. Take the Georgetown exit and at the stop sign go left and follow the frontage road back along the highway about 4 miles until you see the wrought iron gate to the cemetery on the right side.

The cemetery now referred to as "Alvarado" is a combination of 6 or 7 early cemeteries created by different groups between the late 1860's and the turn of the century. From the early 1900's through the present day, members of the Masonic Lodge #12, AF & AM, have been the caring stewards - a daunting task undertaken by generations of lodge members on behalf of their own and other organizations. The current sexton is Ned Biggs of Idaho Springs. He has the current records.

The oldest section sits back against the mountain in the old Masonic section. Tyler Disproof's grave (1869) has been referenced as the oldest although there is an earlier child's grave from 1865. The Masons and the Odd fellows were the first to use the land for cemetery purposes. There were early Masonic lodges in both Empire and Georgetown, so it is quite possible that the lodges acted jointly to form a cemetery for all - certainly for the western end of the county. Early residents from Empire, Georgetown, Silver Plume, Lawson and Dumont are buried here. Georgetown had an early cemetery inside of the town limits, but the rocky soil and windswept nature of the area were always problems. As the Alvarado cemetery became better known, it became the burial preference for Georgetown residents. The Silver Plume cemetery started with the Odd fellow's cemetery in 1881, while the Empire cemetery was organized by the Town of Empire in the 1890's. It is no surprise that many of the pioneers from these towns, many of whom died prior to the establishment of local cemeteries, are buried here.

Courtesy of Christine Bradley, Clear Creek County Archivist

### **Ned Biggs – Alvarado Cemetery Custodian**

303-679-6444

[ned@biggscpa.net](mailto:ned@biggscpa.net)