

Bill Gillis...

OAK CREEK GRAVE (CONT'D):

Posed a query last week if anyone had any information about a grave near the intersection of Oak Creek Road and Willow Springs-Tehachapi Road. The headstone indicated it was the grave of "James Foley, 1841-63."

Aforementioned Antelope Valley historian Glen Settle unraveled the mystery.

James Henry Foley came to California in 1863 from Missouri in a covered wagon. After arriving in Tehachapi, he started on horseback to see his brothers in Los Angeles but contracted smallpox and died shortly after reaching Oak Creek.

Having died of a contagious disease, he was not allowed to be buried in the Tehachapi Cemetery, thus his interment at Oak Creek. Foley's brother hired someone to build a picket fence around the grave but Settle's explanation doesn't contain the information as to who presently maintains the grave site.