



## Site 8: Heneage and Clifford Griffin

This monument, perched far above the valley floor, marks the grave of Clifford Griffin. The text reads as follows: “Clifford Griffin Son of Alfred Griffin ESQ, of Brand Hall, Shropshire, England Born July 2, 1847; Died June 19, 1887 And in Consideration of His Own Request Buried Near This Spot.” The family crest is above the text.

Clifford was the younger brother of Heneage, who owned and managed the properties of the 7:30 mine at the head of Brown Gulch (around the corner from the monument) for many years. While Heneage was a very successful miner and entrepreneur, Clifford is the source of many interesting (if not always factual) folktales. Some say that his ghost can be heard playing the violin, others claim that he dug his own grave then committed suicide and fell into it. There are those that believe he was murdered, or that he came west either to meet his fiancée or get away from his broken heart after she left him. The report from the Coroner’s Inquest indicated that he committed suicide in a cabin at the 7:30 mine the morning of June 19, 1887. Few facts were reported in the local papers, probably out of respect for the remaining family members.

Photo by Beth Luther