

Hoang, Marichrisse

From: Amy Rhoads
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 1:06 PM
To: , Public Works <Public.Works@mountainview.gov>
Cc: ; Parks and Recreation Commission <PRC@mountainview.gov>
Subject: Evelyn Ave Park Name -- Yñigo Park

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TO: City of Mountain View Public Works
CC: Parks and Recreation Commission
RE: **Nomination for naming of new Mountain View mini park on Evelyn Avenue**

Dear Public Works of Mountain View,

Please consider naming the new mini park on Evelyn Avenue after **Mr. Lopez (Lope) Yñigo**.

Born and raised in Mountain View, Mr. Yñigo was an Ohlone living in what is now Moffett Field, just a few miles from the new mini-park location. The Mountain View Pioneer and Historical Association once recognized Mr. Ynigo and even had a marker at his burial place. Sadly, that marker was removed and we no longer have any recognition of this important Mountain View Ohlone leader.

Please see below for a brief history of Mr. Ynigo. I've also attached some supporting images and can provide additional historical resources as needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Amy Rhoads
Mountain View Resident for 14 years

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Lope Yñigo was born in 1781, four years after the founding of nearby Mission Santa Clara de Asis. A Costanoan or Ohlone Indian, he was a member of the tribelet that inhabited the land around the Yñigo Mounds. After obtaining his liberty from Mission Santa Clara in 1839, Yñigo returned to the place of his birth and settled near El Posida de las Animas (the "Little Well

of the Souls”), building a traditional Ohlone house and planting fruit trees.

In 1840, Governor Alvarado ordered that Yñigo should receive farm animals and supplies, but he was not officially granted any land. Yñigo had constructed at least four structures, two of adobe and two of wood, on the land by this time. In 1843, Yñigo petitioned Governor Micheltorena, asking that the land be granted to him, and in February 1844, he was granted title to Rancho Posolmi, a 3,042-acre tract of land that included the Yñigo Mounds complex.

During the early 1850s, Yñigo lived in an adobe house and owned several corrals and 200 head of cattle, 300 sheep, and 25 horses. On his land he cultivated wheat, corn, beans, potatoes, pumpkins, and onions. Yñigo’s fortunes declined over time and he owned very little of the original rancho at the time of his death on February 28, 1864 at the age of 83. According to Loud (1912), Yñigo was buried on the Smaller Yñigo Mound at the southeast corner of Rancho Posolmi. During the 140-plus years since Yñigo died, rural and later urban development have destroyed most visible traces of the rancho, including buildings, shellmounds, and even his grave.

Sources:

1. "Mound Occupation the South San Francisco Bay Area — The Ynigo in Historical Context" by Stephen Bryne and Brian F. Byrd, 2009. Published in *Proceedings of the Society for California Archaeology*, Vol. 21, 2009.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Brian-Byrd-2/publication/282108190_Mound_Occupation_in_the_South_San_Francisco_Bay_Area_-_The_Ynigo_in_Historical_Context/links/5602d3c008aeaf867fb8560e/Mound-Occupation-in-the-South-San-Francisco-Bay-Area-The-Ynigo-in-Historical-Context.pdf

2. *Inigo of Rancho Posolmi: The Life and Times of a Mission Indian* by Lawrence H. Shoup and Randall T. Millien, 1999.

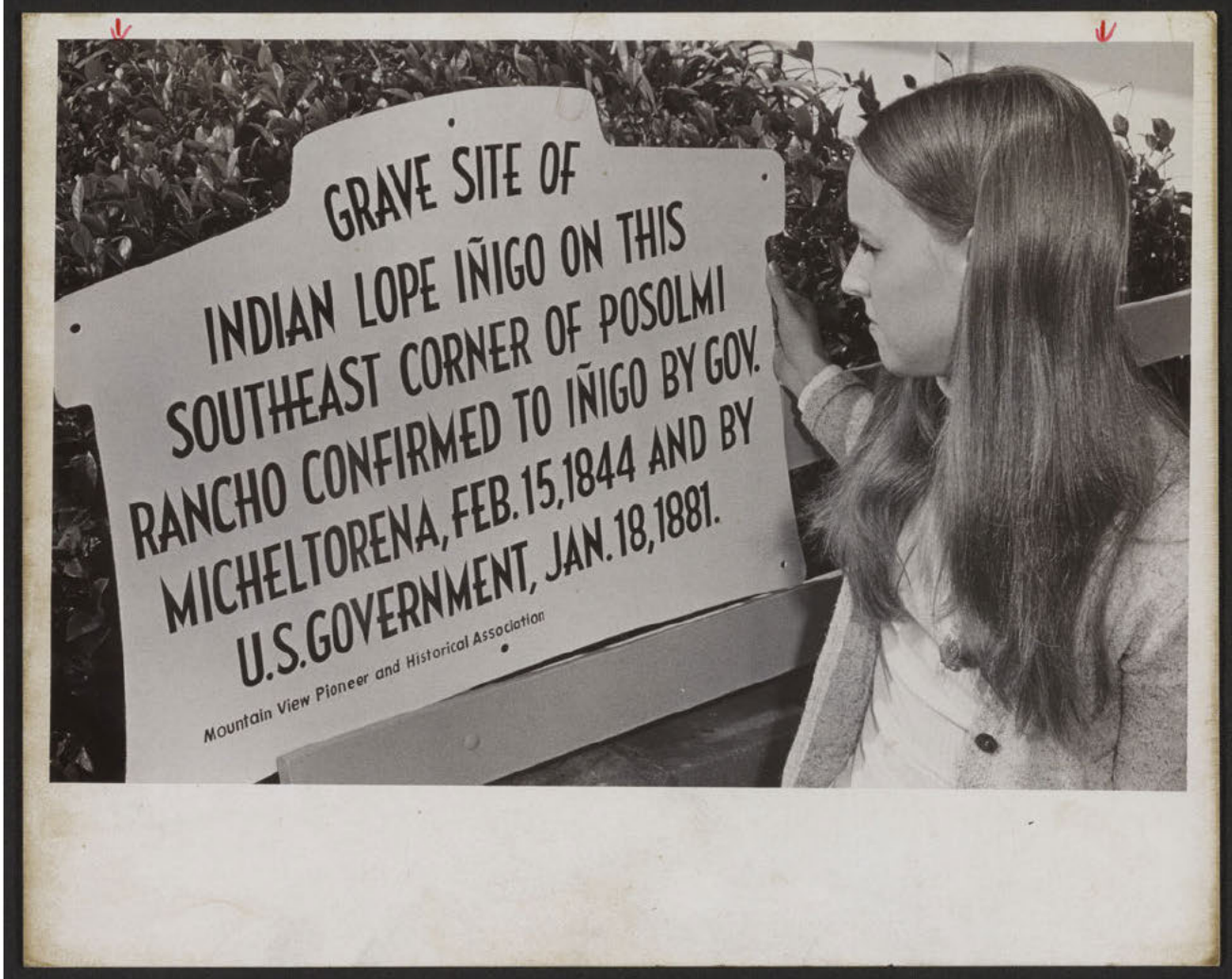
Map of Santa Clara County from 1890.
A copy of this map is in the Mountain
View Library Historical area.



Portrait of Mr. Ynigo
circ.1852-1857

Lope Ynigo was born and
raised in an Ohlone village
on this site in Mountain
View. He later owned the La
Rancho Ynigo from 1844 to
1864.

New mini park location
is just a few miles from
Ynigo's birth place and ranch.



GRAVE SITE OF
INDIAN LOPE IÑIGO ON THIS
SOUTHEAST CORNER OF POSOLMI
RANCHO CONFIRMED TO IÑIGO BY GOV.
MICHELTORENA, FEB. 15, 1844 AND BY
U.S. GOVERNMENT, JAN. 18, 1881.

Mountain View Pioneer and Historical Association