

DEPUTY (POSSE COMITATUS) CHARLES LAYTON  
1856  
(KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY)

Charles Layton's place and date of birth are unknown as is much of his early years. It is known that he was a former British soldier that had fought with the American army during the Mexican War, and that he had traveled to Monterey at wars end with the famous Third United States Artillery, had tried his luck at mining and had finally married.

In 1855 Charles became the keeper of the lighthouse at Los Pinos which had just been erected. He remained at his post assisted by his wife Charolette until destiny entered him into the pages of history.

In November of 1856 Layton's love of fighting brought him to join Sheriff Keating's posse who was in pursuit of Anastasia Garcia. Garcia had murdered Issac Wall and Thomas Williamson because he thought they had some of the gold that was part of the Roach-Sanchez embezzelment.

Sheriff Keating's posse arrived at Garcia's hide-out at El Tucho, about twelve miles from Monterey on the Salinas River. The Sheriff knocked on the front door with Deputies De La Torre, Layton and Beckwith at the rear.

Garcia made his escape from the back of the house and in the process gunned down Deputy Joaquin De La Torre, Layton and Deputy Jim Beckwith, in that order.

Garcia was later caught, jailed and lynched at the jail in Monterey by none other than his suspected co-conspirators.

Charles Layton, as a legally appointed and deputized member of the Sheriff's posse, became the second sworn peace officer of the Monterey County Sheriff's Department to lay down his life in the line of duty.

After Charles Layton's death his wife Charolette was appointed as keeper of the light house. She continued her faithful service to the country for many years thereafter.

CHARLES LAYTON  
DEPUTY BENJAMIN  
MARTINEZ  
MTCY COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPT  
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