



Bill Loveloy/Sentinel

A few coins, a toothbrush and a pistol were found near the skeleton.

A crime scene that's as cold as the grave

History
Skeleton found Friday at Roaring Camp has sheriff's detectives looking into a century-old death

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FELTON — Detectives have become entwined in a century-old mystery.

Armed with a only a few clues from a bygone era — gold coins, a rusted revolver and an old liquor bottle — they are searching for the story behind a skeleton discovered Friday.

The man is believed to have died in the late 1890s.

His skeleton was found on a jacket or blanket in a wooded area off Graham Hill Road.

He was not buried, but covered by a century's worth of leaves and weather,

said the Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner's Office.

A revolver was near his right hand and a small, unbroken liquor bottle near his left arm.

To add to the story, money from the 1890s was also recovered, including a \$10 and a \$5 gold piece. Detectives also found the handle of a wooden toothbrush and a monocle.

The man, listed as John Doe, had most of his teeth and a healed leg fracture.

A forensic anthropologist has been called to assist in the investigation.

The skull was recovered Friday by a crew from the Roaring Camp and Big

8-14-96
Trees Narrow-Gauge Railroad that was clearing brush behind Bear Mountain.

It's not far from where Roaring Camp's special "ghost train" runs during Halloween, said Georgiana Clark, the railroad's chief executive officer.

The Sheriff's Office was called when people realized it was a real skull and not a prop from Halloween, she said.

Detectives discovered the rest of the skeleton, as well as the belongings.

Now comes the search for the man's identity and the reason he died.

People will wait to see what unfolds.

"It's another piece of history," Clark said.