



San Joaquin Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 4817

Stockton, CA 95204-0817

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sjgs/>

Newsletter

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STOCKTON RURAL CEMETERY WALK

With DEL MCCOMB

Local Historian & Author

Saturday, May 9th at 1:00 PM



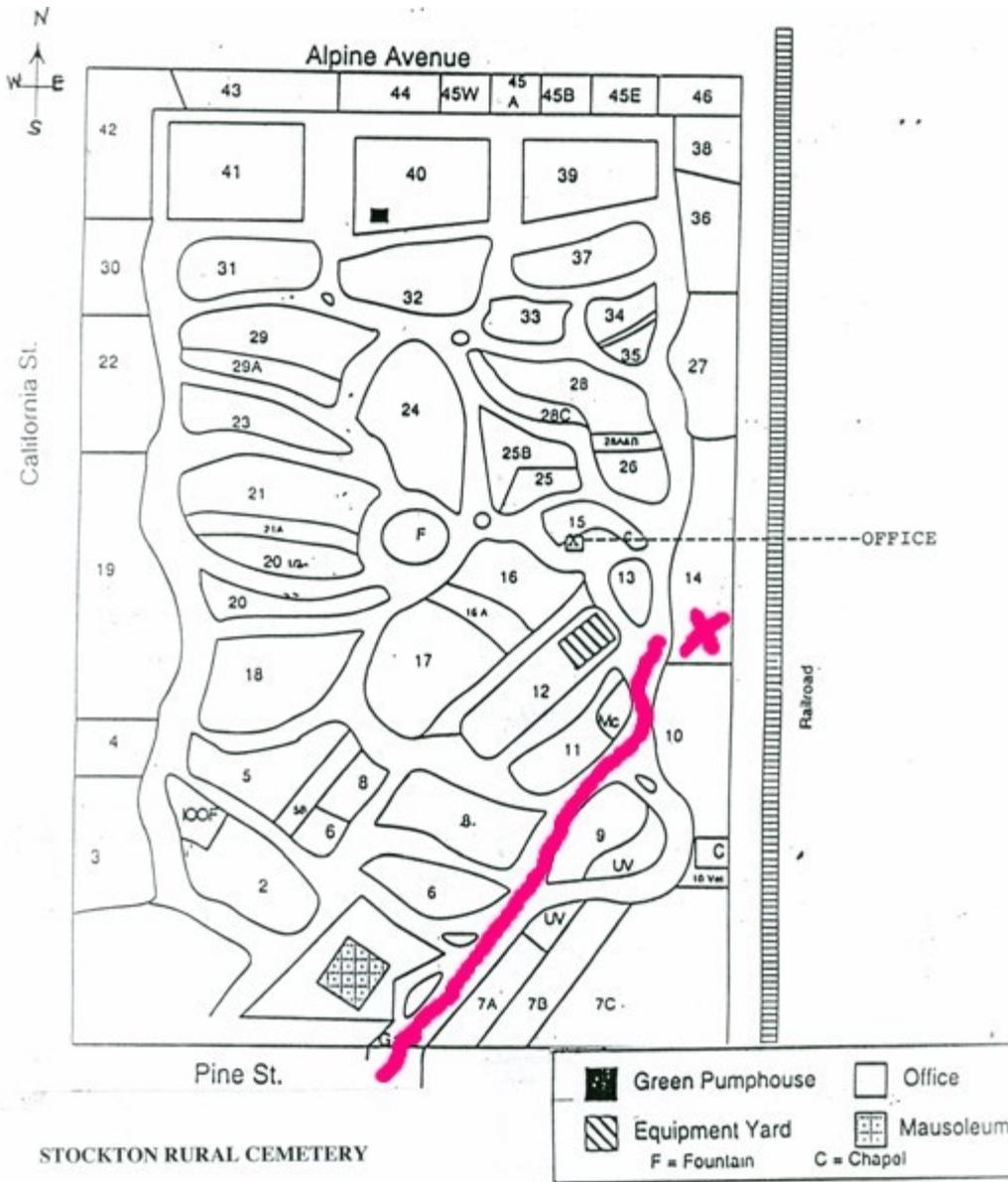
We will meet at the Reuel Colt Gridley monument. As you drive through the entrance gates, continue forward and on your right will be Memory Chapel and the statue. Why not bring a friend or two along for this rare treat as we listen to Del bring the past back to life with stories about some of the cemetery's more notable residents.

This will be our last meeting before we go dark for the summer. Next meeting will be in September 2009.

Look inside this newsletter for the story behind this monument to Reuel Colt Gridley.

DIRECTIONS TO RURAL CEMETERY:





STOCKTON RURAL CEMETERY



PONDERINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Spring has finally arrived! The flowers and trees are in full bloom and so are the allergies. This past week has been a devil one and the winds won't stop.

We have a great outing coming up on Saturday, May 9 when we meet with Delmar McComb, retired UOP History Professor and author of a book on the Stockton Rural Cemetery. He will take us on another historical walk through the cemetery with stories about "The People Who Made the Community". We will meet at 1:00 pm behind the Gridley statue, on the right just behind the Military section as you enter. Invite any of your friends who may be interested in Stockton's colorful history to join us.

The City of Stockton has cut the staff at the Central Library because of the budget crises, so our members have stepped up to staff the Genealogy Section on Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you feel you can give a helping hand, it would be appreciated. Call Virginia Kranz at 477-0634. The more help we get, the less burden on all. Our books will get tender loving care and researchers will be able to get some direction.

Our September meeting will be a workshop at the library. Time and date will be announced later as it will have to coincide with library hours and calendar. Do your homework and come prepared with your research and brick walls.

Marilyn Rauzi

REUEL COLT GRIDLEY and the SACK of FLOUR

One of my favorite historical stories is about the monument we will be meeting at for the cemetery walk this Saturday, May 9th. It is about how a sack of flour made history in 1864. Reuel Colt Gridley only lived in Stockton for two years, but his claim to fame and reputation followed him here. When he died, a group of citizens raised money to erect a monument to place on his grave. If you haven't heard of Reuel Colt Gridley then you are in for a good story.

It begins in Austin, a small town in the middle of Lander County, Nevada where Reuel is a prosperous owner of a general store. Gridley (a Democrat and Southern sympathizer) made a wager with Dr. H. S. Herrick (a Republican and Union supporter) on the outcome of a local election. Reuel lost the bet and made good on the wager. He was to carry a 50 pound sack of flour, decorated with Union flags, on his shoulder from Austin and proceed one and one half miles down to the valley floor to the town of Clinton. While he made his journey, a marching band followed him playing patriotic Union tunes. Dr. Herrick graciously carried his coat for him.



Just like the pied piper, a huge crowd started following him. Along the way they stopped for "refreshment" at pubs and saloons. By the time

this parade reached Clinton, everyone was in a patriotic frenzy singing and cheering at the top of their lungs. The last stop in Clinton was a place called the Bank Exchange Saloon. It was there that Gridley came up with an extraordinary idea - he auctioned off that sack of flour, with the money to be given to the U. S. Sanitary Commission, a precursor to the Red Cross active during the Civil War. He convinced the successful bidder (who paid \$350) to donate the sack of flour back to be auctioned again. By the end of the day, \$4,500 had been raised. Encouraged by this, Reuel took his show on the road through the Comstock and raised over \$20,000 from the miners. It was only natural that he continue on across the state line into California. By the time he reached San Francisco he had \$150,000 . His success made news all over the country.

A great little side note to this : Reuel hailed from Hannibal, Missouri and it is said that Mark Twain was a boyhood friend. In his book "Roughing It", Twain writes about Reuel and this story.

The Sanitary Commission asked Gridley to come east to New York City. Reuel toured all over the North until the end of the war. The approximate total of the funds he raised from auctioning off that same sack of flour over and over again? \$450,000 which is about \$6 million today.

The price Gridley paid for his patriotism was high. The year of traveling ruined his health. When he returned home to Austin, he found that the mine had played out and his general store had gone bankrupt. Two years later, Gridley, his wife and children were found living in Stockton in abject poverty. When newspaper editors in the area got wind of this they pooled their resources and came up with \$1400 to purchase a

**SAN JOAQUIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
DUES FOR THE YEAR - JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2009**

\$10 per member and \$15 per family

Circle one: Renewal New Member Individual Family

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ City & State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

I am willing to help with the following: (check all that apply)

_____ Phone committee to notify members of meetings, changes or other items

_____ Research (do research for those who request our Societies services)

_____ Projects (always need transcribers and typists)

_____ Program Committee (work on setting up programs and speakers for meetings)

_____ Set up and clean up Other _____

Send dues to: Barry Wood, 1910 S. Church St., Lodi, CA 95240

Check payable to: San Joaquin Genealogical Society



ONLINE CITY DIRECTORIES

The most important use of a city directory is to place your ancestor in a specific place at a single point in time. City directories also listed the members of a city's civic and religious organizations, clubs, and associations as well as the names of local public officials. With this information, the family historian can attempt to reconstruct the history of their ancestor and construct a time line.

The information from the city directory can lead you to many other sources. If a family lived at the same address for several years, they may have owned the property. You can use the address from city directories to search real-estate records for land records and other documents which can contain information about family relationships, death dates, addresses, occupations, financial details, and more.

City directories contain a wealth of information between their covers. They usually were updated once a year, and they list alphabetically, all the residents of a town, with their addresses and frequently, their occupations as well. They also have a separate cross-reference by Street or Road, listing every occupied house, with all of the people that lived there, with their occupations and where they worked.

INTERNET ARCHIVE (<http://www.archive.org>) has a huge collection of city directories online and free for you to see or download. When you are at the main page of the website, at the top of the page you will find a search box. Enter "city directories" and it will present you with a list of about 300. Here a just a few:

NORTH CAROLINA

1887 & 1896 City Directories for Ashville
1883 & 1886 City Directories for Raleigh
1918 City Directory for Charlotte
1923 City Directory for Elizabeth City
1910 City Directory for Gastonia
1915 City Directory for Fayetteville
1911 City Directory for Hendersonville
1921 City Directory for Hickory
1917 City Directory for Lexington
1923 City Directory for Durham

NEW YORK

1912 City Directory for Brooklyn
1885 Ladies Guide & City Directory for New York City
1883 Utica City Directory
1839 Longworth's New York Register & City Directory

MICHIGAN

1915 City Directory for Saginaw

PENNSYLVANIA

1826 City Directory for Pittsburgh
1887 City Directory for Harrisburg
1919 City Directory for Sharon
1968 City Directory for Greensburg

INDIANA

1855, 1862, 1877, 1889, 1894, 1899, 1906, 1919 City Directories for Indianapolis

1877, 1882 & 1902 City Directories for Fort Wayne

1897 City Directory for Logansport

MASSACHUSETTS

1916 City Directory for Boston

1832 & 1834 City Directories for Lowell

GEORGIA

1867 Stranger's Guide & City Directory for Atlanta

CALIFORNIA

1916 City Directory for Richmond

1915 City Directory for Los Angeles

1908, 1920 & 1921 City Directories for San Francisco

NEW JERSEY

1909 City Directory for New Brunswick

KANSAS

1916 City Directory for Neodesha

TENNESSEE

1865 City Directory for Nashville

GENEALOGICAL EVENTS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Saturday, May 16, 2009 - 1:30-3:00 PM

Lisa Lee - Oral Histories: How to get your relatives to talk to you
Sacramento Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento
Sponsored by the **Sacramento Central Library**

Sunday, May 17, 2009 - 1:00 PM

Ken Blady - The World of Our Great-Grandparents: A History of the Jews of Eastern Europe from Earliest Times to 1900
Jewish Community High School, 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco
Sponsored by the **San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society**

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 – 7:00 PM

Robert Givens - Whether you're a beginner or a forty-year veteran in family history, come learn what genealogists from around the world consider to be the top twenty lessons every genealogist should learn, and how you can effectively apply these lessons to your research.

Those who attend this meeting will be able to sign up for a 100-plus page handout which Mr. Givens will e-mail to you. This handout will greatly expand the information presented at the meeting.

Trinity Presbyterian Church
1600 Carver Road, Modesto
Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 - 10:00 AM

Lisa Louise Cooke - Seven Strategies for Finding Living Relatives
Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd at Smith Rd, Alamo
Sponsored by the **San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society**

Tuesday, May 26, 2009 - 1:00-3:00 PM

Mario Herger - Stories and Demonstrations of German Folk-dancing
Demonstrations by the "Alpentänzer"
St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Lusk Drive & St. Mark's Way, Sacramento
Sponsored by the **Sacramento German Genealogy Society**

Friday and Saturday, June 12 & 13, 2009

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County Annual Yard Sale
2025 Vista Drive, Modesto, CA

