



# SAN JOAQUIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4817 Stockton, CA 95204-0817

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

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 30

No. 4

AUG / SEPT 2009

5 issues a year

## BOARD FOR 2009

### President

Marilyn Rauzi

### Vice President

VACANT

### Librarian

Virginia Kranz

### Secretary & Publicity

Jean Ebenhack

### Surname List

Melinda Lambaren

### Research

Charlie Lambaren

### Historian

VACANT

### Books & Projects

Betty Mathis

### Newsletter Editor

Sheri Fenley

### Treasurer, Membership &

Webmaster: Barry Wood

## GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AT THE STOCKTON - SAN JOAQUIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

1:00 PM

Downtown Library

Stuart Hazelton Room (at the library entrance)



## MEETINGS

### BOARD:

August 31<sup>st</sup>

2:00 p.m.

Home of Virginia Kranz

### GENERAL MEETING:

September 19<sup>th</sup>

1:00 PM

Downtown Library

Stuart Hazelton Room

### BOARD:

October 5th

7 p.m.

Home of Virginia Kranz

**San Joaquin Genealogical Society member and retired librarian KAREN RAMOS will take us on a tour of the library emphasizing all the genealogical resources it has to offer.**

**Join us as Karen guides us through the Special Collections, Local History and the Genealogical Collection and how to make the most of all the library's resources for our family history research.**



## HISTORIC COLLEGEVILLE CEMETERY HAS A GUARDIAN ANGEL



When SJGS member Adine Gnekow told me about a man who was restoring a cemetery in San Joaquin County, I jumped to investigate. Not since the Harmony Grove Church Cemetery Restoration Project in Lockeford has there been such an undertaking.

Mr. Bob Anglin has been spending much of his spare time at the Collegeville Cemetery located at the corner of South Jack Tone Road and East Mariposa, about 6 miles east of Stockton.

Bob's 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather's sister is the wife of Alexander McDonald David Mc Intosh. Alexander or AMD as he was called, arrived in San Joaquin County in 1860 along with five brothers and at least one sister. The first land he owned was 160 acres sold to him by his father in law Job Anglin at less than \$1 per acre. Within fifteen years he owned 1200 acres. His brother James C Mc Intosh, was a math teacher at San Joaquin College (Morris College) built in 1867 at the corner opposite the cemetery. Alexander was a resident in O'Neal township for nearly 40 years. His son George worked for the first



telephone company in the valley. His brother in law James Garwood donated land to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1867. The Alexander children attended McKamy School which later became Collegeville School. The Collegeville School website had this to offer about the area:

*"Educational services have been provided on the site of Collegeville School since 1867 when it was part of Chalmer Ranch, a stopping place for freight wagons and stage coaches on their way to the Mother Load. The name was changed to Collegeville when Morris College was established on five acres of the ranch, by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church."*

I found a little more about the history of Collegeville from "History of San Joaquin Communities - History of San Joaquin County, California with Biographical Sketches" by Historic Record Company, Los Angeles, CA - 1923:

*"Another of the bygone villages is Collegeville. It was so named after the college erected there in 1866 at a cost of \$8000. The building was destroyed by fire and never resurrected."*

While on a trip to the area to see the site of his Anglin family's homestead, he came upon the cemetery. The cemetery was in complete shambles. Vandals had made off with grave markers. Mr. Anglin told me that he knows of a few cases where the markers were likely used as Halloween decorations in the front yards of nearby homes. There is a possibility that some of the monuments have been found at Little John Creek, however, Bob is still awaiting verification.





Bob located and contacted the land owner of the cemetery. The owner's daughter, Janie Gilgert had begun to gather supplies to start with the restoration. A local steel company had donated the sign out on Mariposa Road, a local fencing company donated over 100 used T posts and will run the wire for a reduced cost. Locals have trimmed trees and pulled weeds.

As for the actual gravesites, Bob told me that much of the granite and most of the stencils that are used when he sandblasts the headstone inscriptions have been donated by John T. Robinson from Cornerstone Monument Company in Oakdale. Bob supplies all the labor for the headstones. The Veterans Administration will be supplying a headstone for one of the burials in the cemetery - Reverend Asbury Parks Black who was a Methodist minister and a veteran of the Civil War.

Bob has donated 100 amaryllis bulbs to plant near headstones, more fence posts, hundreds of feet of pvc pipe for the much needed sprinkler system. In reading some notes on the cemetery from the 1930's, Bob learned that river rock had been used to surround the Walrad family plot so he brought in 100 four inch river rock to try and reconstruct the scene. The owner of the property next to the cemetery has agreed to supply the water.

I asked Mr. Anglin if he had researched all the burials in the cemetery and could he account for all of them. He replied that he volunteered as a Family History Consultant and therefore knows the historic



importance of the project. He has collected records from the San Joaquin Historical Society Library, the Haggin Museum Library, the San Joaquin County Recorder's Office, descendants of the people buried in the cemetery. He says that he has positively identified 37 burials, but thinks that there may be as many as 50 or 60. The use of a ground penetrating radar system to locate all the burials would be ideal, if they could find someone to donate the service. If anyone has knowledge of any burial at Collegeville Cemetery or any old photos they could share, Bob is most anxious to hear from you!

UPDATE: CSI, 532 West Harding, Stockton, CA has agreed to try and locate the burials. The owners of CSI needed an opportunity to test new equipment. If it works, then they will survey the entire cemetery as a public service.

Identified surnames of burials: ANGLIN, BLACK, BOURLAND, COBB, GARWOOD, MC INTOSH, MOORE, MURRAY, NORWOOD, POYNER, PRIDEAUX, RITCHIE, SIMPSON, SNOW, STRICKLAND, WALRAD, WARD, WHITE.

San Joaquin County District 4 Supervisor Ken Vogel has contributed to this project and has planned a dedication ceremony for the cemetery in April 2010.

Bob says that there is still work to be done and that they can always use a helping hand. Interested in helping? Send an email to Bob Anglin - [dncnref@yahoo.com](mailto:dncnref@yahoo.com)

ADDITIONAL UPDATE: It was brought to the editor's attention that The San Joaquin Genealogical Society, specifically member Adine Gnekow provided Mr. Anglin with extensive research regarding the history of Collegeville and the people who are buried in the cemetery. Adine spent literally hours conducting research and credits the over 50 publications of the society as instrumental in her search.

Adine says that SJGS members strongly believe in keeping our local history alive; not to let it fade away. A great reminder to us all about why we became members and the need to actively participate in local historical preservation.



RESEARCH



## NEED HELP WITH RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY ?

SJGS members Virginia Kranz, Alice Callistro, Adine Gnekow, Melinda and Charlie Lambaren, Jean Ebenhack, Karen Ramos and Sheri Fenley are on a rotating schedule at the downtown library to assist people with their family history research.

These volunteers are on hand each and every Tuesday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. You will find one of them upstairs in the Genealogical Collection Section.

Why not take advantage of their expertise and get that research done that you have been putting off. This service is, of course, Free of Charge and available for members and non-members alike.

@@

### RESEARCH TIP Female Citizenship Status

The citizenship status of women born in the U.S. who later married aliens has varied during different time periods. Prior to 1922, the woman would lose her U.S. citizenship, assuming that of her spouse. The Cable Act of 1922 aka Married Women's Independent Nationality Act guaranteed that a woman would not lose her U.S. citizenship if she married an alien but ONLY if the man was "eligible for naturalization" (which at the time did not include Asians). This was null and void if, after the marriage, the woman left the U.S. to live in a foreign country for 2 or more years. In that case she would lose her U.S. citizenship. The Cable Act was amended in 1931, allowing females to retain their citizenship, even after marrying "aliens ineligible for U.S. citizenship." In 1936, the Cable Act was repealed.



# COMING ATTRACTIONS

## **California State Archives Family History Day**

Have you ever wondered about your family lineage? Have you ever wondered how to research your family tree? Wonder where to start?

Start planning now to attend the 10th annual Family History Day! You'll find short classes on a variety of subjects: beginning genealogy, what's available at local institutions, computer software and demonstrations, preservation techniques, and much more

When: **Saturday, October 10, 2009 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Where: California State Archives, 1020 O Street, Sacramento

**FREE OF CHARGE**

@@

## **Notable Figures of San Francisco Cemetery Tour**

Co-sponsored by the San Francisco History Association and Friends of the San Francisco Library

**Sunday, October 11, 2009 at 11 am**

Holy Cross Cemetery (across from Molloy's Tavern)

1500 Mission Road, Colma

Tour led by Monica Williams of Holy Cross Cemetery

Joining the tour will be Doug Dorst, author of "Alive in Necropolis", a remarkable and original novel set primarily in Colma's cemeteries.

There is ample parking in the lot and walking shoes are strongly recommended.

**FREE OF CHARGE**

@@

**The Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County** has their monthly meeting on **Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.** Robyn Echols, Assistant Director of the Merced Family History Center,



will present "RAMBLE AMERICA." There were basically six factors that influenced migration in America:

R : Religion

A : Acquisition and Exploration

M : Minerals and Money

B : Bounty Land

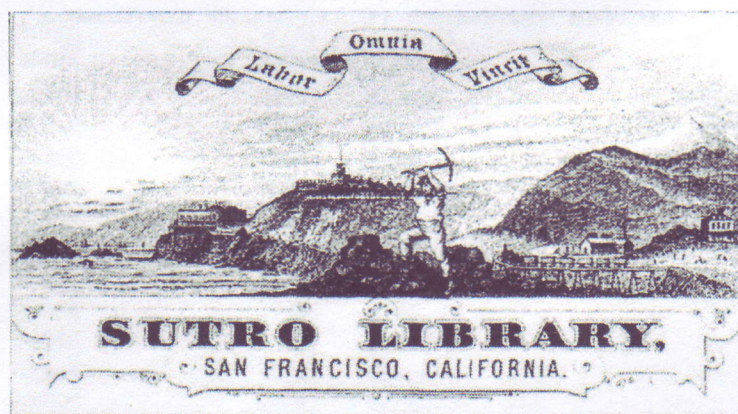
L : Land in General

E : Environment

This review of some of the reasons for migration in North America is a "must-hear" for all genealogists.

**FREE OF CHARGE**

@@



### **IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE SUTRO LIBRARY**

Laura Parker, Public Information Officer at the California State Library in Sacramento recently announced more changes to Sutro operating hours:

*"Beginning August 1, 2009 and continuing until June 2010, the library will close the first, second, and third Fridays of each month. Regular service hours for Sutro are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding furlough Fridays and state holidays."*



# FAMILY HISTORY DAY

## AT THE CALIFORNIA STATE ARCHIVES

1020 "O" STREET, DOWNTOWN SACRAMENTO

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009

8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM



Who's in your family tree? Journey into your family's past. Learn the research tricks and techniques for discovering your ancestors and exploring the world in which they lived.

- Tour the Archives and learn about the historical documents held there.
- Attend classes in the Preservation Lab to see how to preserve family papers.
- Choose from more than twenty classes—from beginning genealogy, to Internet resources, to specialized research topics.
- Research in the Root Cellar Library.

*Genealogical, historical & lineage societies, research libraries & archives  
all will be on-hand with displays and information.*

**FREE ADMISSION**

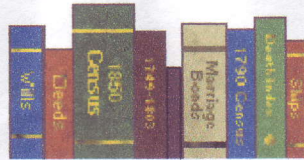
**FREE ADMISSION**

Sponsored by:  
California State Archives  
Root Cellar, Sacramento Genealogical Society  
and the Genealogical & Historical Council of Sacramento Valley

[www.sos.ca.gov/archives/archives.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/archives.htm)  
[www.rootcellar.org](http://www.rootcellar.org)

Light Rail stops at the Archives' front door (Archives Plaza).  
Limited free parking in the lot opposite the Archives entrance.





## NEW ACQUISITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Please remember that that any member of the SJGS may check these books out and take them home to do research. The newest arrivals are housed in our temporary library at the home of Virginia Kranz. After one year, they are moved to permanent housing in the Genealogical Collection at the Stockton- San Joaquin Public Library downtown. Please phone or email Virginia Kranz to let her know you would like to browse the library. Phone: (209) 477-0634 Email: r.kranz@comcast.net

1. **Female Index to Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England**

By James Savage

2. **The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England: 1634-1635, Volume III, G-H**

By Robert Charles Anderson, FASG

3. **The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England: 1634-1635, Volume IV, I-L**

By Robert Charles Anderson, FASG

4. **The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England: 1634-1635, Volume V, M-P**

By Robert Charles Anderson, FASG

5. **Pennsylvania German Church Records [set]**

Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Etc. From the Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses. With an introduction by Don Yoder. 3 vols.

6. **The California 1890 great register of voters, 3 volumes**

7. **Georgia's Confederate Soldiers Who Died As Prisoners of War 1864-1865**



## OUR FIRST MEMBER SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The newsletter has received its first member submitted article. Long time SJGS member Sue Mendenhall lives in Washington state and has done extensive research on her family that ended up in San Joaquin County. This article is being presented in two parts, the second will appear in the next edition of the newsletter. Many thanks to Ms. Mendenhall for sharing her story with us.

### **She was Alta**

*By S.A. Mendenhall*

Cora Alta (Gibson) Dobson came from Illinois and Kansas to Colorado then California. To all those who knew and loved her, she was known simply as "Alta." What was she like? From where did she come? Who were the family members she knew? To whom was she close?

Her family lived in Vermont, Fulton County, Illinois when she was born on 16 March 1863 to William B. Gibson and Mary Elizabeth Smith. She was the eighth child of ten, of which only six girls grew to adulthood.

Before the fall 1869, they moved to McDonough County. Alta's oldest sister, Nancy Gabriella was married October 1869 Dr. Benjamin F. Taylor. His previous wife died, leaving him with four children.

The 1 June 1870 U.S. census has the Gibson family in El Dorado Township, McDonough County, near Industry Post Office. Alta's father was a forty-eight year old white farmer, born 1822 in Indiana. Her mother, "Mary E.," age forty-three, a white female born 1827 in Kentucky. Their family included five girls. The Gibson farm was valued \$3,500.00 and the family's personal assets were \$600.00. The unmarried daughters named Nova, Mary, F. Clendora, Alta, and Onee attended school.

When Alta was eleven, a sister, Mary married Joseph Weaver in October 1874. Since the Gibsons lived in McDonough County, they traveled to Vermont Township for this occasion. The wedding may have taken place at Dr. and Mrs. B. F. Taylor's home. With great plans, the newlyweds left for Oklahoma to a new home. Between 1875 and 1877, the Gibsons packed and with Alta, her four sisters, Nova, Frances C., Onie Lee, and Blanche, moved to Allen County, Kansas.

While the girls were growing up, the Gibsons attended the Bedford Christian (Baptist), known as the "Old Brick Church" built 1854. "Mr. [Wm.] Gibson was a member of the Baptist church and was an honest, upright, Christian man, loved by all who knew him." Furthermore, the girls' education was primarily in one-room schoolhouses.

At sixteen, Alta finished high school. Luck shined on Alta and two sisters, they were able to attend teacher's college, "Normal School," in Fort Scott. The distance to school mandated the girls board in town. Classes first opened 1878 in the Congregational Church. Alta probably started classes in 1879,



because she was teaching by 1880.

While in Allen County, Alta's sister, Nova Zembla met neighbor Charles Ross, a Kansas farmer. In spite of seventeen years difference in their ages, they married January 1880. As of 1 June 1880, William was household head, his wife, "Mary E.," who kept house, and together they lived in Osage with three daughters: Alta, age seventeen, taught school; Onie L., age fourteen attended school; and, Blanche, age eight. Two other daughters, Nova (Gibson) Ross and Frances, "a boarder and teacher," lived next door to them.

Over the next few years the Gibson family changed, besides the birth of nine nieces and nephews, in spring 1882, Alta's youngest sister died. Emma Blanche was just ten years old when she "drowned crossing a stream." She was headed home from Nova's farm, when she fell into a swift flowing creek near Osage.

The next year, Alta's family moved east to Bourbon County. In May 1883 George Neal married Alta's favorite sister, Frances. This service was performed by Baptist Pastor Willis S. Webb at the family home in Bronson.

Kansas state census was 1 March 1885, included was "Wm. Gibson." He was a married farmer and lived with his wife, Mary near the Uniontown Post Office. Living in the home were three daughters, Alta, Onie, and Mary (Gibson) Weaver; and, three Weaver grandchildren.

After finishing college, Alta wanted to "go away from home." It was logical she move to Nancy (Gibson) Taylor's, to teach and live. While in Vermont, Illinois she met her husband-to-be, Oscar B. Dobson. He was visiting his relatives, Aunt Anna (Dobson) Rankin and Uncle William Dobson, spending the summer courting Alta.

O.B. Dobson and Miss Cora A. Gibson were married on 07 September 1885 at her parents' home in Bronson, Kansas. The Rev. Thomas John performed the services witnessed by Marion Williamson. Within days, Oscar took the new Mrs. Dobson to Colorado. Their first home was with his parents in Canon City, Fremont County. Over the years they had five children, the first four born in Fremont County were: Frances B., 09 November 1886, named after Cora's sister; a second unnamed girl in 1888 "died at birth;"; Harry Valentine, 11 August 1890 in Florence; Francis Paul Dobson, 25 March 1893 in Canon City, also, named for Cora's sister.

Harry's birth was announced by the Leadville, Lake County newspaper. That was a summer home the Dobsons used when they mined gold. Their permanent home was in Florence. When two babies died, they were buried in Greenwood Pioneer Cemetery, Canon City. "Frances B." died almost a year after her newborn sister, "September 24, 1889, Daughter of O.B. & Alta Dobson, Aged 3 yrs."

After 1886 O.B. worked as a train fireman for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in Denver. It was a long trip to Canon City, where his young family lived. About 1893, O.B. left his job with the railroad, moved to California to determine what opportunities were there. Alta continued to live with her in-laws and care for their two small boys. By early 1894, Oscar was in Grub Gulch, Madera County. While there, he registered to vote providing where he worked and a description: Oscar "B" Dobson, age 33, born Illinois, 5 ft. 8-3/4", dark hair, blue eyes, dark [tanned] skin, precinct Enterprise [mine], Grub Gulch post office."

News reached Alta, another sister died. Only 28 years old, Onie Lee succumbed to "Typhoid Fever,



having been sick just four weeks.” It happened Sunday, 26 August 1894 at the home of her parents. Alta later heard that “Rev. G.W. Trout paid a fitting tribute to Onie’s memory and afterwards a large number of sorrowing friends took the remains to Boulware cemetery north of Osage. Onie had lived at home to take care of their parents, William and Mary Gibson.

Then fall 1895, James Dobson, Oscar’s father, came down with pneumonia while working the mines in Cripple Creek, Colorado. He died two weeks later, 13 October. They transported his remains to Canon City, where he was buried by her granddaughters. Apparently, Oscar went back to Colorado soon after his father’s death to help his mother settle the estate. While there, he probably made arrangements for his wife and sons to move to California. By spring 1896 they left Colorado in a wagon and arrived together in a small mining town called Chinese Camp, Tuolumne County.



The story concludes in the next edition of the newsletter.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sandra Avey - Stockton  
Maureen Carr - Stockton  
Patricia Dunn - Davis  
Gene Ensley - Mather  
Kitty Nevin - Monterey  
William Schultz - El Cerrito  
Gail Erwin - Galt  
Georgia Nieves - Lodi

@@  
@@

### 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