



SAN JOAQUIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 690243 Stockton, CA 95269-0243

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

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 30

No. 5

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5 issues a year

BOARD FOR 2009

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General Meeting

Thursday, November 19th

7:00 PM

REI Community Room

5757 Pacific Avenue

Stone Creek Shopping Center

Noreen Sanchez

Native Daughters of the Golden West

MEETINGS

BOARD: Dec. 7, 2009

7 p.m.

Virginia Kranz

GENERAL MEETING:

Thursday

November 19, 2009

R.E.I. Community Room

5757 Pacific Avenue

Stockton

7:00 PM

No Meeting in December

Annual Dinner Meeting

January 28, 2010

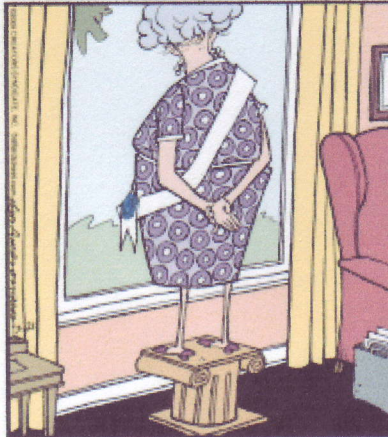
UJ's Restaurant

Noreen Sanchez, President of Native Daughters of the Golden West, Joaquin Parlor No. 5 will be our speaker. Noreen will tell us what the purpose of this organization is and how prospective members qualify for membership.

Love of California is evident in the Order's unceasing efforts to promote the study of her romantic history and reverence for the memory of the sturdy Pioneer Fathers and Mothers, the founders of our great state.

A short, but important business meeting will precede the speaker. Refreshments will be served. The REI Community Room is a new place for us to meet. It is perfect for our group. Come to the meeting and let us know what you think, we'd love to see you there!

NOTE: The Community Room is located inside the REI Store on the 2nd floor. The elevators are located in the very back of the store on the left side of the building.



Gloria's feeling pretty good about herself.

WANT TO FEEL GOOD ALL OVER?

Feel the satisfaction in helping others - Apply your current skills & quite possibly learn new ones - Meet new people, make new friends

Please volunteer for any one of the positions on the board. The two year term is ending for the current board in January 2010. These members have volunteered their time and talents to this society for much longer than the past two years. For most all of the current board, six to eight years is more like it. As much as each and every one of them love the society, it is time for others to step up to the plate and take a turn. Each one of you has something important to contribute and the only qualifications needed are a couple of hours a your times each month and a willingness to keep our society alive. The members of the current board are willing to guide and mentor you along until you get the hang of things. Please email or call any board member to say that you are stepping up to the plate!

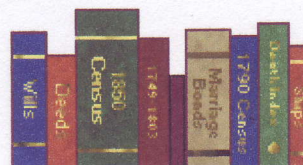
Marilyn Rauzi - marilynrau@hotmail.com 465-8724, Virginia Kranz - r.kranz@comcast.net 477-0634, Jean Ebenhack - vllyhi@comcast.net 477-7558, Barry Wood - bcwood2162@sbcglobal.net 366-2773

**Are you going to let our society become only a faint memory
of yesterday?**

**Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;
they just have the heart. ~ Elizabeth Andrew**



GENEALOGY BLOGS WORTH SEEING!



NEW ACQUISITIONS

California Genealogical Society and Library

<http://calgensoc.blogspot.com/>

Geneablogie

<http://blog.geneablogie.net/>

Heritage Happens

<http://heritagehappens.blogspot.com/>

Rainy Day Genealogy Readings

<http://rainydayreadings.blogspot.com/>

Mestephil's Musings

<http://www.mestephil.org/Mestephil/Welcome.html>

San Diego Genealogical Society

<http://sandiegogenealogy.blogspot.com/>

Chula Vista Genealogical Society

<http://cvgencafe.blogspot.com/>

San Francisco Bay Area Genealogy Calendar

<http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com/>

East Bay Genealogical Society

<http://caebaygs.blogspot.com/>

The Jews of the Gold Rush

<http://jewsofthegoldrush.blogspot.com/>

The Internet Genealogist

<http://shbwgen.blogspot.com/>

A GENEALOGY BLOG PRIMER

<http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blog-primer/>

Topeka Genealogical Society

<http://tgstopeka.blogspot.com/>

Muskogee County Genealogical Society

<http://muskogeecountygenealogicalsociety.blogspot.com/>

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

<http://sbcgs.blogspot.com/>

Geneabloggers

<http://www.geneabloggers.com/>

California 1890 Great Register of Voters is an index of the Great Registers for every county.

This work indexes 311,028 men living in California in 1890 and includes significant personal information useful to historians and genealogists. It goes far to replace lost 1890 federal census information. A citizen registering to vote in 1890 provided significant data:

- Name
- Age
- Birthplace
- Occupation
- Home address
- Naturalization information for immigrants

Given that approximately one third of the voters of California were immigrants, it is obvious that this information may be particularly useful.

It must be remembered that only males age 21 and above were allowed to vote. Although the voting lists include many Hispanic residents, Asian and African-Americans living in California could not vote in 1890. Women did not receive voting rights in California until 1911. Name, age, birthplace, address, county, registration date, whether or not naturalized, remarks, and page numbers are found listed here.

Stockton Rural Cemetery Walk with Delmar McComb

Saturday, 9 May 2009

By Karen Ramos



Entrance to Stockton Rural Cemetery

Delmar McComb's personal interests in the Stockton Rural Cemetery are many. His father, Delmar McComb Sr, operated the San Joaquin Monument Company, and Mr. McComb remembers helping his dad make and deliver monuments big enough to make his hands sweat today just thinking about them. When he had to write a Master's thesis the cemetery he knew so well seemed like an obvious subject, and it just happened to be the hundredth anniversary of the cemetery's founding, 1861 to 1961. Now many of his relatives are buried there; so, he has brought his grandchildren to visit the relatives in hopes that they will remember to come visit him there some day.

Before 1850 there were no cemeteries in Stockton. Burials were by convenience. You were buried near where you died. Building projects through the years have often unearthed unexpected graves. With the organization of city government in 1850 land was set aside for burials on the south side of Channel Street between San Joaquin and Sutter Streets. This site later became home to the old Stockton Telephone Company building, and some burials were even made across the street on what became the old County Jail site.. Mr. McComb visited the site of the telephone company when it was being demolished and asked the workmen digging there if they knew the site had once been a cemetery. He said he never saw two men get up out of a hole so fast.

In 1851 the Committee of Public Grounds took possession of a piece of land just outside the eastern border of the city in an area bounded by today's Weber Avenue, Pilgrim, Main and Union Streets. The area was called Citizen's Cemetery, but it never received good care or even a sturdy fence. Pigs and other livestock rooted among the graves.

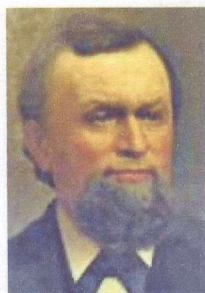
An 1893 state law stipulated that no cemetery should exist within city limits. By then, many early burials were moved to other locations, but since good records had not been kept many corpses were never moved. Bodies turn up in many building projects. In the 1970s, after a group of Charles Manson followers were convicted for murdering a young woman and burying her in the cellar of their Oak Street rental, another family found bodies in their cellar. The incident created quite a commotion until the authorities assured them that these were just early burials that had never been moved.

In 1861 the Stockton Rural Cemetery Association was formed to find a location for a new community cemetery. Several locations were considered including the West property, but Captain Weber offered a thousand dollars toward the purchase of Edward W. Howison's property, and a cemetery committee recommended that site. Howison, who was County Clerk, had a seventy-five acre tract to offer. The land was a comfortable distance north of the city whose northern boundary at the time was about Flora Street, and the area had stayed dry in a

recent flood. The James R. Lowe firm of San Jose was hired to draw a landscape design for the cemetery. Lowe's original plans are still preserved by the cemetery today.

The first person buried in the cemetery was a Mrs. Augusta Gardner, buried on April 24, 1862. Any tombstones with older dates represent removals from other cemeteries for secondary burial here.

Edward W. Howison [buried in 1870], who sold his ranch land for the cemetery, is buried under a large monument topped with a draped vase design set back on the north side of the road leading into the cemetery. As mentioned before, Mr. Howison was County Clerk..



Captain Charles Weber

Rural Cemetery Stockton's founder, Charles Weber, donated land to three other groups. In the fall of 1851 the Jewish community asked Weber for a cemetery lot and received one in the block bordered by Pilgrim, Union, Acacia, and Poplar Streets. In 1854 the Odd Fellows made a similar request of Captain Weber and received a parcel of land just west of the Jewish Cemetery. Both properties were well maintained with sturdy fences. The Jewish Cemetery is still in use today and may be the oldest Jewish Cemetery in continuous use west of the Mississippi River. The Odd Fellows property, on the other hand, was sold to the Western Pacific Railroad and the bodies buried there moved to the Lodge's plot in Rural Cemetery in 1909. Weber also donated land for a Catholic Cemetery. The first Catholic cemetery was within the city limits but quite distant from the center of town. It was bounded by today's Sonora, Aurora, Church and Grant Streets. By 1878 about a thousand people had been buried there. A new site was needed, and the Catholic San Joaquin Cemetery began construction just south of the Stockton.

The new Catholic cemetery did not open until 1880; so many Catholics chose to be buried in the already opened Rural Cemetery. Although Rural Cemetery did not have a special section for Catholics there is a group of Catholic burials near the Memory Chapel on the south side of the cemetery. The Rossi memorial in this area serves the family who owned the house in the southwest corner of the old Stockton High School campus. Mr. McComb did yard work for the family and watered for them when they were away. None of the seven Rossi children married.



George G. Belt

George Belt [1822-1869] was appointed Stockton's first Alcalda (a combination mayor and justice of the peace or judge) in 1849 and continued to lead the organization of Stockton a year later after statehood. He has a large monument just a little further west, close to the road.

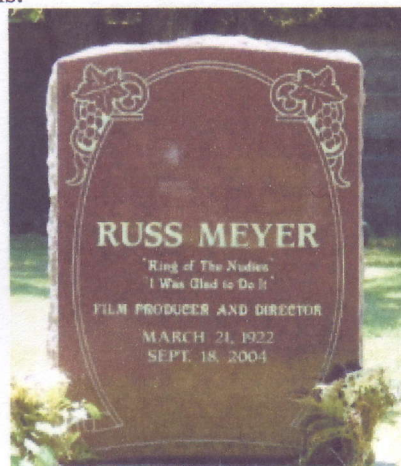
After the new Catholic Cemetery was built families moved most of the old Catholic Cemetery burials to the new facility. The Holt Manufacturing Company was built on the site of the old cemetery. You can still see some of the metal roofs from the old manufacturing plant from the crosstown freeway.

West of marker 6 is a large plot for the Tinkham and Gnekow family. George Tinkham [1849-1945] came to California in 1852 when he was about 4 years old. He held many jobs during his life, but his great passion was California and local history. His first book was a History of Stockton, written in 1880. He wrote a History of San Joaquin County in 1923, and many other books and articles on Stockton and California history. People who knew him say he spent hours in the public library reading the old newspapers for his research. [For the Stockton Record he wrote a column on what had happened twenty-five years before.]

Benjamin Tunis [1795-1859] is the only known War of 1812 veteran buried in Stockton. Not much could be found about him in American records, but the British Admiralty had an abundance of information on him. He served on the frigate USS Washington. In 1815 he was captured and taken to Bermuda. After the war he was a ship's captain in the New York City area. He came west in 1849 and died in Stockton ten years later. He is one of the people whose bodies were moved to the Rural Cemetery from the old Citizens' Cemetery.

When the Cemetery was first built the road from town ended at North Street, now Harding Way. The cemetery built Cemetery Lane to make access to the Cemetery easier. In 1869 Captain Weber bought a piece of land to make the graceful curve in the road leading into the Cemetery. He had this addition graded and paved as well. Stockton Rural Cemetery still owns Cemetery Lane. The Cemetery made an agreement with the City of Stockton to let the city have access to the road in exchange for its maintenance, but if the City or any utility needs to dig in the street, they need to get permission from the Cemetery.

By the mid-1870s the Odd Fellows Cemetery in downtown Stockton was already filling up, and in 1909 the land was sold to the Western Pacific Railroad. So, the Odd Fellows purchased a section of land on the west side of the Cemetery for its old and new burials.



On the west side of the cemetery is a large monument to Russ Meyer. Meyer was a World War II photographer from Oakland. He is buried in Stockton because his mother lived in the area. Meyer was one of the early photographers for *Playboy Magazine*. He later got involved in the pornography industry. His directing talents were good enough that he directed Fox's *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* movie and handled some of the combat scenes in the movie *Patton*. His most famous quote is that "Nothing is obscene provided it is done in bad taste."

To be continued in the next issue!

She Was Alta

By S. A. Mendenhall

Part II

Clendora was born on 22 September 1896 in Chinese Camp. Again, Alta named her baby after her sister Frances Clendora. During the week Alta taught school and Oscar did carpentry for the mines. They struggled to care for their family. Alta even used broom straws to keep her pierced ears open. It is doubtful she could afford to go to Bronson, when her seventy-five year-old father died 30 November 1897. He had been "afflicted with asthma for several years, the disease that took him away."

On Sundays, instead of going to church with Alta and the children, Oscar headed into the hills to prospect for gold. One day he found a small vein of gold. He spent the whole day digging it out. He took his long denim pants off, tied knots in the legs, and filled the pants with the gold. He dragged it back to town.

After selling the gold, the Dobsons bought a small farm near Lodi in San Joaquin County. This is where they farmed for ten years, raising berries and grapes. Even with hired help, it was hard work. The Japanese farmhand, who worked the fields, spent his time off teaching Hal and Paul how to draw and paint.

18 November 1898, a law suit was filed in Elkhorn Township, San Joaquin County, "O.B. Dobson, plaintiff vs. State of California, Defendant," apparently this was a fishing violation. About that time, the Dobsons had photographs taken of Hal and Paul playing with a wagon behind the barn and another of the family on the porch of their new home. There is one Live Oak School photograph of the boys, their classmates, and teacher, Mrs. Porter. This teacher was a "widow-teacher," and very mean.

Another tragic death happened. Alta's mother-in-law, Lucretia Dobson, who remarried in 1897 to Thomas Collins, drowned in an irrigation ditch in Boulder, Colorado 18 April 1899. The speculative newspaper stories ran for several days over this accidental "suicide. Mr. Collins would not leave Denver. Leaving Aunt Malla Mitchell to go to Boulder to make arrangements for the deceased. Lucretia was buried next to her husband and granddaughters in Canon City. The tombstone reads: "Sacred to the Memory of James V. Dobson 1836—1895 Lucretia A., His Wife 1838—1899."

1 January 1900 U.S. census in the Elkhorn District, San Joaquin County enumerated thirty-seven year old Alta, born in March 1863. She was married for fifteen years. Oscar was thirty-nine years old, born in August 1860. Both Alta and Oscar could read and write. Their three children lived with them and they owned their farm free and clear. It also stated, her father was born in Indiana and mother was born in Kentucky.

Their niece, Nell (Neal) Burt wrote, "After my grandfather [William Gibson] died, I remember Aunt Alta visited with cousin Clennie in 1900." Alta was so fond of Frances, and they talked for hours. As long as Frances lived, she and Alta wrote letters to each other often.

In February 1908 Nancy Gabriella (Gibson) Taylor died in Illinois. That was about the time Cora and Oscar sold the Lodi farm and moved to Stockton. They must have

rented their first home in town at 138 East Maple Street, as there is no apparent property recording to be found. Their son, Hal, moved in 1909 to San Francisco to join the merchant marines. His employer was "Oceanic Steam Ship Company of San Francisco. Hal enlisted again, as a Seaman electrician from 24 September 1912 to 3 January 1913 on the St. S. Ventura, out of San Francisco. His ship sailed throughout the South Pacific. The Dobsons received post cards with drawings instead of writings. After returning on 15 January 1913, he shared his photographs with the family. Discharged from service, Hal began work at the dry docks in San Francisco that January.

The Dobsons moved to 1406 East Washington, Stockton before 15 April 1910. The enumerator recorded Alta was a forty-seven year old wife. She resided with her husband, forty-nine year old Oscar B., a house carpenter, who worked for wages. They owned their home free and clear. It was their first marriage of twenty-four years. Their three children lived with them. At nineteen Hal worked for wages as an electrician in mines. Paul was seventeen and Clennie was thirteen, both attended school.

What a surprise for Alta, when Oscar's youngest brother, a miner from Colorado, came to visit in September 1910. "Lute payed (sic) us a visit here in this very house in Stockton." Later, "that fall and winter O.B. and Harry went together [with Lute] on the Colorado River in Arizona, engaged in mining. O.B. returned to California in the spring of 1911." From the photographs taken, Alta had gone with them. She donned denim dungarees, leather boots, sweater, and a floppy hat to pan for gold, too.

Ready to marry, he proposed to Harriett Young. The wedding was Saturday, 16 August 1913 in San Francisco. The bride's, mother, Emma Young and Cora Dobson witnessed the Methodist church ceremony.

Alta's first grandchild, Everett George was born on 11 November 1914 to Harry. Eighteen months later, 15 April 1916, Paul married Genevieve "Gen" Trask. When World War I broke out, Alta's sons join the military. Fortunately, neither one was sent into combat. After the war, Alice Catherine was born 25 February 1919 to Harry.

The 1920 U.S. census listed Alta at 1406 East Washington, Stockton. She was fifty-six years old, a wife and resided with her husband and daughter. Her husband, "Oscar B.," was fifty-nine and worked as a carpenter for wages in the Brick Plant. Their daughter, Clendora was a clerk for an Oil Company.

The Dobsons believed it a citizen's duty to vote. They consistently registered in San Joaquin County. Between 1900 and 1938 they registered, sometimes democrats, sometimes republicans, a few times Progressive, and even at times at odds with each other.

Clendora was the last child to marry before September 1921. She was twenty-four years old when she married twenty-six year old Carl Fred Hogue. The Hagues adopted a baby girl, Nancy J., born 24 July 1922 in San Joaquin County. Then Paul's child, Sarah Jane was born 26 May 1923 in San Joaquin County. July 1927 Alta watched her son Harry and his family pack and move to Santa Barbara, California.

When the census was taken on 01 April 1930, Alta and Oscar still resided at 1406 East Washington, Stockton. It recorded her age sixty-seven, married at age twenty-two, and they did not have a radio set. That year two more of Alta's sisters died. Frances

Neal passed away June in Missouri. Nova Ross died in December in Kansas.

During hard times, religion brought peace, for "Mother was a very devoted church person," recalled her daughter. Alta worshiped with the Baptists. Since the church was a part of her life, there was probably a family bible that has since disappeared.

Oscar was a "carpenter and handyman" in Stockton, from 1931 to 1937. According to the directory, they lived at 1406 East Washington. The Dobsons were members of the Masonic family having joined early in Canon City. When Hal and Paul each turned twenty-one, Oscar sponsored their membership in the Morning Star Masonic Lodge #68, A.F. & A.M., in Stockton. They also belonged to the Golden Poppy Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

Over the years Alta grew fruit and vegetables and raised chickens. By 1935 she and Oscar had a companion, a terrier named "Baldy." He was a guest at their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 7 September 1935. Because Alta was ill with heart trouble, the Dobsons changed the property deed title on 15 January 1936, to read, "Cora Alta and Oscar B. Dobson.

Cora Alta Dobson died on Tuesday 30 November 1937 in Stockton. She was at home on East Washington. Some of her relatives still lived in Bronson, Kansas and St. Joseph, Missouri. Only one sister survived longer, Mary E., who remarried J. Bixler. Oruim P. Fay, M.D., the County Coroner, reported Alta's death was caused by a "Coronary Thrombosis." On 1 December 1937 her obituary in *The Stockton Record*, read,

DOBSON—In Stockton, November 30, 1937, Cora Alta Dobson; beloved wife of Oscar B. Dobson; loving mother of Mrs. Clendora Hogue of Stockton, Harry V. Dobson of Santa Barbara, and F. Paul Dobson of Stockton; native of Illinois aged 74 years 8 mos. 13 days.

Services were held 2 December, Thursday, at 10 a.m. at De Young Memorial Chapel, North California Street. Afterwards her remains were taken to Casa Bonita Mausoleum & Crematorium.

The love felt for Alta and the life she shared with others was expressed by her husband. O.B. Dobson in a letter dated 31 July 1938. "I at 78 am very proud of my Family. "I loved my wife very much... ."

Editors Note : Ms. Mendenhall performed extensive research for this story. Probate court records, photographs, published family genealogies, newspaper articles, census records, birth, marriage and death records, county history books, city directories, pension records, land records, cemetery records, personal hand-written letters from family members and oral history were all used to create this outstanding family story. For a complete listing of her sources please contact Ms. Mendenhall at suemendenhall@hotmail.com .



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To a different Post Office Box
Please make note of the new address

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HAVE YOU ?

Please keep your address, phone and email current with us.
We don't want you to miss out on the newsletter or important
announcements. To report a change of address please notify:

Barry Woods - bcwood2162@sbcglobal.net

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Sonoma County Genealogical Society - November 21, 2009 - Jeremy
Nichols: Sources, Techniques, and Challenges of Cemetery Research
Finley Community Center, 2060 W College Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**SAN JOAQUIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
DUES FOR THE YEAR - JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2010**

\$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