



Photo courtesy of Paula Hinkel

Savannah Update

El Monte Cemetery Association

Volume 4 Number 1

September 2009

Letter from Your President

Hello to all:

Having been elected to the position of President on the Board of Directors for the El Monte Cemetery Association (dba Savannah Memorial Park), I find one of my duties is to write a short note for the newsletter, so here goes . . .

First, thanks to the other board members for putting their faith in me to carry on with the work of the Savannah. Following Randy Wiggins, the last President, has given me a large pair of shoes to fill. Since joining the board close to three years ago, there have been a lot of changes to say the least, some good, some bad.

First the good news, the Savannah in its present condition has never looked better. There have been many contributions over the months that have improved our little plot of ground vividly. The entire chain link fencing along Valley Blvd. and Mission Drive has been replaced with wrought iron fencing, thanks to the M.C. Gill Corporation and City of Rosemead.

The storage garage has been completely refurbished including a new 30-year roof and paint job. Two different Boy Scouts working towards their Eagle Scout badge have put a lot of hard work into the Savannah. The City of El Monte has provided us people that are working off their community service hours. On our last big clean up day before the Memorial Day services, they provided over 75 workers and supervision to paint and clean the Savannah and did a fantastic job.

While on the subject of the Memorial Day services they could not have been better. Due to a lot of hard work by the board and in particular Janice White, for the first time the Cities of El Monte and Rosemead both participated in the services, along with the American Legion and the El Monte High School band. There were a lot of new faces at the

ceremony that we are hoping to build with in the future.

There are many more success stories but it would take too long to go on with them. Except for the lawn maintenance and water bill, we have been able to convert every other job to volunteer workers.

Now for the bad news. With the current economic conditions, all of our normal means for obtaining contributions for the Savannah have virtually disappeared. Even after cutting our operating expenses to the bare minimum, we still have basic needs for an income and volunteer help.

In closing, if anyone can find a few hours each month to volunteer services to the Savannah or can contribute, no matter how small, it would be very much appreciated. We are also in need of two new board members. If anyone is so inclined to serve, please call me at 760-868-2669.

One last comment is the best of all, we currently have an application in with the State of California requesting historic status for the Savannah and so far, so good. A huge thank you goes out to Heather Hooper a current board member and Sue Redding a former board member for all of their hard work in the research and preparing the application.

Sincerely
Virgil V. Ervin
President

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NOTABLE QUOTABLE

To the solemn graves, near a lonely cemetery, my heart like a muffled drum is beating funeral marches.

Pierre Charles Baudelaire

**An Early Pioneer . . .****Jonathan Tibbet**

Representative of the early pioneers of El Monte is the name of Jonathan Tibbet who was born December 8, 1822 in Franklin County, Ohio. His parents were Jonathan and Huldah (Root) Tibbet, the father being a farmer and native of New York, while his mother came from Vermont. They had a very large family, fourteen children in all, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth. An interesting fact concerning the family is that one of the children, Edward was the grandfather of the grand opera singer, Lawrence Tibbet.

Jonathan Jr., was educated in the public schools of the community in which he was raised. Upon reaching his majority, he assisted his father on the farm, which being in a timbered section, necessitated the work of splitting rails. He later learned the carpenter trade at which he worked for a time.

In 1849 Mr. Tibbet with his family came to California by ox-team, their first destination being Placerville, in El Dorado County. Arriving in February of 1850, Mr. Tibbet, engaged in mining and prospecting, in which he was very successful. His good fortune in this is attested by the fact that in one day he mined \$8580 in gold. Soon afterward, he returned to the East remaining in Ohio until in 1853, when he again set out for California. This time he came by the Southern Route bringing a drove of cattle and sheep. They landed in that year in El Monte, and settled first on a tract of land southeast of town where they remained for several years. Later, about 1859, Mr. Tibbet moved his family to a 160-acre tract near what is now Rosemead, which he had purchased. On this place Mr. Tibbet built the home, which still stands. The lumber for this home Mr. Tibbet and his sons cut in the Halcom Valley near San Bernardino, the logs being later sawed into lumber and transported to the home site. For years this was the only house for miles around in this vicinity. Here the family lived for several years while Mr. Tibbet engaged in freighting. This business required that he remain away from home many months at a time, since his

Calendar of Upcoming Events

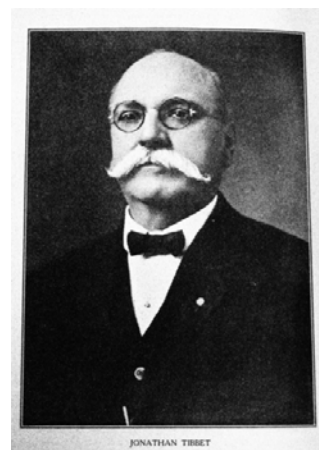
Saturday, October 24, 2009
(details to follow)

Oktoberfest

Wednesday, November 11, 2009
(details to follow)

Veterans Day

trips took him from San Pedro to Salt Lake city, frequently returning by way of San Francisco. He was very successful in this line of work and continued in it until 1875 when he moved to Compton. Here he purchased a dairy, which he operated for a number of years, later moving to Santa Monica where he purchased a 100-acre ranch on which he developed another dairy. Here he remained for many years successfully managing on of the leading dairies of that section.



In 1844 Mr. Tibbet was married to Miss Phoebe Point, a native of New York, whose parents were Stephen and Eleanor (Scofield) Point, natives of Ohio.

To Mr. and Mrs. Tibbet were born three children: James H., who married Henrietta Mills of an El Monte Pioneer family; Samantha Jane, who married William Snoddy, pioneer of El Monte; Jonathan F., who married Emma Bowman of Riverside; and Phoebe, who married Percy N. Arnold of Santa Monica. Mr. Tibbet continued the management of his dairy near Santa Monica until the death of Mrs. Tibbet, which occurred in September 1892. He then retired from active work transferring the management of the dairy to his son-in-law, Percy Arnold; himself continuing to reside in the ranch home until called by death in April 1904.

In politics, Mrs. Tibbet was a Republican, and was active in contributing time and means to the promotion of the party's interest. In religion he was a member of the Methodist Church, though not actively identified with it.

Source:

http://www.cagenweb.com/re/losangeles/ElMonteBios/TIBBET_Johnathan.htm

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



Don & Mary Alley

Sally Baquet

DAR - San Marino

Nancy & Stan Goldbloom

Gladys Horn

Patricia Ruth

Joan Skaggs

Our deep appreciation for your continued
and devoted support.

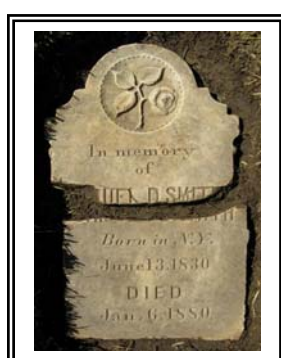
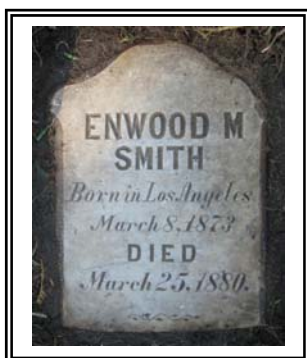


HEADSTONES OF SAVANNAH

In March 2008, volunteers undertook the daunting task of photographing every visible headstone and monument in Savannah Memorial Park. We are very excited to report that the initial phase of this project was completed in early July. We now have a photographic record to preserve the images of not only the headstones' various styles and designs, but also the data contained on them, although unfortunately some stones are already unreadable. All known burials have been posted at www.findagrave.com and now we have added all headstone/monument photographs in our files to the web site.

During this process, and sometimes quite accidentally, we were able to locate and unearth stones that had sunk and become buried. Below are two examples of recently discovered and unearthed stones. Aren't they amazing? Phase two of the photography project will be to probe where a stone might be and then carefully dig to expose it, if found.

A very special thanks to Sally Hamilton, who almost single-handedly photographed the entire cemetery. Her persistence and dedication to this project is unmatched. And thanks, too, to Paula Hinkle of Southern California Genealogical Society who willingly and cheerfully shared her many photos and other research that she gathered early in the current effort to preserve Savannah.



California American Water Donates Water Sprinkler Controllers



This photo is the property of SprinklerWarehouse

California American Water has donated and installed a weather-based irrigation controller system.

The weather-based irrigation controllers will use weather data to create a watering schedule that adjusts automatically as the weather conditions change throughout the year. The controller sets the watering schedule based on the type of plants, irrigation system, soil type, and various weather factors such as temperature, humidity, solar radiation and wind.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California estimates that the average homeowner can save 13,500 gallons a year and commercial properties an average of 105,900 gallons per year, by upgrading to a weather-based irrigation controller.

Our sincere appreciation to California American Water!

HONOR A LOVED ONE

*Honor the memory of a loved one or say
thank you for a job well done with a
donation to Savannah!!*

*Or you can make a donation for the
general upkeep of the final resting place
of our original pioneers!*

El Monte Cemetery Association
P. O. Box 4247
El Monte, California 91734

Or use PayPal at
www.savannahcemetery.org

El Monte Gazette, January 17, 1908

Mrs. Joseph Davis [Jane L.] Counts

Was born June 26, 1830, near Brookline, N. Y. She married J. D. Counts Oct. 10, 1850. They settled in Osage county, Missouri, among the pioneers, where they lived till after the close of the war. They moved from Missouri to Winona county, Iowa, where they lived until they came to California, three years ago. To them were born four sons and seven daughters, of whom three sons and four daughters are now living; all of the daughters and one son in California, one son in Mapleton, Iowa, and one in Bonesteel, South Dakota. There are now living thirty grand children, seven having passed away.

Mrs. Counts has lived a life of faithful, honorable service – a truly beautiful life with all her children near, for many years; and a life filled with kindly ministrations to the sick and suffering. Surely if "pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world," then Mrs. Counts lived a life of pure religion. For the last eight years she has suffered at times very greatly, chiefly with swelling of the feet and very painful lameness, and each attack left her more lame than before. She bore it with a great courage and patience as wise and faithful mothers are apt to gain. Her last illness was particularly severe. But her affectionate children and grandchildren with her loyal and devoted husband did all that could be done for her relief and comfort. She passed away early in the morning, Jan. 8, 1908. A few days before her death, she expressed a desire to see a certain pastor to whom she spoke with great joy of her faith in Christ, and with whose prayer she heartily joined. Her heart was full of peace and she slipped away at last as one going home.

The body was laid tenderly away amid a wealth of flowers in the cemetery at Savanna, two miles west of El Monte, the true and faithful wife, mother, neighbor and friend having been committed in trust and peace to the Father above, to the blessed angels and to the great company of her friends who had preceded her to the heavenly home beyond.

El Monte Cemetery Association
P. O. Box 4247
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