



Photo courtesy of Paula Hinkel

Savannah Update

El Monte Cemetery Association
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Memorial Day Ceremony

Our annual Memorial Day Ceremony was inspirational and well-attended. A program in memory of all veterans was presented where one of the highlights was the raising of a flag that had flown in Iraq, with thanks to Deborah Wiggins, who has recently returned safely from a tour of duty over there. We extend our appreciation to El Monte American Legion Post #261, San Gabriel American Legion Reyner Aguirre Post #748, Boy Scout Troop #551, Cub Scout Pack #551,



David Siegrist, Anita Salazar, Tina Flores, 1st Lt. Varum Patel, and everyone who participated in this event. We would also like to thank all those who came on Saturday, May 28, to help in our Annual Clean-Up Day.

Confederate Headstones

Margaret Alley, Grave Markers Director with the California Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, has been instrumental in working with us to procure headstones for our Civil War Confederate Veterans who do not have a headstone. The Department of Veterans Affairs provides free headstones for veterans with the veteran's name, military service, and dates of birth and death. There are a few choices as to material and style and we have chosen light gray flat granite stones. The headstones have been requested and we have received confirmation of our requests. Margaret has now taken on the research for our Civil War Union Veterans and we hope to apply for those headstones soon. Our thanks and appreciation goes to Margaret for her dedication to these veterans and her interest in Savannah.



Dedication in Memory of Jack and Susan Bezner

On April 16th Savannah Memorial Park honored the memory of its long-time caretaker, Jack Bezner and his wife, Susan, with a bench and a tree. A brief ceremony was held during which Jack and Susan's son, David, and Ben Rodoracio representing the Rosemead Masons, spoke briefly. The bench has been inscribed as follows:

*In Memory of
Jack and Susan Bezner
Savannah's Caretaker and Friend
From 1970 to 2007*

Inside

Memorial Day	1
Confederate Headstones	1
Jack & Susan Bezner Memorial	1
Notable Quotable	2
Upcoming Events	2
An Early Pioneer	2
Essay	3
Tour Signs	3
Contributors	4

NOTABLE QUOTABLE

"When I want to understand what is happening today or try to decide what will happen tomorrow, I look back."
~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.



An Early Pioneer . . .

Andrew Jackson King

Andrew Jackson King was born in Cherokee Purchase Land in Union County, Georgia in 1833. Later his father, Samuel King, who was a tanner and a saddler, took the family to Helena, Arkansas. In 1849 the family moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory. In 1852, Samuel King brought his family and forty or fifty other families of pioneers overland to El Monte, the oldest American settlement in Los Angeles County, located along the San Gabriel River, which was inhabited by a mixture of emigrants, largely Texans. The King family laid out a town there which was called Lexington.

King studied law in Los Angeles with Judge Hayes, the first district Judge of the County. Then these two young lawyers and Judge Scott opened a law office on Main Street a short distance south of the Plaza. King became the first County Clerk of San Bernardino County in 1853.

In March, 1854, A. J. King was one of the members of the California Militia Company called the Monte Rangers, organized by John G. Downey and others. The unit was actively operating against Indian raiders and bandits that plagued Southern California after they were driven out of San Francisco and the northern gold fields by vigilantes.

In 1859 King was elected a member of the California State Assembly and was on the committee which located the site for the State Capitol. From 1861 to 1865, A. J. King served as an Undersheriff of Los Angeles County and made many arrests. During the secession crisis of 1861, he tried to form another militia company like the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles, the Monte Mounted Rifles, both units with secessionist sympathies. On April 26, 1861, the Monte Mounted Rifles asked Governor Downey for arms. However A. J. King ran afoul of Federal authorities and, according to the Sacramento Union of April 30, 1861 King was brought before Colonel Carleton, and was made



Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 4, 2011

The cemetery will be open starting approximately at 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. following Rosemead's 4th of July Parade. Please stop by, take the self-guided tour, and learn the history to be found here.

to take an oath of allegiance to the Union and was then released. The governor sent the arms, but army officers at San Pedro held them up preventing the activation of the Monte Mounted Rifles.

King did not flee eastward to the Confederacy with the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles and continued his secessionist activities. On April 10, 1862, as the United States Marshall for Southern California, Henry D. Barrows wrote to the commander of the Department of Pacific of the Union Army in San Francisco complaining of anti-Union sentiment in Southern California.

In that same year he was married to Laura Evertson, and remained in office as Undersheriff to 1865. While Undersheriff, King's investigation of the murder of the wealthy ranchero John Rains resulted in a bitter feud with Rain's friend and brother-in-law Robert Carlisle, when he failed to get a conviction of the suspected murderer, Jose Ramon Carrillo. The dispute festered between the friends and families of both men for some time and became known as the King-Carlisle Feud. At a ball held in Los Angeles on July 5, 1865, Carlisle attacked King but friends separated the men. The next day, King's brothers, Frank and Houston, had a shootout with Robert Carlisle inside the saloon of the Bella Union Hotel in downtown Los Angeles, resulting in the death of Frank King and Robert Carlisle.

In 1865, King became a law partner of Judge Murray Morrison. From 1865 to 1870 he was also one of the proprietors and editors of the Los Angeles News. In 1866 and 1867 he was City Attorney and in 1869, County Judge. In 1873 he printed and published the first city directory and he was one of the founders of the County Agricultural Society in 1871. He was active in aiding and inaugurating many of the early municipal projects of the city of Los Angeles.

On October 14, 1923, Judge Andrew J. King died at his home in Boyle Heights, 90 years old and the oldest member of the bar in Los Angeles.

Source: Wikipedia (edited for space)

What the U.S. Flag Means to Me

By Sarah Flores, 5th Grade Student
Winner, Essay Contest - Taiwanese Lions Club in
San Gabriel Valley

Would you like to know some facts about the US Flag? The American Flag had 13 stars and 13 stripes to represent the 13 original Colonies. George Washington was on a committee to design the flag. It is told, the committee approached Betsy Ross to sew the flag. In May 1776, the committee went to her upholstery shop and showed her a rough design of the Flag. George Washington wanted a star with 6 points, however Betsy Ross showed them a 5 pointed star which could be cut with just one quick snip of the scissors, and the men were amazed. And so the story goes that Betsy Ross sewed the first Flag. Today there are 50 stars to represent the 50 states. And it still has its 13 stripes to represent the 13 original Colonies. We also know the colors have meanings. Red symbolizes hardiness and valor. White symbolizes purity and innocence. Blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

When I think of the American Flag, I think about the flag salute and saying the pledge of allegiance every morning at school. It reminds me of how proud I am of my country. I also think about the men and women in the military protecting my freedom. We put a flag out in front of our house to show our pride in our flag and country. I call my Grandpa on Veteran's Day since he served in the United States Army.



My Goal is to travel the 50 States of America. I have been to Hawaii, which is the 50th state. I have also been to Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. Those states were part of the first 13 colonies. I also have visited Arizona and Nevada. When I look back, I have visited 6 states so far, and live in California, which makes it 7 states total. I need to visit 43 more states.

If I think about the flag, I think about the word pride. My goal is to become a marine biologist, so for that to happen, I will have to get better grades and do better in schoolwork. That is what I call pride.

Join us on July 4th at Savannah Memorial Park after the City of Rosemead's Parade to learn more about this historic treasure.



Self-Guided Tour Signs

Above is an example of the self-guided tour signs that we are in the process of putting in place so that visitors to the cemetery can walk around and learn more about those buried in here and their contributions to the area. We hope to have a number of the signs in place by July 4th.

Anyone donating to help with the cost of these signs will have their name placed on a plaque which we are planning to affix to the maintenance shed by the kiosk.

Send donations, marked for "Tour Signs" to:

Savannah Memorial Park
P. O. Box 4247
El Monte, CA 91734

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



Don & Mary Alley
Art Barrios
Valerie Basquette
Cal. American Water
Dwain Crum
Clinton Dillon
El Monte Historical Society
Emily Ishigaki

Marian Last
Daniel Munoz
Bruce & Robyn Steele
Billie Tone
Larry Tran
Claudia Turner
Randy Wiggins



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