



Photo courtesy of Paula Hinkel

Savannah Update

El Monte Cemetery Association

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LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Family,

As this year comes to a close I can't help but reflect back on this year's accomplishments and to see how far we have come as a board and as a memorial park, but also recalling some of the challenges we were faced with, along with some hard pressed decisions that had to be made with heavy hearts regarding Savannah.

Our accomplishments this year include establishing a good relationship with our friends from the Mormon Church who have helped maintain our cemetery and keep it clean. The support from Cal American Water Company who came out and fixed our broken sprinkler heads and helped us come up with a water saving plan. The local Boys Scouts who were always available for little or big jobs but who came out and repaired headstones and added much needed shelves to our shed. Our historical plaque project is finally completed and is here now, waiting to be set for all to see. A new asphalt driveway was put in with the help from the City of Rosemead, its dark rich color in contrast with our tree's and fall colors, looks beautiful from afar. A grant from The Native Sons was awarded to us to help preserve our historical look, which we are using to repair headstones. One of our biggest and most appreciated contributor to Savannah, McGill Corporation has pledged a \$0.50 match to every dollar we raise up \$10,000 which ends December 31, 2013, so get those donations in and see your donations increase by 50%. And last, the endless help, time and contributions from the City of Rosemead, who are in the process of working with us in donating and planting as many as 30 trees in our cemetery as well as helping us with drought resistant plants and other things to help improve the look of Savannah.

With all of this being said, we were faced with a few challenges as well, especially when our water main was stolen from the north side of the cemetery. This happened in late August which caused us to rethink our plan of action on watering the cemetery and put other decisions in play. It took nearly three weeks to replace the water main, which was replaced and fixed by the City of Rosemead at no cost to Savannah, but what led us to make the decision to go into drought conditions. We really did not want the grass to go brown but we

were hopeful for fall and winter rain to help us out. We also realized by not watering and eliminating the landscaping services, we could save on an average of \$3000.00 a month for at least four months, which would also allow us time to come up with a plan to revitalize the cemetery with seeding, new plants and trees and look forward to a beautiful cemetery in the Spring.

I take this time now to ask each one of you for your support and for those of you who have donated, I/We Thank You! We recognize that times are tough and that every penny counts. We recognize that we don't cure illnesses, we don't feed the hungry and we don't help the poor, but what we do believe in, is our history, who we are and where we came from. We hope to be around so that generations to come can visit and remember, we welcome the sick, the hungry and the poor. We have no reason to keep people from learning, reflecting and taking a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. We embrace the local schools to volunteer and learn and take pride that a California Historical Landmark is in their backyard. The preservation of Savannah Memorial Cemetery is imperative, your support through donations, volunteering and attending our annual meeting in January is essential in maintaining the honor of our beloved families and pioneers.

On behalf of myself and the Savannah Board of Directors, we wish everyone a wonderful and blessed holiday with your loved ones. Merry Christmas to all!

Joanne Russell-Chavez, President



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NOTABLE QUOTABLE

History is never antiquated, because humanity is always fundamentally the same. Walter Rauschenbusch

**An Early Pioneer . . .****Tilghman D. Andrew**

A pioneer of El Monte was Tilghman D. Andrew, whose life was spent in varied ways ranging from soldier and Indian fighter in Arizona, to saw mill operator in many parts of Southern California.

Born in 1846, in Easton, Maryland, he was the son of Richard and Rebecca (Camper) Andrew, farmers and natives of Maryland. An authorized genealogy of the family shows that their ancestors came to Maryland from England with Lord Baltimore, settling and continuing to live in the same vicinity of Maryland.

Tilghman Andrew's early life was spent at home with his parents in Caroline County where he was educated in the public schools. At the age of nineteen, he enlisted in the Army serving for three years, during which time he was sent with a company of seven hundred to California via Panama. Arriving in California in 1865, he was detailed to Indian Scout duty, engaging in many skirmishes and battles in Arizona. Upon being mustered out of service in 1868, he came to San Bernardino, and became interested in gold mining. This work he followed for a time, later entering the employ of John M. James, operator of a sawmill in Little Bear Valley (now the Lake Arrowhead area) and who later became his father-in-law. Following a few years in the lumbering with Mr. James, he farmed for several years in the San Bernardino Valley.

In 1880 he came to El Monte and followed farming, later acquiring and settling on a ten-acre tract of land, south of the Mountain View School, which he improved and later set for walnuts. Here he remained active in the management of his property until his death, which occurred in 1911.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 11, 2014
10:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting
El Monte Historical Museum



On May 1, 1872, Mr. Andrew was wedded to Sarah A. James, a native of California, being the daughter of John M. James, who was a native of Tennessee, coming to California in Captian Johnson's wagon train in 1852. Mr. James was well known throughout Southern California for his ability in building and operating sawmills.

To Mr. and Mrs. Andrew were born five children all of whom are living at this time: namely Lillie (Mrs. D. Wright) of Pasadena, Charles G. of Wilmar, Lawrence A., of Huntington Park, A. Clarence, of Shreveport, Louisiana, and Stanley D., of Portland, Oregon. Mrs. Andrew died in 1907.

Source:

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

**Happy Holidays
to All**





Children of the Savannah...

Richard Dewey Speth

In his novel, *Les Misérables*, Victor Hugo wrote, "No one ever keeps a secret so well as a child."

The Monday morning newspaper reported Richard Speth's death as a suicide. He left a note asking that a friend be made patrol leader of his Scout troop. The *Los Angeles Times* headline read, "Boy, 13, Ends Life After He Wraps Gifts." The article was brief, just a few lines, but over the next week it appeared in newspapers across the country.

The seventh grader completed his Christmas shopping early that year, then carefully wrapped and addressed presents to his family and friends. During Sunday dinner, according to The *San Diego Union*, he boasted "...about being finished so soon."

At 9:30 PM that evening, December 2, 1951, Paul and Velda Speth were sitting in the front room of their home in Monterey Park, California when they heard a shot. They found their only son in his bedroom with a gunshot wound to the head. His father's revolver was nearby.



In the *Billings Gazette*, the Speths were quoted as saying their boy "...appeared in good spirits." They told investigators they knew of no reason their son would take his life.

The *Ogden Standard-Examiner* article was the shortest. One line on page 3. In the *Omaha Evening World-Herald* it appeared on the financial page along with the cost of grain futures. The following Sunday the *San Diego Union* placed it above a half page ad with Santa reminding customers, "Only 13 Shopping Days 'Til Christmas."

For 13 evenings Christmas lights continued to shine in the neighborhood where Richard Speth once lived. They glittered in the stores where he shopped. Stars shone in the nighttime sky above his grave.

But inside the house where he died, all was darkness.

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OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



Don & Mary Alley
Sally Baquet
Myrna Brown
Roi Brown
Jody Bush
Jerry Case
Randy Chenoweth
Lucille Cleminson

Betty Cook
Darres Cook
Doris Crain
Nicholas Curry
Clarence Dillon
El Monte Historical Society
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Chris Gillett
Alan & Lois Guiliany
Don & Edith Harrington
David Hassler
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Gladys Horn
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Robert Hunter
Darrel & Marilyn Kelty
Marian Last
Jerry Lesandro
LaDon Lewin
Carol Marburger
Lydia Martinez
Native Sons of the Golden West
Mary Ann Powers
Diane Richardson
James Robb
Pat Rowland
Paige Schenkler
Anne Scholz
Irmalee Schumacher
Rheta Scott
Gloria Smith
Jack & Naomi Smith
Gail Tazawa
Jean Terberg
Claudia Turner
U.S. Daughters of 1812
Randy Wallace
Ed & Carol Wells
Janice Wiggins White
Walter White

We deeply appreciate the response to our recent campaign for donations. You have come through with a heart and generosity that humbles us. The Board of Directors thanks you.



ANNUAL MEETING EL MONTE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Please plan to attend our Annual Meeting of the El Monte Cemetery Association (dba Savannah Memorial Park) on **January 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.** It will be held, as usual, at the El Monte Historical Museum, 3150 Tyler Avenue, El Monte.

We look forward to seeing you and sharing what is new and planned for our beloved Savannah.

**Joel Brigham Chapter of the
United States Daughters of 1812**

On October 23, 2013, the Joel Brigham Chapter of the United States Daughters of 1812 honored Savannah's two veterans of the War of 1812 – Wiley R. Wilson and John Holt – with a wreath-laying ceremony. The ceremony was led by Anne Scholz, President of the Chapter and a history of the War of 1812 was presented by Lynda Kraemer. Also participating in the ceremony were Dorothy Peterson, Chaplain of the Joel Brigham Chapter; and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Greater El Monte Post 10218.

We were also greatly honored by the attendance of Janet Page Matheny, a third great granddaughter of Wiley Wilson; Pat Hugar, President of the California State USD 1812; Jim McHargue, Immediate Past President, California Society of the War of 1812; members of the Rosemead City Council; and a representative from the office of Supervisor Gloria Molina.

Light refreshments were served after the ceremony by the Chapter. We thank everyone who participated and who shared their efforts for this successful event.



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