

AMBROSE HARVEY ELMORE
THE IDA ELIZABETH AND MARGARET LUCINDA ELMORE FAMILIES

By: Zelda Dubel

This is a continuation of the family of Ambrose Harvey Elmore featured in the previous issue of the Ash Tree Echo.

IDA ELIZABETH ELMORE AND HORACE GIDEON MACON:

IDA ELIZABETH ELMORE (1872-1961) was born in Salida and died in Los Alomitos, Orange Co, California. Ida and her husband Horace were buried in Arbor Vitae Cemetery, Madera (her tombstone says 1871-1961). She married HORACE GIDEON MACON (1868-1951) in Fresno in 1891, by S.S. Patterson, and witnesses were John Eskew, Charlie Elmore [her brother] and Mrs. Lillie Patterson. Horace was born in Smith Co, Tennessee, the son of Daniel A. MACON and Frances Clementine PATTERSON, and died in Madera.

History of Fresno and Madera Counties, Winchell, 1933, p.320 has a biographical sketch, as follows: "Horace G. Macon is the tax collector of Madera county, and is the Nestor of county office holders, for he has held this same position since 1914. Chosen in that year, he has been elected altogether five times, the last four times without opposition. Mr. Macon is a native of Tennessee. He was born in Smith County in that state, March 14, 1868, the son of Daniel A. and Frances C. (Patterson) Macon. With his mother and two sisters and five brothers, he came to California in 1884 and settled at Borden, near the City of Madera, where his maternal grandfather, H. S. Patterson, was a noted resident. Mr. Patterson came to California in the Seventies, first settled at Modesto and subsequently moved to Fresno county in the district north of the San Joaquin River. For many years he was a farmer in the Arcola school district. Mr. Macon attended the local schools and then went to Heald's business college in San Francisco. He then took up ranching on the old Patterson home place, where he resided thirty years, until appointed tax collector. Mr. Macon attends the Presbyterian Church, and he is also a charter member of the Lions club at Madera. Mrs. Macon was Ida E. Elmore, born at Salida, Stanislaus County, California. The Macon's had four children. The eldest, Herbert E. Macon, was killed in action in France. He was a member of Company B of the 59th Infantry, Fourth Division, in which he ranked as corporal. The surviving children are: Viola (Mrs. Lloyd Boivin) of Long Beach, California; Lawrence, with the Pacific Telephone Company at Fresno; and Elton C. Macon, a deputy in the tax collector's office." The dictionary says Nestor is a venerable and wise old man, the word originating from the Homeric poems, a hero celebrated for his age and for the wisdom of his counsel.

Ida was listed in censuses as follows: 10 Jun 1880 in Stanislaus Co, California, age 8. 1 Jun 1900 in Madera Co, California, age 28, married 8 years.

Ida is shown in the church books of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Borden 1874-1905 as follows: 13 Feb 1887 "Removed to Salida" along with her sister Margaret and their mother Maggie. She was also listed as a communicant (no dates), between 6 Oct 1894 and 29 Mar 1902.

The book Madera County 1883-1993, p.99 says, "Later, the Westside School was built. It was also destroyed by fire in 1917. Because there was no high school, the need for higher education was great. A private school was formed called Miss Elmore's Academy." The book Madera, 1983, by Clough, p.65 says "The need for schooling beyond the ninth grade was also felt and was provided for by the private Elmore Academy until the Madera High School became a reality in 1894."

In 1871 Ida resided in Borden and then in Madera. About 1900 she helped her grandfather

*Elmore
family*

boy was stolen by the Indians in Virginia. Whose name was changed by those same Indians to fit his height? The ancestor who kept that Indian Name as his last for the rest of his life; the named passed down through the rest of his generations. I especially appreciate the stories about the ancestors who left everything to move west with a group of pioneers to a new land because of religious persecution and how they felt about that move. I appreciate that they took the time to write down their feelings and thoughts. Their views of history and the world around them.

These reflections brought me to a new level of understanding. The records may tell about me but do they explain me as a person. Do they explain my feelings and thoughts as I experience the history that will someday belong to my descendants? So with those thoughts in mind I have decided that I must take the time to write down my own feelings and thoughts. I want my descendants to know what happened to us as a family while Dan was in the military. I want my descendants to know of my struggles, hopes, and dreams. I want my descendants to know me Kathy Burrow the Person not Kathy Burrow the name on the page.

What has happened in my life that is of historical value and more importantly what has happened in your life that is of historical value? Are you willing to take the time to reflect, and then record your history for your family?

What type of questions came to mind as I tried this remembering process?

Where was I the day John F Kennedy was shot? I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing.

Where was I the day Man walked on the Moon?

When did my family receive our first television?

What was it like to have a phonograph player and 8 track tapes?

Where was my favorite place to hang out with my friends when I was a teenager?

When was the first time my family had McDonalds and the hamburgers were only 19 cents.

What is the cheapest I remember Gas being?

How did I feel the day we bombed Baghdad and the war with Iraq began.

Where was I on 9/11 and better yet what year was that?

Where was I when Katrina hit New Orleans and what did I do to help the thousands of homeless victims.

The more I find myself remembering the more I find myself wanting my descendants to know about me. Maybe it will be no more than a short notebook. Maybe I will be inspired to start a journal or write my life's history. Maybe I will decide to put it all on the computer or on a video. I don't know. But I do know this. I want my life to be remembered not just as facts on a piece of paper but also as a contributing human being in the fabric of the human race.



UNUSUAL TOWN NAMES:

Alabama: Burnt Corn, Intercourse, Muck City

Arizona: Boneyard, Carefree, Goobertown, Nothing, Why

California : Cool, Dunmovin, Frying Pan, Hells Kitchen, Secret Town

Kentucky: Bug, Busy, Monkey's Eyebrow, Oddville, Ordinary

Oregon : Boring, Half.com, Idiotville, Zig Zag

Texas: Black Jack, Cut n' Shoot, Ding Dong, Hoop and Holler

James Calvin Elmore at the post office in Borden where he was postmaster. Ida and Horace had the following children:

i. HERBERT ELMORE MACON (1893-1918) was born in Madera and died Jun 1918 in WWI, Battle of Marne, Alsace-Lorraine, (France), the first soldier from Madera killed in France, and VFW Post #1981 was named for him. His grave is in Arbor Vitae Cemetery, Madera. He was listed in the census taken 1 Jun 1900 in Madera Co, California, and age 6.

ii. VIOLA MACON (1898-1991) was born in Madera and died in Fresno, being interred in Oxnard, Ventura Co, California, Sunnyside Mausoleum, (no funeral). She married LLOYD CHARLES BOIVIN (1898-1965) in Madera in 1930. Lloyd was born in Madera and died in Oxnard, bring interred in Oxnard, Sunnyside Mausoleum.

Viola had no middle name. She was listed in the census taken 1 Jun 1900 in Madera Co, California, and age 1. In 1928 and for many years she was a teacher in Madera High School. In 1933 she resided in Long Beach, California; in 1982 in Laguna Hills, California; and also in 1982 in Seal Beach, California. From Dec 1984 to 1991 she resided in Fresno, her last address being San Joaquin Gardens. Viola and Lloyd had no children.

Viola's obituary in The Fresno Bee 10 Sep 1991 says, "Viola M. Boivin. Private family services will be held for Viola M. Boivin, 93, of Fresno. Mrs. Boivin died Saturday. She was a retired Madera Unified School District teacher. Stephens & Bean Chapel is in charge of arrangements."

iii. LAWRENCE HORACE MACON (1901-1970) was born in Madera and died in Fresno. He married ROMANA L. WELLS (1903-1980) in Wisconsin in 1928. Romana was born in Wisconsin and died in Madera, being interred in Fresno, Chapel of Light (memorial service, 11:30 at Stephens & Bean Chapel, Cline Jack officiating). In 1933 Lawrence worked for Pacific Telephone Company in Fresno.

Mrs. Ramana [Romana] Macon, CS [Christian Scientist], officiated at the funeral of her aunt Eva Mae Elmore on 13 Jan 1968.

The obituary in The Fresno Bee 16 Apr 1980 says, "Ramana [sic] Macon. Oakhurst--Services for Ramana L. Macon, 76, will be held Friday at 11:30 a.m. in the Stephens & Bean Chapel of the Light. Mrs. Macon died Monday. She was a native of Wisconsin. She had lived in Oakhurst six months and in California 55 years. She was a member of the Second Church of Christ Scientist and the Fresno Historical Society. Survivors include a son, Lawrence of Oregon; a daughter, Janet Garner of Oakhurst; six grandchildren and three great-grandchild. The family requests that any remembrance be sent to the Sierra Meadows Convalescent Hospital, 40131 Highway 49, Oakhurst 93644." In 1933 Lawrence worked for Pacific Telephone Company in Fresno.

iv. ELTON CHARLES MACON (1904-1981) was born in Madera and died in Oxnard. He married MARIE C. ZIRBES (1904-1974) in Fresno in 1937. She worked in the Madera County Election Department. Elton worked in the Madera County Tax Collector's office. They had no children. Marie died 3 Dec 1974 in an auto accident near the courthouse in Madera and was buried in Madera.

MARGARET LUCINDA ELMORE AND HENRY MARTIN COBBEY

MARGARET LUCINDA 'MAGGIE' ELMORE (1874-1968) was born in Salida and died in Bayside, Charlotte Co, New Brunswick, Canada, being buried in Fernhill Cemetery in St. John,

Charlotte Co, New Brunswick, Canada.

She married HENRY MARTIN 'HARRY' COBBEY (1897-post 1952) in Fresno in 1897 by Rev. J. E. Carpenter and witnesses were M. A. F. Roberts and Alice Elmore [her sister]. Harry was born in Griggsville, Pike Co, Illinois and died in Stamford, Fairfield Co, Connecticut, being buried in Stamford.

Harry was listed as a son-in-law on the census taken 8 Jun 1900 in Fresno, listed as Harry H. Maryn [sic], born in Illinois, age 25, married 3 years, salesman groc. with wife Margaret and daughter Hesta, in the household of his mother-in-law Margaret (Bounds) Elmore at 312 Blackstone Avenue. It is possible that he told the census taker that his middle name was Martin and the census taker wrote Maryn as his surname. Fresno City Directories say: 1900: Cobbey, H. M., Clerk, res. 1828 E [street]; 1901: Cobbey, Harry M., clk H. Graff & Co., r N nr Merced; 1903: Cobbey, Harry M., clk, H. Graff & Co., r 169 San Pablo Ave.

Maggie was listed in censuses as follows: 10 Jun 1880 in Stanislaus Co, California, age 6. 8 Jun 1900 in Fresno, Fresno Co, California, age 25, married 3 years, number of children 1, 1 child living, lived with husband and daughter in the household of her widowed mother Margaret (Bounds) Elmore at 312 Blackstone Avenue.

Margaret was listed as M. M. Elmore in the church book of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Borden, Madera Co, California 1874-1905. On 13 Feb 1887 she was "Removed to Salida" along with her mother Maggie and sister Ida. Margaret and her mother were "Transferred to Fresno Cong." (no date) between 26 Jul 1892 and 4 Nov 1893.

In 1894 to 1896 she was a teacher in Madera Co, California; certificates name her Maggie L. Elmore and Maggie Elmore, respectively. In 1897 and in 1917 she resided in Fresno. About 1930 she resided in Edmonds, Washington and later in Connecticut. In 1963 she resided in New Brunswick, Canada. Maggie and Harry had the following child:

i. HESTER MARGUERITE 'PEGGY' COBBEY was born in Fresno 26 Jun 1898 (birth record not found) and died 27 Sep 1980 in Pacific Grove, Monterey Co, California (cremated). She married BENJAMIN ROY 'BEN' CRISLER Jr. (1905-1982) in New York City, New York in the Little Church Around The Corner, 10 Jun 1929. Ben was born in Canton, Cherokee Co, Georgia, the son of Benjamin Roy CRISLER Sr. and Anne McAFFEE, and died in Pacific Grove, Monterey Co, California.

Ben's obituary is probably from the New York Times, which reads: "Benjamin Crisler, Journalist; New York Times Film Critic. Benjamin R. Crisler, a former film reviewer for The New York Times and a freelance journalist, died Sunday morning at his home in Pacific Grove, Calif. He was 77 years old and had lived in New York and, until his retirement 10 years ago, in Stamford, Conn. Mr. Crisler, a native of Canton, Ga., joined the city staff of The Times in 1932. He began to write about the cinema two years later and became a regular movie critic in the late 30's using the byline B. R. Crisler, before moving to the tabloid P.M. in 1940. After World War II, Mr. Crisler traveled in the United States and Europe as a chronicler of people and events. He also turned to literary criticism and, from 1954 to 1961, frequently contributed to The New York Times Book Review as a freelancer. Mr. Crisler's wife, the soprano Marguerite Cobbey, died in 1980. Surviving are two sons, B. Cobbey Crisler and Timothy E. R. Crisler, and two grandsons."

Peggy was listed on the census 8 Jun 1900 in Fresno, Fresno Co, California, as Hesta M., born Jun 1898 California, age 1, a granddaughter with her parents in the household of her grandmother

Margaret Matilda (Bounds) Elmore at 312 Blackstone Avenue.

She was called Marguerite, or Peggy during her high school years, but never Hester, and she was a Christian Scientist. Some of her addresses through the years were: Dec 1963 and July 1968, Broad Rivers, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada; Apr 1969, Redington Beach, Florida; Apr and July 1971, Ouray, Colorado (going back to Canada); Feb 1972 (at Ben's parents), Washington, Georgia; and Dec 1977, Pacific Grove, California.

A letter from the Metropolitan Opera Association, Lincoln Center, New York dated 18 Aug 1986 said they were unable to find any information about Marguerite Cobbey or Rita Kobi, her stage name. The New York Mecca Temple was then (1986) known as the City Center Theater in New York City, which was still an active performance space.

A letter from the Music Division, The New York Public Library, in Sept 1986 enclosed some photocopies of clippings and related Chaliapin's touring opera company programs. They stated that the obituary, which appeared 2 Oct 1980 in The New York Times, includes an error--it should read Feodor, not Boris Chaliapin. The letter further says that Marguerite Cobbey substituted for Elvira di Hidalgo in the opening night in New York City 9 Feb 1927 on two hours' notice and was very successfully reviewed for her role as Rosina in The Barber of Seville. She sang some other performances on the 1926-27 coast to coast tour. The other clippings are from the Boston Herald 7 Nov 1926 and the New York Herald Tribune 20 Feb 1927. The letter says also please note that Feodor Chaliapin was a Russian, not a Prussian, bass. They could find no evidence that Cobbey ever sang with the Metropolitan Opera although there is nothing to indicate that she never sang in the House itself. Today (1986) the Mecca Auditorium is known as the City Center--55th Street Theatre.

On 28 Jan 1984 this writer's family went to the Fresno Co Historical Society located at Kearney Mansion to see the opera gowns but they were not available for viewing. Her son Cobbey who donated the costumes said they were from Carmen and Rigoletto. When the 'Barber of Seville' was performed 5 Nov 1988 at the Saroyan Theatre in Fresno, this writer phoned the Historical Society and they wanted to display a gown in the lobby, but they said it needed repair and could not be prepared in time.

Following are some notes made when the family viewed a box of papers including news clippings, photos and programs: She was a coloratura soprano. In 1927 she lived at Route 2, Edmonds, Washington where her father was in real estate and they evidently had a small farm. Clippings from Seattle called her a Seattle girl, Fresno called her a Fresno girl, and her husband came from Atlanta, Georgia, so they claimed her, too. Clippings said she was a direct descendant of John and Priscilla Alden, her ancestors came from England on the Mayflower, and she was also a descendant of President John Adams. But this writer wonders if this was through her father, not through the Elmore ancestors. The Crislers were from Atlanta, Georgia. She wore an amethyst ring belonging to her grandmother; Peggy's niece Lorene (Golden) Dubel wondered if that was her Grandmother Pritchett's ring (through Elmore). Her debut was in 1926 in Hartford, Connecticut. Her mother Margaret (Bounds) Elmore was on the first train (family tradition says covered wagon) from Missouri and she came to California to marry. Her great uncle was Jefferson Elmore, professor of Stanford University, California. She started to study music at age 5. One clipping showed three photos of her at different ages, one as a child. One program called her RITA KOBİ. One clipping in a June 12, 1929 newspaper (New York?) and other clipping from Fresno Republican newspaper, erroneously hand-dated 6-1, told of the wedding. They were married 9:00 a.m. on 10 Jun 1929 at the Little Church Around the Corner in New York City. A separate letter from her son Cobbey said that she taught voice lessons in her later years.

The following obituary is probably from Pacific Grove, California. It could not be found in The Fresno Bee from 27 Sep 1980 to 8 Oct 1980. "Mrs. Marguerite Crisler, who passed on Saturday at her home in Pacific Grove, was a former operative coloratura soprano, born in Fresno, who gained considerable renown in the late Twenties under her maiden name of Marguerite Cobbey. After having appeared in 'Lucia di Lammermoor' and other operas in various Eastern cities, she was chosen by Feodor Chaliapin, the great Russian basso, to tour the United States with his own opera company in the prima-donna role of Rosina in 'The Barber of Seville'. This tour concluded with a triumphant appearance in New York's Mecca Temple, where she received enthusiastic acclaim from leading metropolitan critics, in contrast with the company as a whole, including Chaliapin himself, whose clownish make-up and kittenish antics were adjudged unworthy of Rossini's already comical masterpiece. In connection with this appearance--a series of three performances--Miss Cobbey also appeared in concert at the Metropolitan Opera House where again her vocal artistry was singled out for special acclaim. During her youthful years of training in Fresno, where she won many vocal contests and opportunities for public appearance, Miss Cobbey became a protégé of Madame Nellie Melba, Australia's great soprano. Although she was not allowed to accompany the famous singer to Australia, because of a German submarine scare at that time, Madame Melba did manage to correct the trend of her previous teaching and to set her on track vocally as a coloratura rather than lyric soprano. After her striking New York success in 'Il Barbiere,' Miss Cobbey was called for repeated auditions at the Metropolitan. Finally its manager, Gatti-Casazza, who had become somewhat leery of American soprano after his recent experience with Marian Talley, invited her to a still further European audition, but by this time Miss Cobbey declined because of other engagements. During this period, her concerts included appearances at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, with the Philadelphia Symphony under Alexander Smallens, and in a summer stadium series in Seattle, Washington. Meanwhile, Lily Ponds, of France, next season was chosen as successor to Galli Curci, former reigning coloratura at the Metropolitan. Through her father, Henry Martyn Cobbey, of Fresno, Miss Cobbey was a direct descendant of two American presidents, John Adams and John Quincy Adams. On her mother's side, her ancestry included the American explorer Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Shortly after her marriage in 1929, Miss Cobbey's singing career was abruptly terminated by the Wall Street crash. Though she was under contract to Columbia Broadcasting and on the verge of signing a one-film contract with Paramount Pictures, both contracts were cancelled due to depression conditions. After this she made no attempt to return to the concert or opera stage. She is survived by her husband, Benjamin R. Crisler, of Pacific Grove, and two sons, B. Cobbey Crisler, of Carmel, a Bible scholar and lecturer, and Timothy E. R. Crisler, a commercial art agent of New York City."

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY