

*Pamphlet File*

My father, Robert Bruce Wardlaw, born in Bleemfield, Davis Co., Iowa, Dec. 30, 1856 and died in Santa Ana, Calif., Nov. 19, 1933, came to California in 1875, and near L.A. worked for Capt. Clark, on a large grain ranch. Later he was employed at Downey, then went to Inyo County, Calif., and worked in the Medeck gold and silver mines for a year and a half. Upon returning to Los Angeles County, he rented a portion of the ranch of Jetham Bixby, where he lived and farmed for eighteen years, in the mean time having bought and sold land, later buying forty acres of the Bixby ranch.

He married Martha Eleanor Draper, born in Omaha, Nebraska, Feb. 15, 1861 and died in Santa Ana, Calif. Nov. 16, 1936. They were married Jan. 13, 1878, and lived near Downey and Las Cerritos where four of their children were born:--Robert, Stella, Ray, and Delbert. These articles were found in some old papers left by my sister, Stella Wardlaw Cheney, who died in Santa Ana, Calif., December 13, 1975, at the age of 94 yrs. She often spoke of her Uncle Jim Wardlaw who came to California and lived in their home for several years. He died Dec. 19, 1889 at the age of 27 yrs., and is buried in the old part of the Long Beach Cemetery on Signal Hill. The lot was bought at that time by my father, Robert Bruce Wardlaw, for the burial. It seems that part was called Cerritos Heights, and the burial ground was called American Colony Tract.

Just another part of the old history of Long Beach and probably why "Wardlaw Road" was named after my father, Robert Bruce Wardlaw, as they were among the first settlers in that part of the country.

Mr. James Wardlaw is at present writing very low. His recovery for the past two weeks has been despaired of. The Drs. pronounce his case the most peculiar on record. Yet they call it Erysipelas. He has the sympathy of the entire community. His suffering is great.

The Death of James G. Wardlaw was severely felt by relatives and by a wide circle of friends. He must have possessed some fine qualities of head and heart to have been so much esteemed. He was yet but a young man, being 27 years of age. Up to the time of the terrible attack, he was the picture of health, and noted for manly strength. He was faithful to friends, and true to every trust. Rev. R. M. Webster, of this city, officiated at the funeral, which was largely attended, a cortege of forty carriages following the remains to the grave, the grave being made in the burial ground near Cerritos Heights.

A Card of Thanks.

I desire, through the JOURNAL, to express my thanks, and the deep sense of the obligations I am under, to numerous kind neighbors and friends, for their attentions, their assistance, and their heart-felt sympathy, during the long illness, and at the death and burial of my beloved brother, James G. Wardlaw. These deeds of kindness and testimonials of regard in the day of affliction, will ever be held in dear remembrance.

BRUCE WARDLAW.

Mr. James Wardlaw, who was buried yesterday out on the American Colony Tract, had the largest funeral ever seen in these parts. "Jim" was a very popular and highly respected young man. His brother Bruce has the sympathy of the entire community.

To the Memory of James G. Wardlaw.

James G. Wardlaw died at the home of his brother, Mr. Bruce Wardlaw, in Cerritos Colony, Thursday morning, Dec. 19, 1889, of black erysipelas, after a long and painful illness.

Dear Friend, thou hast left us,  
Here thy loss we deeply feel;  
But it is God who hath bereft us,  
He will all our sorrows heal.  
Why should tears in sorrow flow  
When God recalls his own?  
Bidding them leave a world of woe  
For an immortal crown!  
Scourge from every mortal care,  
By sin and sorrow vexed no more,  
Eternal happiness he shall share;  
He is not lost, but gone before.  
His toils are past, his work is done,  
And he is fully blest.  
He has fought the fight, the victory won,  
And entered into rest.

PAJARITA.

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by J. M. Guinn, A.M.

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Chicago---1902.

My grandmother, Sylva M. Hemingway, Brooks, Draper, came to California in 1875. Her daughter, Melissa Brooks, had married William Clapp, and came ahead of the rest of the family to California, settling in Westminster, so that is where the whole family arrived in California. She later married a Mr. Keim.

She married a Mr. Brooks in the 1840's. They had five children: Nathan, Oliver, Ann, William and Melissa. After Mr. Brooks death, she married William S. Draper, who died June 1, 1876, and is burried in a soldiers grave in Davenport, Iowa. My mether, Martha Eleanor Draper Wardlow, was their only child.

It was my grandmother's sons and my methers half-brothers, William and Nathan Brooks, who first rode on horseback into Laguna and later homesteaded several acres of land. They lived there for many years with their families.

The Goff's were also early settlers in Laguna Beach, and good frænds of the family. This is a copy of the invitation sent to my grandmother by the Goffs, inviting her to their eldest sens wedding, Sept. 27, 1885. Also an article that was in the Feb. 1976 La Laguna Beach Community Historical Society paper.

*Mrs. Sylva Keim.*

*Mrs. and Mrs. M. O. Goff  
request the pleasure of your  
company at their wedding,  
7:30 p.m., Oct. 14, 1885, at  
the wedding of their eldest  
son, Mr. Amos Goff,  
to Miss Vera Hilbrand  
and of their eldest daughter,  
Miss Annie Goff, to  
Mr. James Lewis.*

*Laguna, Cal.,  
Sept. 27, 1885.*

CENTENNIAL

This is just a reminder that this is Laguna's Centennial year.

In May or June of 1876, Will Brooks rode through Laguna Canyon on horseback to what is now Laguna. He lived at Downey at the time and he was on a hunting trip.

In December of the same year, his brother Nate came through the canyon and then a few years later they homesteaded land in Laguna. Brooks St. was named for Nate.

There were Indians here when they came but no white people. — Genevieve Daniels