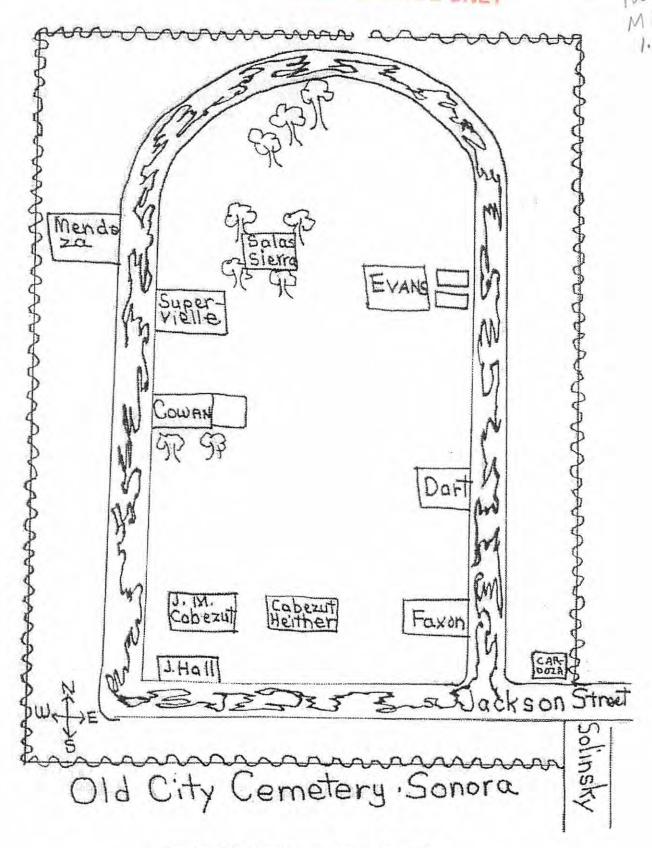
OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY



2



Drawing of Old City Cemetery, Sonora, California by Dythe-Mary Egleston, 2004

> ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HISTORY OF THE SONORA OLD CITY CEMETERY

by Dythe-Mary Egleston

Rising up on a ridge just east of Woods Creek and north of Sonora Creek, at the end of Jackson and Solinski Streets, lies what is now know as the Old City Cemetery in Sonora. Although the land was not formally annexed to the city until 1862, burials are said to have begun there with the beginnings of settlement, and may be documented from 1851. The earliest known stone, now barely readable, is that of M. **Mason**, born 1818, died 1851, aged 33¹.

The second know burial site is unmarked but has been identified as the grave of three of the children of George L. **Patrick** and his wife, Margaret Whilte **Means**. Patrick became the second mayor of Sonora. In 1850 he sailed from New Orleans with a group of men, crossed the Panama route, and settled in Sonora. Here he opened a store with John F. **Boyer**.

In 1853 Patrick sent for his family, then met them in order to escort them over Sonora Pass. The day before they reached Sonora, daughter Helen Amanda **Patrick**, aged 18, died. Three weeks later her brother, Richard Henry Lee **Patrick**, died. It is said that when the family carried him to the burial place, the mother looked down onto Sonora to see it in flames. On the 15th of July, 1854, Hannah Lee **Patrick**, aged 16 years, 11 months and 6 days, died. Family records say that the children were buried in the southern manner in a mounded grave surrounded by brick^{2,3}.

Edna Bryan **Buckbee** in *The Saga of Old Tuolumne* says that originally the cemetery land was covered with oak and pine trees and toyon berry bushes. These are now all gone except along the west fence. With annexation the land was laid out in plots and a record of the interments was kept by Charles **Burden**, the first city sexton.

During the mid-nineteenth century, an earlier city cemetery was in existence atop the hill at the corner of Barretta Street and Cemetery Road. Its perimeters may be seen on the 1872 **Beauvais-Dart** map of the city of Sonora, marked as the Old City Cemetery⁴. This cemetery no longer exists. It is said that remains from the Barretta Street cemetery were removed to the Jackson Street cemetery, but no evidence has been found of this.

Today there is no gate at the entrance to the cemetery. It appears from early newspaper items that ongoing problems with roaming cattle and swine caused the installation of turnstiles. As sites were sold and began to be used, curbings were emplaced. Often a marble family nameplate was placed on or near the steps to the entrance to the plot. Some fenced plots included the family name entwined in the ironwork gate. Trees and bushes were planted by families, who often visited on Sundays. Flumes and ditches provided irrigation before water was piped to the cemetery.

Over time the cemetery was outgrown and a third one was built. In 1917 burials were begun in the new city cemetery, Mt. Shadow, on Lyons-Bald Mt. Road. Today the Old City Cemetery is closed for burial, except to those who can establish descendency from an original plot owner, and if there is space in the plot.

Charles **Burden** is said to have been the first sexton of this cemetery, as well as an undertaker and the county coroner. He sold the plots, recorded the owners' names on a map and walked at the head of the funeral cortege with his high silk hat and his distinctive cane. Unfortunately, this map has disappeared.

In 1977, Ralph Hart **Tambs**, a member of the T. C. G. S., requested permission from the City of Sonora to survey, map and record the remains of this cemetery⁵. At that time the old wooden markers were mostly unreadable, as were many of the mortuary markers, particularly along the west fence. Mr. **Tambs** estimated that there were probably five hundred unidentifiable burials in this cemetery. He had hoped to gather information concerning the people buried there, but never achieve this goal.

From March through August, 2000, Thomas A. **Rasmussen** walked the cemetery and recorded his findings in his book, *Sonora's Old City Cemetery*. A copy of this work is in the T. C. G. S. library.

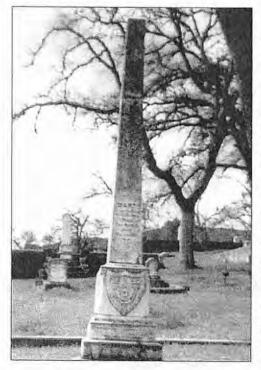
As a major focus, the T.C.G.S. has been involved in the collection of records of the people of Tuolumne County, particularly of their deaths and burials. In addition to those of **Tambs**,

NEIGHBORS IN LIFE - NEIGHBORS IN DEATH by Dythe-Mary Egleston

When you enter the Old City Cemetery in Sonora your eyes are immediately drawn to the multitude of magnificent marble stones that have survived the ravages of time.

North of the veterans' flagpole, within a fenced plot, soars a tapered marble shaft. It is seated on a square marble base emblazoned with the shield of the National Association of Veterans showing the four major battles of the 1846-1848 Mexican War. This is the grave marker of John Paul **Dart**.

A pioneer of Tuolumne County - surveyor and engineer - he was born December 9, 1824, in Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi,¹ and died November 23, 1891, in Sonora, Tuolumne County, California.²



Grave marker of John Paul Dart

Dart enlisted in the First Mississippi Rifles and served for one year. He returned to his home and worked as a surveyor until 1849 when he went west, traveling for eight months, crossing the Isthmus of Panama and arriving in San Francisco October 5, 1849. On April 28, 1850, he came to Tuolumne County where he mined in the Jacksonville area.³ The remainder of his life he devoted to mining and surveying. His voter registrations for 1870 to 1890 list him as a quartz miner.

He is best known for his maps of the area. He was elected county surveyor for 1876-77.4 Together with A. B. Beauvais, in 1872 Dart created the earliest surviving plat map of the city of Sonora. The restored original of this map hangs in the conference room of the Sonora City Hall. In 1875, Dart surveyed and platted a map of the Browns Flat Mining Association, which is displayed at the Carlo De Ferrari County Archives. In August, 1879 he published, from government surveys and mining records, a map of the principal quartz and gravel mines in Tuolumne County. A copy of this map can be seen and purchased at the Tuolumne County Museum in Sonora. Less well known were his surveys and map of

the Tuolumne River in 1882. It was his belief that this area could provide water for San Francisco, an idea which eventually led to the Hetch Hetchy project.⁵ His Sonora plat map has played a vital part in the preparation of this article.

Six months prior to his death Dart married Edith B. McTarnahan,⁶ daughter of John Carol⁷ and Sarah Caroline Hart McTarnahan, at Shaws Flat on April 18, 1891. Edith McTarnahan Dart's father and descendants of her sister, Carrie Skaggs, are also buried in the Dart plot, but Caroline's burial site is unknown.

John P. Dart, with several other men, is seen in the 1880 Federal Census for Sonora boarding in the household of Jose Maria Cabezut.

Moving to the western side of the central burial area of the Old City Cemetery, about three rows north of the Josiah Hall plot, is the family plot of Jose Maria Cabezut. The family name is worked into the wrought iron gate at the top of the entry steps. There are eight grave markers, the most prominent of which is that of J. M. Cabezut and his wife, Maria T. Ramirez. There are two matching unmarked foot stones. On the left side of the large stone is inscribed "Cesario Ramirez, died July, 24, 1897, age 54, Nat. Mexico." To the right are markers for Hilda Heither Pitcher as well as her daughter, Gloria Pitcher Olander and Gloria's husband, Roy H. Olander.

On a walk through the cemetery one is struck first by the variety and beauty of the grave markers and next by the diversity of the people buried here. This is truly a city cemetery - rich, poor, pioneers, veterans of back at least to the Mexican War. It is multi-racial, as were those early people who lived and worked in Sonora. Neighbors. Neighbors, indeed. If one visually walks through the streets and neighborhoods depicted on the 1872 **Beauvais-Dart** map, they are found living and working side by side, as they are found buried in their cemetery.

It was the wish of Hart **Tambs** to record something of the lives of these people. The following vignettes depict some of their stories.

Ed. note: Dythe-Mary Egleston is our resident cemetery expert at the T.C.G.S. library. It is her diligent efforts over the years that is enlarging our records of the people buried in this cemetery.

Notes:

- 1. Ralph Hart Tambs survey and map of the Historic City Cemetery, Sonora. Copy on file T.C.G.S. library.
- 2. Records and obituaries in Patrick family file, held at TCGS Library, Sonora, CA
- 3. Buckbee, Edna Bryan, Saga of Old Tuolumne, 1935, p 404
- 4. Beauvais-Dart Map, Sonora 1872. The restored original hangs in the Sonora City Hall Conference Room.
- 5. Tambs, Ralph Hart, Survey and Map of the Historic [Old] City Cemetery, Sonora. Copy on file at TCGS Library.

෨෨෨෨෨෨෨෨෨

HANSON'S TEN RULES FOR USING INDEXES

James Hansen is a reference librarian of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. He has been a lecturer at many national genealogical conferences.

- 1. An index is only an index. It is not a substitute for the records being indexed.
- 2. The larger the size of the index, the more easily pertinent listings are overlooked.
- 3. In a given record, any vowel may at any point be substituted for any other vowel.
- 4. Virtually every pre-WWII record, in whatever form we see it today, originated as an attempt by an individual to put on paper what he or she thought was heard.
- 5. There is no perfect indexing system.
- 6. It doesn't matter how you spell your name, it only matters how the indexer spelled it.
- 7. Just because an index is described as complete or comprehensive, doesn't mean it is complete or comprehensive.
- 8. If you haven't found it in an index, you can only conclude that you haven't found it in an index. You can not conclude that it's not in the record.
- 9. The index isn't always at the back of the book.
- 10. Sometimes it is best to ignore the index altogether. (Contra Costa G. S., v. 14, n. 12, Dec. 1999-G. S. Western PA)

Hilda Pitcher was a granddaughter of Simon Cabezut, brother of Jose Maria.

Jose Maria/Joseph Cabezut, said to have been of French and Spanish parentage, was born March 19, 1830, in Sinaloa, Mexico. He died March 25, 1895, in Sonora.⁸ He had arrived in California in May, 1849, and in Sonora in June of the same year. He mined during the summer, went to San Jose for the winter and returned in April, 1850 to Sonorian Camp, the original name of the settlement, where he operated a food store from a canvas tent.⁹ After the fire of 1852, he purchased a French restaurant on Washington Street and re-established his home on Linoberg Street. He was a member of the Pioneers of Tuolumne County and an officer of the Mexican Benevolent Society.¹⁰ On September 4, 1871, he became a citizen of the United States.¹¹ During his lifetime he bought, sold and rented various properties throughout the city of Sonora. Some of these can be seen on the 1872 Beauvais-Dart map. At this time he owned Cabezut Hill, later Knowles Hill, which stretched from Sonora Creek to the I. O. O. F. Cemetery. At his death¹² he owned a city block between Washington and Green Streets from Linoberg Street south to his restaurant.

J. M. Cabezut married Maria T. Ramirez, who was born ca 1831 in Mexico and died May 24, 1895, in Sonora.¹³ On May 25, 1857, their only child, Madeline, was born. She was baptized Magdalina, daughter of Joseph Cavesa and Maria Ramirez.

at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Sonora.14

Madeline became an accomplished pianist and was known for her beautiful Mexican embroidery. She married on February 9, 1891. John Henry Neale, who was born December 17, 1833, in New York and died November 2, 1913.15 In 1880, he was among the boarders in the Cabezut household. His gravestone in the Cabezut plot stands between the gravestone and the footstones, a position that seems to indicate that it has been moved from its original position. During his lifetime Neale owned, or served as superintendent for, several mines in the county. In 1860, he built the tunnel under Table Mountain in the old Montezuma Mine. He and others located prehistoric artifacts beneath the lava flow. In 1898, he was an officer for the county at the Golden Jubilee Celebration and State Mineral Exposition in San Francisco, and three years earlier had been the county's commissioner in charge of the mineral display at the Midwinter Fair in San Francisco.¹⁶

Madeline and John Neale had no children of their own. The 1900 Federal Census for Sonora shows an adopted child, Ruth, living with them, whose name appears in no other record. Sometime later a young girl, Ellen Fitzgerald, came to live with them. She remained in the home until Madeline's death.



Madeline Cabezut Neale

The county Recorder's Office shows that Madeline Neale, in November 1914, sold to Ellen Fitzgerald, for love and affection and \$11, all of Lot 4, Block 37, (see 1872 Beauvais/Dart map of Sonora) as well as all household furniture, including a piano, tools and other personal property, excepting only her personal property, and reserving a life estate in said property.¹⁷ In her later life, Madeline Cabezut Neale was confined to a wheelchair. She died May 19, 1937, and was buried in the City Cemetery.¹⁸ There is no record of her burial in either the old or the new city cemetery, but I believe that the unreadable mortuary marker next to the Cabezut stone indicates the burial site of Madeline Cabezut Neale.

Directly east of the J. M. Cabezut plot is an unmarked plot, which was identified by Hart Tambs as the Cabezut-Heither plot. In the center is the gravestone of Carmen Cabezut Heither.¹⁹ She was the first child of Simon Cabezut, brother of Jose Maria, and Maria Dominga Castagno. Born July 16, 1851, Carmen is said to have been the first white child born in Sonora.²⁰

9

Family history says that in 1848 Simon **Cabezut** and a group of men and women from Sinaloa, Mexico, drove a herd of cattle from Durango up through Sonora, Mexico to the Gila River in Alta California. On arrival in the Mother Lode they mined for awhile, and several of them settled along the Arroyo de Sonora. Where Simpson Terrace is now located, Simon and Dominga established a cattle ranch, dairy and fruit orchard. It was there that their children grew up. The marriage certificate of Simon **Cabezut** and Dominga **Castana** shows that they were both from Sinaloa and were married in Sonora by a Catholic clergyman on November 18, 1858.²¹ Simon was naturalized as an American citizen September 6, 1870.²² He died December 9, 1890 and was buried in St. Patrick's Courtyard Cemetery.²³ When that cemetery was closed in 1900, many were removed to the new Mt. View Catholic Cemetery on Lyons-Bald Mountain Road. Others were moved to the Old City Cemetery and other places.

The number of children born to this couple is difficult to establish.²⁴ Several died young. Names are found in English, Spanish, Catholic Church Latin, and possibly some French variations. Following Carmen were Nomonie (male), born ca 1848; Beatrice, born ca 1857;



Kate Cabezut

Yupoldi/Leopoldo Dario, born December 17, 1857, baptized August, 1858; Maria Guadalupe, born December 12, 1859, baptized in Hornitos, Mariposa County October 14, 1860; Stephanie, born November 26, 1861, baptized August 22, 1862; Maria Guadalupe, born April 18, 1863, baptized September 29, 1863; born ca Katie: Victoria 1869; Simon C .: Leonora/Leona/Lorna, died in Modesto, Stanislaus County July 11, 1891 and Servais/Sebastian born March, 1879. At Simon Cabezut's death three sons and four daughters were said to have been living.25

Leopoldo Dario **Cabezut** appears in the 1890 California Voter Registration Index, residing at the New Hope Mine in Mariposa County.²⁶ Later the family acquired ranch land there. He married first, in 1872, Victoria (No Last Name-NLN). Their children were Leopoldo, born 1883, died 1923; Raymond, 1884; Carmen, 1886; Simon and Louisa, 1890; Joseph, 1892; Dominga, 1894; baby born and died 1895. With his second wife, Savania (NLN), whom he married in 1897, Leopoldo had Isabel, 1897; Delida, 1899; Florenco, 1901, died 1917; Tiofila, 1903; Renaldo, 1905; Gilberto, 1908; Leonora, 1910. There are descendants of this family living in the area at the present time.²⁷

Carmen, the first child of Simon and Dominga Cabezut, worked as a young woman in her Uncle Joseph's restaurant. In her widowhood, she toiled long hours as a seamstress creating beautiful wedding dresses.²⁸ In addition to her own children, she provided a home for her brother, Sebastian, and her grandson, Matthias **Heither**, Jr.

Matthias **Heither** and Carmen **Cabezut** were married April 30, 1878, in Sonora.²⁹ Little is known about Matthias. The 1890 Voter Registration for Soulsbyville shows him as a miner, born in England and naturalized in a Nevada County District Court on October 24, 1875. Family history says he died in a mining accident.

Found among family memorabilia after Carmen **Heither**'s death on August 19, 1941 was a C. H. Burden Undertaking Company memorial book. In it are recorded Carmen's birth and death dates, the names of her parents, surviving siblings, her children and grandchildren. Also included are lists of those who came to visit, sent flowers, and attended her services, and an obituary from the *Stockton Record*. The Dardanelles Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West conducted graveside services following a memorial mass at St. Patrick's Catholic Church.³⁰

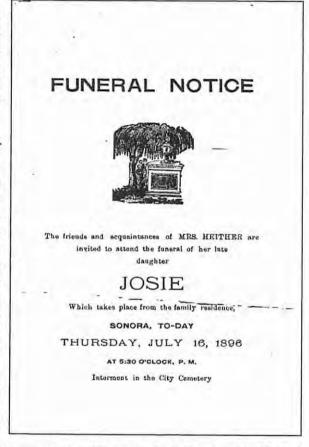
The Heither family does not appear anywhere in the U.S. Federal 1880 census. In the 1900

census of Sonora, they had seven children, six of whom were living. The first child's name is unknown. Then followed Dolores, Mary, Mathias, Josie, Hilda and Leone/Nonnie. In the family plot there is a stone showing only the name Dominga, 1879-1945. This name does not appear in the 1900 census or as a surviving child in Carmen's memorial book, though her gravestone gives her death as 1945. It is likely that Dominga was Carmen and Matthias' first child, named after Carmen's mother. Dolores Heither **Sullivan** is listed as a daughter in the memorial book.³¹ Daughter Mary, born in November, 1883, appears in the 1900 census, but not in the memorial book. One of these two girls is probably the mother of Heither **Bell**, Dorothy **Wilson** and Phyllis **Russell**, all of San Francisco, who are listed as Carmen's grandchildren in her obituary in a Sonora newspaper.

Carmen and Matthias **Heither's** son, Matthias Herbert, born June 29, 1885 died November 28, 1961 at Stockton in San Joaquin County.³² His son, Matthias, Jr., lived with his grandmother during his teen years. Both he and his father appear in the memorial book.

A newspaper item states that a daughter, name unknown, was born to the wife of Matthias **Heither** on January 29, 1888. Among Carmen's papers is a printed notice of the death of Josie, daughter of Carmen **Heither**, on July 16, 1896, burial to be at the Old City Cemetery.³³ At this time newspapers were published weekly so death and funeral notices were posted around town and delivered to people especially invited to the services. C. H. **Burden** records show the death of a daughter of Carmen **Heither**, age eight years.

Hilda **Heither**, born April 19, 1889, died in 1986.³⁴ She married Frank **Pitcher**, possibly from New York. Their daughter, Gloria, was born in San Francisco. Hilda appears as a daughter in the 1900 Federal Census and in the memorial book.



Lenore/Nonnie/Nonetta **Heither** was born in May 1892, and died October 7, 1969 in Berkeley. Her first marriage, on July 12, 1916, was to John Arthur **Morse**.³⁵ The service was held at St. Patrick's Parish House, followed by a wedding supper at her mother's home. Her sister, Hilda, was a witness. The couple set up residence in the apartments of Mrs. Josie **Keefe**.³⁶ They had one child, Robert Arthur, who was baptized at St. James Episcopal Church in Sonora. He is listed as a grandchild in Carmen **Heither**'s memorial book. Found in the St. James Episcopal Church family records is Mrs. Phillip **Keefe**, a widow, and Lenore **Heither**. A note states that Lenore was raised by Mrs. **Keefe**. Lenore's second marriage, prior to her mother's death, was to William **Stratton**. The gravestones of Lenore and William **Stratton** are in the Cabezut-Heither plot.

The years between 1890 and 1900 were difficult for the Heither family, with the death of Carmen's father, her husband, and her daughter, Josie. Then on July 4, 1898, her house and that of her neighbor, Mrs. **Supervielle**, burned to the ground. A skyrocket which struck the roof of the Heither house passed through, exploded in the attic and quickly spread. Despite the efforts of Sonora Engine Companies 1 and 2, the fire also partially destroyed the Neale house next door, and the Rudorf house across the street. Only the Neale house was insured.³⁷ The Heither house was rebuilt and stands today.

The youngest son of Simon and Dominga Cabezut, Seavis/Servais/Sebastian, was born

December 20, 1877. His mother died when he was three weeks old. After the death of his father in 1890, he lived with his sister, Carmen **Heither**. He peddled milk at \$2 a month, worked as a teamster for the Chamberlain flour mill [originally the Sidney Smith mill] on the corner of Stockton and Linoberg Streets, and drove teams for William J. **Hales**.³⁸ On December 6, 1901, Sebastian married Amelia Laura **Bacigalupi**.³⁹ She was born on Bacigalupi Hill in Columbia, a daughter of Antone and Mary **Bacigalupi**. Sebastian and Laura moved to San Francisco after their marriage, where he worked as a teamster and their three daughters, Elayne, Lois and Audrey, were born. Laura died and was buried in San Francisco in January 1949.⁴⁰ Sebastian may have remarried after Laura's death.

In 1912 Sebastian had transferred his membership in the Tuolumne Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West to the Castro Parlor in San Francisco. In addition to his home in San Francisco he owned a prune and walnut orchard in Santa Rosa. Although very ill when he was contacted in 1947 by C. P. **Jones** of *The Banner* of Sonora for information about his father and Uncle Joseph, he lived until February 1960, when he died in Santa Rosa.⁴¹

Among those sending flowers to Carmen Heither's funeral were Tillie Bachman, Mrs. Jessie Hackett, Mrs. Josie Keefe, Mrs. Mary R. Guerena and Ynez Meyers/Myers. Clotilda "Tillie" Bachman was the oldest daughter of John Thayer Faxon and Evarista Lopez.⁴²

The Faxon plot is just east of the Cabezut-Heither plot. There may have been a fence around it at one time. Today the curbings and the marble nameplate at the top of the steps are so covered with moss that it will soon be unreadable. The only gravestone remaining today is that of Lucia **Faxon** and her husband, William Lewis.

The Faxon house was located west of that of the Heither's, near the confluence of Woods and Sonora Creeks, close to the first bridge. It was untouched when the Heither house burned, but burned later, and afterward the property passed into the hands of the Rotelli family. This property is shown on the 1872 Beauvais-Dart map in the name of Evarista Faxon.

John Thayer Faxon, born ca 1827 in Massachusetts, was first recorded in the area in the 1850 Federal Census in Township 1, and also in the 1856 California State Census with Frederic Faxon, an older brother, as merchants in Murphy's, Calaveras County.⁴³ The 1860 Federal Census shows both of them in Sonora, John T. as a miner, and Frederic as a pharmacist. Frederic was last seen in the records in 1881.⁴⁴ John T. served as constable in Township 1, the Sonora area, in 1878 and 1880.⁴⁵ He died March 14, 1889⁴⁶ and is buried in the family plot in the Old City Cemetery. Evarista Lopez was born in Mexico, and died sometime between February 1875, when their last child was born, and 1880, when her name did not appear with the family on the census. The Faxons had a least six children, all born in Sonora: Rosendo A., Clotilda E., John C., Eugenia, Charles A., and Lucia V. Faxon.

A son, Rosendo Alvin Faxon, born ca 1859,⁴⁷ died September 8, 1896,⁴⁸ and is buried in the family plot. He was an amalgamator, extracting gold from the crushed ore in a stamp mill. He married Katherine Heald/Herald from Calaveras County. They had a daughter, Evarista Faxon, who married William Taylor/Tyler;⁴⁹ and possibly a son, Eugene R. Faxon, aka Rose or Larose. A Rose Faxon appears in the 1900 Federal Census, employed as a waiter. His death notice names him Larose. C. H. Burden records show him as Eugene R. Faxon, who died at age 28 on May 9, 1912, and is buried in the City Cemetery. Katherine Heald Faxon Johnson died in January, 1936 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Evarista Taylor/Tyler, in Oakland.⁵⁰

Clotilda E. Faxon was born March 29, 1861, and baptized at St. Patrick's Catholic Church April 21, 1861.⁵¹ In the 1900 Sonora census, she is head of a household, which included two younger brothers, John and Charles, and a sister, Lucy. She was a seamstress. On September 2, 1903, she married in Sonora, Penrose Frank **Bachman**, a tailor.⁵² The Bachmans had no children. Clotilda was a charter member of the Sonora Native Daughters of the Golden West and a member of the Rebekah Lodge. She died May 28, 1947, and was buried next to her husband in the Old City Cemetery.⁵³

John Cerilo Faxon was born July 9, 1862, and baptized at St. Patrick's Catholic Church August 13, 1862. He married Emma E. Renner and moved to Humboldt County.⁵⁴ Their children were John L., Adeline, Lizzie, Charles Henry and Lawrence. Charles Henry married Mabel M. Gibbons, daughter of William Austin Gibbons and Maud Crichton, at St. James

Episcopal Church in Sonora. The children of Charles Henry Faxon and Mabel Marguerite Gibbons: Marion May and Charles Crichton Faxon, were baptized at St. James Episcopal Church.⁵⁵ This family resided in Tuolumne County while Charles Henry was employed at the Hetch Hetchy Project.⁵⁶ Clotilda Faxon Bachman's obituary lists a nephew, Charles Faxon, and two unidentified nieces living in El Cerrito.

Eugenia Faxon was born and baptized May 16, 1864.⁵⁷ She probably died as an infant as there is no further record of her.

Charles A. **Faxon**, born in November, 1871, died April 6, 1902, and is buried in the Sonora IOOF Cemetery.⁵⁸ According to the census, he was living, age 21 and unmarried, in the household of his sister, Clotilda **Faxon**, in 1900.

Lucia/Lucy **Faxon**, the youngest child of John T. and Evarista, born in February, 1875,⁵⁹ died about September 5, 1922.⁶⁰ In Sonora, on December 22, 1900, she married William Lewis.⁶¹ They moved to Pope Valley near St. Helena, where she died of appendicitis. In addition to her husband, her sister, Clotilda **Bachman**, was present at the time of her death. Her funeral was held from the Bachman home under the direction of the Dardanelle Parlor, Native Daughters of the Golden West and the Sierra Rebekah Lodge. Lucia and William Lewis are buried in the family plot in the Old City Cemetery. They appear to have had no children.

At the Carlo De Ferrari Archives, in Probate Estate record #12 dated December 14, 1870, John T. Faxon petitioned the Probate Court of Tuolumne County for guardianship of the estate of Rosendo F., age 11; Clotilda, 9; and John Faxon, 8. John T. stated that, by the will of E. G. L. Faxon, deceased, late of Chicago, Illinois, the above minors received \$500 each and that he was the father of these minors. On December 21, 1870, E. Faxon, mother, and Frederic Faxon, uncle, of said minors, as the only relatives other than their father, residing in the state, gave consent to this petition, signed Evarista L. de Faxon and Frederic Faxon.

Among those sending flowers to the funeral service of Carmen Heither were two daughters of Pierre/Peter Supervielle and Candelaria Nunez, Mrs. Jessie Hackett and Mrs. Josie Keefe.⁶² Pierre Supervielle was born in France ca 1818, and died in Sonora November 30, 1887.⁶³ Candelaria Nunez Supervielle was born in Mexico and died in Sonora January 11, 1900.⁶⁴ The Supervielle plot in the Old City Cemetery is inscribed "Father," "Mother," "Brother,"

"Josephine," "Lollie," "Florence" and "P. Dharboure, who died 12 September, 1892, aged 71 years." All of the stones except that of Pierre **Dharboure**, appear to have been made at the same time. Only the etching of Lollie's name appears to have been made by a different hand.

Pierre Supervielle is first seen in the 1850 census. residing at Labatorre's Camp on what is now Green Street. He was a member of the Pioneers of Tuolumne County. For many years he owned and operated a grocery store in downtown Sonora. Together with his partner, Pierre Dharboure, also a Frenchman, he bought, sold and managed numerous mining claims. particularly in the Tuttletown area. These are listed in the research records of Mary Grace Paquette in the Tuolumne County Historical Society archives. It is said that over the years they made and lost more than one fortune. Pierre and Candelaria also bought, sold and rented various parcels of property in Sonora. The Beauvais-Dart map show that Lot 10, Block 30, later the Opera Hall property, was claimed by Candelaria Supervielle. In 1874, the city clerk transferred adjoining Lot 11 to Pierre Supervielle. This lot was sold to Jessie Loghery (sic) April 25, 1876, for "\$100 in gold coins." In November 1876, Jessie sold this lot for



Jessie L. Supervielle

the same amount of money.65

The Supervielles had five children, all born in Sonora. Jessie was born in November, 1855.⁶⁶ She first married Robert Walker Laughery⁶⁷ on June 26, 1875. Robert Laughery, age 41, born in Pennsylvania, a teamster; his wife, Jessie, age 25, born in California, father born in France, mother born in Mexico; and two children, Joseph, four, and Sadie, two, appear in the 1880 US Federal Census in Sonora.

Abutting the Supervielle plot on the north is one plot marked Laughery. There are no grave markers, and no burial records for this plot have been found. Robert W. Laughery died October 7, 1888 of consumption.⁶⁸ In the 1900 census, Jessie Laughery, seamstress, is a widow. Also in the household is her son, Joseph R., a grocery clerk. She married a second time to Mr. Hackett, and moved to Gustine in Stanislaus County. Various newspaper articles indicate that Jessie Supervielle Laughery Hackett lived until 1936.

Michael, the second Supervielle child, born in 1857, was baptized Feliz Miguel at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, mother, Candelaria **Nunez**, father not listed until a later date. He attended school in Sonora and was reported in the local newspaper to be an outstanding student. He worked as a blacksmith and did not marry. Michael died in Sonora September 22, 1883, at 26 years of age.⁶⁹



Josephine Supervielle Keefe

Josephine/Josie, baptized Marie Francis Josephine, was born and baptized March 4, 1862.⁷⁰ She married on November 5, 1884 Phillip M. Keefe, son of Charles and Vicenta Villanueva Keefe, of Sonora.⁷¹ The original spelling of this family name was Keeffe. The 1900 US Federal Census in the Sonora central enumerates Phillip district, Keefe, born California, no occupation; his wife, Josephine, 38, a music teacher; his sister-in-law, Laura, 26, a teacher. Josie was an excellent pianist, often giving concerts and accompanying visiting musicians. Her picture appears in Dr. Mary Grace Paquette's book.72 Both Josie and her sister, Laura, were active in community affairs, becoming members of the Manzanita Literary Club, a forerunner of the public library.⁷³ They were received into the St. James Episcopal Church and were active members.74 Various newspaper articles show these sisters traveling to Stockton and San Francisco to shop and visit friends. It appears that Josephine and Phillip had no children.

Florence/Florentina **Supervielle**, born and baptized December 30, 1866, died January 15, 1900, age 33, at Quartz Mountain in Tuolumne County.⁷⁵ Prior to her marriage July 20, 1892 to

Albert **Trittenback**,⁷⁶ she qualified as a second grade teacher and obtained a position at Green Springs. She also taught at Curtis Creek and soon became a school principal.⁷⁷ The Trittenbacks had two sons, Phillip born in June, 1894, and Albert, born in July, 1899. In 1900, Albert alone was living with his two sons, and a housekeeper, Mrs. **Ralston**, who had one child.⁷⁸ By 1910, as listed in the Tuolumne County Marriage Records, Albert had married Clarissa A. **Ralston**, and the family had moved to Tuttletown, where they remained. Albert **Trittenback** died suddenly of a heart attack on February 19, 1920, and was cremated in Stockton.⁷⁹ Clarissa Ann **Trittenback** died, at age 85, on April 7, 1946,⁸⁰ and she is buried in an unmarked plot in the upper part of the Old City Cemetery. Preliminary investigation indicates that individuals buried here are all Ralston descendants.

In June, 1936 word was received in Sonora that Albert **Trittenback**, son of Albert and Florence, and nephew of Mrs. Josie **Keefe**, had died of pneumonia at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Jessie Supervielle **Hackett**, in Gustine. Services were held at Newman with cremation at Stockton. He left his brother, Phillip, of San Francisco, and stepmother, Mrs. Clarissa Trittenback, of Tuttletown.⁸¹

Laura/Lollie, was the youngest child of Pierre Supervielle and Candelaria Nunez. In 1892, she became a teacher and taught for many years at Moccasin Creek. She died June 15, 1910 in San Francisco. She was dearly loved and sorely missed by her students and many friends.⁸²

Candelaria Nunez Supervielle and Ynez Nunez Mendoza were probably sisters. They shared the same name, lived near each other and were buried close to each other. The daughters of Candelaria, Jessie and Josie Supervielle attended the Mendoza-Guerena funerals. The only mention of a Cabezut-Heither-Guerena connection is contained in the obituary of Frank Louis Guerena, which lists cousins Mrs. Jose Keefe and Mrs. Carmen Heither among his survivors.⁸³ Mary R. Guerena, who attended the funeral of Carmen Heither, was a daughter of Frank and Ynez Nunez Mendoza.⁸⁴

Francisco/Francis Joseph/Frank **Mendoza** was born in the Portuguese Azore Islands. He came around Cape Horn to California in 1848, and arrived in Sonora April 1, 1849. He was a charter member of the Society of Pioneers, organized in 1861, and was, at his death on November 17, 1918, the last living member. He was also a member of Sonora's first fire company. He was naturalized May 5, 1870. For several years he mined in the Robinson's Ferry area and later worked as a gardener and laborer.⁸⁵ His wife, Ynez/Agnes Agustin Nunez,⁸⁶ was born ca 1829 and died May 18, 1905.⁸⁷ She had a son from a previous relationship, Juan Leonzo Arena, born 1856, died 1922. He lived for some time in Bakersfield. Family records list him as a step-son. The top of his tombstone is marked "Brother."⁸⁸ Frank, Ynez, and Juan are buried in the Mendoza plot in the Old City Cemetery.

Frank and Ynez Mendoza had four children, one son and three daughters. Augustine, born 1850, died in 1891.⁸⁹ His stone, in the same plot, is also marked "Brother." Daughter Mary, born November 9, 1863, was baptized Maria Rosario January 1, 1864, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, and died May 18, 1942, in San Francisco.⁹⁰ On January 28, 1887, she married Louis A. **Guerena**,⁹¹ who was born July, 1853 in Mexico, and died in San Francisco in 1919.⁹² He was a saloon keeper in Sonora.⁹³ They built a Victorian home on Lot 9, Block 30, next to the old Opera House.⁹⁴ Their son, Frank Louis **Guerena**, graduated from Stanford University. He was accidentally killed while hunting in Mariposa County while accompanied by his son, Frank Louis, Jr., his nephew, Alan Meyers/Myers, and a cousin, Phillip D. Roberts.⁹⁵ Ynez B., daughter of Frank and Mary **Guerena**, was born in November, 1887 in Sonora⁹⁶ and married Edwin Meyers/Myers. They lived in San Francisco, but are buried with their son, Edwin Allen Meyers/Myers, Jr., in the Old City Cemetery.⁹⁷ Louis and Mary Mendoza **Guerena** are also buried in the same cemetery.⁹⁸

Melinda, the second daughter of Frank and Ynez Mendoza, was born December 4, 1866 and baptized Erlinda June 20, 1867 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. They had a third daughter, Lucy, birth date unknown. These two girls moved to Winnemucca, Nevada, where they married respectively, W. P. Roberts, and W. S. Bonnifield.⁹⁹

When the Mexican Benevolent Society was organized in October, 1869, elected officers included Jose Maria **Cabezut**, Ignacio **Carbajal** and Herculino **Sierra**.¹⁰⁰ The 1880 census shows Ignacio **Carbajal** and his wife living next to Jesus **Salas** in the district known as El Tigre, near Lyons Street. The Salas-Sierra plot is one of the largest in the Old City Cemetery. It is fenced, with four large trees growing around it, three at corners and one near the center. A large ornate memorial stone in the center faces the gate. On the front is inscribed, "Amanda Salas 9/13/1836-9/21/1898 native of Mexico," below "Jesus **Salas** 12/24/1834-9/3/1892," and on the south side, "Hercules **Sierra** 4/3/1874-8/21/1908." There is no record of Carbajal burials in the cemetery.

Amanda Salas and Manuel Covarubias were the parents of Theresa Cavorubias,¹⁰¹ born October 7, 1853 in San Francisco and died November 23, 1913,¹⁰² who married Herculino Sierra.¹⁰³ Jesus Salas was probably Amanda's sister. They appear together in the 1870 census. The 1880 census shows the family of Herculeno Sierra, age 46, born in Mexico, a tailor; his wife, Theresa, 27, born in California, and children, Pablo, age 6; Herculeno, 4; and Andrew, 1. This Andrew probably died young. The 1900 census shows that Theresa, now a widow, has eight children. In addition to Paul and Herculeno, there are Jesse, born January, 1881; Amanda, born August, 1882; and Andrew, born 1879. Near the west fence of the Salas-Sierra plot are three small stones, either footstones or children's stones, marked "H. S., A. S. and J. S." Also buried here are Paul (Pablo), who died March 10, 1934.¹⁰⁴ Jesse (Tete) died March 8, 1941,¹⁰⁵ and Andrew James died February 27, 1902 in Tucson, Arizona.¹⁰⁶ Near the gate in front of the monument is an unreadable mortuary marker. This is probably the burial site of Theresa Covarubias Sierra.¹⁰⁷

Jesus **Camacho**, who lived next door to the Sierras, is also buried in the Old City Cemetery. He was 39 years old when he came to Sonora from Mexico. He died February 19, 1911. Services were held at the home of Mrs. Theresa **Sierra**.¹⁰⁸ Prior to his death he deeded his property to Mrs. Julia **Ralston** and to members of the Sierra family, who had been his close friends. On coming to Sonora, he opened a cobbler's shop near what later became Lyons Street, where he made shoes for miners. When other shoemakers began to compete, he turned to his first love, fashioning dancing slippers for the ladies of the community. One ounce of gold purchased one pair of slippers. Occasionally, when the demand became too great, he "vacationed" in the Long Tom Saloon and Gambling House. Jesus **Camacho** became a citizen, and voter registration records show that he was five feet three inches tall.¹⁰⁹ It is possible that he too is buried in the Sierra plot.

of the Municipal Water Department and Hetch Hetchy System (San Francisco Water and Power), p. 23. ⁶ Index to Tuolumne County Marriages, 1875-1910 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society).

⁷ TUOLUMNE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY query file, John Carol McTarnahan.

⁸ Death Certificates - Records of Deaths, 1894-1908, MF 5 1305260; *Tuolumne Independent* obituary March 30, 1895.

⁹ Lang, History of Tuolumne County, p. 376.

¹⁰ Edna Bryan Buckbee, Saga of Old Tuolumne, p. 245 (New York; The Press of the Pioneers, Inc. 1935)

¹¹ Tuolumne County Court Records Minutes, September 4, 1872, Vol C, p. 429.

- ¹² Death certificate Jose Maria Cabezut, copy at the Tuolumne County Genealogical Society library.
- ¹³ C. H. Burden Burial Records, 1890-1953 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society), p. 22

¹⁴ St. Patrick's Catholic Church Baptismal Records, Tuolumne County Genealogical Society library, translated from Latin by Kate Pruente, Tuolumne County Genealogical Society member.

¹⁵ Birth date on tombstone, Old City Cemetery; Marriage date, Tuolumne County Marriages, V4, p. 271; Death date, C. H. Burden Burial Records, p. 22

¹⁶ "Tuolumne County Mineral Wealth", Golden Jubilee Committee Tuolumne County, V1 N1, 1898, Biography Vice-President Neale (C. Kellogg and Thomas E. Pierce)

- ¹⁷ Copy of deed, November 5, 1914, Madeline Neale, widow, grantor to Ellen Fitzgerald, grantee, Tuolumne County Genealogical Society Fitzgerald-Freitas file.
- ¹⁸ Obituary May 21, 1937, Mrs. Madeline Neale; cousins Mrs. Carmen Heither, Sonora; Sebastian Cabezut, San Francisco. unknown newspaper.
- ¹⁹ Stockton Record obituary, August 21, 1941.
- ²⁰ Letter dated December 4, 1947 from Sebastian Cabezut, Santa Rosa to C. P. Jones. Copy of original in Tuolumne County Genealogical Society Cabezut file.
- ²¹ Tuolumne County Marriages, v6, p. 120.
- ²² Tuolumne County Naturalization Records.
- ²³ St. Patrick's Catholic Church Death Records, Simon Cabazuli, 73, December 9, 1890, Sonora.
- ²⁴ U. S. Census records, Sonora, 1860, 1870, 1880; St. Patrick's Baptisms.
- ²⁵ Sebastian Cabezut letter, 1947.

16

Notes:

¹ H. O. Lang, *History of Tuolumne County*, edited by B. F. Alley (Tuolumne County Historical Society 1888), p. 268.

² Index to Tuolumne County Deaths

³ Lang, History of Tuolumne County, p. 268.

⁴ Ibid p. 309.

⁵ Ted Wurm, "Forgotten Camps of the Hetch Hetchy", *Chispa* v4 n1 (Tuolumne County Historical Society July-Sept., 1974); *A History*

²⁶ Union Democrat July 11, 1891, personals column.

²⁷ Tuolumne County Genealogical Society - Cabezut file.

²⁸ Stockton Record obituary, Carmen Heither in memorial book.

²⁹ Tuolumne County Marriages, v6, p. 120.

- ³⁰ C. H. Burden memorial book, Carmen Heither
- ³¹ Ibid.

³² California Death Index, Ancestry.com.

³³ C. H. Burden death notice, Josie Heither.

³⁴ Tombstone Cabezut plot, Old City Cemetery

³⁵ The Banner, July 14, 1916

³⁶ Union Democrat, October 3, 1969, obituary Leonore Stratton.

³⁷ Tuolumne Independent, July 9, 1898, "A Disastrous Fire."

³⁸ Sebastian Cabezut letter, 1947.

³⁹ Tuolumne County Marriages, v 6, p. 120.

⁴⁰ Union Democrat, January 10, 1949, obituary Laura Cabezut.

⁴¹ Sebastian Cabezut letter 1947, *Tuolumne Prospector*, February 18, 1960, obituary Sebastian Cabezut.

⁴² Lang, History of Tuolumne County, p. 308.

⁴³ Miners' and Business Mens' Directory, 1856, p. 97, 185.

⁴⁴ City and County Directory San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Tuolumne Counties, p. 372 (1881 L. M. McKenny).

⁴⁵ Lang, History of Tuolumne County, p. 308.

⁴⁶ C. H. Burden Burial Records, 1890-1953 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society), p. 46.

⁴⁷ US Federal Census, 1880.

48 Tuolumne Independent, Aug. 12, 1896.

⁴⁹ Obituary, Mrs. Katherine Heald Faxon Johnson, January 17, 1936 (newspaper unidentified).

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ St. Patrick's Baptisms.

⁵² Tuolumne County Marriages, v. 6, p. 266.

53 The Banner, obituary, May 30, 1947.

⁵⁴ Voter Register Humboldt County, 1890; Census Humboldt County, 1900.

⁵⁵ St. James Episcopal Church Records.

⁵⁶ US Federal 1920 Census, Groveland; 1930 Census, Sonora.

⁵⁷ St. Patrick's Baptisms.

⁵⁸ Sonora I.O.O.F. cemetery records

⁵⁹ US Federal Census, 1900.

⁶⁰ The Banner, September 8, 1922, obituary.

⁶¹ Tuolumne County Marriages, v. 6, p. 36.

⁶² C Heither memorial book.

⁶³ Death Notice Pierre Supervielle, unidentified and undated obituary clipping.

⁶⁴ C. H. Burden Burial Records, 1890-1953 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society).

⁶⁵.Kerri Jane Francis McCluskey, "Sonora's Old Opera Hall", Chispa, v 36:1, p 1237.

⁶⁶ St. James records..

67 Ibid.

68 C. H. Burden Burial Records, 1890-1953 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society).

⁶⁹ Dr. Mary Grace Paquette, Then Came The French, (Tuolumne County Historical Society, 1966), p. 103.

⁷⁰ St. Patrick's Baptisms.

⁷¹ Tuolumne County Marriages, v. 4, p. 2.

⁷² Paquette, Then Came The French, p. 104, 107.

⁷³ "Constitution and By-Laws, Manzanita Club", Chispa, v.39, p. 1339 (Tuolumne County Historical Society, 1/3/2000).

⁷⁴ St. James records.

⁷⁵ St. Patrick's Baptisms; obituary Mother Lode Magnet, January 7, 1900; tombstone.

⁷⁶ Tuolumne County Marriages, v. 4, p. 328.

⁷⁷ Paquette, Then Came The French, p. 101.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ C. H. Burden Burial Records, 1890-1953 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society).

⁸⁰ Ibid

⁸¹ Obituary Albert Trittenback (Jr.), June 12, 1936 (newspaper unidentified).

82 C. H. Burden Burial Records, 1890-1953 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society); Union Democrat,

California Tuolumne Co.

10

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

July 2, 1910, Tribute to Laura Supervielle.

83 Union Democrat, September 27, 1937, obituary for Frank Guerena.

84 C. Heither memorial book.

⁸⁵ The Banner, November 22, 1918, obituary Frank Mendoza.

86 St. Patrick's Baptisms, baptism of children.

⁸⁷ C. H. Burden Burial Records, 1890-1953 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society).

88 US Federal Census 1900; The Banner, May 31, 1912, personal item.

89 Tombstone.

90 Ibid.

⁹¹ Tuolumne County Marriages, v. 4, p. 107.

⁹² Obituary, Louis A. Guerena, age 67 (undated, unidentified newspaper).

93 US Federal Census 1900.

⁹⁴ McCluskey, "Old Opera House", Chispa, v. 36, n. 1.

⁹⁵ Union Democrat, September 27, 1937, obituary Frank Louis Guerena.

96 US Federal Census 1900.

⁹⁷ Tombstones.

98 The Banner, November 22, 1918, obituary Frank Mendoza; Tombstones.

⁹⁹ The Banner, November 22, 1981, obituary Frank Mendoza.

¹⁰⁰ Buckbee, Saga of Old Tuolumne, p. 245.

101 St. Patrick's records, marriage of Theresa.

¹⁰² C. H. Burden Burial Records, 1890-1953 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society).

103 Tuolumne County Marriages, v. 1, p. 73.

¹⁰⁴ C. H. Burden Burial Records, 1890-1953 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society).
¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Union Democrat, Andrew James Sierra obituary, April 18, 1978.

¹⁰⁷ C. H. Burden Burial Records, 1890-1953 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society).

¹⁰⁸ C. H. Burden Burial Records, 1890-1953 (Tuolumne County Genealogical Society); Obituary Jesus Camacho (newspaper unidentified).

109 Ibid.

NEW EXCHANGE

We have added a new publication our exchange list, *Paths to the Past*, published by the North San Diego Genealogical Society, PO Box 581, Carlsbad CA 92018-0581. They meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 10 a.m., in the Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, CA. Information about the society may be obtained by writing to the above address or on their web site www.cagenweb.com/~nsdcgs/.

In the May 2003, issue an article from the Orange County Register is quoted, "Orange County native, Phil **Brigandi**, will begin work Monday as the county's new archivist. **Brigandi**, 43, has written several books on aspects of life in Orange County, including *The City 'Round the Plaza'*, and has been a member of the Orange Community Historical Society since he was 18. The County Archives are primarily stored at the Old County Courthouse, 211 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana. The public reading room will resume regular hours, being open from 9 to noon and 1 to 4:30, Monday thru Friday. For information call 714-834-2248."

Our society library was visited by members Phyllis and Jerry **Howard** last summer when they were touring the Mother Lode area surveying genealogical society libraries, collecting information for a report on Gold Rush research. They were quite impressed with our collection of local historical and genealogical information.

We are happy to welcome N.S.D.G.S. as a new exchange.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

