



City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society P.O. Box 875, San Bernardino, CA 92402

LIBRARY NEWS JUNE 2010

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

While delving among the stacks of material in our Society's library, I discovered a report on the former owners of our Heritage House, done in rough form by historian Arda Haenszel, which I have reprinted here. I added a few items to the biographies, plus some photographs, and included a three-page *Odyssey* story by Lillian Miles, a longtime owner of the house. Others also owned the house for extended periods of time. Of its 119-year history, four families account for 85 of those years — Mrs. McLeod, 9; McElvaine, 20; the Ames family, 20; and the Miles family, 36 — and our Historical Society has owned the structure for over 31 years. This accounts for 116 of the 119 years, give or take a few months in the length of ownership.

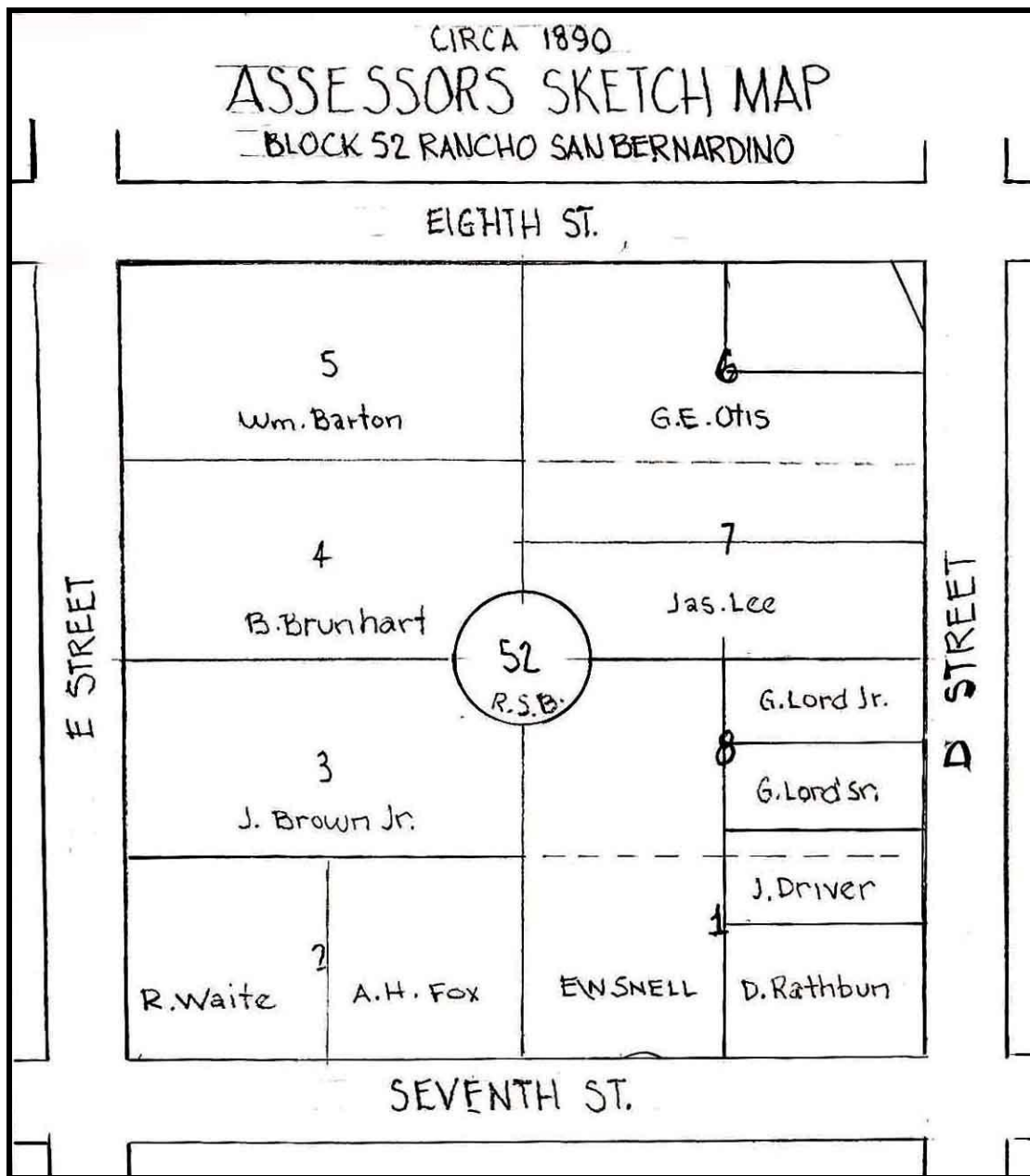


**Heritage House
City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society**

HERITAGE HOUSE SAN BERNARDINO CHAIN OF TITLE SUMMARY

By Arda M. Haenszel

The house, at its original location, 772 N. D Street, was built some time before June 1891, for it was then recorded in the San Bernardino County Recorder's book as sold by Judge George E. Otis to John L. Campbell.



Assessor's Sketch Map Looking North

Judge Otis owned Lot 6 and the north half of Lot 7 (the dashed line represents the original property line). He apparently subdivided his property into three lots from what is shown, since the Heritage House was built south of two other houses on D Street.

The triangular shaped piece at the northeast corner of lot 6 is interesting. Town Creek crossed through the intersection of 8th and D Streets and had a small wooden bridge over it (not shown). Perhaps the triangular piece was acquired by the city so that horse-drawn wagons could turn off 8th Street onto D without having to use the bridge. Making a right-angle turn on a small bridge in a horse-drawn wagon would have been difficult.

Ownership seems to have shifted around among Anna V. Campbell and her four sons, John L., Chalon G., William A. and Charles A., until its sale by John L. and his wife Hattie M. to Mrs. E. D. McLeod in June 1893.

Mrs. McLeod and her husband W. O. McLeod sold the house to O. F. Higginson in November 1902. O. F. Higginson and wife Mollie D. apparently sold it immediately to W. W. Brison, Jr., and wife Berta, as the sale was recorded on the same date.

The Brisons sold it several days later to Jeff McElvaine in December 1902. When Jeff McElvaine died, “Lottie” (wife Charlotte), his administratrix, sold it to E. O. Ames in February 1922.

E. O. Ames sold it to Robert Ames and wife Frances L. in September 1942.

A couple of weeks later the Ames sold it to William Frank Miles and wife Lillian.

When William Miles died, Lillian gave the house to their son Marshall and wife Betty in October 1976.

Marshall and Betty Miles sold it to Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan Association in April 1978.

That same year, Santa Fe Federal gave it to the City of San Bernardino Historical Society.

The house later was moved to the southwest corner of Eighth and D Streets.



Arda M. Haenszel
Renowned San Bernardino Historian

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON HOUSE OWNERS

—NO. 1: JUDGE GEORGE EDMUND OTIS

Owner from ? until June 20, 1891. George Otis built the house prior to June 1891, probably as an investment.

REFERENCES:

A. Data from San Bernardino City Directories

1887 - Judge Otis is listed in partnership with Jesse W. Curtis, Sr., with an office in the Satterwhite & Curtis Building on Third between D and E Streets in San Bernardino. He lived in Redlands.

1889 - Otis and Curtis had their office in the Otis Block on Fourth between D and E Streets in San Bernardino. He lived in Redlands.

1895 - Otis is listed as a Justice of the Superior Court.

1898 - With partners Gregg and Hall, Otis' office was in the Farmer's Exchange Bank Building on Third between D and E Streets in San Bernardino, with his residence still in Redlands. In the Redlands section, an Otis Block is listed on Orange Street near Citrus.

B. Frazee, W. D., *San Bernardino County: Its Climate and Resources*, Argus, San Bernardino, 1876, p 89.

George E. Otis, was born in Boston, Mass., and took the degree of Bachelor of Laws at the Cambridge University, in 1867, and completed his law studies with Hon. Richard H.

Dana, Jr. Was admitted to practice in the State Courts in December 1868, and was afterwards admitted to practice in the Circuit and District Courts of the United States, and practiced law in Boston until 1875, when he removed to the town of San Bernardino. He is now acting as Assistant District Attorney, with a bright prospect before him — a man of extensive reading, and prompt in business. We predict for him a good share of the public patronage. He is not only a good attorney, but a high minded gentleman.

C. La Fuze, Pauliena, *Saga of the San Bernardinos, Vol. II*, San Bernardino County Museum Association, 1971.

Page 41: An Altura Gold Mill and Mining Company was formed by Banker Morse and Attorney C. C. Haskell, and Judge George E. Otis to work the 8000-foot high Altura, Bonanza, and Viola mines above Antelope Canyon. They had a sixty-three foot shaft with a winze at the head, and ran a drift along a four-foot wide vein of lowgrade ore.

Page 50: [See discussion regarding Judge George E. Otis and Judge John L. Campbell's joint ownership of Bear Valley mines in 1895. Judge Otis was acting president of the Altura Gold Mining Company and oversaw the erection of a ten-stamp crushing mill. He lived in a cabin for all of August 1895 and most of September and October.]

Page 62: [H. H.] Sinclair and [Henry] Fisher also bought forty-nine percent of the stock of the Lytle Creek Power Company--started in 1896 by Judge Campbell, George Otis, and James Hutchings--enabling them to build a power plant for the Miller Narrows Dam that would produce 1500 horsepower--applicable where needed.

D. *Illustrated History of Southern California*, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1890, pp 537-538.

GEORGE EDMUND OTIS, a leading member of the Southern California bar, is a descendant of one of the oldest New England families, his ancestors having emigrated from Somersetshire, England, about 1630. That he springs from a cultured family is evidenced in the fact that his paternal great-grandfather was one of the early graduates of Harvard University, as far back as 1752, and his father was a graduate of the same institution ninety years later. His mother was a direct descendant of Judge Sewall, who is associated in history with the hanging of the witches in the seventeenth century.

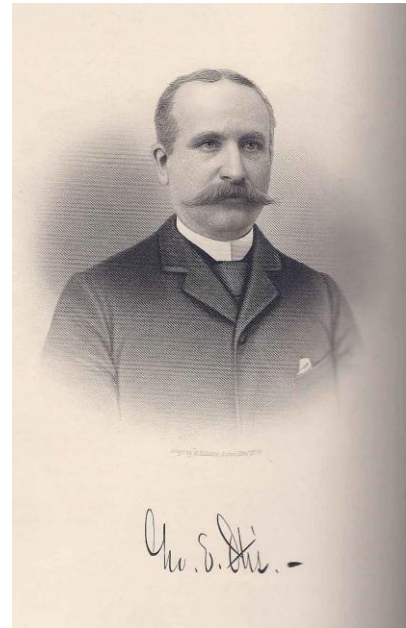
Mr. Otis was born in 1846, in the city of Boston, and was educated at the New England metropolis, graduating at Harvard University with the degree of LL.B., in 1869, at the age of twenty-two years, notwithstanding his educational studies had been interrupted by a term of service in the Union army, which he entered during the closing year of the war, a youth of seventeen, as a member of the Sixth Massachusetts Infantry, and remained until the end of his period of enlistment.

After graduating, Mr. Otis spent a year and a half perfecting his law studies in the office of Hon. Richard H. Dana, Jr., a leader of the Suffolk County bar, and well known as the author of Dana's Wheaton's International Law, and "Two Years Before the Mast." Upon motion of Mr. Dana, Mr. Otis was admitted to practice at the Massachusetts bar in 1872. Opening a law office in the city of Boston, he conducted a successful legal business in the "Hub" until 1875, when he decided to cast his lot in the Golden State, and crossed the continent, landing in San Francisco.

After spending a few weeks looking over the situation on the Pacific coast, Mr. Otis commenced the practice of his profession in California in the city of San Bernardino, and

entered into a copartnership with W. J. Curtis, which continued about eighteen months, terminating with Mr. Otis' return to San Francisco. Here he established and maintained a large and lucrative legal business for seven years. Then, upon the death of Judge Saterwhite, who had succeeded him as a law partner with Mr. Curtis, the latter gentleman requested him to return to San Bernardino and resume their former business relations. Mr. Otis consented to do so, and removed down in the spring of 1885. The firm of Curtis & Otis at once assumed a prominent position in the bar of Southern California, and they have for years been connected on one side or the other with nearly every important civil case in the higher courts of San Bernardino and contiguous counties.

Since deciding to settle permanently in this county, Mr. Otis selected Redlands as the future home for himself and family, and has just completed the erection of one of the most elegant dwellings in that charming young city of orange groves. His place, appropriately named "Alderbrook," from the spreading alders which border the old Mill creek zanja running through his grounds, embraces some forty acres, beautifully laid out and partially planted to ornamental trees and shrubbery, and an orange grove just coming into bearing.



Judge George Edmund Otis

Besides attending to his extensive law practice Mr. Otis has found additional scope for the exercise of his active mind and energies in loyal and effective labors for the advancement and growth of the county and city. In 1888 he built the Otis block on Fourth street, between D and E streets, one of the finest brick business blocks in the city of San Bernardino. The same year he erected the First National Bank block in Redlands, one of the first, and one of the best brick buildings erected in that thriving town. He also built the brick block on State street known as the Otis building, occupied by the Motor Railroad offices in Redlands. He organized the Monte Vista Land and Water Company, the Redlands Land Company, and the Terracina Hotel Company. These companies have extensive holdings of the choice citrus fruit lands in that popular orange district, on which they have expended large sums of money for improvements. Mr. Otis was also one of the prime movers in organizing and constructing the San Bernardino and Redlands Motor Road, and is a director in the company.

In politics he is a pronounced Republican and a member of the central committee; and while he has been a zealous supporter of the party he has never been an aspirant for office. He is a member of the San Francisco Bar Association, the San Francisco Harvard Club, and the California Historical Society; and within the past year has been elected a member of the American Bar Association.

In his mental composition Mr. Otis is a typical son of New England, possessing that quick perceptive and receptive intellect, acute reasoning powers and characteristic energy which have made the "Yankee" famous the world over. He is a gentleman of polish and superior scholastic attainments both in and outside of his profession. He married Katharine, daughter of Hon. Alexander Johnson, formerly Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of New York, and subsequently a Judge on the United States Circuit Bench in the Empire State.

For more information on Otis, see Ingersoll's *Century Annals of San Bernardino*, pp 221, 313, 315-317 including portrait, 319-320, 381, 453, 459, 463, 474, 478, 519, 528-529, 545-546, 809.

—NO. 2: JOHN L. CAMPBELL and FAMILY

Owners from June 20, 1891, until June 12, 1893.

In his 1890 biography in *Illustrated History of Southern California* (see below), it is written that Campbell was living near Urbita with his wife and mother. Campbell's mother was Anna V. Campbell, and the Heritage House was evidently purchased for her. She died on February 17, 1892, just eight months after the house was purchased. Ownership shifted around between the four Campbell brothers, until John sold it to the McLeods in 1893.

REFERENCES:

A. Data from San Bernardino City Directories

1887 - Campbell, Dr. C. G. (Campbell & Collins) Garner Block, D between 3rd and 4th Streets, res. 55 F between 3rd and 4th
Campbell, John L. District Attorney, office at Court House, res. 96 Fifth between F and G (No Wm. or Chas. Campbell listed)

1889 - Campbell, C. G. (Campbell & W. D. Huntington) physicians, Van Dorin Block, 3rd between E & F, res. 55 F, corner Court
Campbell, Chas. A., board with Judge Campbell at Urbita
Campbell, Jno. R., judge Superior Court, res. Colton Ave., Urbita
(No Wm. A. listed)

1895 - Campbell, Chalon G., physician, res. corner 4th and F
Campbell, Chas. A., rancher, res. Urbita
Campbell, John L., Judge of Superior Court, res. Urbita
Campbell & White, (J. L. Campbell & Dr. D. W. White, props.) Owl Drug Store, 488-490 Third
(No William A. listed)

1898 - Campbell, J. L., Superior Ct. Judge, res. Urbita
(No other Campbell individuals or partnerships listed)

1906 - Campbell, John L, attorney, office at 2 New Garner Building
(No other Campbell individuals or partnership listed)

1907-1912 - Campbell, J. L., res. 351 H Street

1913-1914 - Campbell, J. L., res. 746 E St

B. Curtis, Jesse William, *Bench and Bar of San Bernardino County*, San Bernardino County Bar Association, 1975, pp 34-5.

John L. Campbell was elected president of the County Bar Association on December 11, 1915. He served as president of the Association until 1927, when he was succeeded by Frank T. Bates.

C. *Illustrated History of Southern California*, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1890, pp 533-534.

HON. JOHN LLOYD CAMPBELL, Judge of the Superior Court in and for San Bernardino County, was born in Equality, Gallatin County, Illinois, in 1855. His father,

Hon. John Lewis Campbell, was connected with the banking business in Shawneetown, and with iron and salt manufacture in Southern Illinois for many years. In 1857 he moved to Sioux City, Iowa, and was there elected County Judge.



Judge John Lloyd Campbell

When the war of the Rebellion broke out, he moved back to Illinois and enlisted in the Third Illinois Cavalry, of which he was made Major. In 1863, while placing his pickets near Jackson, Mississippi, he was shot in the side, shoulder and face by a squad of Confederate soldiers and supposed to be fatally wounded; but, by the exercise of his extraordinary will aided by great tenacity of life, he partially recovered and lived until 1875, though always suffering from the effects of his wounds, which finally induced the paralysis which terminated his life. After the war he was appointed Postmaster at Olney, Illinois, by President Lincoln, which office he held until his death, in 1875.

After graduating from the high school of his native State the subject of this memoir entered Hanover College, Indiana, but was called home at the end of his first college year by the death of his father, and did not return. He attended Columbia College Law

School, New York, and was graduated therefrom in the spring of 1878. Coming to California, he settled in San Bernardino in 1879, and entered into a law partnership with Colonel A. B. Paris, which was terminated at the end of the year by Mr. Campbell's returning to the East. He located in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he practiced his profession three years.

In 1883 he came back to San Bernardino at the request of Judge J. A. Gibson and formed a partnership with that gentleman. In 1884 Mr. Campbell was candidate on the Republican ticket for District Attorney, and his law partner ran for Superior Judge, both being elected. During his term of office the law allowed him an assistant, but he did the work alone with the exception of occasional assistance; and the last year — 1886 — tried thirty-two felony cases, convicting thirty of them. He was renominated for the office on the first ballot, receiving 132 out of 140 votes in the convention, but was defeated at the election by Colonel Paris, his first law partner, that being a year of general Democratic success in the county. Continuing practice alone until the fall of 1888, Judge Campbell was then nominated and elected Superior Judge for the term of six years, and took his seat on the bench January 7, 1889, being thirty-three years of age and one of the youngest judges in the State.

On May 17, 1888, Judge Campbell married Miss Hattie Muscott, daughter of one of the leading horticulturists of the Mount Vernon district. She is a native of Iowa and has lived on the Pacific coast seven years. Judge and Mrs. Campbell, together with his aged mother, reside in their pretty home at Urbita, just outside the city limits, which he purchased at the cost of \$8,000. The Judge is much in love with the country and climate of Southern California, and is thoroughly loyal to the State of his adoption.

See also Ingersoll's *Century Annals of San Bernardino*, pp 88-9, 303-309 (including portrait), 311, 314, 317, 319.

—NO. 3: McLEOD, W. O. AND MRS. E. D.

Owners from June 12, 1893 until November 12, 1902.

REFERENCES:

A. Data from San Bernardino City Directories

None found.

The 1900 U.S. Census shows Jay B. Mullen and family living at the 772 D Street address (Ward 2, page 14 of 31. The census taker had poor handwriting and it looks more like Mallin). Mullen's occupation is listed as R.R. agent.

—NO 4: ORMAND F. HIGGINSON

Owner for part of one day, November 12, 1902.

O. F. Higginson and wife Mollie D. bought the house from W. O. and Mrs. E. D. McLeod, and apparently sold it immediately to W. W. Brison, Jr., and wife Berta. Both transactions were recorded on November 12, 1902.

REFERENCES:

A. Data from San Bernardino City Directories

1906 - Higginson, Ormand F., night chief dispatcher Santa Fe, res. 426 Sixth Street

—NO. 5: WILLIAM W. BRISON, JR.

Owner from November 12, 1902, until December 18, 1902.

REFERENCES:

A. Data from San Bernardino City Directories

None found.

W. W. Brison is listed in the 1900 U.S. census in San Bernardino and his occupation is given as "Icing Agent." In 1910 he is listed as an ice manufacturer. His wife is Berta Campbell.

He was president of the first National Orange Show in San Bernardino, held March 6-11, 1911. The photograph to the right is from the official program of that event.



—NO. 6: JEFFERSON McELVAINE

Owner from December 18, 1902 until February 8, 1922.

REFERENCES:

A. Data from San Bernardino City Directories

1887 - McElvaine & Eubanks, props. O K Livery stables, D between 4th and 5th

McElvaine, J. (O K Livery Stable), res. 121 C between 7th and 8th

1889 - McElvaine, Jeff (M & Clark) liveryman, res. w. side C between 7th and 8th

1895 - Listed as deputy tax collector, res. C between 7th and 8th.

1898 - Listed as city assessor, res. 8th between D and E

1906 - McElvaine, Jeff, County Assessor, res. 772 D Street

Jefferson McElvaine died in 1921, and his widow Lottie sold the house to E. O. Ames, as recorded February 1922.

It is interesting to note that, according to a February 26, 1939, "Covered Wagon Families" story in the *Sun*, Jeff's father Jeremiah McElvaine built the first wagon road to Colton.



B. Website: "Join California: Election History of the State of California," joincalifornia.com

Jefferson McElvaine

Born July 27, 1862, in San Bernardino, CA

Married Charlotte Marie Boreham in 1886

Died June 30, 1921, in Sacramento, CA

1884-1888: Deputy Tax Collector, San Bernardino County

1888-1900: Chief Deputy Assessor, San Bernardino County

1900-1902: City Assessor, City of San Bernardino

1902-1906: County Assessor, San Bernardino County

—NO. 7: ERNEST OMERIA AMES and FAMILY

Owners from February 8, 1922, until September 28, 1942.

References:

A. Data from San Bernardino City Directories

In the 1887, 1889, 1895 and 1898 directories, E. O. Ames was listed as a carpenter.

In the 1926-1942 directories, E. O. Ames and his wife Mary lived in the house at 772 D Street.

The house was sold to nephew Robert E. Ames and his wife Frances, as recorded in October 1942.

B. Data from the Mary Lewis genealogy records in the Arda M. Haenszel California Room at the Feldheym Library

Ernest Omeria Ames was the 15th and youngest child of Ellis Ames (Eames) and Olive Jane Gibbs. Ellis had another wife named Sarah Haskell by whom he had four additional children. Ellis was the second district attorney for San Bernardino (early 1850s).

Ernest married Mary Brewer when both were 45 years old and they had no children. Robert E. Ames, son of Ernest's brother Early (Earl) Lyons Ames, cared for Mary during the illness that resulted in her death, and also cared for Ernest during his lengthy illness before he died on June 12, 1944.



North side of the Ames house showing kitchen entry – circa 1930

C. Brown, Jr., John and James Boyd, *History of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties*, The Western Historical Association, Chicago, 1922, Vol. III, pp 1144-5.

ERNEST OMERIA AMES. There are very few persons who are not interested in the public schools, for the majority of them have acquired a part if not all of their educational training from them; many have children who are pupils, or prospective ones, and those who have no direct connection with the system are beneficiaries from these schools because in them are, and have been, educated the people with whom they are associated. Without the training of the public schools present-day civilization would not be possible. It was not until the public school system was properly inaugurated that the people began to emerge from the dusk of ignorance into the bright light of knowledge. There are many ramifications and details with reference to the conduct of a number of schools in any of the cities of the country. Not only is it necessary to provide excellent instructors and courses of study, but even more important than these are the buildings in which the children are housed for so many hours. If they are not kept in the best of repair and provided with adequate equipment the health, and many times the lives, of the children suffer, and, therefore, those in authority are exceedingly careful with reference to the kind of man they place in a position of importance to see that the proper means are taken to insure the welfare of the pupils. Since 1903 this very responsible position with reference

to the public schools of San Bernardino has been filled by Ernest Omeria Ames, the efficient and experienced city supervisor of public school buildings.

Ernest Omeria Ames was born in San Bernardino, February 2, 1860, and there he acquired his education as a pupil in the public schools of his native city. Going into the contracting business, he carried it on very successfully until 1903, when he was induced to assume the responsibilities of his present position, and he now has the following schools under supervision: The four buildings, attended by from 700 to 800 pupils, comprising the San Bernardino High School, the F Street Grammar and Technical, the Base Line Grammar, the Fourth Street Grammar, the Highland Avenue, the I Street, the Meadowbrook, the Metcalf, the Mount Vernon, the Ramona, the Terrace and the Urbita. Mr. Ames has grown up with his work, and it would not be easy to replace him. He has the responsibility of seeing that all of the city school buildings are kept in proper repair, necessitating a regular inspection of all of the buildings so as to insure a proper and prompt attention to all details.

—ROBERT EARL AMES

Owner from September 8, 1942, until September 28, 1942.

References:

Robert Ames was born September 21, 1894, son of Early Lyons Ames and Sadie (Sally) Sanders, and died September 15, 1984, six days before his 90th birthday. Robert wrote a book entitled, *I Remember...*, published in 1969. He wrote in blunt language of his father's experiences in mining, hangings in San Bernardino, Willie Boy, saloon fights, feuds between desert moonshiners and about life in a frontier town.



The Heritage House at its original location, 772 N. D Street

—NO. 8: WILLIAM FRANK MILES, WIFE LILLIAN MILES and FAMILY

Owners from September 28, 1942, until October 19, 1976.

—MARSHALL AND BETTY MILES

Owners from October 19, 1976, until April 28, 1978.

References:

A. Lillian E. Miles, "The Story of Heritage House," *Odyssey*, City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society, July-August-September 1986, pp 38-39 and 44.

THE STORY OF HERITAGE HOUSE

- From 1940 to Date -

By Lillian E. Miles

MY HUSBAND, W. F. Miles and I, Lillian E. Miles in the early 1940's bought the big old house at 772 N. "D" Street, which is now the historical building. We purchased it from Mr. E. O. Ames, who for years had been in charge of maintenance and custodial work for the San Bernardino City Schools. I had begun work for the San Bernardino City Schools in 1921. When we brought the property at 439 8th Street

in 1923 our back yards adjoined the Ames, but were divided by a tall plank fence.

Mr. & Mrs. Ames had married late in life and had no children, but when my son, Marshall, was small, Mrs. Ames was very fond of him and always had something to please a three year old boy. They made one of the planks loose in the fence so Marshall could have access to their yard, but he never went over. Instead he would move the plank and call, "Oh, Mrs. Ames, do you have a cookie, or raisins, or candy, or something for me this morning?" He sounded like a huckster and Mrs. Ames would come smiling out with some tidbit. They were lovely friends and Mr. Ames processed and often shared with us the best ripe olives I ever tasted.

The Ames rented rooms and each bedroom was equipped with a wash basin but the roomers shared the one bathroom. The Ames would not rent to anyone who smoked a cigarette.

Mrs. Ames became ill and died and not long afterward Mr. Ames took to his bed. He died after a long illness. Before his death he sold us the property at 772 D Street.

World War II was raging and the newly established Norton Air Base demanded workers of every caliber. Incidentally, our City Schools lost many of its employees for Norton paid much better than our schools could afford. Many of us who stuck by put in a fifteen hour day, believing that "the schools must go on." I had little or nothing to do with the rentals.

San Bernardino was ill prepared to accomodate the influx of service-connected people, and Frank decided to rent to them only. They were like birds of passage; they came and they went. We had people of every degree of culture and special graces. There was a community kitchen equipped with a large stove, electric toasters and two huge refrigerators. The women seemed to get along nicely except for Jewel, a small girl who spent all her money on clothes. From each dish in the refrigerator she took a very small portion and seemed to thrive on it. One girl bought a mouse trap and put a sign on it, "For the meddler with other people's food." This same girl had a small dog that she didn't feed. Frank, who could not bear to see anything or anybody hungry, began feeding the dog and thereby won its devotion. Wherever my husband went the dog attempted to follow. Frank would order it to go back; the dog would sit but when Frank started to walk again the dog would follow a half block behind, faithful as Mary's Little Lamb.

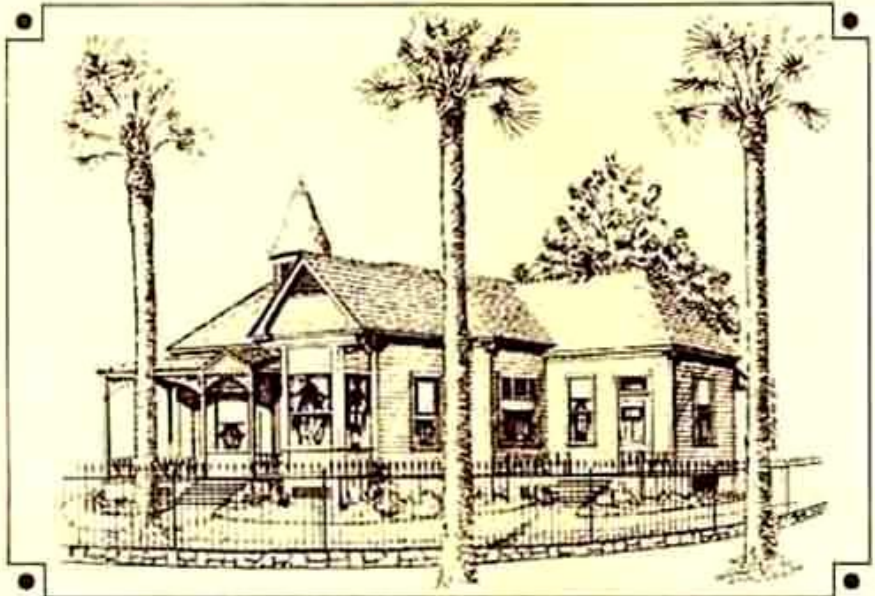
One woman who had been driving daily from Barstow to work at Norton rented a room and made a three-bed use of it. One person for eight hours, another for eight hours and a third for eight hours.

To add to San Bernardino's overcrowding population, General Patton was training men on the desert preparing them for the rigors of North Africa. When they had a brief pass the men flocked to "cool" San Bernardino. A good many wives came to San Bernardino to be with their husbands for even a day; 772 D Street had its share of such wives.

One delightful young woman came out as the bride of an officers who was training on the desert under Patton. She had never done a day's work in the kitchen in her life.

(See Page 39)

Yet she was game, and her ambition was to cook something for her husband. On the rare occasions when he had a pass to come in, once, somewhere, she bought a duck complete with all the feathers. Only its head was cut off. Having acquired her duck she didn't know what to do with it. My husband was not a duck-picking specialist, but he was sure the feathers must come off before cooking. That poor child worked on that duck most of the day and everything in the kitchen had a bit of



the duck on it. When Frank came by in the afternoon she showed him her triumphant effort. He said, "But you haven't drawn it?"

She said, "Drawn it? How and why do I do that?"

He explained you have to draw out the insides and together they accomplished the feat. He even suggested stuffing the duck with moistened bread. And the next day was the baking! Not only did husband come but he brought three husky companions with him and had proudly promised them some of his wife's good cooking. That duck was much smaller with its feathers off and it had also shrunk in the baking. It was surprisingly small when presented at the table. The men settled on it like hungry locusts. All but the bones disappeared. They finished the meal on bread and molasses.

When my father came to live with us he was ill and slowly dying. At our home, 439 8th Street, he was in a bedroom at the front of the house and ours at the back were three rooms distant. Father required frequent care in the night so we moved to 7 1/2 D where our bedrooms adjoined. After his death we moved back to 439 8th Street.

After my husband died in 1970 I rented to a thief who was also on dope. Of course I didn't know he was a thief or dope addict until it was too late. Among many things, he stole the old-fashioned gas light fixture in the entrance hallway, the stained glass from the doors in the built-in china closet in the dining room and the window on the north, plus a number of valuable rugs. When I accosted him with the stealing he didn't deny it. He said he'd pay me back if it was the last thing he ever did. I'm still waiting!

Of course during the years we didn't rent only to the "unusual," we had a group of lovely teachers, young couples, business men -- many who became lifelong friends. However, our last renters left a "bad taste." They were two of the prettiest girls I ever say, and their brother back home from the service. They were all well educated and had good jobs. But they had become dope addicts and the girls went off with Hell's Angels.

My son Marshall, sold 7 1/2 D Street to the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan, now Pacific Savings Bank, who in turn gave it to the City of San Bernardino Historical & the Pioneer Society. These two organizations had joined to accomplish a common goal -- to make 7 1/2 D Street an historical building and restore it to its pristine elegance.

The rest is common knowledge. Until the building could be removed to the corner of Eighth and D Street, it sat very lonely and forlorn; a holdout for the undesireables

(See Page 44)



JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 1986

HERITAGE HOUSE

corner of Eighth and D, where it was beautifully restored due to the joint efforts of the now joined Pioneer and Historical Societies and the help of many others who were interested in San Bernardino Pioneer History.

(This report was written after an oral interview with Lillian Miles by Norma Lee Cole on August 26, 1985.)

who slept in and under it. There was a fire that fortunately badly damaged only one room. In the time the building was moved to the

--NO. 9: SANTA FE FEDERAL SAVINGS and LOAN ASSOCIATION

Owners from April 28, 1978, until December 1978.

--NO. 10: CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In the first *Odyssey*, Volume I, No. I, January 1979, it was announced that Santa Fe Federal had donated the house in December of 1978 to the City of San Bernardino Historical Society. The donation did not include the land and the Society was given two years to remove the house from its original location at 772 N. D Street.



Structures behind the house at 772 N. D Street

On November 24, 1981, the house was moved to its present location at 796 N. D. Street, on property donated to the Society by Pacific Savings and Loan Association (successor to Santa Fe Federal). Prior to the relocation, architectural plans for both the old house and the new Christian R. Harris Memorial Hall were approved by the city. The grand opening ceremonies were held May 20, 1983.



Trusses being delivered for the Christian R. Harris Memorial Hall. The multi-storied house in the background also was owned by the Miles family, and originally faced 8th Street. It was relocated to D Street and is now a dentist's office.



The Christian R. Harris Memorial Hall located between the two Miles houses



**Heritage House grand opening ceremonies – May 1983.
Left is Fred Holladay, the Historical Society's first librarian. Right
is yours truly, Richard Thompson, the Society's current librarian.**

ADDENDUM

Heritage House often was used as a rental. Below are some of the residents as determined from city directories and telephone books.

1913-14	Parish, S. B.
1915	Parish, S. B.
1942	Butts, R. W., music teacher
1949	Bacon, Lois, clerk
1951	Nicholson, D. S., Phys. therapist
1955	Nicholson, D. S.
1958	Nicholson, Demosthenes A., Phys. Therapy center, res. 2845 D
1961	Nottingham, Leland E., Salesman, De Roque Buick
1964	Vacant
1968	Johnson, J. F., retired

For more on the recent history of the house, see the following City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society's *Odyssey* publications:

Vol. I, No. 1, p 1
Vol. IV, No. 1, p 2
Vol. IV, No. 2, p18
Vol. IV, No. 4, p 50
Vol. V, No. 1, p 2
Vol. V, No. 3, pp 44-46

Saving The Past For The Future Since 1888