



City of San Bernardino

Historical and Pioneer Society

P.O. Box 875, San Bernardino, CA 92402

LIBRARY NEWS MARCH 2007

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

William Greenwood Wright

In October the Society received a request for information on William Greenwood Wright (1831-1912), a San Bernardino man who wrote a book on butterflies. The request was from William R. Leach, a professor from Columbia University. I recommended that he contact Sue Payne at the Feldheim Library, which proved fortuitous in that Sue had a previous researcher from a couple of years earlier on the same subject who was willing to share his information. It turns out Wright, who owned a planing mill (doors and window sashes) on F Street in SB, is still well respected by Lepidopterists for his pioneering work on butterflies.

He wrote a book entitled *The butterflies of the west coast of the United States*, published in 1906. This book was printed in San Francisco the year of the great fire and earthquake and much of the first edition was destroyed. The following year Wright undertook to print a new edition but this one would be abridged. He printed all of the photographs but left out the captions listing the various species; their common names and scientific names. The title of this was *Colored Plates of the butterflies of the west coast of the United States..* While this edition is abridged, it does have the distinction of being a San Bernardino imprint, that is, a book whose place of publication is San Bernardino (1907).

In some modern literature, authors have claimed that Wright made some errors, listing incorrectly some specimens as separate species. I spoke to a biologist about this and he said it would not be unusual to make some errors because one way of telling the species is to inspect such things as the genitalia of these bugs, which would be minutely sized and require expensive instruments to detect. He also said that changes within the scientific field are common, and that about 30% of what he had learned at the university a few decades ago has been changed substantially. In Wright's case, many of the changes were not so great, amounting to whether a species should have its name capitalized or not.

After Wright's death in 1912, his massive collection of butterflies was sent to the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. In 1975 a book by J. W. Tilden was published by the Academy entitled *An Analysis of the W. G. Wright butterfly and skipper plesiotypes in the collection of the California Academy of Science*. Tilden had access to the collection and mentioned that it is in very good condition, and that those butterflies that were in not-so-good condition probably came that way from Wright. Tilden used the same numbers to identify the butterflies so that the missing information in the 1907 edition is not only supplied, it is updated too. Given the fact that there is only one copy of the first edition available on the internet, and it is selling for \$750, that is good news. The reason it is good news is that the Society has purchased the second edition (San Bernardino imprint) and I was able to procure the companion work by Tilden at a small cost, thereby saving many hundreds of dollars while still having the information.

Sue has continued to research the Wright family, and I have added what I have been able to find on the internet, and we now have an outstanding collection of material. Sue mentioned once that she might write something up on Wright, and I hope she follows through. It would make a great item for Heritage Tales.

Irvin W. Marsh

Not all information requests are so successful. We received the following in December, but were unable to be of assistance:

From: Teresa Beyer: Tbeyer@state.wy.us
Date: December 14, 2006
To: sbhistoricalsociety@mac.com
Subject: looking for information

First let me introduce myself:

I'm the curator/historian at the Wyoming territorial Prison State Site in Laramie, WY. We are conducting research about the Warden's [sic] and their families who managed the prison between 1872-1903.

I am looking for specific information on a Irvin W. Marsh. The following is all I have to go on and it was taken mostly from census records.

Irvin W. Marsh was born in Gage County, Nebraska on Nov. 1875 to James Marsh and Mary Elizabeth Bull. He worked as a guard at the Wyoming State (former Territorial) Penitentiary from 1892-1894. His father, James Marsh was the Lessee from 1890 to 1896 and the family lived in the recently restored Warden's House constructed by inmates in 1875. Later, Irvin married Alice Dell who was born in IA. They lived in Grand Island, Hall County NE, in 1920 where he was a piano salesman. In 1930 they were living in Pueblo, CO where he worked as a sewing machine salesman. Irvin died in San Bernardino, CA on May 27, 1975 and his death record states he was 99 years old. Irvin and Alice had two children, Alice Mary Marsh born circa 1910 and Leois Marsh, born circa 1912.

If you know of any information about this family or can help me conduct research, please let me know. I'm trying to get a better idea of what stories were past [sic] down, if any photographs, artifacts, oral histories remain, etc. I'd also like to let the family know we are doing our best to keep the Marsh heritage alive through exhibits and restoration.

I know the holidays are a busy time so I understand if I don't hear back from you right away. Please call or email if you have any questions or leads. 307-745-6161

THANKS for your time!
Teresa Sherwood
Curator/Public Historian

I did research in our library's directories and phone books, and then went to the Feldheim where Sue looked up the name in several phone books. We did find an I. W. Marsh living in Bloomington for a long period of time, and it was common for 19th and early 20th century men to use only their initials, especially if they weren't fond of their given name. I looked for an obituary in the Sun for the several days preceding May 27, 1975, without luck. Marsh is not listed in the last few phone books before his death and may have been relegated to a nursing home. That would also explain the lack of an obituary.

Environmental Studies

One of the main areas I have been focusing on in building up the library is with Environmental studies. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) became operative in 1971, and I was appointed the representative from the County's Transportation Department to the Environmental Review Board in that

year. The early studies we reviewed were of very poor quality insofar as the historical analysis was concerned. Many were not written by historians and even those that were could be described as slipshod. Over the years that has changed completely, and today some of the best history being researched is coming from the environmental studies.

The local (Redlands) law firm of Gresham, Savage, Nolan and Tilden has done some outstanding work. Thanks to our connection to that firm, particularly through Allen Bone and Steve Shaw, we have become the beneficiary of some great history. More on that later. Another local firm is Hatheway and Associates, and more on them too. A great firm from Los Angeles is Greenwood and Associates, and I wanted to discuss some of the studies received from them.

Arrowhead Springs study (or Governor Waterman)

In the 1990s I started receiving calls from a fellow who said his name was Tom Tang and that he was working on an environmental study on Arrowhead Springs Hotel. I never saw the study or heard of anybody who had, but ten years later I decided to try and find it. The Feldheim either didn't have it or couldn't find it, so I called Robin Laska at the County Museum. She invited me over and so on the first of February I met with her. She had already researched those studies that contained the name Arrowhead Springs and had the file names all written out. This was a great service and without it I would never have been able to find anything in the hundreds and perhaps thousands of studies crammed into several file cabinets.

After showing me how to access the files, Robin actually photocopied the ones I was interested in. Well, there was only one main one, and a few pages from another. The main one was by Greenwood and Associates and it was attributed to James J. Schmidt with assistance from Tom Tang. I knew this was going to be a good report even before seeing it just from the nature of the questions Tang was asking. Exquisite detail. And so it proved to be. My special thanks to Robin for all her help.

The study is entitled "Cultural Resource Investigations: Waterman Hot Springs, 1997." Well, that was a surprise, and a welcome one as it turned out. Tang had plenty on Arrowhead Springs in his report, much of it from my 1976 booklet, "This Way to Arrowhead Springs," and much from John Robinson's book "The San Bernardino." The part on Waterman Springs was the surprise—I don't think I've ever seen more than a mention of the Waterman ranch. When I was working on the A. S. booklet one of my informants, Silas Stanley, told me that his family had lived in the old Waterman ranch house very early in the 20th century, but I did not follow up with any details about it. Tang had information about the Waterman residency, that of the Stanleys, and that of the Martin family who followed the Stanleys.

Tang found the foundations of the house and remains of several associated uses, the hog ranch being the main one. He also found a dump site and recovered several artifacts, including many intact bottles from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

This inspired me to do a google search for Robert W. Waterman, and I found an excellent biography in the Journal of San Diego History. The web page address is:

http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/v52-1/pdf/2006-1_waterman.pdf

Note: When I was writing this up I checked the site and got a "this page can not be found" message. Fortunately I copied the article before it went down. We should get a copy of the original anyway, and I will do that in the near future.

Lots of good photos of the Waterman family in the Journal story, mostly about Robert's mining engineer son, Waldo, but quite a bit on the governor too. The family lived in San Bernardino from 1873 until Robert was elected Lt. Governor in 1887. He became a charter member of the San Bernardino Society of California Pioneers in 1888, and died three years later (1891).

Well, this nicely written study on Waterman inspired me to go look at the Online Archive of California (OAC) for Waterman photographs. If you go here: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search.image.html> you can access Waterman's collection by typing in some form of Robert Whitney Waterman (R W Waterman, Robert Waterman, etc.). Here is the summary of the collection:

Collection Summary

Collection Title:

California Views from the R.W. Waterman Family Papers, ca. 1865-1900

Collection Number:

BANC PIC 1905.04221-.04377 -- PIC and BANC PIC 1905.04562-.04576 -- PIC

Creator:

Waterman family

Extent:

164 photographic prints, many mounted, 19 x 35 cm. or smaller; 8 stereographs, 10 x 18 cm. or smaller; 3 cartes de visite, 7 x 11 cm. or smaller.
142 digital objects

These photos show Waterman and his daughters, the ranch house, the surrounding grounds, (the Arrowhead and the hotel can be seen in two or three of the photos). I would attach some of these photos but I notice that it is bad enough downloading this newsletter because of the size of the program needed to include the pioneer cabin in the letterhead. Oh well, you can look for them yourselves. Don't miss "The Republican Wigwam."

County Hospital Study

I mentioned Hatheway and Gresham together above because both have done some wonderful work on the Santa Fe railway yard demolition. I think we (the library) came to this at the right time because these reports were done from 1992 to 2000. Roger was employed by Gresham et al for the "Archival Documentation report for the *Quarters For Insane at Hospital*" Building located at 1500 W. Rialto Ave., San Bernardino, CA., June 15, 2000. This was the only surviving building from the pre 1918 county hospital (the hospital was moved to Gilbert Street that year), and had been sold to the Santa Fe. Roger used some great sleuthing to find out about the building. It was built on the cheap using inmates of the institution. These were mostly indigents. One county doctor had a minor scandal when the patrons of the bar down the street complained that the tubercular patients showed up every afternoon and coughed all over everybody.

Roger's research showed that this (1909) was the period when professionals were starting to think of the insane as sick instead of as criminals. In other words, this building performed the function of what the county now calls Ward B. The bars on the windows and the heavy metal doors gave the appearance of being mostly prison-like, but then, Ward B still does to this day. Roger has many photographs inside

and out, architectural maps, and thirty years of board minutes and newspapers references. A great achievement and a far cry from what we were getting in 1971.

Santa Fe Yard Study 1

Another Gresham study is entitled “Inventory of the Eligible Historic District Structures at the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Maintenance Yard at San Bernardino, California,” prepared by Chattel Construction Corp., Sherman Oaks, and dated June 1, 1995. Gresham has donated about 120 photographs sized approx 4 x 6 size (they vary), and another group of 15 or 20 sized 8 x 13. Included are large fold out maps showing the building locations, roads. The report lists detailed information about the structures. Accompanying that report was a stack of copies from a different report. It is evidently entitled “Historical Assessment-Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Yard,” prepared by Myra L. Frank & Assoc, L. A., dated 1994. Since I don’t have the cover or title page of this report I can’t be sure that I have the correct title. MLA has been contacted by email. As of now we have two and a half studies. We know of one other study by Mike Lerch which we are looking to copy. Thanks to Allen Bone for getting all of this material, and we will be sure and take care of this treasure trove of material on the Santa Fe yard.

Santa Fe Yard Study 2

Another environmental report worth mentioning is: Swope, Karen K, Michael F. Rodarte and Michael Lerch, “*Turn-Of-The-Century Life in a San Bernardino Neighborhood: Archaeological Investigations at the Santa Fe Yards Site (CA-SBR-8695H), San Bernardino, California.*” Michael K. Lerch & Associates, Riverside, June 1997.

Some day somebody is going to want to do a story on the Santa Fe in San Bernardino, and not just one on the rolling stock that is now so popular with rail fans. They are going to be pleasantly surprised when they stop in at the Heritage House Library.

Donaldson Historic Architecture Study

There are other studies worth note, but let me just add one that was brought to my attention by Sue Payne: the Donaldson report of 1991. It is comprised of five volumes of reports identifying the historic districts of San Bernardino, which was defined as pre December 31, 1941. Well, that makes me historic. Reminds me of Arda Haenszel’s definition of an historic building as anything older than she was (and I think she was born in 1910). We now have a copy of that little number on our shelves thanks to Nick Cataldo. The City commissioned the report, which consists of several thousand photographs of structures. About 125 have been identified by architect Donaldson as being of special interest. Of course, several of those have been demolished since then: the Santa Fe yards and the Platt building to name two.
