



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

LIBRARY NEWS MAY 2007

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

Joseph Clewes

Sometimes a request can lead to some interesting peripheral information that would otherwise remain unknown. Paul Garrity at the Feldheim Library was asking if the SBH&PS had a book entitled *Historical Data and Genealogy of San Bernardino Families* by Helen Loehr, 1948. Not being familiar with this work I googled it and found a scholarly piece on Joseph Clewes of San Bernardino and his involvement with the Mountain Meadows Massacre. Loehr was mentioned in a footnote. Clewes was not a resident of SB at the time of the massacre, but later became a prominent SB man (with a large family). The site is here:

<http://byustudies.byu.edu/shop/pdfs/42.1Walker.pdf>

ProQuest

There is a library service provided by ProQuest which gives card holders access to back issues of the *Los Angeles Times*. Here are a couple of articles regarding the Pioneer Society (the first, titled California Pioneers, is from the March 8, 1892 issue).

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS.

At the last meeting of the San Bernardino County Society of California Pioneers President George Lord, now 92 years of age, occupied the chair. Reports from the sick were received, showing Sisters Carter, Highmoor and Keiting improving, and Sister Earp not so well. Brother Keiting is about as he was a week ago. The committee upon fence for the old cemetery reported that the matter had been brought up in the meeting of the city trustees and the prospect is good for getting the place properly inclosed.

A committee, consisting of F. H. Holcomb, G. W. Suttonfield and John Brown, presented a lengthy memorial respecting the late Charles G. Hills, who died February 21, at the age of 82. He first came to California in 1834, at the age of 14, rounding Cape Horn in a whaling vessel that was on a seven years' cruise. He subsequently spent some time as a missionary upon the Sandwich, Society and Friendly islands. In a second voyage around the Horn he was shipwrecked, picked up by a passing vessel, taken to Chile and by the natives taken into the mountains for the purpose of securing a ransom, but was released when they discovered that he was not a sailor. He came to California again in 1849 and conducted a hotel at Sausalito. In 1853 he came to San Bernardino, and had spent most of his life here since. Five children survive him.

The society adjourned to attend the funeral of Mrs. T. B. Lyon, a native daughter, aged 22, and wife of a pioneer.

GOLD EXCITEMENT.

The gold excitement at Cottonwood Springs is probably the biggest thing in the country. Departures from here yesterday were over forty, including several business men. Sixty or more will leave today.

David Seeley Obituary

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY.
Los Angeles Times, May 25, 1892; ProQuest Historical Newspaper
Pg. 7

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY.

Death of David Seeley, One of The Pioneers.

One of the Original Founders of
San Bernardino.

A Disgusting Sight Witnessed on the Streets.

Three Young Girls in a Heavily State of
Intoxication—Slight Earthquake at
Riverside—Old Man Meek Put
in Jail as Insane.

SAN BERNARDINO.

Yesterday David Seeley, one of the pioneers, died in this city aged 72 years. He was born in Canada, October 12, 1819. He crossed the plains in 1846, and was one of the committee sent by the Mormons in 1850 to establish a colony in this place, and was one of the founders of San Bernardino, as he brought his family with him at that time. When San Bernardino county was formed in 1853 by the division of Los Angeles county, he, with John Brown, Sr., E. G. Sherwood and Isaac Williams, were appointed a committee by the State Legislature to establish precincts and conduct the first county elections. All of the members of this committee have gone before, except John Brown. Mr. Seeley, the first County Treasurer, was for several terms one of the County Supervisors, and had always been active in public enterprises. He built the first sawmill in the county in the mountains north of this city, urged the building of the first County Courthouse and the large city pavilion. At the time of his death he was vice-president of the San Bernardino County Society of California Pioneers. His wife, two sons and four daughters survive him. He had been ailing for several years, and during the year last past declined constantly to the end. One of his last requests was that the funeral should be conducted by the Pioneers, and it will take place tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock from his late residence, corner of C and Sixth streets.

A DISGUSTING SCENE.

I found these (and many more articles) in the comfort of my own home simply by typing in the search block for San Bernardino pioneer. Imagine, you can search all back issues beginning with the first one, with the click of a mouse. Who would have believed this could ever happen. There are several other huge databases available as well. For example, there is the Oxford English dictionary, U S Census records, Sanborn's Fire Insurance Maps, and many more. They even have some historical and genealogical books completely scanned, although none on San Bernardino yet (not that I've run across anyway.) All of the libraries I have found so far that subscribe to this service are either in major metropolises or University libraries. The service does look expensive so we probably won't get it locally for a while. Still, all you need to do is go get a library card from a ProQuest subscriber.

Earl Buie Scrap Books

The historical society has a stack of scrapbooks on the shelves, and in late April I took a look at a couple of them. They are mostly made up of Earl Buie's "They Tell Me" columns. The scrapbook creator taped the articles onto the pages, but the adhesive had dried out to where the tape sloughed off when a page was opened, and the articles would fall out. I grabbed a couple of them to take home and glue them back into a readable condition. The job was not very pleasant, taking more time than I would have preferred, but then I got the bright idea to index them. You know, as long as I had them at home. Now the project REALLY bogged down.

From the beginning I wondered whether Buie was worth indexing because of his writing style. He wrote two types of stories: one type would be a story with a central theme, it might be centered on the Internal Revenue service or some such subject; the other type was what he called taking a trip down memory lane. Now the first type of story was usually of general interest and often did not have a local history slant. The memory lane trips were pure gold historically speaking, but each of the subjects was usually covered in a sentence or two. He might mention that Spike Jones played for a club on Third Street, and that Al Jolson's brother entertained at the city's first country club on Valencia. Each of those mentions was so brief that the index covered almost as much information as the original story.

The first scrapbook I started on was for 1965, and I had hoped it would be done in time to add the index to this issue of the Library News, but I'm not even close. Maybe next month (if I don't give it up in the meantime.)

Oh, one more thing on Buie's column. He did one of his longer "theme" stories on Chester F. Carlson, inventor of Xerography. Buie wrote Carlson and asked him about his youth growing up and going to school in San Bernardino. Carlson responded with a fairly lengthy letter about his childhood remembrances, and the Sun printed it. The date of the article was March 7, 1965, which you would have known had you received a copy of my index.

Bing Sum Wong

This reminded me of a project I've been thinking about, and that is the creation of a list of people from San Bernardino who have had a large impact, either in the community, or in Carlson's case, on the world stage. I'm starting my list with him.

Also, today I received an obituary of Bing Wong. Appropriately it came from the Feldheim Library's Millicent Price, appropriate because of the financial programs Wong supported through the Library. I am putting Mr. Wong on my list. Here is the obit:

WONG, BING SUM 95, died April 24, 2007 in San Bernardino. A resident of San Bernardino for over 82 years and owner of Bing's Famous Cathay Inn for over 35 years, he was a member of Rotary Club-North, founded Bing Wong Scholarship Foundation, was a founding board member for American Security Bank, honored by the naming of the Bing S. Wong Lecture Hall at the Norman F. Feldheim Central Library, founding Board Member Life Bank (now Pacific Premier Bank), received his Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Cal State San Bernardino, was honored with the naming of the Bing Wong Elementary School by the San Bernardino Unified School District, member of Wong's Association of Los Angeles and member of Gom-Benn Village Society. He is survived by his wife of 76 years, Ting Wong; son, Henry Wong; three daughters, Nancy Wong, Janice Lee and Josephine Wong;

grandchildren, Alyssa, Kristin, Kaitlyn and Emily Wong, Jennifer Schram, Bryan Lee, Brett and Trina Dresden, Tania Davies and 12 great-grandchildren. Viewing will be at Bobbitt Memorial Chapel, 1299 E. Highland Ave., San Bernardino Sunday, April 29, 2007 from 4:00pm-7:00pm with services Monday at 11:00am at Bobbitt Memorial Chapel. Interment will follow at Mt. View Cemetery, San Bernardino. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bing Wong Scholarship Foundation, 3306 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino, CA. 92405. Condolences may be sent online at www.bobbittchapel.com

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SAN BERNARDINO PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Here is the beginning of the list:

Carlson, Chester F. (Inventor of Xerography)

Richardson, Friend William (Governor of California-I'm putting both CA Govs on the list at the same time)

Waterman, Robert W. (Governor of California-See April 2007 Library News)

Wright, William Greenwood (First California Lepidopterist-See March 2007 Library News)

Wong, Bing Sum. (Philanthropist)

Violet Pearl Faris

Recently we received a request from Bette Young regarding her family:

From: Bette Young <be1young2@gmail.com>

Date: April 15, 2007 1:02:32 PM PDT

To: sbhistoricalsociety@mac.com

Subject: Farris/Jarrard family

Am trying to find info on my grandmother, Violet Pearl Farris (Ferris). she was born there. I understand her father was an Indian agent and lead a wagon train from St Joseph MO. She was later married to Robert Jarrard and they are both buried in the Pioneer Cemetery.

Both my father and I are native Californians, but no longer live in the state.

Thank you in advance for any help you can give me.

Bette (Jarrard) Young

Well, it so happens that I have been putting some of our photographs in order and had run across several of the Faris family (all local references have it spelled with just one R), so this was a chance to find out who these people were. Violet Pearl Faris was the youngest child of James D. Faris, who was apparently a pioneer of the area. Neither was a member of the Pioneer Society apparently, but James's

name is evidently on the pioneer monument at the courthouse (the one dedicated in 1965). Or is that monument still there? Some say it has been stolen. There were a couple of pages on the Faris family in the Mary Lewis papers at the California Room. Here is an email sent back to Ms. Young on what I found so far:

Haven't found much on the Jarrards except they are listed in the U. S. Census in San Bernardino for 1920 and 1930. We do have some on the Faris family, although it is incomplete. The photographs we have in our Pioneer library are of: W. N. Faris, Ned Faris, Maud Faris, Nannie Faris O'Bannon, and Charles Faris-"Papa's Brother" is written on the back.

There are conflicting dates of James' birth, one stating 1840, the other (census) 1848. The more specific information says he was born on 25 Sep. 1840 in Bushville Illinois, but I don't know the source of the data.

James David Faris is listed as a well borer in the 1880 census (San Bernardino), and he is a Deputy Marshal according to the 1894 Great Register. Ingersoll's *Century Annals of San Bernardino* (p 338) lists him as a member of Waterman's Rifles, a local militia (Robert W. Waterman was the Governor of California).

James' wife was Emma L. Elder, born 1855 in Indiana, died 1904 in San Bernardino. They had six children, William Nesbeth, b 1874; Grace I., Lula G., Belle E., b 1881; James E., b 1882; and Pearl V., b 1891 (Calif Death Records lists Violet: b. 11/27/1891, d. 1/13/1952).

Marriage records show Charles G. Faris married Alice M. Keller in 1886, and Frank Faris married Susanna Delphina (Dela) Fabun in 1883. Charles and Frank might be brothers of James. Would you happen to know?

We also have an obituary of Roberta Faris Miller, who was born Sept. 25, 1914, and died Dec. 7, 1988. She married Granville Alfred Miller. Her ancestry is not given other than to say she was a granddaughter of one of the first settlers of San Bernardino. Would you know who this ancestor might be?

If you have additional information on either the Faris family or the Jarrards, we will place it in our files if you care to forward it. You can send it to me, Richard Thompson, 18757 Kamana Road, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

Ms. Young did not provide any information on her family except to say that Roberta Faris Miller was the daughter of Violet Pearl Faris Jarrard. Why her name is not Jarrard instead of Faris I haven't found out yet. If any readers have additional information on this family, let me know. Of course I would especially like to know about our Pioneer member, Susanna Delphina Faris.

SAVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE
SINCE 1888