

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SOCIETY NEWS

The program at the meeting at Micke Memorial Building on January 24, 8 p.m., will consist of a color film "Heritage", describing California's program to preserve its historic sites and buildings. The film was produced by the State Office of Architecture and Construction which loaned it to the society.

The County Board of Supervisors have authorized acceptance, storage, and labeling of certain historical items from the William G. Micke Home for use in the proposed historical museum at Micke Grove Park. Earlier priority has been granted for construction of the museum, possibly two years hence.

The society is deeply grateful to Walter C. Frame, President of the Conference of California Historical Societies, for his presentation before the County Board of Supervisors in behalf of the proposed museum. Supervisor of Exhibit Preparation, Division of Beaches and Parks, Mr. Norman L. Wilson also appeared as an expert consultant. A special bulletin on the museum will follow soon.

A member of our society, Dr. R. Coke Wood, University of the Pacific, has been appointed by Gov. Brown as one of the seven members of the California Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee. This committee receives all applications for registering historical landmarks, evaluates them, and recommends desirable sites to the State Park Commission.

HISTORICAL FACTS

This resume of California Registered Historical Landmarks in San Joaquin County was compiled by Gladys Boynton.

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL

LANDMARKS IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Our State Registered Historical Landmark sites are all chosen with the approval and cooperation of the State Division of Beaches and Parks. There are nineteen registered historical sites in San Joaquin County. Explanatory marker monuments have been placed at eleven of them at the present time. Any society or group of people may apply to put up a marker. If their application is approved, they may erect a monument of their own choice. It is usually made of stone or brick and has mounted upon this an explanatory bronze plaque. The plaque is furnished by the state department.

It is the purpose of this bulletin to suggest a tour of our county to see the California Registered Historical Landmarks. However, we will not present all the historical facts recorded on the markers, which you would find most interesting to read.

The tour will begin in Stockton at the corner of El Dorado and Channel Streets. A sign is located here with an arrow that indicates the direction to "Weber Point and the site of Capt. Charles M. Weber's house". Captain Weber founded the City of Stockton in 1847. He named it for Commodore Robert F. Stockton, military governor of California in 1846-1847. His home on Weber Point was one of the finest in early Stockton, and it is hoped that a monument will be erected for Captain Weber as soon as plans are completed for the development of Weber Point.

We will next proceed east on Channel Street, cross the railroad tracks to Union and go north to Poplar. Here we find the old Temple Israel Cemetery and marker 765. Captain Weber gave the land for the cemetery in 1851. It is the oldest Jewish cemetery west of the Rockies. Many interesting inscriptions may be seen on the tombstones.

Continuing north on Union to Harding, then west on Harding, our trip takes us to Cemetery Lane. We will follow this to Rural Cemetery where the tall statue of Reuel Colt Gridley is located. Here we find Historical Marker 801. During the Civil War Gridley collected \$275,000 by auctioning a sack of flour repeatedly, all over the West. The money obtained was used to care for disabled soldiers. Many Stockton pioneers are buried in the Rural Cemetery.

The next stop in our tour takes us to Alpine Street and west to Pacific Avenue, north on Pacific Avenue and Lower Sacramento Road to Woodbridge. Beside the Woodbridge School is marker, 520, commemorating the San Joaquin Valley College, built in 1879. From 1897 to 1922 the building was used as a grammar school.

Woodbridge was founded by Jeremiah H. Wood, who in 1852 built a ferry to cross the Mokelumne River. In 1858 the ferry was replaced by a bridge, now a state registered historical site, but one that has no marker. Interesting old buildings in Woodbridge are the Masonic Temple built in 1883 and the Odd Fellows Hall built in 1874.

The next stop will be Lockeford, reached by going through Lodi to Highway 12. Midway into the town of Lockeford, we turn west on Elliot Road, pass the two story white brick home, the old Locke residence, to marker 365. It is built into the bank beside the road, just beyond a large white barn. The nearby sign tells us this is the "Grizzly Hill Ranch". The marker honors Dr. Dean Jewett Locke, who maintained a ford across the Mokelumne River and who founded the town of Lockeford in 1851. Near the marker you may see the oak trees in which Dr. Locke and his brother slept to escape the threat of grizzly bears until they could get their cabin built.

Returning once more to Lockeford, we pick up Highway 12 and follow it to Clements. From the main street through the town we will proceed north, making our turn out of Clements at the Odd Fellows Hall. A mile or so brings us to the Lone Star Mill Marker 155. The flour mill was constructed in 1855 by David S. Terry, who later became Judge of the California Supreme Court. The mill was in operation for thirty years.

Going back through Lockeford, we take Jack Tone Road going south. The old Jack Tone home is located near Calaveras River crossing. For about twenty miles we will travel south to marker 436, situated between Ripon and the Stanislaus River beside Highway 99. It commemorates the first colony of Anglo Saxon agriculturalists in the San Joaquin Valley. The town of New Hope was

established near here in 1846. It was founded by a band of Mormons led by Samuel Brannon.

We will now reverse our route, turning back in a westerly direction toward Manteca. Marker 437 can be seen just before reaching Highway 50. This is the Comet Landing marker placed to show where the Mormon founders of New Hope landed from the sailing launch "Comet", the first sailing vessel to ascend the San Joaquin River.

Follow Highway 50 across the river, going toward Tracy. Turn east on Kasson Road to San Joaquin City, founded in 1849. Here we will find marker 777. San Joaquin City became a thriving river and post road town, serving river boats, stage lines and horse drawn freight vehicles. Much of the traffic came up San Joaquin River to this point, where materials were loaded into wagons heading for the mines. Today there are a few farm buildings and remnants of a cemetery, all that remains of this early day town.

Our trip now takes us back to Highway 50, again heading toward Tracy. We pass through the town, turn south on Corral Hollow Road to marker 755. It tells us about the old trail much used by the Spanish and Mexican travelers in the early 1800's. Nearby is "Zinc House", a tavern and store built in 1850.

Proceeding along Corral Hollow Road, we come to marker 740, site of the town of Carnegie, a city of 3,500 people in the years 1895 to 1912. Local residents worked at the nearby Carnegie Brick and Pottery Plant. The clay used was found four miles to the west. Foundations of the old plant may still be seen.

Returning to Tracy, we again pick up Highway 50 and proceed to French Camp Road to the school house. Here in the period between 1832 and 1845, French Canadian fur trappers camped each year while waiting the arrival of agents from the Hudson Bay Company who came to collect beaver and bear skins. In 1844, Captain Charles M. Weber and William Gulnac promoted the first settlers' colony on Rancho Del Campo de Los Franceses, which included French Camp and the site of Stockton.

This is our last stop. We hope you have enjoyed the tour designed to make us better acquainted with our own local history. In addition to the above list there are five unmarked registered historical sites which we have not described.

