

Pioneer Memories
of the
Santa Ana Valley

JAN 3 1998

Reference
PAMPHLET
Orange County
History

For Reference
Not to be taken from this room



Volume I.

HARRINGTON BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY
7111 Tolbert Avenue
Harrington Beach, CA 92648

PIONEER MEMORIES
OF THE
SANTA ANA VALLEY
VOLUME I

Published by
"Our Heritage" Section
Ebell Society of the Santa Ana Valley
1983
Editors: Lenora Marchant Homyer
Maureen McClintock Rischard

COVER PICTURE

NELS FREDERICK AXELSON, grandfather of

LUCY HILL LOCKETT

The picture was taken about 1867 in Illinois.
He came to Santa Ana in 1890.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I MY MARCHANT ANCESTORS

by Lenora Marchant Homyer (1983)

Samuel A. Marchant
Ira Lincoln Marchant
Clyde Coad Marchant

II MY HERITAGE

by Jo Winters Elliott (1983)

III FAMILY GENEALOGY

by Lucy Hill Lockett (1982)

Lockett Pioneers
Hill Pioneers
Axelson Pioneers

MY MARCHANT ANCESTORS

by Lenora Marchant Homyer

The following reference to Samuel A. Marchant appeared in Guinn's HISTORICAL and BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,

SAMUEL A. MARCHANT

"The proportion of English-born residents of Southern California is not large, but their activity and success in horticultural pursuits are everywhere acknowledged. Among their number is Mr. Marchant, who has made his home in Tustin since 1894 and owns a ranch of seventeen acres, under cultivation to walnuts and apricots. He was born in Brighton, England, May 27, 1835, being a son of William and Elizabeth (Elphick) Marchant, lifelong residents of England. By occupation his father was a miller, while his maternal grandfather, Joseph Elphick, was a merchant taylor.

"The next to the youngest among seven children and the only survivor of the entire family, Samuel A. Marchant was reared in Brighton, and received a fair grammar-school education. From the age of thirteen until eighteen he worked at the printer's trade. On the fourth of July, 1853, he left home for the new world, embarking on the City of Manchester at Liverpool and arriving in Philadelphia after a voyage of seventeen days. His point of destination was Ripley, Ohio,

where his brother, William, was engaged in the milling business. He learned the trade under his brother and then proceeded to Georgetown, Ohio, where he operated a mill. Later he was similarly occupied near Hillsboro in Highland County. In 1856 he married Miss Harriet Huggins and then settled upon a farm, where he remained a few years. Changing his location to Illinois, in 1859, he settled in Vermilion County, near Hoopeston, where he bought a raw tract of prairie land, comprising of one hundred and sixty acres. This he broke and improved and afterward sold at a fair profit. Another tract was then purchased, placed under cultivation and sold. In 1872 he removed to Des Moines County, Iowa, and purchased two hundred and sixty acres near Danville, where he carried on general farm pursuits, also raised stock, and operated a dairy and cheese factory, making a specialty of the manufacture of full cream cheese. From Iowa he came to California and has since made his home in Tustin.

"The first wife of Mr. Marchant was born in Ohio and died in Illinois. Of that union seven children were born, five of whom attained mature years, namely: Mrs. Lizzie Shallenberger of Santa Ana; Ira Lincoln, a farmer at Tustin; John, who died in Iowa at the age of twenty-two years; Silas, a merchant in Pasadena; and Dora, who died in Iowa. The second marriage of Mr. Marchant was solemnized in Iowa and united him with Sarah Turner, who was born in Indiana. They became the parents of two children, but only one, Grace D., is

now living. Politically Mr. Marchant is a believer in Republican principles. He is an active worker in Immanuel Baptist Church of Santa Ana, and officiates as a deacon in the same. All movements for the benefit of the county receive his support, especially such as are for the development of the horticultural resources or the irrigation facilities on which success so largely depends. The Southern California Walnut Growers Association numbers him among their members, and he has maintained an interest in the progress of this organization."

Subsequently Samuel Marchant purchased properties in Long Beach, California, where he and his wife lived during their retirement.

IRA LINCOLN MARCHANT

Son of Samuel A. Marchant and Harriet Huggins, Ira Lincoln was born on August 29, 1860, in Vermilion County, Illinois.

Ira Lincoln and Lillie Coad were married in Danville, Iowa, on December 24, 1884, in a double wedding. The other couple were Alice B. Coad, sister of Lillie, and William C. Cady. They were united in marriage by Richard King, pastor of the Danville Baptist Church. Lillie and Alice Coad were two of the daughters of Henry Coad and Maria Josephine Riffel.

Ira Lincoln and Lillie settled on a farm in Jewell County, Kansas, where they lived in a sod house. In addition to farming, Mr. Marchant was a teacher in the local public school.

A son, Clyde Coad, was born in 1885, and a daughter, Loia Mildred, was born in 1897.

After a few years in Kansas, and with the encouragement of his father, Ira Lincoln and his wife and two children boarded a train for Orange County, California. The Marchants eventually settled in the same Victorian house on the ranch in Tustin where Ira's father resided. By that time the elder Mr. Marchant and his wife had retired to Long Beach.

Ira and Lillie Marchant were active in the First Baptist Church of Santa Ana, where Mr. Marchant served as a deacon, and, later, as an Honorary Deacon for many years.

Mr. Marchant's reputation as a staunch and dependable person, as well as an outstanding citizen, led to his election as a Director of the First National Bank of Tustin, and a Director of the Santa Ana Valley Irrigation Company. Mr. Marchant served both institutions for nearly half a century.

CLYDE COAD MARCHANT

Clyde Coad Marchant attended elementary school in Tustin, where he was a member of Zeke's Bunch. Clyde graduated from Santa Ana High School where he was a member of the glee club and the debating team. In 1910 Clyde graduated from Stanford Universtiy.

Loia Mildred Marchant also attended elementary school in Tustin, where she also was a member of Zeke's Bunch. Miss Marchant graduated from Santa Ana High School in June, 1917. She received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Redlands in 1921. An accomplished musician, Mildred taught piano and artistic whistling in Orange County for many years and was active in the Musical Arts Club. A hearing loss in 1961 caused a curtailment of her music activities. Shortly thereafter Miss Marchant began painting lessons and studied under several teachers. Mildred pursued oil painting as an avocation and became a versatile, accomplished artist. She sold a few of her works but presented most of them as gifts to family members and friends. Mildred was married in her later years to Arthur Herman Goetsch.

Clyde Marchant worked for a time as a mining inspector in Durango, Colorado, after his graduation from Stanford University. Then he journeyed to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he was employed as an engineer.

In August, 1916, Clyde Marchant was

married to Jessie Anita Nodder, daughter of the Samuel J. Nodders of Buenos Aires. Jessie had attended the Scotch Girls School in Buenos Aires, and later graduated with honors as a Surgical Registered Nurse from the British Hospital of Nursing in Buenos Aires.

In 1917 Clyde applied for a Land Grant in the Gran Chaco region of Argentina. Clyde and Jessie were pioneers in that area, where they established a working cattle and sheep ranch. They built their own home, the ranch buildings, and fenced their entire compound, as well as their extensive estate that consisted of several thousand acres.

Clyde and his wife travelled by horse-drawn wagons and by boat to reach Buenos Aires for the births of each of their three children. Samuel Lincoln was born on May 8, 1917; Leonora Mildred was born on December 4, 1920; Donald Clyde was born on March 2, 1926.

It was in 1926, shortly after the birth of their son, Donald that Clyde and Jessie were forced by Clyde's deteriorating health to leave Argentina.

Lillie and Loia Mildred traveled to Buenos Aires by ship from New York to accompany Clyde and his family to California. The family group sailed from Buenos Aires on the Manila Maru, putting into port at New Orleans. The trip from New Orleans to California was by train.

Clyde entered the Banning Sanitarium in Banning, California, and Jessie resumed her nursing career at the Downey Hospital in Downey. The three children made their home with Ira and Lillie Marchant, and their daughter, Loia Mildred.

While on nursing duty during a flu epidemic in 1928, Jessie became very ill with a streptococcus infection and died. Clyde died two years later, in 1930, as a result of complications following surgery.

The three children of Clyde and Jessie Marchant were reared by their paternal grandparents and aunt, Loia Mildred.

Sam, Lenora, and Donald attended the Tustin Elementary Schools, and graduated from Tustin High School. Sam, until his retirement, was a nurseryman, growing citrus, avocado, and ornamental trees; Lenora, a graduate of Whittier College, was a teacher in the public schools until her retirement; Donald, a graduate of the University of Arizona in petroleum geology, is engaged in independent oil exploration.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. J. M. Guinn, A.M., Historical and Biographical Record of Southern California, Chapman Publishing Company, Chicago, 1902, p. 661.
2. Stanford Alumni Register (1955).
3. The Ariel, published by students of Santa Ana High School, June, 1917, p. 9.
4. J. J. Zielian, Zeke's Bunch: Tustin School (1899 - 1908), published by Dennis Printers, 111 E. First Street, Santa Ana, California, 1934, pp. 9 and 16.



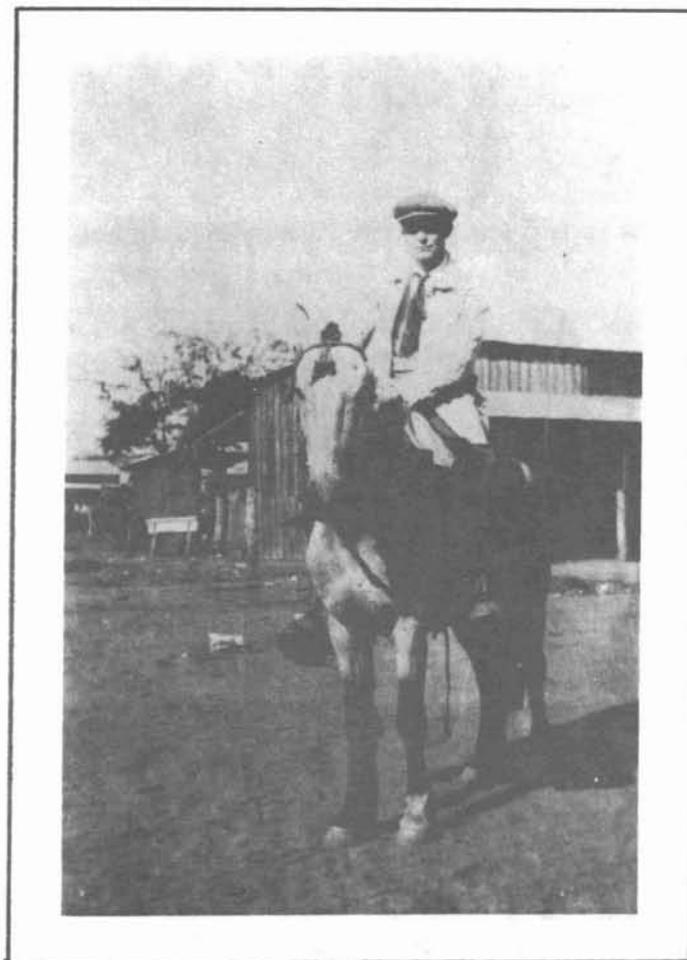
JO AND DALE ELLIOTT



Daughter ONNALEE examines the macadamia nut tree.



JESSIE NODDER, wife of CLYDE C. MARCHANT
with their children: DONALD CLYDE, SAMUEL
LINCOLN and LENORA MILDRED.



CLYDE C. MARCHANT in Embarcacion, Argen-
tina, September 15, 1914. He was the father
of LENORA MARCHANT HOMYER.



JEREMIAH BELL LOCKETT and his three sons
by his first wife, ALMEDA GRAVES JOHNSON:
BASIL LEE, JOHN BILL and WILLIAM BATE.
William Bate married Lucy Hill.

MY HERITAGE
by Jo Winters Elliott

My heritage runs on and on in books and in the news media, but here are a few facts.

My home has always been Santa Ana, having been born on a ranch, Santa Ana Rural Route #1 --

My family came to California in the early 1800's purchasing the thousands of acres that is now Pasadena (then "Indiana Colony"). My mother was born where the Rose Bowl is today, her father owning a mercantile store stocking everything and with a post office in conjunction with the store (was common in those days). My mother as a girl worked the post office for her father.

My illustrious relative, Benjamin Davis Wilson, was elected our first California Senator in 1850, serving 16 years, retiring to his home ranch, "Rancho Vineyard." He was also Los Angeles' first County Clerk and Indian Guide appointed by the President of the United States, in a California history book of letters from the President to "Don Bonita" and his to the President. He married Ramona Yorba, an Orange County Yorba, and was named "Don Bonita." His name is mentioned in every California history book, and the Wilson heritage.

My mother married Henry Winters, a

rancher, growing celery. The Celery Association sent him to Chicago to sell their train loads of celery. Through his contributions of gifts of property for the building of the Methodist Church in the little town and his giving property for the Southern Pacific railroad station, they named the town Wintersburg. The main street running through town from Santa Ana to beach ("Sunset Beach") was named Wintersburg Road, until the Supervisors deemed to change it to Warner Road, (which we fought but lost). Still there is Wintersburg High School, but Huntington Beach sought to change everything to Huntington Beach.

I was married in our beautiful ranch home to Dale Elliott, and we have always made our home in Santa Ana, and now keep up the California Heritage living at 13631 Yorba Street, Santa Ana. Our little ranch main crops are Macademia nuts, citrus fruits, and all tropical fruits. We also have glass houses for our orchids and tropical flowers.

I am happy to have been chosen a member of Native Daughters of the Golden West, the first patriotic women's organization in the State of California. Only California born women can belong. I also enjoy my membership in Ebell Society of the Santa Ana Valley.

I have seen many changes in Santa Ana, mostly good, but some bad.

FAMILY GENEALOGY

by Lucy Hill Lockett

LOCKETT PIONEERS

Jeremiah Bell Lockett (1851 - 1909) was born in Tennessee, the son of William and Dillora Katherine (Johns) Lockett. He had two brothers, Eli Franklin Lockett and Tillman Jeter Lockett.

He married Almeda Graves Johnson in Tennessee and they had three sons, Basil Lee Lockett, John Bell Lockett and William Bate Lockett. Following his wife's death in 1886, he and the sons moved to Vernon, Texas.

A few years later he married Mary Elizabeth Meador. In 1904 he and his wife and two young children, Katherine (Kate) Mae, age twelve, and Henry Jeter, age nine, came to Santa Ana to make their home. Mr. Lockett had been a farmer and businessman, as well as a County Commissioner in Vernon.

His brother, Tillman, followed him from Tennessee to Texas and raised his family on a large farm seven miles west of Vernon in Lockett Settlement, named for the two Lockett families. When his brother moved to California, Tillman said he followed him to Texas, but no farther.

His second son, John Bell Lockett, came with his wife, Theodocia, and infant son, Leslie Wiseman Lockett, to live in Santa Ana in 1905. They lived and farmed in the Greenville area south of Santa Ana

until 1923, when they moved to Knights Landing in Northern California.

The third son, William Bate Lockett, came to Santa Ana in June, 1906, following his graduation from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. His older brother, Lee, and wife, Josie, had come for a short visit before going to Nigeria, West Africa. He was a Medical Missionary. The three of them changed trains in Los Angeles, coming on to Santa Ana on the Southern Pacific Railroad. They got off the train at a small station on North Main Street at Santa Clara Avenue, where the father met them with a horse and buggy.

When the father came to live here after several previous visits, he bought ten acres on the west side of North Main Street where FASHION SQUARE is now located. The ten acres boasted a variety of fruit trees, including orange, lemon, peach, apricot, plum, as well as berries.

He found out later it was too much work to care for the acreage, so he sold it and built a large house at 1010 North Broadway, where he and the family lived. Jeremiah Bell Lockett died July 19, 1909. The family continued to live in the home for several years.

After coming to California, the third son, Will, was involved in several occupations, including farming in the Imperial Valley. He and his father did some land trading and developing. Eventually, Will purchased vacant land at Olive and set out orange trees. After two years he sold that ranch to the Witt brothers of

Santa Ana. Then he bought vacant land at Villa Park on Serrano Street. He set out orange and lemon trees and owned that land until 1967, when Villa Park was becoming residential. Now a school and homes are on the property.

January 1, 1917, Will married Lucy Christine Hill, daughter of Pliny and Anna Hill, who had come to Santa Ana in 1886 to make their home. He was in the HARDWARE business with his father, Samuel Hill. Will and Lucy lived in Villa Park for five years, then moved to Santa Ana. They are parents of six children, Gordon Lee Lockett, Ruth L. Stearns, Mildred L. Harris, Margaret L. Mathews, Helen L. Gearhart, and William Pliny Lockett.

Now in 1982 there are fourteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren, most of them living in California.

Will died August 17, 1973, in Santa Ana, California. He and his father and several members of the family are buried in the Santa Ana and Fairhaven cemeteries.

HILL PIONEERS

Samuel Hill and his wife, Lucy Ann Leavitt, were born in Maine, he in 1837 and she in 1839. He was the son of Fleming and Abigail (Lane) Hill. Lucy's parents were William and Ruth (Marrill) Leavitt. Samuel's ancestry traces back to England in the Sixteenth Century.

They were married May 29, 1862, and lived in West Buxton, Maine, until 1869 when the family moved to Blue Rapids, Kansas. Their son, George Pliny Hill, born December 14, 1864, and Lucy's sister, Caroline Eliza Leavitt, completed the family.

Samuel Hill was in the Hardware business in Maine and in Kansas and later in California, when they came in 1885.

George Pliny Hill married Anna Amelia Axelson in Blue Rapids, Kansas, January 13, 1886, and came immediately to Santa Ana, California, to make their home and join his father in the Hardware business, which included sheet metal and plumbing.

The Samuel Hill home was at 1201 North Main Street (Crocker Bank now). The Pliny Hill home until 1903 was a small frame house on East Eleventh Street, which was for several years was a dead-end street. When Spurgeon Street was opened from Washington Avenue to Tenth Street, it was

on the corner. In 1903 they had a large 3-story frame house with full basement built on the corner at 1102 Spurgeon Street and lived there until 1922, when Pliny, Anna, and daughter, Phyllis, moved to Hemet. They lived there for twenty years before returning to Santa Ana. They bought a home at 1107 French Street.

They raised their family in Santa Ana, spending summers in Newport Beach until 1904, when they sold the beach property, but often rented places at the beach after that.

The children were Viola Caroline Hill, Albert Frederick Hill, Nellie Louise (Hill) Lolmaugh, Lucy Christine (Hill) Lockett, and Phyllis Virginia (Hill) Hertley.

The Hardware business was first named "The Kansas Tin Shop," established in 1886 at 213 East Fourth Street, later changed to "S. Hill and Son," dealing in Hardware, Sheet Metal and Plumbing. After the death of Samuel Hill in 1913, grandson, Albert F. Hill, joined his father in the business and continues as "Hill and Son" for many years.

Albert Hill married Lucile Moody in 1915 and they raised their two sons in Santa Ana. Viola Hill spent many years as a Baptist Missionary Teacher in China, now retired and living in Claremont. Nellie Hill married Orson Lolmaugh and raised a family of three children in Hemet.

Phyllis Hill married Chester Hartley and had two children in Redlands. Lucy Hill married William Bate Lockett in Santa Ana, January 1, 1917.

Pliny Hill was involved in Masonic Lodge affairs and held many offices in various orders. He and Anna were active members of the Santa Ana First Baptist Church, as were all their children.

Anna was very active in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, holding many offices including Orange County President of the organization for five years, and the same in Riverside County after moving to Hemet.

She organized many Parent-Teacher Associations in Santa Ana and Orange County and served as the first president of the Fourth District P.T.A. She was a member of Ebell Society and was instrumental in starting their Day Nursery.

Samuel, Pliny and Anna Hill were very civic minded and interested in progress for the benefit of Santa Ana and Orange County.

Samuel Hill died February 1, 1913. Lucy (Leavitt) Hill died July 22, 1918. Pliny Hill died June 18, 1943. Anna Hill died November 10, 1953. All are buried in the Santa Ana Cemetery.

AXELSON PIONEERS

Nels Frederick Axelson was born in Sweden August 29, 1828. He emigrated to the United States following a former acquaintance, Christine Maria Magnuson, who was born in Dormhalt, Sweden, November 14, 1840. She came to the United States landing in New York July 4, 1859, with her parents, Oscar Magnuson and his wife, a sister Amelia and a brother, Charles. One sister had recently married and remained in Sweden with her husband.

Nels Axelson and Christine Magnuson were married in Paxton, Illinois, October 2, 1863. They were the parents of seven children: Charles and Anna were born in Illinois before they moved to Blue Rapids, Kansas, where Gustavus, Anton, Lincoln, Emma, and Hilda were born.

Nels Axelson had served in the Union Army in the Civil War with an Illinois regiment and suffered wounds. He worked as a stone mason by trade. He was blinded in one eye by a marble chip.

The parents and four children moved to Santa Ana, California, in 1890 to make their home near their eldest daughter, Anna Amelia Hill.

The oldest Axelson son, Charles Frederick, married Carrie Randall and lived in Topeka, Kansas, with their two

infant sons, Delbert and Jule. Anton died as a child in Kansas. Lincoln, who came to California with the family, died in 1896 in a railroad accident in Utah. Gustavus Adolphus came with the family, as did Emma Elizabeth, age ten, and Hilda Christine, age nine.

The father bought a lot and built a modest frame house at the east end of Twelfth Street. After Spurgeon Street was opened from Tenth Street to Washington Avenue, the house was then on the corner of Spurgeon Street and Twelfth Street. It is still there (1982) somewhat remodeled.

Christine Axelson loved flowers and plants and sold some from her yard. She truly had a "green thumb." She planted a white camellia bush (Purity) on the north side of the house. It was one of the first in Santa Ana and now is as tall as the house and still blooms profusely every spring.

Two years later Charles Axelson and his wife and two sons came to Santa Ana from Topeka, Kansas, to establish their home. The two brothers, Charles and Gus, established a machine business called "Acme Iron Works." After a few years they moved the business to Los Angeles and the name changed to "Axelson Manufacturing Company," which made oil well machinery and pumps and large steel lathes and many things Charles invented. The business expanded all over the United States.

Gus married Effie Wilhite in Santa Ana in 1896. The brothers with their families moved to Los Angeles.

The two sisters, Emma and Hilda, went to school and married in Santa Ana. They married brothers, Edgar and Raymond McDowell in a double wedding at the home of their sister, Anna Hill. Both couples lived in Santa Ana for several years, then moved to other locations in California.

All the children attended and were graduated from various colleges and universities in California and elsewhere.

Pliny Hill was in the Hardware business with his father, Samuel Hill, which was located at 213 East Fourth Street, Santa Ana. After the death of his father in 1913, his son, Albert Hill, joined him in the business which continued for many years.

Nels Frederick Axelson died May 21, 1916. Christine Axelson died September 9, 1903. They are buried in Santa Ana Cemetery.