



Photo courtesy of Paula Hinkel

# Savannah Update

*El Monte Cemetery Association*

*Volume 1, Number 2*

*December 2006*

## Letter from Your President

**H**oliday greetings to you at the end of almost six months of effort on behalf of the Association. We have accomplished a great deal, thanks to major efforts by board members and members.



*Eric Chase*

I want to share my perspectives with you on where we stand as an association. In my first letter to you, I identified four areas of effort having top priority. These were: a) establishing our legal standing as an association; b) establishing our financial footing; c) raising money to support 1) the preservation of the cemetery, and 2) the continued operation of the cemetery; and finally d) establishing communication among ourselves and with the general population to get the word out on what we are doing and why. We have addressed these priorities as follows. First, our legal standing has been established. We are a 501.c.5 not-for-profit corporation in the State of California. Furthermore, we have established that we as an association own the property with clear title. Next, our financial footing, while by no means optimal, is much stronger than it was six months ago, with over \$5,100.00 in operating capital having been donated by you wonderful people for our special preservation fund. This money has not yet been touched. It will be used for legal assistance as we move forward, for

communication costs in advertising our needs to the public, and for other purposes directly related to our preservation efforts. Operation of the cemetery is accomplished with separate funds, which historically have been derived from income (plot sales) and donations for that purpose. We continue to seek donations for operational costs as well, as plot sales have diminished to almost nothing in recent years.

Your Board of Directors thanks you for your donations and offers of support. We are eager to hear from you with any ideas you may have, and anyone wishing to volunteer time and energy is welcome! There is work ahead, to be sure, but together, and only together, we can meet our common goal, the preservation of this wonderful treasure, Savannah Memorial Park, a Pioneer Cemetery.

Sincerely,  
Eric D. Chase, President  
El Monte Cemetery Association



**DRAWING ATTENTION  
TO OUR CAUSE**

### M. C. GILL CORPORATION MAKES GENEROUS DONATION

After reading a newspaper article, Stephen Gill contacted El Monte Cemetery Association to inquire what he could do to help. As a result, the M. C. Gill Corporation of El Monte is donating new fencing for the Mission Drive side of Savannah Pioneer Cemetery. The Association is most grateful for this generous gesture of community spirit. M. C. Gill Corporation was founded in 1945. The company is recognized as the oldest, continuously operating manufacturer of reinforced plastics - called "composites" - in the world, primarily serving the aircraft and aerospace industries.

### *Inside*

Notable Quotable	2
An Early Pioneer . . .	2
Calendar of Upcoming Events	2
Historically Significant Book Found	3
Supporters	3
Financial News	3
Notice of Meeting	3
Readers' Comments	4

*NOTABLE QUOTABLE*

“The wise man preserves that which he values and celebrates that which he preserves.”

Unknown



**An Early Pioneer . . .**

**TAYLOR SCOTT WHITE**

In his adult life Taylor Scott White was called either T. S. White or just plain Scott White. He was named for two generals under whom his father had fought in the Mexican War.

Scott White was five years old when, in 1853, he arrived via covered wagon on the Santa Fe Trail with his parents, John and Elizabeth White. He had been born in Johnson County, Arkansas in September 1848.

Scott married Mary Elizabeth Reed in 1878. Mary had come west on another of the covered wagon trains, arriving in 1858 when an infant.

It was to the Sphinx Ranch in Altadena that Scott White came after his marriage and began training for the real ranch life. And it was there that Scott's first two children, Earl and Edith, were born.

About 1883, Scott White and family moved to Los Angeles. He went into the trucking business near where the Union Station now stands.

Some four years later, the family moved to the picturesque Winston Ranch, which was just east of the San Marino Ranch.

Well-trained for his duties, White took over the foremanship of this ranch, raising its productivity to such a point that he became almost indispensable. In fact, at the passing of Mr. Winston, his widow relied solely on White in carrying on her husband's operations of the ranch.

After some 10 years of responsibilities, White contemplated an early retirement, but it was not to be. Unknown to him, George S. Patton of Rancho San Marino had been closely observing Winston's successful operations and had big things in store for him.

*Calendar of Upcoming Events*

- January 6, 2007 Workshop  
(Board and Committee members only)
- January 20, 2007 Annual Meeting  
(See Notice of Meeting, page 3)

In 1898, the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Los Angeles acquired full ownership of the San Marino Ranch. Mr. Patton, acting for banker I. W. Hellman, convinced White that he was the ideal man to become foreman of the ranch, also known as the Shorb Ranch.

White succeeded N. A. Strain who had resigned after 17 years to accept the position as road supervisor for Los Angeles County. So, at the historic old adobe, located at what is now the junction of San Marino Avenue and Sierra Madre Boulevard, the Strains moved out and the Whites moved in.

Scott's daughter, Mrs. Grace Haynes recalled when they moved to the San Marino Ranch, an occasion

when Mr. Patton showed a tall, very stately gentleman over the ranch. The gentleman was none other than Henry E. Huntington. Within a short period, Huntington acquired full title to the great ranch, soon to be his home, later to become the great Huntington Library and Art Gallery of today.

Scott White did a fine job of revitalizing the San Marino ranch, both before and after Huntington took over. Much had to be done in replacing, replanting and cultivating new agricultural areas.

Honored and highly respected, White retired in 1912 and died in September 10, 1918, ten days before his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Taylor Scott White, his wife Mary Elizabeth (Reed) White, his sons Earl White and Walter White, and his daughters Edith Potter, Grace Haynes, Anita Roper, and Phebe Lashbrook, as well as some of their spouses and children are all buried at Savannah Pioneer Cemetery.

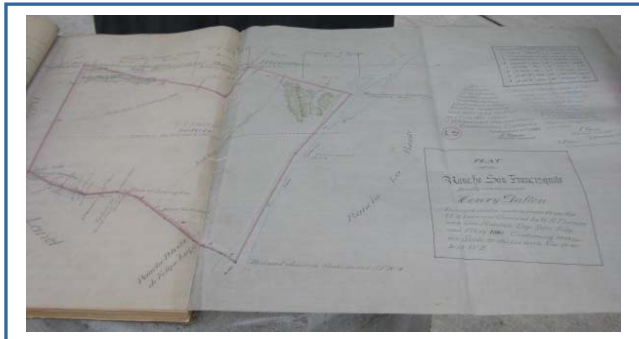


*The Taylor Scott White Family, ca. 1900*

Seated l to r: Anita, Taylor Scott, Phebe, Mary Elizabeth, Walter  
Standing l to r: Grace, Earl, Edith

*Based on an article in The Independent (Pasadena), February 21, 1963 submitted by Walter White*

## HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT "FIND" AT THE EL MONTE HISTORICAL MUSEUM



**ABSTRACT OF TITLE  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO HENRY DALTON  
Filed on 10<sup>th</sup> Day of September  
1852**

This original book, found at The El Monte Historical Museum by Victor Haddox, is constructed of a thick cardboard cover and contains 76 pages (some blank). It is a book of deeds and includes several attached, hand-drawn, fold-out maps. Further examination is needed to determine the full significance of these records.

Henry Dalton was the original owner of the land surrounding and including Savannah Pioneer Cemetery. It is said that while riding around his property in 1846, he discovered two graves. Out of respect, he set aside a small plot of land which later became Savannah Pioneer Cemetery.

### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of El Monte Cemetery Association will be January 20, 2007. Mark your calendars. All interested persons are welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the El Monte Historical Museum, 3150 Tyler Avenue, El Monte, CA. An agenda will be made available at the meeting along with the minutes of the previous meeting.

### **OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS**



Donald & Mary Alley	Connie (Lodge) & Mac McCormick
Joyce Bayless	Carol Marburger
Susan (Bennett) Lester	Judith Mitchell
Sylvia Villanueva & James Bias	Glen Pennington
Jesse Burl Blue	Ken Pike
Barbara (Blue) Flitt	Sharron Redding
Lyle (Cheneworth) Malzdorff	Howard & Betsy Rigdon
Janet (Chase) Hassler	Fred Roberts
Melinda (Chase) Cooke	Elizabeth (Robinson)
Betty Cook	Rockwell
Ed & Carole Crawford	Verna Smith
Doris Crain & Rich Amborn	Jean & John Terberg
Dwain Crum	Susan Thompson
Dorothy Emmons	Mary Lee & Lloyd Tippit
Nancy Goldbloom	Lili & Bud Verhoef
Anna (Guess) Pick	John Wallace
Francis Guess	Cleo & Bob Webb
Alan & Lois Guiliany	Ed & Carol Wells
Susan Haddox	Walter & Kay White
Del & Aileen Harral	Edwin & Joann Wiggins
Jerry & Nancy Hart	Irmalee (Wiggins)
David Hassler	Schumacher
Gladys Bible Horn	Janice (Wiggins) White
Joseph & Eleanor Keller	Marilyn (Wiggins) Burdick
Stella Lambert	Penni (Wiggins) Lansford
Jerry Lasandro	Sarah Wilson
Larry Leatherman	Thomas & Marilyn Wilson

### *Financial News*

*As of November 30, 2006*

Donations	\$5,100.00
Café Press Income	\$42.90

***Help these funds grow!! Send a donation:***

El Monte Cemetery Association  
P. O. Box 4247  
El Monte, California 91734

**Happy Holidays Everyone and  
May Peace and Prosperity Be  
with You in the New Year**

Visit our web site to read more about us:  
<http://www.savannahpioneer cem.blogspot.com/>

Consider making a small purchase to help support  
the cemetery at:  
<http://www.cafepress.com/scgsgenealogy/1615874> or call  
1-877-809-1659.



Mugs, T-Shirts, Coasters, Tote Bags and more . . .

### Readers' Comments Wanted

Please submit your comments, a family biography for publication (please limit to a maximum of 500 words), or just a brief paragraph about what Savannah Pioneer Cemetery means to you. Email: SavannahCemetery@yahoo.com; or contact us at:

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