

HISTORY  
OF  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

---

JOHN STEVEN MCGROARTY  
EDITOR

---

Assisted by a Board of Advisory Editors

---

With Selected Biography of Actors and Witnesses in the Period  
of the County's Greatest Growth and Achievement

---

ILLUSTRATED

---

VOLUME III

---

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.  
CHICAGO AND NEW YORK  
1923

R  
979.493  
M  
V.3  
c.1

~~R~~  
~~979.4~~  
M 46447  
~~46449~~  
~~v.3~~

GLENDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Westinghouse Electric Company. In 1920 he established his poultry ranch, taking possession of his present quarters in 1921. He raises White Leghorn and Black Langsham chickens, and breeds high-grade chickens, and sells hatching eggs, baby chicks, breeding stock, etc. He raises about 10,000 birds annually, and keeps 3,000 layers on hand all the time. Two people are constantly employed. His territory embraces the City of Los Angeles and the Fernando Valley. He also has a peach orchard on his ranch, and owns a subdivision at Lankershim. He maintains membership with the Farm Bureau and the Lankershim Chamber of Commerce. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic Order and the Independent Order of Foresters.

On August 26, 1913, Mr. Sherman was united in marriage with Miss Gwendolyn O. Evans, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Evans, natives of Wales. Mr. and Mrs. Sherman have two children: Mary Jane and Barbara Anna. Mrs. Sherman was born in Ventura County, California, and she was educated in the public schools of Los Angeles. Both she and Mr. Sherman are deservedly popular, and are numbered among the younger married set of their social circle.

JOHN THOMAS MILLIGAN, while a public accountant by profession and with broad experience in commercial affairs, has at the same time been a recognized poultry breeder and expert for a number of years, and is now actively associated as one of the owners and production manager of the California White Leghorn Breeding Farms at Lankershim. Since January 18, 1923, Mr. Milligan and A. O. Eckerman have been joint owners of this proposition.

The farms are located on Tulare Street, two blocks west of Lankershim Boulevard, and comprise twenty acres. The ranch is stocked with over twenty-three thousand chickens, and includes representatives in whole or in part of some of the famous splendid bred leghorn flocks of the Pacific Coast.

Mr. Milligan was born in Louisville, Kentucky, August 11, 1879, son of Samuel A. and Kate V. (Knapp) Milligan. He was reared in that city, attended the common and high schools and also completed a business course. For a time he was employed as bookkeeper and stenographer by the National Foundry and Machine Company of Louisville, and was then with the Belknap Wholesale Hardware Company of Louisville. He was also connected with the Bell Telephone Company, and for several years did an independent business as a public accountant. Mr. Milligan in 1907 bought a farm in Kentucky and specialized in poultry production there until 1917. During that time he had exhibited his stock and won prizes in many of the leading poultry shows of the country. Mr. Milligan in 1917 became associated with the Kentucky Agricultural College and Experiment Station in the poultry investigation department and also as an official of the National Egg Laying Contest. In 1918 he went to Washington, D. C., as one of the auditors in the treasury department and for field work with that department. In 1919 he resumed professional work as a public accountant at Lexington, Kentucky, and in 1921 transferred his headquarters to Denver. On September 1, 1922, Mr. Milligan came to Lankershim, California, and soon afterward became associated with the poultry farm.

He is independent in politics. His first wife was Miss Mary Daniel, of Louisville, who died in March, 1907. The only child of that marriage is Edwin, now in the United States Navy. On November 7, 1907, Mr. Milligan married Miss Alice Jockell, of West Point, Kentucky. They have three daughters, Wilma, Helen and Virginia.

WILLIAM NEWTON MONROE. Founder of a town, and through more than a third of a century cherishing and fostering in every possible way its growth and prosperity, William Newton Monroe has enjoyed the fruits of long experience and garnered the best wishes of community esteem.

The town in which his name figures so conspicuously at the beginning and through all the years of history is Monrovia. He and Mrs. Monroe before the town was thought of called their estate Monroevia, and when the same name was suggested for the town the "e" was eliminated, so that the name stands as today Monrovia. Mr. Monroe was born at Lexington, Scott County, Indiana, June 4, 1841, son of Sanders A. and Catherine Monroe. His parents were natives of old Virginia and of old Southern stock and Scotch-Irish fame. His father was a prominent stock man. W. N. Monroe was a student in Ashland University in Iowa when the Civil war came on, and in 1861 he left with the First Iowa Cavalry, and was in service until the close of this struggle four years later. After two years he was promoted to first lieutenant and transferred to the Seventh Iowa Regiment, and at the close of his service was brevetted major. He was in many battles in the main theatre of the war, and toward the end of the struggle was sent West to quell Indian troubles.

Following the war for many years Mr. Monroe was a contractor and railroad builder. His father-in-law, Milton Hall, was a railroad contractor, and Mr. Monroe worked for Mr. Hall in handling a contract for constructing a part of the Union Pacific from Omaha. From Omaha he came to California, where he was superintendent of construction for the Southern Pacific for twelve years. He then went to Old Mexico, where he spent four years altogether. He constructed two hundred kilometers or about one hundred and fifty miles of the Mexican International from Eagle Pass, Texas, for Collis P. Huntington. Mr. Monroe was a close friend of the late Mr. Huntington. He also built two hundred and forty miles west from San Antonio on the main line of the Southern Pacific. From San Antonio he came to Los Angeles in November, 1884. He shipped a car load of mules to Los Angeles, selling most of them at \$200 a piece, but kept sixteen for his own purposes. While a railroad contractor he accumulated a modest fortune of \$150,000. He was a married man at that time, and then as since he and his wife were real partners. He was provided with a specially fitted car while on railroad work, and the car was both a home and an office, being furnished with a piano and other comforts. Mr. Monroe constructed many miles of the Southern Pacific main line through Arizona and Texas. It was in 1884 that Mr. Monroe, after driving about over the country in every direction, selected two hundred and forty acres from the Lucky Baldwin ranch as the site for their home and fruit farm. He at once put to work a large party of men with tools and mules in clearing the land, cutting away the underbrush but leaving the live oak trees, and the home has ever since been known as The Oaks.

Two years after buying his land Mr. Monroe became associated with J. D. Bicknell and E. F. Spence, each contributing land, Mr. Monroe 120 acres, as the townsite of Monrovia. Mr. Bicknell was secretary and attorney of the town company and Mr. Spence, treasurer. These three men were the founders of Monrovia, and they started the work of laying out the town in March, 1886, grading streets, laying water pipes and naming the streets for fruit and flowers.

Among other enterprises for the new town in which Mr. Monroe enlisted his time and capital was the rapid transit railway, the building of which he handled as a contractor and which finally passed into the hands of the Southern Pacific. He built the Granite Bank, building it out of cut granite rock from Sow Pit Canyon, at a cost of \$22,000. Monrovia now owns the building as a City Hall. He also built two brick buildings north of the City Hall and many other buildings. Mr. and Mrs. Monroe gave three lots to the Baptist denomination to build their first church and also helped build the church building. He and his family were members there. They also gave three lots for the Methodist Church, and helped to build the church, also two lots to

the Congregationalists and helped to build that church. They gave four lots for the first school house on Orange Avenue.

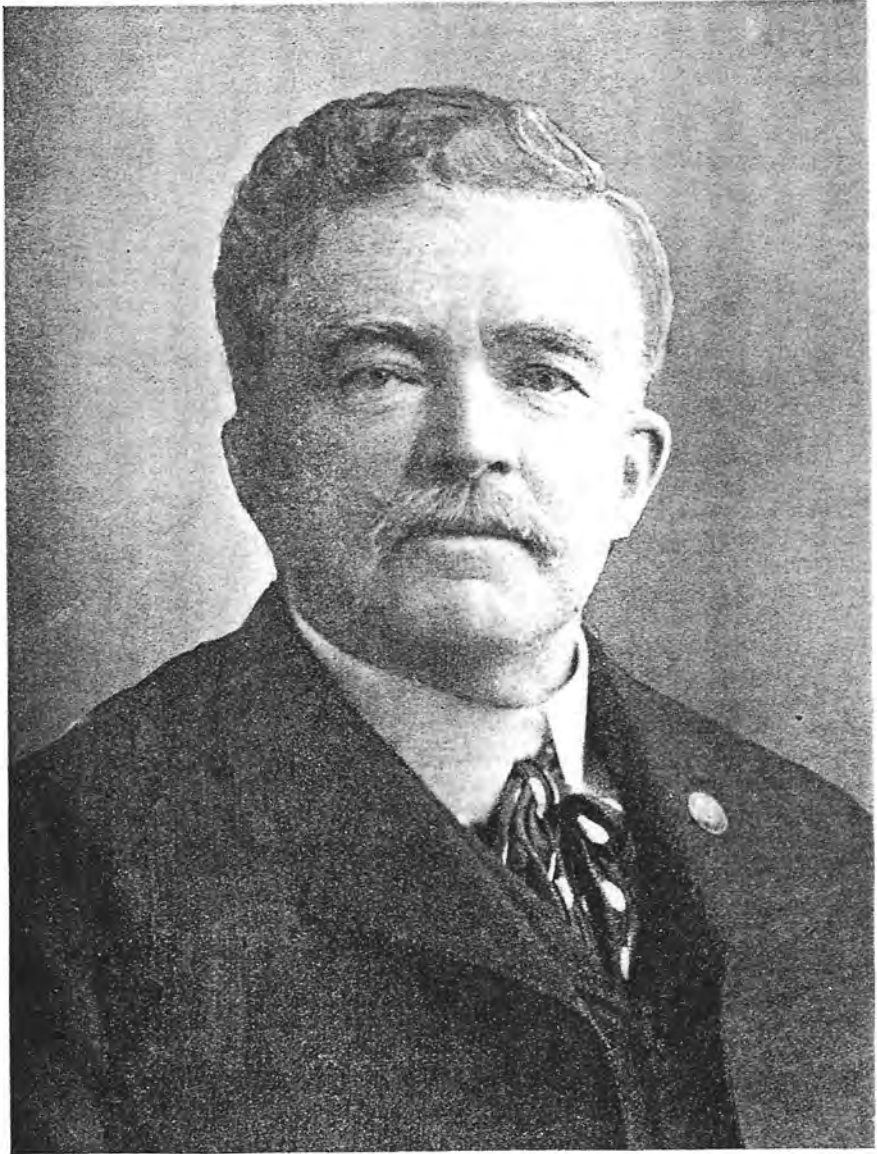
Mr. Monroe's interest in Monrovia has been continued, but his residence here was interrupted in 1907, when he went to Alaska and participated in the exciting adventures of the Klondike and other gold fields. In 1909 he went to Nome, and was engaged in the construction of Alaska's first railway, known as the Wild Goose Railroad, between Nome and Anvil Creek, a distance of seven miles. After doing his work as superintendent of construction he operated the road until it was sold to the Nome Arctic Railway Company. The following year it was extended to Iron Creek, and the property was then sold to the Seward Peninsular Railroad. Mr. Monroe remained for seven years superintendent and general manager of these roads. Mrs. Monroe was with him in Alaska all this time. In 1914 they returned to Monrovia. While in Alaska Mr. Monroe hauled in as much as \$159,000 in gold dust to Nome. This was in bags hauled on open flat cars, and was the week-end cleanup on the part of the miners along Anvil Creek.

In 1864 Mr. Monroe married Miss Mary J. Hall, who was born in La Grange, Marion County, Missouri, in 1846, daughter of Milton S. and Vianna (Tolle) Hall. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Monroe. The oldest, Milton S., a native of Omaha, Nebraska, was killed in a railway accident in Pomona, California, in 1900, leaving a wife and two children. George Monroe, also born at Omaha, is clerk of court at Los Angeles, and a resident of Monrovia. He married Miss Etta Evans, of Monrovia. They have one son, Merton K. Mrs. Monroe is a member of and secretary of the Monrovia School Board. Myrtle M. is the wife of Bruce Bailey, a consulting engineer of the Santa Fe Railway, with headquarters in Los Angeles, but with home in Monrovia. Myrtle Avenue in Monrovia was named in honor of this daughter. Jessie Lee Monroe, who was born at Lawrence, Kansas, died at the age of seven years in San Antonio, Texas. Mabel H., the youngest child, was born at San Antonio and is the wife of Bruce Dyer, a broker living at Inglewood, California. They have one son, Hector Monroe Dyer, who graduated from the grammar school at the age of thirteen and is now a student in the high school.

**ALBERT O. ECKMAN.** To a number of people throughout the country the name of Los Angeles is so connected with the motion-picture business that they overlook the fact that this section of the state can lay claim to celebrity along many lines outside of this one great industry. In fact had motion pictures never proven the success they have, and the matchless climatic conditions here not decided the producers to establish their studios here, Los Angeles would still be famous.

The city and county of the name have attracted to them men of sterling character and creative impulses who, seeking a location where they can establish themselves, give free rein to their ideas for making their work count for something. In this wonderful region are to be found representatives of all professions, trades and callings. Every industry is well and successfully represented, and because of the large and constantly growing population the demand for produce of all kinds is increasing in a most remarkable manner. It is therefore of paramount importance that first-class foodstuffs be raised convenient to the local markets, and some of the most aggressive of the county's citizens are now employed in producing food of one kind or another, and one of them, whose efforts are meeting with a merited success, is Albert O. Eckman, whose fine poultry ranch is located north of Lankershim.

Albert O. Eckman was born at Paris, Kentucky, August 16, 1882, a son of John Henry Eckman, for many years a well-known figure in the fine-horse-raising industry of the Blue Grass State. Albert O. Eckman was reared in Kentucky, and educated in its public schools. Until 1920 he was associated with his father in his stock business, but in that year came to Los Angeles County, and, buying forty acres of land north of Lankershim,



W. H. Monroe