

STOCKING, CLARK BIGELOW

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STOCKING, CLARK BIGELOW, born at Saranac, Ionia County, Michigan, September 18, 1839; son of Jerrod and Lucy (Bigelow) Stocking; married (1) Mary E. Day (1852-97), daughter of Thompson B. and Eliza (Davis) Day, at Steckton, California, January 24, 1883; daughter, Frances Carlisle (Mrs. Archer Dunn and afterwards Mrs. W.H. Leffler); (2) at the age of 70 he married Olive M. Spencer of Los Angeles on May 18, 1910, and stated that his bride was 69.

Worked as a boy in logging camps; ran away from home in the spring of 1857 and walked to St. Joseph, Missouri; traveled to Salt Lake City as cook for a freighting outfit being 4 months on the way; went with an emigrant train via Truckee to California and found work in sawmills near Humboldt Bay; said to have participated as a civilian in a campaign against Indians on the headwaters of Bel River for 3 months in 1859.

Enrolled, age 22, at Yreka, Siskiyou County, September 12, and mustered in at Camp Union, Sacramento, October 2, 1861, to serve 3 years as Private, Captain Joseph Smith's company A, 5th California Infantry; occupation when enlisted - Sawyer; sent with the Company to Camp Latham in Southern California and went from there via the San Geronio pass to Fort Yuma arriving in February, 1862; the Company marched up the Gila arriving at Tucson in July and at Fort Fillmore on the Rio Grande in August; stationed there and at Mesilla, 6 miles above, until December, 1862.

According to the account in The Vanguard he went with the Company to Apache Teju (Fort McLean), N.M., where "we found encamped Mr. Walker, leading a strong party of prospectors, who wisely regarded it as unsafe to proceed until Mangus Colorado and his band had been accounted for by the troops"; after describing how that noted Apache chief became a prisoner, he states that "James Collier and George Mead were the two soldiers who first shot

Mangus and then Sergeant Folgan rushed into the cabin and gave him a ball through the head with his pistol"; (the muster roll shows that Sergeant Henry C. Foljaine with Privates James Colyear and John V. Mead were members of Company A, 5th California Infantry, when Mangas Coloradas was killed on January 19, 1863).

Stationed at Pinos Altos until March when the Company moved to Fort Stanton where it remained until the spring of 1864; marched with an expedition to the headwaters of the Gila River and established Fort Goodwin, A.T. in May; stationed there with the Company until ordered to Mesilla for final muster out where he was honorably discharged on November 30, 1864; he then went to El Paso del Norte and is said to have carried dispatches for the Mexican authorities from there to Chihuahua and return, avoiding French troops.

Reenlisted January 21, 1865, at Franklin (El Paso) Texas, as Private, Company E, 1st Battalion, California Veteran Infantry; promoted to Corporal, March 1, 1865; his chief service during this enlistment was riding express and escorting the mails across the Jornada del Muerto; honorably discharged at Los Pinos, N.M., September 15, 1866.

The Vanguard, written by Edgar B. Bronson and published in 1914, is asserted to be based upon his life but many of the statements made therein cannot be verified; numerous experiences and adventures attributed to him may have happened to others and some of them are probably pure fiction; his name does not appear in the records of the exploring expedition under Lieutenant George M. Wheeler in Nevada or Arizona, 1868-69, and the only record of any service as an Army Scout and guide is for 5 days in January,

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1880, at \$2 per day, at Fort Garland, Colorado; according to The Vanguard he was hired by Don M. Palmer of Denver to guard shipments of bullion in Old Mexico and also did like work at the mine owned by "Boss" A.R. Shepherd of Washington, D.C., at Batopilas, Chihuahua, in 1880-82.

It is known that after his marriage in 1883 he went with his wife to the Carlisle mine in New Mexico where he was treasure guard for about 3 years and then returned to California; The Vanguard states that he then went to Nogales, A.T., where he served as Deputy Sheriff and also engaged in prospecting in Sonora; as Deputy Sheriff and Deputy City Marshall is said to have been in a fight at Silver Lake, a resort near Tucson, when he shot the leader of a band of four Mexican robbers and helped to capture the other three.

It is of record that while serving as Jailor for Jere Gryer, Sheriff of Pinal County, A.T., on August 4, 1889, he had a fight in the county jail at Florence with Juan Avenenti and nearly killed him with a pick handle for which he was sentenced by Judge Joseph H. Kibbey for assault with a deadly weapon to one year in the Territorial Prison at Yuma; he was received at the Prison on December 2, 1891, but was pardoned by Governor John N. Irwin on January 17, 1892.

The Vanguard then tells how he went from San Francisco down the West Coast as far as Guayaquil, returned to Panama and on to Buenos Ayres; crossed the South Atlantic to Cape Town and thence to Johannesburg, leaving there just before the Jamison raid in December, 1895; returned to New York dead broke but made his way to Arizona where he is said to have resumed his old occupation as peace officer and bullion guard at such places as the Pierce mine, the King of Arizona, Tyson Wells and at Morenci.

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Admitted to the U.S. Soldiers Home at Sawtelle, near Los Angeles, January 17, 1898 and was finally discharged on August 14, 1933, after leaves of absence at various times, one of which is said to have been for 3 months at the Double Circle ranch in Arizona; Comrade, Bartlett-Logan Post, G.A.R. in Los Angeles and was a Member of the Pioneer Society; died at Los Angeles, California, June 2, 1934, aged 94; buried in Rosedale Cemetery.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Orton, R.H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, Sacramento, 1890, pp. 404, 680.
- Bronson, E.B. - The Vanguard, N.Y., 1914.
- McClintock, J.H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, 1915, pp. 601-602.
- District Court of Pinal County, A.T., - Register of Criminal Actions, vol. 1, p. 31.
- Arizona Territorial Prison - Commitment and discharge records.
- U.S. Veterans Administration - Pension and Soldiers Home records, C. 2, 570, 702.
- The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.
- The Quartermaster General's Office - Archives and Claims.
- The Comptroller General's Office - Old files.
- Stocking, Rev. C.H.W. - The Stocking Ancestry, 1903, p. 190.
- U.S. Census, 1850 - Otisco Township, Ionia County, Michigan.
- The Los Angeles Examiner, June 3, 1934, Sec. 2, p. 12, C. 8 (funeral notice)
- The Los Angeles Times, June 3, 1934, Sec. 1, p. 32, C. 3 (funeral notice)