

BIOGRAPHYS OF KENNEDY MINE NOTABLES

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Biography - Virgilio S. Garbarini

Virgilio Sebastian Garbarini was born on May 3, 1859. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of immigrants. When he was seven years old in 1866, he and his family traveled around the bottom of South America and journeyed to California. When the family reached Amador County they decided to remain here. One thing V.S. remembered from his childhood was the Indian camps that lined the road from Volcano to Jackson. From the age of fourteen he manifested a keen interest in mechanics and was given the opportunity to develop his talent in his father's shop. One of his first experiences in the labor world was with a threshing crew operating along the Consumes River to Buckeye and then through Buena Vista. It was a good summer long adventure for V.S. His first mining experience was when he went to work for D.D. Matson framing timber at the Coney Mine, which had opened in 1879. After being employed for ten years at the Coney Mine, later named the Zeile Mine, he worked as a carpenter in Jackson, and assisted in building a number of well known houses in the city of Jackson. His next move was to Calaveras County where he assisted H.E. Kay in dismantling the Ilex Mine and rebuilding it in Sutter Creek in Amador County.

In September 1891 he went to the Kennedy Mine in Jackson and worked as a master mechanic to take charge of the surface work. In 1894 he went to the Argonaut Mine where he worked for eighteen months installing the hoist, gallows, frames, crushing plant, and all necessary buildings. At the Argonaut he also put up a 40-stamp mill. In 1898 he returned to the Kennedy Mine when on Thanksgiving Day he broke ground for the east shaft. During 1898 he worked as superintendent at the Sheep Ranch Mine where he unwatered the shaft and built a 20-stamp mill. From 1899-1901 he installed hoists and other machinery at the South Eureka, Central Eureka and Ballow Mines. He also repaired the Freemont and installed a hoist at the Bunker Hill Mine. In 1901 V.S. traveled to Alaska where he took charge of a mine and built a mill. In 1902 V.S. returned from Alaska and was back working at the Kennedy. He built a permanent hoisting system which included a 1,000 horse power hoist capable of raising a five ton skip from a depth of 5,000 feet. He worked at the Kennedy

until 1905. In 1906 V.S. went to Randsberg in Kern county to equip a tungston mine. He then traveled to Sanbernadino county to superintend the construction of a quartz mill.

During the years 1914 -1918 V.S. worked as master mechanic at the Argonaut Mine, which was a period of peak production for the mine. In 1915 he designed and supervised the construction of the mill, tramway, steel headframe and electric hoist for the 3,900 foot station. He was eventually promoted to superintendent which he held untill 1922. After the tragedy at the Argonaut Mine in 1922, which cost the lives of 47 miners, V.S. was released from his duties because operational costs were to high. The carrer of V.S. Garbarini in the mining industry came to an end when he was 63 years old. He opened a gas station in jackson and remained open for any projects that needed his skills. During this time he supervised the raising of the P.G&E. darn at Bear River Reservoir. In 1928 he built the new steel headframe at the Kennedy Mine. V.S. became very active in civic affairs and politics. His first public office was trustee of the Aetnas school district. with the incorporation of the City of Jackson V.S. was elected chairman/president of the board of trustee's, the first mayor of jackson, a position he held from 1905 to 1916. In 1920 V.S. became a county supervisor. During his term in office the county courthouse was refurbished, Amador conty water rights were protected from outside demands, the hospital was improved and the county library was constructed.

On October 18, 1931 V.S. Garbarini died of heart disease. His funeral services were conducted on a wednesday at St. Patrick's church, his funeral was one of the largest ever held in the city of Jackson. His remains were buried at the Catholic Cemetery.

BIOGRAPHY OF PERCY TYACK. MY GREAT GRANDFATHER

Percy Tyack was born on June 22, 1887 in Cornwall, England. In 1917 he got married to his wife Annie, who was born June 23, 1895. In 1918 he journeyed from Cornwall to Amador County where he decided to make a home for himself and his family. That same year he got a job working at the Kennedy Mine, he also had his daughter Emily in 1918 as well. When he first began his work at the mine he worked below ground, a job he did not like. After some time working at the mine he was changed to ground level work where he was an oiler, he oiled all the machinery on the surface. He was quite fond of this job.

During Percy's time at the mine he worked four shifts that had two week intervals. The shifts were night, graveyard, afternoon, and day. Some co-workers he liked at the mine were: Jim Nettle, Joe Greaseback, Adolf Spinetta, and Jim Tippets. Since he didn't have a vehicle he had to walk two miles to work and back. In 1935 he obtained an automobile. One person he liked quite well was a worker who worked at the mine. His last name is unknown, but he was called Johnny the Gardener and sometimes he was called Johnny Bouquet because of the beautiful flowers he grew in his garden and made fabulous bouquets to sell.

Percy occasionally took his family up to the mine to show them the machines and what his job was. My great aunt Emily remembers when he went to picket in one of the labor strikes and feared that he might die because when the mob rules violence grow. With the coming of World War II the Kennedy Mine closed, the year was 1942. Percy worked until the mine closed, then he joined the military and was stationed at Camp Kearney. When he returned from Camp Kearney he worked odd jobs around Jackson until he was hired at the sawmill. He worked at the mill until 1949. He died at the mill while working, he died of a heart attack.

This information was acquired from an interview with my great aunt Emily Tyack Oneto. Ironically, Percy's birthday was June 22, his wife's was June 23, my father's is June 23, and mine is June 25th.

Biography- Ben Sanguinetti

Ben Sanguinetti was born in 1889. Ben spent practically all of his life in Amador County. He was associated with the mining industry, county affairs, he was in charge of the under ground workings at the Argonaut Mine, later he was in charge of the tunnel operations on the PG&E Salt Springs project. He was also an underground foreman of the rescue operation that tunneled from the Kennedy Mine to the Argonaut during the Argonaut Mine disaster. He was also in charge of the Sunset Mine which is located west of Jackson. During his life he also assisted with the management of the Globe Hotel. In 1932 Ben was elected to serve as supervisor for township # 1 and took office in January of 1933. He was reelected repeatedly and served fourteen years as a member of the board. He was a member of the board of directors of the 26th Agracultural district and was on the Weimar Sanatorium board representing Amador County.

Ben was allways a leader in the modernization of the countys buildings, being prominent in the building of the courthouse and the improvement of the Amador County hospital. Before he died he was working toward building a new hospital for the county. He was a member of the Eagles, The Native Sons, The Italian Benevolent Society and the Jackson Lions Club all of which he was an active participant in when his work would allow. Ben was related to Cybil Aratta who was the last individual who owned the Kennedy Mine. His wifes name was Oda and he had a son named Charles Lawrence Sanguinetti. After spending some time at the Mayo Clinic he returned to Amador County and was put in the hospital on January 29, 1947. Ben Sanguinetti died April 2, 1947 one month after his 58th birthday. His funeral services were conducted Monday April 7th from the chapel of J.J. Daneri and son in Jackson. Ben was well known and notable for his work in the mines of Amador County.

Biography - James Fleming

James Fleming was a resident of Wicklow County in Ireland before he journeyed to the United States and took residence in Amador County. James Fleming was born in 1826 and arrived in the United States in 1860 at the age of thirty four. When James and his wife Clare arrived in Amador County they had two thousand dollars in valuables. James got a job working at the Kennedy Mine where he was a miner for a few years before becoming part owner of the mine. James was only part owner, the other owners or partners were John Fuller, James Bergin and Samuel Langdon. Because they failed to pay their taxes on the mine in 1864 they were sued. The following paragraph is a legal statement about the lawsuit.

The people of California for the county of Amador complain of James Fleming and company and also of the following described real estate and improvements to wit: possession of that certain quartz mine, the Kennedy Mine, the mine was assessed at 2,000 dollars. The assessor for Jackson said their mine was subject to taxation, the assessment role was submitted to the Board of Equalization of Amador County and has by Amador board duly equalized as provided by law said James Fleming and company were the owners of the mine and it was assessed to them. The above described real estate improvements on real estate and personal property and upon such property there has been duly levied for the first year ending March 1, 1864 a state tax for two hundred dollars and a county tax of two hundred and eighty dollars amounting in the whole to four hundred and eighty dollars all of which is due and unpaid and was duly assessed and levied against the real estate.

James Fleming was also part owner of the Oneida Mine for a time. For several years in the 1880's James had left the county but returned in the winter of 1889. He returned in poor health and died shortly after his arrival on July 12, 1890. James Fleming died at the residence of Mr. John Flaherty in Jackson near the Kennedy Mine.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The information for this project was obtained at the county archives, the county library and the Amador County Records office. The process begins by going through the Kennedy Mine payroll and finding names, then from there to the records office to discover the date of death of the individuals. With the date of death I went to the archives to look up obituaries and go through card files to find more information on the individuals. I used the microfilm at the county library as well. The information on one of my biographies was obtained from an oral interview with my Great Aunt Emily Tyack Oneto.