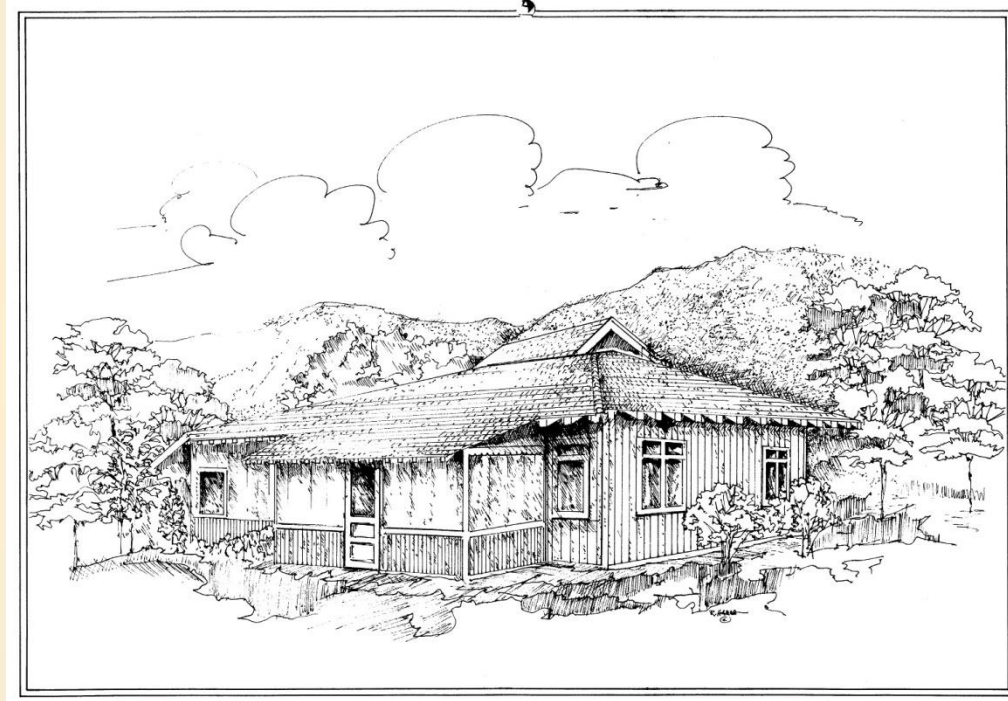


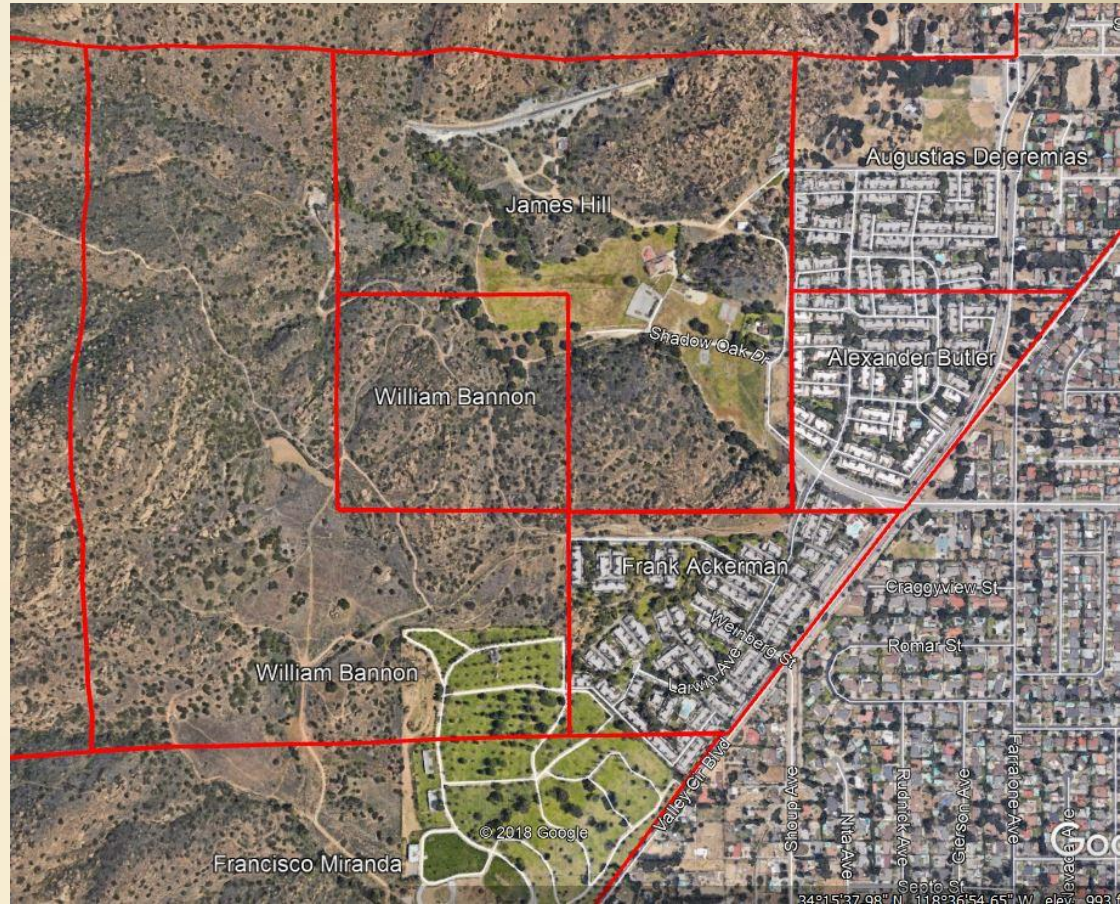
The Minnie Hill Palmer Story

- The Hill-Palmer House, named to the National Register of Historic Places as the only remaining homestead cottage and surrounding gardens in the San Fernando Valley, was built about 1911 by James David and Rhoda Jane Enlow Hill.
- In 1974 it was named Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #133, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.
- Located within the Homestead Acre in Chatsworth Park South, the property is owned by the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks, with the Chatsworth Historical Society as conservators.
- The house, gardens and Chatsworth Museum is open for tours from 1-4 p.m. the first Sunday of every month.



James & Rhoda Hill

- 1886 - James and Rhoda Hill move to Chatsworth with their 6 children and take up squatter's rights on their homestead. (Minnie was born on the property in 1886)
- They build a wood-frame house, an adjacent barn, well and fencing, and cultivate 10-12 acres.
- 1886 – Daughter Lizzie marries John Glinn, who is living on the adjacent quarry property.
- 1888 – Daughter Ruth marries Frank Ackerman, who homesteads an adjacent 42 acres.



James & Rhoda Hill

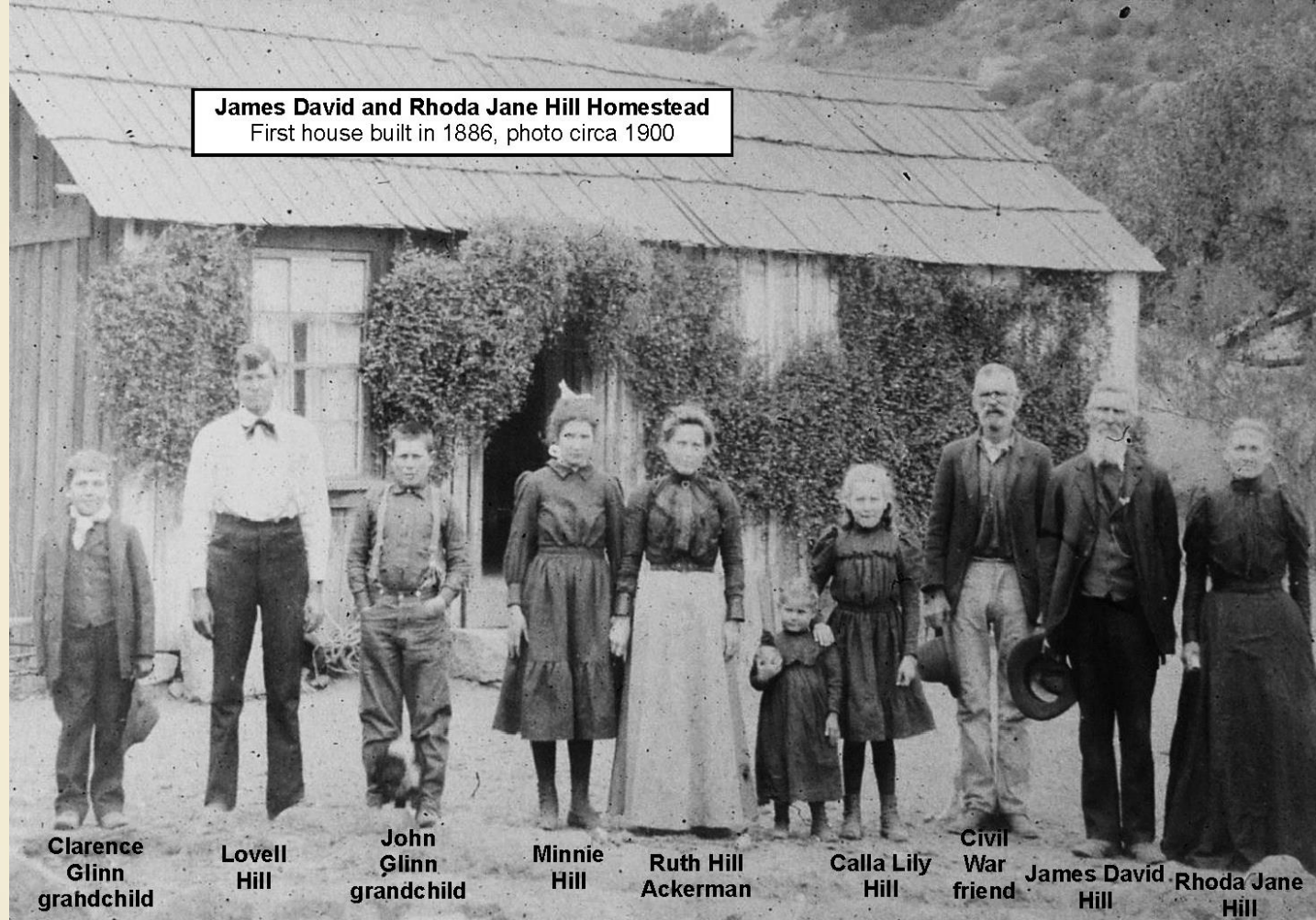
- 1901 – The Hill Homestead documents on 120 acres are recorded. They later deeded 10 acres to Southern Pacific for tunnel right of way, so they owned 110 acres.
- 1901 – Bannon sells his 160 acre Homestead parcel, and his 40 acre stone-claim quarry parcel, to the California Construction Company, that would supply sandstone rip-rap to the San Pedro Breakwater for the next four years.
- 1926 – The Hill family purchases the northwestern 80 acres of the 160 acre Bannon Homestead parcel (which included the old De La Ossa Stagecoach Way Station), and the 40 acre quarry parcel. They now own 110 + 120 = 230 acres.

Note: the southeastern 40 acre parcel of the Bannon Homestead was purchased by Oakwood Cemetery.



James David Hill (1842-1923) & Rhoda Jane Enlow Hill (1846-1935)

- The original Homestead House, circa 1900.
- Minnie is in the center with black stockings.
- James and Rhoda Hill are to the right.



Topics to be covered

- 1860's to 1886 – The Hill family travels from Arkansas to Visalia Ca. to Los Angeles to Chatsworth
- Family photographs
- 1886-1940's The homesteading years
- 1950-60's – the sale of their homestead property to Henry Berkenkamp, Aqua Sierra, and the Roy Roger's Sports Center
- 1970's – Chatsworth Historical Society conservators



Circa 1900 James David Hill and Rhoda Jane Enlow Hill

1860's travel from Arkansas to Visalia, Ca.

- James David Hill (1842-1923) and Rhoda Jane Enlow (1846-1935) were married in **Arkansas** in May 1865, one month after the end of the Civil War.
- James was born in Indiana, and at the age of 19 he enlisted in the Iowa Infantry, as a **Union Soldier**.
- Rhoda was born in Arkansas, and her older brother Francis was a **Confederate Soldier** in the Arkansas artillery. Her father was blind so he did not serve in the war.
- After the war, the Enlow family sold their plantation and came out to California in a wagon train. The Sierras were covered in snow, so they camped in Nevada for the winter, then crossed over to **Visalia, Ca.**, where there were already other Enlows and relations settled.
- James and Rhoda followed the Enlows; their first daughter Ruth is born in Iowa in 1867, and they join the Enlow families in Visalia by 1869.

Source: Ancestry- Enlow Family history

1870's travel from Visalia to Los Angeles

"My father James came to Los Angeles from Visalia about 1870 to find work.

My mother, Rhoda Jane Enlow Hill, brought my two older sisters to Los Angeles in 1871 to join my father, riding the old Stage Coach Road through the Santa Susana Pass from San Francisco. She went to San Francisco from Visalia to get the stage."

Source: 1964 interview of
Minnie Hill Palmer by
Virginia Watson

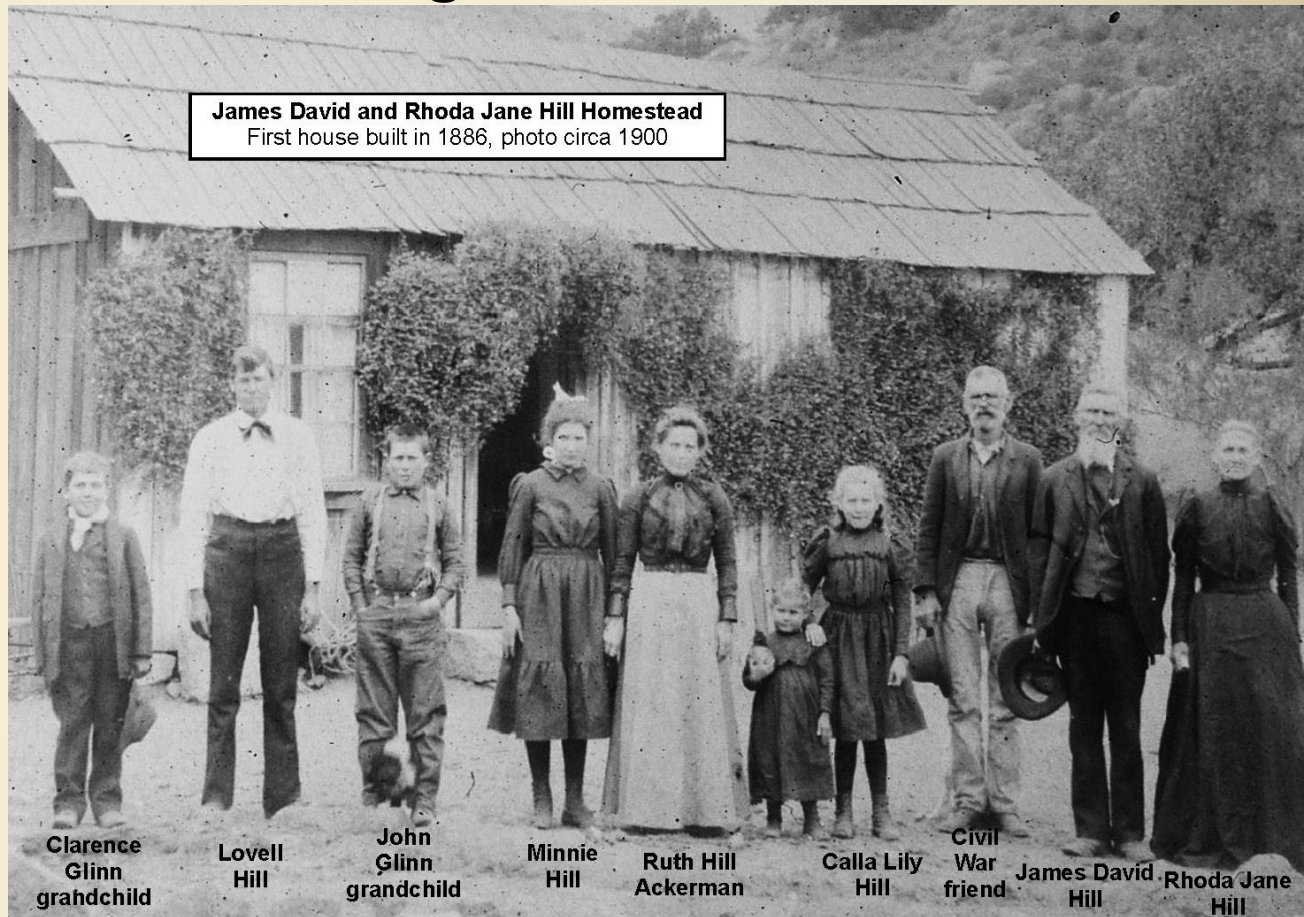


Minnie Hill Palmer at the 1939 dedication of the Stage Coach Trail, pictured at left behind the Stagecoach wheel.

1880's travel from Los Angeles to Chatsworth

"They lived in Compton/ Downey/ Hawthorne, then moved to Chatsworth in the spring of 1886. My mother kept house for the Lowry's. It was on Canoga Ave. and Mission Road (it was known later as the Charlton place and much later the [Walter] Lohman Ranch). She worked for the Lowry's for a short while as a housekeeper and then my parents homesteaded their own place."

Source: 1964 interview of
Minnie Hill Palmer by
Virginia Watson



A second circa 1900 photo of the Hill Family, taken the same day as the previous photo (they are all wearing the same clothes, Ruth is holding a baby in this one.)



*"I was born on
November 30, 1886,
... on the same land
where this house
stands now but not in
this house for it
wasn't built until
1912."*

Source: 1964 interview of
Minnie Hill Palmer by
Virginia Watson



Second Hill Family Homestead House, built 1911-1912
Source: Schepler slides carousel 8, circa 1930's

Family Photos

1st daughter, 1st child

Ruth Hill Hunter

Ackerman

(1867-1947)

Ruth married a sea captain named Hunter who died at sea, then married Frank Ackerman, who homesteaded 42 acres south of the family.



At the 42 acre Ackerman Homestead (Rim Rock Ranch) circa 1904.
Ruth would have 5 children, 4 surviving to adulthood.

Family Photos

1st daughter, 1st child

Ruth Hill Hunter

Ackerman

(1867-1947)

Ruth married a sea captain named Hunter who died at sea, then married Frank Ackerman, who homesteaded 42 acres south of the family.



1910 – Sisters (and ages) and their babies at 1st Homestead House
L-R, Ruth (43) w/Lucile, Minnie (23) w/Edith, Calla Lily (18) w/Lillian

Family Photos

2nd daughter, 2nd child

Elizabeth Hill Glinn Farner (1870-1958)

- Elizabeth (Lizzie) married John Lawrence Glinn in 1886 at the age of 16, and they had two children John (b. 1887) and Clarence (b. 1890).
- Glinn's property adjoined the Hills, and in the 1892 Chatsworth City Directory, of the sixteen people listed, John's entry is **"Glinn John L, rock and quarry"**
- In 1893, John and Lizzie were divorced (LA Herald). John L Glinn would marry again in 1898 in Corona, Riverside.
- Both of the Glinn boys lived at the Homestead house for a time, as seen in the earlier 1900 photo. Clarence Glinn lost an arm at an early age during a gun cleaning accident at the ranch.

Elizabeth (Lizzy) in Dec. 1906 (age 36)



Family Photos

2nd daughter, 2nd child

Elizabeth Hill Glinn Farner
(1870-1958)

By 1910, the same year that the Glinn boys are at the Hill Homestead, Elizabeth was living in Missouri with James Frank Farner.

Frank Farner had two children with a previous wife, Mary E., and Elizabeth was living with them through the 1920 census in Missouri.

Elizabeth with second husband
Frank Farner circa 1910 (age 40)



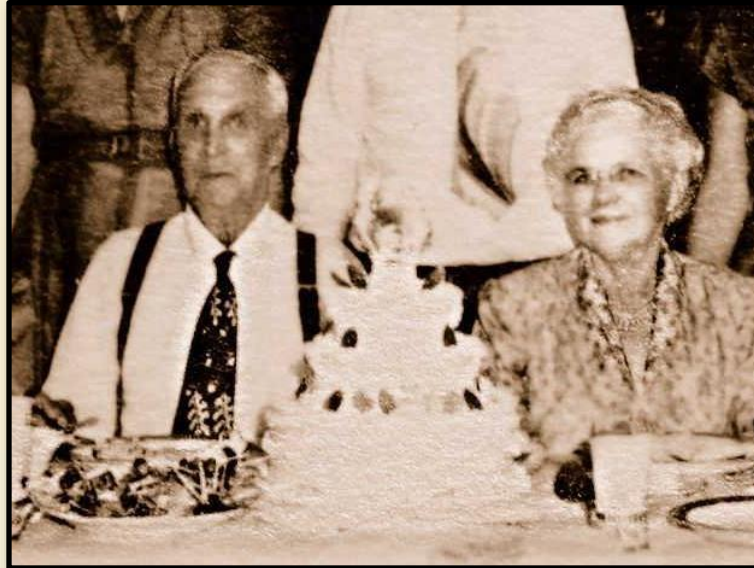
Family Photos

1st son, 3rd child

**James David Hill Jr.
(1872- 1957)**

- James Jr. married Ollie Doke in 1894 at the age of 22, and in 1901 lived in Simi Valley with their daughter Elsie and son James Robert.
- In 1902 he married Eva Gibson. They raised a large family in Los Angeles and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1952.

Undated photo at right James Jr.;
1952 photo below of James Jr. and
Eva Gibson
at their 50th wedding anniversary

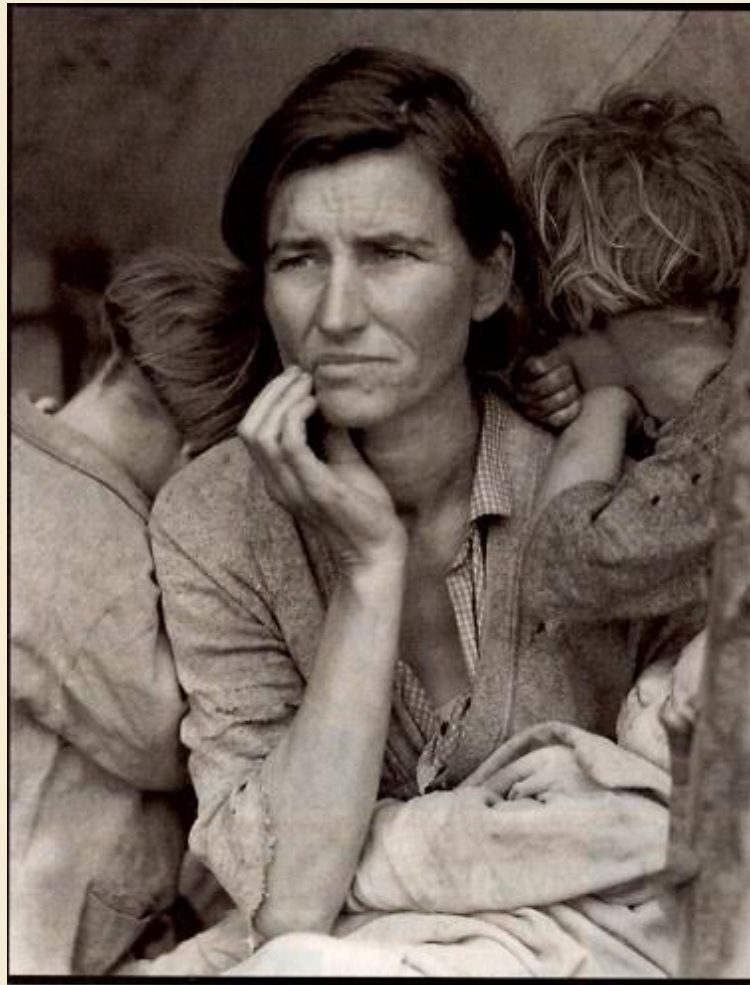


Family Photos

1st son, 3rd child

**James David Hill Jr.
(1872- 1957)**

As an aside, James Jr. had a son James Robert Hill (1901-1986). James Robert was living with the lady in the classic 1936 Depression Photo to the right, taken in Nipomo, Ca. He had three children with her.



Migrant Mother

became the iconic photo of the Depression, and one of the most familiar images of the 20th century.

Family Photos

2nd son, 4th child

**Lovell Aden Hill
(1876- 1952)**

- Lovell Hill lived in the Homestead house with his parents most of his life as a bachelor.
- He married Laura Straw Hindman abt. 1935 at the age of 59, and adopted her two daughters from her previous marriage.



Undated photo of
Rhoda and Lovell Hill,
both born in Downey



Family Photos

2nd son, 4th child

Lovell Aden Hill (1876- 1952)

- In 1888, When Lovell was 12 years old, he wrote a letter to Mrs. Otis, wife of Harrison Gray Otis, who in 1886 was the President of the Los Angeles Times.
- Mrs. Eliza Ann Otis was a member of the staff at the Times, and worked at such departments as "Women and Home" and "Our Boys and Girls".
- Lovell talks about the creek and the ferns in the spring a little farther up in the cañon.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

SOME QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED NEXT WEEK.

Such a Fine Lot of Letters—The Band of Hope at Pomona—The Billy Goat—Ferns—A Letter from Iowa—Republican Boys.

You have not forgotten me this week, my dears, for I have a very respectable-looking pile of letters before me from the thoughtful boys and girls of the TIMES-MIRROR. I think if ever you should be excused for neglecting me it is just before the Christmas holidays, when every one is so busy making ready for Santa Claus. Now, come and sit in our corner and let us read the letters that have been written:

Lovell mentions decorating Christmas trees with chokeberries and oranges. Chokeberries are bright red (and bitter), and are Toyon berries.

Now come a pleasant letter from the country, from the lovely foothill region, where the grasses are growing green and everything at this season is so fair:

SAN FERNANDO, Dec. 1, 1888.

Dear Mrs. Otis: My little sisters read the letters in the MIRROR, and we like them very much. We live in the Santa Suzana district, in and near the foothills. It is a very nice place. A creek runs past the house, which comes from a spring a little farther up the cañon. The ferns look very pretty at this time of the year. Maybe I'll send you some when I find some fine ones. The chokeberries are ripe, and look lovely. I think they and oranges look nice on Christmas trees. I have three little sisters and two married ones. I am 12

years old. I have a sheep, two dogs and four rabbits. There are lots of acorns here, and Billy, the sheep, likes them when I huli them for him. He and my dog Hunter have fine times playing. Well, I guess my letter is too long now. If I see this in print, I will write again and tell you about our school and what kind of a Christmas I have. Good by.

Your San Fernando friend,

LOVELL HILL.

It was very kind in my young friend to think of sending me some ferns. I should prize them very highly.

Family Photos

2nd son, 4th child

Lovell Aden Hill (1876- 1952)

- As a side story, in 1921 a bill was passed in the California State Senate that outlawed the harvesting of California Holly Berries without the written permission of the owner, and Berries could not be taken from public lands.
- “Trucks were taken into the private and public canyons and brought into the cities by the truckload”. And school boys in Marin County were selling berries to passing automobilists and others.
- Penalties attached to the violations were a \$500 fine or 6 months, or both.



Toyon Berries, also known
as

Holly Trees and
Christmas Red Berry Tree

1921-11-11

Santa Ana Register

HOLLY TREES OF COUNTY TO BE SAVED FROM VANDALS

Recent Legislature Enacts
Law Providing Penalty
for Tree Mutilation

IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS

Dealer Offering California
Holly Must Display Con-
sent of Owner

There is to be no mutilation of
California holly trees in Orange
county this winter.

A new law aiming to protect the
tree is in effect and will be enforced.

Wholesale raiding of mountain-
sides and canyons where the trees

Family Photos

2nd son, 4th child

Lovell Aden Hill
(1876- 1952)

- The Graves & Hill General Store was operating on Topanga at Lassen from 1906 to 1915.
- Fred Graves and Lovell Hill bought the store after the death of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, the previous owners.
- Lovell Hill was postmaster from 1912 to 1915.



Graves & Hill General Store, facing Santa Susana, just south of Lassen. Notice the porch sandstone foundations and steps.

Family Photos

2nd son, 4th child

Lovell Aden Hill
(1876- 1952)

- “**The**” iconic photo that represents early Chatsworth.
- Notice that the sign on the front of the building now includes “Post Office”.
- Lovell Hill was postmaster from 1912 to 1915.



Circa 1912, Graves & Hill General Store, facing Santa Susana, just south of Lassen. Notice the mix of automobiles and buggies.

Family Photos

3rd daughter, 5th child

**Rhoda S. Hill
(1880- 1969)**

Rhoda S. married Arthur Smith in 1910 at the age of 30, it was her second marriage. They had one daughter, Fay Smith.

Rhoda is identified as blind on the back of the photo on the right.

James Hill Sr. is living with Rhoda and Arthur in the 1910 and 1920 censuses.



Rhoda and Lovell on the left, and Mary Edna and Rhoda on the right.

Family Photos

4th daughter, 6th child
**Mary Edna Francis Hill
Taylor
(1882-?)**

Mary was born in Wilmington,
Los Angeles.

In 1900 at the age of 18 she
married William P. Taylor.



Mary Edna and Rhoda on the left,
Mary Edna Hill Taylor on the right.



Family Photos

5th daughter, 7th child

Minnie Alice Hill

(1886-1981)

Minnie was the first Hill family child born in Chatsworth.

“When I went to school it was where it is now at the corner of Devonshire and Topanga Canyon. The school’s front door faced what is now Devonshire. My first teacher was Lenora Johnson. I visited my sister at school once when the school was farther north on Santa Susana Ave. near Andora on the west side of the street.”

Source: 1964 interview of
Minnie Hill Palmer by Virginia Watson



1894 photo of Minnie at the 1890 Santa Susana School,
She was 8 years old, and has an “X” on her dress...

Family Photos

5th daughter, 7th child

Minnie Alice Hill

(1886-1981)

"I attended school in the Community Church Building when I was in "high school".

I graduated from the 9th grade the last year the 9th grade was held in the Santa Susana School. We went to high school one year in the old shed in back of the school and the next year in the Community Church Building."

Source: 1964 interview of
Minnie Hill Palmer by Virginia Watson



Circa 1901, Minnie
Hill at graduation
from Chatsworth Park
School 9th grade

Family Photos

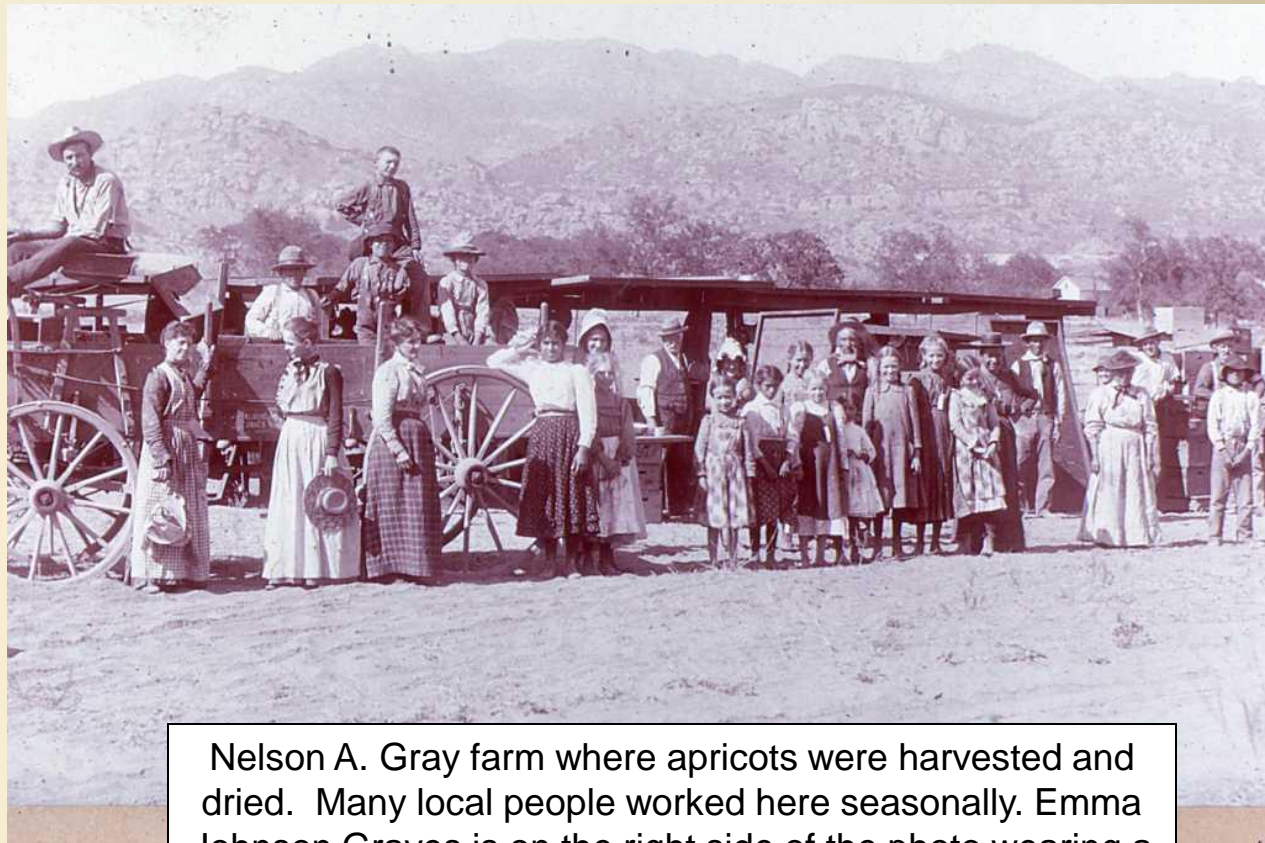
5th daughter, 7th child

Minnie Alice Hill

(1886-1981)

“Before I was married I worked “cutting fruit”, apricots, -- we cut them in half, took out the seed, and spread them for drying, at the fruit cutting shed on the Gray place near Farralone and Lassen. I worked one summer, the summer before I was married to earn the little extra things a girl wants to have when she gets married.”

Source: 1964 interview of
Minnie Hill Palmer by Virginia Watson



Nelson A. Gray farm where apricots were harvested and dried. Many local people worked here seasonally. Emma Johnson Graves is on the right side of the photo wearing a long dress with a hat and scarf.

Family Photos

5th daughter, 7th child

**Minnie Alice Hill Palmer
(1886-1981)**

*"I was married August 12, 1909
in Hawthorne, at my husband's
house where his mother lived. It
was one of the first houses in
Hawthorne.*

*My husband was Alfred Edwin
Palmer, he had a twin brother
who lives in Canoga Park now."*

Source: 1964 interview of
Minnie Hill Palmer by Virginia Watson



1909 Alfred and
Minnie Hill Palmer
Wedding day

Family Photos

5th daughter, 7th child

**Minnie Alice Hill Palmer
(1886-1981)**

“Our first child Edith Mae, was born in 1910, and son Leroy was born in 1912. (In Los Angeles)

(They then moved to Montana to farm for 5 years)

I came back to Chatsworth in 1920 and have lived here ever since ... when I moved back here it was to care for my bedridden mother.”

Source: 1964 interview of
Minnie Hill Palmer by Virginia Watson



Photo circa 1940's
Minnie Hill Palmer at
the Hill Homestead

Family Photos

6th daughter, 8th child

**Calla Lily Hardacre Nelson
(1891-1982)**

Calla Lily married Floyd Hardacre in 1910 when she was 18. Floyd died 9 years later at the age of 33. In the 1920 census, Calla Lily is living at the Homestead with her two children, Lillian and Charles.

Her future husband Ernest Nelson is listed as a boarder at the Homestead in the 1920 census, they would be married in August of that year.



Calla Lilly Hill

Photo taken

July 29, 1906

(14 ½ yrs. old)

Family Photos

6th daughter, 8th child

Calla Lily Hardacre

Nelson

(1891-1982)



Circa 1910 Calla Lily and Minnie Alice

Family Photos

6th daughter, 8th child

Calla Lily Hardacre

Nelson

(1891-1982)

Circa 1960's --
Calla Lily and
Minnie at the
Homestead.

They were the
youngest of the 8
children, and were
5 years apart.



The Homesteading Years [1890-1900's]

The Hills gave the Southern Pacific Railroad the rights to build the tunnel on the north crest of their property.
(Source 1956-03-26
Chatsworth Grapevine)



Circa 1900 photo – Tent city, flat area north of the Hill Homestead house

The Homesteading Years [1890-1900's]

“My mother did the washing for the men who worked on the tunnel. I had to sew home-made labels in the men’s clothing so we could tell the clothes apart.

We had a book and each man had a number. As long as he was there he had that same number, I kept them in a book.”

Source: 1964 interview of
Minnie Hill Palmer by Virginia Watson



Circa 1900 photo – Tent city, flat area north of the Hill Homestead house

The Homesteading Years [1890-1900's]

“Sometimes my father would take the clothes back to the men or they would come and get them.

My father had a wagon which he drove up there to the tunnel taking fresh fruit to sell to the men working on the tunnel.”

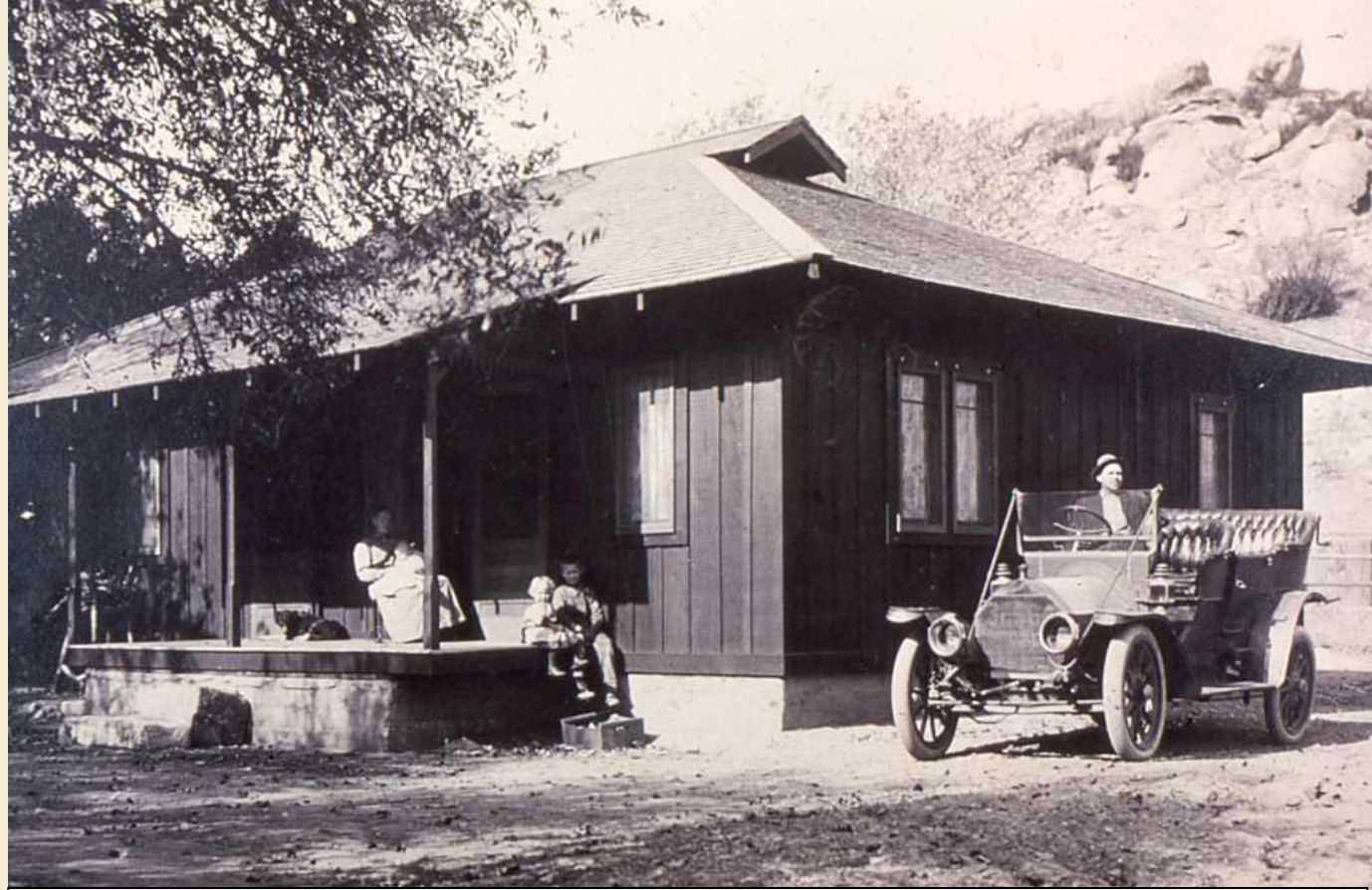
Source: 1964 interview of
Minnie Hill Palmer by Virginia Watson



Circa 1900 photo – Tent city, flat area north of the Hill Homestead house

The Homesteading Years [1910-20's]

- When Minnie was married in 1909 and left the Homestead for 11 years, James, Rhoda and Lovell lived at the ranch.
- They welcomed other family to stay with them during hard times.
- Lovell ran the Graves & Hill General Store from 1906 to 1915.



1912 photo – Calla on porch holding baby Charles, daughter Lillian with cousin James Robert Hill sitting on porch. Lovell Hill in car.

The Homesteading Years [1910-20's]

In 1920 Minnie and Alfred came back to the old home to care for her mother who remained bedfast for 15 years, so with the exception of 11 years, Minnie has lived all of her life right here.

Source: March 26, 1956
Chatsworth Grapevine



1934 Palmer house, Schepler collection

The Homesteading years [In the 1910-20's],

- In the 1920's the cottage was occupied by Lovell and his mother. Edith and Leroy also slept in the cottage, but Minnie and Alfred slept in a separate one room building located southwest of the house. Later, this building became the bathhouse.
- Behind the cottage were a high-roofed, open-sided garage and a house-shed that held a bed. A large barn stood about 200 feet southeast of the house. There was also an outhouse, a chicken coop and one of the three dynamite sheds.
- There was also a large redwood water tank mounted on a flatbed trailer in front of the house. It was refilled at a water tap on Devonshire St. and held water used for drinking and washing. (Source: "Growing up on the acre")



1958 photo of Homestead shows the barn to the west, summer kitchen south east corner of the property.

The Homesteading Years [1920's]

- *[In the 1920's]*, the lower 120 acres of the property that had produced grain crops for many years lay fallow much of the time because the water table had dropped and "dry farming" was not productive.

(Source: "Growing up on the Acre")




Hay and Oaks Palmer Property (Schepler collection)

The Homesteading Years

[1920-30's]

In the passage of time the store was sold and in 1923 Alfred and Lovell were partners in being the agents for the Trojan Powder Co., trucking dynamite from Oakland to the magazine still located on their property, and from there to sites where the dynamite would be used. In 1926 they acquired the old Bannon homestead (where they changed horses for the stage) of 120 acres, making their total holdings 230 acres.

Source: March 22, 1956 Chatsworth Grapevine

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TROJAN POWDER COMPANY					
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA					
Date _____					
From: CHATSWORTH, CALIF., MAGAZINE					
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The Homesteading Years [1920-30's]

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L. A. HILL
Telephone SUperior 82577

Other Magazine Locations
BISHOP, CALIF.
HIGHLAND, CALIF.

Top and Bottom Crop of Trojan Powder Company Delivery Receipt
"From Chatsworth Magazine"
L.A. Hill, [Lovell Aden Hill], Magazine Attendant

The Homesteading Years [1920-30's]

The Dynamite Shed Beginnings: An April 1, 1921 article from the Corona Daily Independent announced that A.S. St John was now handling the product of the Trojan Powder Company, and “a powder magazine is being built near Chatsworth which will be the distribution center for his territory”.

And the April 14, 1922 advertisement from the Southwest Builder publication (shown below) identifies the Chatsworth magazine.

APRIL 14, 1922

Trojan Explosives

The Most Powerful Made—Safe and Economical

Manufactured on a solid base and do not contain any liquid explosive ingredient.

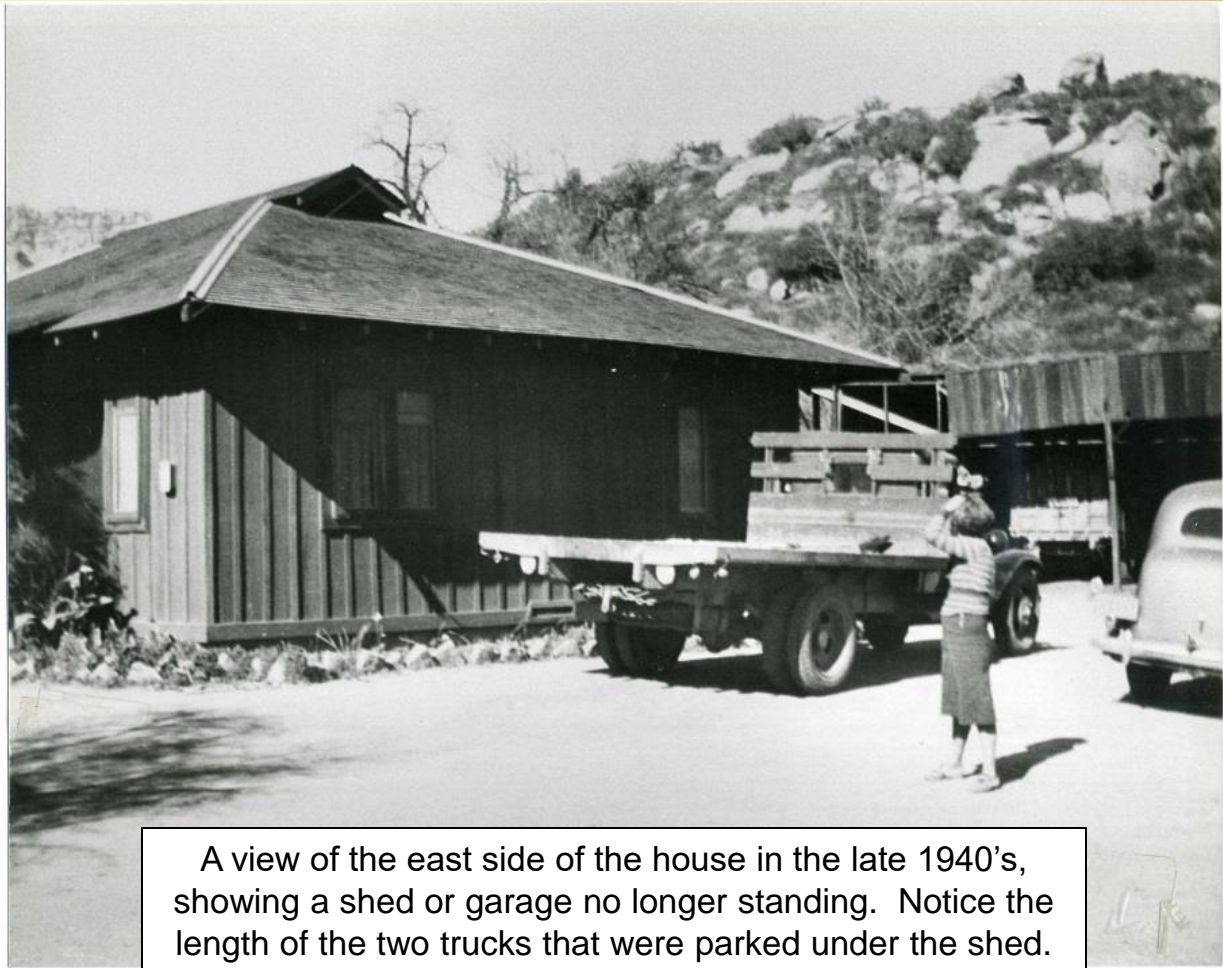
Will not freeze.	Will not give off noxious gases.	Will not exude.
No thawing.	No headaches.	No leaking.

TROJAN POWDER COMPANY, Crocker Bldg., San Francisco

A. S. ST. JOHN, Dealer, 406 H. W. Hellman Bldg., Los Angeles. Tel. 144-22	MAGAZINE AT Chatsworth, Calif.
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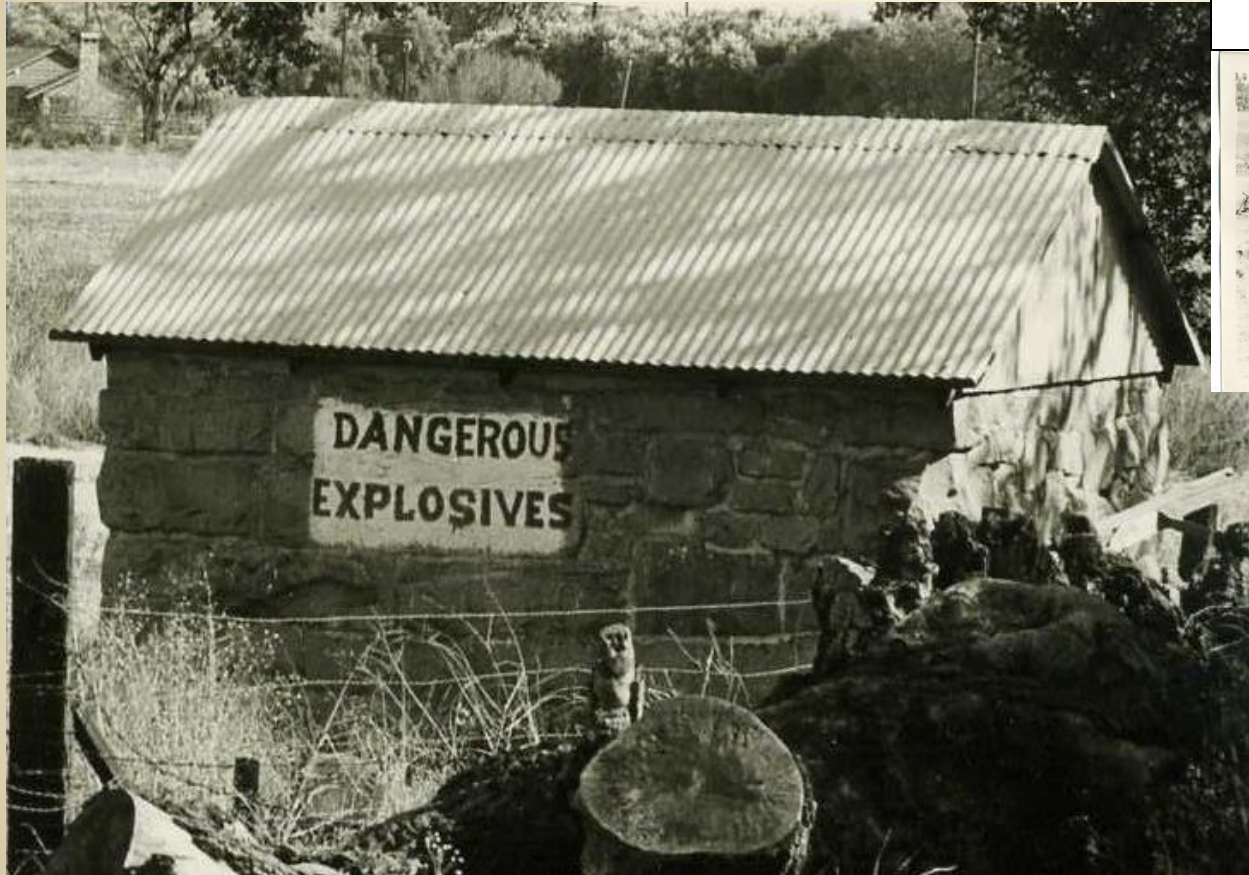
The Homesteading Years [1920-30's]

The family's livelihood was now their dynamite and trucking business. They owned two Denby trucks, that besides dynamite, hauled granite (called "bluestone") from a stone quarry. Lovell, Alfred and later, Leroy [*Minnie and Alfred's son*], drove the trucks back and forth to San Leandro, San Diego and San Bernardino for construction projects and into Nevada to deliver dynamite for mining activities. (Source: "Growing up on the Acre")



A view of the east side of the house in the late 1940's, showing a shed or garage no longer standing. Notice the length of the two trucks that were parked under the shed.

The Homesteading Years [1920-30's]



Viewing east,
notice the Butler
Homestead palm
trees at the left
center edge.



An early photo of the Hill
dynamite shed, circa
1940.

The Homesteading Years [1920-30's]

In 1947, the Chatsworth magazine played a part in the murder of Walter and Buela Overell, who were blown up in Newport Harbor on their yacht by their daughter and her boyfriend. At that time it was then the longest criminal trial in the nation – 19 months.

Lovell Hill testified at the trial that he sold the 70 sticks of dynamite to the young couple that blew up the yacht. A receipt from the Trojan Powder company was found in their car, along with dynamite in their trunk. Both suspects were acquitted, as they were tried together and the jury could not decide which of the two defendants committed the murders. A related 1947 article also confirms that Lovell Hill was caretaker of the Chatsworth magazine since 1921.

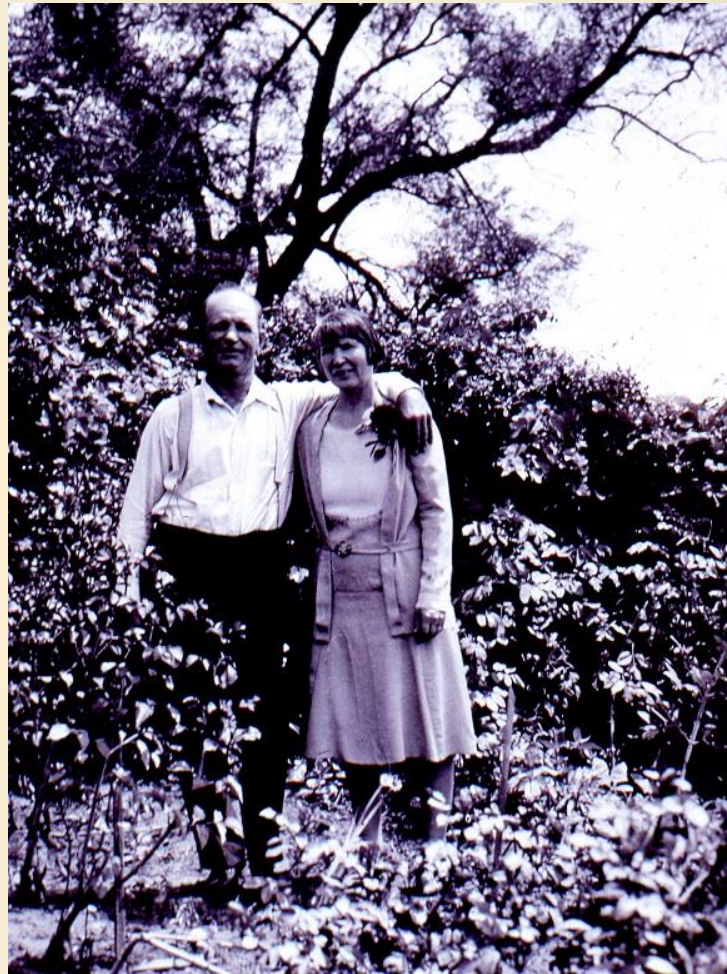
Photo at right from July 30, 1947 Los Angeles Times



HUDDLE—L. A. Hill, left, caretaker of powder company magazine near Chatsworth, and Ben A. Smith, operator of powder magazine at Highland, talk things over at Overell trial after being questioned about dynamite purchases. Times photo

The Homesteading Years [1930-40's]

- James Hill passed away in 1923, and Rhoda passed in 1935.
- In 1935 Lovell married and moved to San Fernando, but the Trucking Business remained at the homestead.
- In 1935 Alfred and Minnie lived at the Acre, at 22375 Devonshire St., with their son Leroy and his wife Ann.
- After they purchased most of the Bannon Homestead in 1926, they now had 230 acres.



The Homestead ing Years

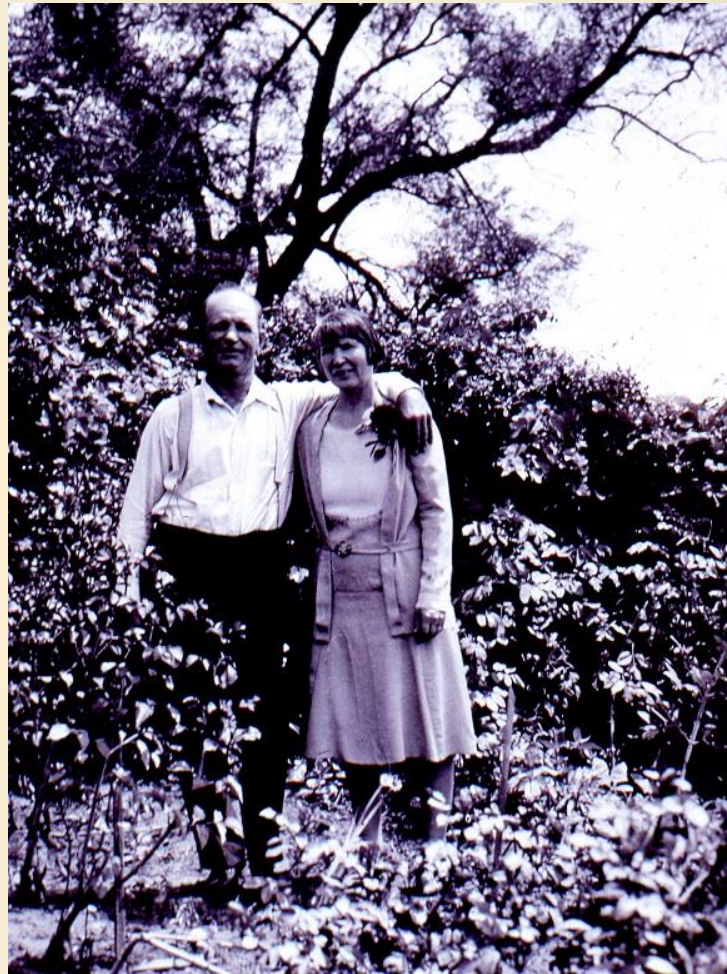
[1930-40's]

In 1939, the Native Daughters of the Golden West laid down a plaque over the stagecoach trail commemorating its existence.



The Homesteading Years [1930-40's]

- Alfred passed away in 1946 and Lovell carried on the hauling of dynamite in partnership with their son until Lovell passed away in 1952 and the storage plant closed down.



The Aqua Sierra Club and Roy Rogers Sports Center [1950-60's]

- The Aqua Sierra Sportsmans Club is founded in 1949.
- The Dec. 1951 Van Nuys News announces that the annual turkey shoot is at the club grounds at the end of Devonshire.
- Two skeet and trap stations are built on the west end of the homestead property by 1951/52.



The Aqua Sierra Club and Roy Rogers Sports Center [1950-60's]

- In 1955/56, Heinrich Berkenkamp (known by all as “Berky”, and one of three partners of the very successful Oroweat Bakeries) helped out the struggling club by buying the 230 acre Hill Homestead parcels.
- The deed granted a life tenancy agreement for Minnie Hill Palmer to live rent and tax free at her 1911 cottage and surrounding 1.3 acre grounds.



The Aqua Sierra Club and Roy Rogers Sports Center [1950-60's]

- Aqua Sierra modernized the home by piping water to the house which up until then had to be carried in, and also added indoor plumbing.
- After receiving money from the sale, Minnie added an all electric kitchen on the back porch, and converted an outdoor shed to a connected bathroom.



The Aqua Sierra Club and Roy Rogers Sports Center [1950-60's]

- Roy Rogers was also a member of the Aqua Sierra Sportsmans club, and in 1955 he purchased his 129 acre Double Bar R Ranch on Andora, just south of the Hill Homestead.
- By 1959, there were five skeet and trap stations, a 90 foot hi-tower, one nine-hole golf course, a driving range, and two trout lakes.
- In 1959 it is advertised as the Roy Rogers Sports Center.



The Aqua Sierra Club and Roy Rogers Sports Center [1950-60's]

- In 1961, three additional nine-hole golf courses were added.
- The decline of the sports center began in 1968, when Rockpointe began development.
- In 1973 the City of Los Angeles purchased the 75 acre skeet/fishing/golf course site and it became today's Chatsworth Park South.



Minnie Hill Palmer Plows a Long Colorful Row [1960-70's]

- When Minnie was living alone (surrounded by the golf course), she became a very colorful historical figure.
- It helped that her good friend from the Chatsworth Historical Society, Virginia Watson, was writing feature articles for the Valley News and Greensheet.
- As a result, we have many fun and fond memories from Minnie that were shared.



1969 photograph of
Minnie Hill Palmer,
83 years old.

Minnie Hill Palmer Plows a Long Colorful Row [1960-70's]

1964, The Van Nuys News:

FIRST CITIZEN - ...Many people have admired her lovely flowers and her vegetables and fruits. The garden is one of her hobbies, but it leads to her second hobby, as a lot of golf balls end up in the garden. She collects them and takes them back when she has several buckets full. The money she receives is donated to the Junior Baseball League and the Girl Scouts.



1969 photograph of
Minnie Hill Palmer,
83 years old.

Minnie Hill Palmer Plows a Long Colorful Row [1960-70's]

1969, The Los Angeles Times:

.... "I don't like all them houses", she said. "I feel like I am getting cooped in. I used to run clear across that field without stopping between here and the schoolhouse. But it's getting so I can't see out."

"I've been listening to soap operas since radio days." she said. "I could listen blindfolded and tell you who every actor is. I just got used to those people and they are a part of my life."



1969 photograph of
Minnie Hill Palmer,
83 years old.

Minnie Hill Palmer Plows a Long Colorful Row [1960-70's]

1970, The Los Angeles Times:

SPRIGHTLY LADY, SHE'S THE GARDENER

.... On her 1 and 1/3 acres she grows peaches, plums, apricots, nectarines, pomegranates, figs, walnuts, grapes, berries, lemons, oranges, quince, wild plums, rhubarb, artichokes, corn, asparagus, olives, beets, corn, peas and carrots.

From these she concocts hundred of jellies for Christmas gifts, pies which her family calls "the best in the world", and fresh vegetable dishes which will be included in her garden club's fundraising cookbook.

The jellies alone would fill a cookbook, if she would ever write them down.



1969 photograph of
Minnie Hill Palmer,
83 years old.

Los Angeles Times
Minnie Hill Palmer at residence built in 1912.

- In 1976 Minnie moved out of the cottage to a retirement home, and passed away in 1981 at the age of 94.
- 1978 - the Chatsworth Historical Society is named as conservator of the Homestead Acre.
- 1979 – The State of California purchased the western portion of the Hill acreage and it became the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.



In 2007, the Historical Society museum was renamed
“The Virginia Watson Chatsworth Museum”

Sources/Acknowledgements

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- “Enlow Family Tree”, Ancestry, 2014
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