

Jose Jesus (c1800 - 1851)

Jose was the leader of the Native American tribe called the Yokuts (which lived in the Stockton area) when the first European settlers came to San Joaquin County. At one point he was called the "Terror of California" by the settlers, but over time he worked with them to help establish various communities. He brokered a treaty between the Yokuts and Charles Weber and when Weber laid out the streets of the new city of Stockton he named one of the streets Jose Jesus in his honor.

Tillie Lewis (1901-1977)

With the help of an Italian tomato grower, Tillie started a company called Flotill. Her company grew tomatoes, canned them, and sold them near and far. The tomatoes sold so well that Tillie started growing and canning other fruits and vegetables. Soon Flotill sold asparagus, figs, pears, peaches, cherries, and apricots. By 1952 Tillie's company was one of the five largest canneries in the United States. Under Tillie's leadership, Flotill was one of the very first companies to have a childcare center established on site for the children of employees. Tillie was loved by her employees and was named the Associated Press Woman of the Year in 1951.

Elizabeth Humbargar (1903-1989)

Elizabeth began teaching English in 1925 at Stockton High School. After the Japanese government bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 the United States Government enacted Executive Order 9066. This meant that all Japanese Americans had to leave their homes, schools, and belongings and move to relocation centers. In order to help her Japanese American students continue their education, Elizabeth would go to the local assembly center, which is now the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, to teach them, while also sneaking books and materials to them. Because of her actions, many of her Japanese American students were able to complete their high school diplomas and apply to college. In 1978 the Japanese government bestowed upon her the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Fourth Class for her actions with her students.

Warren H. Atherton (1891-1976)

At the age of 20, Warren went to work for the Stockton law office of H.R. McNoble. Born in Stockton, California, he served under General Pershing in France during World War I. Upon his return, he married Ann Holt, the daughter of the founder of Caterpillar Inc. He was admitted to the California State Bar, and began his career as an attorney, eventually gaining notoriety as a Stockton City judge and president of the local Chamber of Commerce. Most notably, Warren was the author and promoter of the G.I. Bill (Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944), which provided funding for servicemen to go to college. There is a lovely auditorium named after him on the San Joaquin Delta College campus.

Benjamin Holt (1849-1920)

In 1883 Benjamin and his brothers founded Holt Manufacturing Company that later became the Caterpillar Company. Steam tractors, used in farming, were very heavy and often sank into the soft soil of the San Joaquin Valley Delta. Holt fixed this problem by inventing a tractor with wide revolving tracks. Since the tractor crawled across the land like a caterpillar he decided to name it that. Millions of these tractors were sold throughout the world. These revolving tracks were also used on the first military tanks.

William Micke (1876-1961)

In 1902 William Micke moved to Lodi where he bought a ranch and began growing grapes, drying peaches and apricots. He started converting his drying yards into vineyards and began growing Tokay grapes. Although he and his wife Julia never had children they believed all children should have a place to enjoy life. After Julia's death William created three memorials on their 464 acres in Lodi (which would become Micke Grove Park). The first was a swimming pool built in 1953; the second, built in 1955, included an activity center with an auditorium, kitchen, stage, and nursery. In 1957 he created a zoo that still exists today. He was one of the first philanthropists in San Joaquin County.



Walking with People in Time



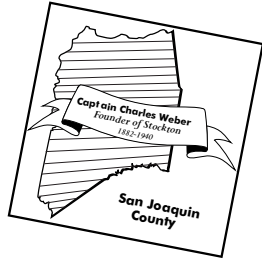
Pacific Avenue & Benjamin Holt
Stockton California

San Joaquin 
EDUCATION EQUALS OPPORTUNITY



Getting Started

As you stroll through Lincoln Center you will find brass plaques imbedded in the cement that commemorate the life of people in our community who have made significant, historic contributions to San Joaquin County. We have many more community members that warrant recognition. Throughout the years, we will continue adding plaques to represent them.



School Field Trips

Teachers are encouraged to utilize the “Walking with People in Time” project in their classrooms, as well as plan field trips to Lincoln Center. For further study, curriculum is available through San Joaquin A+.

Thank You

“Walking with People in Time” is a collaboration with The San Joaquin County Office of Education, San Joaquin A+, Lincoln Properties, Ltd. and Sims-Grupe Management Corporation.

We extend a special thank you to Dr. Gary Dei Rossi, Deputy Superintendent of the San Joaquin County Office of Education, who researched and penned the biographies of those featured in the People In Time project.

Charles Weber (1814-1881)

Charles Weber is considered the “Father of Stockton”. He arrived in the United States from Germany in 1836 and came to Stockton (then known as Tuleburg) in 1847. He owned and operated “Weber’s Store” selling mining tools and food to miners. He soon opened the Stockton Mining Company which over time made him a wealthy man. He changed the name of the town to Stockton in honor of his old friend, Commodore Robert Stockton. During his life he and his wife donated many parcels of land to build schools, parks and churches.

Jack Tone (1826-1902)

In 1849 Jack Tone (a New York City policeman) caught gold fever and traveled with the Audubon Party to California. Hoping to strike it rich, he quickly realized there was more money in being a farmer than a gold miner. He and some partners bought many acres of land and started growing potatoes and barley. In addition to farming he raised horses, was the director of the first County Fair, and was the overseer for the development of county roads. Today one of the longest and straightest roads in San Joaquin County is named after him. Jack Tone Road stretches about 30 miles from Ripon to Lockeford.

Father O’Connor (1841-1914)

Father William Bernard O’Connor, born in County Cork, Ireland in October 1841, left his homeland for missionary work immediately upon his ordination to the priesthood. After arriving in San Francisco, he was quickly appointed to take charge of St. Mary’s Church in Stockton. Father O’Connor made significant efforts in his lifetime to provide foundations for education and health care in the Stockton area. He was respected and loved by people of all faiths. In July 1884, with money from Julia Weber, Mrs. Basilio Loagier and Major J.D. Peters, Father O’Connor purchased property to build St. Joseph’s Home. Located north of the city limits, it was opened in 1899, at the site where St. Joseph’s Medical Center is currently located.

George Shima (1864-1926)

George came to San Joaquin County in 1889 from Japan. When he first arrived, he worked on a farm near Thornton. Along with his brother, he rented the land where potatoes were grown and sold. In 1901 he produced half a million sacks of potatoes and by 1906 he grew more potatoes than anyone else in the world, thus earning the title “The Potato King”. George established “quality control” into his organization making sure his customers got only the best potatoes. Today a building on the San Joaquin Delta College is named in his honor.

Laura De Force Gordon (1838-1907)

Laura De Force Gordon moved to Lodi in 1870 and began editing a woman’s page for a paper in Stockton called *The Narrow Gauge*. She bought another newspaper, *The Stocktonian*, and changed the name to *The Daily Leader*. This newspaper printed articles on the importance of democracy and how women’s rights were a vital part of a successful democracy. In 1878 Laura helped write parts of the California Constitution and was a talented public speaker. In 1879 she became the first woman attorney in California.

Moses Rodgers (c1830-1900)

Moses was born a slave in Missouri and came to California a free man in 1849. He was an expert in mining techniques and was a respected and successful businessman in Stockton. An educated man, he moved his family to Stockton so his children could attend an African American school called Elk Tree School. The land for this school was donated by Charles Weber and opened in 1868. His five daughters went on to become a nurse, teachers, an award winning embroiderer, a postmistress, and a fashion designer.