

EXCERPT (from Acey Family Genealogy)

Anna's Tales

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What follows are two Appendices from the original ACEY Genealogy. The focus of both these excerpts was Anna Acey Kimball. For the brief period when our lives intersected, she used to write the author letters. They were the most wonderful snapshots of her life.

These are included here so you too can share in her stories.

You may wonder why it took so long for the author to meet up with Anna. The short version is that for almost 30 years the author had been led to believe that all the distant relatives on the Acey side of the family were deceased. Well, through some serendipity in contacting the deeds office for Salem (in regards to 31 Oakland Street, the last address that we had for Anna), it was learned that Anna was still alive and still living at that address! We struck up a correspondence shortly thereafter and at least two trips to Salem to visit ensued.

Diane L. Richard

26 September 2004

Appendix EAnna's Tale of San Francisco

These are excerpts from several narratives written by Anna Acey Kimball in the 1989-1990 time-frame describing the time the family spent in San Francisco.

"You must of heard about the Big earthquake in San Francisco 1906. Destroyed the whole city. Well we moved out there Oct 10, 1910 (author's note: another version states Oct. 12, 1910), 4 years after the quake. I was 9 yrs old, Lillian 11 yrs old and Helen was 13. Isaac was 21 years old. San Francisco was all build up again. It was a beautiful City. We stopped at my parent's friends (corner De Haro & 23rd St.) at Midnight. We traveled by train the southern route, Santa Fe line. We lived out there just 2 yrs. There was not much work for the men. My father & brother went job hunting Monday. They found a job at an Iron Foundary and my mother & Helen found a house on Wisconsin St., going from 23rd St. way up a high St. There were 10 houses on the right hand side – all looked alike and not much space between them. It was dark – got not much light. My ma & pa did not like it. So not telling my father, my mother & Helen again went house hunting. Right on 23rd St. there was a new house never been lived in. The reason was it was full of fleas. I think they were sand fleas. It was up high and you could see almost all the city. Well my mother & Helen won the Battle of the fleas. Then she told my father about it because she rented the place. My father loved that house because we got the sun light. The pantry had all draws and cabinets – a place for every thing. A wood burning stove. Set tubs on the back porch. Then my father found a job at a slaughter house where they made all kinds of food, even hot dogs. My father would not eat hot dogs. He told us how they make them. We were a happy family. Our parents were the best. You never seen nor heard any bickering nor fighting. Helen, Lil and I went to the Star King School on San Bruno Ave. That street ran off 24th St. There was a cable car which we rode back and forth to school. On 24th St. there was a movie house called Nicklodium which cost only 5¢ to see a movie. Near there was a Mexican store where they sold hot Tamales. The food was wrapped in corn husks. Oh, I forgot to tell you that we had a pet dog – black spaniel which we had and brought it to San Francisco. Oh! Those were the good old days. We were not out there only a few years on account of no steady work for men."

Snippets from other versions ... "It was on a side of the hill because it was so nice and bright. Lots of closet room. And the rent was only 14.00 a month. You could see all around San Francisco from the living room and dining room windows. While out there we felt tremors – small earthquakes. The city was all build up when we got there in 1910. But on account of no work they decided to go back east. The fare for under 14 was \$35 for each child and \$70 for adults. On the way back we went Colorado route."

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"We went by train on the southern route, Santa Fe line. It took one week by train. When we got to Oakland we had to take the ferry to San Francisco."

"We went to the Star King School on San Bruno Ave. We used to ride the cable car on 24th St. going to school and coming home from school. I used to like to sit on the out side seat. We lived on 2019 23rd St. What a beautiful sight from there. What a steep street it was. But the view was beautiful. You looked down the street and there was the twin peaks. I used to love to look out the window at night when everything was lit up and I counted 13 steeples with lights on them. ... There were 2 movies. One was the Globe but across the street I can't remember the name. My ma, Helen, Lil and I used to go to Market Street to shop. What big buildings... Those California poppies were beautiful all growing on the hills. When we went out west we traveled down thru the south, Santa Fe line. I still have the train schedule. Coming back we traveled the northern way thru Colorado... We had a pet dog, all black with a little white throat – he slept in the baggage part. The fare was \$25 for him."

"Then on Mission St. there was a theatre called the Globe. My two sisters went there and they gave us cards with a lucky number. My oldest sister, 13, won a piece of land. If I remember right, the land was in Sacramento but she never went to see about it. She was too young. It seems as if I was there only a short while ago. I was 9 but I am in another month in fact Dec, 87 yrs old. My sister next to me went out there visiting 1947 and 1949. She told me that on 23rd St. the wooden sidewalks were cemented. The wooden sidewalks had cleats on them so that you wouldn't slide coming down the street."

"Oh my father loved that place (2019 23rd St.). There was two big closets in front hall on left hand side. He used one for his tools and had it his work shop. There was a wood burning stove in kitchen and out on back porch was set tubs and a big box with a lid to store wood in. There was 13 stairs to go down into back yard but out front there was only 2 steps to get on front porch. I used to love to look out of dining room window at night when every thing was lit up. I think it was church and other steeples that had a light on them. I counted 13 steeples. And there was a hill on the left hand side going down 23rd St."

According to some sources, they lived in what's called the Potrero District (accessed July 2002, <http://www.sfgate.com/traveler/guide/sf/neighborhoods/potrerohill.shtml>):

"On Potrero Hill, you can relax in brilliant sunshine while watching fog engulf the rest of the city. Bounded roughly by 16th Street, 3rd Street, Cesar Chavez (Army), and Potrero Avenue, the neighborhood is relatively isolated by freeways and large tracts of industrial landscape, giving Potrero Hill its own pace and a feeling of distance from "San Francisco."

The neighborhood's origins extend at least to an 1835 land grant to Don Francisco de Haro to graze Mission Dolores's cattle at the potrero nuevo ("new pasture"). Gold Rush squatters started pushing the herd aside and began the first of many waves of urbanization

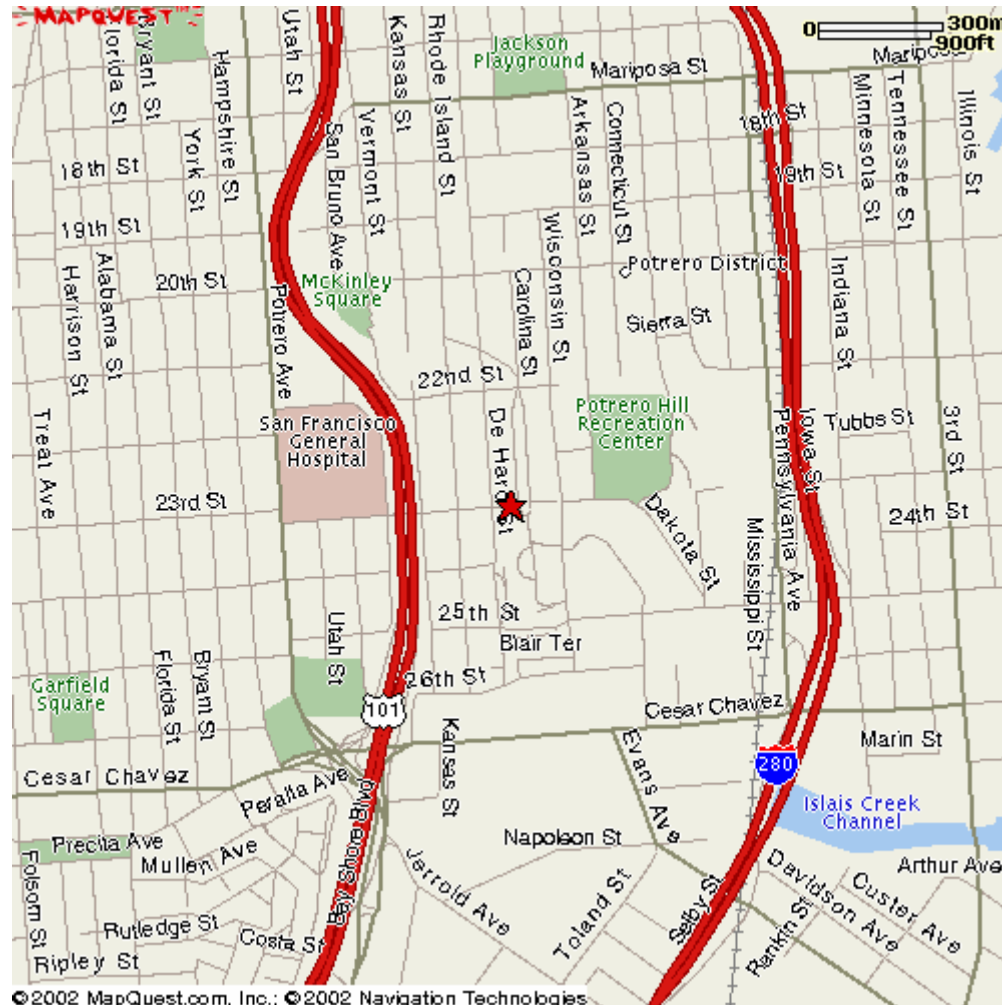
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and immigration: Scots in the 1860s, then Irish, Chinese, Russians, Mexicans, and finally African-American Southerners in the 1940s, building battleships at the bustling wartime shipyards.

While families lived on the hill, flatland manufacturing by firms like U.S. Steel, the Union Iron Works, the Western Sugar Refinery, Bethlehem Shipbuilding Co., and American Can Co., among others, ensured that the area remained largely industrial through most of the 20th century."

This map (Mapquest.com) shows you where 2019 23rd St. was the streets reference in the above description of Potrero.



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Appendix I

Anna

Between 1989 & 1990 the author visited Anna, her daughter Joanna, and granddaughters on a few occasions. The picture below shows Anna in the living room of 31 Oakland St., Salem and is dated August 1990.



Anna was born in 1901 as reported in the main body of the text. In On January 7, 1920 she married Earl R. Kimball¹. The most interesting of the details of this marriage are that Earl's parents were Warren and August (Hulbert) Warren. Well, Richard Isaac's 2nd wife, Josephine's mother's maiden name was Mary Hulbert! All from Canada ... maybe related?!?! The 2nd most interesting detail is that the marriage was performed by the same person, Francis L. Beal, that performed Richard Isaac's 2nd marriage in April of the same year!

In letters to the author (1988/1989 time period), Anna had the following to say about her life ... "I had just one boy friend in my life. I met him when I was 15 yrs old. He was 6 mos older than I. In 1918 Earles mother, father Earle & his brother went to Fla. For the winter, also his Uncle & family, Kimball Bros Monumental People. My gather-in-law Mr. Kimball and way back to his grandfather were all granite workers. When Earle & I got married I went to work so we could have a home of our own."

"We built or started to build this house (31 Oakland St., Salem) Oct. 1924 and moved here June 25, 1925. I worked at Danvers Bleachery same place where Helen & Lil worked. As you know I was married Jan 7, 1920. First week in Mar 1920 I started to work there and worked 13 1/2 yrs. Standing 8 to 9 hours a day. But we had a chance to sit down at lunch time. This is what the pay was a week, \$16.98, no more for 13 1/2 yrs. I was 5 months along before I quit. And Joanna was born Jan 24, 1934. I did not go back to work until 1958. Shoe

¹ Commonwealth of Massachusetts Official Certificate of Marriage, select particulars are: Groom - Earl R. Kimball, Salem, MA, age = 19, occupation = Bookkeeper, birthplace = Beverly, Father's name = Warren A. Kimball and Mother's maiden name = Augusta E. Hulbert & Bride - Alma A. Acey, Peabody, MA, age = 18, occupation = at home, birthplace = Peabody, Father's name = Matti Acey and Mother's maiden name = Elizabeth Bloom. Marriage performed by Francis L. Beal, Priest.

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shop 3 floor had to climb 44 stairs. I worked there for 5 yrs. 2months. That shop was in Beverly. They went Bankrupt so I was out of a job but fund another job in Shoe Shop in Salem in Nov. 6, 1963. Two months search. Third floor again and 44 stairs to climb 3 times a day – Punch clock AM, noon two times down and up. But I

First I will start with my mother Elizabeth Kuyamada Acey. I don't know why my mother and father changed their name to Acey. The only thing I would guess that Acey was easier to pronounce. Now my father worked at A.C. Lawrence leather factory as a blacksmith before we moved to San Francisco. I was 9 yrs old Lil 11 yrs old Helen 13. Richard Dada was 21 yrs. old. The big earthquake that destroyed the whole city of San Francisco was in 1906. Four years after the quake is when we went out there. When we went out there it was all built up and it was beautiful. We went Oct 12, 1910. No work out there only odds and ends. My mother found a home on Wisconsin St. with Helen's help. But the place did not get any sunlight. There was 10 houses look alike. My dad did not like it because we were used to having sunlight. So Helen & my mother again went house hunting. They found a beautiful

loved all my working days. Then my health failed and I retired Nov. 6, 1973. When I worked I worked week work no piece work."

"I started to get deaf in the yr of 1942. It went little by little. I went to the ear Dr. he told me that all the nerves of both ears are shattered."

"My mother had two bros living in Minnesota. My mother hadn't seen her brothers for 30 yrs. The youngest came to our home for a 2 wks vacation and he wanted to take me back with him. My mother told him that she loves her kids and would never have any one take them. We lived on Number 13 Davis Terr. Up stairs. There was a finn couple lived down stairs. She had a relative that was an artist. He asked my mother if he could paint my picture. He painted it and finished it and when he went back he took the

picture with him. There was a family lived on Driscoll St. Peabody when we came back from Calif we lived there. The land lady her name Commar. Then there was a family lived on opposite side little ways down. They had 8 kids & they were always dirty. The father had a horse & buggy. They used to ride to Church, Sunday AM and when they came back instead of going home they would stop at our house and ask my mother if they could take me for a ride. My mother made our clothes and kept us immaculate all the time. They wante dto give people an impression that I was one of their kids. Before we went to California we lived on the corner of Collins & Love Lane. Love Lane ran from Tremont St. to Northend St. Peabody. There was an elderly woman lived up stairs. Every Sunday AM when she came from Church she would call me from upstairs. She always bought a bag of candy for me. Peach Blossoms with Peanut butter filling. The outside was peach color. When we were in Calif I used to visit an elderly woman she was German she had long hair reached down to her heels."

[Author's note: Shortly after the author's visit in August of 1990 (when the picture was taken), the author and her family moved away to Texas, and before another visit could take place, Anna passed away 13 September 1993. The author will always remember the sparkle in Anna's eyes and the wonderful letters she wrote!]