

NICHOLAS HENERY MARTIN

By: John Edmonds

Nicholas Henry Martin came to San Mateo County very early in the County's history. He settled on the coast side south of Half Moon Bay in the area we call Tunitas today. Nicholas Martin came to California with older brother David from the state of New York in the early 1850s. Nicholas Martin owned what is known today as "Martin's Beach" and his primary source of income was farming. Nicholas married Emma L. Hoops who died in 1881 and is probably buried in Purisima Cemetery. Martin's farm was in the area known as Lobitos today. Henry



*Nicholas Henry
Martin*

was deeply involved in the construction and ownership of the Tunitas Chute. He joined with Horace Templeton and James Crowley on this project. His efforts were appreciated by the farmers in the area because now they had a way of shipping their produce to market without having to drive heavy wagons over the hill to Redwood City or San Mateo.

The Redwood City Democrat reported on July 12, 1873: "The Steamer Monterey was at the chute lately and took aboard the balance of grain on hand, some 5,000 sacks. Templeton and Company are hauling considerable lumber to the chute and will have a sailing vessel in to load as soon as they have a sufficient cargo. Since the last trip of a sailing vessel a large new mooring system was laid for the use of vessels.

Willard P. Martin was the first member of the family to die. He was buried in plot #82 in Union Cemetery. He was followed into that plot by Lillian Florence Martin in 1906, David, the older brother, died in 1910 and was buried in plot #82 and Nicholas himself past away in 1915 and was buried in plot #82.

Now comes the confusion.... It seems that the Martin family had 5 daughters. Clara Martin became Clara Martin Greenburg, Luella Martin became Luella Martin Struthers, Ruth Evelyn Martin became Ruth Evelyn Martin Dimick, Florence Martin became Florence Martin Beebe and Mary Alice Martin became Mary Alice Martin Mansfield.



*Alice Martin Mansfield and Joel Mansfield
in front of their residence in the Lathrop
house.*

Joel Mansfield came to California after the Civil War during which he was highly honored. He came first to the coast side where he worked first as a painter but then was appointed constable of the 4th township. The San Mateo County Times – Gazette printed an article on January 19, 1884: “On Monday evening, January 14th, Miss Alice Martin, the amiable daughter of Nicholas Martin of Lobitos, was arrested by constable Joel Mansfield and brought before Justice John Pitcher on a charge of living a single life. On Constable Mansfield promising to protect the young lady through the world and care for her in the future, they were married by the Justice.

Constable Mansfield became the Sheriff of San Mateo County and held that office for a number of years. He was a very popular sheriff, probably one of the most popular sheriffs in recent history.