

ROBERT WHITLOCK, STOCKTON, CA 1862

Chuck Rockett sent in this interesting extract that is likely from a newspaper of the day but the name is not mentioned.

FRIDAY, 27 JUNE 1862

FUNERAL -- The obsequies over the remains of the late Miss Abbie MONROE were held yesterday afternoon in the M.E. Church, on Weber Avenue, Rev. Mr. DRYDEN officiating. A large number of the relatives and friends of the deceased were present, including many of her school companions and persons who sympathized deeply with the parents and brothers of deceased. The remains were interred in the Rural Cemetery.

CORONER'S INQUEST -- An inquest on the body of the late Miss Abbie B. MONROE, was held yesterday by Coroner Bond, at the residence of Mr. Daniel JOHNSON, on American street. The following composed the jury: J.M. HOGAN, A. WOLF, Charles JONES, J.W. ROOT, J.E.G. BIGGER, A.S. RIDER. The evidence had nearly all been taken, when the father and mother of the deceased arrived from their home on the Stanislaus. The scene was deeply affecting, and nearly every one present was moved to tears. We give the testimony in full, as follows:

CHARLES CHASE -- The deceased I never saw until yesterday; I was in her company on a sail boat with 4 ladies, 4 gentlemen and 2 children, on a blackberry excursion; on our return to the city, and when about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from town, on the Stockton slough, I was steering the boat and deceased stood behind the sail, when suddenly I heard a splash in the water and saw deceased about 4 or 5 feet from the boat; Mr. SHERMAN jumped overboard immediately towards the deceased and I immediately followed him; I caught hold of deceased by the waist and held her for 2 or 3 minutes above the water, but did not see Mr. SHERMAN at the time; deceased and I both went under water; I was becoming exhausted with the efforts to keep her above water, and the boat was some 20 feet from us at the time; when under water deceased caught me by the arm; I got clear of her and swam for the tules where I touched bottom with my feet and rested there until the boat came after me; after being in the boat a few moments I tied a rope around my waist and jumped overboard to find deceased; dove down for that purpose but could not find her; I stuck an oar down to mark the spot and tied a handkerchief to the tules; the water was about 8 feet deep; while I held her do not think her mouth was above water; about an hour before she went overboard we were joking and talking in a familiar way, when deceased shook hands with all of us, bidding us good-bye, and laughingly said she would or was going to jump overboard; she was walking about the boat several time with others, in rather a careless manner, and was told to be careful.

ROBERT WHITLOCK -- Mr. SHERMAN employed me on Tuesday evening to sail the boat Flora Temple on an excursion up the river, which I agreed to do; we left at about 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning with a light breeze all the while; there were 5 ladies, 4 gentlemen and 2 children in the boat; they were skylarking, joking and throwing water over each other, all in sport; as we were going down Stockton slough, deceased and another young lady took off their bonnets and in a joking way said they were going to jump overboard; deceased took a small key from her pocket and gave it to one of the ladies, telling her to "keep it in case anything should happen;" the 2 ladies were laughing and funning about what they were going to do; asked me what I thought about their jumping overboard; I told them not to attempt it, as 2 or 3 others might be drowned in attempting to save them; they both leaned over the

side of the boat and put their heads in the water, a gentleman holding on to them -- they seemed in good spirits and everything they did seemed in a joking way; we had turned to come back to the city on account of light wind, and when about a mile and ¼ down the slough, I was pulling an oar on the same side of the boat deceased was sitting; she had a hat belonging to Mr. SHERMAN and was swinging it in the water; 1 of the young ladies wished me to tell Mr. S. that his hat was overboard; I told him, as requested, and on his looking around and observing what she was doing, he pulled the oar which he was rowing in the boat, took up a rubber boot lying by him, partly filled it with water, and went toward deceased who was standing on the tafferel, or stern, of the boat, with her hand on the boom; as Mr. S. went towards her, she said, "If you heave that water on me I will jump overboard;" she was laughing at the time, and Mr.S. was also in fun; deceased said a 2nd time, "If you do, I'll jump;" whether Mr. S. attempted to heave the water or not, I do not know; he said again: "Will you?" she replied: "Yes, I will;" I

then saw deceased jump overboard; her clothes buoyed her up on the water; she had her face towards the boat and was looking at us, but said nothing; the boat had forged ahead about 20 feet when Mr. SHERMAN jumped overboard and endeavored to swim towards her but seemed to make no progress and appeared to be sinking; Mr. JOHNSON and Mr. CHASE both jumped over and caught hold of deceased; one of them went under with deceased and appeared to be struggling with her; Mr. SHERMAN was in the water, out of sight at this time; I was endeavoring to get the boat towards Mr. JOHNSON; saw Mr. SHERMAN under the water as the boat came up, and caught him by the coat and pulled him into the boat; he appeared to be lifeless; we then picked up Mr. CHASE and Mr. JOHNSON in an exhausted state; after resting a few moments Mr. CHASE dove and tried to find deceased but without success; we hunted for the body about nearly an hour, but could not find her; I came to the city with the party, got another boat, boat hooks, &c., and went back and found her and brought her to the city; it was about noon when she jumped overboard; when the body was recovered I think it must have been in the water about 2 hours.

GEORGE N. SHERMAN -- I know deceased, having been acquainted with her about 3 years; her name is Abbie MONROE; her father, mother and brothers are living on the Stanislaus; she was boarding at Mr. JOHNSON's house where she was taking lessons in music; deceased had been attending Mr. COLLINS' seminary; have heard the testimony of Mr. WHITLOCK and corroborate it as far as I witnessed the transaction or am acquainted with the circumstances of the death.

DAVID MONROE -- The deceased is my daughter; her name is Abigail B. MONROE, is 20 years, 11 months old, and was born in Indiana.

VERDICT -- We the jury summoned by the Coroner to enquire into the cause of the death of the person now before us, find after an inspection of the body and hearing of the testimony, that the name of deceased was Abigail B. MONROE, aged 20 years, 11 months, a native of Indiana, and that she came to her death from Accidental drowning in the Stockton Slough on Wednesday, 25th of June, 1862.

It is not clear who the above Robert Whitlock was but there was a Robert Whittock living in Fremont, Solano Co., California in 1860. Solano Co is next to San Joaquin Co. where Stockton is located.

SOURCE:X6238