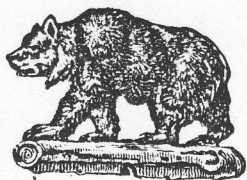


Stoss, Louis.

SCP Archives Record vol. 4, p. 56

SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS.



Stoss, Louis

H. T. GRAVES,

Secretary,

—AND—

EDWARD E. CHEVER,

Com. of Request for Completion of Records.

In compliance with your request, the information asked for, is given below:

Name, in full,.....

Louis Stoss

Date of Birth,.....

July 13th 1823

Birth-place,.....

Germany

Present Post Office Address,.....

310 Geneva

Occupation,.....

Mech

Date of Arrival in California,.....

(September 13th 1849)

Name of Vessel,.....

If Overland, what route,.....

Central

Died.

Signature,

In San Rafael.

June 4th 1902.

Louis Stoss

Sloss, Louis

SCP obit vol. 9,
p. 81-84.

The Society of California Pioneers
San Francisco

In Memoriam

Louis Sloss

A Member

OF THE

Society of California Pioneers

1841, he changed his location to San Francisco, which

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF LOUIS SLOSS, EX-PRESIDENT OF

THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS.

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The Committee, appointed to draft a suitable Memorial on the death of our late fellow member - LOUIS SLOSS, most respectfully submits the following report.

Mr. Sloss was one of the most successful Pioneers. His success was not the result of accident nor chance, but of wisely chosen enterprises, to the development of which he brought a masterly mind, and in which he applied and was guided by those principles of integrity and fair dealing for which he was ever distinguished.

He was born in Bavaria on the 13th day of July, 1823, came to the United States in 1845, and settled in Kentucky.

He was one of that host of young adventurers who came to California across the Plains in 1849, arriving on the 13th day of September, his special companions being Dr. R. H. McDonald and Judge C. H. Swift, noted California Pioneers.

He spent some time in the mines. Subsequently he established the firm of Louis Sloss & Co. wholesale grocers, in Sacramento, where he maintained a prosperous business except for losses sustained by disastrous fires and floods.

In 1861 he changed his location to San Francisco, which continued to be his home until his death. There he engaged in stock brokerage with his particular friends and associates, Lewis Gerstle and Simon Greenwald, under the firm name of Louis Sloss & Co., which firm afterwards entered upon the hide, fur, wool and leather business, and in 1868 the Alaska Commer-

cial Co., was organized, of which, he was one of the most efficient promoters.

He was chiefly instrumental in obtaining from the United States Government a lease of the Pribilof Islands in Bering Sea, and the right to kill seals thereon for the term of twenty years from 1870. A like privilege was obtained from the Russian Government for the same period on the Komandorski group of Islands, near the Siberian Coast.

These ventures resulted in large profits and constituted the basis of his fortune.

The opening up of commerce in Alaska and the development of that country were largely accomplished by the considerate and generous policy of the Alaska Commercial Co., under his supervision as its head and president, and he was at all times the friend and patron of the prospector and pioneer, and ever ready to advance to them material aid in enabling them to explore that remote region.

In politics he was of the republican faith; was for several years treasurer of the Republican State Central Committee; an active participant in the councils of that party and a ready contributor for the maintenance of its principles.

In September, 1885, he was made treasurer of the University of California, and was the custodian of its funds continually from that time until his death.

He was prominent and largely interested in many important

commercial companies on the Pacific Coast, including the Alaska
Packer's Association, he and his associates having at the time
of the organization of the company the control and management
of six large salmon canneries in Alaska, now included in that
organization; also the Anglo Nevada Assurance Corporation,
which transacted a large fire and marine business, he having
been the first president of the company.

Many other successful mercantile organizations received his aid in their establishments, and he was at all times ready to encourage and assist any undertaking designed to promote the public wealth of his city and state.

He was a conspicuous member of the "Society of California Pioneers", an organization which embraced men who, like himself came to the "Land of Gold" prior to January 1850. He was elected to membership in that Society on the 23rd day of March, 1863; was its President in 1884 - 5; a director in 1883 - 4, 1885 - 6 and 1886 - 7; and was one of its building committee that supervised the erecting of the new building containing its attractive and comfortable quarters on Fourth Street, San Francisco.

He continued to retain during life a deep interest in the Society.

In 1855 he married in Philadelphia to Miss Sarah Greenbaum. He departed this life on the fourth day of June, 1902 at his residence in San Rafael. His widow and five children survive him - Mrs. E. R. Lilienthal, wife of the well known merchant of that name; Leon and Louis, Jr., who for a considerable time have been connected with their father's many undertakings; Joseph, Treasurer of the Pacific Hardware and Steel Co., and M. C. Sloss, Judge of the Superior Court of San Francisco.

Mr. Sloss was a devoted husband and father and most happy in his domestic relations.

C. Sloss, Judge of the Superior Court of the State of California

Mr. Sloss was a devoted husband and father and most happy in his domestic relations.

His enterprises covered an extended field on the Pacific Coast, and in its history, great prominence will be accorded his name.

He was an exemplar of what can be achieved by judicious business methods combined with strict probity and fair and just dealings.

Were a star quenched on high, for ages would its light,
still traveling downward from the sky, shine on our mortal
sight,

So, when a good man dies, for years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies upon the paths of men.

The following resolutions ~~are~~ proposed for adoption by the
"Society of California Pioneers".

RESOLVED, - That by the death of our ex-president LOUIS
SLOSS, the State has lost a most enterprising, patriotic, and
greatly esteemed citizen, and this Society has been bereft of a
faithful, devoted and distinguished member.

RESOLVED, - That a copy of this Obituary and of these
resolutions be transmitted to the wife of the deceased.

(Signed,) Aylett R. Cotton,)
(Chairman))
John G. Jewett,)Committee.
)
T. L. Barker.)

Filed
St. Raphael
June 4 1902