

Dean Jewett Locke: Versatile pioneer

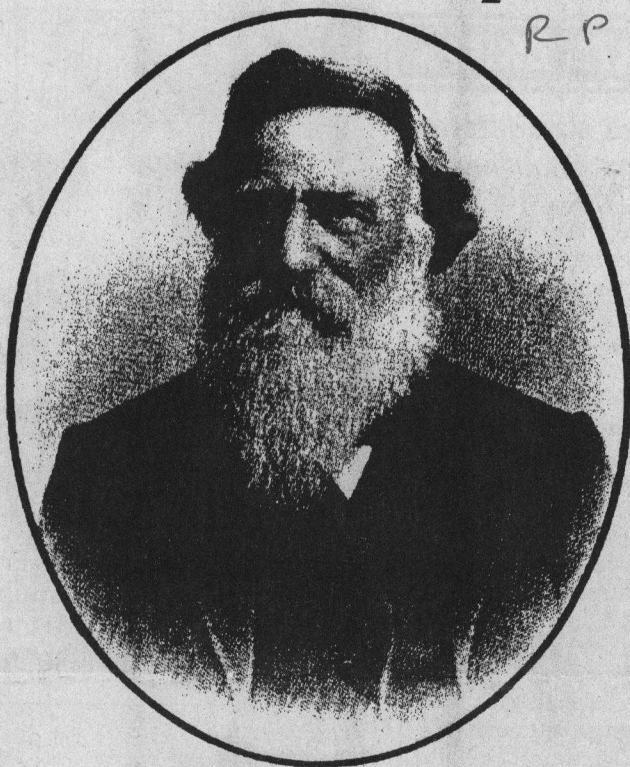
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RP 8.28.03



That Was
Watsonville

Betty Lewis



D. J. Locke.

As you drive from Stockton to Jackson on Highway 88, you pass through a little town by the name of Lockeford, as my husband and I have done many times going over Carson Pass to Lake Tahoe. But for some time we didn't know that the town was named after local man, Marty Locke's great-grandfather, Dr. Dean Jewett Locke. Marty and his wife, Jean, live out at Pajaro Dunes and have since 1968. He retired in 1989 from Green Crop Harvesting which is now run by his son-in-law, Bruce.

Dr. Locke was born in New Hampshire in 1823. He attended Harvard Medical School and one of his instructors was Oliver Wendell Holmes. The doctor came West in 1849 with a group of men who ended up at Sutter's Fort. He and his brother, Elmer, purchased 320 acres near Mokelumne River, the site of the future town of Lockeford. By 1852, the Locke ranch was operated by the three brothers: Dean, Elmer and George. Dr. Locke was to become very interested in education and was responsible for having the first schoolhouse built in that area and in several others.

In 1855, he married Delia Hammond, a school teacher, and they were to have seven boys and six girls — a goodly number by any standard! The good doctor was very active in community affairs while tending his ranch and grow-

ing family, donating generously to many institutions and also running a mercantile store for 20 years.

The family ranch home was built then rebuilt and Marty and his brother and sister were raised on the ranch and worked there until they left to attend college. Marty returned to the ranch in 1947 and built his own home in 1953 on the property. He and his wife sold the house in 1968 when they moved to their new home at Pajaro Dunes near Watsonville.

Dr. Locke contributed much to the town that was to be named after him; he even founded the post office and served as postmaster for a while. The doctor spent much of his life

fighting against the evils of the liquor traffic. He also donated the land for churches to be built besides the schools as mentioned. The family celebrated 150 years of farming activities in the year 2000. So, if you happen to be traveling through Lockeford, remember local man Marty Locke and his family's contribution to California's history over the years — focusing on family, education, church and, in large part, helping others — not a bad legacy for any of us to aspire to!

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Betty Lewis, a local historian and Watsonville resident, is a regular columnist for the Register-Pajaronian.