ALLEN L. LUCE

Allen L. Luce, a leading citizen of Pacific grove and for many years the trusted keeper of Point Pinos Lighthouse, is a native of Georgia, born 8th May 1844. His father was a jewler by trade and occupation; a native of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts...lived in Macon, Georgia, where he pursued his calling and died--his death occurring when Allen Luce was an infant. His mother who by maiden name was Sarah A. Brent was born in Louisiana, a daughter of the Honorable William M. Brent, an eminent member of the Louisiana Bar, and a leading and successful politician, having several times representated his State in the U.S.Congress. After Mr. Luce's death, the widow and son moved to New Bedford, Mass., and there, in 1853, she married George H. Bodfish, Esq, and came to California. She survives him; and is now a resident of Pacific Grove.

Allen L. Luce received a liberal education. His first experience in business was as a merchant, which occupation he followed at Kernville, Havilan and White Pine in Kern County, during the mining excitement in 1863-69. After about two years spent in Nevada mining districts and subsequently some time in Gilroy, California, Allen Luce received the appointment of Keeper of Point Pinos Lighthouse, which position he still occupies.

Mr. Luce was married in 1875 to Miss Fannie L. Perry, daughter of Captain Richard Perry of San Felipe, for many y ars a resident of Hollister, San Benito County. They have two sons, Raymond Allen, and Richard Perry; a daughter Emma, died, aged three years, in 1881.

Allen L. Luce has perhaps, more than any other man in this vicinity, interested himself in the cause of education. He was one of the first to move toward segrating the old Monterey school district, and organizing the Pacific Grove district. He was likewise foremost in the movement to vote bonds, and build the present elegant and commodious school building which is without exception the finest and most complete of all in the county.

The position which Mr. Luce has for so many years held with the Federal government and the esteem in which he is held throughout Monterey County, mark him as a man of excellent parts.

Source: Memorial & Biographical History of the Coast Counties
Barrows & Ingersoll, The Lewis Publishing Co.
Chicago 1893--(p. 358)

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Mr. Askew of Carmel called on May 16, 1979. He is the secretary of the Monterey I.O.O.F. The last record he has of Allen Luce is April 21, 1900, when Luce was a member of a degree team from Salinas.

He will check the Salinas Lodge records.

From a Piney Paradise of 1952
P. 58--On July 20, 1874, according to records, the keeper was authorized to fell trees on both the reservation and the road from the station to Monterey for the purpose of transporting supplies to the station. This route became known as Lighthouse Road. Said a resident of the '80's, "When I was a child, the lighthouse keeper had to go to Monterey to get all his mail as the government never got around to changing the post-office address."

The original lighthouse grounds extended just beyond town points and were marked with large boulders placed together in a line that extended from a monument on the beach to the eastern corner of the present El Carmelo Cemetary. These large stones were removed about twenty years ago. Lighthouse tender Allen Luce fenced in the grounds to keep his cows and horses penned. He did not go by the original holdings of lighthouse property but made the the enclosure oblong. Now it is more nearly square.

Monterey Library

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