

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

### STEPHEN W. LA DOW.

Stephen W. La Dow died at his home on Rosedale avenue, near Los Angeles city, January 6, 1899, aged 76 years. He was a charter member of the Pioneers of Los Angeles. He first came to Los Angeles in May, 1852, but after a brief stay he left for the northern part of the state, where he engaged in mining. He returned to Los Angeles in 1863 and settled on a tract of land, which now forms part of the La Dow school district adjoining the southwestern boundary of the city, where he continued to reside up to the time of his death. The following biographical sketch is taken from the History of Los Angeles published in 1890:

#### STEPHEN W. LA DOW.

“Of all who are represented in this work, none are more deserving, none are more worthy, than he whose name stands at the head of this biographical notice. He was born in Milton, Saratoga county, New York, in 1824. His parents were Daniel and Laura (St. John) La Dow. His grandfather had twenty-three children, by two wives, and his father was a native of France. Mr. La Dow’s maternal ancestors were of English origin. The subject of this sketch is the fifth of seven children. His mother was a first cousin of P. T. Barnum, her mother, Ruhanna Taylor, being a sister of Barnum’s mother. Laura St. John had but one brother, Taylor St. John, a well known clergyman in New York. Mr. La Dow was married in 1846 in his native state to Margaret Williams of Galway, New York. By that marriage he had two sons, Charles and John. In 1852 he left his family at the old home and came to California via Panama as a seeker of gold. He arrived in Los Angeles in May, and in July received the sad intelligence of his wife’s death. His home was then broken up in the east, and his boys were taken care of by their grandmother, Mrs. McWilliams. Mr. La Dow went to the northern part of the state where he engaged in mining till 1863, when he returned and bought twenty-five acres of land near Los

Angeles and soon added thirty-five more acres. On this farm he lived until 1868, when he pre-empted 160 acres, where he lived, southwest of Los Angeles City, and erected a new residence near the La Dow schoolhouse. In 1860 he married Miss Harriet Dorman of Stanford, Maine, and they have one daughter, Hattie M., who has recently graduated at the Los Angeles high school. It is altogether proper in this connection to state that Mr. La Dow's sons by his first wife are very successful business men. Charles is an inventor and machinist, well known throughout the country. He is at Albany, N. Y., has accumulated wealth and recently beautified the old homestead in New York. John is an inventor, now located in Denver. Mr. La Dow gave one acre of land to the school district in which he lived and which was named in his honor the La Dow district, and he has been a trustee of the district twelve years and upwards. He was the first person to take water for irrigating purposes to that locality, which had a very beneficial effect on the material prosperity of the community living there."

It is ten years since the above sketch was written. Mr. La Dow was one of the best citizens of Los Angeles county and lived a quiet life on his place up to his death.

H. D. BARROWS,  
GEO. W. HAZARD,  
F. W. PESCHKE,  
Committee.

#### A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MR. E. N. McDONALD.

Once more our Society of Pioneers is called upon to mourn the loss of one of its members, one highly honored and respected—Mr. E. N. McDonald of Wilmington.

Edward Nathaniel McDonald was born in Oswego, New York, May 9th, 1832. He was of Scotch-Irish parentage and son of Colon and Jane Winslow McDonald. He was the youngest of eleven children.

When twelve years old he went to Canada, where he remained until he was sixteen years old, when he returned to Washington county, New York, where he learned the blacksmith trade. He came to California, arriving in San Francisco October 17th, 1853, and in San Pedro the 25th of the same month. He worked at blacksmithing for Alexander & Banning until 1858, when he went into the mercantile business at San Pedro. Soon after he moved his