



# **HISTORY OF FRESNO COUNTY**

**VOLUME 6**

**PAUL E. VANDOR**

# History of Fresno County

## *Volume 6: Biographical (Contd.)*

PAUL E. VANDOR

*History of Fresno County, Vol. 6, Paul E. Vandor*  
*Jazzybee Verlag Jürgen Beck*  
*86450 Altenmünster, Loschberg 9*  
*Deutschland*

*ISBN: 9783849659035*

*[www.jazzybee-verlag.de](http://www.jazzybee-verlag.de)*  
*[admin@jazzybee-verlag.de](mailto:admin@jazzybee-verlag.de)*

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## **PREFACE**

Dear reader,

we, the publisher, have carefully reviewed and edited this book, whose original edition dates back to the year 1919. Well over a hundred hours of work have passed correcting it, but still it was not possible to eliminate all the mistakes that a 20<sup>th</sup> century scanner produced. The original scans we had at our disposal were of very poor quality. While it was possible to correct and eliminate special characters or false letters, there is unfortunately sometimes a dot where a comma should be, or a colon where a semicolon belongs, or the odd apostrophe, that a small dot in the scan generated in the text file. While we still corrected and eliminated ten thousands of errors, does not hinder the reading pleasure in any way and still makes this version of this rare book much more valuable than other versions on the market that have not been edited at all. We think it is fair to say that this is not 100% of a perfect book, but a 99% edition that has not been available since the original editions vanished from the shelves. We wish all readers a great time browsing through the history of Fresno County and the hundreds of biographies of the most important personalities.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL**

### **EDWARD JOHNSON.**

A young man who has undergone the experience of so many in sacrificing important interests in order to respond to the call of their country in the late war is Edward Johnson, the senior partner in the firm of Johnson Brothers, ranchers, who are renting the Lindquist estates. He was born near Grantsburg, Wis., August 14, 1886, the son of John A. and Betsy ( Erickson) Johnson, who were parents of eight children — six sons and two daughters. With the exception of two sons, who are living in Minnesota, the entire family is now in Fresno County, in the vicinity of Kingsburg. Edward, the third child, grew up in Wisconsin; he received a very limited schooling, he worked on his father's farm, and while yet a youth, hired out by the month, after which he made for Minneapolis. There, until he was twenty-six, he was employed in the Pillsbury Flouring Mills.

In that year he removed to .Montana, and near Skelley homesteaded 160 acres, which he farmed and proved up and was just about to profit by, as a grain and stock farmer, when he was drafted into the American Army, and therefore compelled to sell his Montana interests. It was not easy to

part with that which had been acquired through so much hard labor and risk, but the consciousness of duty and its obligation impelled him on and enabled him to come through like a man.

Mr. Johnson served at Camp Lewis for five months, and was then transferred to Vancouver, Wash., having served in the infantry at Camp Lewis and in the aviation in the North. He was honorably discharged on December 23, 1918, and reached his parents' home December 25, 1918, at their ranch in the vicinity of Kingsburg, Fresno County.

At Oakland, on January 2, 1919, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Nellie Rabe, of Portland, Ore.

The farming operations of the Johnson Brothers are carried by our subject and a younger brother, Alvin Johnson, who was also born in Wisconsin, who came out to California in 1918 direct from Wisconsin, where he had worked on a farm.

The ranches operated by the Johnson Brothers are the forty acres of Mrs. Lindquist, the ten acres of Alfred Lindquist, adjoining, and another fourteen acres of Muscats belonging to still another of the same family, three and a half miles northeast of Kingsburg.

## **HENRY A. DUNKLAU.**

A progressive young rancher, whose capable wife, a real and valuable helpmate, represents the family of a successful viticulturist prominent in the community, is Henry A. Dunklau, the viticulturist and horticulturist, who was born at Arlington, Washington County, Nebr. He is a son of Zacharias and Johanna Dunklau, who located in Washington County, Nebr., in 1865, and there homesteaded eighty acres. Later Mr. Dunklau bought property adjoining,

until he had 240 acres. He planted it to corn and devoted part of it to the raising of stock; and there he now resides, at the age of eighty-five, while his good wife is seventy-three. Eight children, all living, have risen to bless their worthy name.

The fourth eldest in the family, and the only one in California, Henry was brought up on a farm and attended the public schools. He remained at home helping his father until he was twenty-one, and then he started out for himself, working here and there for others on farms. After a while, his attention was attracted especially to California, and he finally decided to come to the Coast.

In January, 1908, he arrived in Colusa County, and the following spring came to Fresno County. In Temperance Colony he secured employment in vineyards and orchards, and set to work to learn the propagation and culture of grapes, as well as of trees, and also the preparation and leveling of land, and the staking and planting of vines and of trees. Desiring to engage in ranching on his own account, he purchased for the purpose forty acres on Locan near Ventura Avenue, completing the transaction in 1910, and immediately set it out as a vineyard. He improved the acreage, built several needed structures, bought another forty acres, and then sold it at a profit, after keeping it a couple of years.

During 1916, Mr. Dunklau bought his present property of seventy-two acres in the Kutner school district, twelve miles northeast of Fresno, which he has improved and is devoting to a vineyard and an orchard. He has twenty acres of white Adriatic figs, intersset with prunes, plums and peaches; two acres of alfalfa, and the balance in different varieties of vines. He has a pumping plant with an eight-horse engine, and a well eighty-six feet deep, in which the water rises to within eight feet of the surface of the ground, thus furnishing ample water for irrigating his ranch. However, his ambition was not satisfied with' this, and in

partnership with his brother-in-law, Edward Bartels, he purchased forty acres across the county road from his ranch, which they also set out to vines. Mr. Dunklau has greatly enhanced the value of his home ranch by erecting a large, beautiful modern residence and by giving the grounds and ranch in general such excellent care that it has become known as one of the show places in the district. Believing in the cooperation of fruit-growers, he has always been an enthusiastic member of the California Associated Raisin Company.

At the home of the bride, in Temperance district, on November 22, 1911, Mr. Dunklau was married to Miss Emma Bartels, a native of Fresno and the daughter of Edward and Anna (Steinkamp) Bartels, settlers of Fresno County who are represented on another page in this history. Mrs. Dunklau, the eldest child, attended the public school and Heald's Business College in Fresno, and now has two sons, Henry E. and William E. Dunklau. The family attends the German Lutheran Church in Fresno, Mrs. Dunklau being an active member of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Church, as well as the Jefferson Auxiliary of the Clovis Chapter of the Red Cross. Mr. and Mrs. Dunklau showed their patriotism by giving their time and means towards the different branches of war-relief work, and they are active in all movements for the upbuilding of the community. They are both liberal and hospitable, and fortunate is the individual who is privileged to be entertained by them.

### **ANDREAS H. ANDERSEN.**

A capable and enterprising rancher, Andreas H. Andersen lives on his forty-acre ranch southwest of Reedley. Mr.

Andersen was born in Denmark, March 7, 1886, and is the son of Antoni and Marie ( Hansen ) Andersen. He received a good education in the Danish language. His father died eight years before he left Denmark, and his mother three months before he sailed from Esbjerg via England for the United States. He landed at New York, April 29, 1908, and came directly to California, where he began working on a stock ranch southwest of Selma. He worked on various farms and also as still-man for three seasons under the late John Petersen, foreman of the Parlier Winery. From 1911 until 1917 he rented the Clark & Jones ranch of 160 acres.

In 1915 Mr. Andersen purchased his present property three miles southwest of Reedley. The land was a barley field four years ago, and Mr. Andersen has planted the place and made all improvements. He has 12 acres of Thompson seedless grapes, 7 ½ acres of Sultanas, 10 acres of Malagas. 300 apricot trees, 250 French prune trees and 90 fig trees on the border. These are all young trees and vines from three years old to the spring planting of 1919.

Mr. Andersen is an active member of the Danish Brotherhood and a trustee of the Danish Lutheran Church three miles west of Parlier. He is justly popular and highly esteemed in the community.

### **RAYMOND D. ROBINSON.**

With over thirty years' experience in the fruit-packing industry, Raymond D. Robinson is considered an authority on the various methods used in preparing fruit for the markets of the world.

He is an able manager of those who come under his direction as workers in the business and commands the respect of all with whom he comes in contact. He was born

in Chenango County. N. Y., May 6, 1869. His education was received in the public schools and in the college at Marionville, Mo., to which state he was taken by his parents when he was a lad of ten years.

At the age of eighteen, on September 30, 1887, young Mr. Robinson arrived at Riverside, Cal., and the following week he secured employment in the packing house of the Griffin-Skelly Company. Since that date he has been in the employ of this company and its subsidiary, the California Packing Corporation. A service of more than thirty years with one company is something that reflects great credit on the ability of Mr. Robinson and of which he is justly proud. In appreciation of the faithful discharge of the duties of his position and the results obtained by him, the company presented him with an elegant gold watch, properly engraved, when he had completed his thirty years with them. This token of esteem is one of the most highly prized of his possessions.

The first two summers — 1887-1888 — Mr. Robinson was sent to Fresno during the packing season. He proved an apt pupil and soon mastered the details of the business, even going beyond and inaugurating new methods that soon attracted the attention of his superiors and earned him promotion. In 1889 he took up his residence in Fresno and for fourteen years he was superintendent of the packing house of Griffin-Skelly Company, then becoming plant manager. In 1917 the concern was merged with the California Packing Corporation and Mr. Robinson was retained in his old position. He has grown up in the packing industry, in which he is one of the pioneers in the packing and shipping of fruits. No man stands higher in the estimation of the growers and distributors, or commands the respect of those under his direction, than does Raymond U. Robinson. He is well and favorably known all over the fruit districts of the state.



The marriage of Mr. Robinson and Jennie M. Bevefiel, a native of Indiana, was celebrated in Fresno. They have four children: Fay, the wife of Herold Emmick and the mother of a daughter; Marjorie, Mrs. Jerome Crawford; Halbert, in the employ of the Santa Fe Railroad; and Doris, at home. Mr. Robinson has won a high place in the business circles of Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley and is a liberal contributor towards all projects that have for their object the upbuilding of the best interests of the county and state. He is a self-made man in the truest sense of the term, for he began at the bottom and by persistency of purpose he has gradually won a name and place for himself in one of the greatest lines of business in the state.

### **GEORGE H. SNYDER.**

The oil industry has contributed, in a greater degree, to the wealth of California, during the past two decades than any other business enterprise in the state, and in the Coalinga oilfield section of Fresno County it has given a wonderful impetus to the development of all lines of business endeavor. Perhaps no corporation has been more intimately associated with the advancement of the oil industry, in the Coalinga field, than the Associated Pipe Line.

The efficient superintendent of the Maricopa division of the Associated Pipe Line, George H. Snyder, is a native of Flemington, N. J., where he was born November 16, 1864, a son of Henry and Mary (Riley) Snyder, natives of Germany and Ireland, respectively. Henry Snyder was a carpenter by trade and emigrated to the United States when a boy of seventeen. He engaged in the building business in New York, afterwards becoming a farmer in New Jersey, near

Flemington. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Snyder were the parents of six children, four boys and two girls, George H. being the oldest child, and the only one living in the Golden State. When he was fourteen years old, George H. Snyder was apprenticed as a machinist in the Long Island Railway Shops, at Long Island City, where he remained three years, when he accepted a position with the Lehigh Valley Railway Shops at Perth Amboy, N. J. Mr. Snyder was next employed by the New Jersey Central Railway at Elizabethport, N. J., where he was foreman of the erecting department. After the memorable blizzard of the winter 1888, George H. Snyder, took a trip to Mexico, where he accepted a position with the International Railway Company as master mechanic, remaining with the company four years, after which he was for ten years the master mechanic of the Coahuila and Alamo Coal Company. Later on he was associated with the Sabinas Limited for two years as superintendent of their irrigation plant on the company's large farms. In 1904, George H. Snyder came to Los Angeles, Cal., where he accepted a position with the Interurban and Pacific Electric Railway, having charge of their power plants. His next position was as master mechanic for the firm of J. G. White & Co., in charge of their construction work, for the Government, on the Colorado River above Yuma. In February, 1905, he returned to Los Angeles, where he assumed full charge of power plants of the Los Angeles Interurban and Pacific Electric Railway, and became the master mechanic of their shops. Mr. Snyder remained in the employ of the railway company until 1907, when he resigned to accept a position with the Tracy Engineering Company, of San Francisco, his duty being to install boilers for the company along the line of the Associated Pipe Line, between Bakersfield and Port Costa. About one year afterwards he became the inspector for the Associated Pipe Line between Bakersfield and Port Costa with his headquarters at Fresno. So satisfactory was his

service to the company that in 1911 he was appointed superintendent of the Maricopa division which includes the business of the company between Maricopa and Mendota, a distance of 150 miles, his headquarters being located at Coalinga. So loyally and efficiently has Mr. Snyder discharged his duties to the company, that he still retains the position.

Fraternally, Mr. Snyder is a member of the Odd Fellows, of the Knights of Pythias, and is an ex-director and member of the Coalinga Growlers Club. He is greatly interested in every worthy movement that has as its aim the forwarding of the best interests of Coalinga and Fresno County and has been very active in all the war movements.

## **JACOB ROSENTHAL.**

A splendid example of the self-made man of Fresno County, and one who, starting without means, except those provided by Nature, succeeded at last, through a willing disposition and an unfaltering courage, in climbing steadily to success, is that of Jacob Rosenthal, who has not ceased to climb, for he believes that there is always room at the top. Coming from a distant shore and of a different civilization, he nevertheless brought with him qualities needed for success in the new world, and has both received from and given to the society that he found in the making, and of which he has become an honorable part.

Born in Russia, on August 27, 1870, Mr. Rosenthal is the son of Andrew and Barbara Rosenthal, both of whom were also natives of the land of the Czar. He was reared and educated in the country of his birth, and shared the home with seven other children of his parents, four of whom had the hardihood to come also to America. These were,

besides the subject of this review, Philip, Henry and Kate. Philip still makes his home in Colorado, while the others reside in Fresno County.

The new century was just dawning when Jacob emigrated to the United States in 1900, and in 1901, suiting his action to the spirit of the age, he came to Fresno County. He located at Sanger and soon found employment with the Sanger Lumber Company, in whose service he remained for seven years. During this strenuous time he managed to save about \$2,000.

In 1908, he rented a ranch in Kutner Colony for one year, then in 1909 he bought twenty acres in Del Rev, in its virgin state, but he leveled the ground, got it in good condition, and planted it to vines and peaches. Upon it, also, he erected a fine dwelling, with modern conveniences. In 1915, he also bought twenty-seven acres of vineyard near Reedley and operated both until the fall of 1918, when he sold out and purchased eighty acres in Barstow Colony, where he has thirty acres of vineyard and ten acres of alfalfa, though he will put it all into vineyard and orchard. He also built a residence and suitable buildings and took up his abode in the new place in January, 1919. Mr. Rosenthal believes that the cooperation of fruit men is the only means of making a success of the raisin industry, so he is an enthusiastic member and stockholder of the California Associated Raisin Company, as well as of the California Peach Growers. Inc.

In 1889, Mr. Rosenthal was married to Miss Mollie Esheim, and they have had eleven children, of whom six are now living: Jacob, Herman, John, Frieda, Edward V., and Norman. Soon after coming to Sanger. Mr. Rosenthal took out his first citizenship papers, and in 1906 he received his second document, which made him, to his great satisfaction and that of his patriotic and grateful family, a full-fledged citizen of the United States.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosenthal and family are members of the Sanger Lutheran Church, and all are interested in its various activities, as also in the Red Cross and other patriotic endeavors, and are ready in every way to help support the administration in the great work of winning for the world a lasting peace. They are happy to have found such a welcome and such opportunities in Central California, and are glad to continue to take an active part in its development.

### **FRANK T. JOHNSON.**

One of the native sons of California who has been very successful in having improved a fine ranch and established a good dairy, with plenty of choice alfalfa, is Frank T. Johnson, who was born near Hanford, Kings County, February 25, 1882. His father, Samuel Johnson, was born in Tennessee, and came to California across the plains. He first located at Modesto, and then moved to Kings County, where he bought land near Hanford. He next homesteaded 160 acres between Dinuba and Kingsburg, and there he planted grain and raised stock. After a while he moved back to Hanford, where he farmed until he died, in 1883. Frank was then eighteen months old. His mother was Elizabeth A. Brady of Tennessee before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were married in Tennessee, and came West as a young married couple. Now Mrs. Johnson resides in Fresno, the mother of ten children, seven of whom have grown up.

Frank, the youngest of all, was brought up on the farm near Hanford until he was twelve years old, and then he removed to the Dinuba farm. He attended the public school, but he also learned grain farming and viticulture.

He became the owner of a part of the old home, sold it and bought twenty-five acres of it, which he set out as a peach orchard and a vineyard of Sultana and Thompson seedless grapes. When he had conducted that six years, he sold once more, and in 1909 removed to Tranquility.

The country was new, so he bought sixty acres of raw land, which he leveled and checked to alfalfa. He engaged for a while in dairying, but later he sold the dairy. He bought more land, and has made a specialty of raising hay. Now he has 125 acres, and no better could anywhere be found.

In February, 1918, he purchased twenty acres on Marks and Church avenues, and moved there and began to cultivate vines. He also commenced to raise olives, and in both fields he made a success. He sold out in May, 1919, and moved back to his Tranquility ranch.

At Sacramento Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Effie Maude Shutt, a native of Indiana, and three children have blessed their union. They are Dolores, Eleanor and Louis.

### **THOMAS J. ALLEN.**

A close student of daily life, and a man of sound common sense, who after many years of hard work and struggle for existence, believes that the Socialist party offers the only adequate solution for industrialism, is Thomas J. Allen.

Mr. Allen was born in Person County, N. C., on November 2, 1865, and grew up in Person County until the age of eight, when he moved with his parents to Waite and later to Durham County, where his mother died when he was but fourteen. His parents had been poor, and when the mother died, he was without a home, and had to make his living by working out on tobacco and cotton plantations in Durham