

# Frederick Eleutherous Pinkham

Frederick Eleutherous “Fred” Pinkham was born 16 March 1868 in San Luis Obispo, California.<sup>1</sup> He was the second of two sons of Chester Webster Pinkham and Sarah Minerva Clark. On the 1870 census, Fred was living with his father and brother in Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, California.<sup>2</sup> Fred’s father was farming in San Simeon, San Luis Obispo, California, in 1867.<sup>3</sup> The next year his mother died; his brother was only two years old and Fred was less than a month old.<sup>4</sup>

The little family moved to Pioche, Lincoln, Nevada, about 1874, where Fred and his brother went to school. His brother Chester recalled many of the crude aspects of the mining camp: water was delivered by water carts, the houses were lighted by lamps and candles, and there were no street lights. The smallest coin was a twenty-five-cent piece and no one had confidence in paper money.<sup>5</sup>

Fred’s father took the boys on a prospecting trip to southern Utah, where they dug into several Indian mounds. During this trip, while fording the Virgin River after a storm, a floating log struck and overturned the wagon, which was washed away, while the two boys were carried to safety on the backs of their father and his partner. They lived in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, where Frederick and his brother attended school for a few months. In 1880, they made a trip by prairie schooner or covered wagon to Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.<sup>6</sup>

Fred’s father established the Tombstone and Sonora Stage Line that provided weekly service along a route that traveled south from Tombstone and into Mexico.<sup>7</sup> His father died of yellow fever 24 July 1884 in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, when Frederick was 16 years old. In 1886, Fred attended school in San Francisco, then moved to San Diego County, California, to work in the lemon orchards. He later met his wife Jessie through her brother who worked with him there.<sup>8</sup> Fred moved to Chula Vista to work at the San Diego Land and Town Company in 1890.<sup>9</sup> He was employed by that company for thirty years; the main cash crop was lemons and vegetables.<sup>10</sup>

Fred married Ethel Mae Simmons in 1894 in San Diego, California.<sup>11</sup> They had two daughters. On the 1900 census, Fred was a nurseryman, living with his wife and two daughters in El Cajon, San Diego, California.<sup>12</sup> Ethel died in 1901 in California, leaving him with two little girls to raise.<sup>13</sup> He married Jessie E Morrill in 1904 in Chula Vista, California.<sup>14</sup> They had three children. On the 1910 census, Fred was a ranch teamster, living with his wife and two children in National, San Diego, California.<sup>15</sup> By 1920, they had moved back to Chula Vista, where Fred was a teamster for a land corporation,

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<sup>1</sup> California Death Index, 1940-1997.

<sup>2</sup> United States Census, 1860.

<sup>3</sup> California Voter Registers, 1866-1898,

<sup>4</sup> McCartney & McClung Families Genealogy, p. 591.

<sup>5</sup> California and Californians, Vol 3.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> *Tombstone Weekly Epitaph*, 16 January 1882, p. 3; 20 February 1882, p. 3.

<sup>8</sup> *Chula Vista Star-News*, 14 October 1954, p. 9; 16 February 1956, p. 1; California Great Registers, 1866-1910.

<sup>9</sup> *Chula Vista Star-News*, 16 February 1956, p. 1.

<sup>10</sup> *Chula Vista Star*, 20 October 1944, p. 6.

<sup>11</sup> McCartney & McClung Families Genealogy, p. 591.

<sup>12</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>13</sup> McCartney & McClung Families Genealogy, p. 591.

<sup>14</sup> *Chula Vista Star-News*, 16 February 1956, p. 1; 14 October 1954, p. 9.

<sup>15</sup> United States Census, 1910.

living with his wife and three children.<sup>16</sup> They owned their own 47-acres ranch near Poway for fifteen years; the ranch covered the area that is Chula Vista today.<sup>17</sup>

On the 1930 census, Fred was a farmer, living with his wife and daughter in Escondido.<sup>18</sup> In 1940, Fred was farming and living with his wife, daughter, son-in-law, and a grandson.<sup>19</sup> By 1954, they were living in National City, San Diego, California.<sup>20</sup> Fred died on 14 February 1956 in San Diego, California,<sup>21</sup> and was buried in the Glen Abbey Cemetery, Bonita, California.<sup>22</sup> Jessie died in 1972 in San Diego and was buried next to Fred.<sup>23</sup>



(Image from *BillionGraves.com*)

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<sup>16</sup> United States Census, 1920.

<sup>17</sup> *Chula Vista Star-News*, 14 October 1954, p. 9; 16 February 1956, p. 1.

<sup>18</sup> United States Census, 1930.

<sup>19</sup> United States Census, 1940.

<sup>20</sup> *Chula Vista Star-News*, 23 September 1954, p. 17.

<sup>21</sup> California Death Index, 1940-1997.

<sup>22</sup> *Chula Vista Star-News*, 16 February 1956, p. 1.

<sup>23</sup> California Death Index, 1940-1997; tombstone.