

Theodore Clement Poujade

Theodore Clement Poujade was born March 1830 in Perry, Ohio. He was the third of five children of Jean Pierre “John Peter” Poujade and Marie Ann Catherine Noble. The family lived in Ohio, Louisiana, and Illinois¹, until about 1845.² The family crossed the plains to Oregon Territory in 1847 and settled in the Willamette Valley.³ Theodore had some of the Willamette Meridian “donation lands” in Marion, Oregon.⁴ On the 1850 census, he is living with his parents and siblings in Marion, Oregon Territory.⁵

Theodore married Margaret Cosgrove in 1851 in Oregon. They had one son.⁶ They lived in Marion, Oregon, and in Dalles, Wasco, Oregon, where he was a farmer.⁷ In 1861 they moved to northern Idaho and established a horse ranch on the Weipee plains.⁸ Poujade Ranch was also known as Ford’s Creek Station.⁹ In 1864, he owned and operated the Poujade House Hotel in Idaho City, Idaho.¹⁰ They moved to Elko, Nevada, in 1869.¹¹ On the 1870 census, he was as a produce trader, living with his wife in Elko, Elko, Nevada.¹² That year they moved to Pioche, Nevada where he was engaged in merchandising.¹³ On the 1875 census, he was a merchant living in Lincoln, Nevada.¹⁴ Margaret died that year in Pioche.¹⁵

From 1877-1884 he had very successful branch stores, each with a partner, at Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, at Ward, Lincoln, Nevada, and at Taylor, White Pine, Nevada.¹⁶ On the 1880 census, he was widowed, working as a grocer, in Silver Reef.¹⁷ That year he married Ellen Dougray, widow of James Honrahan, about 1891. In Taylor, White Pine, Nevada, he was part owner in one of the principal mines and sold his interest for a considerable sum of money. He also aided in the development of the Osceola gold placer mines. The largest nugget discovered in Nevada to the point, valued at over \$3,000, was found in a claim that he and his partners were working.¹⁸

He was a prominent mine owner and capitalist of Nevada. At one point they lived in Silver City, Nevada.¹⁹ He and his wife visited his sister in Salem, Oregon, and considered moving there.²⁰ But by 1900 he was working as a restaurant proprietor, living with Ellen and his nephew in De Lamar,

¹ United States Census, 1830, 1840.

² Oregon Compiled Census Index, 1841-1890.

³ *Idaho Statesman*, 26 March 2016

⁴ Oregon Early Oregonians Index, 1800-1860; US Indexed Early Land Ownership and Township Plats, 1785-1898; *Oregon Statesman*, 12 October 1961, p. 17; 19 October 1961, p. 13.

⁵ United States Census, 1850.

⁶ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 July 1904, p. 9.

⁷ Oregon 1851-9 Census Index; United States Census, 1860.

⁸ *Idaho Statesman*, 26 March 2016.

⁹ Frontier History along Idaho’s Clearwater River: Pioneers, Miners and Lumberjacks, by John Bradbury, 2014, p. 28.

¹⁰ *Idaho Statesman*, 26 March 2016.

¹¹ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 July 1904, p. 9.

¹² United States Census, 1870.

¹³ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 July 1904, p. 9.

¹⁴ Nevada State Census, 1875.

¹⁵ Oregon, Early Oregonians Index, 1800-1860.

¹⁶ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 July 1904, p. 9.

¹⁷ United States Census, 1880.

¹⁸ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 July 1904, p. 9.

¹⁹ Frontier History along Idaho’s Clearwater River: Pioneers, Miners and Lumberjacks, by John Bradbury, 2014.

²⁰ *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, 26 February 1892, p. 8.

Lincoln, Nevada.²¹ His restaurant burned down in the fire that year; it was valued at \$1,000.²² He underwent a surgical operation from which he failed to recuperate.²³ Theodore died of old age on 21 July 1904 at the Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake City; Salt Lake, Utah. He was buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salt Lake City.²⁴ Ellen died of dropsy in 1913 in Salt Lake City and was also buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery.²⁵

Theodore “was an active man, full of vigor, and led a useful life.”²⁶ He was “kindly in his manner, quiet and unobtrusive with a motto of ‘live and let live’.” He was a pioneer of the Catholic Church in Nevada and Utah.²⁷

Research by Elaine Young, PhD, 2016

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²¹ United States Census, 1900.

²² *Salt Lake Herald*, 30 May 1900, p. 1).

²³ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 July 1904, p. 9.

²⁴ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Death and Military Death Certificates, 1904-1961; Utah Death Registers, 1847-1966; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946.

²⁵ Utah Death and Military Death Certificates, 1904-1961; Utah Death Registers, 1847-1966; Utah Salt Lake County Death Records 1908-1949; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 26 April 1913, pp. 14,16.

²⁶ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 July 1904, p. 9.

²⁷ *Intermountain Catholic*, 30 July 1904.