

ed an  
Calif-  
d here  
acres  
s well  
inter-  
of the  
here.  
Phillips,  
Anna  
ren by  
hodist  
other  
nt and  
state.

ert th  
anche,  
Lewis  
s born  
son of  
w de-  
ner in  
ers in  
s and  
. He  
Verne

o Jay  
public  
er his  
to his  
being  
ged in  
ing in  
period  
helped

udden  
every  
located  
entic

*Lewis T. Meredith*



*Grace O. Meredith*



the Ohio Wesleyan College at Delaware, for which he received an annuity of four per cent. for the rest of his life. On coming to California in 1877 to remain, Mr. Mitchell located at Pomona, and here for many years followed orange growing. He owned sixty-nine acres of Navel and Valencia oranges, all developed by himself, and was well and widely known as an authority on citrus culture. He was also interested in a marmalade factory, and was one of the incorporators of the Pomona Sanitary Laundry. He also owned valuable real estate here.

Mr. Mitchell was first married in 1860 to Miss Anna Phillips, now deceased. In 1904 he was again married, this time to Mrs. Anna Lindsay, a native of Iowa. She was the mother of four children by her first husband. Mr. Mitchell was a member of the Methodist Church and for forty years was a class leader, and he filled other offices in the church. He was active in the prohibition movement and all other movements for the general good in the county and state. He died, mourned by a large circle of friends, in 1908.

#### LEWIS C. MEREDITH

A far-seeing, experienced pioneer rancher who helped convert the barley fields of the San José tract, a part of the old San José Rancho, into the blooming orchards of oranges and lemons of today, is Lewis C. Meredith, a pleasant and affable Quaker gentleman who was born on a farm in Wayne County, Ind., September 17, 1847, the son of James and Mary (Malsby) Meredith, both of whom are now deceased. The father was born in Chester, Pa., and the mother in Maryland and they moved westward and became pioneer farmers in Indiana. They were the parents of three boys and two girls and Lewis C. was the third child and he is the only son now living. He has two sisters now living, Mrs. Margaret M. Samuels of La Verne and Mrs. Lydia Russell of Oneida, Kansas.

Lewis was seven years of age when his parents moved to Jay County, Ind., where he received a good education in the public schools. From a boy he had assisted on the home farm, so after his school days were over, he continued to be of much assistance to his father until 1870, when he decided to go West, his first location being on a farm in Mills County, Iowa, where he was successfully engaged in husbandry until 1877. He then moved still farther west, locating in Nemaha County, Kans., where he also followed farming for a period of ten years. In both states he was a pioneer at farming and helped break the paths of civilization.

In the fall of 1877, when the Coast was agog with the sudden development of California and Easterners were pouring in on every train, Mr. Meredith decided to come to the Golden State. He located at San Dimas and bought property. When he came here his intention

*Lewis C. Meredith*

*Grace B. Meredith*

was to retire, and without a thought of going into horticulture, but after building a residence, he purchased six acres in the San José tract, paying \$200 an acre. It was raw land when he started improvements, set it out to oranges and lemons and prepared to cultivate and care for them. He made a success and soon after bought twenty-seven acres at \$100 per acre. This was also raw land, but Mr. Meredith, nothing daunted, cleared and leveled it. He saw the value and great need of water, sunk a well and obtained a good flow of water and installed an electric pumping plant; this enabled him to grow a splendid orchard, now all full-bearing Navel and Valencia oranges, and lemons. His ranch with its comfortable modern residence is beautifully located on Bonita and Grand avenues. Believing in cooperation, he was one of the original members of the San Dimas Orange Growers Association, as well as the San Dimas Lemon Growers Association, having served as a director in both. He is a stockholder in the First National Bank of San Dimas and is one of the original stockholders and directors of the American National Bank of Pomona. Aside from his activity in horticulture in Southern California, Mr. Meredith set out and improved a twenty-acre orange ranch in Edison, Kern County, which he still owns.

In Jay County, Ind., on March 4, 1875, occurred the first marriage of Mr. Meredith, when he took for his wife Miss Amanda Griest, of whom he was bereaved January 20, 1910. After remaining a widower for six years, he was again married, February 12, 1916, the ceremony occurring at Los Angeles, where he united with Miss Grace E. Swerdfeger, a native of Brown County, Kans., and a daughter of Charles and Eliza (Spencer) Swerdfeger, born in Canada and Indiana, respectively, who became pioneer settlers in Brown County, Kans., where they aided in developing that country, emerging from its early ups and downs of droughts and grasshoppers to well-to-do farmers and stock raisers. Mrs. Meredith came to Pomona in 1895 and graduated at the Pomona High School and the Los Angeles State Normal, after which she attended the University of California at Berkeley. She then engaged in educational work, following the profession of teaching for twelve years. A cultured and refined woman, possessing much business ability, she encourages her husband in his horticultural and business enterprises. Two lovely daughters, twins, have blessed this latter union and they bear the names of Mary Louise and Lois Elizabeth.

Mr. Meredith is a member of the Society of Friends, but is broad and liberal in his views. There being no church of his denomination in the neighborhood, with his wife he attends the Methodist Episcopal Church of La Verne, of which she is a member. Mr. Meredith is a Republican and an Elk, being a member of Pomona Lodge No. 789. Being very optimistic for the future greatness and possi-