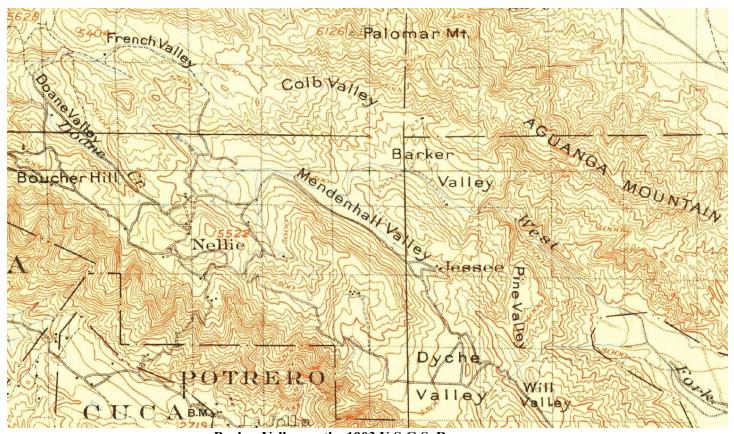
Barker Valley on Palomar Mountain

Peter Brueggeman, 2025

Thank you to Alexa Clausen for assistance and feedback.

Information and photograph sources in this biography are cited **except** for ancestry.com, familysearch.org, and findagrave.com; therefore, an uncited fact or photograph came from those sources.



Barker Valley on the 1903 U.S.G.S. Ramona map

In a San Diego County Gazetteer column in the San Diego Tribune-Sun of May 17, 1940, John Davidson of San Diego's Junipero Serra Museum/San Diego Historical Society wrote about Barker Valley that "we have found no explanation of its naming" [12]. Marion Beckler provided an explanation, writing [1]:

During the 1870's many other families had come and homesteaded on the east end of the mountain. ... Over north of Malava were the **Joseph R. Barkers**, in Barker Valley. ... One by one these homesteaders, who had believed they could make a living on 160 acres of mountain scenery, sold out to Enos T. and Sylvester J. Mendenhall. ... The Malava School, built in the 1870s, was east of Mendenhall Valley and northeast of Dyche Valley. The original log building was moved to make an addition to the George Cook home and a new schoolhouse was built. ... At that time the attendance averaged nine or ten children. There were the older Mendenhall children, the (James) Frazier boys, Charles and Manning, Ida and Susie Cook, **Emma Barker**, and Emanuel Dyche.

From Beckler's writing, it is assumed Emma Barker is a child of Joseph R. Barker. Malava was located in Mendenhall Valley on Palomar Mountain. An election for issuing bonds to build a new Malava schoolhouse was held on November 7, 1885 [3]. The new Malava schoolhouse was built in Pedley Valley in 1886, assuming it was built after the school bond election in November 1885. Therefore the Barkers were living there in Barker Valley in the 1880s and thereafter.

There's no homestead record for a Barker on Palomar Mountain [2]. Perhaps Joseph R. Barker started a homestead on Palomar and left before the five years passed when he would have proved up, or he could have purchased or rented land. There's no Barker noted on Palomar in the 1912 Plat book of San Diego County, California, so he was gone by then [6]. San Diego County land records were not searched.

Joseph R. Barker himself is difficult to trace. The 1890 U.S. Census records were lost so a key resource is unavailable. No one named Joseph Barker can be found for the 1880s to 1890s in San Diego County in ancestry.com, geneaologybank.com, newspapers.com, or cdnc.ucr.edu. In the 1900 U.S. Census, Emma Barker Salmons stated her parents were born in Maine and Texas, respectively.

A Joseph R. Barker did homestead in Rainbow (proving up in 1932) which is considerably west of Palomar Mountain [2]. This Joseph R. Barker was born in 1875 in Illinois, and he was still living in Illinois in the 1910 U.S. Census – too late to be living on Palomar in the time period involved.

Other Barkers were nearby... Alex Barker won the Republican primary votes for Smith Mountain (aka Palomar Mountain) in August 1892 [10]. Alex Barker is probably Alejandro Barker (died 1896) who lived nearby Palomar at Cupa/Warner's Ranch; he was the only registered voter at Cupa and was a defendant in John Gately Downey's court case evicting Indians from Warner's Ranch [13]. J. Barker purchased two lots in Temecula (lots 23 and 24, block 5) from the Pauba Land and Water Company in 1887 [19].

EMMA BARKER

More readily found in sources is **Emma Barker** (February 7, 1877 – January 30, 1910) who was the first wife of Louis Shannon Salmons. Louis Salmons said [4]:

I was married in Arizona. My wife's name was Emma Barker. Well, I got married in the spring in Arizona and come here (Pala) in the fall.

Robert Asher wrote [5]:

... Louis has been operating near Palomar longer than I, but his first coming to the top of the mountain as a resident occurred about the time of the Huntington boom in 1905. ... Louis thereupon moved up onto the mountain with his wife and ... young daughters and for awhile lived in the house on the Adams place. ... Louis Salmons' first wife, and the mother of the ... Salmons girls, was a young girl going to school at the Jessee schoolhouse in the middle eighties. The Salmons occupied the Adams' house for awhile around 1905 or 1906, and I saw quite a bit of them. Mrs. Salmons vividly remembered the fall of an immense meteor while she was living in Barker Valley. It had seemingly fallen to the earth in a southerly direction from the Barker home and at no great distance. Next day at school, there was great excitement over the "falling star". Also diverse opinions as to which way it had fallen, or possibly several fallen stars, north, south, east, west -- it would seem that it was a very versatile falling star if it were a single solitary one. Finally the teacher and youngsters figured it out that it was one and the same meteor and had fallen on top of the ridge west of the schoolhouse and south of Mendenhall Valley. So at the noon recess, a number of the children hiked up hill until they came to a great, freshly-excavated hole, maybe thirty feet across -- dirt and rocks scattered all about. I once endeavored to locate the big hole, but got into such a tangle of high brush that I had to forego further search. I had seen the same falling meteor from the Asher home in El Cajon Valley. It had settled to earth in the direction of the east middle Palomar Mountain (which was in plain sight daytime from our front porch) but seemed to have come down not farther than just over the hills north of the Cowles' Santee Ranch. ...

Asher said Emma Barker was a young girl going to school at the Jessee schoolhouse on Palomar Mountain in the middle 1880s [5]. She was born in 1877 corroborating that. By June 1891, she was no longer going to school there. Emma Barker's parent is not listed in the School Census Marshal's Report for the Malava School District for the year ending June 30, 1891, which is the earliest report year available at the San Diego History Center, and Barker is not listed in following years [7]. Born in 1877, Emma Barker would have been 14 years old when that 1891 school year ended.

On January 3, 1896, the Escondido Advocate published in a "Valley Center Items" column [8]:

Miss Emma Barker is quite sick.

Since Emma Barker was entitled 'Miss' in that Escondido newspaper of January 3, 1896, she married Louis Salmons several months after that newspaper item.

Louis Salmons said [4]:

We have five children. ... The oldest child was Mahulda Neal Salmons... Rebecca's next; Harriet's next; and Marge after Rebecca; and then Harriet. Marge's name is Marie; then Louise. That's all of them. Five girls, that's enough, isn't it, five? Mahulda, Rebecca, Marie, Harriet, and Louise. Harriet ought to come before Louise; she's older than Louise.

Louis and Emma Salmons had five daughters: Mahulda Neal Salmons (1897-1946), Mary Rebecca Salmons (1900-1995), Charlotte Marjorie Salmons (1901-1995), Harriet Ora Salmons (1902-1974), and Emma Louise Salmons (1908-1999). Their first child Mahulda Neal Salmons was born June 19, 1897, so Louis and Emma were married in 1896 or 1897.

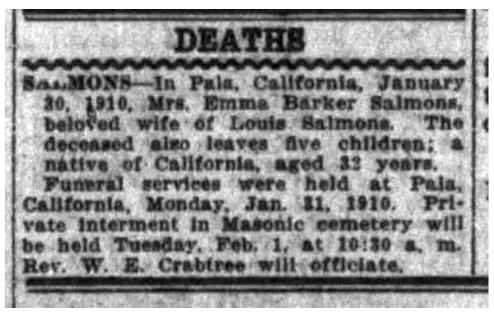
In the 1900 U.S. Census, Louis Salmons is recorded in the Pala Township as a farmer on rented land, living with his wife Emma and daughters Mahulda (age 2) and Rebecca (age 1). The census records that Emma was born in California in February 1877, and her father was born in Maine and her mother was born in Texas.

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There is a Louis Salmons family tree on www.familysearch.org which gives the middle name of Lucinda for Emma Barker, with no supporting information for that middle name [20].

DEATH OF EMMA BARKER SALMONS

Louis Salmons' wife Emma died of pneumonia in Pala on January 30, 1910 [9,22]. Some newspaper death notices give her middle name as Barker.



[9]

MRS. EMMA SALMONS DIES AT PALA HOME

Deceased Woman Sister-in-Law

San Diego Councilman

Word was received by Councilman Frank Salmons last night that Mrs. Emma Barker Salmons, wife of the city official's brother, died late yesterday afternoon at Pala. Mrs. Salmons was born in this state and has resided here all of her life. She was 32 years of age and is survived by five children, all of them girls, the eldest being 12 years of age and the youngest eighteen months.

Funeral services will be held at Pala on Tuesday, February 1, after which the remains will be removed to this city for interment at the Masonic cemetery. Louis Salmons, the bereaved husband, is well known in this city, and is a prominent member of the order of Eiks.

SALMONS—At Pala, Cal., Mrs. Emma Barker Salmons, beloved wife of Louis Salmons of Pala, California; a native of California; aged 32 years.

[11]

EMMA BARKER OR EMMA LITTLEFIELD?

The Register of Births, San Diego County for Emma Louise Salmons (a daughter of Louis and Emma Salmons) with a birthdate of August 17, 1908, lists her father as Lewis L. Salmons and her mother's maiden name as Emma Littlefield, not Emma Barker.

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The 1922 marriage license for Charlotte Marjorie Salmons (a daughter of Louis and Emma Salmons) gives her mother's maiden name as Emma Littlefield, not Emma Barker.

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The 1923 marriage license for Harriet Ora Salmons (a daughter of Louis and Emma Salmons) gives her mother's maiden name as Emma Littlefield, not Emma Barker.

State of California,	ss. MARRIAGE LICENSE NO.VV. D. Q.
City and County of San Francisco	No. L.V. J. G.
de	ure to authorize and license any Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice of the District Court of urt, Judge of the Police Court, Justice of the Peace, Priest or Minister of the Gospel of any nomination, to solemnize, within said county, the Marriage of
Arend C. Tome	white and Harriet O. Salmons - white.
County of San Francisco County of San Francisco Star	te of Chifornia , County of San Francisco State of L
said parties being of sufficient age	to be capable of contracting marriage as appears by affidavit of record in my office.
in and for the Ci	have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Superior Court of the State of California, ty and County of San Francisco, this // day of
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Monor H. I. MULCREP)
State of California.	SEAL County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of said Superior Court
City and County of San Francisco	ss. This Certifies that By & L. MUNSON Deputy.
Arend C. Tomes	
the parties in the above license, were	e joined in marriage by me on the 11th day of october, 1. D. 192
	in said City and County and Chat.
that O. M. Pickford	, a resident of Honolulu, County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii
unu	, a resident of , County of , State of , were present as witnesses of said ceremony.
(Name 0	M. Pickford No. Hondule. V. 14. Street
Witnesses: {	No. Street
In Witness Whereof, I have	ve hereunto set my hand, this 11 th day of Oet Soer A.D. 1920
	Hugh Dr. Gilchrist
	minister
dellas for more	11 N. 8
PLACE OF MARRIAGE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANC	the request of VL.W.S. on 19/13 1993 California State Board of Health
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Emma Littlefield is listed in the 1880 U.S. Census, at age 3, tallied in the Agua Caliente Township in June 1880. The Agua Caliente Township is where Palomar Mountain residents were listed at that time.

Page No./// Supervisor's Dis Enumeration Dis SCHEDULE	t. No. 4	June 1, 1880, will be Included June 1, 1880, will be Constituted Nov. 18, 14, 22	MITTED.	[1-296.] 79, and ends May 31, 1880 Enumeration who were Members of Families we not to be asked in response to the control of	living on the let to have DIED Si act to persons un	Sau Dr.	ege)		i Cali	formie
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Thus, Emma Littlefield was born about 1877 in California which is the same birth year as listed for Emma Salmons in the 1900 U.S. Census.

Emma Littlefield's parents were James and Charlotte Littlefield, ages 26 and 24 respectively (recorded Charlotta in the 1880 U.S. Census).

James Littlefield was born in Maine about 1854 according to the 1880 U.S. Census, and his occupation was a laborer.

Charlotte Littlefield was born in Texas in 1856.

These are the same parental birth states recorded for Emma Salmons in the 1900 U.S. Census.

In that 1880 census, the siblings of Emma Littlefield were Joseph, age 5, and Hiram, age 1, both born in California; neither can be traced in the 1900+ U.S. censuses or other sources. Perhaps they passed away early.

Tallied in the Agua Caliente Township in 1880 alongside Emma Littlefield's family are Palomar Mountain residents like George Doane, Sylvester and George Mendenhall, George Dyche, the Cooks, etc. There is no Joseph Barker listed in the Agua Caliente Township in that 1880 U.S. Census.

EMMA BARKER AND EMMA LITTLEFIELD?

Did Joseph R. Barker take in Emma from her Littlefield parents sometime after that 1880 census?

Was Emma Littlefield first married to Joseph Barker, and then married Louis Salmons?

A Littlefield parent is not listed in the School Census Marshal's Report for the Malava School District for the year ending June 30, 1891, which is the earliest report year available at the San Diego History Center [7]. A Littlefield parent is not listed in following years and Barker is not listed in any of the years either [7].

James Littlefield appears to be James A. Littlefield, according to a 1921 court summons from the plaintiff Mendenhall Cattle Corporation. Starting March 18, 1921, the Escondido Times-Advocate published court summons from the plaintiff Mendenhall Cattle Corporation versus Frank Knox (administrator of the estates of several of the Sobrenes family and Ygnacio Dowell), Sylvester Charles Mendenhall (executor of the will of Sylvester Jacob Mendenhall), A.C. and Permelia Kitching, **James A. Littlefield**, John Doe, Richard Roe, Susan Keep, Frank Grab, Doe & Company, and all other persons unknown claiming a right, title, estate, lien or interest in described property adverse to plaintiff's ownership [16]. The summons described several parcels located in Rancho Cuca or El Potrero and on Palomar Mountain in the areas of Morgan Hill, Doane Valley, French Valley, and Mendenhall Valley [16]. Though the parcels detailed in the summons are not linked to specific individuals, some of the land in question is in Mendenhall Valley, which is adjacent to Jessee, where Robert Asher said Emma Barker went to school as a young girl in the middle 1880s [5].

James A. Littlefield married Charlotte Cook in the Los Nietos Township in Los Angeles County on May 3, 1874. He stated he was 25 years old and thus born in 1849. His recorded age of 26 in the 1880 U.S. Census differs in making his birth year about 1854. Charlotte Cook's age doesn't differ between her 1874 marriage and the 1880 U.S. Census.

State of California,	
These Presents are to authorize and license any Justice of the Supreme Court, District or	
County Judge, Justice of the Peace, Mayor, Priest or Minister of the Gospel of any denomination to solemnize,	
within said county, the marriage of Justice S. Lettle field native of Messaice,, agea. 25 years, resident of Most Killer. County of Good Anallie.	
State of California, and Associate Cooks, native of Colliferation, aged	
18. years, resident of Dest Miles, country of Low Angelled,	
State of California. Said parties being of sufficient age to be capable of contracting marriage.	
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the County	
Court of said County, this day of Alley 3. D. 1874	
County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the County Court in and for said Los Angeles County.	
By De VI Roulds Deputy Clerk.	
State of California,	
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. SS.	
I hereby certify that I believe the facts stated in the above license to be true, and that upon due	
inquiry there appears to be no legal impediment to the marriage of said 2.44. A Marriage and that said parties were joined in marriage by me, on the	
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, a resident of Loss Miles , County of Thes August State of	
Mediferma were present as witnesses of said ceremony.	
1N WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this.	
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Meinsten of Mo E. C.G.	
A full, true and correct copy of the original, recorded this 19th day of Many	
A. D. 1874, at request of Met. All. S. S. Stille Cal Commenter frank to All.	
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Jan Harringe License.

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Affidavit sor Marriage License.

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Charlotte Cook (born in Texas in 1856; died in New Mexico on May 4, 1921) was the first-born child of Jefferson Madison Cook and his second wife Lucinda Moore Fox Reynard Cook [18]. Jefferson Cook and family had moved from Texas to Milguatay (Guatay) in San Diego County in 1867. The Cooks then moved to the Los Nietos Township (Downey) in Los Angeles County, and then moved onto Palomar Mountain at what is now called Jeff Valley in 1877 [18].

The Cooks were living in the Los Nietos Township at the time of Charlotte Cook's 1874 marriage to James A. Littlefield. Along with Jefferson and Lucinda Cook's move from Los Nietos Township to Palomar Mountain, some of their children moved to Palomar as well, including George Washington Cook, Hiram Madson Cook, Thomas Jefferson Cook, Susan Cook, Ida Bell Cook and Beulah Mae Cook [18].

The San Diego Union published on July 28, 1883 [14]:

Capture of a Noted Horse Thief

The Los Angeles Express says: Deputy Sheriff George Gard brought in on Sunday from Tehachepi a man named James A. Littlefield, who is wanted in several portions of this southern country for stealing horses. It seems that the fellow is an adept in the art. He is accused of stealing two horses, on different occasions, in San Diego county. He is wanted in San Bernardino county for a similar offense. At Bakersfield his presence is desired on like charges and in this county, he distinguished himself as a clever appropriator of other people's property. Two fine horses were lost in May last and Littlefield is supposed to be the one responsible for their disappearance. Then a horse was stolen near Spadra in the same month and the theft was laid at the same individual's door. Finally on the night of July 4th, Mr. Dodge, of Artesia, had a fine race horse stolen from him. The animal was taken to Newhall and there sold for \$25 to a Mr. Tracy. With the money thus obtained Littlefield engaged in the seductive game of "draw" and lost his all. That night he stole the horse again and proceeded on his way. Since then Deputy Sheriff Gard, who was detailed too find him, has been arranging for his capture. He sent word in every direction to arrest Littlefield, giving full descriptions of the man. Finally he got a clue that the horse thief was traveling in the direction of Tehachepi, and sending word ahead, was rewarded on Saturday evening by the receipt of a telegram from Deputy Sheriff Taylor, of Kern county, stating that a man answering Littlefield's description had been arrested there. Mr. Gard went up at once and brought down his prisoner yesterday morning, when he lodged him in jail. The accused, after the manner of men of his class, bears a **number of aliases**, Hughes and Allen being his most popular ones. He seems to be a very clever fellow, and boasts of having talked with a country deputy sheriff, made him tell him who he was looking for and gave the limb of the law the slip without the latter's suspecting with whom he had been conversing.

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James A. Littlefield, born in Maine, age 37 (making his birth year 1849 which agrees with his marriage document), occupation bricklayer, started serving a prison term at San Quentin on August 4, 1883. Littlefield left San Quentin prison on October 4, 1887, after serving several years for grand larceny [15].

WAS JOSEPH R. BARKER AN ALIAS USED BY JAMES A. LITTLEFIELD?

The July 1883 San Diego Union news story above states that James A. Littlefield used multiple aliases, so perhaps Joseph R. Barker was an alias for James A. Littlefield [14].

After prison, James A. Littlefield, 56 years old, born in Maine, was registered to vote in Vacaville, on August 27, 1894 (with an 1849 birth year, he would have been 43 years old). Vacaville is about fifty miles from the San Quentin prison. An article on a gold strike in the Death Valley area published in the San Bernardino Daily Times-Index on August 1, 1904, mentions a gold prospector James Littlefield getting lost, running out of water and food, and nearly dying [17].

Further information on James A. Littlefield seems unavailable.

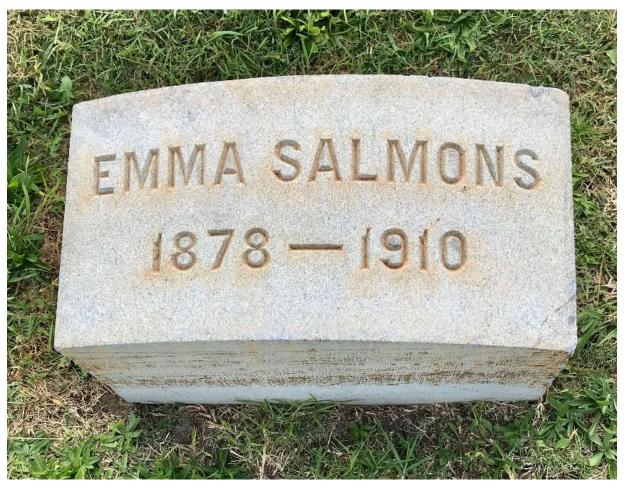
After Charlotte Cook's marriage to James A. Littlefield, she married W.R. Evans at some point.

Charlotte Cook was living in Yuma, Arizona when she contracted uterine carcinoma or endometrial cancer in 1918. Charlotte Cook died in Garfield, New Mexico on May 4, 1921, and is buried in Rincon, New Mexico.

There is scant information on W.R. Evans. The 1885 New Mexico territorial census lists W.R. Evans, age 22, single, bartender, born in Scotland about 1863, and living in Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, New Mexico.

W.R. Evans survived Charlotte Cook's death in 1921.

1	STATE OF NEW MEXICO, DE PLACE OF DEATH DONA ANA	State New Mess Registered No. 86
	Townshipo	r Village Garfield
2	City 100 100 FULL NAME Charlotte CU	in hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number
	(a) Residence. No	St., Ward. (If nonresident give city or town and states, ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos.
	PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS	MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
3	SPY 4 COLOR OR BACE 5 Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (write the word)	16 DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) May 4- 19
2	Emale White Married	I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased to
. 1	a If married, widowed, or divorced	that I last saw h 22 alive on 2024 C. 0 19.
	(or) WIFE of W. C. Evans	and that I last saw h 2 alive on 1000 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 2
	DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year)	The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows;
. 7	AGE 4 years 2 Months 5 Days If LESS than 1 day hrs. or min.	Carcinoma af Mismu
9 -	OCCUPATION OF DECEASED	46
certificate	(a) Trade, profession, or Aousewift	about (duration) 2 yrs. mos.
10 H	(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)	CONTRIBUTORY
Dates o	which employed (or employer)	(duration)yrsmos
то —	BIRTHPLACE (city or town)	18 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death?
	(State or Country) Burleson County TEX	Did an operation precede death? Ab Date of
	10 NAME OF FATHER JESTEMON Cook	Was there an autopsy?
PARENTS	(State or country) (State or country)	(Signed) 5 (M)(aman
PAR	12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Lucinda anderson	, 19 (Address) Mission, M. M.
Hi	13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town)	*State the Disease Causing Death, or in deaths from Violent Caustate (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accident Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for additional space.)
por rame.	Informant ON TEVANS (Address) Fallo M. M.	19 PLACE OF BURIAL CREMATION OR DATE OF BURIAL REMOVAL WHITE REMOVAL WITH MAY 4 19
-	5 Mand of J. G. Co. O.	20 UNDERTAKER ADDRESS



Emma
Salmons is
buried at
Mount Hope
Cemetery in
San Diego.

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