

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
**Dept. of California & Pacific**



**Civil War Memorial Assessment Form**  
**(Form CWM #61)**

Used for periodic assessments of the condition of Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and Civil War memorials in the Department of California & Pacific, SUVCW (includes California, Nevada and Hawaii)

For more information please go to:  
<http://www.suvcw.org/memorials.html>

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

**CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM**  
*"GREEK GEORGE" - CAMEL DRIVER*

**PLEASE:**

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

**Type of Memorial**

Monument *with* Sculpture                       Monument with Cannon  
 Monument without Sculpture                       Historical Marker                       Plaque

**Affiliation**

G.A.R. (Post Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)                       M.O.L.L.U.S.  
 W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)                       Other Allied Order  
 SUVCW (Camp Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)                      (Please describe below)  
 DUVCW (Tent Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Other: WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

**Original Dedication Date** JUNE 30, 1956 Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the first dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

**Location** ← MARKER GRAVE  
 The Memorial is currently located at:  
 Street/Road address or site location 6755 NEWLIN AVE  
 City/Village WHITTIER Township \_\_\_\_\_ County LOS ANGELES

The front of the Memorial faces:  North  South  East  West  
FOUNDERS PARK - PLAQUE

Government Body, Agency or Individual Owner (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...  
 Name WHITTIER HIST SOC. / MUSEUM Dept./Div. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address 6755 NEWLIN AVE  
 City WHITTIER State CA Zip Code 90601  
 Contact Person DENZIL HEANEY Telephone ( 562 ) 945-3871  
BARLAND COURTS FAX (562) 945-9106

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...  
FORMER LOCATION OF GREEK GEORGE GRAVE MARKER -  
MT. OLIVE CEMETERY - NOW @ WHITTIER MUSEUM. (2002)  
(1956-1968)

**Physical Details**

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon =  Stone  Concrete  Metal  Undetermined  
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) GRAY GRANITE

Material of the Sculpture =  Stone  Concrete  Metal  Undetermined  
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" \_\_\_\_\_

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = GRAY GRANITE

Material of Cannon =  Bronze  Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm  
Markings on muzzle = \_\_\_\_\_  
Markings on Left Trunion \_\_\_\_\_ Right Trunion \_\_\_\_\_  
Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial?  If so, describe \_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points  
Monument or Base: Height \_\_\_\_\_ Width \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_ or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_  
Sculpture: Height \_\_\_\_\_ Width \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_ or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

**Markings/Inscriptions** (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)  
Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found \_\_\_\_\_  
UNKNOWN

The "Dedication Text" is formed:  cut into material  raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides...) Please use additional sheet if necessary.

GREEK GEORGE - BORN IN SMYRNA, AS.  
GEORGE CARALAMBO  
CAME TO THIS COUNTRY AS A CAMEL DRIVER FOR THE  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT - IN 1857.  
NATURALIZED - ~~BY~~ GEORGE ALLEN IN 1867  
DIED SEPT 2, 1913 AT OLD MISSION  
HISTORICAL MARKER ERECTED BY WHITTIER PARLOR NO. 298  
NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST.  
COURTESY OF F. G. SIMMONS AND F. G. WHITE JUNE 30, 1956

**Environmental Setting**

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location → GRAVE MARKER ←

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery           | <input type="checkbox"/> Park           | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Courtyard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Town Square"      | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Office    | <input type="checkbox"/> School          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building | <input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol  | Other: <u>BACK STORE AGE</u>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse         | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus | <u>AREA OF MUSEUM</u>                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle     | <input type="checkbox"/> Library        | _____                                    |



**Surface Coating**

Does there appear to be a coating?  Yes  No  Unable to determine  
 If known, identify type of coating.

Gilded  Painted  Varnished  Waxed  Unable to determine  
 Is the coating in good condition?  Yes  No  Unable to determine

**Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)**

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

Well maintained  Would benefit from treatment  In urgent need of treatment  Unable to determine

**Overall Description**

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on).

AS OF 2002 THIS GRAVE MARKER WAS IN THE STORAGE  
AREA OF THE WHITTIER MUSEUM - IT WAS UNDETERMINED AS TO  
WHAT OR WHERE IT WOULD BE RELOCATED - THOUGHTS WERE  
TO THE RENOVATED PICO PICO MANSION @ WHITTIER BLVD AND  
I-605. BUT I NEVER HAD FEED BACK ON THIS -

→ **Supplemental Background Information - I HAVE INQUIRIES IN ON THE MARKER -**

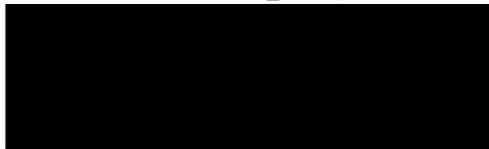
In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

**Inspector Identification**

Date of On-site Survey 7/20/2002  
 Your Name FLOYD FARRAR  
 Address 12550 E CARSON ST. #39 City HAWAIIAN GARDENS  
 State CA Zip Code 90716 Telephone [REDACTED]

Please send this completed form to:

Todd A. Shillington, PCC



Floyd L. Farrar  
 12550 E. Carson St. #59  
 Hawaiian Gardens, CA  
 90716-2014

1-23-2005

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
 National Civil War Memorials Committee

**MOUNT OLIVE CEMETERY OR FOUNDERS MEMORIAL PARK**  
**Whittier, Los Angeles County, California**  
*Located at Broadway & Gregory*



Mount Olive Cemetery, sometimes called Whittier Cemetery, was "recently" (*genealogically speaking*) renamed Founder's Park when the headstones were removed. Most burials were done 1900-1920 with a few in the 1890's and as late as 1935. Whittier Area Genealogical Society compiles from a headstone/burial roster held by the Whittier Historical Society & Whittier Museum and from a book, Vital Records Index, Whittier, CA Newspapers 1888-1930, the information on this page.

**Whittier Historical Society & Museum**

Denzil Heaney, Archivist Coordinator  
6755 Newlin Ave.  
Whittier, CA 90601

<<http://www.whittiermuseum.org>>

They have the actual newspapers in their archives, but are missing miscellaneous days.  
The Museum also has a very few Mount Olive headstones in their possession.

Or go to :

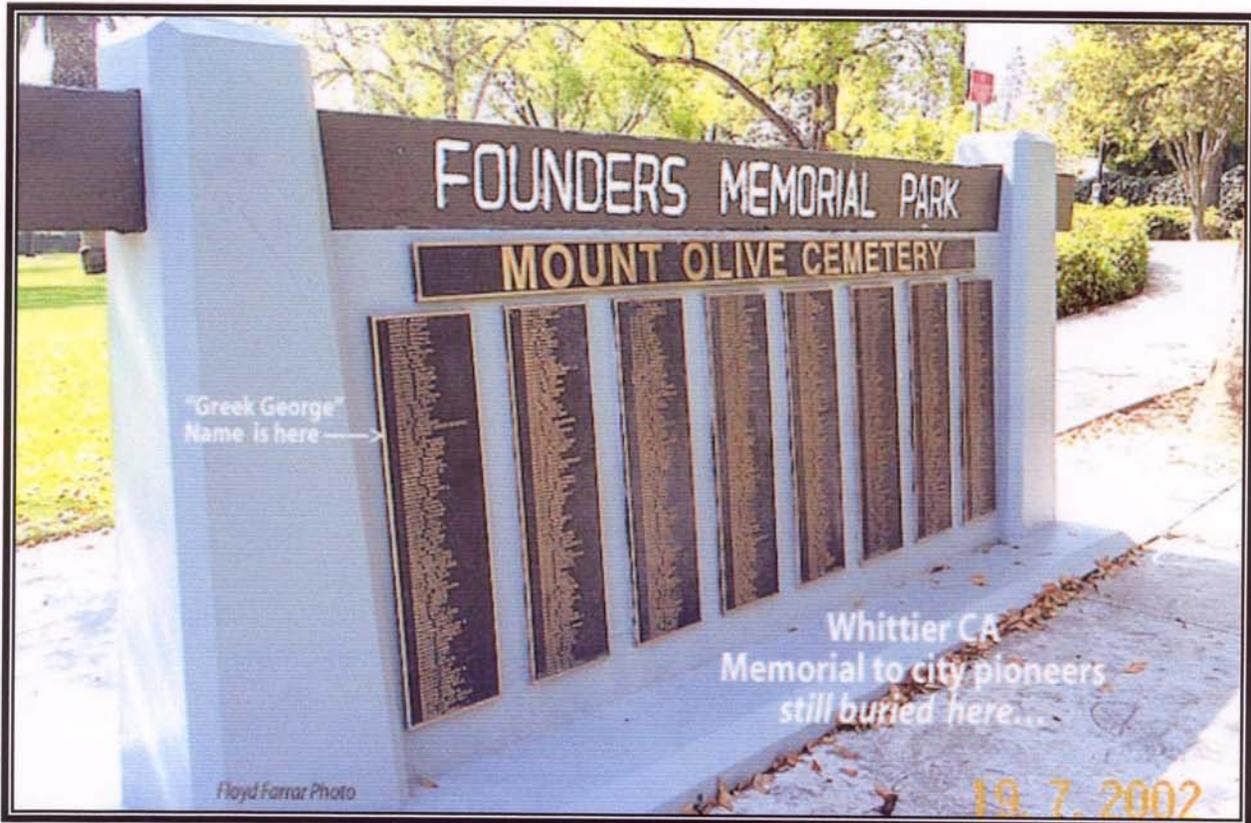
**Whittier Public Library**  
7344 Washington Avenue  
Whittier, CA 90602  
Phone: (562) 464-8513

The newspapers can be found on microfilm here.

*Floyd L. Farrar*  
12550 E. Carson St. #59  
Hawaiian Gardens, CA  
90716-2014

*1-23-2005*

*INFO ON  
"GREEK GEORGE"*



"Greek George"  
Name is here →

Whittier CA  
Memorial to city pioneers  
still buried here...

Floyd Farrar Photo

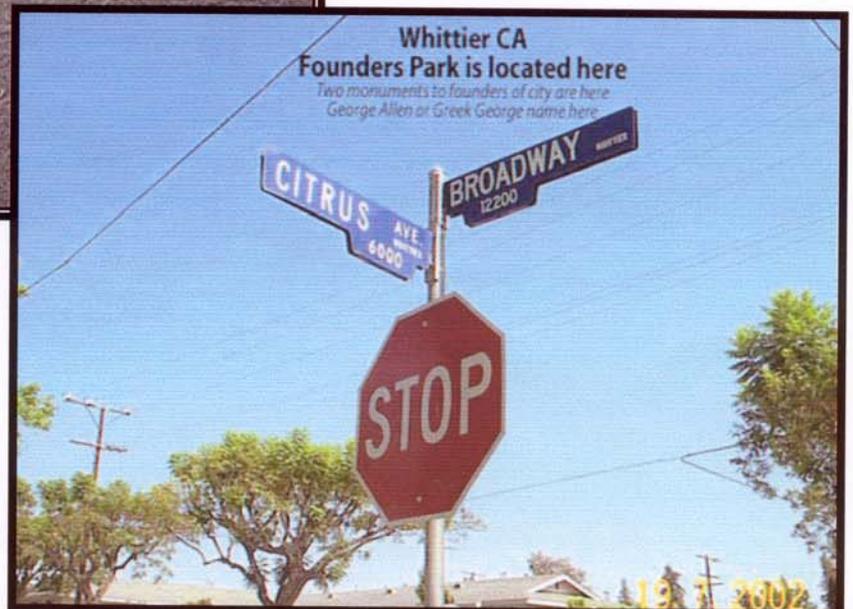
19. 7. 2002



Floyd L. Farrar  
12550 E. Carson St. #59  
Hawaiian Gardens, CA  
90716-2014

1-23-2005

GREEK GEORGE  
INFO



Whittier CA  
Founders Park is located here  
Two monuments to founders of city are here  
George Allen or Greek George name here

19. 7. 2002

## MT. OLIVE AND BROADWAY CEMETERIES (FOUNDERS PARK) WHITTIER CA

**Founders Memorial Park** was once Whittier Cemetery, Mount Olive Cemetery, and Broadway Cemetery. The cemeteries had been abandoned in the 1930's. In 1968 the City of Whittier took advantage of legislation allowing the acquisition of the property and created Founders Memorial Park on the four acres of land. Gravestones were removed and two monuments were erected that list the 2380 persons who were buried there. A listing of the graves including a plot map of the cemeteries is available at the City by appointment only.

**Editor's Note:** The Whittier Museum director told me that for five years prior to 1968 the city and various other organizations desperately tried to find relatives of the people buried there. They offered to relocate the remains wherever they wanted. The names seen on the Founders Park bronze plaque still remain there because those relatives were never to be found, or if they were, elected to do nothing with their remains.

### GRAVE OF GEORGE CARALAMBO "GREEK GEORGE"

The gravesite of "Greek George" is \*\*State Historical Landmark 646 and is located in Founder's Memorial Park, Broadway at Gregory Avenue. "Greek George" was a camel driver from Smyrna, Turkey who came to the United States with the second load of camels purchased by the War Department as an experiment to open a wagon road to Fort Tejon from Fort Defiance, New Mexico. Because of the Civil War, the experiment was abandoned. "Greek George" became a naturalized citizen in 1867 under the name George Allen. He built an adobe on Santa Monica Boulevard, near present day Hollywood Bowl. He passed away in a house not far from Pio Pico's rancho near present day Whittier Blvd and the I-605 Freeway and is buried in Founders Park.

\* The precise location of Greek George's ranch has long been a subject of disagreement. Various writers have placed it at such diverse sites as the mouth of Cahuenga Pass, the Hollywood Bowl, the Hollywood Fire Station, and Laurel Canyon. The best source as to the ranch's location is a map provided by Ben Truman in his 1875 book on Vasquez's capture. A study of this map, along with Truman's description, clearly reveals that Greek George's ranch was well west of both Cahuenga and Laurel canyons. Most recent scholars<sup>1</sup> places the site very close to the intersection of Fountain Avenue and Kings Road in West Hollywood, an area now crowded with apartment houses.

\* The above was quoted from:

#### TIBURCIO VASQUEZ IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

#### THE BANDIT'S LAST HURRAH

By John W. Robinson

Web site below:

<http://www.californiahistory.com/sample.html>

**\*\* State Historical Landmark 646** — *I could never locate this monument if there was one...maybe it is just the physical location of the land.*

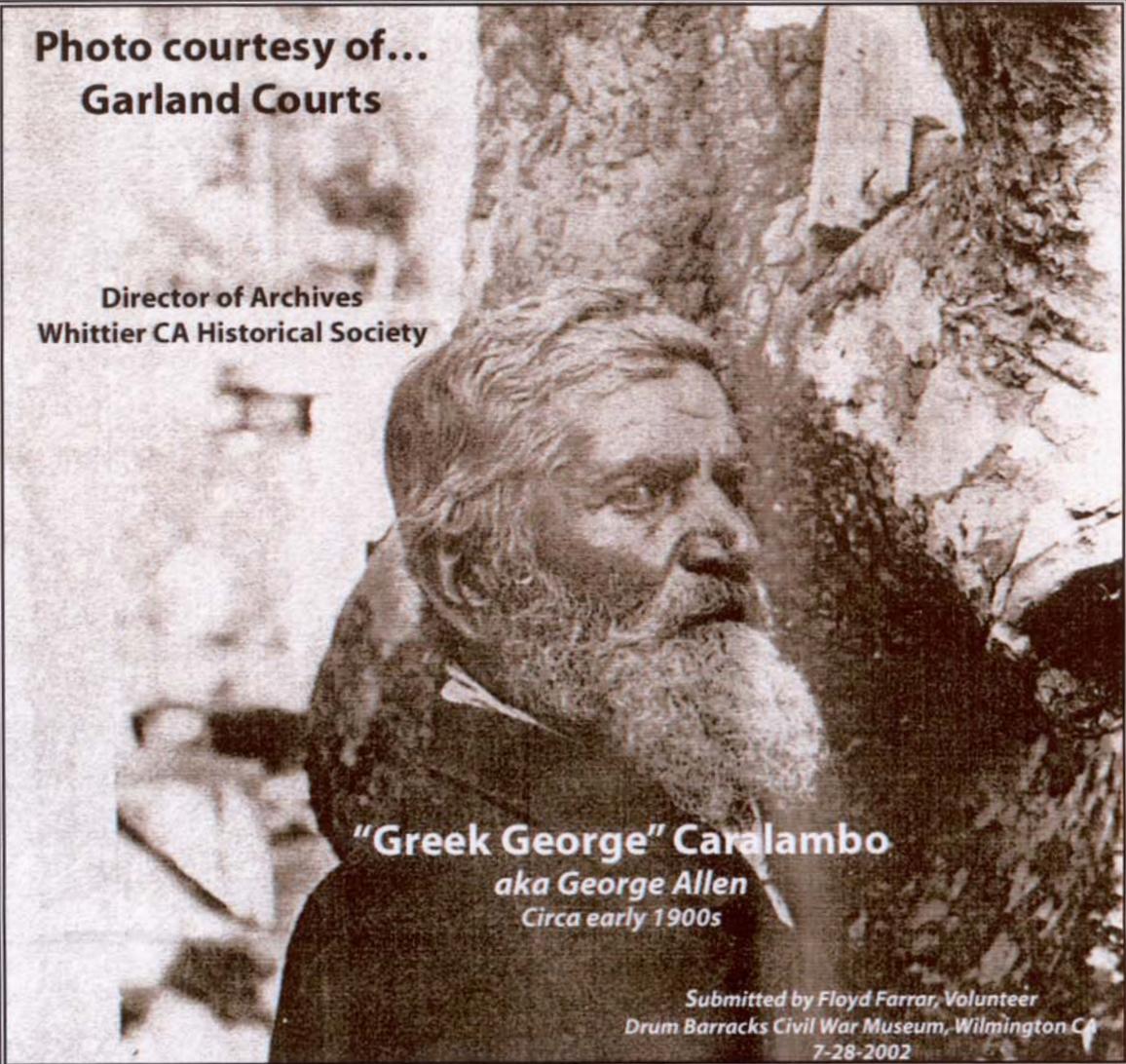
*GREEK GEORGE INFO.*

Floyd L. Ferrar  
12550 E. Carson St. #59  
Hawaiian Gardens, CA  
90716-2014

1-23-2005

Photo courtesy of...  
Garland Courts

Director of Archives  
Whittier CA Historical Society



**"Greek George" Caralambo**  
aka George Allen  
Circa early 1900s

Submitted by Floyd Farrar, Volunteer  
Drum Barracks Civil War Museum, Wilmington CA  
7-28-2002

AGUIRRE, PLUTARLSO  
AHLSTROM, ERIA K.  
AKERS, EVA C.  
AKERS, DOROTHY  
AKERS, JOHN A.  
ALBITRE, MAUD  
ALIPAZ, FRANCISCO  
ALLEN, GEORGE (GREEK GEORGE)  
ALLEN, GEORGE  
ALLEN, W. A.  
ALLRED, LEWIS BANE  
ALTAMIRANO, ARTHUR  
ALVARADO, AURALIA  
ALVARADO, PASQUAL  
ALVAREZ, INFANT

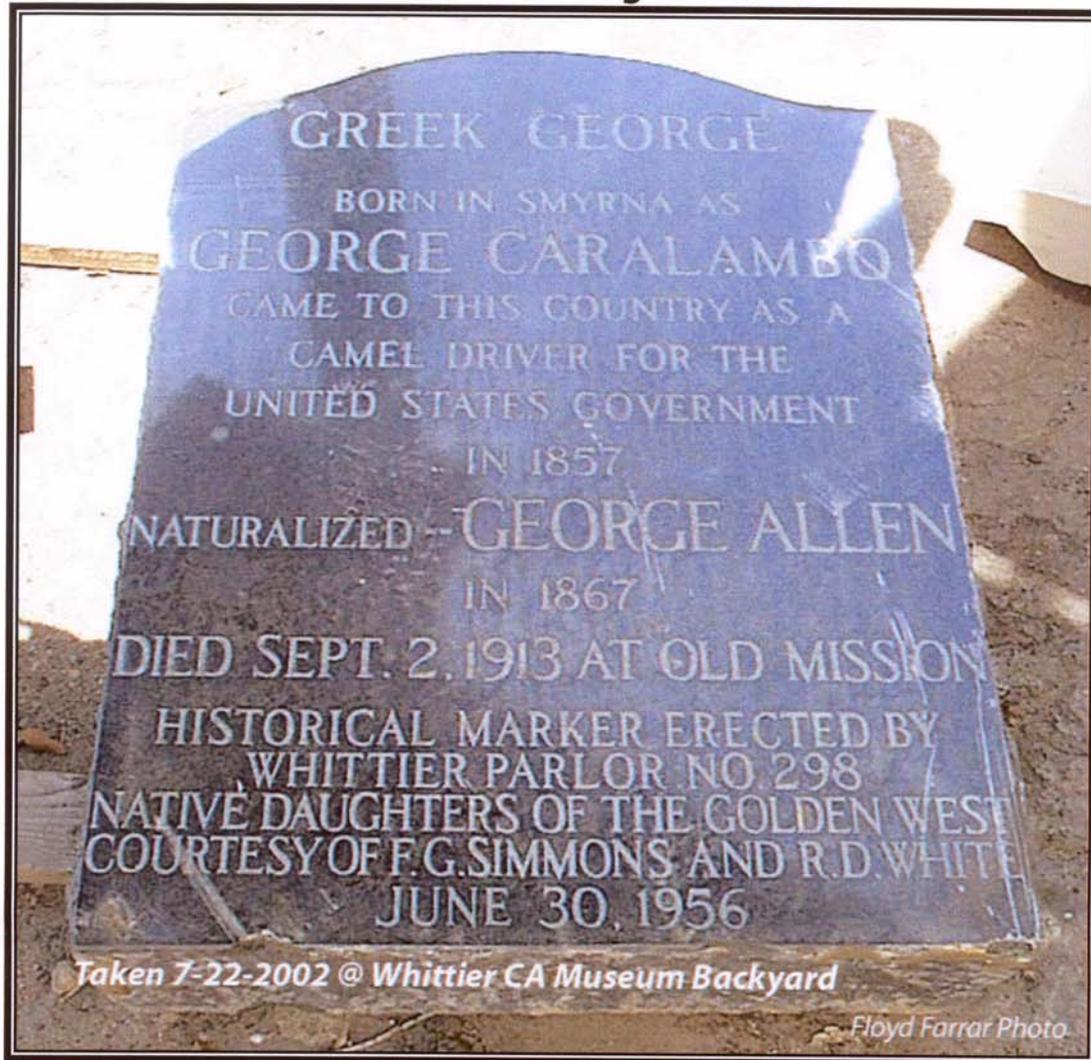
**"Greek George"** -Pack outfitter-Ft Tejon Era Camel Driver  
Associate of outlaws-and long time Whittier Resident

*MORE INFO - "GREEK GEORGE"*

Floyd L. Farrar  
12550 E. Carson St. #59  
Hawaiian Gardens, CA  
90716-2014

1-23-2005

**The marker for George dated 1956**



This rare photo of Greek George was from the front page of a Greek Heritage Society magazine a number of years back. I copied it using a Whittier Museum copier. *The quality is not the best.*

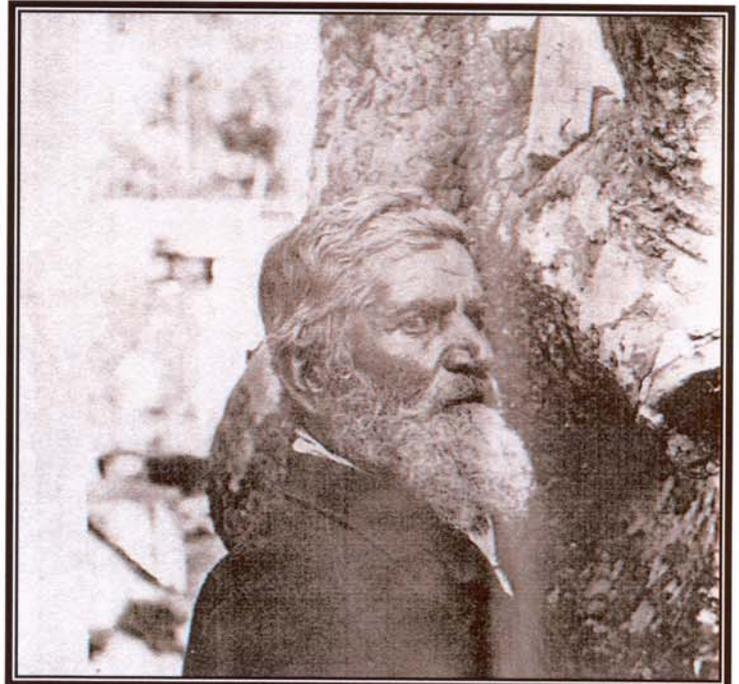
Mr. Courts and I found it looking for other items on "Greek George" when I was doing my research in the summer of 2002.

*I do not remember which date or the exact publication.*

Floyd L. Farrar  
12550 E. Carson St. #59  
Hawaiian Gardens, CA  
90716-2014

1-23-2005

"GREEK GEORGE INFO"



SURVEY

of

California Registered Historical Landmarks

Name GRAVE OF GEORGE CARALAMBO, "CREEK GEORGE"

Number 646

County Los Angeles

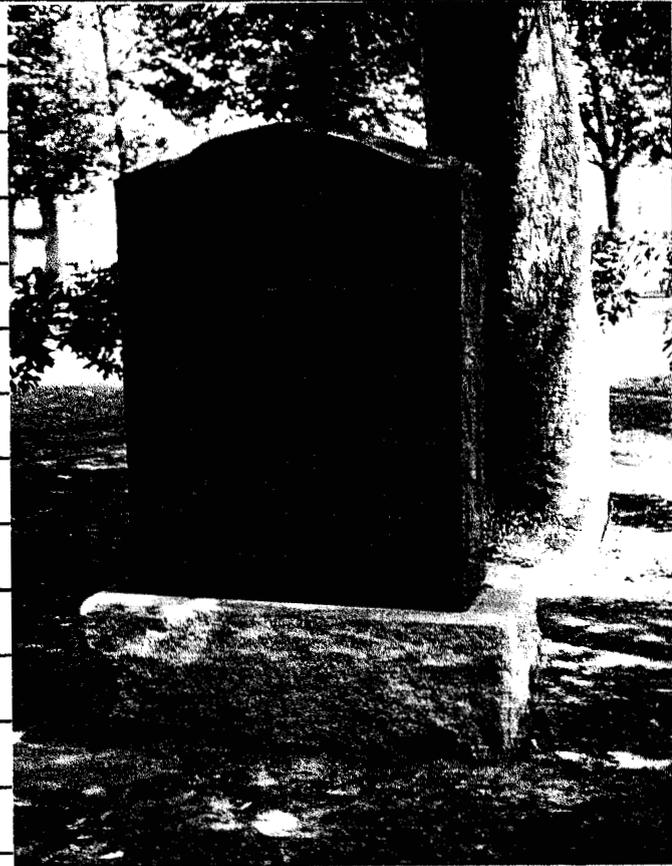
Location Founders Memorial Park, Broadway at Gregory Avenue, Whittier

Type of Plaque None

Condition of Plaque \_\_\_\_\_

Condition of Base \_\_\_\_\_

Condition of Surroundings Excellent



Are there Highway Directional Signs? No

If so, where? Not needed at this time.

Remarks: Site on City Park property.

"Greek George's" head stone is located at Pio Pico State Historic Park.

Submitted by J. Arbuckle

Date 7/30/80

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF HISTORICAL POINT OF INTEREST

Name of Historical Point Grave of George Caralambo "Greek George" in Mount Olive  
Cemetery Broadway at Citrus Avenue, Whittier, California

Location Mount Olive Cemetery  
Broadway at Citrus, Whittier, California

Name of Owner City of Whittier

Street 333 East Penn Street

City Whittier, California

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Uncle Sam's Camel Corps was part of an interesting experiment to open a wagon road to Fort Tejon in California from Fort Defiance in New Mexico during the first decade of California's Statehood. Jefferson Davis, who was to become President of the Southern Confederacy, was at the time Secretary of War for our Nation, and he approved a plan to experiment with camels for freighting and communications in the arid southwest.

Maj. Henry C. Wayne of the U.S. Army and Lt. D. D. Porter, later a distinguished admiral of the Civil War, visited the Levant with the storeship "Supply," accompanied by Gwynne Harris Heap, as the Purchasing commission to procure camels for the experiment. Heap had hired Hadji Ali, later known as "Hi Jolly". Also employed was George Caralambo, later known as "Greek George". These two men were to go into the interior of Asia Minor in search of good beasts for the American experiment. The two camel drivers who had been so valuable to Heap--Hadji Ali and George Caralambo--were eager to make the journey to America, but Porter felt they had enough help on the project at the moment, Instead, he promised that he would use their services if the expedition returned for a second load of camels. George Caralambo was one of the eight natives employed to make the journey to America on the second voyage of the ship "Supply" and

## HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION (Continued)

arrived in Mississippi on January 30, 1857. Approximately 10 days later, on February 10, Greek George and 41 camels were at Indianola, Tex. His herd ~~XXXXXX~~ brought the total of camels imported to 75 animals. One of the most unusual enterprises ever carried out by the United States Government was ready to make its bow.

The first steps of this unique project were to survey a road from Fort Defiance to the Colorado River along the 35th parallel. The survey party, under the superintendency of Edward Fitzgerald Beale, a former Lieutenant in the Navy, started from Texas for Fort Defiance on June 25 with Greek George and Hi Jolly in charge of the camels. The party arrived in Los Angeles on Nov. 9, 1857. Beale's report in December of 1858 recommended the purchase of another 1000 camels and the Secretary of War forwarded the request to Congress in 1859 and again in 1860. Then came the Civil War which administered the death knell to the entire experiment. In 1859 the camels were moved to Camp Fitzgerald in Los Angeles and Capt. W. S. Hancock, of the Army, sent Greek George on camel to establish an express route between Los Angeles and Fort Tejon. The dromedary line made only a few trips ~~XXXX~~ and was discontinued. In November 1863, Greek George and Hi Jolly received orders to transport their beloved camels to Benicia on the Carquinez Straits where they were sold at government auction on Feb. 26, 1864. Greek George became a naturalized citizen in 1867, assuming the name of George Allen. He built an adobe home on Santa Monica Blvd in what is now Hollywood. On Sept 2, 1913 Greek George died at Old Mission. He was buried at Mt. Olive Cemetery at Whittier by White-Emerson Funeral Directors. This pioneer, not realizing that God had ~~xx~~ given him a mission, went forth into the wilderness to provide for the coming of civilization, to hew out the paths that are the highways over which countless thousands are traveling in peace, contentment and happiness today.

PHOTOGRAPHS:



NINA M. LITTLEFIELD  
HISTORY & LANDMARKS  
CHAIRMAN, WHITTIER  
PARLOR 298

AL PERRACA  
PAST GRAND PRES.  
N.S.G.W.

GRACE S. STORNER  
PAST GRAND PRESIDENT  
N.D. G.W.



WHITTIER PARLOR NO. 298  
NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND  
THE MARKING OF THE GRAVE

OF

**"GREEK GEORGE"**

EARLY CAMEL DRIVER FOR THE  
UNITED STATES ARMY CAMEL CORPS

4:00 P.M.

June 30, 1956

MT. OLIVE CEMETERY  
BROADWAY AND CITRUS  
WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

## Grave of 'Greek George' Marked With Monument to Camel Driver

... "Greek George  
Born in Smyrna as  
George Caralambo  
Came to this country as a  
camel driver for the United  
States Government  
in 1857  
Naturalized as George Allen  
in 1867  
Died Sept. 2, 1913 at  
Old Mission  
Historical Marker Erected  
by Whittier Parlor No. 298  
Native Daughters of the  
Golden West  
Courtesy F. G. Simmons  
R. D. White"

So reads the historic inscription on a monument unveiled Saturday afternoon in the presence of some 80 persons who gathered at the long-forgotten grave of Greek George in the tree-shaded northwest corner of Mount Olive Cemetery.

NDGW Past Grand President Grace Stoermer who unveiled the shaft said, "It took more than climate to bring the millions to California. It is good to pause in reflection and to venerate the pioneers,

especially today, as the signing of the bill for more great highways marks the contrast between modern transportation and that camel trail Greek George traveled.

### Pioneer Cemetery

"We stand today in a traditional cemetery, a cemetery of California pioneers. Sometimes we forget to keep such cemeteries in order. The Native Daughters are trying to improve that. Here in this cemetery are gorgeous trees—the gift of God. Whittier is a lovely home place. Whittier Parlor today is doing something which we hope will be an inspiration for the finding and marking of the graves of other pioneers who served this area.

"With the air travel of today we have progressed far from the era when Greek George drove a U. S. Army camel train from Texas to Fort Defiance, N. M., and on across the Colorado River and to Los Angeles in 1857. For many years after the U. S. Camel Corps was disbanded, Greek George lived in the area of Santa Monica Blvd., and Leo Carrillo has told me he helped capture Vasquez, the bandit. His last years were spent near here at Old Mission, site of the first San Gabriel Mission."

### Remembers Greek George

In the audience was Miss Mary P. Smith who remembered Greek George — said he was a sheep herder and a neighbor when she lived on a Whittier Narrows ranch between 1908 and 1913.

Clara Zimmerman, parlor president, welcomed those assembled, and Nina Littlefield, history and landmarks chairman, was mistress of ceremonies.

Mayor pro tem Charles Sword spoke on behalf of the city council and paid tribute to the camel driver who met a difficult challenge of the early west.

Others participating in the

ceremonies were Walter Barrows, Judge C. B. McCoy of the Los Angeles Municipal Court, Al Perracca, state president of the Native Sons of the Golden West, Edward Both, NSGW state trustee, Robert Fidling, soloist, Ethelwynne Fraisher, NDGW state chairman of history and landmarks; Mildred McGee, Parlor 298; Anna Schiebusch, Past grand president, NDGW, and a color guard from Marine Scout Ship Marcus Sestuis; and bugler Scott Jones.

After the ceremony a reception was held in the patio gardens of Laura Didier and Laura Sanders.