

In the Vacaville Reporter December 14, 1951

Joe Stadtfeld Services Held

Joseph Rose Stadtfeld for more than two score years the chief law enforcement officer in Vacaville and the surrounding area, passed away quietly in his sleep in Sacramento Monday morning. He was 89.

He was 16 when he left San Francisco, the place of his birth in 1862, to live on his newly purchased ranch south of Vacaville. Shortly before the turn of the century, he was elected constable of Vacaville Township, in which capacity he served for about 43 years, missing but once on a re-election. Loved and respected by local citizens during all those years, he was at the head of all law enforcement agencies here before they were reorganized.

Before he retired because of ill health in 1936 when he was succeeded as constable by the late G. Monte Gates, he often recited tales of his experiences of early law enforcement. In his youth, he was prominent in boxing circles but he never became a professional tall and raw-boned, he often trained with heavyweight champion Jim Corbett during the latter's heyday. Later an enthusiast of harness racing, he trained and raced pacers and trotters some of which set good marks on the tracks.

His wife, a former school teacher at Cooper School, preceded him in death in 1931 and with the advancing years he became less active in public life. He died at the Capital Convalescent Hospital in Sacramento where he had been confined for the past two and one half years.

Funeral services were held Thursday morning at the McCune Chapel. Pallbearers were Rudy Werner, Russell Beelard, George Linn, Ralph Schaefer, Frank Douglass, Sr., and Walter Schaefer. Interment was in the Vacaville Elmira Cemetery.

While officiating at the services the Rev. A.F. Fruhling was inspired to read a Eulogy written by his niece, Mrs. Dorothy Gray Smith.