

## A Ballad for Allensworth

by Sadie Hackett Calbert\*  
Allensworth Pioneer

I've put on paper, stanza after stanza  
Especially for this Extravaganza  
My mind is wandering, and I have sought  
To find the words to express my thought.

In the Colonel's mind, an idea was born  
At first the plan seemed very forlorn,  
But, at last, before we knew  
From an acorn planted tall oak grew.

Slowly people come and settled around  
They built their homes and cultivated the  
ground,  
They planted vegetables, alfalfa and cotton  
For their former skills had not been for-  
gotten.

They erected a school, their children to  
train  
In the classroom, the three R's were a  
constant refrain,  
And after all week, when they labored and  
plod  
They went to service in the house of God.

There was little drugstore, with aides to  
alloy your ills  
In which one could buy simple remedies and  
pills,  
Presided over by a genial nurse  
Who could help with a fever, or if your cold  
got worse.

A structure housed, a grocery store  
Where one could purchase food, and other  
things galore,  
And there was a hotel where a visiting guest  
Could find a meal, and a place to rest.

There was a barber shop: with the usual chair  
Waiting for someone who had needs for his  
hair,  
Also a livery stable: with horses and surrey,  
So that those who need transportation need  
not worry.

The water dwindled, as the wells ran dry  
There was no longer an ample supply,  
So there was nothing for some folks to do  
But to go elsewhere and start anew.

For lack of water, men couldn't make a crop  
So the period of prosperity came to a stop,  
Many of the people moved away  
And gradually the place fell into decay.

I will further elaborate  
And endeavor to bring you up to date,  
They can't bring back the days that are past,  
But they want to build a place that will last

A monument fit for a valiant soul  
Who set his sights, and pressed toward his  
goal,  
With a stalwart spirit and a steady pace  
To create a City of Refuge for his race.

\*Mrs. Sadie Hackett Calbert is the daughter  
of James & Alice Hackett, who emigrated  
from North Carolina to San Francisco in  
1886. After many years of successful  
business operations in the Bay Area, the  
family purchased a town lot at Allensworth  
and built a home in 1913. Mrs. Calbert,  
who is now approaching 100 yrs. of age,  
wrote this poem reflecting her fond memories  
of the town.  
(information from the Mason Tillman Report)

- A copy of this beautiful poem is on  
display in the park visitor center.

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### Old Time Jubilee at Allensworth SHP

Volunteers and park staff are busy  
coordinating this Spring event at the  
park. The exact date in May will be  
announced in the next newsletter. If  
you are interested in helping with the  
event please attend the annual meeting  
or write to the park & let us know.

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In Memory of . . .

Mr. CELIOUS HENDERSON

1909 - 1984

-pioneer black businessman-