

## Chapter 2

# Carl and Clementina (Koch) Bruntsch

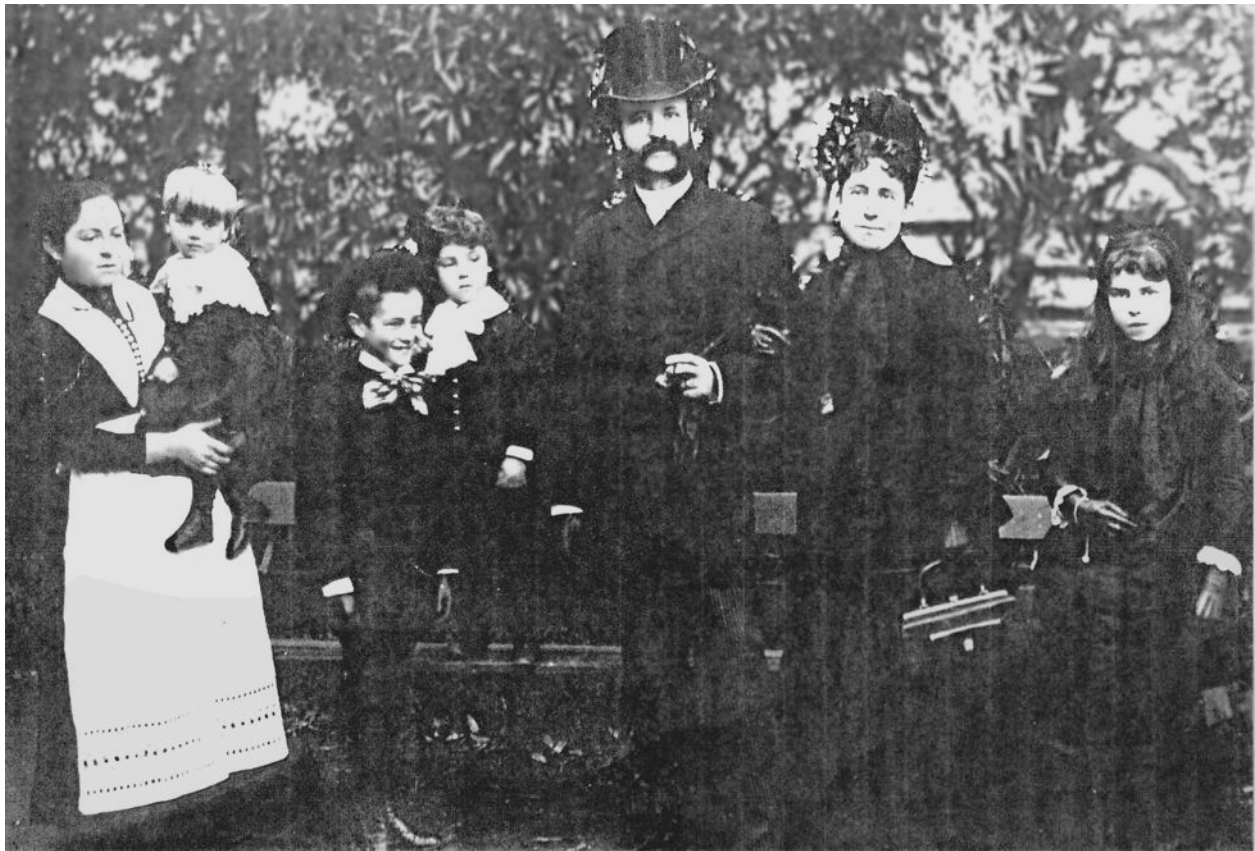
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Jan 8, 2015

### Introduction

Clementina Koch came to California with her mother during Gold Rush days, and married San Francisco customs broker Carl C. G. Bruntsch. They raised a family of six gifted children, including an opera star, a mining engineer, an accountant, a printing company executive, the wife of a prosperous attorney, and an artist-cartoonist for San Francisco newspapers.

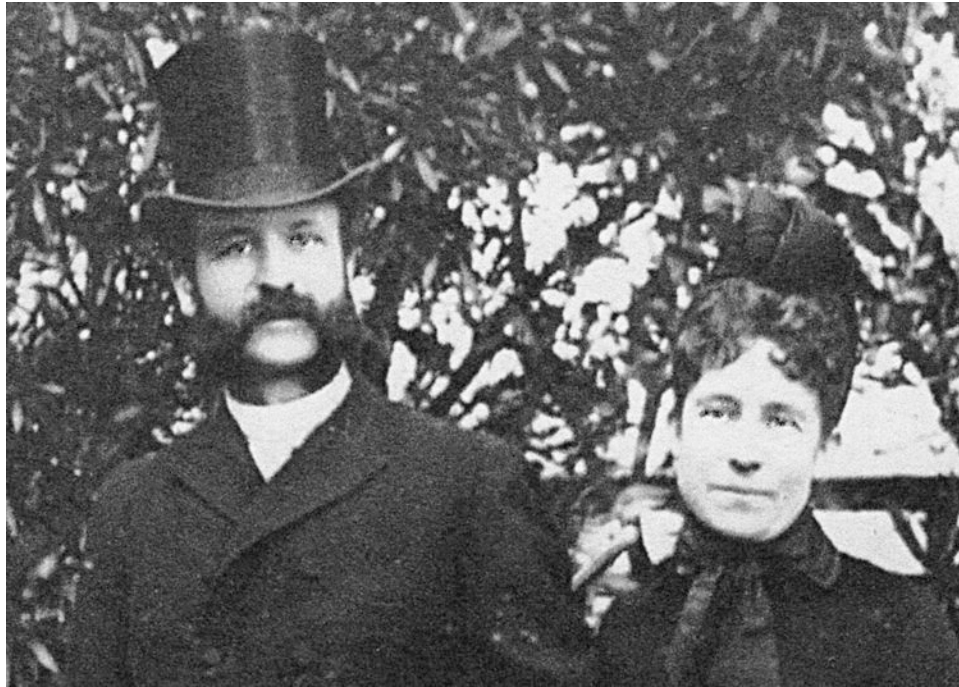
The story of Clementina's parents, and of the family coming to California has been told in Chapter 1 "Edward and Margaretha (Jung) Koch."

There were remarkable parallels between the lives of Clementina and her sister Phillippena. Both husbands were German immigrants who became prosperous businessmen, both had large families, and both husbands died in their fifties, well before most of their children had grown up. Both families had assets that comfortably supported them after the husband's death.



**The family of Carl and Clementina Bruntsch, about 1888.** From left to right: Gretchen Warnke (maid), Carl [Jr.], Ernest, Herbert, Carl, Clementina, Margaretha.

(Collection of Bob and Jessie Bruntsch)



**Carl and Clementina Bruntsch.** This is an enlargement of part of the family group photo.

### **Clementina Koch**

Clementina Elise Margaretha Koch was born October 8, 1850 in St. Louis, Missouri, to Edward and Margaretha Koch. Clementina came to California about 1853 over the Isthmus of Panama, with her widowed mother and siblings Phillippena, Edward, Ferdinand, Edmund, and Alexander. The family settled in San Francisco.

Clementina married Carl Christian Godfried Bruntsch on December 24, 1875 in San Francisco. Originally named Karl, he Anglicized the spelling of his first name to Carl, or sometimes to Charles.

Carl was born September 29, 1842 in Bielefeld, Germany. He came to the United States in 1855, and was naturalized in 1875. He had a brother, Ernest Bruntsch, who died in Moscow, Russia on May 21, 1896. If only we knew more about Ernest! We do know that the children of Carl and Clementina inherited money from their Uncle Ernest, but we don't know how much.

Carl, with partner Robert S. Wheeler, was a customs broker in San Francisco doing business as Bruntsch and Wheeler. A customs broker acts as an agent for importers to deal with the complexities and red tape of the customs procedures. In San Francisco, Carl and Clementina lived at 730 Broderick St. About 1885 they moved across the bay to East Oakland, living at 464 E. 12th St. They returned to San Francisco by 1890. By 1891, they moved back across the bay to Alameda to 915 Pacific Avenue, and finally, by 1894, to 2061 Central Avenue in Alameda where they spent the rest of their lives. Carl commuted by ferryboat to work in San Francisco.

Perhaps Carl knew that his health was failing, for he and his wife made out handwritten wills in 1898. Carl died at the age of 56 on March 19, 1899. Their 6 children then ranged in age from age 7 to 22.

anything I own or possess is my own  
wife Clementina Bruntsch, <sup>in order</sup> that her income  
may remain unimpaired and she thus be  
enabled to better care for our children  
Margaretha, Ernst, Herbert, Carl, Tosca  
and Harold Bruntsch.  
Witness my hand:  
Carl Bruntsch.

Alameda, January 8, 1898

This is my last will and testament. I give  
everything I own or possess to my dear  
husband Carl Bruntsch in order that his  
income may remain unimpaired and he thus  
be enabled to better care for our children  
Margaretha, Ernst, Herbert, Carl, Tosca  
and Harold Bruntsch.  
Clementina Bruntsch.

### The wills of Carl and Clementina Bruntsch

The widow Clementina had an income from investments that was ample for her needs. She was able to send two of her children to Germany: Margaretha to study grand opera, and Harold to study art. According to the *San Francisco Call*, her home on Central Avenue was "one of the most hospitable homes" in Alameda. The home was recalled by her descendants as "a big estate." It occupied a 13,700 square foot lot. Her daughters were quite prominent socially, which must have been expensive. In addition to her six children, Clementina supported her niece, Grace Cook, until her marriage at age 36. Grace was just as talented as the Bruntsch children, and her life is the subject of Chapter 3, "Carl and Grace Rhodin".

A *San Francisco Call* article announced that Clementina and her daughter Tosca (the last child remaining at home) intended to leave Alameda late in the spring of 1908 and spend two years in Berlin with Clementina's daughter Margaretha. It isn't clear if they actually did so.

Clementina died of heart disease at age 63 on November 12, 1913, after an illness of several months. She was interred at the Oakland Crematorium, now

part of the Chapel of Memories. Her daughter Margaretha and son Harold were then living in Karlsruhe, Germany, and unable to return for the funeral.

Carl and Clementina were survived by six children:

Margaretha, born 1876.

Ernest, born 1878

Herbert, born 1884

Carl, born 1886

Tosca, born 1890

Harold, born 1891

Clementina's estate was distributed equally among her six children, except for her jewelry and silver service, which went to her daughter Margaretha. Clementina owned property on the north side of Market Street, between Powell and Taylor—a prime location—and the rent from this property was apparently her major source of cash income. To put this in perspective, her annual income was greater than the value of her elegant home in Alameda. The estate also included 8 lots in the Cazadero area of Sonoma County, and about 18 acres of farmland near Sacramento.

Carl and Clementina's ashes are now in the Chapel of Memories in Oakland, CA (See Appendix 2).

### **Related chapters at this site**

- 1 Edward and Margaretha (Jung) Koch
2. Carl and Clementina Koch Bruntsch
3. Carl and Grace (Cook) Rhodin
4. The Koch Brothers

Contact the writer if more information needed

# Children of Carl and Clementina Bruntsch

## 1. Margaretha "Gretchen" Bruntsch

Margaretha Bruntsch was born December 27, 1876, in San Francisco, California, the first child of Carl and Clementina Bruntsch. She was named at birth Elise Margaretha Amalie Bruntsch, but dropped the extra names and was known as Margaretha Bruntsch. Family and friends called her Gretchen.

According to an article on Margaretha in the *San Francisco Call*, "While in school and later she was one of the most popular girls in the exclusive set of Alameda and Oakland, in whose affairs she took an active part." Margaretha moved to Germany about 1901 to study grand opera. In 1907, the *Call* reported that:

Miss Margaretha Bruntsch is one of the younger girls of the smart set of Alameda who has gone abroad to bring back honors to her home city. Her friends in the bay cities are learning of her successes in Europe on the opera stage with the keenest of interest. Miss Bruntsch is now appearing with the Berlin opera company, having recently signed a three-year contract. She is singing in the role of La Costa and is working enthusiastically in preparation for the character of Ortrud [in the Wagner opera *Lohengrin*], in which she will appear shortly. The young California singer has had flattering offers from both Conried and Savage to return to her own country, but she prefers to remain abroad a few years longer that she might gain more experience.

A year later the *Call* reported:

### **Alameda Girl Has Won High Praise**

MISS MARGARETHA BRUNTSCH IS APPLAUDED BY AUDIENCES IN GERMAN CAPITAL ALAMEDA, Feb 24—Of the many California girls who have won honor abroad Miss Margaretha Bruntsch, formerly of Alameda, perhaps more than any other one has brought fame to her home city. Miss Bruntsch is in Berlin, where she is appearing in grand opera.

Her work has won the plaudits of the musical critics even in the most difficult roles which she has essayed. Miss Bruntsch is under contract to remain on the continent for the next few years, although several flattering offers have been made by musical directors for her return to the United States. Her voice is a pure contralto, possessing a wonderful range. She is a girl of remarkable beauty and charming personality which lends an added power to her singing.

Margaretha was for many years under contract with the Royal Opera Company in Karlsruhe, Germany. A newspaper account states "At present she is singing the role of Orpheus in Gluck's opera 'Orpheus and Eurydice.' The opera is seldom given, owing to the difficulty of securing someone to fill this important role, which requires a voice of great range. Miss Bruntsch is the only woman besides Schumann-Heinke [a famous opera singer] who has been found to adequately fill the requirements of the difficult role."



### **Publicity photos of Margaretha Bruntsch**

In the upper photo Margaretha Bruntsch is shown as she appeared singing the role of Orpheus in Gluck's opera "Orpheus and Eurydice." The handwritten inscription in German reads "Margaretha Bruntsch als Orpheus." The photo is dated 1912, Karlsruhe Germany. (Both photos: Collection of Bob and Jessie Bruntsch)

There was great concern about Margaretha's safety when World War I broke out. But word came that she was safe and living in Karlsruhe, Germany. She wrote of the quiet and peaceful atmosphere of the town and said there was nothing to indicate the terrible conflict going on between the great nations of Europe. This situation did not last long. She soon fled to Switzerland, where she continued her operatic career. At first her career was subsidized by money from the estate of her parents, but no money reached her during the war, and she supported herself in Switzerland by her singing.

By 1922, Margaretha had returned to the United States, and sang in the opera in San Francisco. She finally retired from the stage, and opened a teaching studio in San Francisco, living across the Golden Gate in Mill Valley. She died at age 88, June 2, 1965. She was the last child of Carl and Clementina to die, even though she was the first-born.



## 2. Ernest Bruntsch

Ernest Adelbert Bruntsch was born May 13, 1878 in San Francisco. He studied mining engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. In this profession, he traveled all over the world. Closer to home, he worked in the mining fields at Tonopah, Nevada, the Coalinga oil fields in California, and the mines at Almaden near San Jose, California.



**Ernest Bruntsch**

(collection of Bob and Jessie Bruntsch)



**Ray (Krauth) Bruntsch**

(collection of Bob and Jessie Bruntsch)

Ernest married Ray Myrtle Krauth in Alameda on May 13, 1916. He was 38 and she was 27.

Ray was born March 11, 1889. She was the daughter of Frank and Marcella (Zander) Krauth, and the granddaughter of pioneer California newspaper publisher Fred Krauth, who came to California over the Isthmus of Panama in 1851. According to an account in an Alameda newspaper:

It was on this trip that the elder Krauth brought his printing plant across the Isthmus. The Indians believed the bulky packages being carried across the Isthmus on muleback were bundles of treasure and they kidnapped the two children, holding them for ransom. The children were recovered two days later when the whites on the Isthmus corralled the Indians and made them surrender the children.

The extensive travel that was required for Ernest's career as a mining engineer would have kept Ernest away from his family. So that he would not have to travel again, they settled on a 5-acre ranchette in Campbell, California. They raised prunes as well as chickens for eggs that they sold to be incubated.

Ernest retired about 1939 and moved to Santa Cruz, California. He died



suddenly at the age of 67, on February 23, 1946 at his home at 44 Pilkington Avenue. Inurnment was in the I.O.O.F. crematory. His widow, Ray, died at age 84 on June 4, 1973.

Ernest and Ray had three children:

- 1. Ernest Robert "Bob" Bruntsch.** Born October 30, 1917 in Santa Clara Co. Died July 24, 2005 in San Diego. Survived by his wife, children and grandchildren (see below).
- 2. Tosca B. Bruntsch.** Born February 25, 1919. Died July 10, 1948. Married Mr. Adams.
- 3. Bette J. Bruntsch.** Born January 23, 1921 in Santa Clara Co. Died March 23, 2005 in San Jose. Married first to Mr. Parker and second to Mr. Seeband.

Four grandchildren (children of their son, the late Bob Bruntsch and his wife Jessie, lived in the San Diego area in 2006:

Robert Russell "Bob" Bruntsch  
Gary Alan Bruntsch  
Marlene Carol Hunt  
Heidi Janette Bruntsch

There are numerous great grandchildren.

### 3. Herbert Bruntsch

Herbert Anthony Brunstch was born September 29, 1884 in Oakland. On January 29, 1912, he eloped with Shannon Richards. They were married that afternoon. His relatives knew nothing of their intentions.



**Shannon (Mhoon) Bruntsch**

From a photo in the *San Francisco Chronicle* in an article on the "Jappyland" production. No photo of Herbert has been found.

Shannon was the daughter of Joseph Conway and Emily Peddrick (Eckfeldt) Mhoon of Alameda, born November 25, 1883. She was the widow of Dr. Henry Richards, a Chicago physician. Shannon was active in amateur theatrics—her portrait was published in the *San Francisco Call* in 1912 in connection with an article that stated:

OAKLAND, Dec. 12—"Jappyland", long heralded and joyfully anticipated, has arrived at last in all its glory. The elite of the younger set of Oakland, resplendently costumed in the attire of all nations, 400 in number, danced and sang at the McDonough this evening before a "society" house. . .

At the time of his marriage Herbert was Secretary-Treasurer of the American Development Corporation. Later he was employed by Alameda County in various capacities including Deputy Assessor, and Cashier. He served as President and Secretary of the Alameda County Employees Association.

Herbert died at age 74 on March 17, 1959, in Alameda, California. Herbert's wife Shannon died at age 83 on July 2, 1967, in Alameda.

Herbert and Shannon had one child, Barbara Shannon Bruntsch, who was born June 23, 1913, and died April 20, 2002 in Fremont, California. Barbara first married Dixon Hurst on August 10, 1940. He was born August 9, 1917, and died May 6, 1988, in Fremont, California. They had a daughter: Cathy

Hurst. Shannon's second marriage was to John Barthen, December 27, 1961. He was born June 25, 1912, and died September 1980 in Fremont, California.

## 5. Carl C. G. Bruntsch

Named Carl Christian Godfried Bruntsch, Jr., he dropped the Jr. and the extra middle name and was known as Carl G. Bruntsch. He was born in Oakland, California, on January 29, 1886. He was educated in the public schools and at Boone's academy in Berkeley, California



**Carl Bruntsch** (From his obituary in the *Oregon Journal*)

Carl served in the army during World War I. His company was under the command of Dwight D. Eisenhower. On returning to civilian life, he was employed by the Schmidt Lithograph Company, which had its headquarters in San Francisco. He worked for Schmidt for the rest of his life. Carl was the resident manager for Schmidt in Portland, Oregon. He lived at various locations in the Portland suburbs. He was a member of a number of fraternal organizations and business clubs, belonged to several golf clubs, and was a member of the Episcopal Church. He was an avid fisherman.

About 1915, Carl married Helen Tully Van Slyck who was born Jun 14, 1889 in Boston, Massachusetts. She died February 18, 1924 of heart trouble. He then married Mary M. Wood, daughter of Charles S. and Hannah (Compton) Wood. Mary was born in Dresden, Ohio on August 16, 1898. Mary died at the Oregon State Hospital in Salem, Oregon on February 29, 1940, after over three years' stay in this institution. Carl then married Margaret Middleton, who was born in 1897.

Carl died at the age of 60 on June 26, 1946. He died in his sleep that morning at his home at 33121 SW Crestdale Drive, in Portland. He had been at work the previous day and was apparently in good health. He was survived by his third wife, Margaret. She died June 3, 1971, while visiting in Boston.

It does not appear that Carl had any children.



Carl's employer, the Schmidt Lithograph Company, was famous for the design and printing of the striking and very artistic labels then used on the wooden packing crates for citrus fruit. In the 1950's, corrugated cardboard boxes replaced the wooden crates, and the artistic labels were no longer used. Today these labels are prized collector's items. A typical label is shown in the photograph above.



## Tosca Bruntsch

Tosca Bruntsch was born June 26, 1890, in Alameda, California. As a young lady she was described by the *San Francisco Call* as "a favorite in social circles in San Francisco and this city [Alameda]" For example, she was an officer of the Saturday Evening Dancing Club, a Spanish dancer in the Oakland Kirmess (an indoor fair), and a member of the receiving line at a reception for the wife of Mayor Rolph of San Francisco.



**Tosca Bruntsch**

From an article on her engagement in the *San Francisco Call*

On April 6, 1912, her engagement to Dudley Daniel Sales was announced at a dinner at her mother's home. He was a graduate of Stanford University, and the Harvard Law School. A star in athletics at Stanford, he was by the time of the marriage a prosperous Bay Area lawyer. Dudley was born July 14, 1882 in Colorado, the son of Judge Harry Sales of Denver.

The couple lived in San Francisco. They were listed in the Social Register. In 1920 they lived at 135 St. Francis Blvd in a prestigious residential area called St. Francis Wood. They had two servants. About 1948, Dudley and Tosca moved to Lindsay, Tulare County, California, probably to retire. This was a prime citrus fruit growing area—perhaps they had purchased orchards. Tosca died in Tulare County at the age of 76 on April 24, 1967. Tosca's husband Dudley died at age 89 on August 20, 1971 in Nevada County, California, where son Dudley lived.

Dudley and Tosca had four children:

- 1. Dudley Daniel Jr.**, born February 10, 1913 in Alameda, California; died at age 73 on February 11, 1986 in Nevada City, California. Dudley was a Stanford graduate and sales manager for U.S. Steel. He was survived by

his wife Margaret, daughter Sharon Sales O'Brien of Omaha, and five grandsons.

2. **Peter**, born August 3, 1917 in San Francisco. He died at age 86, Apr 15, 2004 in Brentwood, Los Angeles Co, CA.
3. **Bradford**, born April 28, 1919 in San Francisco. He met with a tragic death at age 15 months, on Aug 9, 1920, when he swallowed a firecracker with a red and gold wrapper.
4. **Jean**, born November 28, 1921, San Francisco. Died at age 77, January 28, 1979 in Kern County, California.



## Harold "Hal" Bruntsch

Harold Clement "Hal" Bruntch was born July 16, 1891 in the city of Alameda. He studied art in Germany at the *Kuntsacadamie Karlsruhe*, an art school in the city of Karlsruhe. This was the same city where his sister Margaretha was pursuing her career in grand opera. Subsequently, Hal joined the *Hollerbacher Malerkolonie*, an artist colony that had just been established in Hollerbach, Buchen, roughly 60 miles north of Karlsruhe. The painter Arthur Grimm was the most famous member of this group, and probably served as Hal's mentor. In 1911, Arthur Grimm painted Hal's portrait, reproduced below. The painting has appeared in exhibitions of Grimm's paintings.



**Harold "Hal" Bruntsch painted in 1911 by Arthur Grimm (1883 – 1948)**  
Betskirksmuseum, Buchen Germany

Hal resided in Karlsruhe Germany at the time of his mother's death in 1913, and was unable to return to the U.S. for the funeral. He was in Paris at the outbreak of World War I. He made a daring and very hazardous attempt to rescue his sister Margaretha, who was trapped in Germany in the heart of the war zone. The Germans arrested him before he could reach Margaretha, but he escaped, crossing the border in a rain of bullets. A full account of this was published in the *Oakland Tribune*, reproduced as an appendix. Margaretha

was later able to escape to Switzerland.

Hal had returned to the U.S. by 1917, when he registered for the draft for World War I. He entered the U.S. Army on August 21, 1917, and was discharged with the rank of Corporal on January 25, 1919. We wonder if the Army took advantage his ability to speak German, French and Italian.

Returning to San Francisco, Hal worked as a cartoonist and artist for San Francisco newspapers, specializing in sports illustrations. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "Mr. Bruntsch, a dapper gentleman who was never seen without a carnation in his lapel, was a onetime cartoonist for the old *Call-Bulletin*, but did art work over the years for all the city's newspapers. Bruntsch's sketches of race horses, his favorite subject, are familiar to readers of the *Chronicle's Sporting Green*."



**Hal and Mary on the occasion of their marriage**  
(collection of Bob and Jessie Bruntsch)

Hal married Mary Carmen Pokotilo in Santa Barbara, California, on November 19, 1943. Her nickname was "Poky". She was born in Banja Luka, Yugoslavia, on August 26, 1906, the daughter of Theodore C. and Maria (Jaremovic) Pokotilo. She moved to Olds, Canada when she was a young child. She moved to California in 1926 and was a highly regarded weaver in San Francisco for many years.

Hal died Nov 15, 1959 in San Francisco, CA. He was a resident of Atherton, San Mateo County, CA, at the time of his last illness. He was interred at Golden Gate National

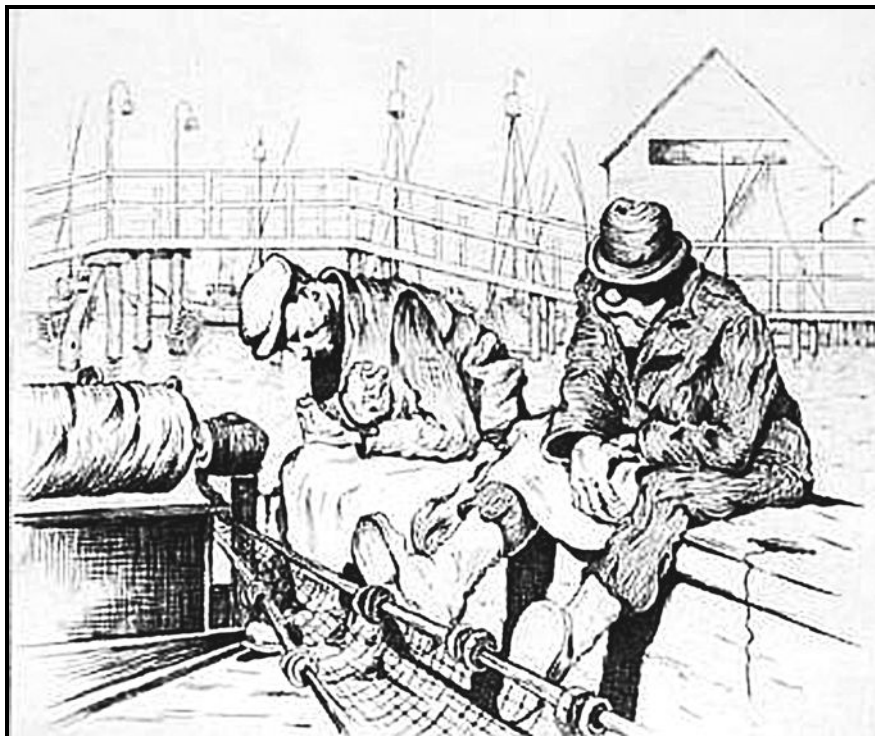


Cemetery, Section 2b, Site 4118.

After Hal's death, his widow Mary married Byron Edwards in Sonoma County, California on December 28, 1962. Byron was born September 14, 1908 in Canada. He died November 23, 1972, at the age of 64. Mary died at age 84 on Dec 19, 1990 in Sonoma County, after 18 years as a widow. She was remembered locally for her financial support of Pets Lifeline in Sonoma and her generous help to a variety of people and causes.



**Examples of Hal's sports illustrations:** Left: The wrestler "Lord Lansdowne" (*Nevada State Journal*, Reno NV, Feb 15, 1935) Right: Baseball star Sal Taormina (Unidentified newspaper).



**Example of Carl's etchings: "Fisherman's Wharf",**—collection of Heidi Bruntsch

## Appendix 1

# Hal Bruntsch's attempts to rescue his sister Margaretha, trapped in Germany at the outbreak of World War I

Oakland Tribune, Sep 24, 1914

## ALAMEDAN, VICTIM OF WAR, ARRIVES

### Tells Thrilling Tale of Arrest and Escape in Auto From Austrians.

In a vain effort to rescue his sister, Miss Margaretha Bruntsch, celebrated grand opera prima donna, marooned at Beyreuth, Germany, in the heart of the war zone, her brother, Harold Bruntsch, a young Alameda art student, nearly lost his life.

Bruntsch returned to his home at 2061 Central avenue, Alameda, last evening, telling a thrilling story of hardships in crossing the Austro-Italian border, how he was rescued and raced away in a high-power motor car in a rain of bullets, one of which flattened the tire of their auto.

Bruntsch was in Paris at the outbreak of hostilities. It took him seven days to make the trip from Paris to Milan. He tried to cross into Germany through Austria and, during his trip, went six days without sleep and four days with nothing to eat save a slice of bread for which he paid \$1.50.

### HAD NO PASSPORT.

Bruntsch speaks German, Italian and French. He had no passport. In order to safeguard himself against interception he cut the French labels from his clothes and scratched the Paris stickers off his luggage.

In his efforts to reach his sister he got as far as Innsbruck, in the province of Tyrol, Austria. It was in this district that he nearly lost his life. He was shadowed by the military and when he left his room at the hotel the police entered and broke open his suitcase.

He was later arrested. After trial he was given the choice between being shot as a reservist who refused to join the colors and submitting to an Austrian uniform. Bruntsch, therefore, was impressed into the militia, proclaiming to no avail his rights as an American citizen.

As the Austrian troops were being mobilized he saw a friend who was leaving for Italy. He entreated this friend to send another close friend, an Italian poet whose name has been withheld, to his rescue.

The poet drove his car into Innsbruck after dark. Bruntsch, still wearing his Austrian uniform, stepped into the car and the two whirled away at top speed. As they neared the international line he took off his uniform.

The poet, at the wheel, threw the power wide open and the car speeded through at 90 miles an hour. Two shots fired by the guards took effect. One flattened the tire of a rear wheel and another imbedded itself in the back of the tonneau. Other bullets whizzed over the men's heads as they crouched low in the car. They finally reached Naples and Bruntsch took passage for America. He sailed on the Italian steamer San Georgio.

## **Appendix 2.**

### **The final resting place of Carl and Clementina Bruntsch**

The obituary of Carl Bruntsch does not state where he was buried, and his death certificate could not be found. However, the records of the Odd Fellows Crematorium in Oakland have been preserved in the collection of the California Genealogical Society, and show that Carl C. G. Bruntsch, age 56 years, 5 months, 20 days, died March 19, 1899, in Alameda and was cremated 2 days later. On Jun 1, 1903, his remains were removed to “Oakland”—an ambiguous description. However, we know from the death certificate of Carl’s wife Clementina that her remains were sent to the “Oakland Crematory”. Thus her husband Carl was very likely to also be there.

The Oakland Crematory is no longer in business, and I was unable to find any information on it. But, I knew that the remains of Clementina’s sister Phillipina were sent to the Oakland Crematorium (See Chapter 1) and were relocated to the Chapel of Memories in Oakland, now operated by the Chapel of the Chimes. An inquiry to the Chapel of the Chimes verified that both Carl and Margaretha are in the Chapel of Memories. Their location is “Columbine, Section A, Tier 5, Space #2” [Columbine A-5-2].

### **Acknowledgments**

In 2005, I was extremely fortunate to find Carl and Clementina Bruntsch's grandson, Bob Bruntsch, living in San Diego with wife Jessie. They had many important sources, which they enthusiastically shared. This biography could never have been written without their help. Their daughter, Heidi Bruntsch, discovered where Hal Bruntsch had studied art in Germany, and obtained a copy of the portrait of Hal Bruntsch from the Beziksmuseum. A number of important newspaper clippings were shared by Barbara Barnett, a descendent of Phillippena Koch—I would not otherwise have found these articles.

There remained many facts to be found in libraries and archives. I relied on Nancy Waterhouse for access to material at the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake. Margaret Posehn searched the newspaper indices at the California State Library and copied articles for me. Gregory Toftdahl obtained copies of Oregon sources. Their help was indispensable.

Three family trees currently online at ancestry.com include most of the persons in this document: “Bruntsch Family Tree”, “Sales Family Tree”, and “Carlson/Rumpza Family Tree”. I did not directly use any data from these trees, but they were very helpful in locating sources that were not available when I did my original research in 2005-6.

## A note on the photographs

In most cases it was necessary to use photographs from newspaper articles only available on microfilm. The reproduction of photographs in those days was crude by today's standards. Worse still, the microfilming process produced black shadows, blank highlights, spurious spots and lines, and showed a screen pattern in the middle tones. The writer partially restored these photos by digitally removing the larger of the extraneous spots and lines, and blurring portions of the image to subdue the remaining spots, lines, and screen pattern, and to create a more gradual transition between tones. This resulted in restoring these photos to barely passable appearance. No changes were made to make the portraits more flattering, nor was I tempted to do so, for the Bruntsch family members were quite good looking.

## Related chapters at this site

- 1 Edward and Margaretha (Jung) Koch
2. Carl and Clementina Koch Bruntsch
3. Carl and Grace (Cook) Rhodin
4. The Koch Brothers
5. Leonhard and Phillippena (Koch) Scheu
6. Children of Leonhard and Phillippena (Koch) Scheu

*Contact the writer if more information needed*

## Sources

Symbols refer to items in the Bibliography.

### Edward and Margaretha

**Family of Edward and Margaretha Koch:** 1850 census Ce1, 1860 census Ce2.

**Coming to California:** See chapter 2-3 "Edward and Margaretha Koch".

### Carl & Clementina

**Birth of Clementina:** No birth record has been found. The age at death given in her obituary N9 yields a birth date of Oct 8, 1850. Her death certificate D2 (informant: son Herbert) gives the same month and day but 1857 instead of 1850. This appears to be a clerical error, for the age of 9 given in the earliest census record (1860 Ce2) confirms the 1850 date. The month of Oct is confirmed by the 1900 census (Ce5). Census records consistently give MO as the place of birth. Her death certificate D3 gives St. Louis as the city.

**Full name:** For formal purposes she was known as Clementina E. M. Bruntsch (N9,

D8, D9. However, her first daughter was named Elise Margaretha Amalie Bruntsch (D3), and her mother was named Margaretha Elise Koch (N41, 42). It is reasonable to assume that E. M. stands for Elise Margaretha.  
**Marriage of Clementina:** Marriage notice N1.

**Birth of Karl/Carl Bruntsch:** No birth record found. Birth date from age at death in obituary N3. Date is consistent with age 27 in 1870 census Ce3. Birth place of Bielefeld from obituary N8. However daughter Margaretha's passport application, D30, gives her father's birthplace as Essen, Germany. Essen is about 1.5 hours from Bielefeld.

**Uncle Ernest Bruntsch:** Probate of the estate of Ernest Bruntsch, D1.

**Family of Carl and Clementina:** Their wills D2; Census 1880 Ce4, 1900 Ce5, 1910 Ce6.

**Residences of the family:** From the city directories Dir1, 2. Birthplaces of children,



from the census Ce4, 5, 6.

**Death of Carl:** Obituary N8. Probate file D2. Alameda Co. has no death certificate.

**Death of Clementina:** Death certificate D3. Obituaries N9, 10.

**Grace Cook:** See chapter2-6 "Carl and Grace (Cook) Rhodin".

**Estate of Clementina:** Probate file D19.

### **Margaretha Bruntsch**

**Birth:** *S. F. Call* N2. Bible record D3.

**Name:** Bible record D3. Autographed photo (reproduced on page 5) from F1. According to Bob Bruntsch (F1), the executor of her estate, family and friends called her Gretchen. Spelling of her first name varies in newspaper accounts, and has been standardized in the quotes. Same birth information in her passport applications D29, 30.

**Began study of opera:** *S.F. Call* N11, "It was six years ago that Miss Bruntsch began her musical studies in Europe." However Margaretha still appears in the Alameda city directory up to 1904 (Dir2 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904. Perhaps her mother considered that Margaretha's stay in Europe was temporary.

**Operatic career** 1907 *Call* article (including "most popular girls") N11. "Alameda girl has won high praise" from N12. Concern over safety: N15. Fled to Switzerland: N16. Newspaper articles are compatible with the years and places lived given in her passport applications D29, 30.

**Return to U.S.:** N17, 18, 19

**Death** CA Death Index D4. Obituary N19.

### **Ernest and Ray Bruntsch**

**Birth of Ernest:** CA death index D5. WW2 Draft Reg. D22. Year agrees with 1880 census Ce4. Year and month agree with 1900 census Ce5. No birth announcement in the *S.F. Call*.

**Marriage:** Records of their son Bob, F1 Marriage license announcement N23.

**Birth of Ray:** CA death index D6.

**Death of Ernest:** CA death index D5, Obituary N28.

**Death of Ray:** CA death index D6. No obituary found.

**Ernest and Ray's children:** From their son Bob (F1), CA Birth index (D7), CA death

index (D8, and Ernest's obituary N28.

### **Herbert and Shannon Bruntsch**

**Birth of Herbert:** *S. F. Call* N3. WW1 Draft Reg. D21.

**Marriage of Herbert:** N25.

**Death of Herbert:** Obituary N28, CA death index D8.

**Death of Shannon:** D8.

**Daughter and granddaughter:** Herbert's obituary N28. Dates from CA death index D9.

### **Carl C. G. Bruntsch**

**Birth** *S. F. Call* N4.

**Residences:** Census 1920 Ce8 and 1930 Ce9.

**Marriages:** Census 1920 Ce8 and 1930 Ce9. Death certificate of Helen D11 and Mary D12.

**Occupation:** F1, Ce8, Ce9.

**Death of Carl:** Death certificate D13, Obituary N31

**Death of Spouses:** Death certificates D11, D12, obituaries N29, 30, 32

### **Dudley and Tosca (Bruntsch) Sales**

**Birth of Tosca:** *S. F. Call* N6. CA death index D14.

**Social Activities:** N33, N34.

**Dudley a well-known attorney:** N25 in an article on Herbert Bruntsch.

**Marriage of Tosca and Dudley:** N35, N36.

**Father of Dudley:** 1900 Census Ce13. N37.

**Social register:** M1.

**Residence:** Ce11.

**Birth and death of Dudley:** CA death index D17, WW1 Draft Reg. D23.

**Death of Tosca:** CA death index D14, Obituary N36.

**Dudley's children:** CA birth index D16.

**Son Dudgey Jr.:** D31.

**Son Peter:** Obituary N44. Death indices D32.

**Son Bradford:** Obituary N45.

**Daughter Jean:** Death indices D33.

### **Harold "Hal" and Mary Brunstch**

**Birth of Hal:** N7, D20, D21,

**Art study:** Bezirksmuseum Buchen M3. Also studied in Italy per BD1, BD2.

**Marriage:** N39.

**Death of Hal:** CA death index D18, obituary N40, cemetery D21.

**Career:** N40, F1, BD1, BD2.  
**Wife Mary:** Birth D28, N43. Second

marriage N43; death of second husband D27.

## Bibliography

### Biographical dictionaries

**BD1** *Who Was Who in American Art, 1564-1975*, Sound View Press, 1999, biographical sketch of Harold Brunstch.

**BD2** *Artists in California, 1786-1940*, Hughes Publishing Co., 1986, biographical sketch of Harold Bruntsch.

### Census

**Ce1** 1850 census, 5th Ward, St. Louis city, St. Louis Co., MO, p. 216, enumerated Aug 6, 1850, family of Edward Koch.

**Ce2** 1860 census, 7th District, San Francisco city and Co., p. 1390, enumerated Jun 29th, family of Margaret Cook.

**Ce3** 1870 Census San Francisco Ward 2, San Francisco, California, p. 220, Carl Bruntsch.

**Ce4** 1880 Census: CA, San Francisco City and County, p 458D, family of Chas Brintach [sic]. Despite the drastic misspelling, the names of the family members show conclusively that this is the family of Carl Bruntsch.

**Ce5** 1900 Census: CA, Alameda City and Co., 2061 Central Ave, ED 345, p. 76B, enumerated Jun 2, 1900, family of Clementina Bruntsch.

**Ce6** 1910 census, Alameda City and Co, ED 8, sheet 10A, enumerated Apr 22, address 2061 Central Ave, family of Clementina Bruntsch.

**Ce7** 1920 Census City and County of Alameda, enumerated Jun 7, ED 2, p. 2A, 3218 Liberty, Family of Herbert Bruntsch

**Ce9** 1920 census: Portland City, OR, ED 137 p. 5B, family of Carl G Bruntsch.

**Ce9** 1930 Census, City and County of Alameda, CA, enumerated Apr 2, ED 1-200, p. 2B, 3218 Liberty Ave, family of Herbert Bruntsch.

**Ce10** 1930 census, Garden Home, Washington Co, OR, ED 94-289, p. 7A, family of Carl G, Brunstch.

**Ce11** 1930 census, San Francisco, CA, ED 38-93, p 6A, enumerated Apr 4, address 135 St. Francis Blvd. [In the community of St. Francis Wood], family of Dudley Sales.

**Ce12** 1920 Census, San Francisco, CA, ED195, p. 5B, Harold C. Bruntsch, lodger.

**Ce13** 1900 Census, Denver, CO, Dudley D. Sales in the family of Harry Sales, father, ED69, p. 15B.

### City directories

**Dir1** *Langley's San Francisco Directory: 1879/80*,

1882/83, 1890/91.

**Dir2** *Husted's City Directory for Oakland, Alameda & Berkeley: 1887, 1889-90, 1892, 1892-3, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908*

### Documents and government records

**D1** Probate Case File 5187, Alameda Co., CA Carl Bruntsch appointed guardian of the estates of his children

**D2** Probate Case File 6180, Alameda Co., CA Estate of Carl Brunstch, deceased. Includes wills dated Jan 8, 1898, petition for probate, inventory and appraisal, and decree of distribution.

**D3** Death certificate, Alameda City and Co., Clementina E. M. Bruntsch

**D3** Notarized copy of the birth record of Margaretha Bruntsch, collection of Bob and Jessie Bruntsch.

**D4** CA Death Index: Bruntsch, Margurit [sic].

**D5** CA Death Index: Ernest A. Bruntsch, Ray K. Bruntsch.

**D6** CA Death Index: Ray K Bruntsch. Obituary not found.

**D7** CA birth index: Ernest R. Bruntsch, Betty J. Bruntsch. Birth record for Tosca not found.

**D8** CA Death Index: Herbert A. Bruntsch (SSN 563-42-4253), Shannon Bruntsch (SSN 563-42-4253).

**D9** CA Birth index: Barbara Bruntsch, mother's maiden name Mhoon.

**D10** Social Security Death Index, Barbara S. Barthen, SSN 568-60-6603.

**D11** Death certificate of Helen Bruntsch, OR State file no. 482, local registration no. 153 Multnoma Co.

**D12** Death certificate of Mary M. Bruntsch, OR State file no. 207; local registration no. 95 Marion Co.

**D13** Death certificate of Carl G. Bruntsch, Oregon, Washington Co, State file No. 4533.

**D14** CA Death Index: Tosca Sales, mother's maiden name Koch, SSN 563-66-7562. Dudley D. Sales [Sr.], SSN 563-30-9254.

**D15** Social Security Death Index: Tosca Sales, SSN 563-66-7562, Dudley D. Sales [Sr.] SSN 563-30-9254.

**D16** CA Birth Index: Dudley D. Sales, Peter Sales, Bradford Sales, Jean Sales, mother's maiden name Bruntsch.

- D17** CA Death Index: Dudley Daniel Sales [Jr.], mother's maiden name Bruntsch, SSN 44-07-0771.
- D18** CA Death index: Harold Clement Bruntsch.
- D19** Estate of Clementina E. M. Bruntsch, probate file 18291, Alameda County Superior Court, FHL 1537135.
- D20** Harold Clement Bruntsch, World War I Draft Registration Card, San Francisco, CA.
- D21** Herbert Anthony Bruntsch, World War I Draft Registration Card, Alameda, CA.
- D22** Ernest Adalbert Bruntsch, World War I Draft Registration Card, Santa Clara Co, CA.
- D23** Dudley Daniel Sales, World War I Draft Registration Card, San Francisco, CA.
- D24** National Cemetery Administration, Golden Gate National Cemetery, interment record for Harold C. Bruntsch.
- D25** Marriage records of All Saints by the Sea Episcopal Church, Santa Barbara, CA.
- D26** CA Marriage index, Mary C. Bruntsch to Byron Edwards.
- D27** CA Death Index, Byron Edwards.
- D28** CA Death Index, Mary Carmen Edwards.
- D29** Passport application of Margaretha Bruntsch, Jun 14, 1915, Manheim Germany, online at ancestry.com.
- D30** Passport application of Margaretha Bruntsch, Jan 1921, St. Gallen Switzerland, online at ancestry.com
- D31** CA and Social Security Death Indices, Dudley Sales SSN 563-30-9254.
- D32** CA Birth Index, CA Death and Social Security Death Index, Peter Sales.
- D33** CA Birth and Death Indices and Social Security Death Index, Jean Sales Stark, SSN 562-203-870.

#### Family sources

- F1** Typescript on Bruntsch family history by Jessie Bruntsch, wife of Ernest's son Bob Bruntsch, supplemented by e-mails and an interview by the writer.

#### Miscellaneous:

- M1** 1924 San Francisco Blue Book Directory, sfenealogy.com.
- M2** 1913 *Harvard University Alumni Directory*, ancestry.com.
- M3** *Bezirksmuseum Buchen*, Germany, My contact was Brigitte Popper. Their booklet *Die Hollerbacher Malerkolonie*, 1980 names Hal Bruntsch as one of the group, but provides little biographical detail, probably because he left Germany at an early date. The portrait of Bruntsch by Grimm has been exhibited at the museum on several occasions.

#### Newspapers

- N1** *San Francisco Call*, Dec 24, 1875, p 4, marriage of Carl Bruntsch to Clementina Koch
- N2** *San Francisco Morning Call*, Dec 29, 1876. p4, col 3, birth of Margaretha.
- N3** *San Francisco Morning Call*, Oct 1. 1884, p4, col 3, birth of Herbert Bruntsch.
- N4** *San Francisco Morning Call*, Jan 30, 1886, p4, col 4, birth of Carl Bruntsch.
- N5** *San Francisco Morning Call*, Dec 29, 1876, p4, col 3, birth of Margaretha Bruntsch.
- N6** *San Francisco Morning Call*, Jun 27, 1890, p8, col 6, birth of Tosca Bruntsch.
- N7** *San Francisco Morning Call*, Jul 19, 1891, p7, col 3, birth of Harold Bruntsch
- N8** *Oakland Tribune*, March 20, 1899, p 2, obituary of Carl Bruntsch.
- N9** Obituary of Clementina Brunstch, clipping marked "1913" from the collection of Barbara Barnett, from an unidentified San Francisco newspaper.
- N10** *San Francisco Call*, Aug 7, 1907, p. 4, "Alameda Girl is Winning Operatic Honors in German Capital."
- N11** *San Francisco Call*, Feb 25, 1908, p. 6, "Alameda Girl Has Won High Praise. . ."
- N12** *San Francisco Call*, Feb 25, 1908, p. 6, "Miss Margarita Bruntsch is Applauded by Audiences in German Capital." In the collection of Barbara Barnett, there is a largely identical clipping from an unidentified (probably Alameda) newspaper.
- N13** "Alameda Young Woman Wins Laurels in Germany on the Operatic Stage," undated clipping from unidentified newspaper, collection of Barbara Barnett,
- N14** Undated clipping reporting the safety of Margaretha after the outbreak of WW2. from an unidentified newspaper, collection of Barbara Barnett.
- N15** Clipping dated Aug 10, 1919, reporting that Margaretha was safe in Switzerland, from an unidentified newspaper, collection of Barbara Barnett
- N16** *San Francisco Chronicle*, Apr 9, 1922, p. 4D, photo with caption: "Florence Rings (left) and Margaret Bruntsch (right) who will be soloists next Friday afternoon at the Greek theater".
- N17** *San Francisco Chronicle*, Oct 2, 1924, p. 9, "San Francisco Opera Company in Double Bill".
- N18** *Independent Journal*, San Rafael, CA, Jun 5, 1965, p. 3, "Margaretha Bruntsch Dies at 84".
- N19** *Oakland Tribune*, Tuesday, March 17, 1959, p. 31, Obituary of Herbert Anthony Brunstch.
- N20** Obituary of Clementina Bruntsch, dated Nov 12, 1913 from an unidentified newspaper,

- collection of Barbara Barnett.
- N21** *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Feb 26, 1946: obituary of Ernest Bruntsch.
- N22** *San Francisco Examiner*, May 14, 1916, marriage license issued for Ernest A. Bruntsch to Ray K. Merrill [sic].
- N23** Obituary of Fred Krauth, clipping dated Alameda CA, Saturday Eve. May 25, 1912, probably from the *Alameda Encinal*, collection of Bob and Jessie Bruntsch.
- N24** *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Feb 26, 1946, obituary of Ernest Bruntsch
- N25** *San Francisco Call*, Jul 31, 1912, p. 5, elopement of Herbert Bruntsch and Shannon.
- N26** Elopement of Ernest Bruntsch and Shannon, clipping marked Aug 1, 1912, from an unidentified newspaper, collection of Barbara Barnett.
- N27** *San Francisco Call*, Dec 13, 1912, p. 4, "Jappyland Sung, Danced and Acted for Charity".
- N28** *Oakland Tribune*, Mar 17, 1959, p 31, Obituary of Ernest Bruntsch,
- N29** Obituary of Helen Brunstch, *The Morning Oregonian*, Portland, Feb 19, 1924, p 15.
- N30** Obituary of Mary M. Bruntsch, *The Oregon Journal*, Portland, Nov 2, 1940, p 10.
- N31** Obituary of Carl G. Brunstch, *Oregon Journal*, Portland Oregon, Jun 26, 1946, p 8, col 4.
- N32** Obituary of Margaret Bruntsch, *The Oregonian*, Portland, OR, Jun 8, 1971, Sect 3, p 9.
- N33** *San Francisco Call*, Jan 18, 1912, "Society Pays Honor to Mrs. Rolph" (Tosca mentioned).
- N34** *San Francisco Call*, Jan 22, 1910, "Kirmess to Have Spanish Dancer," includes photo: "Tosca Bruntsch a Spanish Dancer."
- N35** *San Francisco Call*, Apr 7, 1912, p. 51, "Miss Tosca Bruntsch is to be Bride of Dudley Sales".
- N36** *San Francisco Call*, May 2, 1912, p. 8, "Miss Tosca Bruntsch Becomes the Bride of Dudley Sales at Brilliant Ceremony"
- N37** *Visalia Times*, Apr 25, 1967, obituary of Tosca Salem [Sales].
- N39** Wedding of Hal and Mary Bruntsch, newspaper clipping in the collection of Bob and Jessie Bruntsch, name and date missing.
- N40** *San Francisco Chronicle*, Nov 16, 1959, obituary of Harold Bruntsch.
- N41** *San Francisco Morning Call*, Apr 2, 1888, p. 8, obituary of Margaretha Koch.
- N42** *Oakland Tribune*, Apr 2, 1888, p. 3, obituary of Margretha Koch.
- N43** *Sonoma Index Tribune*, Dec 25, 1990, p. A4, obituary of Mary Edwards.
- N44:** Obituary of Peter L. Sales, *Burbank Leader*, Burbank CA, Apr 21, 2004.
- N45** Obituary of Bradford Sales, *Oakland Tribune*, Aug 10, 1920.