



**Caroline Hoxett:** It's a fitting tribute to this forward-thinking Gilroyan whose boundless generosity continues to benefit both the city that she loved and its citizens. Ohio-born and civic-minded, Caroline Hoxett gave the land and funds for construction of the original Odd Fellow-Rebekah Children's Home of California, completed in 1898. When a larger facility was needed, she made a case for the orphanage staying in Gilroy's "fresh air" and helped fund the new site, completed in 1921 on IOOF Ave. Though she tried to remain anonymous, the clock on the City Hall's tower was another special gift from Caroline Hoxett. She and her first husband, Samuel Osborne, came to the California gold fields in the late 1840's. After Samuel died in a mining accident, Caroline married her second husband, Thomas Hoxett, and they moved to Gilroy in 1868. Thomas was a baker by trade, but was also highly successful in the stock market. When he died, Mrs. Hoxett was left a very wealthy woman and the Gilroy community benefited from her generous philanthropy. The photo is of her and her daughter Ada's family.



**Lin Wheeler:** Lin Wheeler assisted Gilroy's growth in numerous ways. Another true philanthropist, he gifted the land and over half of the construction costs for the building of Gilroy's first major medical facility in 1929, Wheeler Hospital. Likewise, Wheeler Auditorium on Sixth Street, completed in 1940, was largely built by his generosity. The Gymkhana Grounds on Casey Lane were also given to Gilroy for this widely popular annual rodeo, spurred to life by George C. Milias and held from 1929-1956. Later, this acreage became 'home turf' to Gilroy High School, then located on IOOF Avenue, for football games and other athletic events.