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Redmond Johnson

This information has been provided by Kelly Olsen of Akron Ohio
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“The story I know is that a 9 year old boy named Redmond Johnson (my grandfather) whose father was a clerk in the Phelan building was playing with the lever that operated the elevator while the elevator operator wasn't paying attention. Redmond was the cause of the elevator suddenly shooting up while Mr. West was getting in.

My grandfather stayed in San Francisco. He did travel around North America doing various odd jobs for a while, but he remained based in SF. My mom's great grandfather came to the city [San Francisco] in '49 from Baltimore and decided that he would be better off setting himself up as a teamster than a miner. He ended up running a successful stable and riding school and bought a house on Lyon St and some land in Sonoma. He married my 2nd great grandmother and they lived in her mother's boarding house at 237 Clay St downtown where The Embarcadero is now. I recently found that she even had a business card that has been preserved from about 1860. All in all, my older brother was the 5th generation of that line to live in the city and the 4th generation to be born there. My dad's family was from Oakland and went back a few generations there. He joined the Army in the late 50's and his parents moved up to Fortuna and that ended our family's time in the Bay area.”

The photos on the next page were provided by Kelly.



Redmond Johnson aged about 9 with [mother]



Redmond Johnson aged about 9 to 12 with [mother]