

Source: *Madera Mercury* 1 October 1921

Man Killed Wife Hurt in Auto Wreck

J.M. Heiskell of Clovis is dead and his wife was lying, fatally injured, at the sanitarium late last night following an accident yesterday afternoon on the highway near Fairmead, when his automobile turned over.

The deceased, with his wife, was driving south on the highway, according to the best accounts available, when the front wheels of his machine, a four-cylinder Cadillac, went off the pavement. The car swerved back on the paved road, lurched across, off on the other side, then as it came back again it turned over, pinning both occupants underneath. Heiskell was evidently killed instantly, as his neck was broken. His wife received injuries which, it was stated last night, would probably prove fatal.

The unfortunate man was a rancher living at Clovis, Fresno county. He was 73 ;years of age and was an uncle of Mrs. M. B. Wilkinson of Madera and a distant cousin of Park Superintendent, W. K. Heiskell.

Following the accident, City Marshal A. W. Clark and Deputy Sheriff A. Phillips went to the scene of the wreck to make an investigation. The remains were brought to Madera and are in the morgue of Coroner Jay.

Source: *Madera Mercury* 3 October 1921

Mrs. John Heiskell is Second Victim of Auto Accident

Mrs. John Heiskell of Clovis passed away at the Madera sanitarium at six o'clock Sunday morning as a result of injuries incurred Saturday afternoon when the car in which she and her husband were riding turned over on the highway near Fairmead. Mr. Heiskell was killed instantly and his wife fatally injured. She was taken immediately to the Madera sanitarium where she passed away on Sunday morning. The body was taken to Clovis Sunday where the funeral services will be held.

A coroner's inquest was held Sunday over the accident and the verdict given was that death had resulted to both Mr. and Mrs. Heiskell from injuries to the skull incurred when the car was turned over on the highway.

Think Accident Due to Driver's Death

The following probable explanation of the cause of the automobile accident on Saturday connected with the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Heiskell is given in a dispatch from Clovis which says:

CLOVIS, Oct. 2 – That J. M. Heiskell, who was found dead under his automobile when it turned over on the highway near Chowchilla Saturday afternoon, had died of heart failure while at the wheel of the machine is the belief of relatives here supported by the testimony of several persons who saw the machine running wildly down the road with Mrs. Heiskell waving her arms and screaming. Mrs. Heiskell was fatally injured in the accident, dying at 6 o'clock this morning at the Madera Sanitarium without regaining consciousness.

Heiskell was subject to sever years and witnesses of the accident say that Mrs. Heiskell was screaming and waving her arms as the car careened down the road while her husband's body had slumped forward over the wheel, in such a manner as to lead to the belief that he had already died.

Funeral services will be held at the family home here Tuesday, conducted by Rev. Hedgpeth and Rev. German of Fresno. Burial will take place in the Redbanks cemetery.

Heiskell was a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, and was 75 years of age. He had resided in California for the past 53 years and homesteaded the old copper mine ranch east of Clovis. His first wife died in 1899.

He was one of the wealthiest property owners of this vicinity and is survived by three daughters, Margaret and Bettie B. Heiskell of Fresno, and Mrs. Fred Wolff of Vallejo; two sons, W. J. Heiskell of Clovis and R. J. Heiskell of Sanger; two grand daughters, Mary Grace Heiskell and Mary Wilkinson of Mariposa, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Fannie Jane Heiskell was a native of Michigan and was 74 years of age. She had been a resident of California for 30 years and was married 22 years to J. M. Heiskell. She is survived by a brother, C. Walbridge of Los Angeles.