

## Virginia Jane (Ray) Bell



Virginia Bell  
1855-1925

Virginia Ray was born in California and raised in North San Juan. In 1883, she married Frank Hiram Bell. The couple would eventually have six children. The Bells had extensive interests in mining, lumbering, and ranching in California. Frank Bell also founded the Bell Electric Company in Auburn in 1889. Soon street lights were appearing and hotel and the Opera House featured electric lights. An accident at one of his sawmills took Frank's life in 1897. He was only 51. Their entire business operation fell to Virginia. She ran all the businesses very successfully while raising her children.

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