

Gussie Alberta (Wright) Stewart



Gussie Stewart
1897-1967

Gussie Wright was born in Iowa. Her family moved to California where she eventually graduated from California Normal School, now known as San Jose University. In 1903 she married James Stewart, a mining engineering from Gold Run. For several years James and Gussie managed the large family mining claim and ran a hotel in Gold Run. In 1915, Gussie studied, via correspondence, at Blackstone Institute to get her law degree. When she passed the bar exam the *Auburn Journal* reported that she was the only woman taking the exam. For the rest of her life, Gussie would represent many women in court. Abuse cases, divorce cases and even criminal cases were all handled by Gussie. In 1940, she became the first woman president of the Placer County Bar Association. The Stewarts were known to open their home to women and children in distress.

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