

SINCLAIR, Fuller Prewitt

A French Canadian settler born about the turn of the 19th century. The first record I have of him is in '30 when he left Fort Smith, Ark., with a party of trappers including Cape Graham and Job Day. His activities from that time closely parallel those of his old compatriots. He was a shrewd, if almost illiterate man, not at all afraid to pick up his rifle at the drop of the hat in protection of what he believed to be his by right as an individual human being; and, indeed, on more than one occasion his old friend, Judge Peckham, had to persuade him by logic that he shouldn't pull the trigger.

From the time of his arrival about '43 until '82 when age began to tell on his capacity to care for himself he was one of the most prominent men of his time: south with Fremont in Co. B, Calif. bat. '46, engaged with John and Benj. Haines in operation of a flouring mill on Corralitos creek, a road reviewer from the first organization of the county appointed with Speer to supervise construction of the first "wagon road" over the hill to S. Jose and continuing it from the Arrastradero (which we now call Branciforte drive) to the beach '51. I assume the road from the beach through the Arrastradero was the original route followed in going to and from this point and the Santa Clara valley.

Sinclair was responsible for construction of the M. E. "academy" which became the Union House, the town's first hotel, owning the property and the lumber as well as most of the work that went into it; in bus, with Jones Hoy in various enterprises including farming on Rancho Soquel, acquiring the interest of Mrs. Lambert Clements in the Soq. and Aug. grants. His wife was The Widow Jeter (q. v.) His name was variously spelled: Fullard Practt St. Clair being sometimes given.

HENSLEY, Samuel J.

Native of Ky., b '17 to Calif. '43 after some experience as a trapper in the mountains and N. Mex. Naturalized as a Mex. cit. '44, but from this time and continuously to the close of the Mex. war a leader in the Bear movement, being one of the signers of the order incarcerating Weber during the Micheltorena affair this year, capt. and later major in the Calif. bat. in the south '46-7 with a Calif. claim and an SF lot '47, east to testify in the courtmartial trial of Fremont with Stockton; ret. to Calif. '48. A recap of his activities does not belong in this limited work. He was one of the founders and head of the Calif. steam navigation co., from '53 or '54 one of the leading financiers interested in the development of the lime and lumber industry in this city with Pierre Sansvain, Carlos Roussillon, Peter Van Conaghan, etc., with a gold claim at Felton, owner of the Rincon sawmill to civil war days. His representative here during most of these years was James Frazier Reed (q. v.) D in Warm Springs, Alameda co., '66, leaving a widow, Helen, daughter of E. O. Crosby, a son and daughter. Several of the name were residents of Soquel and Watsonville during these years.

CANN, Nicholas Broyles

'47 overland from Mo., prob. with the Eli Moore family (q. v.) with wife, Ruth, and family enroute to Sta Cruz. The family stopped for a time on what afterward was the site of Stockton in order to permit Mrs. C— to give birth to a son, William Henry, first white child b in the San Joaquin valley in Oct. '47. The family continued on to Sta Cruz, Nicholas settling a farm which lay along the east side of San Lorenzo river between Plymouth street and what is today Paradise Park. Adam Cann is ment. in '54, perhaps an older son, and William Henry turns up with his father in the poll list of '68. However, this family during the gold excitement helped to get the town of Stockton well on its way toward its present position in the state and about '68 the Cann farm was sold to F. A. Hihn, the head of the family settling in the Gilroy region. A Stockton directory of '85 gives several of this name in San Joaquin co.

CAMBUSTON, Enrique

A Frenchman from Mexico, by '41 teaching in Mont. He was a smuggler by nature, companion in this regard of Pedro Richear with whom he was arrested and fined '44; often in trouble with the authorities, probably one of Graham's men; but if not, certainly not always in sympathy with the native politicians, with whom, when nothing else offered itself, he conducted personal wars. His wife was Gabriela Soberanes, member of a highly respected native family of the Soledad region. Until '55 he was active in democratic politics, being confined to the state hospital at Stockton in '56 and said to have died there a few years later; but he had been possessed of an interest in Soquel Augmentation rancho, taken from him in '64 when he is said to have been "of Monterey" — tho' this latter may have reference to one of his sons.

DAVIS, Thomas

CORCORAN, Thomas

A native of County Clare, Ire., born Dec. 11, '27 Thomas Corcoran was resident of the United States from the age of one year. Reared within a democratic influence that favored the Mexican war, he enlisted in the army for that event and served throughout as a teamster. His discharge left him footloose in time to participate in the overland emigration of '48, a year ahead of the gold rush. Armed only with a butcher knife, a wooden crowbar and tin pan, he succeeded, nevertheless, in sifting from three to four ounces of dust per day from the boiling waters of the Yuba.

"Nigger rich" with \$2,000 he started out to visit a friend in Sacramento before shaking the dust of the country from his down-at-the-heels boots; but encountered a sneak thief on the way and was reduced to begging a loan. The friend, fortunately, was better headed and kindly disposed. Corcoran borrowed enough to buy two pack mules and to load them with blankets and shoes. With this outfit, Corcoran went on a peddling tour of the southern mines, sold the shoes for "an ounce" and the blankets at \$75 per pair; thus within a few weeks repaid his benefactor and redoubled his former wealth.

This necessary introduction to trade was sufficient to keep him in California. He had but one ludicrous taste of mining after this and then turned to teaming and finally to a general merchandise trade at San Andres where he accumulated a comfortable fortune.

The only time he deviated from the path of success which chance had pointed out was in Toulumne. Here with a number of Mexican war companions he was mining in the bed of a river when a number of swells from among the New England class that had opposed the war turned up asking for advice on the best place to dig. Thinking to put it over on a "class" for whom they had affected a dislike the ex-soldiers told the Yankees to try the top of a neighboring hill which, presumably, had been prospected over many times. To the great glee of Corcoran and his companions the Yanks did as directed . . . and unearthed one of the richest pockets recorded in that region.

Close of the civil war found Corcoran with all the wealth he wanted. He went to Stockton to live, became a frequent visitor to Santa Cruz, a member by proxy of the Santa Cruz county pioneer society in '86, but shortly afterward a permanent resident of this community. His family consisted of a son and daughter (Mrs. Corcoran, nee Bridget McGraw, had died in '85), but if there are any descendants I have no record of them.

DAVIS, Thomas

One of Fauntleroy's dragoons '46 who at S. Jose in Nov. enlisted in Co. G of Fremont's Calif. bat., aged 45 years, Lumberman at S. Buenaventura '47 but shortly thereafter a resident of Sta Cruz helping to harvest the redwoods of Blackburn gulch and convert it into farm lands. A native of Wales, possessed of a family (tho' I have no authentic information on any of them) and innumerable friends, 'Uncle Tommy' died in '83. The records are confused by two Thomas Davises, the Pajaro valley blacksmith of that name being, I suppose, by far the more prominent of the two, a periodical office holder and perennial candidate in the formative years of county government.

HENDERSON, William T. L.

Native of Tenn., b '25, to SF in June '49, thence to the southern mines where in '53 he joined Capt. Harry Love's rangers to track down Joaquin Murieta. The man accredited with doing in the bandit, his share of the reward money totaling \$43. Acquainted with Joaquin, he was selected to make the exhibition of the bandit's head as proof of his slaying. From time to time member of ranger companies organized for the Ind. wars of the day, prospecting on the east side of the sierra for a time, resident of Los Angeles a short while, to Sta Cruz by '56 when he was a member of the Sta Cruz lodge, Sons of Temperance, elected county assessor '57, resigned in favor of Thomas T. Tidball May 4 '58. A short man, of pleasing and intelligent address, he was a miner most of his life, settled at Fresno Flats from '77, interested in the Texas flat quartz mine, I think Henderson was one of Col. Jack Hayes' Texas rangers to Calif. '49 with Jesse Graham etc. Dead by '88. Often addressed as 'Col.'

EGGLESTON, Geo. Washington

Prob. a New Yorker and perhaps to Calif. with the NY vols. Owner of a Benicia lot '47, possessor of a market at SF '48; in Villa Branciforte '62 or earlier, butcher with R. C. Laws, b '19. Several of this family born on the east coast in the early '50s may have been his sons. One daughter became Mrs. Ben Cahoon. The old man owned much of the land in the area between what today is Ebert's department store and the Morrissey home. He suffered from delusions in later years.

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