

Biographical Edition for October 19

FREMONT, John Charles



Old print copied by Bill Boekenoggen.

Not yet of the stature of a majority in the army, but often called "Gen." and calling himself "Col." when he took over the Bear Flag leadership '46, this man, tho' not a resident of Sta Cruz county, is included here for three reasons: 1)—the full blown scheme for taking over Calif. was first outlined in detail to him here; 2)—he wanted to make his home in Sta Cruz in early times and 3)—he was a member of the Sta Cruz county pioneer society.

Fremont was not in every respect a model soldier, but he was during Bear Flag times a crafty schemer who readily fell in with the filibuster party whilst his every act revealed him as a character with sufficient will to bull it through to a successful conclusion. In many ways a jawbone soldier, his orders to kill two defenseless boys of one and the padre ciego of another of the most prominent native families at San Rafael is for wanton brutality without parallel in American military history. It sealed with blood an insult that need never have been given to a people who theretofore unreservedly admired the *Yanquis* and was purged on by when Tiburcio Vasquez, last of a long line of native patriots, died on the gallows in San Jose in '75.

Whatever his faults, there is no indication that another of his times and background could have done half as well under the circumstances. His squabble with Gen. Kearney revealed him to be a much better administrator than a vacillating superior whom he refused to recognize. Taken east for courts martial trial because of his proclivity for filibustering and thumbing his nose, Fremont's stature grew with every attack made against him. He could show that he had resigned his commission in the United States army the moment he took over the Bear Flag job tho' there was none in California to whom he could resign. While held guilty by army brass he was exonerated by public opinion and pardoned by President Polk.

In turn 'a red-headed devil' or *savior of the race* to the natives, Fremont was the unchallenged hero of the pioneers; father of the Republican party too deeply involved in politics to be of much use to the union cause to which he rallied in '61. Perhaps he heard in the clash of arms the death knell of the philosophy and innate self-reliance that marked his generation. His kind were destroyed by it, being replaced by humbalfits, leeches and hogs at the public trough, and soldiers of fortune whose loyalties consist of jumping into a uniform and leaping out again to demand a pension in numbers so rapidly and progressively augmented in the past 90 years as to make this 'civilization' of ours less costly to destroy than to maintain.

In '64 again nominated as a candidate for president at the head of 'the radical wing of war democrats and western republicans' Fremont refused to accept because to do so might jeopardize the re-election of Lincoln (although Honest Abe plainly mistrusted him.) B in Savannah, Ga., Jan. 21 '13 he considered California 'home' from '48 but died while temporarily residing in NYC Jan. 13 '90. His wife, nee Jessie Benton, daughter of one of the great men of Missouri, and a daughter residing in Los Angeles survived.

ATHERTON, Faxon Dean

Sometimes called Felix D. A., native of Mass. to Valparaiso as a boy, engaging in ocean trade with Pacific ocean nations, reaching Calif. '36 and so impressed that he is said to have corresp. with Daniel Webster about the possibilities here. Back '49-50 to make investments including Pajaro valley lands where he resided for a time '62. Owner of large estates in S Mateo where he gave his name to a town, prominent in railroad building, banking and other financial enterprises. Died '77, leaving a widow and seven child.

ADRIAN, A.

ROY, James Maurice

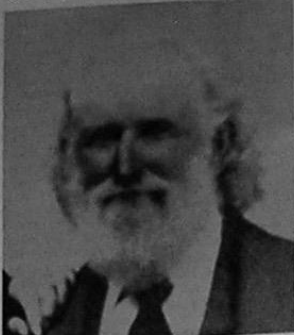


Photo from Rose Rostrom col., courtesy pub. lib.

Veteran of the Seminole war of '36, with Houston in Texas the following year, under Zach Taylor to Buena Vista in the Mex. war and to Calif. '46 under Kearney serving the army, possibly as scout, to '50; b in Virginia March 8 '11, being the oldest man in Sta Cruz county when he died in Boulder Creek Oct. 5 1908 from the effects of the only illness he had ever known.

Rearred in Tenn. from '12 until '36 when, after contributing to the border fights of those times for independence, he took up the roving times of a trapper and guide with Kit Carson, with whom he spent some time in the filthy *juzgado* of Monterey, Mex., from which ordeal American intervention finally rescued them.

Married in Salt Lake City Miss Eunice White, a woman 20 years his junior, daughter of William White and sister of California (White) Gulliver who died here in recent years. The Roy and White families settled in the Soquel region in '52 where this gentleman's 11 child, were born.

A brief statement of 'Grandpa' Roy's adventures, kindly supplied by Mrs. Vivian Wasset of Ocean street, a granddaughter, has appended to it a list identifying not less than 23 grandchildren. The last of his daughters, Mrs. Mary Ann (Horr) Plumm, died shortly after the Santa Cruz fiesta of 1949, mother of five, grandmother of 9 and great grandmother of 22; from which I judge his great great grandchildren can be described as 'legion.'

ALLEN, Ira

'50, memb. firm of Allen, Blackburn & Co., the Blackburn being, perhaps, James. Doing an extensive business and involved in an altercation with Henry Speal and William Blackburn, his chief competitors. A millwright, carpenter and undertaker from '53 prominent in the development of Watsonville. Temporarily appointed county super. of public instruct. '56 replacing Amos Hathway, resigned, but not a candidate for election to this post. In '77 sentenced to San Quentin prison as the aftermath of a sensational fraud involving the estate of Dr. George Parsons (q. v.) who died in Allen's home.

DYE, Clarkson

Speculator in Villa Branciforte lands '49 and '50, engaged in SF speculations from the middle of the latter year.

DYE, Dr.

Perhaps the above and possibly J. H. Dye, who in '49 with William Roberts, Methodist church superintendent for Oregon and California, and Elihu Anthony, the Sta Cruz M. E. circuit minister, went to Coloma to organize the first church of that denomination in the mines. Somewhat prominent in Sta Cruz '50 being associated with Gervis Hammond in selection of a site for the county jail located in a building adjoining the mission where the Knights of Columbus hall now is.

DYE, Hazzard

'47, memb. Co. K, NY vols, engaged with Col. Stevenson of that regiment in the early development of Sta Cruz from '49. It is impossible to differentiate between this man and the above.

McKAMISH, James

Native of east Tenn., b. May 12 '27, following a nomad's life in Ark. and Tex. before starting out for Calif. '49. Reached LA in Sept. and S Jose in Nov. working in the redwoods near Los Gatos through the winter and spring and then to the mines for three years. In '53 he settled on Rancho San Andres as a farmer, continuing here to within a short time of his suicide at the rear of his home on Chestnut ave., in Sta Cruz in Jan. '87. He had acquired a 15-year-old bride, Rebecca, in the Pajaro valley in '58. She survived him. He



Santa Cruz Fire Department 1905

By this year, Santa Cruz has moved away from the old Hose Cart teams of an earlier day; largely as a result of the disastrous fire of '94 which destroyed the business center between the courthouse and the lower plaza. But it hadn't moved out of the volunteer fire department idea. The hose cart was drawn by a team: Rowdy, who chewed tobacco and Dandy, who liked sugar. George (with the lines) and Jim Gray were the teamsters. The volunteers included Charles Bowen, Gene Briody, Charles Pinkham, Jim White, Ed Towne, John Taylor, Ray Briody and Jess Manning, with Bob Tait as chief and Fred Lewis as his assistant. Fire insurance in the community was lowered this year when the team raced the hose to the present site of the Giant Dipper on the beach boardwalk and the volunteers, called from as many occupations, strung the hose 'under the tracks' and had a spray of water playing on an imaginary fire within 15 minutes of the 'call.'

R. SELLECK MILLER

INSURANCE

115 Locust Street

SANTA CRUZ

Telephone 522

Checking Account Service

HITS THE NAIL SQUARELY



YOU WANT SAFETY — deposit your cash in our bank.

YOU WANT CONVENIENCE — pay bills by mail with checks.

YOU WANT RECEIPTS — cancelled checks are receipts.

Open your checking account here and get all the benefits.

County First National Bank

County First