GRAHAM, Capt. Isaac

Native of the Virginia hills now included in the state of W. Va., son of a revolutionary war vet. and direct descendant of James Graham of Claverhouse, the biography of this swashbuckling old frontiersman does not rightly belong in this work. I have a file of notes comprising several hundred thousand words on his activities. Remote relative of Daniel Boone, G— carried on when the altter dropped on the Mo. frontier.

No emigrant of the era between '36 when Graham led his *riflerou Americanos* in defense of the revolutionary, Juan B. Alvarado, and that of the Mex. war reached Calif. without getting in touch with Graham, at Natividad in early times, at Rancho Zayante from '41. His design for taking over Calif, was ready for execution the latter year and tho' but one of the revolutionists, Graham was the single one who never at any time wavered from his purpose. Twice married, each under disagreeable circumstances, he raised families from each union, displaying in this a deep affection for his children.

His second wife, Tillatha Catherine Bennett, eldest daughter of the widow Bennett (q. v.) brought into the world two daughters, the first born July 4 '46, first of American parents in this region who became the wife of David Marion Rice and the mother of a large family. The last of her child, died recently in Los Angeles, leaving several heirs.

In '49 his sons, Jesse Jones and Isaac Wayne, accompanied by at least one cousin, Napoleon Graham and perhaps an uncle, Major John W. Graham, came to Calif. in search of gold. Near LA they were told by one of Isaac's old henchmen where their relative lived. Instead of going to the mines they came to S Jose where they chanced to meet Isaac. It lacked 11 days of 20 years since the Capt. had turned his back on his Tennessee home.

The Bennetts and Grahams commenced to fend among themselves about the old man's gold and other property. Isaac Wayne and his wife, Eliza, sued the old man for his Rancho Ano Nuevo. Jesse killed Dennis Bennett and fled the countryside (only to be returned 38 years later to face trial in the state's most celebrated early-day case). Catherine took the gold and her children, fled to the Hawaiian Islands and finally to Oregon where Isaac found her the next year.

Catherine initiated a divorce proceedings which turned friend against friend, won in a lower court; but Isaac carried the subject to a reversal before the supreme court in a noted case defining the stigma of bastardry. The marriage was, however, broken and Mrs. Graham became Mrs. Daniel McCusker (q. v.)

Isaac lived at his Zayantee ranch until '63, when death overtook him.

Napoleon went to Washington territory and helped to make a state of that.

Isaac Wayne went back to Texas where he was still living in '88, oftimes visiting in Sta Cruz.

Jesse after serving with the Mariposa rangers for a few years also returned to Texas, joined *Terry's Terrible Rangers*, later Gen. Hood's brigade for the civil war, participated in 26 major engagements, was wounded several times but never incapacitated, returned to Calif. at war's end and lived in the Fresno region as a respected bachelor farmer. His arrest and trial in Sta Cruz '88 resulted in a hung jury. On petition of 400 Sta Cruzans the case was dropped.

The background of this affair engendered a great deal of bitterness between the Graham children of his second marriage and their mother, Mrs. McCusker; but the last time I saw any of them, some years ago in Aptos, Mrs. McCusker's oldest daughter by her second marriage, Mrs. Josephine (McCusker) Dorn, and Mrs. Rice's youngest son, Charles, were having a most enjoyable time laughing away those old clouds.

SKENE, James

The name is the Gaelic word for *knife*, given to this family, together with a title and one of the proud Scottish plaids, from the fact that the progenitor of it successfully defended the life of one of the Scottish kings from the attack of a wolf with his *skene*. There were so few of this name that I assume this man to have been the William Skene ment. '45 as wounded during the Micheltorena affair.

James came to Sta Cruz with Hy Parsons, who once recalled it was in the fall of '51; but I think it must have been a year earlier. He and Parsons took up a pre-emption at the mouth of Soquel creek, lost when the government included it in the boundaries of Rancho Rodeo. Shortly after this date he was merchandising in the front room of Isaac Hitchcock's home; but '54 in company with Luke Aldrich prop. of the Sta Cruz House (the old Union House) and Franklin Hotel. He was a popular man, inclined to be too liberal with credit. Died in Sta Cruz Dec. 17 '61, leaving his estate to his friend, Capt. James Brennan of Watsonville. He had no family.

HOLBROOK, Washington

'47, at Sta Cruz from Jan. 4, here possibly earlier than that, engaged in land speculation of some sort; supercargo of the *Sabine* along the coast '48, back to Calif. from Hono-

SMITH, Capt. Edward L. B.

Native of Ulster co., NY, educated in law and as a surveyor. Here he married Miss Jane Whittacer, native of the same state of Dutch parentage. The couple came overland from Springfield, Ill., '48, he being capt. of the guard, wounded enronte, from the effects of which he died '53 at San Juan. To Sta Cruz from an SF merchandising experience '49, living here at the time R. F. Peckham (q. v.) roofed a house for the family, inverting the shingles so that instead of having a home they were living in a sieve. Life in a tent seemed less unbearable. The family pitched its tent at San Juan in Jan. '50. Of the child: Annie became the wife of Peckham, Caroline became Mrs. John N. Bigley, Leah Margaret married John Breen of the Donner party, Mary S. was Mrs. George Chalmers (q. v.), Josephine married W. Jeffers. John lived in Stockton in later years.

CLOUGH, David M.

B in N Hampshire Jan. 22 '24; died in Monterey co., May 29 '90; the interim given over to the normal vicissitudes and successes of a thoroughly happy person. To the Tuolumne co. mines '50; but by '52 settled on leased land near Watsonville where he spent the remainder of his years, leading in the early experiments with apples, strawberries, peaches, pears and oranges. Mrs. Clough, m in '60 was a girl from County Cork, Miss Johanna Leary, who reached here from Boston '59. They were the parents of five sons and three daughters.

QUICK, M. W.

B in NY. '27, on his own from age 16; to SF Dec. 11 '49 via Cape Horn. To the Nevada co. mines to '66 and as a cattleman in Mariposa co. to '88. This year to Watsonville on a 25 acre farm as an orchardist. His wife was Deborah Stewart, b in Ind, dead by 1902. Two child. survived. By 1902 there were eight grandchildren.

RING, David

B in Ire. '13, to the US at an early age and to SF via cent. America '49, locating in the metropolis as a dairyman to '64 when he moved to Watsonville to occupy 65 acres three miles south of town on the Ocean road. His wife was Mary Roache. Died '78, survived by the widow and five child.

SAWIN, Reuben H.

Friend of Judge Blackburn, Snyder, Alfred Baldwin and Henry Speel from N Orleans via Mex. with a party of 15 shortly after news of the discovery reached him Dec. '48. Overland to Mazatlan and thence by vessel to SF where he and his wife disembarked in April. He went to Wood's Diggings on the Tuolumne, but back in SF by July. Here he permitted Speel and Blackburn to induce him to come to Sta Cruz to build a mill with Ira Allen at $16 per day. The mill was completed in March '50 at enormous expense, earlier rains washing out much of their work, but a flood of imported lumber in SF caused the mill to lose money. In '50 planted the first crop of potatoes between what is now the railroad depot and Manhattan Tavern and with the profits bought "Sunny-Side Farm," property he afterwards occupied for 18 years, the present day Reinelt nursery on Mission street being the eastern edge of it. His wife, Sarah S., who was, I think, related to Deacon Nelson Taylor (q. v.) is described by Mrs. Kirby (*Her Diary* in *Riptide* of Sept. 29 '48) as the only person 'whose manners and habits of living approached the ladylike' in SC '52. Sawin died May 2 '84, aged 82 years. Both were natives of Mass. where their son and daughter, born three years apart, had died together 42 years ahead of their father.

HOLCOMB, Isaac Webster

'Ike' Holcomb was the man who delivered himself to jail at the William R. Rowland rancho outside LA in order to save the Imus family from starvation '50. At Sta Cruz m Emily Imus Sept. 24 '51, b '31, Soquel farmer candidate for office in that township once or twice, apparently never elected and apparently not much interested; to Shasta about '70.

HOY, Jones

'49, working as a lumber hauler for Capt. Graham, farmer '50, lessee with Prewitt Sinclair of a portion of Soquel Rancho for farming purposes, saw- and gristmill prop. At Corralitos for several years prior to '53 when the partnership blew up. Hoy gave his name to what is today Laguna creek, but it has been forgotten. At Pescadero for a time in later years.

EAKER, John W.

Employed at David Jackson Bennett's sawmill until '52 and with Senate at Graham's afterward.

BRADY, Francis R.

'49, serving as a deputy sheriff in this county '50; admitted to the Sta Cruz lodge, Sons of Temperance '56; candidate for county

HACKETT, John K.

Among the first attorneys practicing in the county court. Perhaps ident. with Zackett (q. v.) A number of this family resided here in early times.

SAXON, William

In Sta Cruz '50.

BICKMORE, Gilbert

To Calif. '47 with Co. A of the Mormon bat. The family home for some time during the formative years of Sta Cruz was at what is now the corner of Bulkhead and Water streets. Here a daughter, Eliza, who became Mrs. Ayers and was still in the Capitola district 19 years ago, was born Nov. 28 '51. The family moved to Soquel '60 where the father was a partner of John Daubenbiss in the grist mill. From here the family followed the trade to Corralitos and in '69 moved to the Bakersfield area where a large Mormon colony was. Gilbert B— was the father of five sons and five daughters, all save one of whom were living in 1931. I have the name of five other Bickmores, one of whom I suppose to have been his father, the others either bros. or sis. All seem to have moved away before '70.

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