

Reprints Centennial Edition for October 19, 1950

CATHCART, Captain Robert

From St. Louis, Mo., prior to '50 apparently, by perhaps leaving his wife and family in St. Louis, for a son, Robert, Jr., giving St. Louis, Mo., as his address this year is busily acquiring as much property in Santa Cruz as it is possible for a 12 year old lad to get through his acknowledged agents.

The elder Cathcart, called "Captain" for reasons best known to the pioneers, became public administrator for Santa Cruz county in the election of '50. He owned all the property from the site of the Fulmer building north of Cathcart street at Pacific avenue-Laurel street corner" (the Pacific avenue-Laurel street corner) east of Pacific avenue to the river.

This in later years became extremely valuable, but there were no members of the family left to enjoy it. The good captain, after a brief service on the county board of supervisors in '54, was carried off by the grim reaper May 18, '56. Left to mourn was the widow and six children whose estate consisted of the "farm" and a combination family home and homestead on the cleft to a host of characters including "Harry of the West" — probably meaning Capt. Harry Love — "Alexander (French blacksmith)", "Eugene on the Beach", "Jacob the Dutchman", "Arana's Frenchman", "George Green (Seller's cook)", "Henry (Skene's steward)", "Jack Clark, the sailor", "Dutch John at Cooper's", "Louis the Frenchman", "Baptiste", "Big Dick at Graham's."

Despite the shortcomings of bookkeeping, when O. K. Stampley, the administrator of the estate called on 'em they all seem to have paid up.

The widow, Hannah, twice married tho' only 89 years of age (her eldest child, George Goodell of St. Louis, seems never to have lived here) managed to keep the family together. In the organization of the Calvary Episcopal church they were prominent . . . possibly because death had its finger on them.

First funeral service conducted by the Rev. C. F. Loop, rector of Calvary Episcopal church then in the process of organization, was performed for Josephine Cathcart Jackson, aged 20, who, on Saturday, July 18, 1863, had been baptized by Rev. Loop less than 24 hours before her death. She left surviving her two daughters, one born in '59 and the other in '61 who were living in New York City in 1869 but about whom the record is ominously quiet in 1876 when the final sentence was written into the genealogy of this family locally.

The widow Cathcart, raised on the frontier without the emoluments of polite religion and her youngest child, Adela, were baptized together in church Oct. 30, '64. The mother died January 31, '65. By 1869 Adela was gone.

John Lee Cathcart, aged 10 years when his father died, himself died August 1, '69 in San Luis Obispo county, to which he had removed a few months before in search of health.

Sophia L. Cathcart, who was but eight years of age when her father died, married 22-year-old Samuel VanDoren in Calvary Episcopal church here June 22, '69. They went to live in San Francisco, then Mexico, then back to Santa Cruz trying to find health. They operated for a time James Leslie's store on Mission Hill where the Cherie dancing school now is. Here a son, Charles, was born to them in 1873 and here Samuel VanDoren died January 15, 1875, his widow following him 17 days later.

Charles VanDoren became the ward of his grandfather, William VanDoren of Gilroy who theretofore had been a teacher in the Watsonville schools.

Robert Cathcart, Jr., the oldest son of Captain Robert Cathcart, born in St. Louis, Mo., in 1838, married Augusta Durr here May 29, 1867. He had for some years been a merchant and livery stable proprietor. A daughter was born to this couple in 1868 and presumably was still living in Santa Cruz in 1876, last year this family is officially noted here.

Mary Cathcart, born in 1839, married Jonathan H. Coult in Santa Cruz January 16, 1855. Coult was at the time the district attorney of Santa Cruz county, a former law partner of ex-United States District Attorney Pacificus Owl. Coult was unsuccessful candidate for county judge in '61, became a member of the local militia during the copperhead troubles, but eventually moved his law practice to San Francisco and then to Oxford, Ohio, by 1876.

The Cathcart home still stands, it being the building in which Farmer Alvarez now operates his Elbow Room. But as early as 1868 it was abandoned. For in this year Lyman Swan (q. v.) entered upon the premises as a squatter. He had found a vacant house, not knowing that most of the prior occupants had already died of consumption, and needing a roof for his family moved in.

He was unable to locate anyone to whom to pay rent, but for many years kept up the tax payments. Swan finally sued the city and county and the unknown heirs and secured title to the homestead.

WOODWORTH, Selim E.



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Native of New York City of an adventurous turn, he ran away from home at the age of 12 years to follow the Lewis and Clark trail to Oregon. Succeeded in getting 300 miles away from home before relatives found him and persuaded him to return to the hearth of his father, author of the "Old Oaken Bucket." This was in '27.

Seven years later at age 19, despite the entreaties of friends, he secured the post of ship's clerk aboard a clipper brig fitted out by New York merchants and spent four years in the south Pacific trade. The voyage had been for three, but the vessel with its valuable cargo was wrecked on Madagascar and he was compelled to live among the barbarous people of that island for nearly a year before finding a small launch by which he eventually returned to civilization.

Served as a Lt. of the US navy with a variety of adventures in all parts of the world; but took leave of that commission in the spring of '46 to finish the job he started 19 years before. He left Independence, Mo., May 15 and was in Oregon a little more than 60 days later, this being one of the quickest trips across the plains on record for the days before the railroad.

Traveling along the coast he reached SF in time to learn of the plight of the Donner party in the sierra, was instrumental in organizing the relief from that point and after a trip impeded by the raging waters of the Sacramento and American rivers as well as the deep snows of the mountains succeeded eventually in rescuing several of those unfortunate.

Returning to Sutter's fort he reported for duty with the navy at SF and was placed in charge of the Warren for the duration of the Mexican war.

On the urgent solicitation of friends, Woodworth, being then a resident of Monterey, permitted his name to be used in the first election and was named the state senator from this district for the first and second sessions of the California legislature.

This region being infested with outlaws created by one side or the other of the highly controversial land subject, he accepted in '52 a commission to organize the Monterey guards to put them down.

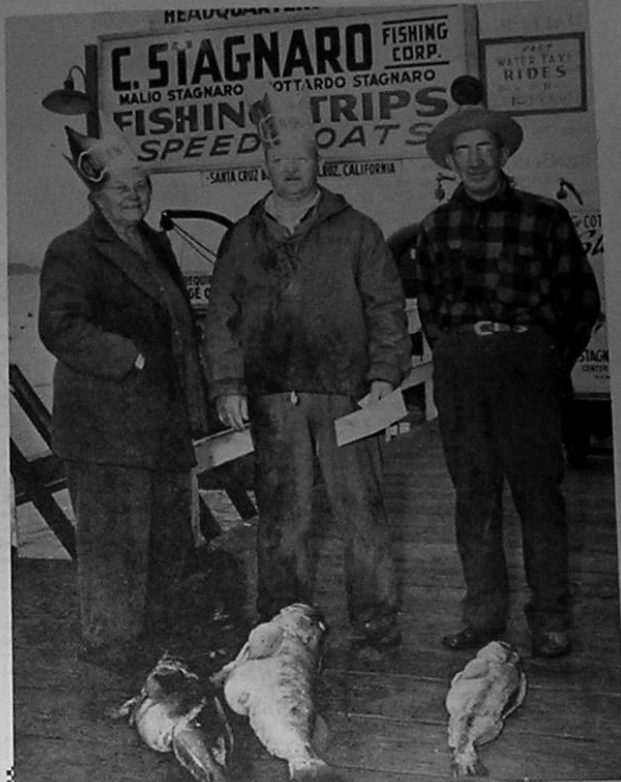
Woodworth was the first person to build a house over the SF "water lot" area, since filled in and the present day heart of the business activities of the metropolis. He was then regarded as slightly queer; but the sequel is well known. In consequence of this position he and his partner for many years enjoyed the exclusive lighterage trade and soon amassed a fortune large enough to enable him to own one of the islands in the bay where his home "Red Stone" was located.

His name appears at the head of the list of the vigilance committee of '51 when that group confessed their identities as a challenge of the ruffian of Frisco to do something about it.

By '60, tho' in no way in need of whatever money was to be derived from the development, he was active for a time in the attempt to locate precious metals in this county. But he laid aside everything when the civil war broke out, returning to the United States navy and entered the scrap on the side of the union. By the time he was ready for retirement in '67 he had reached the rank of commodore. Returning to SF in '71 he died, aged 55 years, survived by a widow and five children.

CLARK, John G.

Clerk of Alcalde John Hames during the latter part of '49 and until Jan. 25, '50, he with wife, Elizabeth, was for a short while a large speculator in lands, most of which ultimately became the property of Hiram A. Imus, Jr. In the county archives are to be found the names of nearly three-score individuals with the surname Clark or Clarke; but there is little to indicate their genealogy.



TALE OF A MODERN JAY-HAWKER

Fishing in the Bay at Santa Cruz is better than fishing in Florida in the opinion of Russell Harris of Hugoton, Kan.

This theater chain manager, trying to retire but often recalled "home" to solve some business problem, has been spending his spare time between Santa Cruz and Florida for several years.

He and Mrs. Harris drove all the way to Santa Cruz to participate in the annual COTTARDO "BABE" STAGNARO Memorial fishing contest Saturday, Sept. 16. This event closes out the long-distance sports fishing season in these waters.

Harris didn't win the title of 'King' for the season in that event. This honor went to L. E. Mortimore of San Jose with a lingcod weighing 33.5 lbs. (Mrs. Ruth Wing of Oakland captured the queen's crown with a 21.5 pound fish.) But Harris probably was the happiest man in the lot; happy because of the opportunity the contest afforded him to return to Santa Cruz.

This is the way it has been among the sports anglers at the wharf this season.

Our 1950 season ended October 16. The fleet is being put in dry-dock for repairs and overhauling in preparation for the 1951 season which begins March 1.

Cottardo Stagnaro Fishing Corporation

Center Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz Beach
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA