

HALL, R. J.

'50, in Sta Cruz. I have the names of several of similar initials, but do not know the connection.

BUZZELL, Francis

Purchasing prop. from William Blackburn '50.

BENSON, Christian

Apparently a member of the NY Vols under another name. In Sta Cruz '58, Nemiso B— in Sta Cruz July 14 '68 in Resolucion Rodriguez. Adolphus 'Benzen' with C. R. Saunders and others attempting to develop a mine in Gold Gulch '60.

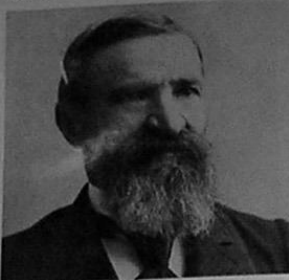
PERRY, Joseph Wilburn

Father of Boulder Creek, born in what is today Cabell Co., W. Va., Oct. 2 '30, to plantation owners settled shortly afterward in Kentucky. By '42 the family was on a Missouri farm. From this point he accompanied the overland immigration '50 as an ox team driver. Three years in the mines were not satisfying. Back in Mo. by '54. Farming in Neb. '59-62 also left him flat. In '62 with a wife returned overland, but buried his wife near Austin, Nev. Farming in the S Joaquin valley didn't pan out. In '67 he came to Sta Cruz as a wood turner. This interested him in the remarkable wood resources of this county. By '69 he was well established at Boulder Creek, owner of an old-fashioned water power sawmill around which he built a fortune. Twice married, he had no child of his own, but was stepfather of eight and foster father of one.

HAMES, Benjamin

Brother of John, b in Rochester, NY, to Chili with bro., settled there long enough to marry Carmen Laing, native of that country of Eng. parentage, becoming father of Lucretia before reaching Calif. A surveyor, by '50 engaged with bro. and others in running a combination saw and grist mill on Corralitos creek. Here most of his family was raised. Elected county surveyor '55, defeated for the office by Thomas W. Wright '57, but appointed to the post when W— resigned three months later, still serving '63. The eldest daughter, Lucretia, became Mrs. Enoch Myler of San Benito co. Benjamin was making his home with this family in the '90s. Descendants of this family are still living in Corralitos.

BOWMAN, Gustavus



Native of Holland, brought to this country as a child, obtaining the rudiments of education in Ohio, but about '43, aged 14 years, left for St. Jo. Mo., over the Lewis & Clark trail for Oregon, one of the earliest to make the trip. Perhaps a companion of Gottlieb Zeigler (q. v.). Bowman participated in the gold rush from Oregon City (Portland) where for many years he was in business. To Sta Cruz prior to '68 as a plumber, hardware merchant and designer of stoves. Mayor of Sta Cruz '88-92. His daughter is Mrs. H. R. Judah, wife of the state senator from this district. The Dutch name was spelled Van Beumann. Several of his brothers and sisters lived here in later years, none agreeing on the accurate Anglocization of the name.

SKINNER, John

To Calif. '47 with Co. A NY vols; at San Jose from '50; in '63 prospecting between the headwaters of San Gregorio and Pescadero creeks, poss. a friend of Winston Bennett. At Campo Seco '71-4.

HUBBARD, George C.

'49, engaged in land speculation in Sta Cruz. To Calif. '47 as Lt. of Co. K NY vols; printer by trade, member of the legislature '49, according to Bancroft, prop. an error; died in Ill. before '60.

GREY, Joseph

'49, employed at Graham's mill this year (?). Died in Sta Cruz about Nov. '54, leaving an estate of \$91.25 cash with no one to claim it.

CRANE, George W.

A Virginian said to have arrived in California in May '46 just in time to take part in the Mexican war with Fremont's California battalion. In the mines in '48, when winter came he repaired to Jonas Speck's tent city, Fremont, on the Sacramento river and from a natural bent became candidate for a variety of offices from that of county attorney to that of United States senator from California. He was elected to the state assembly in '49 on the strength of 102 votes cast for him in nine precincts of "the upper country" extending from Suisun bay to the Oregon line. Next closest was J. S. Bradford of Benicia, who had received 199 votes. Crane repaired to San Jose and served six days, casting but one vote, for adjournment on the opening day, December 15 '49 when it was discovered that the severity of the early winter rains were such as to prevent most representatives from reaching San Jose in time to enable a quorum to meet at the time scheduled. By the time the legislature did convene Bradford was on hand with 81 votes alleged to have been cast for him in the Trinity region, not counted among those which Crane's supporters thought had given him the election. It was afterward claimed that Trinity had not bothered to vote and that this was the first case of ballot-box stuffing in the state.

Crane remained in San Jose long enough to submit his name as a candidate for the United States senate; but was defeated by John B. Weller and John C. Fremont, the latter drawing the short term. Back in Yolo county he was district attorney for a while and a candidate again for the assembly in the election of '50. Again he received a certificate of election to represent the counties of Yolo, Colusa and Trinity, Colusa at the time being unorganized and declining to vote. But Crane served only one month and two days of his second term. At the end of that time Hiram P. Osgood was in San Jose with a sufficient number of claimed votes from Trinity county to give him twice as many votes as the total that had been cast for Crane.

With these lessons behind him, Crane came over the hill to Santa Cruz to enter into a law partnership with R. F. Peckham and Pacificus Ord. In this capacity he maintained an office in the courthouse building on the upper plaza, in '53 was selected to fill out the unexpired term of Joseph L. Majors as county treasurer and quickly worked his way into a position of prominence.

In the troubled times growing out of land squabbles he became a first sergeant of the Monterey guards, named by the governor to detect and apprehend bandits in this and adjacent counties. He was elected in '57 to represent this district in the state legislature, married a sister of Quentin Ortega and a sister-in-law of John Gilroy, a widow of incomparable wealth, and became the ostensible head of an empire embracing much of southern Santa Clara and northern San Benito counties. He died in the smallpox epidemic of '68, aged 41 years, leaving a widow who survived him by 40 years in squalid poverty.

Tho' prominent and upright in his earlier life, his later years were not in every respect a credit to him.

MURPHY, John

Native of County Cork, Ire., '24, to Boston at age 20 years and to SF '50, preferring city life to the mines until he had saved \$4,000, invested in cattle which he brought to the Pajaro valley '59 on leased property. By '63 owner of his own farm, purchasing 160 acres for \$1700. By the time death o'ertook him Feb. 14 '92 he was the owner of 618 acres. His wife, Elizabeth Sheehy, also a native of County Cork, to SF '51, survived him but eight days. They were the parents of six. Murphy is said to have been the first man to set out an orchard in the Pajaro valley, a distinction claimed by several of his contemporaries.

BAXTER, William Henry

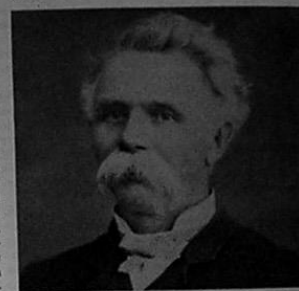
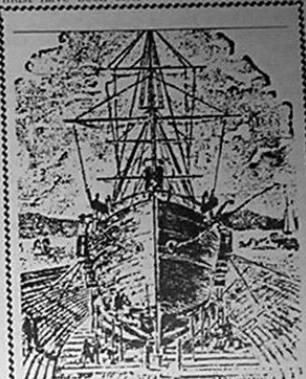


Photo from Rose Rostron col., courtesy pub. lib. B in NY City June 10 '25; reached Calif. May 31 '50, claiming years of experience in Florida from which state, perhaps, he directed his steps westward. He was a bookkeeper in Sta Cruz when he signed the pioneer roll Aug. 29 '85. I have no record of a family, tho' there must have been one.



Santa Cruz-

Seemed destined in '46 to become the Pacific Coast center for the manufacture of ocean-going vessels.

-Contemporary Account.

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