

Biographic Centennial Edition for October 19
FORD, Robert Fulton

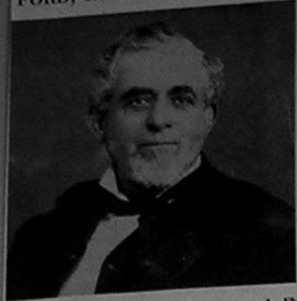


Photo from Rose Rostron col., courtesy pub. lib.

Saddle and harness maker forced to take to the sea at an early age because of his health. Ford had visited most of the world's ports by the time he left New Orleans in Sept. '49 via Chagres. Stricken with Panama fever, he was taken to Havana to recover, went into business there for a time and eventually arrived in SF aboard the steamer *Tennessee* just ahead of the vessel that brought the news of admission of the state to the union. Traveled widely, being hotel keeper in Salem, Ore., one of the founders of Shasta Butte City (called now Yreka), trader to Mazatlan, billiard saloon prop. at La., participant in the British Columbia rush, thence to Salmon river mines, store-keeper at the Dalles, trader at Umatilla Landing, prop. of 17-mile house at Millbrae, saloon keeper at SF, businessman in Sausalito, farmer in Sta Cruz, merchant owning his own building at 9th and Mission sts., SF; all before '76 when he went into business in Watsonville. Here his first wife died '77. He was married a second time '82 and two years later removed to Soquel as a farmer. I have no record of a family. Born in New Haven, Conn., Aug. 15, '20.

McCOLLUM, Joseph

B in New Brunswick, Can., Oct. 24 '30 of Scotch parentage, soon located in Chester co., Pa., but not an addict of the long hours and hard work of the farm. From age 11 a mariner, not so remote from land as to be unable to catch the excitement attendant upon the gold discovery. To Calif. via Cape Horn in Dec. '49, reaching SF the following June. McCollum did not heed the gold call, however, but shipped to Panama in the coast-wise trade then to Sacto as a crewman for a river schooner, finally buying a vessel for the SF hay trade. About '54 he gave up trying to make a fortune this way and returned to the soil in the Pajaro valley. His first year profit of \$2500 enabled him to make a down payment on a 200 acre farm for which he paid \$60 per acre. Here he practiced diversified agriculture, providing everything for the home table and amassing a fortune. His profits from sugar beets alone on this tract as late as 1901 amounted to \$10,050. A 2nd lt. in the local militia during civil war days. His wife was Ellen Hallett, a native of Penn. Both, two child. and three grand child. were living in 1902.

HAIGHT, Lansing

To SF Sept. '49, reaching Sta Cruz the following month to build a dam for the Bennett sawmill, Cooper bro's. store on Front st., another store for George Chappell on what is now Water st., a home for Tom Fallon on the upper plaza (probably a remodeling job on the Eagle hotel) to '51, thence to Hangtown, Downieville and Marysville to '67 when he returned to erect a steam sawmill on Soquel creek five miles above that town. To Arizona as miner and smelter operator '70. In '88 back from Pima, Ariz., to testify in the trial of Jesse Graham for the murder of Dennis Bennett, to which he was an eye-witness. Claimed to have built a vessel for Sleydell (J. C. Lydell?) '50 "and still hold a mortgage for it" '88.

GRIFFITH, Romulus R., Jr.

'49, from Baltimore with Cincinnati Schultz aboard the *Jane Parker*, in business in SF for a time after the vessel, which started Jan. 26, came to rest on the SF mud flats Oct. 29. He was prop. of a store in the old Eagle hotel on the upper plaza '50 with Jonathan Harrison, being elected auctioneer to conduct the county tax sales this year and a deputy of Sheriff Francisco Alzina. I have no info on his later life, save that he was living in the eastern states as late as '93.

GODCHAUX, Lazzarre

A Frenchman in business in Sta Cruz '50 who with Jacob Blackburn '52 opened the first store in Watsonville, nearly broke '54 when he loaned heavily on a big potato crop that found no market the year before but game to take Eliza Bellemere, daughter of Amidi Bellemere of Watsonville, to wife Nov. 25; still a merchant at Wat. '64, but about this time in business, too, in the Tracy area as liquor merchant

LUCAS, Frederick William

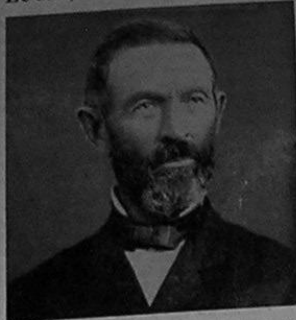


Photo from Rose Rostron col., courtesy pub. lib.

B to old New England stock at Plymouth, Mass., July 27 '31 son of a machinist who started to work in the local iron works but found he couldn't resist the sea; willing to give up the life of a fisherman after two years he jumped at the chance of coming to Calif. as cook aboard the brig *Mallory* arriving in SF Sept. 12 '49. To the mines at Weber Creek wintering at the Benicia arsenal with a salary of \$150 per mo. and rations; eventually to SF on another government job through the spring of '50 thence to Mariposa until storms made life in a tent unbearable, helped get the town of Martinez on its way, then to Tuolumne as miner and hotel-keeper, following for a time the life of a rancharo prince in the Livermore valley and as a farmer at Mission S. Jose for several years before becoming similarly engaged in the Salinas valley, thence to a farm in the Pajaro valley and by '66 as a lumberman in Sta Cruz. Elected city clerk '78 for one term and city treasurer and tax collector from Aug. 1 '98. Of child. born to his marriage with Mary A. Sylvester July 11 '62 Judge Harry C. Lucas is still a prominent figure in the county bar, when he thinks of it able to boast of being "a son of a sea cook."

SANFORD, Asa Preston

Called "Sandy," somewhat active in Sta Cruz from Nov. 30 '47 when he purchased a 200 vara lot from Juan Perez on the east bank of the San Lorenzo river from about the present junction of Garfield and Water streets for \$200. On Feb. 9 '48 he filed a preemption claim on a mile square of timberland, contemplating erection of a lumber mill, perhaps in company with John Hames, Adna Hecox and Thomas Fallon whose adjoining claims are filed the same day. To the mines in the gold rush, back Feb. 10 '49 purchasing enormous holdings in the mission where in company with L. B. Clements (q. v.) he became one of the leading and one of the first licensed businessmen of the county; for a time leading the life of an affluent country squire with business as far away as Stockton, but shortly reduced to starting in all over again to grub out a living with a squatter's claim on Rancho Corralitos. He was one of the first road commissioners in the county, elected assessor '52, commissioner for laying out the Pajaro road between Aptos and the river '53. Died at his farm home Sept. 4 '74.

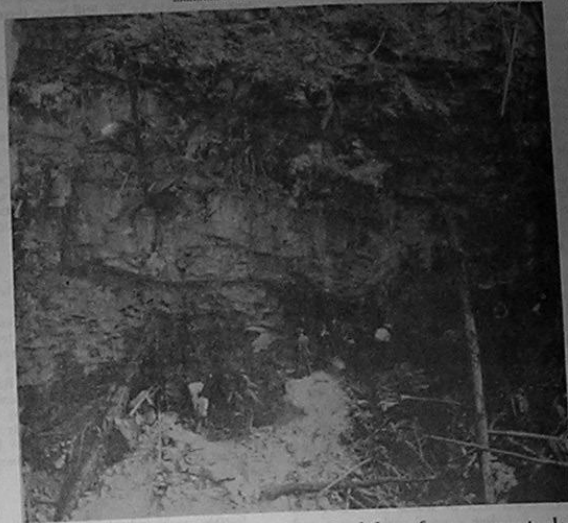
HILL, Henry S.

In Sta Cruz '50. There is a great deal of confusion about this and another man of similar name. (See Adam Hill). Henry Hill, '47, perhaps with one of the mil. cos., owner of an SF lot, was a memb. of the constitutional conv. '49 from the San Diego dist., native of Va., aged 33, soldier by profession. Henry S. Hill seems to have disappeared from Sta Cruz for a time after '50, but was back again '56, subscribing to the Sentinel in order to get McElroy, the prop., to move it to this side of the bay. On Sept. 17 '57 he became the husband of Mary H. Uhden, who with Dorothy Uhden and Eliza C. Boston June 13 '63, in the courthouse, appeared before the Rev. C. B. Wyatt, clergyman of the Episcopal faith to witness the baptism of Laura Katie Hill, b Sept. 15 '58, and Edward Seymour Hill, b June 14 '60. The family home was "above the Mission" in '62. Hill perhaps died about this time. On Jan. 10 '69 Mrs. Hill became Mrs. Charles Kay.

ELDEN, John B.

Bro. of Charles D. and possibly, also, of Andrew Jackson E— from Portsmouth, O., '50 or earlier, being among the first merchants in Sta Cruz as a saloon keeper. From '54 agent of his bro., Charles in the management of the latter's Sta Cruz estate; but from '58 himself a resident of his old home town. In '64 purchaser of the Sta Cruz property jointly owned by Charles and his wife, Mary. All were then living in Ohio. In '75 returned to Sta Cruz to spend several months with his friend, E. Briody, emigrating in the spring of '76 to Arizona where on the 1st of July he died. Left no family.

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