

Footsteps on the Sands of Time

The County's Pioneer Legion

By AUNT MATHILDA

ABELL, Edward Myers

From Philadelphia to Calif. '49 aboard the *Louis Philippe*. '49. His name appears on the rolls as Abel and Abell; possibly one of a number of a family of New Yorkers (the himself from Baltimore) prominent in bus and politics in Calif. through civil war days. Helped settle Sta Cruz '49, being well acquainted with the reputation of the several residents of the community, in SF '50 attempting to promote Edmund R. Kellogg's "Town of Branciforte" on the east side of the San Lorenzo, but back in Sta Cruz later in the year with Richard Fitz Scott operating the Union House. Last local reference I find to him is '53 when he and Scott sold their hotel to Brewitt Sinclair. Living in Baltimore '90.

ADELL, Richard

'50, at Soquel, perhaps wintering from the mines.

POWELL, John W.

Enlisted in Co. E, Calif. bat. '46; returned to live in Sta Cruz '48. In S Jose '50.

PREWETT, James Levy

B in Alabama Sept. 27 '25, overland from Ark. with John Dockery '49, to the mines; reached Sta Cruz later that year. On the first poll list '50, being among the city's first mechanics, carpenter and blacksmith conducting the Eagle stables and being engaged to build the ME church at the corner of Mission and Green streets. Part of his home property on the hill overlooking the mission was given to the community for Evergreen cemetery. His principal income was derived as a stockman in SLOb co. By '68 he was able to write "Gen." behind his name. A large landowner, he never married. Died in this city of cancer Jan. 17 '93, leaving his Sta Cruz prop. to Sarah (Pollard) Dyer who had nursed him during his last years.

PRICE, Rodman

Native of NY, to Calif. as purser of the *Cyane* in Sloat's fleet, serving for a time as second alcalde at Mont. sent south with dispatches and from Mazatlan east with additional ones. Back to Calif. '49, being purchaser of Sta Cruz prop. March 27. However, it was an SF investment he had made two years before that gave him his wealth. He returned to NJ '50 with his profits, was elected to congress after a time, becoming governor of his adopted state after another time.

PEACE, James

Native of the Orkney Isl. of Scotch and Danish parentage who claimed to have jumped ship from the Hudson Bay co. vessel *Nereid* at SF '18; but perhaps not before '38. Exiled to S Blas in the sedition scare of '40; back '41; working in the redwoods as a mechanic; listed in SF '44, aged 45; living at Half Moon Bay from '47-8 to '78; in later years catching fish and clams on SF bay for the San Mateo trade.

PEDERICK, Joshua

'49, sawmill builder with Hamilton Bowie (q. v.) to '51.

PECKHAM, Robert F.

B in Charleston, RI, Jan. 30 '27, on his own from age 14; at 17 a carpenter, at 18 a sailor before the mast who ran away from the whaler *Cabinet* at SF in Aug. '46 and hid among the Mormons until the vessel sailed. Spent the winter of '47-8 as a farmer in the Pajaro valley, going to the mines in July '48. He chanced to be present at Sutter's fort in Oct. when the party of 100 wagons captained by Edward L. B. Smith (q. v.) pulled up. The first person 19-year-old Annie Elizabeth Smith saw was young Peckham and vice versa. On Jan. 14 '49 they walked to the altar.

About this time the Smith family settled in Sta Cruz. Here Peckham was persuaded to try his hand at house building, inverted the roof, which fact caused the family '50 to abandon the manse in favor of a tent set up at San Juan.

Peckham was by turn soldier, lumberman, clerk, miner, carpenter, farmer, who had changed occupations a half dozen times a year prior to Feb. '49 when he settled in San Jose, opened a store in a tent and (unguided) studied law with two

office here being in the courthouse across the street from his home; boarded of county prisoners, district attorney, road commissioner, selling hand-cuffs to peace officers, chairman of the American State party; at Watsonville '60-62 during the time E. L. Williams studied law; back in Sta Cruz '62-3 as county judge. While on a trip east '64 prepared the memorial to congress that paved the way for establishment of the town of Sta Cruz with congressional blessing as a means of clearing land titles. In '65 formed a law partnership with Judge Payne of S Jose, dissolved '70 in order to permit him to take over management of the S Jose Woolen mills he organized the year before. Still president and general manager of the ex when he died Aug. 4 '90. His wife had died at Boonville, Mendoc. Co., Jan. 24 '89 while visiting a daughter. The last of their nine child. died 1942.

PECKHAM, John F.

In Sta Cruz prior to '50; in '57 a deputy co. clerk; served later for many years as an agent for the Wells Fargo express co. in San Mateo co.

PELTON, John Colter

In Sta Cruz '50; described by Georgiana Bruce Kirby (*Her Diary in Riptide*, Sept. 23 '48) as "half fool, half knave" who lost money for Eliza Farnham in farming here. He was, however, an educator rather than a farmer known in after years as the founder of the public school system in SF and one of the foremost men in his line in the west. Died in March, 1911, in SF in a one-room shack, destitute and alone. Aged 85 years.

PENFIELD, Edwin S.

Apparently one of a family from NY City in Jan. '49; employed by Anthony from '50 and partner from '53; collector of state common school fund with Anthony '54; memb. Sons of Temperance '55; candidate on the republican ticket for county school super. '56 when he was engaged in a mining venture on Hoy creek.

PERKINS, John C.

'48, from Honolulu; engaged here in the mining excitement '63.

PER LEE, Theron R.

'47, to Calif. as lt. in Co. K NY vols; lawyer in SF '48 and pres. of the guards; jp and editor of the *Placer Times* '49; elected this year as assemblyman from this dist. of the state legis. called to convene at S Jose Dec. 15; appointed county judge on resignation of Wm. Blackburn '50 with a home on the upper plaza, not adverse to keeping a bottle under the table and serving until June 1 '54. He lived in Watsonville for a time, in NY '79-80 and in Baltimore '83.

PERRY, George

'50 conducting a bowling alley on the upper plaza with J. M. Wilson.

PERRY, John Bourne

Native of Sandwich, Mass., b about '14 to Calif. from Providence RI March 6 '49 aboard the *Nahumkeag*, trying his hand at mining with disastrous results to his health and settled in Sta Cruz as a carpenter with Wm. P. Nickerson from '52 and poss. earlier. Sent east for his family of two sons and a daughter to his wife, Elizabeth, who was a niece of W. H. Greene (q. v.) The daughter, Mary E., opened a private school in the front room of her father's house for 25 pupils a few weeks after her arrival in '53, aged 15 years. Within a short time she was engaged as asst. to Eliza Farnham in teaching the first public school in Sta Cruz.

John died about '70. His daughter, one of the most prominent women of her times, m. A. P. Jordan March 4 '59 and became the mother of three child. before his death '66. Her second husband was Dr. P. B. Fagen. Both her husbands are ment. in this issue.

PARSONS, Henry F.

'50, living in Scotts Valley; died '56. Some confusion exists between this man and another of the same name (q. v.)

PATRICK, Joshua

and 'one cow in Meder's herd.' R. H. Sawin, apparently the only friend who knew much about his family, became the adm. and as such immediately charged that John B. Phillips of Mont. came here and carried off his cash and notes. The estate went through eleven years of experience before Jan. 12 '63 Sawin was able to turn over the unstated proceeds to a brother in Chester (Hen?) NH.

PARRISH, Joshua

B in Ohio Jan. 25 '15; to Calif. by an undesignated route Aug. 8 '49, apparently not interested in mining. Established himself, seemingly, at Soquel before '53 when he returned home to wed the gal of his choice. In '54 elected road supervisor for Soquel, *Sentinel* subscriber '56 acquiring 119 ac. in the partition of that rancho '60. He and Mrs. Parrish became the parents of five child, all of whom are now deceased. There are several descendants.

PARROTT, John

B in Va '10, for many years engaged in trade on this coast coming originally with a grand smuggling scheme which ended disasterly with the wreck of the *Star of the West*. Sympathetic with the "Bear filibuster" he was in Sta Cruz '45 to witness the deed under which Majors agreed to turn over the Zayante grant to Graham after the country became American controlled; being at this time in the US consular service at Mazatlan. Returning to the US overland in '46 he heard of the Mex. war and sent the message to Sloat which enabled the latter to reach Monterey ahead of the British vessel *Collingwood* and thwart the possibility of foreign intervention.

To Calif. to live at the outbreak of the gold excitement; a large investor in the Pajaro valley where Feb. 24 '53 he m. Mary E. Williams, apparently his second wife, unless this man was a son; on the co. bd. of supers. from '56 and its chairman until '62 when he seems to have moved to SF. Banker and financier he died in SF '84, leaving a widow, several child. and grandchild.

Parrott was largely responsible for the development of the Calif. powder works here, he or one of his sons being on the board for years. The investment co. he organized 100 years ago in SF still bears his name.

PARRY, Dr. Isaac

Overland from St Jo with a bro. or son, George, in a company that had started from Ohio but combined with cos. from four other states and comprising in all about 300 persons, April 14 '49, in Sta Cruz from '50 practicing medicine, listening to and repeating legends of earlier times, constructing roads, serving the county as physician and coroner and investing in John McElroy's weekly *Sentinel* but not possessed of business sense in this regard and by '57 required to file a petition in bankruptcy. One of the leaders of the Sons of Temperance who carried his pledge to northern Calif. where he died about '70. Not less than five others of his name are recorded in Sta Cruz in early days; all, I presume, his child. One, Mary in Sta Cruz Dec. 4 '56 m. James Simpson and became before her death the mother of the lady who in turn became the mother of the US representative from this dist., Jack Anderson of San Juan Bautista.

PARSONS, Dr. George

An English subject, resident of the US from boyhood, practicing dentistry in Sta Cruz from '50, justice of the peace and assoc. judge of the ct of sessions, one of the first businessmen to be licensed; naturalized '52 when he became owner of a portion of Rancho Refugio and prop. of a dairy in partnership with Alfred Baldwin; chairman of the bd of supers. '54; still a memb. '57; excluded from a portion of this ro. '55 in favor of Meder's claim; *Sentinel* subscriber in the lumber bus. '56; defeated cand. for pub. adm. '59; poss. the man who wrote a biog. of James W. Marshall '70 when he was a resident of the Pajaro valley. Died at the home of Ira Allen near Wat. '75, aged 77 years. His will was said to have been forged. Allen (q. v.) was sent to prison as a result.

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