

Footsteps on the Sands of Time

The County's Pioneer Legion  
By AUNT MATHILDA

STEVENS, Barton Hinds

B in Me. '30, to Calif. with B. F. S., possibly also G. C. S.—Owner of lands on the edge of the potrero '31 or earlier and by '57 of a home-site at the mouth of Branciforte creek, with B. F. S.—prop. of a blacksmith shop on Front street (?)  
The record is not entirely clear with regard to this man or B. F. S., whom I suppose to have been his father. It is possible that he and Wm. T. Hunter were in bus. together briefly in Watsonville prior to '57 when they were the prop. of a smithy at the corner of Vine and Mission street where today a Texaco service station stands. In Sequel Sept. 16 '58 he m Miss Sarah A. Pollard, a daughter of Deacon Lawrence P.— and an arrival of '53; about this time he dissolved his assoc. with Hunter and erected a wooden building to house his forge on a lot ad-

joining the Shelby furniture store (Staffler block) which in '32 was dismantled to allow for the construction of the Hoteling (St. George) hotel. The home erected for his bride was on Church street where George Otto and his family afterward lived; teacher of music, poss. vocal, in Otto & Trust's new Washington Hall on Front street in '60, singing in the Fourth of July quartet that year, father of Fred and about to become the father of Charles. Resident of Mont. co. as a stockman after '61; died Sept. 2 '64 of blood-poisoning, the result of playing with a bayonet. The widow m George Dyer (q. v.) in '66. His sons died without issue.

STEVENS, George C.



B in Mass. Jan. 1 '22, around the Horn to Calif. reaching SF June 9 '49 with a wife who died enroute. From '50 resident of Sta Cruz, mason by trade following the trade as plasterer, occasionally elected to minor positions; member of the first town council created by act of Congress '66; with a taxable income '67; m March 18 '68 Melvina D. Kittredge, a widow, helping to establish the local policy of the Union club. Died June 16 '88, widower for the second time. Left no child.

STOWELL, Levi

Representing the SF dist. in the legis. '50, indicating that he came at least by mid-'49. About '55 settled in Branciforte gulch on a pre-emption claim where perhaps he intended to make his home. Unable to prove up on it by the time of his death here May 19 '60. His friend, Evan Russell, in fulfillment of his wishes perfected the claim in '67. Stowell, native of Dedham, Mass., left a widow and several relatives there. The widow died without issue in that town '68.

TIDBALL, Thomas T.



B near Allegheny City, Pa., Oct. 2 '26; from '27 a resid. of Ohio where he learned, first, the latter's trade under his father and then turned to printing. At outbreak of the Mex. war he enlisted with Co. A, 3rd Ohio inf., serving 14 months. Overland with one friend for Calif., meeting up with a party at Independence, Mo., who contracted to bring them across for \$75. At the Platte he and his friend purchased a ferry for \$50, operated it for a week during which they cleared \$150; with this welcome addition to finances caught up with their friends and proceeded to San Bernardino. Going on to LA they caught a boat for SF, made a living chopping wood for a time before trying their luck in the placers with little success. As a rancher near Sacto he had high hopes of becoming wealthy, went east to buy cattle, but was taken sick and did not get back for three years. The second trip was made by water '57. This year he settled in Sequel as the editor of a paper perhaps with Judge Skirm, elected pub. adm. '58 and appointed assessor vice Wm. Henderson resigned, candidate for county clerk '59 and for assessor '61 being a vice president of the Union the latter year. When the shot was fired at Charleston he organized what was organized as Co. K 5th Calif. inf., himself as capt. and was on his way to Arizona to protect the southern routes overland from potential rebel assaults, engaged for the most part in fighting Apaches for which he was cited by the Arizona legis. Mustered out in the fall of '64 he returned to Sta Cruz and in the fall of '65 was elected county clerk, grantee of a home site by the town council '66, possessed of a large taxable income '67, Union party leader, part owner Sta Cruz Times '68 in which year he became collector of revenue at SF.

He never again called this city "home." Lived for the most part in Jolon in later years. Still living 1902. His wife was an Ind. lady, nee Helen M. Hill. They were the parents of three, only one of whom survived to become the mother of four of her own.

STONEMAN, Gov. George



Native of NY, West Point grad to Calif. '47 as lt. of Co. C 1st dragoons, transferred to the Mormon bat. as quartr. soon rejoining his old cmd. In '49 one of the men engaged in setting out the town of Sta Cruz, but keeping his nose relatively close to the grindstone of duty in garrison, exploration or Ind. service to '55. At outbreak of the civil war he was a major of the reg. army; rapidly to brevet maj.-gen. of vols. and earning an enviable reputation as a cavalry officer. He was with Sherman 'to the sea', captured by the rebels; released in time to be in on the kill. To Calif. after the war, to live in LA; taking an active part in the second conv. as a democrat, member of the rr com. Elected gov. '84.

STOWE, W. W.

'50, an atty. and election judge in the Pajaro valley; assemblyman '53-'5, a prominent Whig elected speaker the latter year. He in company with Dr. Ford and Alby lost their shirts in the potato gamble of '53 when they were tenant farmers on 200 acres of Rancho Corralitos. In '89 Stowe was an attorney with the SP rr. co.

HINDS, Thomas William

B in London, Eng., '18 died in Sta Cruz Nov. 15 '70, most of his adult years being given over to the ministry in the Congregational (Puritan) faith. His oldest son was born in Chester, Eng., '45 just before Hinds concluded to leave his homeland. A visit to Paris didn't cause him to lose the urge to wander. He came to the US almost immediately, roved the eastern seaboard and finally settled on the Iowa frontier before starting for Calif. with his family of wife and two child. '50.

Mrs. Hinds died of cholera in the sink of the Humboldt on that overland trip the day the state was admitted. The minister continued to SF for two years, being in on the organization of the Congregational church here and settled in Sta Cruz to become its first minister. He was married in Sta Clara Dec. 14 '53 to Marietta Gifford, the widow of Asa, recently arrived in Sta Cruz to take over her husband's estate. By this second marriage he became the father of three other child.

His ministry here carried him to all parts of the county. Hinds being one of the first to deliver a protestant sermon in the Pajaro valley; active in the Sons of Temperance and from '55-'60 the prop. of a private school opened in a building back of Elhu Anthony's residence on School street.

Of the child, who came across with him Alfred Joseph H— was one of the leading businessmen in the community in his day. The daughter, America, became Mrs. Duncan McPherson.

SUDDEN, Cat. Robert

Native of Scotland b '32 who landed in SF in '50. Finding mining unprofitable, he engaged in the fishing business along the coast, finding time also to become the skipper of vessels plying the coastal trade. By '60 in company with Capt. Goodall (q. v.) S— was engaged in shipping Salinas and Pajaro valley wheat to various parts of the world, owner of a portion of Rancho Pajaro and hav-

ing an interest in Camp Goodall at Pajaro Landing. He was a highly respected man, especially among his employees, who helped him to amass a large fortune. When Lompoc was created by the temperance element of the society of his day he moved there, acquired large holdings and became a farmer intensely interested in the sea traffic of that region. While visiting in SF Sept. 3, 1908 the old boy died leaving a widow and three child. His descendants are still carrying on the name at Lompoc.

STEWART, Robert B.

With Co. D, Morm. bat. '47; purchasing land in Sta Cruz in '48; perhaps to the mines this year without returning.

STOESSER, Otto



B in Gaggenan, Duchy of Baden, Nov. 18 '25; to Norfolk, Va., '46, to Calif. aboard the *tenobia* from Phila., reaching SF Aug. 13 '50. Found brief employment with a syrup manufacturer before trying his luck at Burns' Diggins in the southern mines; back in SF by X-mas '50 with \$4.85 in his jeans. To earn money he accepted a job as flunkey aboard the steamer *Columbus* to Panama and return, then in a wild goose chase to Long Bar on the Feather river in search of a quick buck. Back in SF he found a job as a dishwasher for ten days, then as a second pastry cook in a Kearney st. shop until fire reduced the town to ashes; back to pastry cooking again for a brief time then back to the fountain where he found his first emp. in the state; the largest candy manufacturer on the coast. Dr. J. J. Vandeburgh induced him to come to Sta Cruz to engage in merchandising in the shoe factory of Albert Foerster (q. v.), reaching here March 10 '53. Within 30 days he was on his way to Watsonville to go into business, reaching that city April 10 or 11 in wagons supplied by Hiram Imus and sons. Here he accumulated extensive property; banker, farmer, merchant, city treasurer from the time the town was founded. He was the father of two child, the last of whom died a quarter of a century ago. Mrs. Stoesser was married to Doran of Wat. A bro., Theodore, arrived in later years, but may not have remained.

STEVENS, Benjamin F.

'50, an Amer. blacksmith taking up a land claim for sowing lots in the potrero. Father, or poss. much older bro., of B. H. S— (q. v.); Sta Cruz road super. '53; at Butano '54, entrusted with upkeep of the roads in that dist. this and the following year. Sta Cruz Union club leader '61, about to move to Soledad, Mont. co., as a farmer. Here he died '83. Rowland gives him the name of Burton F. and places him in ownership of land near the mouth of Branciforte creek '57, unless this latter is a son. The infrequency of the name's appearance would indicate there were not more than one of the initials resident here.

STONE, William H.

B in Albermarle co., Va., '18, son of natives of the Old Dominion; soon settled in Tenn.; widower with a son, John, when in '49 he came overland from Boone co., Mo. Suffered from three years of hard work with little success; returned to Mo. '53, back (Continued on Page 7)

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