

*Grass Roots
Of
Anderson Valley*



Cover Sketch By Gwen Brown

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Of
Anderson Valley*

By Blanche Brown

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Dedicated to the memory of Zola (Burke) Willis, descendant of early settlers, without whose memories, copious notes, friendships and understanding of all the people around her, this book would never have been written.



The author, Blanche Brown in 1956.



Zola and Alexander Willis

Preface

The seeds of this book were planted in a friendship between Zola (Burke) Willis and this writer as we played together as girls in Grandfather Prather's field near Anderson Creek.

Both of our families were very close to the grandparents. In an age when survival and privation were a remembered way of life, we were steeped in admiration and respect as the storytellers sat around the Anderson Valley fireplaces telling of the old days.

Zola and I met again in our early 30's as I taught school at Peachland, riding horseback there each day from our home on Indian Creek. On stormy days I stayed with Zola and family, and as the old memories came back, we realized that the first settlers were quickly slipping away, and that the spoken history of those early days would soon be forgotten. We found that relationships of people in Anderson Valley were being lost. We felt that this should be made clear in writing.

Many records of this history were consumed by a fire that burned the Brown home in 1956. Zola always kept the thought in mind that we must continue with this or the children of Anderson Valley would lose a sense of history which surrounded their lives.

I rewrote the story with the help of old records from many of the families. The accuracy of my brother, Kent's, memory assisted me greatly, as his diary had been destroyed in the fire.

Zola and I collaborated on information, going to visit old friends, old cemeteries, etc. in Ukiah and Cloverdale. Added to this was voluminous correspondence with people far from Anderson Valley.

Our constant interest and communication kept the history alive through many years.

This volume deals with settlers coming here in the 1850's. This writer has an accumulation of notes, sketches and memories of those families arriving in the 1860's and 1870's. A few family sketches had been written before the family home was burned. Even the notes were lost. These families were: Reilly, Guntly, Vestal, Clow, Ingram, Burger, Nunn and Lawson. With more time, it is hoped that these stories may also be written and published.

My nieces and nephews are constantly supportive of me in this history. Zola's children are also helping to see the history finished.

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White Men Find And Move Into Anderson Valley

The Anderson-Beeson Story
By Blanche Brown and Zola Willis

In the fall of 1851, three young men, trailing a wounded elk, walked out on the rocky point above the spot where Boonville now stands, and looked with delighted eyes at the prospect of a home below. To the west, dark forest covered the hills; the sunny eastern slopes, more open, were marked with shadowed ravines. Across the level valley floor, two small streams flowed, to meet and form a creek which moved out of sight down the valley.

Descending, the youths crossed the level to the western foothills and made a camp near what was later the Tom Ombaun home. Here they lingered several days, exploring the vicinity, and becoming more enchanted with the place each hour. A thick turf of dry grass carpeted the meadows. The level land where the race track lies today was covered with manzanita bushes, their berries hanging in rich clusters; clumps of black oak, resplendent in their lacquered autumn leaves, cast pleasant shade, as did the madrone, doubly colorful with its Indian-red bark and brilliant berries. Deer roamed as sheep today; bears feasted on huckleberries in the woods; elk bands came out of the timber to graze; small animals abounded.

The young men reluctantly broke camp, returning to Lake County. To the head of their family party, Mr. Walter Anderson, they reported that they had found a "big meadow, and it was like a Garden of Eden."

The first family to settle in Anderson Valley was composed of Mr. Walter Anderson, his wife, two of her three children by a former marriage, three of his by a former marriage, and the couple's own three children.

The facts that we have been able to gather concerning "The Pioneer Woman of Anderson Valley" and her family are as follows:

Rhoda Crouch was born in Kentucky in 1805, and in 1826 she married Isaac Beeson. Three children were born to them: Martha (year unknown); Henry, Nov. 3, 1828 in Hopkins County, Kentucky (one reliable source gives it 1829); and Isaac, born Sept. 15, 1833. The family came west to Boonville, Missouri, where Mr. Beeson died. The widow, in 1840, married Mr. Walter Anderson, who had seven children by a previous marriage, as follows:

- Nancy, born in Indiana in 1812
- Robert, born in Indiana in 1816
- Luciana, born in Illinois in 1818
- Joseph, born in Arkansas in 1822
- "Pinky," born in Arkansas in 1825
- William, born in Arkansas in 1827
- Chloe Ann, born in Arkansas in 1830

Of these, we are concerned only with "Pinky," William, and Chloe Ann, as the others either had remained in the East or stayed on in Missouri. This is also true of Mrs. (Beeson) Anderson's only daughter by her first husband, Martha, who was married to a Mr. Stevens and did not come to California until 1862, when she came with the same wagon train as the Cornelius Prather family.

While in Missouri, two children were born to the Anderson-Beeson couple. The first was Artemesia Jane, born in 1841. (A clipping from the "San Jose Mercury," dated March 16, 1891, giving facts of her death, gave her birth year as 1843; but family papers seem to substantiate the date of 1841.) The second was Washington, born in December 1843.

In 1845 the Anderson-Beeson family left Missouri and came to California. Mr. Henry Beeson (son of Mrs. Beeson Anderson) has left this statement: "We crossed the plains with Mr. McChristian, with a train of 100 wagons, from Indian Nation to what is now Sacramento." Henry, a sixteen-year-old boy, drove his mother's ox team and she rode with him. We find that the party settled about 16 miles north of Sutter's Fort. Here in 1847 was born the little Rhoda, named for her mother. Descendants say that she was the first white child born in the vicinity of Sutter's Fort, and her advent proved of great interest to everyone near, even the Indians.

The family evidently moved by stages, to Sonoma, to Petaluma, and possibly to Dry Creek Valley. Accounts vary, but while near Sonoma, young Henry Beeson was caught in the excitement attendant on the expedition of Fremont. The latter, after receiving a secret communication from Washington, had suddenly stopped his foray into the north, and camped near the mouth of the Feather River. From here, though without "formal" orders from Fremont, the party was organized which rode to Sonoma, collecting men as it went. Among them was Henry Beeson, who helped to raise the Bear Flag, June 14, 1846. In his last years, Mr. Beeson was honored as the last survivor of the Bear Flag Incident.

We next hear of the family in Lake County in 1848. Here they were settled near Lower Lake. Mr. Mauldin, Lake County Historian for their Centennial of 1962, states that without a doubt, Mrs. Anderson was the first white woman to settle in Lake County.

Mr. Beeson's notes state that they were there when threats of an Indian uprising were heard. Prolonged cruel treatment of the Indians by early cattle men had engendered smoldering hatred, and this threatened danger sent the Beeson brothers, Henry and Isaac, and their step-brother, William Anderson, seeking a safer home. As they hunted for food on the way, they came upon the little valley among the Coast ranges which has since been named for Walter Anderson. On their return to Lake County, they were met with tragic news. Mr. Beeson's notes read, "Kelsey was killed by the Indians and we hurriedly left for Anderson Valley."

Mr. Anderson, Sr., was anxious to accomplish the trip before the rains set in, so they made all haste back to what is now called "Oat Valley," near Cloverdale, where the Indian trail led North. It was hazardous going, with wagons, but to people who had crossed the Rockies and worked their way over the Sierras, nothing seemed insurmountable. At the base of the Cloverdale grade, near the "Alder Glen" sign of today, my Grandfather Prather once pointed out the trail, which was on the opposite side of the gulch from the present highway.

On reaching the valley in the fall of 1851, the pioneer group, ten in all, set about building a cabin of logs; but despair must have seized them when Indians appeared, and with threatening signs made it known that the whites must leave at once. What tragedy for that tired mother, who had thought at last she could call a spot "home," only to find that she must retrace the difficult way back to safety. Mrs. Anderson's granddaughter, Mrs. Birtie May (Murray) Adcock, highlights this poignant moment by relating that her grandmother, in her frightened haste, was forced to leave her spinning wheel.

Mrs. Anderson evidently told and retold this story to the little Rhoda in later years, who in turn passed it on to her daughter who is now Mrs. Adcock. Rhoda herself, four years of age, evidently kept a deep impression of the fear and haste of the departure.

Back the family traveled, but no details of the trip have been found. It is probable that they spent the winter somewhere in Dry Creek Valley, west of the present town of Healdsburg, because the history of Mendocino County tells us that Mr. Walter Anderson and family left Dry Creek and came to Anderson Valley in 1852, becoming the first white settlers. No mention is made of the first trip.

Mrs. Adcock raises here an interesting question, quoting her mother as saying that by the spring of 1852, the family had found "others" who would come with them, thus making it safer to return and settle. Who the "others" were would distinctly add to this story. No mention of them is made in the "History," leaving the impression that they were alone. However, Mr. Anderson's desire for good land made him resolve to return. So the family in the spring of 1852 came again in sight of the chosen spot. Mr. John McAbee, a very early settler, is quoted as saying that he remembered Anderson telling him that he and his wife, each with a child behind the saddle, rode first into the valley.

The spot chosen for a home was one mile west of Boonville, at the foot of the hill just beyond the site of the new high school. A log house, with earth floor and "clay and sticks chimney" (described to me by Clara Lawson and Jessie McCarty), was erected -- the first house in Anderson Valley.

Mr. Anderson dealt in horses and cattle. Petaluma was his nearest market, and stock for sale had to be driven there. He was evidently a hardy man, as tales of his longevity are numerous. A grandson of his says that his mother,



View from Burger Rock.

Rhoda (Anderson) Murray, showed him the tree where the old man killed his last bear, and she said, "And he was 108 years old at the time." He never wore glasses, according to others, but was an excellent shot with a rifle, even in his later years.

The wife was not so robust, her death occurring in 1857 when she was but fifty-two years of age. Hardships had taken their toll. She was buried on the hill across the road from their home, on land owned by her son Henry. On the weathered stone is inscribed:

*Rhoda Crouch
A Native Of Kentucky
Born 1805 Died 1857
Married Isaac Beeson 1826
Married Walter Anderson 1840
The Pioneer Woman of Anderson Valley -- 1852*

Mr. Anderson, who at one time was considered quite prosperous, owning land and stock, seems to have lost everything. In 1858 he traded his land to Mr. Joseph Rawles for eighty head of horses. This is the last record we can find of Mr. Anderson, where he went, what happened to his sons, William, "Pinky," and Washington, and where he died are questions we cannot answer.

Later an article in the Pacific Rural Press of March 17, 1888 by T. J. McGimsey of Boonville (kindness of George Lawson) states that old Mr. Anderson spent his last years in Ukiah with his daughter and son-in-law, Artemisia and Joe Lamar, and is buried there.

J. D. Ball

The second settler was Jefferson Davis Ball, who arrived in the fall of 1852. His granddaughter, Melissa (Ball) Kendrick of Ukiah, has given us the following sketch of his early life. The History of Mendocino County of 1880 gives the same facts.

Mr. Ball (known always in our valley as "J.D." Ball) was born in Madison County, New York, on February 22, 1827. In 1844 this young man had left his home and traveled to Wisconsin where he farmed until 1850, then joined a party bound for California. He traveled by horse-team, and reached "Hangtown," now Placerville, in August. Here he tried the mines for two years, then came on to Anderson Valley, where he chose an acreage about a mile northwest of what is now Boonville. Here he put in crops and planted an orchard. While preparing this spot for a permanent home, he built a little log house for his own headquarters in what later became Boonville. It stood about opposite the present Boonville Hotel, northeast of the Indian Trail which was the only "road" through the valley.

About 1854, Alonzo B. Kendall arrived. (See Kendall story.) With him was his twin sister, Melissa, a young widow with two little girls. J.D. Ball and Melissa (Kendall Filkins) were married January 1, 1885, and the log cabin became their residence. Emily (Ball) Miller and Zola Willis both remembered the log building. When a house was completed on the ranch where he had homesteaded, the little family of four moved there.

To the couple were born eight children. The Ball ranch was an active place. In addition to farming and sheep raising, Mr. Ball set up a brick kiln on the low land below the house. He used manzanita wood, of which there was an ample supply, for the fire, and clay from nearby Con Creek. (This creek was written as "Cohn" Creek on early deeds.) He built one of the first apple driers in the valley. Getting dried apples to market in Petaluma (later in Cloverdale) was easier than transporting the fresh fruit, and later settlers followed this practice.

Mr. Ball was a prominent man in the community, and greatly respected. He and his wife, Melissa raised a fine family, and their names will be listed at the end of this sketch. His wife passed away on March 16, 1892, and his death came on May 6, 1900. They are buried in the Con Creek Cemetery, adjoining their home place.



Edna (Ball) Halliday

Family Of J. D. Ball

- I. Jefferson Davis Ball -- (February 22, 1827 - May 6, 1900)
 Melissa Flavilla (Kendall) Ball -- (October 18, 1835 - March 16, 1892)
 Married January 1, 1855

Her daughters by Filkins:

A. Ellen Filkins (About 1851 - census 1860)

No issue

B. Ethel Filkins (About 1853 -)

Married James Smalley

C. Julia Flavilla Ball (November 25, 1856 - June 22, 1900)

Married Henry Wightman

D. Mary Paralee Ball (February 14, 1858 - December 1, 1911)

Married Carrick Newton Hale

Children:

1. Leslie Ravone Hale

2. Thekla Marguerite Hale

E. Martha Merinda Ball (February 27, 1860 - November 1920)

Married James Hunt

F. Jay Dee Ball (March 5, 1863 - August 8, 1915)

Married Lola May Ledford November 30, 1886

Children:

1. Glendolyn (January 14, 1892 -)

2. Hazel Dee (April 26, 1894 -)

3. Clair Lyle (April 1, 1899 - October 7, 1919)

4. Clyde Elaine (April 1, 1899 -)

Married Sidney Baker who died. She lived in Ukiah.

G. Chardon Scott Ball (May 28, 1865 - January 15, 1896)

Married Minnie Rose September 8, 1888

Child:

1. Melissa Ball, who married 1st, Mark Carpenter, 2nd Otis Kendrick (Ukiah)

H. Emmet Burnham Ball (May 19, 1869 - January 21, 1941)

Married Etta Ingram November 8, 1891

Children:

1. Edna (February 18, 1893 -)

Married Harold Holiday

2. Ernest (December 15, 1894 -)

Married Marguerite Davidson

3. Velma (June 18, 1898 -)

Married Judge Lilburn Gibson. He recently died.

She lives in Elk, Mendocino County.

4. Lola (April 16, 1904 -)

Married Vernon Wilson, Ukiah

5. Irvin (December 17, 1906 -)

I. Dreme Life Ball (October 9, 1872 - 1918)

Died without issue.

J. Emily Ermanonda Ball (November 24, 1877 - December 13, 1956)

Married 1st, Jacob Wallach July 4, 1897

Children:

1. Beatrice, married Elmer Sweet.

2. Ronald

Mr. Wallach was killed in a tragic hunting accident in 1899.

Married 2nd, George Milton Miller

Child:

3. Milton McSpadden

Postscript on J.D. Ball Story

In writing the foregoing sketch of Mr. Jefferson Davis Ball, an interesting part of his life may have been omitted, because of a lack of final proof. The statements of two responsible and credible descendants are enough to instigate research into passenger lists of ships surviving the rigors of a trip around Cape Horn in 1848 or 1849. This chapter, if substantiated, would have had to relate events before 1852, when Mr. Ball crossed the plains and settled in Anderson Valley.

Mrs. Emily (Ball) Miller was the youngest child of Mr. J.D. Ball. During a visit to her in Ukiah several years before her death, Zola Willis and I found her still alert, interesting and full of humor. She and Mrs. Willis had known each other from childhood and of course we talked of early days in this valley. In speaking of her father, she said, "I've heard him say many times, 'I rounded the Horn twice,' and he could have told us so much."

Then I still have a letter written to me by Mrs. Edyth (Kendall) Dinwiddie of Petaluma when she was about eighty years of age. She said that she had always understood that her grandfather, Young I. Kendall, and J.D. Ball were together in Anderson Valley about 1849. That after a few months here they returned to the East, her grandfather to Vermont and Mr. Ball to New York. If they came and returned by ship, this would account for Mr. Ball's statement that he rounded the Horn twice. Later Mr. Kendall returned to our valley with his young son, Alonzo Kendall, and daughter Melissa, who became Mrs. J.D. Ball. (See Kendall story.)



Mary Ball

The Kendall Story

Alonzo Burnham Kendall was born October 18, 1835 in Windsor County, Vermont. He died February 24, 1929 in Ukiah, California, and was buried in Manchester, Mendocino County, California.

He first married in 1859 Martha Blake, who was born in or about 1843 from Cosuskie County, Indiana. They were married by S. W. Howland, Justice of the Peace of Anderson Valley. (She was 16 years old, he was 24.) My source was the Courthouse in Ukiah.

Their children were:

1. Lon B. Kendall, born February 15, 1863
2. Fred W. Kendall, born May 9, 1865
3. Courtney L. Kendall, born Sept. 21, 1870

She married Ada Cain; 1 son, Lonzo Kendall who had 2 sons, Beryl and Leon

4. Edith N., born October 1, 1878.

My source was Mrs. Clyde Brewer (her name is Thelma), and Josie Estes Gowan. Mr. Alonzo Kendall remarried in 1883. The second wife was Mary Sears. Three children were born to them:

1. Lowell Elwood, born March 28, 1889.
2. Edna, born September 17, 1892.
3. Thelma, born March 11, 1895. Married in Ukiah to Clyde Brewer.

While in Anderson Valley, Alonzo Kendall built a small hotel and a store. Nate Ingram helped him as a carpenter. Kendall called the place Kendall City. He was appointed Postmaster by Abraham Lincoln. (See Edith Dinwiddie's letter). Mr. Kendall stayed in Anderson Valley from 1864 to 1867.

He crossed the plains in 1854 by ox team and settled in Anderson Valley. He moved to Manchester in 1867 where he lived until he joined his daughter, Mrs. Brewer, in Ukiah. He lived to 93 years and was survived by 14 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 1 great, great-grandchild.

Between the years 1865 and 1870, W.W. Boone arrived in Anderson Valley. Some time after Kendall left for Greenwood in 1867, Boone renamed the town Boonville. Some interesting sidelights on the age were gained from a letter written to me in 1963 by Alonzo Kendall's daughter, Edith Kendall Dinwiddie, who was at that time 85 years old.

She wrote, "Once my father organized a drive of cattle to the 'mines.' By the time the cattle arrived, the price had fallen and he and his neighbors lost money."

It is of interest to note here that Alonzo Kendall and Melissa Kendall Ball were twins. Their mother had lived but 11 days after their birth. The lonely and restless young father came to California with J.D. Ball and thereafter in later years came to live there. Of course the twin sister later married J.D. Ball

(see Ball story).

Another interesting letter of Edith Kendall Dinwiddie's was sent to me by John W. Taylor whose uncle was George O. Sturtevant. Edith had read a copy of the Ukiah Republican Press in 1949 in which there was a sketch of Judge George O. Sturtevant's life. She reminded him in her letter that she had gone to school to him at Manchester. She wrote, "do you remember a solemn, brown-eyed, pudgy little girl at Manchester named Edith Kendall? I was that rather unhappy child. If you have no recollection of me, I shall not hold it against you, for after all, a good many years have gone by since then. As a measure of how many, let me mention that my seventy-first birthday is due next month."

I also would like to quote once more from the letter so that we may see how propriety and women's fashions have changed. She wrote to the Judge, "I must tell you of one memory connected with your teaching that has amused me many times. I hope you enjoy it too. Once a girl wore oxfords to school instead of the high-topped shoes then proper for girls. You gave us a serious talk (as I have done in similar circumstances) about the immodesty of such dress and suggested that we write to some fashion authority for guidance. Any such persons would surely advise us, you said, against such daring footwear for school."

Miss Blanche Brown
Philo, California

Dear Blanche:

I noticed in your interesting talk the other day that you mentioned an Edith Kendall Dinwiddie.

I possess a letter which she wrote to my uncle, the late George O. Sturtevant. I thought you might like to have the enclosed photocopy.

Sincerely,
John W. Taylor
Superintendent of Schools

Judge George A. Sturtevant
Ukiah, California

Dear Judge Sturtevant:

When my neighbor let me read a recent copy of the Ukiah Republican Press, it set me thinking, for in it was a brief biographical sketch of you, one of the teachers who helped me on my way. I really must write to you.

Do you remember a solemn, brown-eyed, pudgy little girl at Manchester

named Edith Kendall? I was that rather unhappy child. If you have no recollection of me, I shall not hold it against you, for after all, a good many years have gone by since then. As a measure of how many, let me mention that my seventy-first birthday is due next month."

Because your life story was so interesting to me, I shall assume that you might like to see some of the highlights of mine. I went through Mendocino High School and University of California. When you heard that I had been awarded a scholarship at U.C., you made me proud by sending congratulations. You quoted Kant, I remember: "So live that the acts of thy volition shall without contradiction stand for law universal." I'm quoting from memory, so you see it made an impression.

After graduation, I taught four years, then married in 1905. In 1914 I resumed teaching, and when I retired in 1946, I found that my years of service added up to more than thirty-four. They were, for the most part, good years. I would not have chosen any other work.

I must tell you of one memory connected with your teaching that has amused me many times. I hope you may enjoy it too. Once a girl named Deedie Inman wore oxfords to school instead of the high-topped shoes then proper for girls. You gave us a serious talk (as I have done in similar circumstances) about the immodesty of such dress and suggested that we write to some fashion authority for guidance. Any such person would surely advise us, you said, against such daring footwear for school. I have had many an inward giggle over this as I have looked at a modern bathing beach, or even followed a young flapper in pedal-pushers down Main Street. The things the years have done to women's fashions!

I am glad to hear that now, full of years and honor, you have come back to the beautiful Ukiah Valley. You may have forgotten me completely, but you were an Important Person in my life and I am gratefully yours,

Edith Kendall Dinwiddie

July 6, 1963

Dear Blanche Brown:

I am sorry that I have so little information, but here are such facts as I have. My grandfather, Y.I. Kendall, and my uncle, J.D. Ball (he was her uncle after he married her aunt, B.B.) came to California in 1849, as I remember the story. I have no written records to bear me out. You see, my grandfather had lost his young wife (aged 21) when her twins were 11 days old, and he must have been a lonely and restless man. These twins were my father, Alonzo, and my aunt Melissa. She became the wife of J.D. Ball.

I know nothing of the history of these two men up to the year my father came to California, 1854. He was 19 in October of that year, and his father made the journey back to Vermont to bring him to California. (By what route I do not know.) My father said they travelled by railroad to Peoria, Illinois, and there

outfitted themselves with horses and wagons for the trip West. Father said they were six months on the way.

You would probably not be interested in the fact that after a year, Father returned to Vermont, expecting to remain there. But after a year or so, California called and he came West again. I can remember nothing about his routes of travel, except that once at least he crossed the Isthmus of Panama. This may have been on a later trip East.

Father said they traveled through this part of the country (Petaluma), but were afraid to settle for fear of Spanish grants, that they could never clear title to the land. So they traveled on north to Anderson Valley. There they saw wild oats belly high on the horses and thought it would be a wonderful place to raise livestock. So they stayed there.

I know little of those early days in the Valley. My father was postmaster for a time, had a commission signed by Abraham Lincoln. I remember seeing this, but have no idea what became of it. He also ran a small hotel for a time. Was asked to teach school but declined. Once he organized a drive of cattle to "the mines." By the time the cattle had arrived, the price had fallen and he and his neighbors lost money. In the earliest days, Healdsburg was the nearest post office. Petaluma became an early shopping center and a shipping point for hogs and cattle. Father moved his family to a ranch near Manchester in the late 1860's. He had once worked in the Albion Mill. Perhaps that is how he learned that his asthma would be improved by the coast climate.

Courtney Kendall of Point Arena was my brother. He was born in 1870, being eight years older than I, so I am sure he did not come to Anderson Valley in 1855. Some misunderstanding of the pronoun "he," I imagine. I think Father said there was a Prather in the group he came to the Valley with.

I am an old, old woman, 85 the first of next October. I am in reasonable good shape now, able to do my housework and most of my gardening, but this state, of course, cannot be expected to last many more years. I am duly thankful and enjoy each day as it comes. If you come to see me, I will show you the little horse-hide covered trunk with "F.F.B." in brass-headed tacks on its lid. This is my grandmothers trunk she brought with her when she married my grandfather, Young Ichabod Kendall (What a name!) in 1834. Her twins were born October 18, 1835, and she survived only 11 days. Her name was Fanny Flavilla Burnham.

When I stayed a few days in Rutland, Vermont, I went for a walk and crossed both Kendall Avenue and Burnham Avenue. I felt sure I was in the land of my ancestors. There were no living relatives for me to question however.

I am most interested in your project of writing the Ball story. All success to you.

Sincerely,
Edith (Kendall) Dinwiddie

Burgess-Prather Story

William Prather (Feb. 16, 1832 - June 17, 1908)

Diana Elizabeth (Ingram) Prather (Feb. 16, 1836 - July 11, 1906)

One of our earlier pioneers was William Prather, born on a farm near "old" Vernon in Jennings County, Indiana. His father, John Lloyd Prather, had been born on the same farm in 1801. William's mother, Mary (Johnson) Prather, died when he was very small, leaving five children. Of these, Cornelius, the eldest, and William, the youngest, were both to become early settlers in Anderson Valley. The father remarried, and the new wife, Mary (Lane) Prather, proved a much loved stepmother to the children.

Giving up the farm, John Lloyd took his family to Scott County, Indiana for a time, then in 1845 they moved to Iowa. This was the fall before Iowa became a state. Here at Keokuk they lived for two years, then moved to Libertyville in Jefferson County. There were more children by the stepmother.

When William was about fifteen, he was "bound out" to a neighbor to learn the shoemaking trade. He was to serve for five years, according to the papers of indenture. But sitting at a cobbler's bench all day, to a boy accustomed to the freedom of a farm was too much. When only a short time remained for the fulfilling of the contract, he heard that a caravan bound for California was forming in the community. When it set out one morning, nineteen-year-old William was with it, riding a good horse and driving cattle for the leader of the party. This was early spring of 1852.

After an arduous journey of six months, the caravan reached Sutter's Fort on the 20th of September, 1852. Grandfather Prather spent only two weeks trying the mines, and "decided that that life was not for him!" (My mother's quote.)

The slow trip down the Sacramento Valley came next, ending in Solano County. He worked on ranches near Benicia and Vacaville for two years, learning blacksmithing and working with metals to make farming tools.

But Grandpa Prather wanted land. Learning that the Mexican Land Grants of that area were in litigation in our courts, he decided to go farther north. Reports of a valley that was not included in land grants had reached him. On the west, the "Grant Del Norte" or Garcia Grant extended from the mouth of the Gualala River to the Mal Paso, and inland to the top of the range dividing Anderson Valley and the coast. On the northeast, the Yokayo (Ukiah) Grant which was only about eighteen miles long and one mile wide, did not include the range of hills between Ukiah and our valley. This left what became Anderson Valley free from grants.

My mother wrote that her father, William, started north "in a vehicle resembling a buckboard" and that a man came with him whose name she could not remember. This was in 1854. Driving through the level land was



Frank Hayes and Hattie Ellen Brown were married December 8, 1885. This photo was taken a few years later. She was the oldest daughter of William and Diana Prather.



Carl Prather

easy, and they reached the site of the present Cloverdale, where a "trading post" had just been established. A mile or so north of this, they came to the big hill. Today Highway 128 zigzags smoothly to the top, but the Indian trail started to the right across the gulch. I am sure of this because of the following incident: About 1906, my mother and I were returning from Cloverdale with Grandfather Prather driving. At the base of the hill at the present "Alder Glenn Springs" sign, he pointed across the gulch and said, "There's where we came in." There the ascent was low and gradual, leading to the open ground on the top of the range of hills. We have no facts of the rest of his trip, but he probably kept on high ground most of the time and, like the Beeson-Anderson boys before him, had his first view of our valley from "Burger Rock" on the Floyd Johnson Ranch.

About five miles down the valley, they saw a cabin to their left, on the bank of what is now Anderson Creek. Here they found Mr. Amos Burgess, who had arrived in 1853 from Virginia. He was raising stock and farming, and needed help in developing the place. Mr. Burgess and William became partners on the ranch. Here we lose track of the man who came with him into the valley.

The partnership worked well. After about five years, Mr. Burgess wrote to his sister, Nancy (Burgess) Ingram and her husband, Daniel Holder Ingram in Iowa, urging them to come to California and here. This was before the Homestead Act of 1862, and "squatters' rights" were still legal. In 1859 the Ingram family arrived and settled on land joining the Burgess place. Their home is now the property of Marion Prather, grandson of William Prather and also great grandson of the Ingrams. (See Ingram story.)

In 1860 on Dec. 8th, William Prather married Diana Elizabeth Ingram. At that time, William and Amos Burgess sold their place to a man named Hawkins. The young couple lived with the Ingrams for a short time, and "Uncle Burgess," as my mother called him, built a log cabin in the foothills southwest of Boonville.

In the spring of 1861, Grandfather Prather bought back from Hawkins the original place on the bank of Anderson Creek. Mr. Hawkins went to live on what is now the Fitch ranch. Grandfather added acreage to the place by squatters' rights and by purchase. Here, on July 11, 1861, my mother, Hattie Ellen Prather was born, the eldest of nine children, eight of whom grew to adulthood.

The home became too small for the family. Grandfather chose a spot above the road on higher ground, dug a well and built a house. On the southwest corner, he planted a cypress tree for shade. They moved to the new home about 1874. We lived about a half mile north of this Prather home from 1890 to 1901, so I well remember the place. The cypress tree by then was huge and we children played in its branches. My older sister, Madge, climbed too high, fell out and broke her arm.

The home became a typical pioneer farm. The fields below the road,

luxuriant with wild oats at first, produced hay and grains. Two orchards and a small vineyard flourished. In a stream below the road a dam was built, providing irrigation for the upper part of one field. Here Grandfather grew the best of vegetables, berries and melons. The lower part of the stream was wooded, and provided a perfect camp spot in summer for any of the family. A spring gushed out of the bank just above. Here always hung a dipper made from a gourd. The large end of the gourd had been hollowed to make the cup part, the long part became the handle. After drying in the sun, it was a unique drinking cup. There was another up at the house by the well for the Indians, who always stopped on their trips from Ukiah or Hopland to the coast.

We children were always excited as their parade came up the walk. The men came first, carrying nothing. The small ones came next, smiling shyly at us, followed by the squaws, their backs loaded with bundles. After quenching their thirst, the men sat down along the porch edge to rest, while the squaws went up to the chicken yard where a huge oak tree stood. They shook the branches or hit them with a long stick and the acorns came rattling down. These were piled on old pieces of cloth, the corners of which were knotted together for easy carrying.

In a short time, Grandfather appeared from the garden below with a heavy looking grain sack over his shoulder. He stepped onto the porch, put down his load and out rolled big watermelons. How their stoic faces changed. With broad smiles they began cracking the melons on the edge of the porch and devouring them. Appreciation was expressed very simply, as one of the men volunteered, "Good, Bill." Grandfather's attitude, like that of our other pioneers, was understanding and friendly, and because of this, we had no Indian trouble.

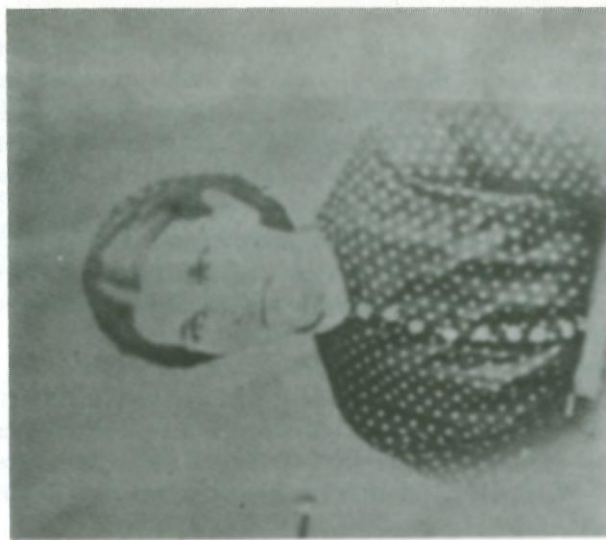
Grandfather built a hay barn and a stable below the road. In my memory (the nineties), there was always a row of horses at the long manger, cared for by my uncles. Earl and Johnny became ranchers and stock raisers, Johnny after his marriage living on the Ukiah road on what was then the Elledge ranch. Carl and Maurice were "teamsters" at that time. Hauling tanbark out of the valley around the turn of the century, meant maneuvering six horses, bells jingling, around the narrow dangerous turns. Riding today to Ukiah over Highway 253, two or three of these long abandoned bits of road can still be seen. In bringing the heavily loaded wagon around a high point, the lead horses seemed to be stepping over the edge. Small wonder that the Ukiah road was then in "Boontling" jargon, named "The Poor Way."

Grandfather made use of skills he had learned earlier. Aunt Eva (Prather) Ornbaun told me that one day he said he was going to see if he could still make a pair of shoes. This he did, producing quite a creditable pair, "made from scratch."

He built a shop below the road where horses were shod and metal work done. Most of the family on leaving home were given a hand-crafted



Earl Prather



Diana E. Prather



William Prather

fireplace set, complete with andirons, shovel, poker and tongs. He built the first bathroom I ever saw just off the kitchen. No plumbing, of course, and water had to be heated in two large black, cast iron pots and carried the few feet to the tub. This tub he made from wooden boards, and lined it with tin. These sheets of tin were salvaged from empty five gallon cans of coal oil used in lamps. Mother remembered the day when her father returned from his semi-annual trip to Petaluma for supplies, bringing their first lamp. He filled it with oil outside, but little Grandmother wouldn't let him bring it into the house -- "It would explode!" All stood gingerly on the steps until he had it lighted and proved its safety."

In this home, William and Diana Prather spent the rest of their lives. Of their children, Hattie, Earl, Millie, Maurice and Carl continued to live in this valley. Johnnie and Maud, after their marriages, were residents of Ukiah, and Eva of Ormbaun Valley and later of Greenwood (Elk). In 1900, a reunion was held at the old home. We have a picture of the family at that time showing three generations.

Diana passed away July 11, 1906 and William on June 17, 1908. They are buried in Con Creek Cemetery near Boonville.

Children of William and Diana Prather

I. Hattie Ellen Prather (July 11, 1860 - November 28, 1939); married Frank Hayes Brown (March 17, 1861 - June 9, 1939) on December 8, 1885.

Children:

A. Madge Irene Brown (January 2, 1888 - August 6, 1973); married Victor Hugo Henley (September 16, 1886 - July 6, 1950) on July 6, 1910.

Children:

1. Marjorie Blanche Henley (December 12, 1914 -); married Paul Berkley Bean (February 14, 1911 - October 12, 1944) on Nov. 29, 1936. Lloyd Arnold Warner (March 13, 1911 -) on April 2, 1949.

Children:

- a. Robert Leach Warner (June 21, 1935 -)
- b. Mary Beth Warner (December 9, 1940 -)
- c. Alan Paul Warner (December 27, 1945 -)

2. Frances Dora Henley (May 10, 1917 -); married William Eugene Browning (January 19, 1919 -) on January 9, 1942.

Children:

- a. David Berkley Browning (May 31, 1945 -)
- b. William Forrest Browning (July 23, 1947 -)
- c. James Russell Browning (March 10, 1953 -)

3. Victor Ralph Henley (June 6, 1919 -); married Phyllis Mills Hooker (May 1, 1921 -) on December 12, 1942.

Children:

- a. Kathryn Eileen Henley (April 6, 1947 -)
- b. William Lloyd Henley (March 24, 1949 -)
- c. Thomas Victor Henley (November 16, 1952 -)
- d. Patricia Lynn Henley (November 8, 1954 -)
- e. Elizabeth Ann Henley (November 5, 1956 -)

B. Blanche Hester Brown (April 24, 1892 -)

C. Ester Elizabeth Brown (January 9, 1894 - September 26, 1977); married Charles Arthur Crispin (May 24, 1885 - November 1960) on May 6, 1916. Children:

1. Harriet Jean Crispin (November 12, 1916 -); married John Robert Piper (June 26, 1913 -) on September 21, 1937.

Children:

- a. Matthew Barr Piper (May 30, 1940 -)
- b. Carol Dee Piper (July 9, 1942 -)
- c. Kathleen Blanche Piper (Jan. 3, 1945 -)
- d. William Thomas Piper (May 26, 1948 -)

2. Kathleen Blanche Crispin (April 24, 1920 -); married Londo John Franci (March 9, 1913 -) on May 19, 1941.

Children:

- a. Jason Arthur Franci (October 17, 1943 -)
- b. Steven Dale Franci (July 29, 1945 -)
- c. Cindy Lee Franci (February 6, 1947 -)

3. Norma Elizabeth Crispin (March 15, 1926 - May 1979); married (1) Don Tindall; (2) Lewis H. Walker (July 4, 1923 -) on November 19, 1945.

Children:

- a. Pamela Jean Walker (February 2, 1945 -)
- b. Patricia Ester Walker (June 21, 1946 -)
- c. Diane Elizabeth Walker (July 15, 1953-); married Kenneth Reid Montgomery on March 30, 1985.

4. William Isaac Crispin (July 11, 1929-); married Marion Skrbek (April 21, 1929-August 24, 1980) on September 2, 1947. Married Lillian later.

Children:

- a. Kent Jerome Crispin (October 7, 1948 -)
- b. Jeffrey Lane Crispin (September 19, 1950 -)
- c. Rebecca Lynn Crispin (September 7, 1955 -)

5. Linda Diane Crispin (March 13, 1939-); married (1) Larry Noerenberg. Children:

- a. Jeanette Lynn Noerenberg (July 26, 1960 -); married Wayne Aiello (Feb. 1, 1946 -).
- b. Melanie Ellen Noerenberg (Oct. 24, 1961 -); married Charles Ewing (May 3, 1956-). Child: Jessica Misty Ewing (Oct. 10, 1983-).

Linda then married (2) George Hamilton; (3) Everett Liljeberg (November 14, 1943-) on November 16, 1978.

D. Justin Kent Brown (September 13, 1896 -)

E. Donald Ross Brown (January 23, 1899 - May 20, 1959); married Mary Pamela Harris (February 15, 1899 -) on June 20, 1929.

Children:

1. Malcolm Ross Brown (June 6, 1930 -); married Gwen Higgenbotham (May 7, 1935 -) on July 29, 1953.

Children:

- a. Jeffrey Alan Brown (October 4, 1954 -)
- b. Brian Donald Brown (May 2, 1959 -)
- c. Ellen Gayle Brown (February 8, 1964 -)

2. Dale Harris Brown (December 23, 1932 - May 1, 1964); married Roma Jones (October 26, 1938 -) on July 15, 1957.

Children:

- a. Sonia Lynn Brown (October 18, 1958 -)
- b. Julia Louise Brown (August 20, 1960 - 1962)
- c. Charles Walter Brown (May 3, 1962 -)
- d. Diana Dale Brown (December 16, 1964 -)

3. Everett Earl Brown (July 14, 1937 -); married Vivian Perry (September 12, 1937 -) on May 11, 1963.

Children:

- a. Evan Jarrett Brown (August 16, 1967 -)
- b. Dale Ross Brown (November 9, 1969 -)
- c. Matthew Wayne Brown (July 20, 1973 -)

II. John Thomas Prather (December 27, 1863 -); married Kate Brown (January 10, 1866 - December 9, 1932)

Children:

A. Hale Carl Prather (February 27, 1890 - August 5, 1952); married Caroline Susana Beckley (July 23, 1890 -).

Children:

1. Margaret Ernestine Prather (September 20, 1913 -)
2. Robert Hale Prather (February 26, 1915 - February 28, 1980); married Barbara Jean Smith (January 9, 1914 -) on December 31, 1938.

Children:

- a. Robert Hale Prather (November 10, 1941 -)
- b. Nancy Carolyn Prather (October 16, 1943 -)
- c. Margaret Anne Prather (December 19, 1946 -)

3. Lois Mildred Prather (December 8, 1916 -); married Glenn Charles Roush (February 29, 1924 - January 1953)

Children:

- a. Maxine Phyllis Roush (April 7, 1949 -)
4. William Beckley Prather (December 10, 1919 -); married Helen Ruth Wilson (July 22, 1921 -)

Children:

- a. Jeffrey Stephen Prather (November 24, 1948 -)
- b. Lance Christopher Prather (February 9, 1953 -)
- c. Peter William Prather (February 23, 1955 -)
- d. Laurie Ann Prather (February 23, 1955 -)
5. Ralph Brown Prather (August 19, 1921 -); married Betty Fuller (October 13, 1920 -)

Children:

- a. Richard Carl Prather (April 30, 1942 -)
- B. Harvey Duncan Prather (September 22, 1891 - April 26, 1970); married Helen Iola McGimsey (May 29, 1894 - July 18, 1975) on August 28, 1915.

Children:

1. Darrell Duncan Prather (- 1969); married Alice Hodges.
Child:
a. Sharon Lee Prather, Then Darrel married (2) Nachita
Children:
b. Harvey Prather
c. Darrell Prather
d. Helen Prather
2. John Harvey Prather (January 12, 1921 - July 30, 1970); married Marjorie Hazel McDowell (March 1, 1922 -) on June 17, 1944.

Children:

- a. Michael John Prather (September 30, 1946 -)
- b. Pamela Lynn Prather (March 18, 1950 -)
- c. Patrick Larry Prather (September 12, 1953 -)
- d. Kimberly Ann Prather (August 25, 1962 -)
3. Frances Berneice Prather (d. Oct. 25, 1975); married William C. Lee on June 21, 1943.

Children:

- a. Lani Frances Lee (December 28, 1944 -)
- b. Rona Denise Lee (January 17, 1951 -)
- c. William Howard Lee (March 16, 1955 -)
- C. Willis Heber Prather (March 23, 1895 - June 6, 1943); married Eva Fawcett (August 26, 1883 - July 1, 1957) on January 11, 1919.

Children:

1. Margaret Kathryn Prather (July 5, 1920 -); married Frank Del Buono on November 5, 1940.

Children:

- a. Eileen Dorothy Del Buono (December 24, 1941 -)
2. Thomas Fawcett Prather (August 16, 1922 -); married Mary A. Tardelli on March 30, 1946.

Children:

- a. Margaret Lee Prather (August 24, 1953 -)
- b. Peter Willis Prather (April 2, 1956 -)
- D. Frain Prather (April 16, 1897 - ?)
- E. Ardis Prather (August 27, 1903 - December 1979); married (1) Harold de Motte in 1922.

Children:

1. Barbara Dian de Motte (August 6, 1923 -); married Harry Meyn (February 23, 1913 -)

Children:

- a. Jeffrey Meyn (June 8, 1950 -)
- b. Joel Meyn (May 1, 1952 -)

Ardis then married Ross Conoly

2. Eleanor Ardis Conoly (February 18, 1933 -)
3. James Ross Conoly (August 2, 1938 -); married Eve.

Children:

- a. Sheila
- b. Michael

III. May Prather (January 30, 1866 - 1869)

IV. Earl Prather (March 27, 1868 - July 4, 1944); married Edna May Ormbaum (May 9, 1869 - July 27, 1934) on November 29, 1905.

Children:

- A. Marion (Mike) William Prather (December 11, 1906 -); married Elizabeth Angela Shea (June 4, 1913 -) on December 28, 1937.

Children:

1. Joann Marion Prather (January 1, 1940 -); married Fredrick Borges (1943 -) on September 23, 1978.

Children:

- a. Dennis Allen McGuire (September 25, 1961 -)
2. Albert Earl Prather (January 24, 1942 -)
3. Richard Shea Prather (August 7, 1944 -); married Constance Chadwell (November 2, 1956 -)
Child: Wm. Lee Prather (August 5, 1964-), son of Richard and Cheryl Deely.

4. Michael Donald Prather (December 22, 1951 -); married Patricia Hill (July 20, 1952 -) on March 11, 1974.

Children:

- a. Eric Michael Prather (September 8, 1974 -)
- b. Ryan Robert Prather (December 7, 1977 -)
- B. Donald Earl Prather (June 26, 1913 - June 3, 1967)
- V. Millie Prather (March 27, 1870 - January 1, 1951); married Ralph Ellsworth Brown (August 18, 1868 - April 1948)

VI. Maurice R. Prather (July 23, 1872 - August 31, 1914); married Ella Clow. (born Jan. 5, 1879) Children:

- A. Wayne Ellsworth Prather (March 12, 1900 - October 29, 1918)
- B. Zella Prather; married Sidney Cross.

Children:

1. Edward Cross; married Karen.

Children:

- a. Eric Cross (December 1967 -)
- b. Jessica Cross (December 1972 -)
- VII. Carl Sumner Prather (November 10, 1874 - September 6, 1967); married Maud Ann McGimsey (November 21, 1878 - December 18, 1952) in January 1900.

Children:

- A. Lynn Donovan Prather (October 16, 1900-January 1, 1962)
- B. Leo Norvan Prather (March 16, 1903-August 30, 1960).
- C. Katherine Bertha Prather (April 8, 1913 -); married Clarence Ray Eubanks (November 20, 1900 -).

Children:

- 1. Dale Ross Eubanks (April 16, 1934 -); married Ann Lynn Roddy (October 13, 1937 -) on September 11, 1955.

Children:

- a. Kathryn Ann Eubanks (June 9, 1961 -)
 - b. Kristine Lynda Eubanks (April 17, 1963 -)
- VIII. Lily Maud Prather (February 3, 1877 - 1950); married Joe Elledge (1876 - 1957) in October 1903.

Children:

- A. William Clair Elledge (October 22, 1904 -)

Children:

- 1. Marie (adopted)
- IX. Eva Inola Prather (November 12, 1904 - March 12, 1957); married Arnold Percy Ombaun (January 25, 1877 - August 13, 1942).

Children:

- A. John Percy Ombaun (November 12, 1904 - March 12, 1957); married Lucille Frances Higgins (May 29, 1905 - March 28, 1973)

Children:

- 1. Judith Ellen Ombaun (April 10, 1935 -); married Robert Ray Ryan (June 27, 1932 -)

Children:

- a. Lucille Lorie Ryan (July 1, 1958 -)
 - b. James Robert Ryan (January 21, 1960 -)
 - c. Chelila Lee Ryan (May 30, 1965 -)
- B. Kenneth William Ombaun (September 24, 1906 -)

Gschwend

John Gschwend (December 25, 1826 - January 24, 1891)

Elizabeth (Guntly) Gschwend (- 1897)

Married in Illinois, February 24, 1853

The above couple were both natives of Switzerland. Mr. Gschwend arrived in New York June 15, 1842. Going to Illinois, he engaged in the sawmill business. Here he was married, and the couple went to Kansas. In 1855 they, with a company of Swiss families, crossed the plains with ox teams, bringing a band of cattle. Reaching California, the Gschwends came directly to Anderson Valley, choosing land at the northwest end to settle. Here they found lush and extensive pasture for their stock, and fertile soil for the plow.

But also a third factor appealed to Mr. Gschwend. In the years he had spent in the East, he had liked working with sawmills, and here were groves of Douglas fir and coast redwoods. A stream was close by, and a sawmill would mean lumber for his own buildings and a source of income as other settlers arrived.

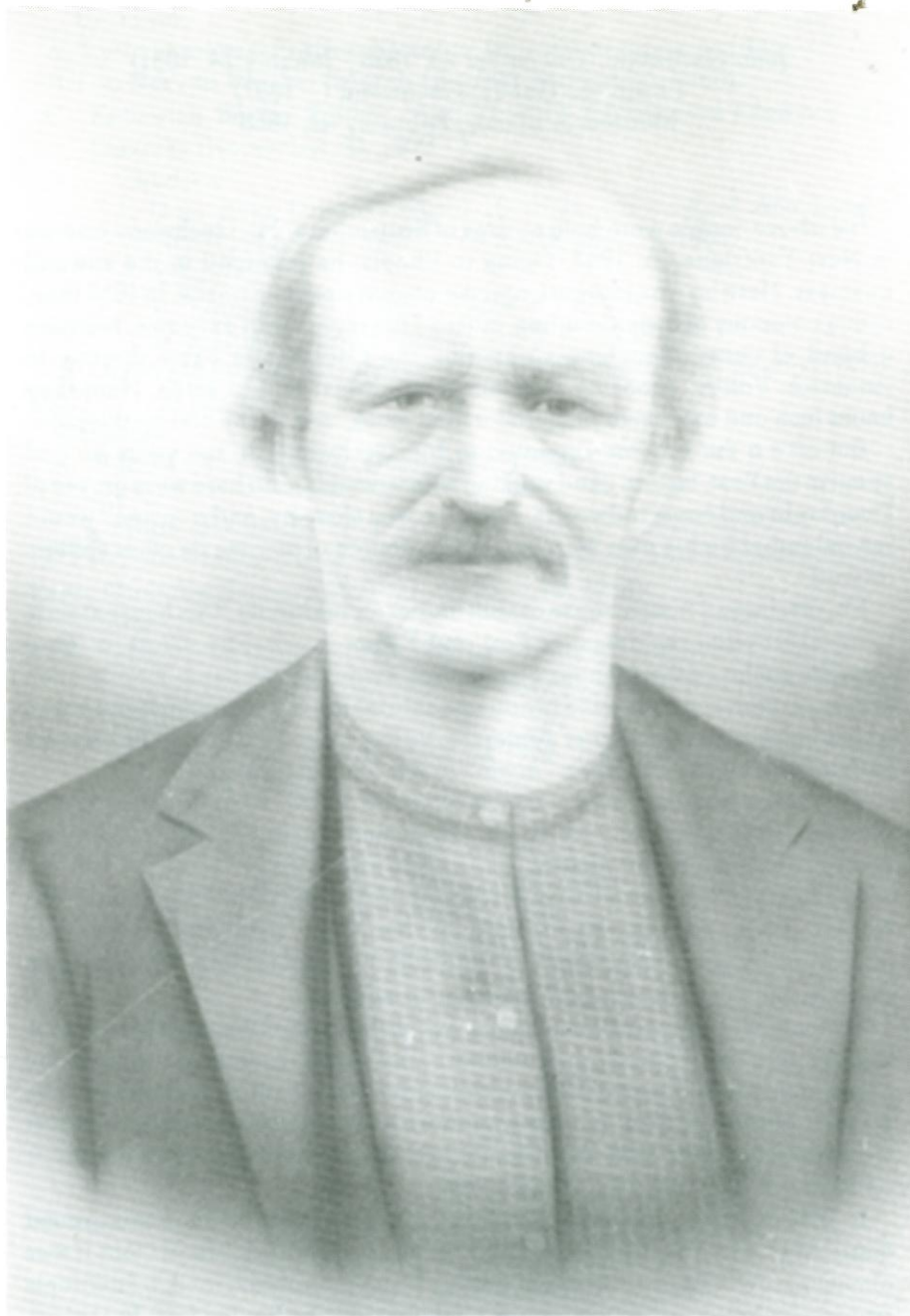
Mr. Gschwend built a house of split timber for his family. This house stands today (1976), the residence of Earl and Esther Clark. Mrs. Clark, a great granddaughter of the pioneer couple, has made her garden a beauty spot. The more-than-a-century-old grapevine shades the walk leading to the patio, which faces a long sweep of Anderson Valley hills. This house, its original foundations intact, has been "home" to five generations.

Within the next few years, this spot in the valley became the site of a pioneer Swiss community which Mr. Gschwend named "Christine." Among other arrivals were the Guntlys, Gossmans and Weists.

In 1856, Mr. Gschwend built a sawmill over Mill Creek, a branch of the Navarro River. As there was no road into the valley, machinery for this was carried in by pack train over the trail from the south. Here, over the next decade, he sawed lumber for the arriving settlers.

Water power was used at first, then, according to the History of Mendocino County of 1880, "Steam was added." The same source states that the capacity of his mill was 8,000 feet, and that he cut in all 20 million feet. The sawmill burned in 1875, but many of those wide, beautiful redwood boards were already distributed about the valley. Two or three are still at our place on Indian Creek, used in an old corral.

In 1864 this pioneer added a grist mill, and flour for the settlers was ground there. My mother remembered that it made such a dark bread "that it was almost black." (Today it would probably be sold as health food, no nutrients removed.) Previous to this grist mill, all flour had to be hauled from Petaluma.



John Gschwend

Mr. Gschwend served as supervisor from this community from 1862 through 1865. Another achievement of this enterprising man was the building of the Ukiah road in 1867. He needed a market for his lumber, and started the road by private subscriptions. When such financing failed, he finished the job himself. The county supervisors made him "road overseer" over this road.

In 1868 he secured a permit from the supervisors to establish this road as a "toll road." The gate was in Bell Valley, about in front of what came to be known as the "Old Miller House." (See Vestal story for operation of the "Toll Gate.")

Mr. Gschwend opened the first wagon road from Anderson Valley to the coast by way of Navarro Ridge. He became acquainted with the coast people, particularly those of the town of Mendocino. At this place, about 1865, plans were being made to establish a local Masonic Lodge. When a charter was granted to Mendocino Lodge No. 179, F. and A. M., John Gschwend was a charter member. He is listed as such in the recent "Centennial" booklet published by the Mendocino Lodge.

This book describes the building and ornamentation of their hall by the noted woodcarver Erick Jensen Albertson. His beautiful group statuary can be seen from Highway One atop the building. Descendants of the Gschwend couple to the fifth generation are justly proud that John Gschwend, pioneer, logged the single redwood tree from which the symbolic figures were carved.

Eleven children were born to the Gschwend couple. Their names will follow, with those of some of their descendants.

Mr. Gschwend's death occurred in 1891. The Masonic Lodge conducted the services at the cemetery in the lower end of the valley. His wife, Elizabeth, lived at the family home until her death in 1897.

Family Record of John Gschwend

Born Canton Sainte Gallen Switzerland on
December 25, 1826. Died January 24, 1891. Buried
in the Shields Cemetery. Also his wife:
Elizabeth Guntly, a native of Switzerland.
Born in 1831; died February 13, 1897.

This couple were married February 24,
1853 in Highland, Illinois.

Children:

I. Mary Gschwend (December 30, 1853 -); married George W. Evans in
1871.

Children:

A. Wes Evans; married Blanche

B. Minnie Evans

C. Many other children

II. John Gschwend II (1853-1929) (from Elizabeth Guntley Gschwend's Bible);
married Julia Moor (in later years an "e" was added to the name). She is the
one who made the beautiful quilts. (Born 1859, died Nov. 22, 1942 from
County records.)

Children:

A. Minnie Gschwend (1880-1951); married Hammer Olsen; foster child
1. Josie Brusa (foster child)

B. Walter Gschwend (1883-April 7, 1948). His ashes were scattered on the
Gschwend ranch. Married Georgia Ridley.

Children:

1. Walter Irvin (Bub) (April 14, 1920 - October 7, 1958); married Mildred
Lister

2. Eileen, married Erfurth, Shorey, Morse

C. Evalyn Gschwend (March 1, 1887 - Oct. 31, 1971); married in Sep-
tember, 1906 to Charley Monroe Bloyd, known as Monty (Feb. 25,
1880-Jan. 19, 1976). Children:

1. Ethlyn; married Bacci. Her son Neal Sparks.

2. Loren (Oct. 27, 1909 -); married S. Hopper and Nellie Hack

Children: Richard, Larry, Loren

Then Loren married Joan Sawyer Thyarks

Children: Joanadel, Georgianna

3. Violet (Jan. 20, 1912 - Sept. 15, 1984); married Valfrid Salmela (March
17, 1914 -) Children:

a. infant, died at birth

b. Monty V. Bloyd (Nov. 1, 1936 - April 14, 1960)

c. April (April 29, 1939 -); married Larry Erlei on March 5, 1955

Children: Jody, Molly, Sally

4. Robin Bloyd (June 22, 1920 - 1980); married Dorothy Ullner in
1944. Children:

a. Robin Bloyd Jr. (May 17, 1945 -); married Carol Meeks on
August 12, 1965

b. David Bloyd (January 19, 1947 -); married Shirley Penny
Bettencourt; div., married Julie Bennett

c. Dale Bloyd (August 4, 1948 -); married Toni Cheek; div.,
married Amy Liljeberg

III. Christine Gschwend (August 23, 1857 - February 20, 1960) Said to be the
first white child born in Anderson Valley; married James Reilly

Children:

A. Joel Reilly; married Winifred Atkinson

Children:

1. Esther Christine; married Earl Clark

a. Christine Patricia, married Riepenhoff

Children Pamela (a twin) died as a child
Justin (a twin)

2. Stanley, married Donna Cox

Children: James, Kathy, Cindy

B. George Reilly; married Bertha Clow (daughter of Reis Clow)

Children:

1. Kathleen, married Domenichelli, div.

2. James, now deceased

3. Lawrence, now deceased

C. Tina, married Barton

D. Zell, married George Jones

E. May, married Wainright

F. Grace, died as a young girl

IV. Conrad Gschwend (April 27, 1859 - February 18, 1927)

V. Martha Gschwend (April 26, 1861 -); married Robert Moor

Children:

A. Ida Moor, married G. Kelly

B. Willietta Moor, married Chess Bloyd, and Gillette

C. Oliver Moor, married Hilda Holmberg

D. Edwin Moor

E. George Moor

VI. Joseph Gschwend II (1863 -); married Henrietta De Young in 1892. She
died in 1901.

Children:

A. Ellis, married Clara Gantz

B. Edwin

The children were raised by the George Williams

VII. Alfred Gschwend (April 27, 1865 -)



Reilly Heights was built in the 1880s by Henry Wightman and other carpenters. Shown in this picture are James Reilly, husband of Christine Gschwend Reilly, and their three daughters.



From left are Martha Moore, Oliver Moore and Christine Reilly.

VIII. Elizabeth Gschwend (January 29, 1867 - August 10, 1951); married Renas David Chappell Burger (August 23, 1864 - May 29, 1929) on January 16, 1889. They are both buried in the Rawles Cemetery.

Children:

- A. Ernest Lloyd Burger (Dec. 17, 1889 - Jan. 1, 1890)
- B. Lenora (died August 10, 1891 as an infant)
- C. Hale Emerick Burger (Aug. 24, 1892-Aug. 9, 1955); married Mildred Gray Sandy (Nov. 10, 1892-Dec. 2, 1982) on Dec. 30, 1918. Both are buried in the Yorkville Cemetery. Children:
 - 1. Mildred Chappell Burger (Jan. 29, 1920 -); married Harold Miller, div., then married Ernie Reinhardt. Children:
 - aa. Gretchen Reinhardt (Oct. 2, 1942 -)
 - bb. Roderick Reinhardt (June 23, 1944 -)
 - cc. Eric Reinhardt (Aug. 9, 1948 - Dec. 2, 1983)
 - 2. Hale Stanley Burger (Oct. 25, 1922 -); married Mazo Moncrief, then Thelma May (Penny) Kowlowski. Children:
 - aa. David Vernon (March 7, 1947 -)
 - bb. Rebekah Leigh (Sept. 8, 1964 -)
 - 3. Robert Keith Burger (Oct. 4, 1924 -); married Gladys Burgans
 - aa. Robert Edward (April 4, 1948 -)
 - bb. Mary Elizabeth (Jan. 1, 1950 -)
 - cc. Susan Elaine (June 11, 1953 -)
 - dd. Donna Kay (Nov. 8, 1955 -)

D. Louise Jane Burger (January 16, 1902 - June 1, 1934). Buried at Rawles Cemetery; married Irvin Ridley, div.

E. Alexander Nathan Burger (October 17, 1904 -); married Wanda Argel Watson on March 17, 1930

Child:

- 1. Thomas Alexander (April 15, 1932 -); married Shirley Graham in December 1954

Child: Samuel Alexander (July 13, 1959 -); Married second to Joyce Louise Nash on July 3, 1963

Children:

- b. Todd Allen (April 8, 1965 -)
- c. Jon Thomas (May 31, 1969 -)
- d. Timothy Wilbur (May 7, 1971);

Married third to Beverly, stepson Lewis Alexander Dingwall

F. Georgia Pearl Burger (October 13, 1907 - Jan. 11, 1979); buried in Yorkville Cemetery as is her husband. Married Wayne Lowrey (September 6, 1900 -

July 3, 1971) on April 8, 1926.

Child:

- 1. Rena Joyce Lowrey (February 2, 1927 -); married August 19, 1950 to Clifford Christen

Children:

- a. Catherine Lucile (March 16, 1955 -)
 - b. Mary Elizabeth (October 10, 1956 -)
 - c. Joan Maureen (June 16, 1960 -)
 - d. Laurie Ann (October 20, 1962 -)
- IX. Andrew Gschwend (Feb. 27, 1869 - Dec. 21, 1942); married Elizabeth Reilly (1877 - 1956) on July 24, 1893

Children:

A. Edith, married John Borini

Child: Norman

B. Ella, married Joe Palmer

Children: three sons

C. Gertrude, married Elmer Ross Lowrey (Nov. 25, 1907 - Nov. 28, 1964) on June 25, 1930. He is buried at Yorkville Cemetery.

Children:

- 1. Delores Lorraine (June 15, 1932 -)
- 2. Everett Lavern (March 7, 1938 -)
- 3. Roy Dale (June 27, 1948 -)

X. Thomas Jefferson Gschwend (April 24, 1871 - May 12, 1942); married Nellie Gertrude Pallady (1881-1955). Div.; married Martha

Children:

- A. Thomas Irvin (1900 -)
 - B. Ross (1902 - 1917)
 - C. Beth Irene (1908 -); married Avalow Jerome Kercher
- Children:
- 1. Nancy Avala; married William Connelly
 - 2. Sue (1934 -); married Richard Olsen in 1953

XI. Catherine (October 29, 1873 - October 18, 1900)

John Cox McGimsey

John Cox McGimsey - third child of
Thomas and Polly (Cox) McGimsey.

Born October 9, 1805 in Ashe County, North Carolina.

Died August 17, 1882 in Boonville, Mendocino
County, California.

Charity Ann (Doughton) McGimsey

Born August 29, 1805 in Ashe County, North Carolina.

Died July 10, 1881 in Boonville, Mendocino
County, California.

The above pioneer, after making his home here, had this to say: "I have lived in six states, and find California best of all."

Mr. and Mrs. McGimsey had left North Carolina for Tennessee. Then with little Maria Louisa they moved to Virginia, where was born their first son, Jeremiah Alderson, in 1829.

At that time many people had been interested in the territory of Illinois for settlement. But Indian troubles made them hesitate. (Source: World Book.) However, on Dec. 3, 1818, Illinois became a state, and settlers began pouring in. After the Black Hawk War, when the whites defeated the Indians at Fort Dearborn, there was less fear of Indian attack, and the McGimseys decided to go to Illinois.

Before leaving, John Cox "Gave a quit claim deed to the family home in North Carolina, thus severing his interests there." (Source, a family brochure prepared by Jeremiah McGimsey.)

This writer knows little of their life in Illinois, but here was born their son, Charles Porter McGimsey, on April 26, 1836.

Missouri was the family's next step in their progress to the West. Here were born the three younger children, Caroline, Lucy Ann and Thomas Jefferson. The latter was born in September of 1845. He was only about three years old when great changes began taking place in California.

An old letter in Zola's possession at one time, tells these facts: "In 1848 during the Gold Rush, Mr. and Mrs. McGimsey with their six children set out from Missouri for California in a covered wagon." According to their given birthdates, the children's ages ranged from three to twenty years.

It seems likely that the start from Missouri was made in the fall and they did not get far, because they "wintered at Council Bluffs" evidently preferring to stay in Iowa until spring.

In 1849, the family completed the arduous trip, coming on as far as Napa



Dennis and Charley McGimsey are pictured with their sister, Maudie McGimsey Prather. Maudie was the mother of Katherine Prather Eubanks.

County, California. Here they bought property and settled near Calistoga. From there, John Cox McGimsey wrote a letter to relatives "back home" describing the new country and naming the six states in which he had lived. They were: North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Illinois, Missouri and California. (He evidently considered that he only "wintered" in Iowa.)

Mr. McGimsey bought land in Napa County, one hundred and twenty acres, at \$10 an acre. But the low cost of land was considerably offset by the "Gold Rush Inflation" because the cost of food and other goods was sky high.

The oldest son, Jeremiah Alderson, in 1853, wrote a letter to the uncle for whom he was named who was still living in North Carolina. This letter describes the Napa area, and shows his ability as a letter writer. A copy will be found at the close of this sketch.

The following year, 1854, on May 18th, Alderson, as he was called, married Nancy Elizabeth Wallace (Betty). She had been born on Christmas Day of 1831. (See Wallace story.)

The older two sons had already established a stock business, and were looking for good pasture. This search brought them to Anderson Valley, where they found many acres of unclaimed land.

Mr. William (Billy) Ryan, then frequent contributor to the county paper, wrote that Alderson and Porter McGimsey "were the first to bring in sheep, and to engage extensively in the wool and sheep industry here."

These men were called "drovers" as they purchased and drove sheep, cattle and hogs to market in Sonoma, Petaluma or San Francisco. The animals traveled on foot, the men on horseback, but themselves walking at times, as the pace must be slow. Everything depended on the dogs, who kept the "drove" together and on the move, or held it in one spot when a stop must be made. It was hot, dusty and wearisome work for both men and animals. Farm houses along the way were stopping places for the night, as the tired sheep, cattle or hogs could be corraled, watered and fed.

Headquarters for the business were fenced enclosures for handling the livestock. They were built east of Anderson Creek and to the right of the present Ukiah Road. This area became known as "The Corrals." Mr. Porter McGimsey acquired a claim including this place and extending on up the east side of Anderson Creek and far along the Ukiah road.

Because his two oldest sons had interests here, Mr. John Cox McGimsey brought the rest of his family to Anderson Valley about 1856. They settled first on what later became the Robinson place, where the "Hutsell Lane" joined the road from Cloverdale. According to the History of Mendocino County of 1880, he became Justice of the Peace for the year of 1858. (See Page 306.) Up to 1859, all of what is now Mendocino County was part of Sonoma County for judicial purposes. Anderson Valley was a "township" of Sonoma County, and evidently Mr. McGimsey was appointed by an officer of Sonoma County for the year 1858. The year of 1959 was called the "date of separation" and

politics here were exciting, as names of office-holders changed often. But later in 1868, Mr. McGimsey was elected by the people as Justice of the Peace and held this office continuously through 1881, his death occurring in 1882.

Many anecdotes are told of this energetic, alert and independent man by his descendants.

The Pacific Ocean was an awe-inspiring sight to all our pioneers from inland states. Periodically, settlers with their families journeyed with horses and wagons to the coast for fishing, enjoying the beaches, and picking wild raspberries (the black-cap kind), and luscious blackberries. My mother said some people scraped salt from the crevices in the bluffs, or hunted sea gull nests, as the eggs were quite edible.

Exploring the area near camp, Mr. McGimsey fell from a precipitous cliff, breaking his leg so badly that it had to be amputated. Having survived this agonizing experience, in spite of the medical techniques of the time, he rallied and led an active career. He wore a wooden leg the rest of his life, this leg becoming a sort of symbol of authority. A riot or a fight would be quelled instantly when he appeared with his wooden leg and announced, "I command the peace."

An easy-going soul with his family, he was even less authoritative with his fun-loving grandchildren. "Aunt Icie" told this writer that he always removed the leg when resting, and that she and a cousin, Emma (Rector) Ornbau, would sneak the wooden leg and hide it. They were both very young, and enjoyed his frustration at their trick. But he was greatly loved by all his family and respected by his neighbors.

Couples came to his house to be married. One summer night he had retired, removing the wooden leg. A knock came at the door and his wife reported that a couple on horseback wanted a wedding ceremony at once. Half asleep, he called impatiently, "Well, just let them marry, then." The window was open, and the riders reined their horses in the direction of his voice. Now awake, he sat over on the side of the bed, drew the covers over his stub of a leg, and called to Charity Ann, "Bring the Bible." He married them through the window, they remaining on their horses. (It developed that they were running away from the girl's parents.)

While the McGimsey family were living at the "Robinson Place," their youngest son, Thomas J. McGimsey took up a goodly piece of land west of the valley road. It extended from "Hutsell Lane" north to the old William Clay home. It was this young man who gave the land (where the Veterans' Memorial Building is today) for an early schoolhouse.

Another son, Charles Porter McGimsey, built the old two-story house (which has been lately torn down) at "The Corners." (See Charles Porter McGimsey story.) When Charles Porter moved nearer town, Thomas Jefferson McGimsey occupied this house. The oldest son, J. Alderson



Charles Porter McGimsey and
Mary Ann Williams McGimsey

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While most men took to riding horses in Anderson Valley,
Joseph Livingston McGimsey preferred riding a bull. On
the white horse was Bill Nunn, and on the Palomino was
John Lee Rector.

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McGimsey, owned what later was called the "Joe Mac" place, about a mile south of the "Corners." (Present owner, 1979, is Jean Hawkins.) From here, he continued in the livestock business with his brother.

Mrs. John Cox McGimsey died July 10, 1881, and her husband Aug. 17, 1882 in Boonville. Both are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, Boonville, California.

Family Record Of John Cox McGimsey and Charity Ann (Doughton) McGimsey

- I. Maria Louisa McGimsey, born March 24, 1828 in Maury County, Tennessee (though census records show North Carolina). Died in California in 1872. Married John J. Perkins who was born in August of 1829 in Tennessee, and died in Oakland, California in 1897. Children:
 - A. John Perkins 1850-1934. He had four children.
 - B. Mert Perkins, died 1948, unmarried.
 - C. Chester Perkins, unmarried.
 - D. Anne Elizabeth Perkins 1862-1929.
 - E. Charity Louisa Perkins 1867-1954. Married Rogers, later Rose. Had four children.
- II. Jerimiah Alderson McGimsey (called All), born Sept. 12, 1829 in Virginia. Died Jan. 2, 1869 in California. Married Nancy Elizabeth Wallace (Betty) 1854 in Napa County, California. She was born Dec. 25, 1831, died Nov. 9, 1911 in California. Children:
 - A. Sophrine Ann McGimsey 1856-1938. Married Thomas Handley. Children: Dolly, who married Life Ball, later Brown.
 - B. John Jefferson McGimsey 1857-1942. Married Elizabeth Clement 1863-1941. Children:
 1. Archibald Alderson McGimsey 1886. Married Carmelita Elsie Carothers 1920
 2. Gladys Maud McGimsey. Married Herman Iverson. Children: Merle Iverson and Juanita Iverson.
 - C. William Adrian McGimsey 1859-1909. Married Anna H. Malone 1858-1930. Children:
 1. Jerimiah Alderson McGimsey II 1888-; Married M. Artemisa Callegos 1895-1958. Children:
 - a. Charles Lloyd McGimsey
 - b. Henrietta Arizona McGimsey
 2. Charles Reese McGimsey
 3. Helen McGimsey 1894 - 1975; married Harvey D. Prather 1891-1970
 - a. Darrel O. Prather
 - b. John Harvey Prather, died 1976
 - c. Frances Bemeice Prather
 4. Genevieve McGimsey 1896-1958
 - D. Joseph Livingston McGimsey 1865-1928; Married Mae Maddox 1880-1928. Children:
 1. Fred
 2. Fairy
 3. Violette

4. Harry Alpheus McGimsey (1911-); married Amy Beuler (1917-):
 - a. Ester Ruth (1945-)
 - b. Paul Stephen (1948-)
5. Glen Elvin McGimsey (1917- 1942), killed in W.W.II.
6. Wayne Orrin McGimsey (1918-); married Charmian Swanson who had Carolyn and Pete. Wayne's and Charmian's son a. Stuart McGimsey; married Cheryl Ann Yorty
7. Douglas Early McGimsey
- E. Sarah Jane McGimsey (1866-1942); married Charles Monroe Hiatt (1863-1941):
 1. Elmer Charles Hiatt (May 14, 1890-June 4, 1964); married Sidney Rose (May 12, 1892-Feb. 10, 1922):
 - a. Vivian; married Carl Walter: aa. Carl
 - b. Kathleen; married Arthur Bailhache: aa. Charles
 After Sidney's death, Elmer married Ethyl Vivian Pulliam (April 1, 1900-Sept. 18, 1975). She had a son Charles.
 - c. Charles L. Pulliam; married J. Rosetta Kenyon, div.; (2) Lillian: aa. Jim, bb. Jerry, cc. Bill
 - d. Jack A. Hiatt; married Ruth Howley, div.; (2) Lucille: aa. Steven, bb. Rick, cc. Jane, dd. Jackie
 - e. Frank E. Hiatt; married Ruth Willis, div.: aa. Sheila. Frank re-married Betty who had a son Robert, bb. Phyllis.
 - f. Kay Wayne Hiatt; married Alice Foreman, div.: aa. Alice; married Gayle Waggoner: aaa. Yvonne, bbb. Guy. bb. Charles Leslie Hiatt (Feb. 22, 1949-); married Betty Louise Tuttle (Feb. 23, 1950-): aaa. Rachel Irene Hiatt (April 2, 1972-), bbb. Laura Beth Hiatt (Nov. 30, 1975-), ccc. Natalie Kay Hiatt (Sept. 10, 1979-). cc. Wayne Kay Hiatt; married Kelly Johnson: aaa. Amanda Colleen Hiatt. dd. John Lee Hiatt (December 6 1954-January 20, 1955). Second marriage of Kay Wayne to Shirley Gurley: ee. Carolyn Marie (Jan. 1, 1960-); married Michael Hibblen: aaa. Heather Marie, bbb. Christopher Michael. ff. Tammy Leona (Jan 9, 1961-); Jack Hayward: aaa. Sarah Elizabeth, gg. Shirley Delores: married Sid Frazer. hh. Kelly Michelle (Feb. 26, 1970-).
 - g. James Monroe Hiatt; married Barbara Marshall: aa. Linda; married Steve Crawford: aaa. Steve, bbb. Janelle. bb Terri: married Steve Rhodes.
 - h. Edith Jane Hiatt; married Robert Bennett, div.; (2) Jack Brumwell: aa. Diane Bennett; married Newsom: aaa. Shawna, bbb. Kimmy, ccc. Michael. bb. Blaine Bennett; married Cleo Toste: aaa. Joshua, bbb. Jade. cc. Susie Bennett: aaa. Melanie (adopted by the Jack Brumwells), dd. Mike Bennett. ee. Julie

- Bennett; married David Bloyd: aaa. Sarah, bbb. Violet.
2. Madge C. Hiatt (1892 -); married Mercer Ingram. Children: a. Faye; married then div. aa. Connie; b. Danny; married Dolly: aa. Mercer; married and had a son; bb. Joan; cc. Randy; married, has a daughter
 - F. Thomas Emmett McGimsey (1869-1959); married Ada Duff
 1. Phocian McGimsey; unmarried
 2. Marshall McGimsey; married Rhene Alberts
 - a. Beverly; married Linton Knight, (2) Stevens, div., (3) Durham
 - aa. David Knight; married Sandra Tucker. Children: aaa. Mark Shane, bbb. Clifton Russell.
 - bb. Tommy McGimsey; married Helen Norton
 - cc. Fred Stevens; married Ginny Rueb
 - dd. Nancy Johnson Durham; married Ernest Blattner; Child: Thomas Dean
 - ee. Joy
- III. Charles Porter McGimsey, born in Illinois in 1836. Died Boonville, California 1911. Married Mary Ann Williams who was born in 1844 and died in Boonville, California 1931. Children:
- A. Caroline (March 17, 1861 - Feb. 14, 1891); married Joseph Alexander Burke on April 3, 1884. Joseph was born in Sonoma, California 1853. died in Boonville, California January 5, 1916. Children:
 1. Hazel Hattie Burke (1885-1930); married Edward Francis Kehoe (1882-1959) on August 15, 1905 at Point Arena, California.
 - a. Edward Laverne Kehoe (1906-1957); married Alberta Jean Perkins (1910 -). Children: aa. Donald Lloyd Kehoe (1935 -); married Diane Mechau, then Carol Tobin. aaa. Susan Adele Kehoe (1953 -); married Joseph Clark Wilson III (1951 -). aaaa. Samuel Joseph (1979 -), bbbb. Jessica Aileen (1980 -). bbb. Michael Laverne Kehoe (1955 -); married Susan Banks (1957 -). aaaa. Daniel Vaughn (1977 -), bbbb. Lloyd Pierce (1980 -). ccc. Lori Jean Kehoe (1957 -), ddd. Tami Alice Kehoe (1959 -); married Anthony Brodnik: aaaa. Joseph Anthony (1980 -), bbbb. Mathew Anthony (1983 -). bb. Hazel Adele Kehoe (1936 -); married (1) Signs, (2) David Lynn Grauer, (3) David Ray Marshall: aaa. Sandra Dee Grauer (1965 -); married Dennis Scott McCoy (1964 -), aaaa. Brandon Scott McCoy (1982 -), bbbb. Dustin Marshall McCoy (1984 -).
 - b. Zelpha Mae Kehoe (1909-1974); married in 1933 to Lloyd Cox (1908-).
 - c. Merle Wilson Kehoe (1912-); married Grace Mitchell (1911-1980), aa. Virginia Lee Kehoe (1935 -); married Robert Hegglin, Mervin Jerbeck and Ronald Feil. aaa. Kurt Wilson Feil (1964 -)
 - d. William Burke Kehoe (1916 -); married Harriet Scott (1918 -). Children: aa. Marcia Louise Kehoe (1945-); married William Meyer div., aaa. Stephenie Ann Meyer (1965 -), bbb. Marc Christopher Meyer (1971 -). bb. William Scott Kehoe (1946 -);

- married Jeanette Baker div., aaa. Elliott Scott Kehoe (1966-1968) John Edward Kehoe (1948 -); married Sandra White (1948 -), aaa. Heidi Anne Kehoe (1968 -).
- e. Benjamin Porter Kehoe (1919-1941); unmarried.
- f. Bonnie Virginia Kehoe (1922 -); married William Marr Hogan div.
2. Alpha Alma Burke (1887-1976); married Burton Joshua Adams; a. Burton Ross Adams (1911 -); married Minnie Flavel Painter Powell (1912 -). Flavel's sons James and Raymond Powell.
3. Zola Rosalia Burke born in Boonville March 17, 1889. Died in Boonville, California May 29, 1969; married Alexander Black Willis on June 15, 1908. He was born March 1, 1883 in Grant County, New Mexico. He died August 20, 1963 in Boonville.
- a. Dennis Burke Willis (March 21, 1909-1985); married Marjorie Caldwell (March 21, 1911-). aa. Daniel Dobozin Willis (1947 -); married Carlye Ramey, div.; married Wendy Gene Mulvihill (1951-); aaa. Jason John Willis (1976-), bbb. Michael Paul Willis April 7, 1986.
- b. Delmas Donevan Willis (Dec. 11, 1911-June 21, 1916)
- c. Edna Beth Willis (Jan. 7, 1916 -); married Walter Lewis Tuttle (May 1, 1915 -).
- aa. Allo Linda Tuttle (April 19, 1943 -); married Bradley Lane Witherell, div.; married Charles Stewart (Nov. 13, 1941 -), aaa. Nancy Kay Witherell (June 17, 1964 -), bbb. Brian Lane Witherell (Mar. 3, 1967-). bb. Doris Gay Tuttle (Mar 18, 1948-); married Ronald Gene Vaughn (Oct. 26, 1944-), aaa. Toby Clayton Vaughn (Jan. 5, 1967 -), bbb. Nathan Lewis Vaughn (June 12, 1969 -). cc. Vivian Victoria Tuttle died in infancy October 1952. dd. Betty Louise Tuttle (Feb. 23, 1950 -); married Charles Leslie Hiatt (Feb. 22, 1949 -), aaa. Rachel Irene Hiatt (April 2, 1972 -), bbb. Laura Beth Hiatt (Nov. 30, 1975 -), ccc. Natalie Kay Hiatt (Sept., 10, 1979).
- d. Allo June Willis (June 26, 1918 -); married Donald Logan, div.
- aa. Valerie June Logan (April 25, 1939 -); married Truman Larry McBeth, div. aaa. Randy Charles McBeth (Sept. 22, 1959 -), bbb. Gary Lynn McBeth (Jan. 31, 1962 -), ccc. Truman Larry McBeth (Dec. 22, 1962 -). bb. Julie Ann Logan (June 24, 1943 -); married Herbert Schreiber, div.; (2) John Richmond, div. cc. Donna Patricia Logan (Feb. 14, 1946 -). Allo married Robert Colter 1928. dd. Robert L. Colter (Dec. 26, 1952 - Sept. 1971), ee. Roberta L. Colter (Feb. 15, 1959 -); married Dyrk Blackburn, div. aaa. Rebecca Blackburn (October 1975-), bbb. Jennifer Blackburn (March 1977-), ccc. Dustin Blackburn (Dec. 1979-). ff. Alice Sherwood Colter (Oct. 10, 1957 -); married Daniel Saia, div. aaa. Daniel Saia, Jr. (July 9, 1977-); (2) Bill Rostellini,

- div., bbb. William Butchy Rostellini (June 20, 1980 -). gg. William Albert Colter (July 24, 1960 -).
- e. Porter Alexander Willis (Feb. 26, 1923-); married Averyel Mae Brown (May 7, 1924 -), aa. Porter Lynn Willis (Dec. 3, 1947 -); married Larryann Long: aaa. Russell Lynn Willis (December 27, 1975-). bb. Alan Dennie Willis (Aug. 29, 1950 -); married Marie Angel, aaa. Amy Christine Willis (Nov. 10, 1978-), bbb. Ryan Alan Willis (Dec. 25, 1981-). cc. Marilee Mae Willis (Aug. 13, 1953 -); married Paul Howard Euhus in 1972. aaa. Daniel Dale Euhus (1977-), bbb. Timothy James Euhus (1980-), ccc. Jeffrey David Euhus (1984-). dd. Robin Ross Willis (August 4, 1955-); married Katherine Clydene Madeiros 1977. aaa. Kelly Joeen Willis (1978-), bbb. Carrie Lynn Willis (1981-), ccc. Jaime Mae Willis (1984-). ee. Dean Alex Willis (April 28, 1965-); married Janis Baumer in 1982, aaa. Crystal Lynn Willis (1983-).
- B. Dora McGimsey (1864-1882); married Jim Watson.
- C. Charles Lee McGimsey (August 12, 1866); married Belinda Murray (died young); then Nora Keithley who died; then Lucy Strait, div.
- D. Icapheana (1868-1944); married Merideth Jess Adcock, div.; (2) John Lee Rector. Children:
1. Merideth Porter Adcock; married Jean.
 2. Lois Juanita Adcock; married Jack Kass, div.; (2) Bill Mellor.
 - a. Jean Kass married Stackpole, div. aaa. Janice, bbb. Don.
 - b. George Kass; married. aaa. Mark Kass, bbb. child, ccc. child, ddd. child.
- E. Dennis Taylor McGimsey (b. 1871); married Minnie Tolman, div.
- F. Thomas Boone McGimsey (b. February 19, 1874); married Alice Sutton (died); (2) Jessica (died).
1. Thomas Sutton McGimsey died as an infant.
- G. Allan McGimsey (1876-1877).
- H. Maud Ann McGimsey (Nov. 21, 1879-1952); married Carl S. Prather.
1. Lynn Donovan Prather; unmarried.
 2. Leo Norvan; unmarried.
 3. Katherine Prather (April 8, 1913-); married November 28, 1931 to Clarence Ray Eubanks (Nov. 20, 1900 -)
 - a. Dale Ross Eubanks (April 16, 1934 -); married Ann Lynn Roddy (Oct. 13, 1937-). aa. Kathryn Ann Eubanks (June 9, 1961-)
 - bb. Kristine Lynda Eubanks (April 17, 1963-).
- I. Newton Vincent McGimsey (Dec. 27, 1881 -); unmarried.
- J. Grover Cleveland McGimsey (Jan. 20, 1885-); married Nellie Cox.
1. Stanton McGimsey, who died young
- K. Delmar Dauntless McGimsey (1888-1891)
- L. Jack Austin McGimsey (July 7, 1891-1948); married May.
- IV. Caroline McGimsey (1839-1914); married John Rector (killed).

- A. Harriet Rector; married Nolan Nunn (killed); (2) Jim Main.
 - 1. Bill Nunn; unmarried.
 - 2. Frank Main
 - 3. Annie Main
- B. Mary Louise Rector; married Bill Singley
 - 1. Sadilee; married Jack Palmer.
 - a. Rodney. aa. Rodney.
 - b. Jack; married Stella Robinson. aa. John; married Maxine Baker, bb. William; married Kathy, div.; (2) married Jennifer: aaa. Richard Palmer, bbb. Kevin, ccc. Willie.
- C. William Rector; unmarried.
- D. Edd Rector; unmarried.
- E. Emma Theresa Rector (1867-1937); married Virgil Ornbaun.
 - 1. Hetty (Harriet) Ornbaun; married Williams, div..
 - a. Grace
 - b. Son
 Hetty married Berg.
 - 2. John Ornbaun (Punk); unmarried.
 - 3. Lloyd Ornbaun; married Omah Smalley her son
 - a. Hershel Valjean smalley; married
 - b. Carroll Ornbaun; married Betty
 - aa. son, bb. son, cc. son.
 - 4. Doll Ornbaun (a twin); married Harold St. John.
 - a. Carolyn
 - b. Bill
 - 5. Dot Ornbaun (a twin); married Leslie Ledger
 - a. John; married Wilma.
 - aa. Linda
 - bb. Paula
 - 6. Virgil (female)
 - 7. Raymond Ornbaun; married Virginia Moor
 - a. Don Ornbaun
 - b. Virginia Shirley M. Harpe
 - aa. Victoria Beryl June Center, aaa. Phil, bbb. Vicki Dee
 - c. Carl Ornbaun; married Joan Berry Abreu
 - aa. Kathy Abreu; married, div.; remarried. bb. Ann Marie; married Danny Johnston, aaa. Danny, bbb. Becky. cc. Carl (twin); (-1986); married. dd. Carolyn (a twin); married Eddie Huron, aaa. Eddie, bbb. Mary. ee. Crystal. ff. Mary. gg. Virgil; married. hh. adopted by Don Orbaun, ii. adopted by Don Ornbaun.
 - d. Keith Ornbaun.
- V. Lucy Ann McGimsey born in Missouri 1843. Died 1926; married John Shipley Ornbaun.

- A. John Calhoun Breckinridge Ornbaun (Breck); married Margaret Slob, div.; (2) Belle Black.
- B. Mary Charity Ornbaun died in infancy
- C. Henry Newton Ornbaun (Newt) (1864-1940); married Belle Beeson.
 - 1. Herbert; married: a. Emmabelle, b. Herbert.
 - 2. Elnora; married.
 - 3. Daisy; married
 - 4. Alma
 - 5. Kate; married
 - 6. Lena Jo; married
- D. Ida Louise Ornbaun; married Richard Yell Nobles.
 - 1. John Nobles; married Hazel Wilkins
 - a. Twins (died in infancy)
 - b. Helen; married Charles Roumasset: aa. Juan (Sept. 10, 1941-); married Richard McLain, aaa. David Lee (March 29, 1972-), bbb. Christopher James (Dec. 24, 1973-), ccc. Alexander Charles (Jan. 2, 1980-). bb. James Alan; married Elaine Higa, div.: aaa. Benton (1975-), bbb. Brian (1978-). cc. John Thomas (1948-); married Ellen Shay (1947-), aaa. Rachel Marie (May 26, 1975-), bbb. Adrienne Grace (May 26, 1979-).
 - c. Catherine; married Philip Sinnot: aa. Wendy Ellen (April 22, 1950-) bb. Patrick Alan (June 19, 1952-), cc. Jean Karen (July 30, 1956-) dd. Thea Marie (August 28, 1960-), ee. Carol Elizabeth (July 3, 1968-).
 - 2. Harm Nobles; married Georgia Archibald
 - a. Marjorie; married, div.: aa. Yell.
 - 3. Inez; married Clyde Smith
 - a. Clydine died young
 - Mary; married George Madeiros. aa. Casey; married Robin Willis: aaa. Kelly Joeen Willis (1978-), bbb. Carrie Lynn Willis (1981-), ccc. Jaime Mae Willis (1984-).
 - 4. Yell Nobles; married Isobel Murray.
 - 5. Ed (died in infancy)
- E. William Francis Ornbaun (Bill); married
 - 1. Wanda
 - 2. Percy
 - 3. Ferrance
- F. Charles Porter Ornbaun (Charley); married
 - 1. Marshall
 - 2. Edith
 - 3. Annie
 - 4. Gilmore
 - 5. Letha

6. Vera
7. Minnie (died in infancy)
- G. Henry Daniel Ornbaun (Harry); married Em Williams:
 1. Emmett
 2. Cleone (Pete); married Helen:
 - a. Dwayne; married Gail: aa. Elaine, bb. Matt.
 - b. Bonnie; married, div.: aa. Emmett, bb. Elaine, cc. Melva.
 3. Elaine
 4. Melva
- H. Mattie Edward Ornbaun (Ed); married Ida Campbell:
 1. Cecille
 2. Bertha
 3. Cora
- I. Daisy Lulu Ornbaun; married Bart Campbell:
 1. Barton
 2. Jennings
- J. Arnold Percy Ornbaun (Arnie); married Eva Prather:
 1. Johnny; married Lucile Higgins:
 - a. Judith Ellen; married Robert Ray Ryan: aa. Lucile, bb. James, cc. Chelila
 2. Kenneth William Ornbaun
- K. Leona May Ornbaun (Ona); married Gilmore:
 1. Cordelia
 2. Evelyn
 3. Eileen
- L. Caspar Abraham Ornbaun (Cap) (1880-1960); married Nellie Hamilton:
 1. Frank
 2. Mary
- M. Vernon Gillespie Ornbaun (Verny); married Edna Ledford, div.; (2) Nettie Hadley died:
 1. Verna; married Marie Burtis: a. Verny, Jr.
 2. Martha
- N. Inez Evelyn Ornbaun; married Ed Davis; (2) Buchanan
 1. Clark Davis
- O. Horace Winton Ornbaun; married Meda Eldora Hale:
 1. Elvin
 2. Grant; married Elsie:
 - a. Grant Ervin, Jr.; married Barbara Riddick: aa. Twins Katherine and Karen, bb. Steve; married Lorna Shively, cc. Bruce.
 - b. Juanita; married McGee: aa. Rena; married Smoke: aaa. Ruth, bbb. David, ccc. Olivia, bb. Charlie, cc. Allen; married Elaine dd. Dale; married Lynn.
 - c. Gloria; married Abbot: aa. Shirley; married Harold Hurlbut,

- aaa. Melanie, bbb. Melody, ccc. Shelley. bb. Gary; married Cindy Fashaur: aaa. Michael. cc. Andy; married Sharon Heffel: aaa. Shannon, bbb. Scotty.
3. Mabel
4. June
- VI. Thomas Jefferson McGimsey, born Missouri 1845, died California 1919; married Margaret Virginia Nunn (1850-1915):
 - A. Ann Elizabeth McGimsey (1869-1954); married David Edward Hotel:
 - a. Melvin
 - b. Leland
 - c. Zola
 - B. Lee Burnett McGimsey (b. 1871); unmarried
 - C. Etta McGimsey (1873-1944); married Harry B. Shaw: a. child.
 - D. Mary Margaret McGimsey (1876-1947) known as Pet; married Edward Clement: a. Jack (killed in motorcycle accident)
 - E. James Milton McGimsey (1878-1938); married Katherine Morris.
 - F. Grace Bell McGimsey (1880-1958); Frank McGill
 - G. Bertie May McGimsey (1883-); married Stewart W. Rich: a. son, b. son
 - H. Mattie McGimsey; married
 - I. Alta California McGimsey; married Roy A. Pauli

The Murray Family and "Grandma Stubblefield"

Cleve Murray and his wife, Susan, came to California from Missouri in 1856. With them were his children by a former marriage, Cleve, Polly and Ike; her children by a previous marriage, Mary Ann and Rollet Williams; and a stepson from her first marriage.

They spent one winter in the mines. A note by Zola Willis, who furnished the facts for this story, adds, "My grandmother, Mary Ann (Williams) McGimsey, always spoke of these mines as the 'Marysville Buttes.'"

From there they came to what is now Yorkville and settled across Rancheria Creek on what later became the Fred Hibbard place. As far as we can learn, the Murrays were the first white family to locate in that neighborhood. An Indian rancheria was near, but the inhabitants were most friendly and only curious as to the white man's ways. On January 3, 1859, Isom Cloda Murray was born, making seven children.

As Mrs. Murray became such an interesting and well-loved figure both in Yorkville and Anderson Valley, a short sketch of her early life seems fitting.

Susan Murray was born Susan Cody in New York on May 8, 1811. Her father was a relative of William Cody (Buffalo Bill Cody), famous frontiersman and buffalo hunter. Susan first married Sprinkles, first name not known, who had a son by a former marriage. Mr. Sprinkles was drowned in the Ohio River and Susan continued to care for this boy.

Her second marriage was to Williams, who had five children by a previous marriage. To Susan and this husband were born Mary Ann and Rollet Williams. Two others died in infancy.

After Williams' death, and his five children were old enough to be independent, Susan married Cleve Murray. He had three children: Cleve, Polly and Ike. Cleve Murray was a wagon master leading many wagon trains from Missouri to California. He was a very brave and gallant leader. The last wagon train he led was the one bringing his wife, Susan, across the Great Divide at South Pass, Wyoming.

The Murray party had chosen a pleasant and suitable spot for a home when they reached what was then called Rancheria, later Yorkville. There was rich soil, and a beautiful spring of water. After about three years, John Wesley McAbee and family arrived and settled on 700 acres across the creek from the Murrays, so there were neighbors. This was in 1859. By this time there were many settlers in Anderson Valley.

Among them were two young men, J. Alderson McGimsey and his younger brother, Charles Porter McGimsey. They had come from Napa County looking for good grazing land. According to William (Billy) Ryan, frequent early contributor to the Ukiah county paper, these men "were the first to bring in sheep, and to engage extensively in the wool and sheep industry here."

They were known as "drovers." They purchased and drove sheep, cattle and hogs to market in Sonoma, Petaluma and San Francisco. On these trips the brothers became acquainted with the Murray family. Mary Ann (born Sept. 25, 1844) was now a young lady of sixteen. A romance developed between her and Charles Porter, and in 1860 they were married and went to live on his claim in Anderson Valley. (See McGimsey story.)

Five years later, the York, Stubblefield and Patric (Paddy) Adams group arrived. York settled on what became the Yorkville ranch, and that whole area became Yorkville. Robert Stubblefield, his daughter Isaphene, and her husband Patric (Paddy) Adams settled on land adjoining the Murray home. Later Mr. Adams purchased land near "Partlo Peak" (spelled "Pardaloe" on an old Army engineer map.)

Mr. Murray was well along in years when he arrived in Yorkville, and the year of his death is not known at this time. He was buried in the Yorkville Cemetery.

Later, Susan Murray married the neighbor, Mr. Stubblefield, her fourth marriage. He had become interested in the "Milk Ranch," on Camp Creek, a tributary of Rancheria Creek, and they lived out there for a short time. Their next home was what is still called the Fairbanks Place. However, this marriage did not last, and a separation ensued.

According to old notes by descendants, the arrangement was amiable, and the families concerned remained friends through the years. Mr. Stubblefield's death occurred in 1877, and the Milk Ranch passed to his daughters, Mary Ann York and Isaphene Adams. Mary Ann's granddaughter, Effie (McAbee) Hulbert, spent much of her vacations there, and the rest of her time at the York home. This little girl grew up playing with the Indian children at their village in Yorkville, and friendships started that lasted through adulthood. In her last days, she wrote with sensitivity and understanding of these dark-skinned people whom she knew so well. They were her friends from whom she learned so much of the miracles of nature and their faith in a Supreme Being.

From the Fairbanks place, Susan Stubblefield moved to the Clement place, according to old records. (In recent years, this became the Bradford property.) By this time, "Grandma Stubblefield," as she was known, had become an important and well-loved figure. She had cared for children all her life and her skill as a midwife was outstanding.

By the late 1870s, Susan had acquired property out on what is now Manchester Road. This land later became the Lambert place. Her son, Isom

Cloda Murray, had a claim on the ridge between Rancheria and Horse Creek. It was called by the pioneers the "Murray Opening." His wife was Ida Bell Davis, daughter of Emily Jane (Witherell) Davis and J.C. Davis. (See Witherell story for children.)

On the night of March 17, 1889, Isom Cloda Murray was drowned in Rancheria Creek. He had left Boonville on horseback in a heavy storm that evening to go to his claim. His horse had struggled to the shore, but the raging waters had taken his life.

His mother sold her place out on the present Manchester Road and bought land in Boonville. This property began where Manchester Road leaves the highway, and extended south to what was then McAbee property. (Mr. McAbee was the John Wesley McAbee who gave the land for the Methodist Church which still stands and has an active membership.)

Half of this land Susan gave to her son's widow, Ida Bell. The other half went to her own daughter, Mary Ann (Williams) McGimsey. (See McGimsey story.)

From then on, Susan lived in Boonville, as her daughter and son-in-law had established a home there. In spite of her three score and ten plus years, she was still active and available when help was needed anywhere in the community. Added to her skill as a midwife and nurse was her warm personality and friendliness. A pioneer has written, "She had the greatest sense of humor of anyone I ever knew."

According to the late Leona (Ruddock) Nunn, who had heard the story from her parents, Grandma Stubblefield had officiated at her birth and also, the same night, at that of Tom Ormbaun of Boonville. A sister of Tom, Lulu (Ormbaun) Nisson, has confirmed this story.

There was a heavy storm in late December of 1875, and "all the creeks were up." On Dec. 27th, Susan Stubblefield got word that she was needed at the Ruddock home on Indian Creek near Philo. Luckily, the home was just south of that creek so it could be reached. Susan rode the five miles in pouring rain and in the next few hours brought Leona into the world.

Returning home with continuing rain, she was met by Mr. Bill Ormbaun and an urgent request to come immediately to his home to administer to his wife. They lived across Anderson Creek and either there was no bridge, or it had "gone out" in the storm. With Mr. Ormbaun was an old Indian, also horseback, who was leading an extra horse for her to ride, as hers would be tired and the crossing dangerous.

As family and friends protested, "Grandma" Stubblefield was mounting the horse, and the old Indian, with an admiring grin, spoke: "Old Woman, She Go!" and "go" she did. Their horses had to swim in the deepest part of the ford, but Susan arrived in time to assist at the birth of Thomas Ormbaun. This was the oldest child of William Francis Ormbaun and his wife, Margaret

Susan (Rawles) Ormbaun.

This is only one instance of the time she spent in helping others. A pleasing memorial to her is still found in several gardens in this valley. A pink tea rose still growing strongly and blooming most of the year is known here as the Grandma Stubblefield rose.

When Susan left Missouri in 1856 for the six-month journey in a prairie schooner, she had a slip of the rose. In the Yorkville home, it was planted and thrived. After that, wherever she moved, the rose was planted.

Elinor Clow, former staff correspondent for the Santa Rosa Press Democrat wrote in 1956:

"Aside from its romantic interest, Mrs. Zola Willis (great-granddaughter of Susan Stubblefield) says the rose has been a favorite because it is unusually healthy. It is free of mildew and rust and makes a good stock for grafting. It blooms almost every month of the year, and the story is told that Grandma Stubblefield prided herself on having a bouquet of roses on her Christmas table." The rose has recently been planted on Susan's grave by the husband of a great-great-granddaughter.

The end of Susan's vigorous and eventful life came in 1895 while she was still living in Boonville. She was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery near Boonville. The people of the valley put up a stone. On it is written, "The world is better for her having lived in it."

Family of Grandma Stubblefield

Susan Cody, born October 8, 1811 in Marcellus, NY. Married first William Sprinkles who died young. Son, George Sprinkles, unmarried, died young and is buried in Yorkville cemetery.

Susan married second Benjamin Williams who died young. Two children died as infants.

A. Son Benjamin Rowlett Williams. Nothing known of him.

B. Daughter Mary Ann Williams (1844-1931); married Charles Porter McGimsey 1860. Children:

1. Caroline; married Joseph Burke 1884. Children:
 - a. Hazel Hattie; married Edward Kehoe
 - b. Alpha Alma; married Burton Joshua Adams
 - c. Zola Rosalia Burke; married Alexander Black Willis
2. Dora; married Jim Watson. Dora died in childbirth in 1882
3. Charles Lee McGimsey; married Melinda Murray who died young. Second marriage to Nora Keithly, third marriage to Lucy. No children.
4. Icephena (1868-1944); married Jess Adcock. Children:
 - a. Meredith Porter Adcock
 - b. Lois Adcock Mellor

Later Icephena married John Lee Rector

5. Dennis Taylor McGimsey; married Minnie Tolman. No children.

6. Thomas Boone McGimsey; married Alice Sutton who died, then married Jessie who died. No children.

7. Alan McGimsey, died in infancy.

8. Maud Ann; married Carl S. Prather. Children:

- a. Lynn Donovan
- b. Leo Norval
- c. Katherine; married C. Ray Eubanks

9. Newton Vincent McGimsey, unmarried

10. Grover Cleveland McGimsey; married Nellie Cox. Child: Stanton.

11. Delmar Dauntless, died at 3 years

12. Austin Geary McGimsey, known as Jack; married Mae

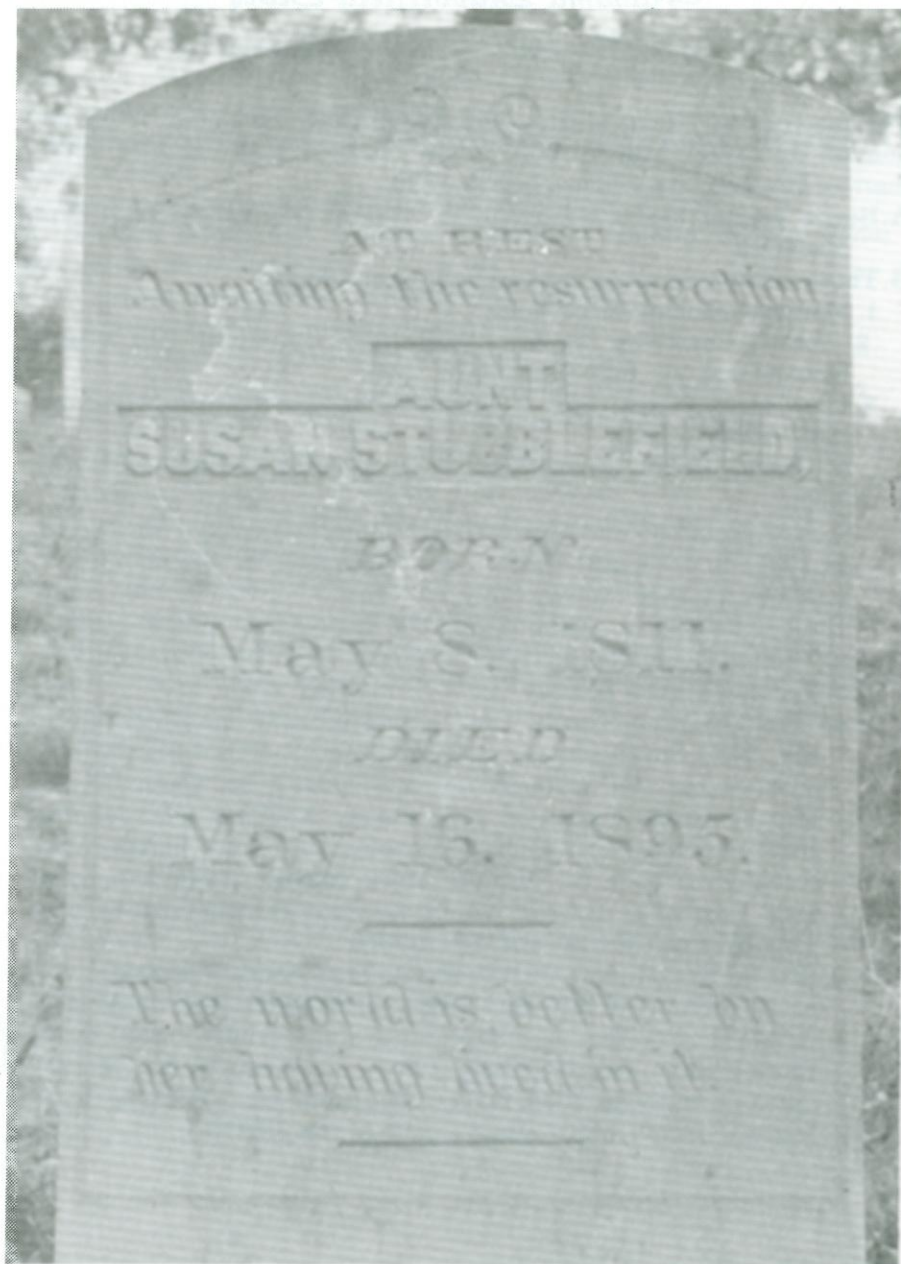
Grandma Stubblefield Story or Murray Family Record

The marriage of Cleve Murray and Susan Cody Sprinkles Williams: one son Isom Cloda Murray, born January 3, 1859, died march 17, 1889; married Ida Bell Davis November 23, 1879.

A. Bertie Isobell Murray; married (1) Harvey Porterfield (2) Frank Markwell.

B. Thomas Elmer Murray; married Sallie Ann Cregler:

1. Margaret Murray, died young
2. Isobell Catherine Murray (April 1906-); married Yell Newell Nobles (Oct. 16, 1906-) on July 10, 1929:
3. Charles Stephen Murray (1885-1966); married Sarah Ellen Morris (1887-1959) in 1909:
 - a. Charles Cloda Murray 1910-1977); married Catherine Barkley Luce
 - b. Herschel Markwell Murray (1912-); married Evelyn May Smith in 1936; (2) Josephine Foster: aa. Wm. Herschel Murray (1943-)
 - c. Margaret Jane Murray (May 19, 1914-); married in 1935 Louis Emmet Benson (d. 1949); (2) in 1950 Dick Davis, now deceased.: aa. Robert Louis Benson (1938-); married Lois Marie Duncan 1967.
 - d. Thomas Morris Murray (1917-); married Freda Frey in 1941: aa. Richard Allen Murray (1942-); married 1967 Icel Beers Smith:
 - aaa. Todd Smith Murray (stepson), bbb. Scott Denton Murray (1967-), ccc. Jeff Thomas Murray (1969-).
 - bb. Carol Loretta Murray (1943-); married 1961 Danny Robbins: aaa. Jennifer Robbins (1966-), bbb. Michelle Robbins (1969-), ccc. Jeremy John Robbins (1976-).
 - cc. Virginia Marie Murray (1946-); married 1967 Edward O. Garton: aaa. Jodi Alissa Garton (1976-), bbb. Timothy Sean Murray Garton (1979-).
- e. Stanley Ray Murray (1919-); married 1941 Doris Harding:
 - aa. Marilyn Lee Murray (1942-); married (1) Jack Clark, div.; (2) Mel Del Gallo: aaa. Kristie Lee Clark (1964-), bbb. Dawn Clark (1966-), ccc. Jeff Clark (1967-).
 - bb. Kenneth Ray Murray (1945-); married 1968 Nancy Mottram: aaa. Michelle Lynn Murray (1972-), bbb. Colleen Louise Murray (1975-).



Aunt Susan Stubblefield is buried in the Boonville Evergreen Cemetery.

Murray Family Record

Children of Cleve Murray Jr. and wife, Rhoda (Anderson) Murray

1. Fannie Elizabeth, born November 24, 1864. Died young.
2. Melinda Catherine, born February 18, 1867. Called "Aunt Lindy." Married Charles Lee McGimsey. He managed the "Hobson Ranch" at one time. It adjoined the Fairbanks place on the west, and extended on both sides of Rancheria Creek. The cabin stood east of the creek. Melinda died in childbirth.
3. Joseph Raggle, born June 12, 1869. Married first, Ruth Scott who was a daughter of Sylvester Scott. They had two sons: Clody and Pearl. Clody died quite young. Pearl married Laura Archer of Santa Rosa. Married second, Sallie Murphy. Children: Irene, who died at 10 years, and Dick.
4. Cleve (third Cleve in the family). Born May 7, 1872. Married Lulu R. Capell. One son, Berle T. This son, Berle T., married Velma Murphy. They at present conduct an interesting museum at their home seven miles north of Fort Bragg. During a tour of her gallery, Mrs. Murray, an artist, explains how she uses stone as a medium in her art. This "stone painting" combines sculpturing and painting. Mr. Murray does the rock cutting for her, and he himself, is a sculptor in stone, wood and iron.
5. Walter Stephen, born November 6, 1874. Never married.
6. Isaac Clody, born March 27, 1877. He was a veteran of the Spanish American War. Died at the age of 87 years in Willits. These facts were taken from a newspaper clipping in Willits in 1964.
7. Rhoda Bell, born December 10, 1879. Died in her teens.
8. Thomas Berle, born May 10, 1882. Married Ruby Capell. One son, Thomas Ray.
9. Bertie May, born October 5, 1885. Married Sam Adcock. Children: Eulah, Clifford and Eve.
10. Dolly, born September 9, 1888. Died very young.

Later in life, after having these ten children, Cleve Murray Jr. and his wife, Rhoda (Anderson) Murray separated. She "took two of the girls and young Tom" and went to Shasta County. Here they lived for a while at a small place near Redding. Rhoda herself had been a practical nurse and continued visiting and nursing patients. But a diphtheria epidemic swept the area, and the two girls died. From the list of children, it seems the girls were Rhoda Bell and Dolly. They were buried in a cemetery near Redding.

Coming back from a call one night, Rhoda's horse went off a bridge and she was killed. She was buried beside her two daughters. When the father of the ten children died, he was buried in Cloverdale, beside one of his daughters.

Mr. Berle T. Murray of Fort Bragg, grandson of Rhoda and Cleve Murray Jr., gave us the above facts which have been very helpful in concluding the story. The second child of Mr. Cleve Murray, pioneer in Yorkville (by a previous marriage) was Polly. She married Tom Jones. They had one daughter, Birdie (or Bertie) Jones.

Polly and her husband, Tom Jones, lived at one time on what was then called the Knowles place. Later it was owned by Mr. Bill Rock and today it is the Raglan Ranch.

The third child of the pioneer Murray of Yorkville by a previous marriage was Isaac. We know little about "Ike" as he was called except that he was considered an excellent hand with horses. Only the following incident comes to mind in connection with Ike.

We heard that Mrs. Sam Adcock (nee Birtie May Murray) was visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Wright in Cloverdale. As both Zola Willis and Alpha Adams had known her in childhood, we drove down to meet her. She was an interesting person, and had with her some old family records. Among these was a list of the ten children of Cleve and Rhoda (Anderson) Murray, of which list she is the ninth. She spoke of her father, his sister Polly, and of Ike. Someone asked, "Whatever happened to Ike?" and Mrs. Adcock told this story:

It seems that she had been living at this same Cloverdale home some years ago, and various family members, both women and children, were visiting that afternoon. Her uncle, Ike Murray, arrived riding a beautiful new horse which he had just finished training to the saddle. All went out to greet him and to admire the horse. It did seem nervous and skittish, but as Mrs. Adcock said, "That wasn't surprising with a group of strangers close and children milling around." The women went back into the house and resumed their visiting. Suddenly in bounced an elated little girl calling proudly, "I rode the horse! I rode the horse, and I didn't fall off!" Shocked and horrified, the women ran outside with cries of "That wild horse! What is Ike thinking of?"

The older children saw trouble ahead and tried to stave it off! "She begged and begged, until he led her to the horse. It looked nervous and shied away, but Uncle Ike just spoke softly to it, then lifted her into the saddle." He had led the horse with its tiny rider quietly around the yard, giving her a real thrill.

But the responsible mother was not placated, and (understandably) proceeded to give him a severe "piece of her mind." "You ought to know horses. The child could have been killed!"

Mrs. Adcock finished her story by saying, "Ike never said a word in defense of himself, just mounted and rode away. And I never saw him again." Some descendant must know, and we would like to hear, "Whatever happened to Ike?"

Robert Stubblefield And Daughters (Isaphene And Mary Ann)

We know little of this man before his arrival in the vicinity of what was called then Rancheria, later named Yorkville. However, we are indebted to Mr. Forrest McAbee of Sebastopol for the following facts from his family records:

"Robert Stubblefield (1793-1877) was the first husband of Rachael (Stark) Collard (1815-1898). There were two children of this marriage: Isaphene J. Stubblefield (1833-1915), and Mary Ann Stubblefield (1835-1908). Mary Ann was first married to Samuel Clounts."

Mr. Forrest McAbee states that Mary Ann was his great grandmother. According to the History of Mendocino County of 1880, page 516, Mary Ann was born April 11, 1835 in Missouri. So the family were living in Missouri before coming to California.

Note for Ancestor Fans: The name "Stark," above, may call to mind an incident during the Revolution in August of 1777. The scene, Vermont, with Colonel John Stark and his Green Mountain Boys and the Battle of Bennington. Burgoyne had sent 1,000 men to reach stored and badly needed supplies in Canada. The colonial troops had impeded their progress in every way such as falling huge logs across the trails.

When Stark looked down on the British army, he cried, "See, men, there are the Redcoats! We must beat them today or Molly Stark is a widow." And beat them he did. This was called a turning point in the war, and John Stark was made a general.

Harlene Tait of Ukiah and other descendents had been told this story by their parents.

Mr. Stubblefield decided to take his family to California, but his wife refused to undertake the arduous trip and a separation ensued.

In 1853 the rest of the family joined a wagon train and crossed the plains, reaching Sonora, California, in 1854. According to their birth dates, Isaphene was about 21 years of age, and Mary Ann, 19. Sonora was in the famed Mother Lode gold mining area, and the site of "Big Bonanza" mine. Mr. Stubblefield must have found work in the mines.

Mary Ann, the younger daughter, had married Samuel Clounts, and there were two children: Charlotte Louise Clounts (1851-1937), and Richard F. Clounts (1859-1889). After his mother remarried, he had his name legally changed to Richard F. York, and then was known as Dick York.

Charlotte Louise Clounts, above, married John Watson McAbee (1851-1937). Their children were:

Effie, who was married first to Buchanan and had a son, Foren Buchanan. She was married second to Harry Hulbert.

Frank, who was married to Ethel Lyle and had a son, Forrest McAbee.
Hazel, who was married to Fred Guernsey of Petaluma.

Richard F. Clounts, above, later Richard F. York by adoption, married Blanche Lowery. Their children were Maude and Emmett. Mr. Stubblefield's older daughter, Isaphene, married Patric Henry Adams, known as "Paddy Adams." (No relation to Joshua Adams who will be mentioned later.)

Their children were: Mary, who married John Ledford (both are buried in the Yorkville cemetery); Charles, who married Nellie Willis, a sister of Alex Willis; Ray; and Alice, who married Art England. They live in Lake County.

After the death of Clounts, Mary Ann married Richard Hall York, who had been farming in San Joaquin County. The marriage took place Feb. 26, 1863. (History of Mendocino County, page 516.)

By 1865, the two young couples and Mr. Stubblefield had decided to leave the mines and search for a permanent home. Still using their ox-teams, they moved slowly to the northwest, finally entering Mendocino County. Here they were in mountainous country, and their route, a decade before, had been only an Indian trail. Settlers had pushed their way through, making this trail into a rough but passable road.

At last they made camp where the road crossed a beautiful stream. Exploring the area, they found an Indian village very near. As the Mexican-Indian name for such a village was "rancheria," earlier settlers had called this vicinity Rancheria. The stream today is still Rancheria Creek, a branch of the Navarro River.

The Indians were friendly, and the Stubblefield group liked the place. About a mile away, they found the Murray family, who had arrived in 1856, living on what much later became the Hibbard place.

Mr. York chose a home on seven hundred acres of land. The Homestead Act had been passed in 1862, three years before he arrived. He built a home on the west side of Rancheria Creek, and a bridge was later built. The York house was still standing in 1904, when the death of Leona (York) Copsey occurred. The present bridge must be a replacement for the original structure.

Mr. Patric Adams settled on land adjoining the Murray place. Mr. Stubblefield may have been in partnership with him, as the place later was called the Stubblefield place.

To the York couple (Mary Ann and Richard Hall York), were born four children:

1. Vandover Hill York (Dec. 22, 1863-1913); married Dora Melville. Children: Terril York, Eva York, and Ross York.

2. Viola Jane York (Dec. 6, 1864 -); married Burton Joshua Adams (No relation to Patric Henry Adams whom Isaphene Stubblefield Adams married. Mr. Burton Joshua Adams was killed in an accident before the birth of their son, also named Burton J. Adams. This son married Alpha Burke (March 1887-1976) on Dec. 25, 1906. They had one son, Burton Ross Adams (Nov. 3, 1911-) who married Flavella Powell. Viola Jane York Adams later married Bird Hunt, a cousin to Frank Hunt.
3. Leona L. York (1867-1904); married Harlan Copsey. Both are buried in Yorkville. Their children were Alban, Veda and Harlene, who married first to Horrell, second to Errol Tait. She is living today in Ukiah.
4. Laura Emeline York (1872-1930); married Charles Lowery.

After the death of the Yorks' neighbor, Mr. Murray, Robert Stubblefield married the widow, Susan Murray.

Northwest of Ormbaun Valley, on Camp Creek, some Mexicans were settled. (Camp Creek runs into Rancheria Creek about three miles above Rancheria Bridge on Manchester Road.) We do not know how they happened to be there, but immigrants often hired Mexicans to help drive in their stock, and these may have stayed. They were raising cattle, and called their place "Rancho Leche" or Milk Ranch, by which name it is known today. These Mexicans wanted to sell, and Mr. Stubblefield bought their ranch, and settled there with his new wife.

Mr. Stubblefield's death occurred in 1877, and he was buried in the Yorkville cemetery. Mary Ann and her second husband, Richard Hall York, are also buried there.

Gossman

Johannes (Hans) or John Gossman Sr.
(The surname was originally Gassman.)
Born 1810, Died Nov. 22, 1898
Buried in Philo Cemetery

Verena (Hasler) Gossman
Born (?), Died 1908
Buried in Philo Cemetery

The above couple left Switzerland in 1854 to come to the United States. Boarding a ship at Le Havre, France, they landed at New Orleans. From there they traveled up the Mississippi to Illinois, where they found a group of fellow Swiss people. Though the Gossman couple were Protestant Swiss, they joined this Catholic community. After a few months, some of the Swiss people began forming a train of ox-drawn wagons to go to California. Mr. and Mrs. Gossman decided to go with them.

They started in 1855. After crossing the Mississippi, they followed the Platte River and then the immigrant trail to the west. They had no Indian trouble, but were delayed at times by huge herds of buffalo crossing their path.

When they reached the western part of Nevada, where the city of Fallon stands today, the Gossmans lost an ox. This was a real tragedy, as the others had to go on and leave them. There must have been some settlers there, because Mr. Gossman found a job and earned enough money to purchase another ox. They stayed all winter, and here in January of 1856 was born their first child, John Jr.

By the spring of 1856, they set out to follow the others to California. They arrived here late in 1856 with their baby boy.

The first group had settled in the northwestern or lower end of Anderson Valley. Some of the people in the caravan already here were: John Gschwend, James Smalley, Joseph Gschwend, Andrew Guntly and James Counts.

Just past what became the Walter Day place, the Gossmans turned to their right and went into the hills a short distance. Beside a stream later called Lazy Creek, he built a cabin. This became their home for a few years while he built a barn and set out an orchard.

This was before John Gschwend had built his flour mill, and the Mendocino County History of 1880 states, "Hans Gassmon, prior to the building of that mill, had carried a sack of flour on his back from Santa Rosa."



Foothill Ranch, built by John Gossman 1856-57. The lumber was from the first valley sawmill, with a gable and shake roof, and salt box frame.



John and Verena Gossman



August Gossman

In the next twelve years, with a growing family, the Gossman's needed a bigger house. In 1868, they built a suitable one closer to the traveled road. This became their home, until years later when it was purchased by Mr. Frank Cook. The house stands today with new owners, adjacent to and north of what was the Walter Day home.

As most every family had children, a school became necessary. Anderson District had been approved officially on May 18, 1859, but it included the whole valley. The little community of Christine, as John Gschwend had named it, wanted their own school to which children could walk. By petitioning the county supervisors, Counts District was approved on May 22, 1860. The name was chosen to honor Mr. James Counts, a very early settler who had at one time owned much of the land in the new district.

Mr. Gossman promptly offered a spot on his property for the school house, and the neighbors erected the building. It stood near his home adjoining what became first, the Cowin brothers home (1878), then the property of Mr. Richard Day Sr. and his wife, Elizabeth, and finally Walter Richard Day.

The attendance grew as more settlers arrived. After finishing the elementary course of study, there was no high school or other continuation school for upper teenage students. So, during the winter months, when boys could not work on the ranches or in the timber, big boys still came to the Counts School. This soon became a problem for the teacher and parents.

Mr. Gossman finally decided that a public school did not belong on private property, as Mr. Cornelius Prather of Indian Creek District also found later. He requested that the building be moved.

Evidently the district bought property just across the road from what became the Day home. Redwood trees were cut to make room for the school house and playgrounds.

It was quite a feat at that time to move a building in a rural area. Oxen were the only power, and the story is that everyone gathered to watch (much as Santa Rosa people gathered today - 1979 - to watch the old post office inch its way to a new site). Stories vary, but it seems six or eight husky oxen finally did the job.

By July of 1880, the old school census shows that Counts School had 42 children in attendance.

The timber industry had developed while the Gossman children were growing into adults, and the boys worked with their father in neighboring woods. The family also farmed, and developed their orchards. Later Mr. Gossman built an apple drier, one of the earliest ones in the valley.

There were seven children in the family, five boys and two girls. A granddaughter has this memory: "Grandma used to tell of riding in a man's saddle with a small boy standing in each stirrup and the baby in her arms."

Family Record Of Children.

(Gossman)

1. John Jr., born in January of 1856 in western Nevada near Fallon. Died May 18, 1928. buried in Philo Cemetery. He married Bertha and they adopted a three weeks old Finnish boy and named him Arthur William. But the family called him "Lolly" and soon he was known as "Lolly" Gossman. He and his wife lived in the house owned today by Clarence Hulbert.
2. Henry, born in September, 1856 in Anderson Valley. Died of typhoid fever in the fall of 1888 or 1889.
3. Albert, born in October of 1859 in Anderson Valley. Married Elizabeth Wallace, a daughter of a pioneer school master of 1906. (source, Grace Whiting). Died.
4. Rosie, born 1861. Married Adolph Weiss of Sabetha, Kansas about 1880 and went there to live. They had three children when they left the valley.
5. August, born about 1863 in January, married Annie Studebaker. Their children: a. Viola; married George Schoenahl, aa. Archie; married Myrtis; aaa. James; married Shirley Hardy: 1. Martin, 2. Mathew, 3. Mary, 4. Andrew. bbb. Wayne; married Evelyn: 1. Roger, 2. Freddie. b. Ethel; married Judge Williams: aa. Laberta; married Dr. Erle Rogers, bb. Myrtle; married M. Samuels (Robert): 1. Dr. Lynn Ellen Samuels; married Richard Logan: aaa. Jesse Adrian (girl). cc. John; married Adele Berkovits.
6. Libbie born March 28, 1867; married Abraham Lincoln Whiting (March 24, 1868-February 11, 1905): a. Pauline; married Willis. She was a teacher. She was born October 9, 1895, died 1979. b. Grace; (May 17, 1893-1986). She taught school in Mendocino County. c. Harvey; (Dec. 7, 1897-Nov. 8, 1972). Buried in Philo Cemetery.
7. Frederick. born 1869. Died of typhoid fever at the same time as his brother Henry (1888 or 1889).

John Wesley McAbee (Nov. 5, 1826-1899) was a pioneer of Yorkville and of the Boonville area. He was the son of Samuel McAbee (1795-1846) of Indiana and Margaret (Pitcher) McAbee (1804-1844).

John Wesley was one of nine children. He lived in Indiana until he was fifteen, when they moved to Henry County, Missouri, and farmed for four years. By 1845, his parents were both dead.

His first marriage was to Martha Jane Crow (1830-1852). Their children were:

1. James Wesley McAbee (1848-1849). Lived about 3 weeks.
2. John Watson McAbee (1851-1937); married Charlotte Louise Clounts (May 2, 1851-1937). Children:
 - a. Effie; married Buchanan, had a son, Foren. Second marriage, Harry Hulbert.
 - b. Frank; married Ethel Lile. Son Forrest McAbee.
 - c. Hazel; married Fred Guemsey of Petaluma.

The first wife, above, died shortly after the birth of the second child.

The war with Mexico started in 1846, and the young John Wesley enlisted and served over a year. Then, according to the History of Mendocino County of 1880 (page 512), he lived in Kansas City until 1850, when he and his brother, Jerome, crossed the plains with ox teams to Nevada City. John Wesley worked in the mines for a few months, visited Sacramento and decided to go "back East" -- (a term used by the pioneers).

He took the steamer "Republic," and when near Acapulco on the west coast of Mexico, it sank. (Source, History of Mendocino County, page 512). They must have been close to shore, because the passengers, about 750, were safely taken to land. They waited about two weeks while the ship was "raised and newly coppered," then it was "towed to Panama with all the passengers."

Mr. McAbee spent some time in Cuba, then went back to Missouri. In August of 1852, he was married to Susan Minerva Weaver (1831-1925). In the spring of 1853, John Wesley McAbee and his wife started for California.

This was an eventful trip. Mrs. McAbee experienced it all with fortitude and a sense of humor. In later years she told the story to her grandchildren. A book is being prepared which it is hoped will be published in the near future. It is being written by Marguerite (McAbee) Metzler, who was assisted by her cousin, Zelpha (Rawles) Michaelson, now deceased. The story is exciting and dramatic, and told in the words of Mrs. McAbee herself.

After the above-mentioned trip, Mr. and Mrs. McAbee arrived in Calif-



From left to right were: Beatrice Clow White, Maggie McAbee, Vera Rawles, Goldie Gowan Ward, Cecil Gowan, unknown, and Mary Witherell. The photo was taken in the Gowans' hop field.



Susan Weaver McAbee



John Wesley McAbee

fornia and settled near Bloomfield in Sonoma County. Here they farmed and raised stock until about 1859 when they came to what later was called Yorkville. They built a house near Beebe Creek, about where the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Burger stands today. Nearby is a small stream called Kalti Creek, named for a well-known Indian of that time.

Here Mr. and Mrs. McAbee made a living by dairying and stock raising for about 12 years. In 1871, they moved their family to Boonville.

After a move or two, the family settled on a site for a home on the lane leading to the pioneer Patrick Donnelly place. This lane leaves the valley road just north of the Boonville Bridge, and runs to the foothills. This "Old Donnelly Place" is a good landmark, as Patrick Donnelly and his wife settled there on Nov. 2, 1857 when the land was still part of Sonoma County. It became part of Mendocino County on March 11, 1859 (History of Mendocino County of 1880, page 272).

Here the McAbee couple lived and raised their nine children whose names will follow.

We know that John Wesley McAbee was for several years, the Boonville Postmaster. Several men acted as postmaster as a private venture before him, and so far we find the dates unclear.

In 1873, Mr. John McAbee deeded the land for a Methodist Church South, the site of the present church in Boonville. The trustees, still of Ukiah, were: William Ford, W.H. Van, J.N. Nuckols, M.J. Cox, M. York and W.F. Holliday. Mr. McAbee's death came December 21, 1899. He was buried in Green Mound Cemetery near Boonville.

His wife was an interesting woman. Many valley folks went to her house to enjoy her stories of crossing the plains. She was also interested in medicine and knew the value of various herbs. Her death came in 1925 and she was buried beside her husband.

Children of John Wesley and Minerva McAbee

I. John Watson McAbee (See first of this story.). This son was raised with the following children of the second marriage:

II. George Nevada McAbee was born October 10, 1853 at Mono Lake. This child was born under exciting happenings. It will be told in the hoped-for book by Marguerite (McAbee) Metzler. George married Charlotte Harris of Point Arena. They had two daughters. Each married a man who had citrus groves in Florida. They lived there at various times, and in Cuba. Mary (Harris) Brown, of Sebastopol today, a niece of Charlotte (Harris) McAbee, corresponded with the two daughters, above. Today she thinks that George Nevada McAbee and his wife, Charlotte died in Cuba.

III. Marquise (Mark) Lafayette McAbee (1855-1936). Born June 14, 1855; married Katherine Wilson. Died July 28, 1936 in Ashcroft, B.C., Canada.

IV. Delcina McAbee, born December 19, 1857 at Two Rock, Calif. Died in 1951. Married Robert Henry Rawles 1844-1911. Children:

A. Vernon Robert Rawles (1886-1948); married Martha Wood (1891-1978). Child:

1. Robert Lynn Rawles (1920-June 1971); married Charlotte Barker (born August 1920) in 1944. Children:

a. Robert Nathaniel (born Jan. 1947); married Jewel De Gracie in January 1969. Children:

aa. Robert B. (born July 1969)

bb. Lauren K. (born May 18, 1972)

b. Thomas Vernon (born Dec. 1949); married Michelle Cullen August 1971

c. Judith Ann Rawles (born Dec. 1953); married April 1977 to David Babcock (born Dec. 1951). Child:

aa. David William Babcock, (born Oct. 1979)

B. Vera Winona Rawles; married Galway

C. Lois Elaine Rawles; married Carl P. Clow. Children:

1. Roberta May Clow (1921)1926)

2. Jeanne Elaine Clow; married Jae Humphries and George Ayres.

a. Jo Ann Humphries (born 1939). Married H. Norman Charles (born 1938). Children:

aa. Diane Elaine (born 1962)

bb. Holly Louise (born 1964)

cc. Suzanne Marie (born 1960)

D. Zelpha Rawles; married Raymond Brunk and Albert Michelson. Children:

1. Marjorie Del Brunk (born 1916); married Stephen M. Lamson

2. Albert Michelson Jr. (born 1923); married Helen Sage. Child: Albert Rawles Michelson

- E. Ernest Everett Rawles (born 1897); married Eloise Wallach. Children:
1. Doris Gayle; married Ben Jarnutzer and Joseph Brower.
 2. John E. Rawles (born 1928); married Marjorie Courtney. Children:
 - a. Debra Marie Rawles (born 1954). Child Cyndie
 - b. John William Rawles (born 1956)
 3. Donald Rawles (born 1930); married Barbara Creveling. Children:
 - a. Bruce Allan (born 1954)
 - b. Gayle Marie (born 1956)
 - c. James Wesley (born 1960)
- F. Thelma Rawles (1899 -); married Berryman Faught. Child: Stepson William B. Faught
- V. Norred E. McAbee, born February 17, 1860. Died December 22, 1953 in Portland, Oregon. Married Mary Alice Donohoe, daughter of Jerry Donohoe and Ellen Nunn Donohoe.
- VI. Emsley Lee McAbee, born March 18, 1862, died Feb. 7, 1864
- VII. Mary Lee McAbee, born Oct. 15, 1866, died April 10, 1934; married Creighton, then to Barron.
- VIII. Emma Francis McAbee, born March 24, 1869, died July 6, 1912; married to Sam Howe of Calgary, B.C., Canada
- IX. Minnie Mohician McAbee, born 1874; married and divorced
- X. Samuel Tilden McAbee, born June 13, 1876. Died Feb. 9, 1937; married Margaret Lenora Clow on March 2, 1901. Children:
- A. Glenn Emsley McAbee, born Jan. 20, 1902, died April 16, 1967. Married Arline Leola Main Sept. 1, 1925. Children:
 1. Richard Eugene, born July 21, 1926; married Marilyn Virginia Urton on Feb. 5, 1949. Children:
 - a. Brenda, born Jan. 29, 1950; married Gene Sweet August 23, 1975. Children:
 - aa. Becky Marie, born Feb. 13, 1976
 - bb. Jesse Hayden, born Dec. 13, 1977
 - b. Brian Glenn, born Oct. 18, 1951; married Sharon Lynn Cannon on May 25, 1974. Children:
 - aa. Rory Dalton, born Aug. 6, 1977
 - bb. Sarah Lynn, born March 16, 1980
 2. Berna Marice McAbee, born March 16, 1929; married Eugene Walker in 1948. Children:
 - a. Claudia Jean, born Sept. 24, 1948. Married Russell Clow 1965. Children: Jennifer Ann, Todd Russell, Stephanie Michelle
 - b. Joan Marie, born April 7, 1952; married Jesse Dean Rose in 1970. Children:

- aa. Stacy Eugene, born Dec. 29, 1970
- bb. Monte Leo, born Aug. 19, 1972
- cc. Shad Marvin, born Jan. 23, 1975
- dd. Ty Dean, born April 2, 1980
- c. Roger Steven, born June 5, 1954; married Jerri Lynn Meyers on Sept. 8, 1974. Child: Tiffany Rebecca, born April 12, 1978
- d. Robert Douglas, born Dec. 26, 1955; married Sherri Gwen Hafley on March 7, 1975. Children:
 - 1. Robert Edward, born Sept. 4, 1976
 - 2. Jason Lee, born July 28, 1979
- e. Edward Lyle, born Dec. 19, 1957
- 3. Marian Marie McAbee, born April 1, 1932; married Burton E. Crosby. Children:
 - a. Doris Louise; married Daniel Cutter. Children:
 - aa. Anthony Daniel, born Sept. 27, 1974
 - bb. James Casey, born March 5, 1976
 - b. Janet Marie, born May 19, 1958; married Scott Woods (in Turkey, 1979)
 - 4. Sharon Lynn, born October 4, 1943; married Boldt, then Ralph C. Hose.
- Child:
 - a. William Mathew, born Oct. 26, 1978
- B. Samuel Clair McAbee; married Florence May Hitchcock. Children:
 - 1. Kay Frances, born Jan. 15, 1931; married William E. Dockery in 1949.
- Children:
 - a. William Clair, born June 6, 1950; married Lynn, divorced
 - b. Tonya Sherrel, born June 15, 1953; married David Buckley, divorced.
- Children:
 - aa. Jennifer, born July 9, 1971
 - bb. Brooke, born May 6, 1978
- 2. Clarice Mae, born Dec. 15, 1933; married William Mazzolini. Children:
 - a. Valarie, born Dec. 7, 1951; married James Hill. Child: Lisa Frances, born April 22, 1980
 - b. Gary Samuel, born April 17, 1954; married Julie Fedrick. Child: Michael Fedrick, born March 29, 1978
 - c. Patti Kay, born Jan. 8, 1958; married Earl Richard Titman.
- 3. Robert Samuel, born Nov. 5, 1936; married Nancy Sterling. Children:
 - a. Kurtis, born March 22, 1957; married Kimbreg Jordon. Children: Clayton John, born May 4, 1980
 - b. Kelly, born August 13, 1960
 - c. Kory, born August 29, 1961
- C. Marguerita McAbee; married Walter Metzler. Children:
 - 1. William Walker (adopted) born Feb. 13, 1927; married Ellen Hennesey on March 28, 1953. Children:
 - a. Michael Douglas, born Feb. 18, 1954 in Bolivia, S.A.

- b. William Walter, born in Havana, Cuba July 29, 1957
 - c. Marguerite Ellen, born May 28, 1959 in Guam
 - d. Carl Francis, born Dec. 2, 1961 in Ghana, Africa
 - e. Joseph Patrick, born March 16, 1968 in Bogota, Columbia
2. John Wilbourne, born April 12, 1935; married Barbara Greene Jan. 31, 1960. Children:
- a. Caroline Marie, born April 26, 1962
 - b. Annette Susan, born Feb. 20, 1964
 - c. James Wilbourne, born June 23, 1966
3. Catherine Lenore, born Nov. 16, 1941; married Harlan Reber in 1962. Children:
- a. Kevin Harlan, born Nov. 5, 1962
 - b. Cherie Kay, born March 16, 1965
 - c. Rebecca Christine, born March 17, 1973
4. Christine Ruth, born Nov. 11, 1944; married Larry Compton in 1963. Children:
- a. Lisa Margaret, born Nov. 19, 1965
 - b. Deborah Ann, born May 1, 1967
 - c. Eric Eugene, born March 12, 1970

Joseph Rawles

Joseph W. Rawles

Born April 14, 1808, Died April 15, 1881

Sintha Ann Bilderback

Born July 31, 1811 in Ohio

Mr. Rawles, above, was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, and lived there with his parents until he was twenty. According to the History of Mendocino County of 1880, he then went to Indiana where he farmed and raised stock for ten years. There in June of 1830, he married Sintha Ann Bilderback, also born in Ohio.

They moved to Missouri, where he ranched for ten years. During this time they had three daughters born to them, Mary Magdalena, Thurza Jane and Sarah Elizabeth. Then little Gabriel was born in 1838, to live only seven months, followed by John, who died at birth.

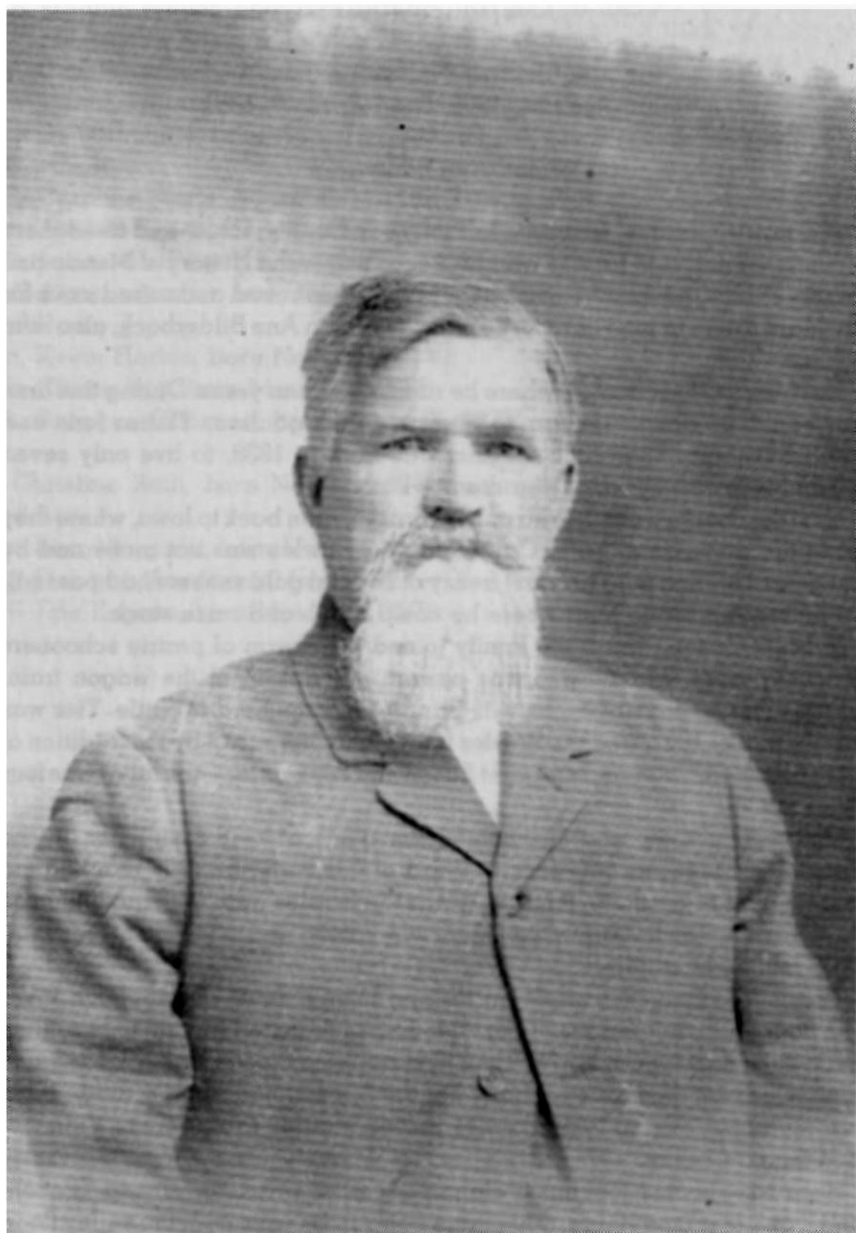
Next the couple were in Iowa and Nebraska, then back to Iowa, where they made the decision to go to California. Mr. Rawles was not motivated by thoughts of finding gold (the first frenzy of hopeful gold seekers had passed), but he wanted fertile land where he could ranch and raise stock.

In Mills County, Iowa, the family joined a caravan of prairie schooners drawn by oxen. Mr. Rawles was chosen as captain of the wagon train. Besides this responsibility, he was bringing a large herd of cattle. This was the summer of 1857, and the Rawles family had increased by the addition of Joseph, Robert, Thomas, Margaret Susan and Alexander -- the latter was four years old.

This wagon train was just behind the one that met destruction in the "Mountain Meadows Massacre." Word of this awful tragedy reached the East, and relatives there, thinking it was the Rawles train, mourned them as dead. But the Rawles family went their way safely, and in the fall of that year, 1857, reached California.

They spent their first winter on "Grand Island" in the Sacramento River with no trouble, but reports of past flooding of that area by previous settlers made them decide to move on. Their next stop was Rincon Valley, near Santa Rosa. This was desirable territory, but the Spanish land grants made them hesitate about buying land. So they moved straight to Anderson Valley in Mendocino County.

Here Mr. Rawles took up a claim near what was later named "Peachland," on Lone Tree Ridge. (This ridge can still be seen from the valley floor, with the old "Lone Pine" still standing.) Here the family lived for a time, while Mr. Rawles looked over the upper valley for a home. Margaret Susan (in later years known as Aunt Susan) is remembered as saying how much fun she and



Robert Rawles about 1900.



Delcena McAbee Rawles in 1918.



The Robert Rawles home in Boonville has stood empty for years. Many plans to turn it into a restaurant or inn have gone by the wayside.

her youngest brother Alex had sliding down a hill near their cabin.

In 1858, Mr. Rawles purchased all the land and home of Mr. Walter Anderson, the first white settler in Anderson Valley. The reports from descendants of the two men say that the price was forty head of horses! Of course the price of cattle and horses in California at that time was high, and Mr. Rawles had probably traded the cattle he had safely brought to Sacramento for horses. Mr. Anderson's wife had died in 1857, his oldest daughter had married Joe Le Mar of Ukiah and had gone there to live. And as Walter Anderson was a lover of horses and knew he could do well in trading them, it was probably a good deal for both.

The family moved from the claim on Lone Tree Ridge to the Anderson property. Their home was just northwest of what was later called the Tom Rawles house, and still later the Susan Ornbaun home. It was finally destroyed by fire.

Sintha Ann, the wife, died November 5, 1877, and was buried in the nearby cemetery near Boonville. When this pioneer woman died, the father made a request of his daughter, Margaret Susan. Susan, as she was called, had been married for over a decade, and had six children. He requested that she would always care for her oldest sister, Mary Magdalena (Maggie) who had never married, and that secondly, she would always care for him as long as he lived. From family notes by Thelma (Rawles) Faught, a direct descendant, "She fulfilled his wishes cheerfully and with loving kindness." Aunt Susan, as she was called, was loved by many nieces and nephews, as well as neighbors.

Mr. Rawles, with the help of his sons, soon added land to his place. When the 1880 History of Mendocino County was written, he owned 1600 acres of farming and grazing land, stocked with 3,160 head of sheep. His two sons, Robert Henry (Bob) and Alexander Nathan (Alex) formed a partnership and acquired new range and farm land.

Mr. Rawles died April 15, 1881 and was buried beside his wife in the Evergreen Cemetery near Boonville.

Family Record of Joseph William Rawles I

Born April 27, 1808 in Pickaway County, Ohio

Died April 15, 1881 in Boonville, California

and

His wife Sintha Ann Bilderback

Born July 31, 1811 in Ohio

Died November 5, 1877 in Boonville, California

Children:

- I. Mary Magdalena Rawles, born January 15, 1832, died April 22, 1887
- II. Thurza Jane Rawles, born November 26, 1834, died June 16, 1918. Married George W. Burger November 17, 1855. Children:
 - A. Molly Burger; married George Dillingham. Children:
 1. Willa Virginia Dillingham; married Moor. Child: Willa Virginia Moor; married Raymond Ombaun. Children:
 - a. Don
 - b. Susie; married Harpe
 - c. Carl; married Joan Berry Abreu
 - d. Keith
 2. George Dillingham Jr.; married Josephine. Divorced. Married Julie Dillingham (no relation). Child: Mathew.
 3. Don Dillingham. Died young while traveling in the south.
 - B. John Burger; married Rhoda Beeson. Children:
 1. Winifred Burger; married Buchanan. Child: Phyllis
 2. Horace Burger (Ban); married Helen Babcock
 3. Russell (Dick) Burger, unmarried
 4. Georgie Burger
 5. Wade Burger
 - C. Jessie B. Burger; married Eugene G. McCarthy (McCarty). Eugene's daughter, Eugenia McCarthy married Roy Zane
 - D. Renus David Chappell Burger, born August 23, 1864. (His mother died at his birth and the father, unable to care for him, left him in the care of the Burgers.) Later Reney took the legal name of Burger. He died May 29, 1929 and is buried in the Rawles Cemetery as is his wife. Married Elizabeth Gschwend on January 16, 1889. She was born January 29, 1867, died August 10, 1951. Children:
 1. Ernest Lloyd Burger, born Dec. 17, 1889, died Jan. 1, 1890
 2. Lenora, died August 10, 1891 as an infant
 3. Hale Emerick Burger, born August 24, 1892, died August 9, 1955. Buried in the Yorkville Cemetery. Married Mildred Gray Sandy on December 30, 1918. Children:
 - a. Mildred Chappell Burger; married Harold Miller and Ernie Reinhardt. Children:

Reinhardt. Children:

- aa. Gretchen Miller
- bb. Roderick Miller
- cc. Eric Reinhardt

b. Hale Stanley Burger, born Oct. 25, 1922. Married Mazo Moncrief and Thelma May Kowlowski. Children:

- aa. David Vernon, born Marcy 7, 1947
- bb. Rebekah, born Sept. 18, 1964

c. Robert Keith Burger, born Oct. 4, 1924. Married Gladys Burgans. Children:

aa. Robert Edward, born April 4, 1948.

bb. Mary Elizabeth, born Jan. 1, 1950

cc. Susan Elaine, born June 11, 1953

dd. Donna Kay, born Nov. 8, 1955

4. Louisa Jane Burger, born Jan. 16, 1902, died June 1, 1934. Buried at Rawles Cemetery. Married Irvin Ridley, divorced.

5. Alexander Nathan Burger, born Oct. 17, 1904. Married Wanda Argel Watson on March 17, 1930. Child:

a. Thomas Alexander, born April 15, 1932. Married Shirley Graham in Dec. 1954. Child: Samuel Alexander, born July 13, 1959. Second marriage of Thomas to Joyce Louise Nash on July 3, 1963. Children:

aa. Todd Allen, born April 8, 1965

bb. Jon Thomas, born May 31, 1969

cc. Timothy Wilbur, born May 7, 1971

Third marriage to Beverly, stepson Lewis Alexander Dingwall

6. Georgia Pearl Burger, born Oct. 13, 1907, died Jan. 11, 1979. Buried in Yorkville Cemetery. Married Wayne Lowrey on April 8, 1926. His birth Sept. 6, 1900, died July 3, 1971. Child:

a. Rena Joyce Lowrey, born Feb. 2, 1927. Married August 19, 1950 to Clifford Christen, born August 1, 1927. Children:

aa. Catherine Lucile, born March 16, 1955

bb. Mary Elizabeth, born Oct. 10, 1956

cc. Joan Maureen, born June 16, 1960

dd. Laurie Ann, born Oct. 20, 1962

E. Alta Burger (adopted); married Arthur Johnson. Children:

1. James Rafael Johnson; married Jeanette and Marillyn. Children:

a. George Robert, married and divorced, has two sons

b. Judy, died at college age

2. Madge Johnson; married Ed Pursell. Children: Jerry and Ernest. Both died young.

3. Bettie Johnson; married Don McCollum. Child:

a. Donna; married. Children: Gordon and Nancy

III. Sarah Elizabeth Rawles, born Sept. 30, 1836, died August 8, 1860. Married



The Rawles children: Vera and Vernon, standing, and Zelpha, Ernest and Lois in front.

Vernon Downs in 1859

IV. Gabriel Rawles, born April 16, 1838, died Nov. 4, 1838

V. John C. Rawles, born Feb. 4, 1840, died at birth

VI. Joseph Rawles Jr. II, born May 16, 1842, died Jan. 12, 1872. Married Elby Gibbon in 1869. Children:

A. Laurence Rawles; married Henry Singley. Children:

1. Georgie

2. Theo Singley; married Earl Ford

3. Leonard Singley

4. Herbert Singley; married Margaret Wilson. Child: Evelyn, married Broadus

B. Allie Rawles, died 1971. Married Charley Lawson. Children:

1. Roy Lawson, died in 1917 in World War I

2. Marie Lawson; married John Carico. Child: Richard Carico. Married. Children: Mark and Michael Carico

C. Joseph W. Rawles III; married Hetty Vestal. Children:

1. Lenore A. Rawles, born 1895. Married David E. Babcock. Children:

a. Myrtle V. Babcock, born 1913. Married Darrell Perry and Major William Moberly. Child: Sondra Perry, died young.

b. James W. Babcock, born 1920. Married Mary E. Parker. Child: David E., married Judith Ann Rawles

2. Jefferson Beryl Rawles, born 1897. Married Maudie Wheeler. Children:

a. Raymond Rawles, born 1923

b. Beryl Joyce Rawles, born 1927. Married Jorgensen

c. Clair Sue Rawles, born 1929. Married Richard Jorgensen

d. Bud Lee Rawles, born 1931

3. Garth B. Rawles, born 1899. Married Alice Christianson. Children:

a. Garth Berryman Rawles, born 1924. Married Paula Duncan.

b. Richard Lee Rawles, born 1927. Died young in US Navy

c. Patricia J. Rawles, born 1933. Married Frank Vargen.

4. Lyle Rawles, born 1900, died 1979. Married Claude Stout and Butler Brinegar. Divorced. Child:

a. Claude (Stout) Brinegar, born 1926. Married Elva Jackson.

5. Hannah Marie Rawles, born 1903, died 1905

6. Joseph W. Rawles IV, born 1906. Married.

7. Geraldine B. Rawles, born 1912. Married Solon Terrell, divorced

8. Norris Rawles, born 1909. Married Edith Eklund. Children:

a. Norris, born 1942, married.

b. Jeffrey J. Rawles, born 1946. Married.

9. Bessie B. Rawles, born 1914. Married James Lyons. Children:

a. James Lyons Jr., born 1934; married Margaret Cavanaugh

b. Maureen Lyons; married L. R. Garrison

VII. Robert Henry Rawles, born 1844, died 1911. Gravestone says born 1845. Married Blanche Brown who died in a year. Married Delcena McAbee, born Dec. 19, 1857, died in 1951. Children:

A. Vernon Robert Rawles, 1886-1948; married Martha Wood 1891-1978. Child:

1. Robert Lynn Rawles born 1920, died June 1971. Married Charlotte Barker, born August 1920. Children:

a. Robert Nathaniel, born Jan. 1947. Married Jewel De Gracie in Jan. 1969

b. Thomas Vernon, born Dec. 1949. Married Michelle Cullen August 1971

c. Judith Ann Rawles, born Dec. 1953. Married April 1977 to David Babcock

B. Vera Winona Rawles. Married Galway.

C. Lois Elaine Rawles, married Carl P. Clow. Children:

1. Roberta May Clow 1921-1926

2. Jeanne Elaine Clow; married Jae Humphries, divorced. Married George Ayres. Child:

Jo Ann Humphries, born 1939. Married H. Norman Charles, born 1938

D. Zelpha Rawles. Married Raymond Brunk, divorced. Married Albert Michelson. Children:

1. Marjorie Del Brunk, born 1916. Married Stephen M. Lamson

2. Albert Michelsen Jr., born 1923. Married Helen Sage

E. Ernest Everett Rawles, born 1897. Married Eloise Wallach. Children:

1. Doris Gayle; married Ben Jarnutzer and Joseph Brower

2. John E. Rawles, born 1928. Married Marjorie Courtney

3. Donald Rawles, born 1930. Married Barbara Creveling

F. Thelma Rawles, born 1899. Married Berryman Faught. Child: Stepson William B. Faught

VIII. Thomas Rawles, born Dec. 22, 1848. Died July 1913. Married: Louisa Tarwater 1849-1935. Children:

A. Robert Carlton Rawles (Little Bob). Married Mitt Forest Blevins. Divorced. Married Kate Orr. Children:

1. Darrell Rawles. Married.

2. Norma Rawles. Married Jacob Frye.

3. Zola Rawles. Married Brown, Married John Snider.

4. Jane Rawles. Married William Carter

5. Jess Rawles. Married Barbara Ford

6. Eugene Carlson Rawles. Married Dora Eichen

7. Mary Rawles, married Frank Sappingfield

B. Mattie Rawles. Married George Rhodes. Children:

1. Hal Rhodes

2. Gladys Rhodes

3. Curtis Rhodes

C. Leslie Aleck Rawles, 1885-1935. Married Barbara Deering. Children:

1. Margorie M. Rawles, born Sept. 16, 1911.

2. Granville Rawles, born 1913. Married Mary Gorton

3. Thomas E. Rawles, born 1916. Married Mary Jane Budzein

4. Robert Leslie Rawles, born 1920. Married Faye E. Miller

IX. Susan Rawles, 1851-1927. Married in 1873 to William F. Ormbaun 1845-1887. Children:

A. Clara Irene Ormbaun, born March 3, 1874, died Dec. 25, 1958. Married Porterfield Lawson. Child:

1. Ferol Lawson, born Oct. 4, 1901. Married John Slotte

B. Thomas Henry Ormbaun, born Dec. 28, 1875, died Dec. 18, 1957. Married Bell Estes in 1903

C. Kate Estell Ormbaun, born April 11, 1879. Died April 11, 1954. Married Jack Keppel. Children:

1. Everett Keppel, born August 13, 1905. Married Irene Lessley and Betty Woodmasee

2. Pearl Keppel, born April 14, 1918. Married James Curtis

D. Lulu Ormbaun, born April 17, 1881. Married Thomas McKay in 1902 and Harry Neissen in 1927

E. Everett Ernest Ormbaun, born Nov. 3, 1883, died Sept. 29, 1884

F. Pearl Gladys Ormbaun, born July 3, 1887, died Sept. 29, 1894.

Married James Hutsell. Children:

1. Vivian Hutsell, born Nov. 2, 1910. Married Russell Gentry and William Frizzel

2. Robert Hutsell, born Jan. 7, 1913. Married Rose.

X. Alexander Nathan Rawles, born 1853, died 1929. Married Willa Mock, born 1857, died 1941. Children:

A. Fred A. Rawles, born 1883, died 1952. Gravestone says 1951. Married Russie Hutsell 1887-1965. Children:

1. Newell Rawles, born 1909. Married Dollene Wilson

2. Malcolm Rawles, born 1911. Married Alice Stornetta, divorced. Married Alma Scaramella

B. Wesley Mock Rawles, born 1885, died 1964. Married.

C. McDonald Rawles (Max), born 1893, died 1980.

D. Warren K. Rawles, born March 20, 1895, died Sept. 23, 1898

E. Austin Nathan Rawles, born 1897. Married Myrtle Read. Children:

1. Wilma Rawles. Married Simmons and Hamilton

2. Phyllis Rawles, born 1940. Married Schiessl

*Letters Written By Mattie Rawles Rhodes
Telling Of Her Childhood Memories
Of Life In Anderson Valley*

The following is a copy of a letter written to Mrs. Jesse Burger McCarty in March 1936, by Mattie Rawles Rhodes, the daughter of Louisa Jane Tarwater and Thomas Rawles. This will be referred to as letter number one.

My first recollections of the Indians was in the early 1870's, probably '74 or '75. At that time, rancheria was on the bluff, facing Anderson Creek and a small creek or branch that came out of the meadow below Grandpa Rawles' house, to the east of the orchard. Here they lived in a primitive way. Their homes were real Indian huts -- made circular style with a hole in the top for the smoke to issue -- and only one small opening for a door. An adult had to stoop to enter.

The fire was kept going in the middle of the hut but it was always smoky or so it seemed. Their beds were pallets arranged around the sides and here they lived and slept and ate, adults, children, babies and dogs, always plenty of dogs or rather curs, "Injun Dogs." These huts were mostly made of redwood slabs with the bark on and in the summer they had huts or flat topped ones, covered with willows.

They had a big sweat house here, made of the redwood slabs and bark and air-tight except for the little door and hole in the top, fire in the middle and around this they staged their dances. Whites were not allowed to witness these dances except as a special favor, but of course our people "Rawles" were specially privileged as these Indians considered Grandpa Rawles their boss and friend. These dances were held at night, as they danced in the nude, except for a "Breech clout" and a band on their heads.

The squaws and visitors were lined around the sides and the dancers formed a circle around the fire while they danced and cavorted, but mostly they danced squatted, as near as I can express it, and made a noise constantly, something like "huh -- huh." As soon as one was covered with sweat and about done up, he rushed from the circle out the little door -- the sweat house stood on the bank of the creek at a deep hole -- and plunged into this cold water. After floundering a while, out he came, and bee-lined it for his own hut. And so on through the dance, a new one takes his place in the dance.

At this time the Indians cooked in the ashes and with hot rocks, and ate mostly as they had before the white man. They had flour and made their hoe cakes or ash cakes and cooked their wild game or fish on the coals. Acorns, buckeyes, pepperwood balls were made into pinole, tarweed, etc. The whites

always let the squaws garner their fields after the thrashers had gone, and they gathered it in their little flat basket using the little fan-like basket they used in getting the tarweed. They also ate the tender clover and wild anise.

It took them several days to fix the buckeye balls, which they fixed in the sand on the creek, by fixing hot rocks and dropping them into the buckets of water on the sand. They buried them in this hot sand until they were leached, when they dried and ground them. Also in those deep holes above a riffle, they would pound up the wild mullein on a rock and throw it in the water. A few minutes later the little fish came to the top, belly up. The squaws took what they needed and as the rest washed over the riffle to clear water, they came alive. I have seen these things many times as a child.

Also the squaws washing their clothes by pounding the soap root on a rock, making a lather and using rocks to rub the clothes on, at the same time washing their long hair with the lather, and while it was drying, throwing their little papooses into the water to teach them to swim, and how they laughed at the squawks and sputterings.

At this time many of the Indians were of the generation of the time of the settlement of Anderson Valley, and of these I remember four old men, who must have been close to 100 years, nearly blind, but perfect teeth, though badly worn. No hat or shoes, just overalls tied with a string. Sambo and Gabriel are the only names I remember. In summer the Indians lived mostly outdoors and when the squaws went to wash for a white, she wore all her dresses one over the other, or when she got home some lady friend would have borrowed same. They didn't eat the wild berries, as some claim except the wild manzanita. They had fish baskets in the creeks for salmon, and also caught quail in these long pointed baskets made of hazel bushes. (More of this if you wish.)

Bob and I used to help "Somersow" at this on rainy days. Indian Tom's wife was Molly, one of the last of the old ones to go. After the Rancheria broke and scattered, where Tom Ormbaun now lives, Indian Tom died and Molly was left alone. She carried all her belongings in the big basket on her back, fastened around her head with a strap.

She would "pase ah" from Yorkville to Papa's and to Bill Ball's and back to Yorkville. Papa said that she would stay several days then travel on. He said they would get up some morning and there would be old Molly, sitting out in the wood shed, with her basket of belongings. She would sit around, sleep there at night, and of course they fed her. She kept this up for several years till she finally died.

Tom and Molly had the biggest family, except Bill Ball and Mary. Jim was their eldest. Then Somersow (Fred's father) John, who was sent to San Quentin for murdering the man who the Indians were afraid of because he was a Spiritualist and talked to himself. They said he talked to the trees. (He

was Walter Witherell's father-in-law, but I've forgotten his name), (The Witherell story gives the name "Cowan), and Dutch, named for mama. Somersow married Nellie, a half breed, white father named Fletcher, and raised at Navarro. (This Mose James the Indian football player who made such a reputation from Carlisle was Dutch's grandson.) They had quite a family. Fred, for one, and Jimmie Knight at Ukiah married one girl, and Steve Knight the other. Emma, I think. Most of the family died of TB as did most of that generation of these Indians.

Nellie still lives with the Knight family in Ukiah. She was raised by the whites. (Mama said she saw Fred at Tom's and she said "How many children have you Fred?" "None, I live around Tom Ornbaun too long.")

The Indians made annual pilgrimages or "Pase ah." I believe Stewart Edward White spells it "Passeur," but we always said it "The Injuns pase ah" to the coast, Manchester and Point Arena section in the summer time for fish and seaweed. The seaweed was cooked in their pinole and such, whether for salt or food, I never knew.

These "pase ahs" were always made by many, they never travelled alone, or left their huts after dark. It was many years before an Indian travelled at night and when they made these trips, it was like the old rhyme, "Single file, Injun style." They covered the same trail every year and these trails were worn down, knee deep and narrow. The squaws, of course, were loaded down with those big baskets, worn over their head. They always carried the load, while the bucks swung along without a care. And if any of the older ones were blind, which was frequent, the squaws led them, leading them by a long stick or hazel switch.

One of these was "Blind Pete" who later was murdered by "Dave," a young half-breed with one leg off, wore a wooden leg, was sent to San Quentin and later returned to Anderson. He murdered Blind Pete where he was chopping wood and covered him up with the brush, for a few dollars Pete had. His disappearance caused the Indians to hunt for him and then to suspect Dave, and Calti turned him over to the officers.

The squaws wore their hair long and tied up at the back like a horse tail is tied, and also straight bangs and all were tatooed around the mouth. This generation of Indians never wore shoes nor hat, and the squaws always went barefoot as late as the late '80s, but the bucks were not so long getting shod, though the old ones were barefoot to the last.

Their language was a mixture of Spanish, so much so that I could talk to my next neighbor on 9th Avenue, who was a Spanish woman without English. I could make her understand and could understand her (with gestures). The mahalas would come to our house most any time of day and say, "Dutch, me much a hunkiler -- mi ke -- carey chenee" -- I am very hungry -- I want bread (Ouda be sit) remember?

The mahalas sat around in circles and wailed at certain times of the day for weeks after a death. They could be heard clear across the valley. At the time Grandma died, the old mahalas, about one-half dozen, would come and sit in the backyard and wail. Also their wailers would cut themselves on face and neck with bits of glass. They used leaves of ----- Gladys is going out and will mail this so will send more if you wish. Let me know if you want any specific things as these are mere glimmerings of an old pioneer. (I sure lived in the past when I had fever, Aunt Jane was with me much.)

I scribbled this in bed and on looking it over am ashamed to send it, but on second thought guess I better send it and you may get something out of the scramble. As I get stronger will send some more but you will have to "separate the wheat from the chaff" if there be any wheat. You might ask Charley McGimsey about things, as he married Linda (Malinda) Murray. 1st wife. She was the daughter of Rhoda Anderson, wife of Cleve Murray, and Linda and I were great pals, as she was just my age, and a beautiful girl. If you remember she died of TB at about the time the Heryfords came to Boont.

I was born in the old Anderson home, dirt floor, mud and stick chimney, log and split timber for walls. Part of the logs later Papa made into a chicken house on the site where our house burned. This site was Grandma Rawles' homestead where I stayed when about eight, and went to school to Woodward in the house of Aunt Mary McGimsey that burned. There was no Point Arena road at that time, had to go through the fields and cross a foot log near where the Point Arena bridge is now. In this same meadow for years Grandma kept geese, and how the old ganders chased us and bit our legs, even some of the little Indian playmates, like Indian John and Cynthia (named for Grandma), Bill Ball's daughter.

Well, Jessie, this is just a scribble and doubt if you can make head or tails of it -- as I am very weak and shaky, but will write more things as they come to me and if I can remember something you can use, will be glad. How about old Gabe and his tears?

Uncle Ben told me that Aunt Jane had no baby for many years. When Jessie came along they were so proud of her always, but sometimes forgot her. One night she and Uncle George went to church taking the baby along, who of course went to sleep on a bench. When they got home, Uncle George reached into the wagon to get the baby. "Why Jane, where's the baby?"

"My God, I forgot her at the church."

Mrs. Frye should remember things and Charles Brown.

The following is a copy of a letter written to Mrs. Jesse Burger McCarty in March 1936 by Mattie Rawles Rhodes, the daughter of Louisa Jane Tarwater and Thomas Rawles. This will be referred to as letter number two.

There is some history for you, Jessie, though I don't remember the details. There was trouble and a big fight at the old house on the hill, (and how scared you and I were at night at the same old house when they were hunting Bob Craft, a mystery still unexplained). I think the Braytons lived there at the time -- Aunt Olive, Dwight's grandmother's people, and in the fight five men were killed and buried on the rocky hill which later Tom Cook cleared for vineyard, I think. At any rate he cleared it of the rocks but I don't know what happened to the graves.

I think I will tell you of an early Anderson Valley wedding brought to mind as you mentioned Grandpap McGimsey, Justice of the Peace, and Ex-Confederate soldier. This was in the early 1870's. Anderson Valley was a little kingdom unto itself at this time. Dependent on its own for everything except the groceries, etc., that the four horse teams brought back twice a year on their return from hauling the wool to Cloverdale for the semi-annual wool sale.

On these trips groceries were brought back in large quantities (imagine enough to last six months) though the people were all neighborly and helped out each other in case one run short on supplies. Meat was plentiful as at this time each family head did his own butchering from his stock, hogs, sheep or cattle and also his own curing, salt or brine, and bacon. It was arranged so that the families didn't all butcher at the same time, and the pigs' feet, back bones, sausage and head cheese, as well as parts when beef or sheep were butchered were divided with the neighbors, which was reciprocated later, this making an endless chain.

Also game was very, very plentiful, deer, quail, grouse, etc. The sugar came in big barrels, about 195 pounds, and was brown, no white sugar at this time. Later we had what they called "Golden Sea" sugar which was much lighter in color. Coffee in 100 pound gunny sacks, green which was roasted in the oven, as needed two times a week or so, and ground coffee in a mill usually attached to the wall. Syrup in small kegs and so thick that it run out so slow we would set the keg on a chair and a big pitcher under it and let it run for an hour and then take a knife and cut it off where it came out of the barrel. It was wonderful syrup, as to flavor, something like Tea Garden Drips. Tobacco came in big boxes in long plugs and every fellow cut his own, either for pipe or "Chaw," no cigarettes (or cigereets) as they called them later, at this time.

But I started about a wedding but must tell you about the game at the time (about '74). I think when we were on our sheep ranch. The deer were in small herds, from a half dozen or so to as many as 40. I remember seeing at various

times 25 or 30 grazing on the ridges morning and evening near the poison oak patches, and have seen several bear at this time grazing in the clover patches and they were perfectly harmless, would sit up and look, then drop down and amble off. Also panthers, in action at one time I saw an old one and two young ones chasing sheep down a long ridge. They looked like big dogs and had the sheep on a run, and so I reported to my father and he took his dogs and rifle and started out on horseback, and finally after half a day's run, the dogs treed them near "Bear Waller" and he killed them. The old one measured over nine feet from tip to tip.

At this time the ranchers run their own bullets and loaded their shells, but still this hasn't got to the wedding -- at North Fork, or Flynn Creek which you know now as the Dimmick Grove Section, the timber was being cut for the Navarro Mill at Navarro Flat, where Navarro River reaches the ocean. (This is all gone now.)

James Reilly, a very fine and highly educated man, the first man I remember being a Mason, was superintendent of the woods. This timber that was cut during that time is now what is called second growth timber and can be cut and milled now, so you can see it doesn't take so long for the re-growth of the redwood.

At any rate, Christine Gschwend and Mr. Reilly were to be married and the guests were invited to the wedding at Justice Judge McGimsey's home. We were first to arrive, having to come over the hills from the ranch on horse back, I riding behind my father and Bob behind Mother. Horse back was the most used means of transportation those days, not having arrived at the "horse and buggy days" yet. As the guests arrived, horses were tied to the rail fence and presently the bride and groom arrived on horse back, and dressed up for the occasion. A fine looking couple. So all entered and were greeted by the judge. All stood up and the ceremony was soon over, but the judge couldn't find his ink and had to call on his wife, Aunt Charity, to hunt it up before the papers could be signed.

Guests and bride and groom dispersed for a wedding luncheon at the hotel. The ladies rode side saddles those days with tight fitting jackets and many buttons down the front and the longer the skirt the better. If it reached to the horse's knees all the better. A little bit of a tight fitting hard felt hat, a la derby.

If you get tired of these glimmerings, throw in the fire -- am lying in bed and passing away the time. If there is anything particular you want let me know and will try if I can remember.

That old orchard east of the old home is I think the oldest in the valley. Always heard Mr. Anderson planted it. You know of course that Ike and Henry Beeson were his step-sons. Around the old house were many old black roses and Castilian and yellow briar roses, which you never see now, but the

Castilian was very fragrant, pink and thorny, and have been told that this root was the original graft for all our fine bush roses.

Quite a vineyard also grew near where the road is now, just west of the present house. Also referring to game, it was Bob's and my delight to hunt elk horns. They were plentiful then, mostly lying in the edges of the redwoods. My father had several fine sets nailed to the barn. At one time there must have been many elk there, near Rancheria Creek. When I speak of ranch I mean what you know now as the Walker Ranch (Hutsell) and there was no Point Arena road.

Fish, salmon were plentiful, as were wild ducks. Eagles and redtail hawks were bad on lambs then and coyotes had not invaded the ranches. Panther, wild cats, etc., but even then some claimed the bears weren't sheep killers.

Among the Indians I never knew or heard of any immorality. They were so bashful and hard to make talk unless you were a "Pis ano." They would say "Mucha Wano." "He my pren" always used "he or she" wrong. Remember Indian Kate when she was about 14 decided to take her chickens to the hop field. She had branched out into the chicken business, getting a start of Plymouth Rocks from Aunt Susan, had several dozen about half-grown, so she put them in gunny sacks and on arriving at the McGough field they were all smothered. How she wailed and cried, "I didn't know it kill 'em."

Indian Dick came to the house one day and said, "Tom, you my pren, you tell it me, what I do? I no can savvy -- what kind of woman I git -- all women want me -- what kind of woman I git, big woman, little woman -- all woman want me."

Calti was burning brush in the field and Leslie was a little fellow playing around the fire and a spark got in his stocking and burned him and he yelled for Calti and Calti brought him to the house. He told mother, "Leslie yell, he run, I run, and we both got there the same time."

Another anecdote of the old Indian Sambo: Nate Ingram hired him to work and as the job didn't rate much pay, told Sambo he would pay him with shirt and overalls. So Sambo did his little chore and Nate told him to go up to the store and tell the storekeeper to give him shirt and overalls on his account. Sambo not returning soon enough, Nate went up to see what the matter was, (Nate and family, Delia Witherell was his wife, lived at this time on the site where May Looney's house stood, might have been the same house).

At any rate, when Nate reached the store there was Sambo pulling on overalls, had on five shirts and five overalls, clamoring for more, getting them larger each time. The storekeeper said every time Sambo got into a garment, he said, "More shirt, more oberall, Nate, she tell me she pay in shirt and oberall."

One time Bill Ball, Indian, came to call on me late in the P.M., when we lived in Ukiah and asked if I could give him some dinner. I did the best I could

with the leftovers and the principle dish left was a dish of rice. Bill looked all over the table, then gave the rice dish a shove and said, "Moddie, what's the matter? I no dam Chinaman." He won, and I cooked his lunch.

At one time Steve Bartlett, Indian, came once a week regular for lunch, but always insisted on getting wood and kindling in, filled the woodbox to last till the next visit, but this time I asked him to dig a flower bed instead, and he didn't like it much but went at it. Presently I went out to see and he was just slaughtering a big bed of double white violets I was very proud of. I yelled at him to stop and he said, "What for you like dem dam biolets, no good, you can't eat 'em."

Squealing Charlie got religion at the mission and started to pray, "God bless eberybody -- God bless Anderson Balley Injun, God bless Round Balley Injun, God bless Ukiyah Injun, but Good God don't bless Pomo Injun, Pomo Injun, she son-of-a-bitch."

Pen Sketches Of Mendocino County

By Thomas Jefferson McGimsey

(Taken from the **PACIFIC RURAL PRESS** dated March 17, 1888)

*E*ditor's Press: Having been a resident of this county for nearly 30 years, I thought I might by your aid become, to a limited extent, a public benefactor, especially to the homeseeker. I propose to give to the readers of your valuable home-builder a general idea of the topography, soil, climate, health and resources of Mendocino County.

To begin with, the oldest settlement was made in Anderson Valley by Walter Anderson in the year 1851. He came to California in 1846, being one of the typical pioneers of the mighty West. Mr. Anderson resided in Anderson with his family till 1862. Then, becoming old and feeble, he removed to Ukiah to live with his son-in-law, L.B. Lamar, cousin of our distinguished L.Q.C. Lamar, late secretary of the Interior -- where he died in 1866.

Anderson Valley

It is one of the picturesque and lovely valleys that nature seems to have favored. It is situated 30 miles northwest of Cloverdale, 20 miles west of Ukiah City -- the county-seat of Mendocino -- and 18 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. The Navarro River, which heads about 16 miles north of Healdsburg and runs about 50 miles nearly parallel with the ocean and then empties into it, drains the watershed of Anderson township. This river and its tributaries drain about 180,000 acres of Mendocino's best lands, including about 60,000 acres of as fine redwood, tanbark, oak, laurel, madronya, fir, chestnut, oak, white and black oak, etc., as is grown in California.

The valley is about 18 miles in length by, say, from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles wide, settled by as thrifty, hospitable people as can be found anywhere. It is bounded on the west by a high range of hills covered with a heavy growth of fine redwoods, tanbark, oak, etc. On the east are open grassy alluvial hills on which herds of fine-wooled sheep find abundant pasture summer and winter and produce the wools of California which always command the highest prices in the San Francisco market. This is the principal industry of this township.

We also raise a great many hogs, which usually find plenty of acorns and are grown at a trifling cost. Wheat, oats, barley, rye, hops and corn and all kind of garden vegetables are grown in abundance, and the land is well-suited for apples, pears, peaches, plums and prunes. Our crops are grown without irrigation, our rainfall being never less than 20 and generally 30 inches and frequently more, which insures us against drouth and makes us

independent of canal rates or riparian rights. Hardly a quarter-section but has from 1 to 6 springs of the best of water. Our flouring mill is run by one of the mountain streams.

As to the adaptation of our locality for a fruit country, I refer the reader to Dr. S. F. Chapin, who was State Inspector of Fruit Pests. He visited our locality about three years ago. His address is Auburn, California.

A great deal of the timber lands when cleared is the most productive and grows the finest of fruits. I have known of parties slashing down the timber and in the fall burn it out and sow down in the ashes without plowing or harrowing and raise fine crops of grain.

There is no healthier place on the face of the earth, in proof of which I submit the following: No case of diphtheria, of smallpox or scarlet fever was ever known in this valley. Not more than three cases of typhoid fever; less than 12 children under 15 have died, and but three young men and about the same of young women.

It seldom snows in the valley and never falls more than about three inches and usually melts away in a few hours. Being just out of the fog belt, and yet near enough to the moist Pacific air, gives us a climate free from excessive heat and cold. Our resources are yet undeveloped, but we expect to grow into one of the finest areas of olive, French prune, Bartlett pear and plum and peach producing portions of California.

Hitherto we have been too far from railroad or water transportation for any other products than stock and wool, so that our resources have been lying dormant and undeveloped, but with the S.F. & N.P. railroad building within 17 miles, and the prospect for the Santa Rosa and Benicia railroad extending into our valley where they can reach 150,000 cords of the finest of tanbark and two billion feet of the coming house-finishing lumber of the world, the future of this locality should attract home-seeker and money-maker as well.

In the valley are five school districts, Boonville, the principal village, has two general stores, hotel and livery stable, two blacksmith-shops, postoffice and express office, and contains good church and schoolhouse, and about 150 inhabitants. The U.S. mail and express depart each way every day except Sunday.

Valley land can be bought at from \$50 to \$100 per acre; hill land from \$7 to \$20, owing to locality and productiveness. Considerable good land is still subject to location. It is mountainous and mostly covered with brush and timber, but a great deal of it, if the proper energy and judgment were exercised, would make comfortable homes. Game abounds and the streams afford fine sport for the fisherman, there being plenty of mountain trout.

Thomas Jefferson McGimsey

(This was lent by George Lawson. The article was printed in the Pacific Rural Press printed since 1854. It now is called the California Farmer.)

History Of Anderson Valley Schools

By Blanche Brown

(Written by request of Mr. Robert Mathias of the new high school, 1959.)

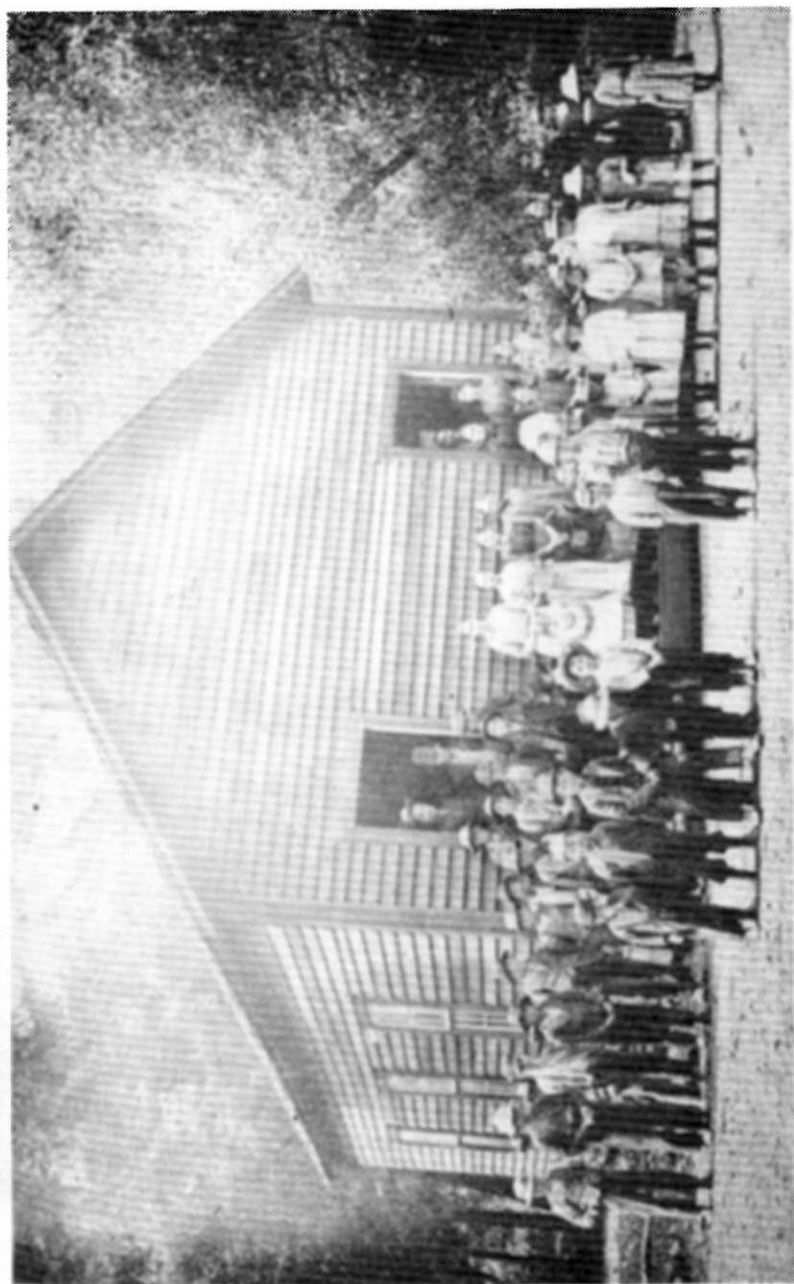
Early Schools

When the first settlers arrived in Anderson Valley, they were too occupied with building shelters, clearing, enclosing and planting ground to think of schools, so their children had a long vacation. By the spring of 1858, however, a group of parents in the upper part of the valley decided to start a private school, the site chosen being the spot where the State Highway yard in Boonville is today. The men put up a one-room log building, and Miss Melinda Buster, whose parents were probably the first settlers on the Archie Schoenahl place, was hired to teach.

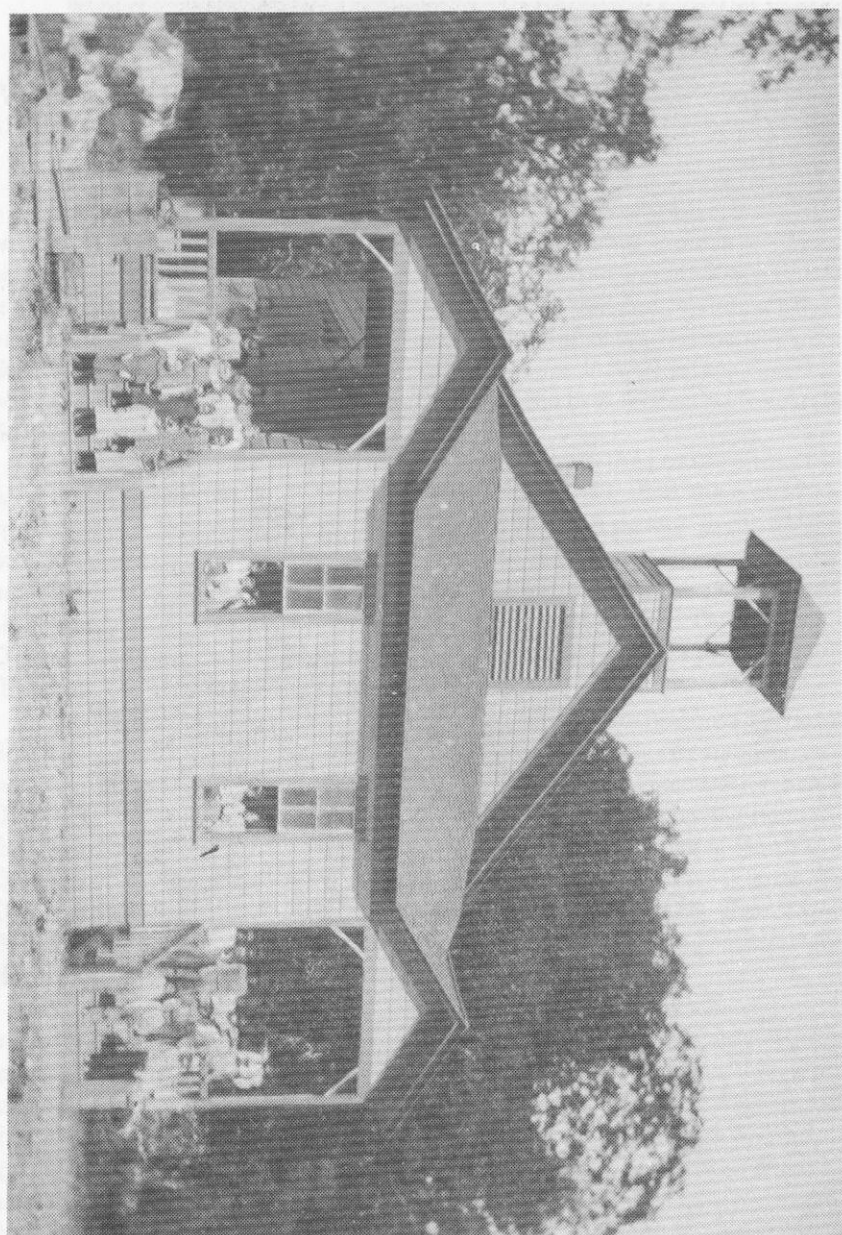
A few sheets from this teacher's register are today in the possession of Mrs. Alex Willis, giving the dates July 19, 1858 to October 23, 1858, the names and ages of pupils, and the amount of money paid by each parent. In all, \$150.05 was collected to pay the teacher for the three months for which we have a record. Most of the family names will be recognized only be people of the older generation, but two or three are familiar today to all. The list reads: Owens, Plaskett, Pickrel, Ball, Anderson, Tarwater, Rawles. The amusing "Rules of Conduct for Pupils" are still legible.

In 1859, the County of Mendocino was created from the northern portion of Sonoma County, and shortly after, boundaries of school districts were surveyed and recorded. On May 18, 1859, Anderson Elementary School District came into being, one of the first in the county. It is interesting to find that the boundaries at the time were almost identical with those of our Unified District of today. As time went on, Anderson District was cut up into smaller Districts; Counts, Rancheria (later Yorkville), Indian Creek, Con Creek, Peachland, Signal, Shields, Ormbaun, Gaskill, Anderson, Laurel and Highland.

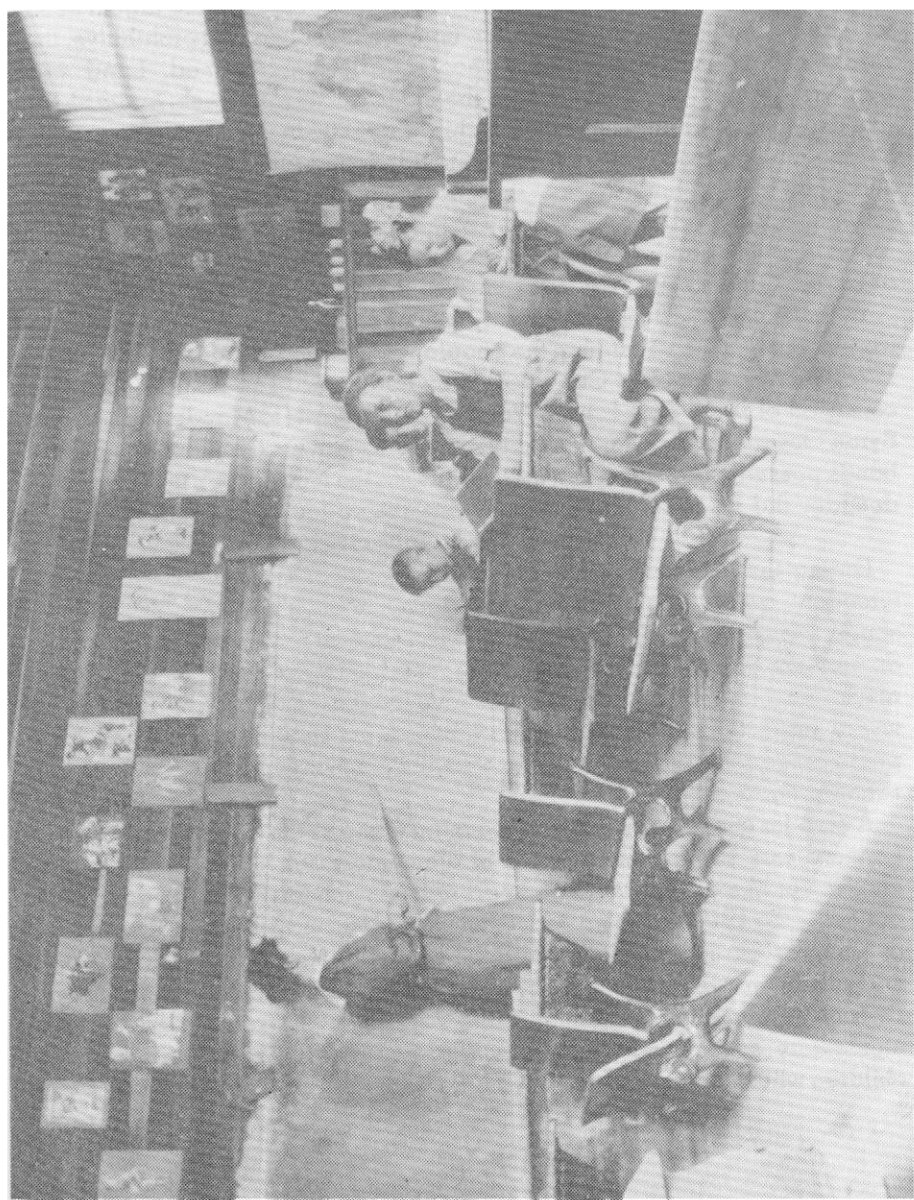
Each little district was an independent unit, with the county superintendent's annual visit the only supervision. In spite of the community's isolation, many highly trained teachers found their way into our valley and influenced young people to strive for further schooling. School was, in most districts, conducted only during the summer months. Children walked the quiet country roads, some as far as four or five miles, and it did not seem a hardship. Others rode horseback, often with a small brother or sister behind the saddle. The companionship of school was welcome, as homes were far apart and social activities limited.



The first Indian Creek School.



The second Indian Creek School at Philo.



In this picture of the Rancheria School were students Lynn, Frank and Etta Ledford, and Georgia Burger.

Growth Of A High School

About 1911 and 1912, many forward thinking people felt the urgent need for a high school. After a struggle, for many believed the cost prohibitive, the Anderson Valley Union High School District was formed. Land was purchased on the northwest side of the highway at Con Creek, and a shed-like one-room building was erected, this remaining in use for over ten years. During this time, no buses could be provided, and pupils reached the high school on foot, on horseback or in buggies. It was a long slow trip from the lower end of the valley or from some of the side roads. Some residents today recall how their hands nearly froze on frosty mornings, from holding the reins or bridle. Others say, "The back yard at the school was full of horses."

With the cooperation of the county school department, plans were finally worked out for a new building; the people voted the bonds, and on March 29, 1924, the new school at Con Creek was dedicated. The board of trustees consisted of Isaac Burke, John Wallach, Willa Rawles, Maude Ingram and Byron Gowan. These with other citizens had fought hard and long to get the bonds passed, but it was worth their efforts, for the high school, in the next two decades did much to unify the people of the valley.

Changes And Unification

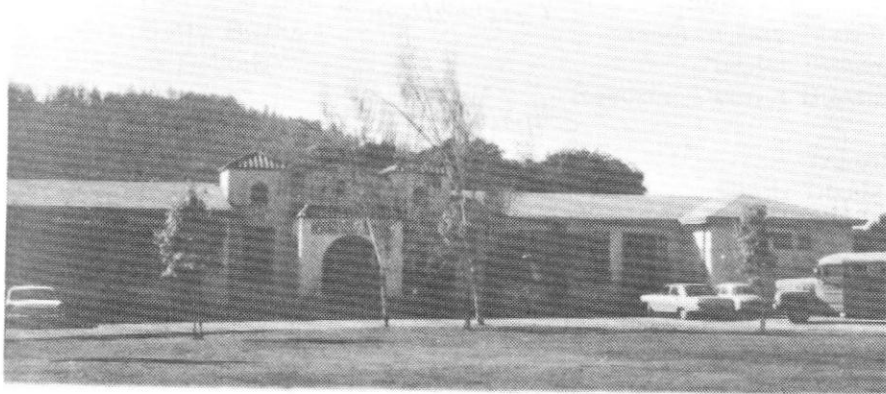
During the '30s and early '40s, with Mr. John Taylor as county superintendent, newer methods were introduced into all our schools. Trained supervisors brought materials, and helped teachers with special problems; demonstration meetings and study groups for teachers were arranged; a music teacher provided; the bookmobile appeared and various forms of visual education came into use. School lunches were provided where possible, and health was stressed, bringing a school nurse and an immunization program.

A step for greater efficiency in teaching came in the '40s, when Mr. Fred Leonard was supervisor. A union of elementary schools took place, and children of like grades were grouped in fewer schools, eliminating certain buildings. By 1947, Gaskill voted to join the union, and by action of the Board of Supervisors, in cooperation with the school department, the high school and all elementary schools became the Anderson Valley Unified School District. Also, while Mr. Dennie Willis was district superintendent, the new elementary school was built, providing comfortable room for the many children whose parents had flocked here when the lumber industry boomed.

Our New High School

(This was written by Mr. Robert Mathias,
high school superintendent)

In 1956 the board of trustees -- Dr. Neely Bradford, James Gowan, Bob Rawles, Veryl Baxter and Frank Falleri met with Dr. Gary Brown, district superintendent of schools, and started plans to build the new high school. After three bond election tries, construction began, and it was first used in the 1958-1959 school year with Dr. James Van Fossen as Superintendent of Schools. Hansen and Winkler - architects. Bill Rapp, science teacher, drew up his own plans for his laboratory.



The Anderson Valley High School, above, was recently torn down. Former teacher Beth Tuttle is at left.

*Anderson Valley
Community
Methodist Church*

*90th Anniversary
Celebration*

April 17, 1955

ANDERSON VALLEY COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH

Paul K. Corley

Pastor

Donald H. Baldwin

District Superintendent

Donald Harvey Tippet

Resident Bishop

SERVICES:

Boonville -- Morning Worship -- 11:00 a.m.

Philo -- Evening Worship -- 7:30 p.m.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL:

Boonville

Mrs. Marilyn Presley, Supt.

Sunday -- 9:45 a.m.

Philo

Mrs. Charmian Blattner, Supt.

Sunday -- 9:45 a.m.

THE M.Y.F.

Boonville -- Sunday -- 7:00 p.m. Miss Sue Bright, Pres.

Jack and Kay Clow, Counselors

Philo -- Sunday -- 6:45 p.m. Miss Betty Mason, Pres., Mrs. Louise Brown, Mrs. Charmian Blattner and Mrs. Betty Burns, Counselors

THE FRIDAY NIGHT CLASS AT PHILO:

Crafts, Games, Stories, Songs

7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Louise Brown, Mrs. Charmian Blattner, Mrs. Betty Burns, Counselors

Ladies' Aid Club:

Mrs. Mildred Peterson

President

The W.S.C.S.

Mrs. Elinor Clow, President

Meets the Second and Fourth Thursdays

The Official Board:

Mrs. Jack Clow

Lay leader and Pres. Pro. Tem.

Mrs. Florence Lollich

Recording Steward

Mrs. Catherine Strickland

Treasurer

Trustees: Jack Clow, Cecil Gowan, Melvin Skillman, Carl

Carlson, James Gowan, Phil Eason

Stewards: Mrs. Catherine Strickland, Mrs. Louise Brown, Mrs.

Evelyn Carlson, Mrs. Arlie Clark, Mrs. Mildred Peterson, Mrs.

Zola Willis, Mrs. Joan Walton

Mrs. Florence Lollich

Lay Member of Annual Conference

Mrs. Betty Burns

Reserve Lay Member

Horace Lollich

District Steward

Carl Carlson

Reserve District Steward

The Choir:

Mrs. Gwen Rapp

Organist

Mr. Art Keen

Choir Director

Appreciation

I wish that I could adequately express the thanks of myself and our members for the splendid work done in preparation for this 90th Anniversary Celebration. The men and the women who worked on the buildings, the W.S.C.S. members who planned the Anniversary Tea, and the Committee on Church History which prepared this brochure -- all these have our hearty thanks. The committee on Church History was composed of Miss Blanche Brown and Mrs. Zola Willis.

Paul Corley, Pastor

Foreward:

In compiling this report with less than sufficient time for complete study, it is the hope of the committee that the reading of this brochure will elicit new information, or channels for further search: that on our 100th anniversary, more of the old history will have been established, and more recent activities developed and included.

The Committee

Miss Blanche Brown

Mrs. Zola Willis

History Of The Methodist Episcopal Church In Anderson Valley

*I*n tracing the advance of Methodism in Northern California we find that in 1850 the historic town of Sonoma was the site of the first quarterly Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (North). From there the work spread, and soon strong centers were established in Benicia, Martinez, Petaluma, Napa and Santa Rosa. From the parent church spread the gospel. One historian states, "Where the price of hay was prohibitive, as in the mining country and near San Francisco, the minister often walked forty miles carrying food, personal effects and church materials in saddlebags."

In the early '50s the M. E. Church South was organized in Ukiah by L. C. Adams from the Santa Rosa Circuit. According to the history of Mendocino County, monthly services were held in homes in Anderson Valley.

By 1858 the M. E. Church North was also established in Ukiah, and that circuit included all of Anderson Valley. Evidently men with true missionary spirit rode the twenty crooked miles from Ukiah to this community over an Indian trail. Others rode the trail from Point Arena through Ormbaun Valley to Yorkville, then into Anderson Valley. The village center here was a little settlement known as "The Corners," at what is now the junction of the Ukiah road and the highway.

Here in the valley the ministers were welcomed into the homes of the pioneer families. The settlers seemed to feel that these "Men of God" were a saving link between this hard new life and the security they had left behind.

In 1864 the Methodist Episcopal Conference (North) sent a Reverend H. Churchman to serve as first resident minister, thus really beginning the local church ninety-one years ago. At the end of the year he reported ten members, with thirty in Sunday School. By 1866 under Reverend W. B. Davis there were twenty-seven members but still no church property. All this time the membership was kept at Ukiah and for the next five years we seem to have been often without a pastor.

With the coming of new families there were more people preferring the Methodist Church South, and the need of a building was deeply felt. In 1873 Mr. John McAbee, postmaster and prominent rancher, deeded the land for a Methodist Church South, the site of the present church in Boonville. Through kindness of Gussie Ruddock, now of Ukiah, we have secured a phototyped copy of the original deed signed by Mr. McAbee before "Henry J. Abbot,

County Clerk, by T. J. McGimsey, Deputy." The Trustees, still of Ukiah, were: William Ford, W. H. Van, J. N. Nuckols, M. J. Cox, M. York and W. F. Holliday.

In interesting notes written by Florence Etta Brown, daughter of pioneer Henry Beeson, it is stated that the dedication ceremony was carried out by a Reverend Thomas Anderson, and that the resident minister was Thomas Brown. She gives names of some of the people who gave money or donated labor as : J. W. McAbee; her father Henry Beeson; Bob Wallace; Joe Rawles Sr.; and J. D. Ball. Mr. Henry Wightman, well-known builder of early days, gave his services as head carpenter.

In a paper written by Hattie (Prather) Brown is found this paragraph: "I remember when the present Methodist Church in Boonville was dedicated. A minister from Point Arena by the name of Appleton presided, and I believe enough money was subscribed then to pay for it. Among the subscribers were the Denmarks, the Burgers, the Rawles, the McGimseys and the McAbees. There were many others whom I do not now recall."

It seems probable that all ministers came from surrounding parishes to have a part in the dedication of a new church. It is also thought that a Reverend Barnett was instrumental in getting the building started prior to completion. A Sunday School was organized and Mr. William Rose became Superintendent, being reinstated many times. The first song book used was entitled the "Song Bell."

Camp meetings were held each year, often in the woods beside Con Creek. Some interesting old pictures of these gatherings exist here in the Valley. Here, whole families congregated, bringing their camping equipment in carts, "spring Wagons" and big wagons. The tents were set, brush-topped huts put up and a spot selected as the "meeting ground." At night a huge bonfire lit the scene and fun and sociability reigned until the evening service started.

Under the fiery sermons of the old time evangelists and the thrill of voices rising in "grand old hymns" under the stars, emotions rose to high pitch. Some of the new-found faith professed under these condtions lasted, and thus good was done. Too many people, after the first flush of excitement expired, forgot their faith, and relapsed into ways. Old Settlers also remember camp meetings in Ormbaun Valley and as late as 1903 or 1904 across the creek from the old Yorkville School House.

From the time of the building of the South Methodist Church until about 1890 very few records were kept. It must have been difficult to get or keep a pastor. One man at one time served both "Anderson and Cuffey's Cove (Elk)." Then "Anderson and Navarro Ridge," and in 1882 "Cloverdale and Anderson Valley."

The people in the northern part of the Valley felt that a church was needed near Philo. On March 13th, 1891, Cornelius Prather, first postmaster, Justice of the Peace, and rancher, deeded the plot of ground on which the present Philo Church stands to the Methodist Episcopal Church (North). On the same date a meeting was held and the following people pledged various sums for the building:

Cornelius Prather
 Emma Prather Long
 L. Hoag
 F. D. Maltman
 Joseph Roads
 Martin A. Ray
 W. J. Ward
 J. D. Harrison
 A. G. Ruddock
 S. T. Ruddock
 M. Dutro
 John J. Smalley
 W. A. Price
 Daniel J. Jones
 Mrs. S. T. Hahne
 Lucius H. Bollinger
 W. B. Priddy, Minister
 W. S. Urmy, Minister
 W. T. Brush
 Daniel Jeans
 E. A. Irish
 J. L. Prather
 Mr. Studebaker
 Frank Hinson
 J. B. Hunt
 C. S. Ball
 J. L. Eldredge
 D. L. Perry
 George V. Brereton
 Thos. Cowin

R. Day
 J. J. McGimsey
 A. N. Rawles
 W. C. Weeks
 M. Miller
 Mrs. R. Rawles
 Charles Sanders
 Reverend Grant
 Luch Whipple (Elisha?)
 Mr. and Mrs. Fry
 J. D. Ball
 R. C. Burger
 T. E. Rawles
 (one chandelier and four lamps)
 L. C. Bivans
 G. W. Burger
 C. J. Clement
 Clow Brothers
 E. M. Duff
 T. J. McGimsey
 R. T. Hutsell
 J. R. Windom
 C. H. Chipman
 John Long
 Mrs. Eldredge
 (two side lamps added)
 Mr. Hoag
 (added a can of coal oil)
 R. H. Rawles

The Church Extension gave \$250. The donors pledged that "one-third would be paid when the foundations were laid, one-third when the building was enclosed and the remainder when it was finished."

Reverend W. S. Urmy, the presiding elder, was present with Reverend W. B. Priddy, pastor from Ukiah. The Board of Trustees chosen was as follows: Leslie Hoag, M. Miller, Cornelius Prather, F. D. Maltman and Jacob Harrison.

Mr. Bert Pallady took the contract to build, and his partner was M. Harris Clay. The latter, still living an active life in 1955, vividly remembers the job, recently explaining just how they cut the double rafters. The lumber was purchased partly of E. A. Irish, early mill operator, and the rest at Ukiah.

Reverend J. H. Jones was the first minister for this new church living and preaching also at Boonville. All the above facts about the Philo Church were taken directly from written documents belonging to Cornelius Prather and now in possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. Don Van Zandt, who has cooperated fully in preparation of this story.

Interest in helping neighboring families in their desire for Christian Fellowship is evidenced by the list of donors to the Philo building. About one-third of the people were from the Boonville end of the valley. Since then, one pastor living in Boonville has supplied the pulpit of both churches and often journeyed to Yorkville and Hopland to officiate at those churches.

In 1895 Reverend W. T. Truggeon was sent and he organized a North Methodist Church in Boonville. During 1896 and 1897 property was purchased from the Ware Estate across the road from the present church and a building and a parsonage erected, being quite a flourishing church at one time.

Some leaders in this work were: Mr. and Mrs. George Burger, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Hoag, Mr. and Mrs. Thorton Hutsell, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Fry, Mr. and Mrs. George Clow, and Mrs. Nellie Hartley.

Ministers remembered are: The Reverend Jones (probably same Jones mentioned before), H. F. Curl, Beattie, Richardson, Baldwin, and Schillinger. Reverend Richardson is remembered for his fast race horse and his cart with which he made his flying trips up and down the Valley to visit his parishioners. This North Church was disbanded and after moving became the local I.O.O.F. Hall. The parsonage was moved across the highway to the north side of the County building.

From 1900 to 1921 Mrs. Grace Finney was Superintendent of the Boonville Sunday School (present church). Her records gave us the names of ministers from 1901 through 1912 as: Armstrong, Lindsey, Harrison, Powell, St. Clair, D. C. Williams, Bailey, and Reverend Arthur Lanning. She also found the names of three District Superintendents of that time: 1908 to 1912 Reverend J.

A. Batcholor, 1912 to 1916 Reverend M. Hodgson, 1916 to 1920 Reverend Kenney.

She remembers as splendid workers in the church: Mr. and Mrs. Clement; the six Mason girls; Mrs. May Looney; Nannie Lawson and her brothers and Mrs. John Main, mother of Mrs. Glenn McAbee. A tribute here to Mrs. Looney given by Mrs. John Farrer, "She was always so good to children. Easily remembered is her huge platter of perfectly-made vinegar candy, all pulled and cut and covered with wax paper, to pass to the children after Sunday School. Food she brought to social affairs was always of the best. She often said, 'Anyone who brings a poor sandwich is cheating the Lord.'"

Names of other early church workers are: Mrs. Vergé Ombaun, Sunday School Teacher; Mrs. Alberts of the beautiful voice, Ada Hartley, Sunday School worker, and Mrs. J. Clement.

Jessie Bivans, for years organist, is today in 1955 in very poor health. Mrs. Campbell, who often sang with Mrs. Alberts, is still active. Annie Gertrude Reilly, who gave cheerful service at both Philo and Boonville as able pianist and Sunday School Superintendent, welcomes friends at her home in Santa Rosa, and is eager for news of the churches. Florence Farrer, veteran of four decades as Sunday School teacher, still gives her services as secretary. Emily Presley for years gave staunch support to all activities.

From 1912 through 1917 the ministers were the Reverends Lanning, Baldwin, Black, Woodruff, and Jewett. The latter, with his family, came back at a later date and became a valued resident of the Valley, often officiating in the local pulpits.

Many will remember Reverend Oscar Gibson who served from 1921 to 1925. He has since returned and renewed old acquaintances. In 1925 and 1926 the pastorate was filled by Reverend Haggard and Reverend Saunders. To the grief of the whole community a tragic accident at the parsonage cost the latter his eyesight.

From 1927 to 1931 Douglas T. Reed was our pastor, preaching in both Boonville and Philo. During this period, much was done to improve the church property at Boonville. The old parsonage being unfit for habitation, it was decided to rebuild it almost completely. As the church at Yorkville was in bad condition and rapidly deteriorating a decision was reached to use the lumber in it for the new parsonage. Money in the amount of \$750 was given by Church Extension. The work was largely done by Reverend Reed himself, assisted on the chapel by Mr. John A. Lloyd of Cloverdale. A very attractive home for the minister's family was thus provided.

More room in the church was badly needed, so the Sunday School rooms, usable also as dining rooms and a kitchen, were built on the back of the church with room above for classes. Reverend Reed also found a way to

acquire the stained glass windows which adorn the church.

In 1929 Louise Nichols, now Mrs. Arnold Brown, became Sunday School Superintendent, and built up attendance. She also organized the Epworth League, both High and Junior, and splendid work was done in these groups. The League was especially active, raising money to paint the church and doing the work themselves. Much character building was done in this work as evidenced by fine young men and women of today who were part of this young people's group.

From 1931 to 1933 Joel Hedgepeth, "Brother Joe" was among us, working with young people, preaching and writing verse and song. Other fine men followed: Reverend Grenfel, Heetebry, Haselden, Hatsfield, Jinnett and Mobley. Reverend Haseldon, who has now retired from service, is making his home in Cloverdale.

During all this time the work at Philo was loyally supported by the Ladies Aid Society, which was organized well over 50 years ago by Mrs. Emily J. Foster. She was its leader until about 1932 when she went to Los Angeles. Since then it has continued to do everything possible to help the church and aid those in need. The industrious women of this group gave bazaars, dinners, plays, teas, made rugs, quilts, aprons, roofed the church, built a woodshed, wired the church, bought a piano, and helped with ministers' salaries.

In recent years they have furnished the kitchen and other rooms in the church annex. Among the early members still attending at times are Elizabeth Gowan and Leona Nunn. The families of both these ladies have always been active in Church work. From Sacramento, Mrs. Mary Van Zandt often sends greetings to the "Aid" and the members of the "Little Church in the Wildwood."

Aid members whose work is finished but whose memory lingers on are: Emily Foster, Mary Studebaker, Alice Ray, Hattie and Millie Brown, Rhoda Ontis, Lizzie Johnson, Sara Cureton, and Mrs. Eten. Some "Aid" members who were active through the years and still are: Elizabeth Silvers, Alta Van Zandt, Alice Gowan, Louise Peterson, Olive Dutro, Mildred Peterson, Gussie Ruddock, Eliza Clow, Josie Gowan and Aldah Rooks.

In speaking of the Philo Church, many remember with pleasure music furnished by Ralph and Millie Brown, and Rudolph and Steve Eten. Mrs. Foster also contributed to the music, in addition to her other activities.

The year 1939 will be marked in Methodist Church history as the time of national and local reorganization, when instead of "South" and "North" Methodist, we became again, after nearly a century of dissention, one unit, the Methodist Episcopal Church. United, with differences forgotten in a common purpose, the church prepared anew to face the problems of living by the teachings of Christ in a complex modern world.

Under the new regime, many new names for groups of workers soon appeared. In 1940 designations such as Home Foreign Missionary Society, Ladies Aid, Missionary and Dorcas Society merged under one heading, the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

In 1941 during the service of Reverend Jinett, the Anderson Valley Women's Society of Christian Service was organized at Boonville with Mrs. Horace Mathison as the first president. Its first members included such familiar names as Millie Brown, Mary Lawson, and Virginia Clay as well as many of the women who are still taking an active part in the work of the church in the Valley.

The group made a valiant effort to continue its work during the middle '40s and among its major achievements was the purchase of new windows for the sanctuary of the Boonville church.

During the war, the group became inactive, but it formed the framework for the revival of the work when the W.S.C.S. was reorganized during the service of Reverend Carl Doss.

Similarly, among the young people, Epworth League and other groups joined under the present name, Methodist Youth Fellowship. This merging was to simplify reports and facilitate evaluation of activities.

It is here noted that besides our strong W.S.C.S., our Ladies Aid Society still continues its faithful, untiring work under the old name, its members earnestly desiring to carry on the tradition of the name.

Later ministers were: Reverend Goodenough 1945 to 1947, Reverend William Reid who was here only a short time but is remembered as an outstanding speaker; and from 1948 to 1950 Reverend C. W. Kidd. Brother Kidd spent his time and energy constantly helping people in trouble, was an active member of our Welfare Committee, and credit for the building of the annex to the Philo Church is largely due to him. He also painted the Church at Boonville. The roof was repaired and foundation placed under the building.

The International Family of Reverend Carl Doss, 1950-1953, was of great interest locally and elsewhere. Mrs. Helen Doss's book, "The Family Nobody Wanted," has since been published, giving a true account of their unique experience in inter-racial relations. Their family of 12 children of various races seemed happily adjusted and are fortunate in having found so good a home. Reverend Doss did a splendid job of redecorating the parsonage. He ably preached a religion to live by from day to day, was instrumental in bringing many young men and women into the Church, and it was with regret the community saw him leave.

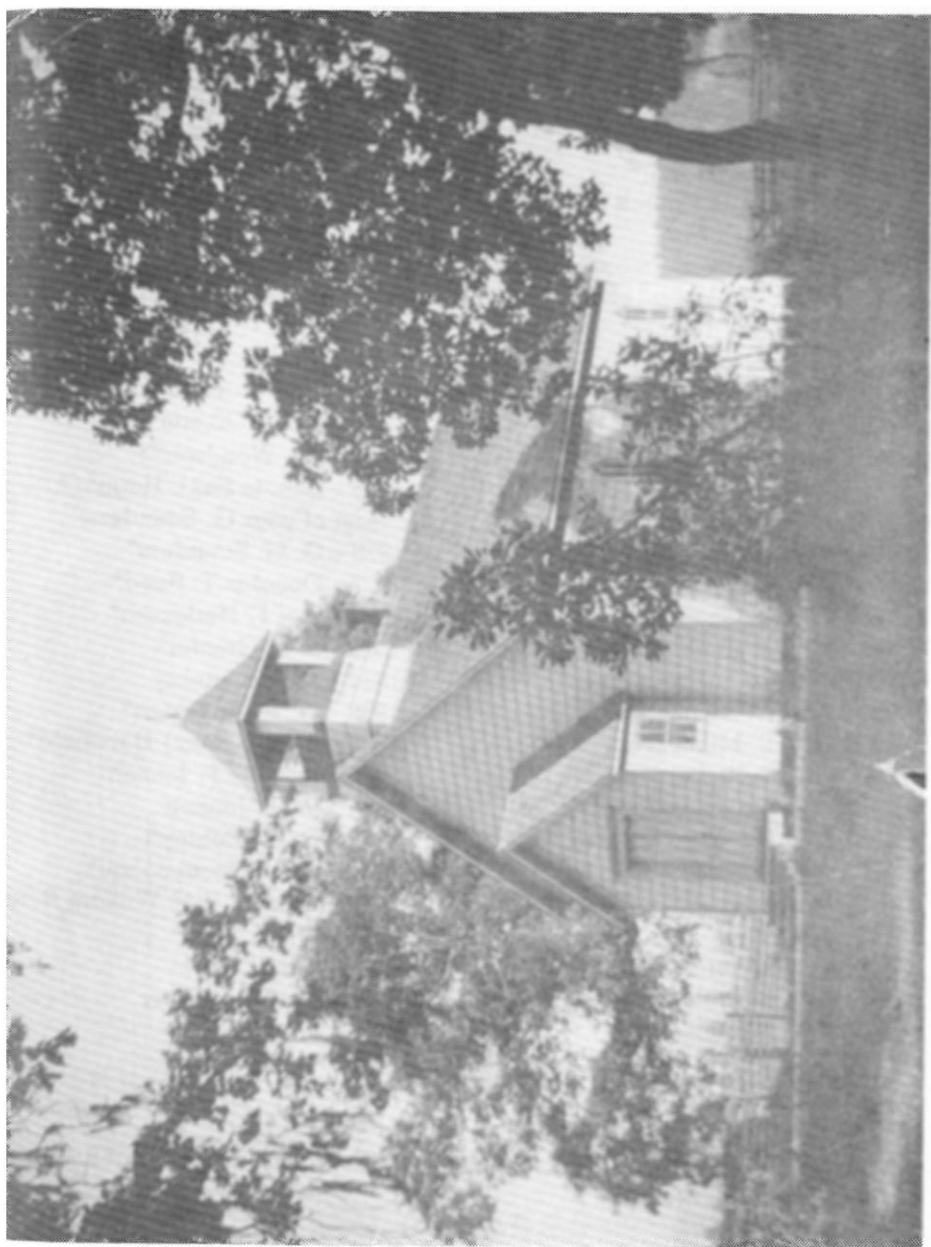
Reverend Doss' excellent program of work with young people has been carried on and extended by Reverend Paul K. Corley. The M.Y.F. at Philo was already progressing well, and shortly Reverend Corley had it established in Boonville. Today both are live organizations, and through them,

young people have been added to our church membership, which now numbers 90. Reverend Corley spends much time and effort aiding people in trouble and keeps in touch with "shut ins" of the Valley, regardless of denomination. His desire to improve present church structures has resulted in redecoration of both churches. Spiritually he has earnestly carried on his missions to members, "Stewardship, a development of service as well as of possessions."

Today an earnest group of young men and women are devoting themselves to the work of the church through the choir, the church school and the M.Y.F. These fine people are making new church history to be added in due time.



The Boonville Methodist Church was built around 1880, builder unknown. It features a gable roof, bell tower with hip roof, and three stained glass windows that have been recently added.



The Philo Methodist Church, unlike its Boonville counterpart, has a covered porch.

Ministers Serving Methodist Church 1864 - 1955

1864 - H. Churchman (North)*	1909 - L. Schillenger (So.)*
1866 - W. B. Davis (North)*	1911 - Arthur Lanning
1868 - J. Vann (North)*	1913 - Baldwin ?
1874 - Boonville Church (So.)	1914 - Bailey ?
Built - Tom Brown	1915 - Black
1875 - B. F. Taylor	1916 - Woodruff
1876 - J. E. Wickes	G. O. Jewett*
1877 - Thomas Towner*	1918 - Neat ?
(with Cuffey's Cove)	George ?
1878 - (with "Navarro" Ridge)	1920 - Penn Howard*
1882 - (with Cloverdale)	1921 - Oscar Gibson*
1891 - Philo Church (North)	1924 - J. J. Woodson*
Built) J. H. Jones	1925 - (Jan. to Sept. Haggard,
1892 - J. H. Jones*	rest of year G. Saunders)
1895 - W. T. Truggeon (No.)*	1926 - G. G. Saunders*
Organized Boonville Church, North	1927 - Douglas T. Reed*
1896 - North Church Built in	1931 - Joel F. Hedgpeth*
Boonville, same pastor	1933 - S. E. Grenfel*
1897 - H. T. Curl	1934 - J. A. Heetebry
1898 - G. W. Beattie (No.)*	1938 - W. R. Haselden*
1899 - W. E. Miller (No.)*	1940 - (Jan. to Aug.) Hartsfield*
1900 - H. C. Richardson (No.)*	Balance, W. P. Jennett
W. M. Armstrong (So.)*	1941 - W. P. Jennett
1901 - Same: W. L. Lindsey	1942 - B. H. Mobley*
1902 - M. L. Anderson*	1945 - C. L. Goodenough*
D. Harrison	Late Spring 1947 William Reid
1905 - St. Clair	1948 - C. W. Kidd*
1906 - Sylvester Powell	1950 - Carl Doss
1907 - W.H. Thatcher & C.J. Irwin	1953 - Paul K. Corley
1908 - W. H. Wilson	
D. C. Williams	

* Names marked sent officially, others evidently "supplied" by neighboring towns or conference.

Presiding Elders now called District Superintendents, who at times stayed in the Valley:

1873 - Rev. Thomas Anderson

1891 - Rev. Urmey, present at the ceremony when the Philo Church was started.

1902 - 1904 - Rev. J. E. Moore

? - Rev. Cooper, early 1900's

1908 - Rev. J.A. Batchelor

1912 - Rev. M. Hodgson

A preacher by the name of Winters served in Methodist Church South, about 1889 or 1890. Preacher Jones succeeded Winters. He had a son by the name of Raymond.

History Of The Philo Post Office In Anderson Valley, Mendocino County, California

There was no official mail service in Anderson Valley for nearly 20 years after the first settler arrived in 1852. The people depended on themselves and their neighbors to carry out mail and to bring in any that had collected in Petaluma or later, Cloverdale. This latter place could only be reached by an arduous trip over an immigrant road, which had followed an Indian trail.

This valley is roughly 17 miles long, and is drained by the Navarro River, which runs in a southwesterly direction to the Pacific. The upper part, where the little town of Boonville is today, had some private mail service some time before the Boonville office was established. The lower end of the valley, before the old "Christine" post office was authorized, was often reached by letters addressed only to "Guntly, Anderson Valley." These reached any of the people living near the well-known Guntly ranch.

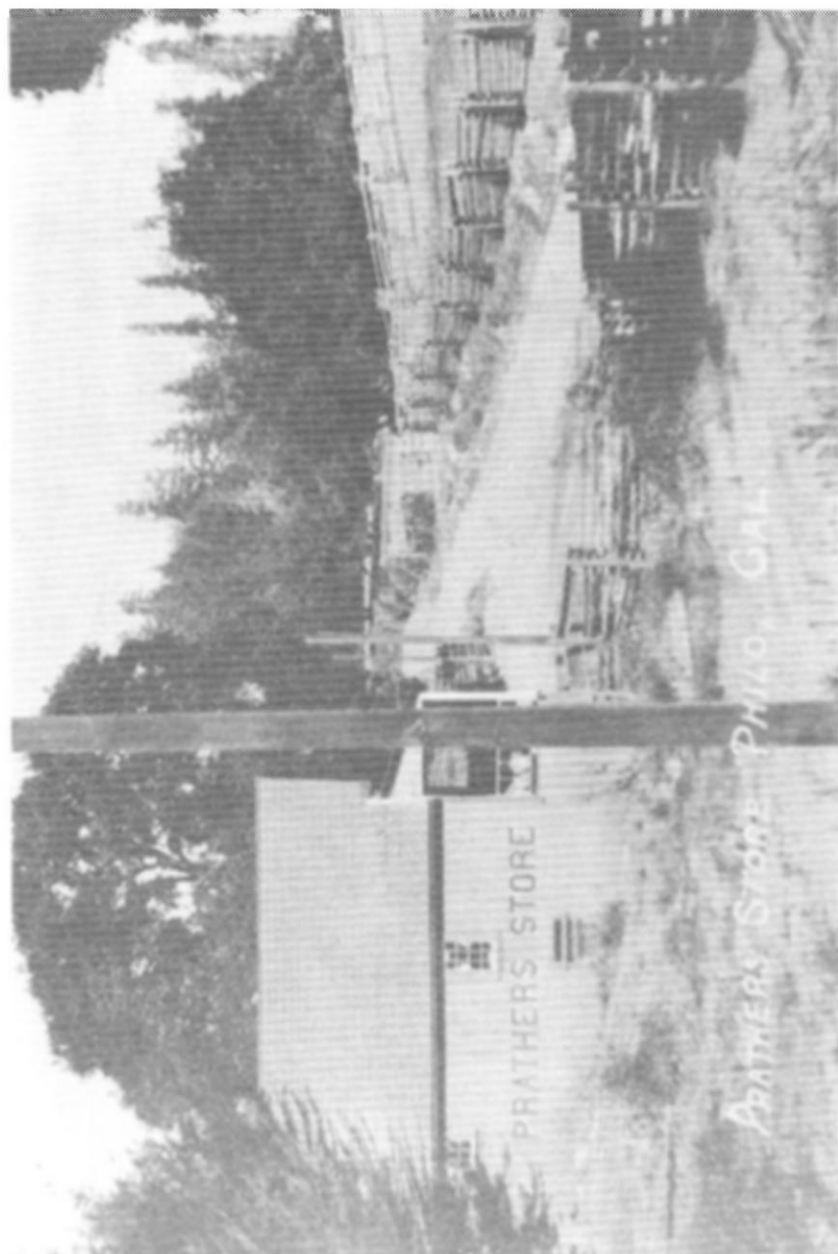
The people in the middle section of the valley traveled the five miles to the facilities in or near Boonville for mail. This took time, with a horse-drawn vehicle or on horseback.

In 1862, Cornelius Prather with his wife and three children, arrived in this central part of the valley and settled about a mile west of the valley road. He was a farmer, and soon acquired 160 acres adjoining the road. He built a spacious house there for his growing family. This house stands today, and the present owner, who is restoring the building, has found it in excellent condition after 90 years.

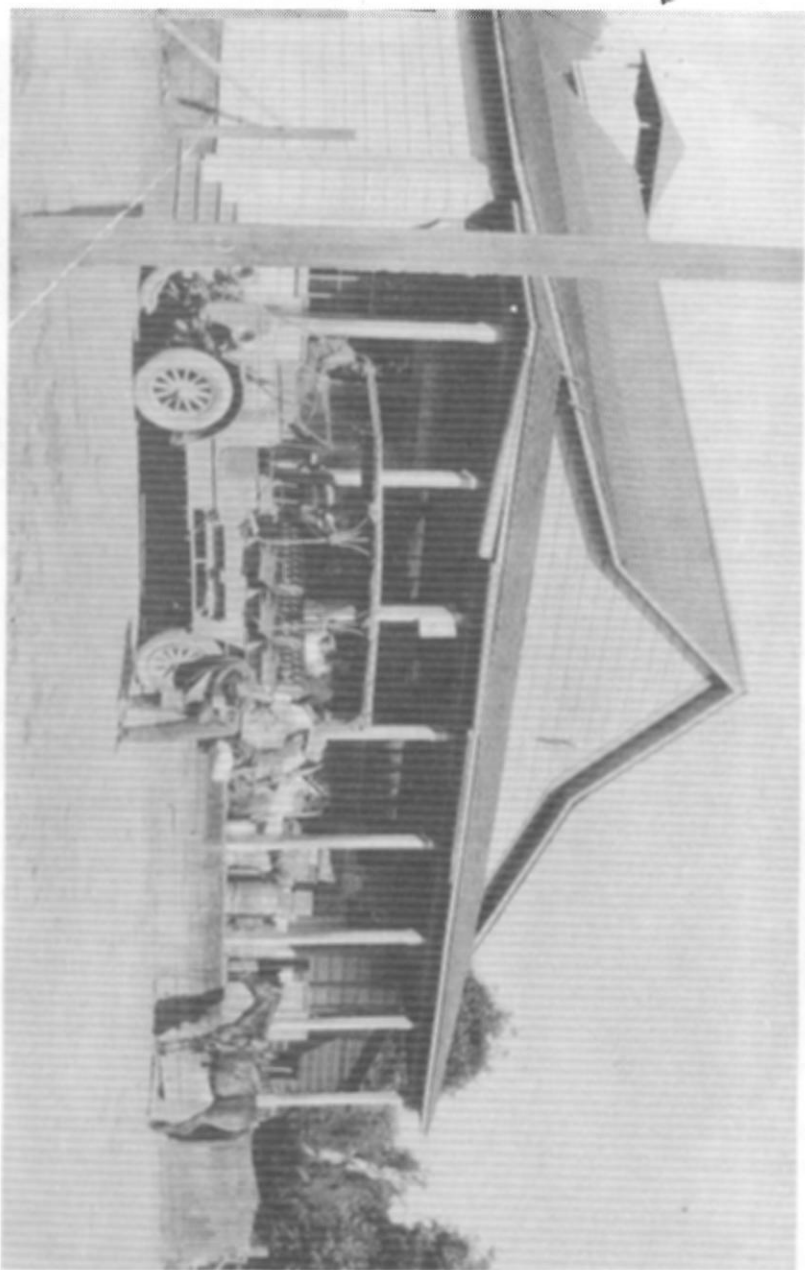
Mr. Prather gave land for the first school in this district. It stood where the present Philo postoffice is today, 1977. Then he deeded a beautiful wooded site for the Philo Methodist Church, of which he was a member. It is still church property and in use.

Then he went through the process of getting a postoffice established. He carried his petition to the people, and on June 28, 1888, it was granted, and he was named as first postmaster. He chose the name, Philo, in honor of a special friend of his, in Iowa. These facts were given to this writer long ago by his daughter, Emma (Prather) Long, (deceased) and are still in possession of descendants of Cornelius Prather.

The mail was first handled in the large living room of the home, but later a small office was built in their front yard. When Mr. Prather's health failed, the office was moved a half-mile down the road to the home of Dr. John T. Brown. This home was called "Wildwood" by the doctor and neighbors, but the name



Prather's Store in Philo.



Now the Philo Market, this building once houses the Philo Post Office.



Annie Gertrude Reilly, at left, was the Philo Postmaster for many years. This picture was taken in 1944.



The Philo Post Office today.

of the postoffice was still "Philo." The doctor's son, Charles W. Brown, was appointed postmaster on April 30, 1892 and served for ten years.

On Jan. 25, 1902, John L. Prather, son of Cornelius Prather, became postmaster. The office was moved back to the original Prather home. The following year, 1903, John L. Prather built a general store beside the road and included a room equipped for a postoffice. Here all the neighbors, particularly the young people, gathered when mail time approached. Much excitement when George, Jim, or Irvin Ledford of Cloverdale swung the four-horse mail coach up to the high front porch.

Mr. John L. Prather left the valley, and on January 18, 1913, Mr. George Johnson was appointed postmaster. He moved the office across the road to his general store where a special room was provided for it. On Sept. 16, 1924, Annie Gertrude Reilly became postmaster. She had come from the Isle of Man and here married John Reilly, a member of a pioneer family. On her husband's death, she accepted the appointment and moved into a house adjoining the Johnson store. Mrs. Reilly was a woman of culture with a fine musical education. People here remember her as a faithful church worker and regular pianist in the Philo church.

In 1950 Mrs. Reilly felt that she must retire. The general store changed its ownership and the postoffice was moved back across the road to a small temporary building on the original Cornelius Prather place. Here Mrs. Reilly handled the mail for a short time. That year, 1950, Mr. Marshall Winn received his appointment as postmaster.

About 1951 a new building was constructed for the postoffice. Mr. Clair Dightman owned the land adjoining the temporary building, and he rented this site to the postoffice department, and took the contract to build the new office. Mr. Herbert Witherell, descendant of a pioneer family, was the builder. The building, made of redwood with an ornamental brick-work frontage, presents a very good appearance today (1977), and with its cement floor should have a satisfactory lifetime.

Mr. Marshall Winn, an efficient and friendly man, continued as postmaster until June of 1972, when he left the valley. Thelma Pinoli (Mrs. John Pinoli) became "Officer in Charge" at that time.

On August 5th of 1972, Mrs. Pinoli received her official appointment as postmaster. This woman is well-known in the valley, having lived all her life here. She gives excellent service in handling the mail.

-- By Blanche Brown

Reminiscences Of Anderson Valley's Wildflower Shows

Probably I was not particularly aware of my surroundings until spring of 1895, when I was three years of age. But from then on, wildflowers have been a joy. There were four of us children, and by 1899 a fifth. We lived in a little brown house nearly across the road from the present Grange building, and had access to our ten acres of wooded hill back of the house. On the opposite side of the road to the southwest, we could freely roam the grainfields of my grandfather's farm, and when a gay young aunt was with us, could walk the half-mile to Anderson Creek.

On the bank of this creek, I saw my first California Lady Slipper, Cypripedium californicum. We, with three of the young aunts, were cavorting in the creek, (they, garbed in "Mother Hubbards," the ancestor of today's "mu-mu," as swimming togs were unknown here and this sport was extremely unladylike). One of the girls gave an excited call, and we gathered around this exquisite white lady slipper with its orange-maroon streamers. From then on I have a special feeling for this shy, solitude-loving plant. Devastated by logging and over-grazing, very few are left. We are fortunate to have two or three growing in protected places now and a few are growing on our hillside, fortunately also in protected places.

All grain fields and pastures were aglow in the spring. No farmer plowed up to the fences and a wide swath of rich earth bordered every field. We'd climb a rail fence to where abounded the cyclamen, our shooting star Dodecatheon hendersonii, huge baby blue eyes of all shades and patterns Nemophila menziesii, and our Fritillaria lanceolata, (at that time I had not found our newly-named "Mendocino" Mission Bell, Fritillaria roderickii, though I know it was here in the field west of Boonville and I am sure "Grandmother" McGimsey who lived near, was responsible for planting it in our cemetery where I have personally known it for 38 years. As the grain grew, hundreds of tall, slim-stemmed wild hyacinths, Brodiaea capitata, appeared, the deep violet blue of the blossom seeming to keep ahead of the grain so they could be seen. These were often about three feet tall. Other fields were full of poppies, lupine, meadow-foam and, in the shorter grass, the little portulaca glistened like red jelly, Calandrinia ciliata var. menziesii. The old-timers called them "jilly-flower."

Seemingly everywhere were golden tulips, Calochortus luteus, and cat-ear tulips, Calochortus tolmei, the latter liked to face the morning sun. We called the golden one "pig's ears."

One day I was exploring a small gulch opposite the present Grange Hall. Shaded by Douglas firs and madrones, a little stream trickled through moss

carpeted banks where grew toothwort, hound's tongue, little anemones (wind flower), maiden hair, and delicate saxifrages. Suddenly, higher up, where the morning sun peeped in, was a shining white "globe flower" -- no cat-ear this! With the ruthless hand of a child, I broke its stem and ran to the house calling, "I've found a white pig's ear." Mother said it was the first white globe-tulip she had seen for several years, and that it was also called Lantern of the Fairies, *Calochortus albus*. Recalling this now, I think they may have been found frequently in her childhood, as she was born in 1861 on that same farm, and had spent her younger life there.

Mother was born Hattie Prather, and her whole family loved flowers. She had studied botany under a very fine teacher from San Jose "Normal" and her old copy of Parsons' "Wildflowers of California" was much used, though we children rather ignored the botanical names in favor of the colorful descriptive ones. She remembered that the authors had spent two years studying the flora of Mendocino County, and had spent several months camping in Anderson Valley.

Years passed. After eleven years teaching in Sonoma County and most of that in beautiful Alexander Valley, I returned to Anderson Valley where I could live with my parents. I said that I wanted the smallest school in Mendocino County and "Peachland" was the answer.

Our first wildflower show was held in a small, one-room schoolhouse about three winding miles from the valley floor. A little pioneer settlement there had been called "Peachland," and though mostly deserted now, the name lingers. I rode horseback from my home on Indian Creek over a steep trail to the top of "High Peak Ridge" where most mornings I was greeted by the drumming of grouse in a tall tree, then their frantic, whirring departure. I rode through a shady swale beside a stream, where wake-robins grew in masses. The stream soon joined others, all forming the head of "Parkinson Canyon," which moves on to join Indian Creek. Here stood the mill, which would soon open for the season, supplying about five children for the school. Another mile and I reached the schoolhouse.

The first two weeks I had only two little girls, the daughters of life-long friends living nearby. They were fun to teach, and it was like private teaching. By the time the five from the mill arrived, we had formed the habit of exploring the area.

By spring, we had found so many flowers and blossoming shrubs that we decided to keep a table full of specimens in the schoolhouse all the time. The parents were interested and helped us search. Deciding to finish the study with an exhibit, we hit on April 24, as that was called "Wildflower Day" in some of our magazines. Since that spring in 1926, all our shows have been held in late April or early May. Here we featured pink redwood orchids *Calypso bulbosa*, as they grew thickly in the redwood grove nearby.



Walter Knight and Velma Farrer at one of the annual wildflower shows.

The Anderson Valley Unity Club, our local Women's Federated Club, sponsored a wildflower exhibit in April of 1928. Mother's sister, Aunt Millie, and I were the committee. This old aunt was an outdoor woman who knew all the trails and where every flower could be found. We chose the tree-shaded grounds of the little Philo Methodist Church to set up our tables. It was a good choice. The ladies held their meeting in the chapel, and when they came out, a fine misty rain was falling -- and the flowers, viewed by women under umbrellas, were bejeweled and at their best.

In 1929, other teachers were enthusiastic. Mary Hiatt, Christine Burke, and Martha Rawles enlisted their respective schools, and we held a combined exhibition in the old Apple Hall at Boonville. In preparing for this I found my first Pipsissewa or Prince's Pine. Parsons called it *Chimaphila*, a heath. The picture on page 106 of "Wild Flowers Of California" is perfect. The leaves are somewhat rigid and the flower has a delicate fragrance. It grew in the woods about half-way between the church and the Navarro River. I have never found it there since and it served me right for picking it, even for the exhibit.

In later years, I found one about two miles up Indian Creek, on a more or less dry ridge that runs down from the old Clow Trail to the creek. I picked it, too, for a show, and for ten years I was penalized -- no sign of it! At last a fisherman returned to our place with one in his hat band. Well, of course, he had picked it. He described the spot and it was my ridge all right. So we have never found another. (Ed. note: Perhaps we can learn a lesson from this experience.) But I still think there's a seed in that hillside.

From 1930 to 1947 inclusive we regularly held our display at the Con Creek School. I had a lovely group of children, enthusiastic about any project, and this subject became a major center of interest every spring. Some of these children, now adults with families, are on hand to help with our present flower shows. During these years I especially remember when we found our first pyrola with white veined leaves at the base. We always said that the pyrola's "tongue hangs out."

We still find pyrolas on our hillsides beneath Douglas firs, etc., but have not since, in this water-shed, found one with a similar spectacular cluster of leaves at the base. The one specimen was brought in by a girl from the mountain between us and the Coast. And Aunt Millie twice showed up with a creamy phantom orchid. It grew somewhere in the damp woods between her home and the Navarro; she never would tell me just where! She just said that it grew "by a rotten log." In late years usually we can show a phantom orchid, but not from the Navarro drainage basin. My niece, Jean Piper, has whole colonies of these "lovelies" on the ranch off of Manchester Road about half-way between Boonville and the ocean. They are in a beautiful spot, beside a quiet stream -- a beige carpet of fir needles many inches deep and

surrounded by our native azaleas. The cream-colored orchids are lovely against the beige color, and with them are ground cones Hemitomes congestum of the same dreamy hue with no green at all.

Another dainty orchid that we showed through these years we called rattlesnake plantain Goodyera oblongifolia, but the bloom did not come in time for the show. The leaves at the base are its beauty, however, with their white markings. I found it up Indian Creek, too, and planted it in my garden after the show, but after pulling this act of desecration several years, digging, showing, replanting, it became worn out and expired. I never found another.

The whole community helped collect for us, and it became a real community project. I remember a rancher bringing in perfect toyon berries in late April, and others went far into the hills for dogwood and wild clematis. In 1948 and 1949 we held the show at the old high school. Here we first had the outstanding help of Velma Farrer, who was teaching in the high school.

I retired from public school work in June 1949. I had taught for 38 years and was extremely tired. So there were no more wildflower shows until 1958 when I was asked by the Camp Fire Girls to help them with a short study and exhibit. This we did, and with the help of the guardian and the girls' parents, we put on an exhibit at the Indian Creek State Park clubhouse that attracted much attention. The Camp Fire Girls won honors by setting up tables of wild plants in special categories, such as shade-loving and sun-loving plants. In 1960 the Garden Section of the Unity Club took over sponsorship and we showed about 300 specimens, including a tall lush white lady slipper. Marie Kelly and Jean Boyd, botanists from Mendocino Pygmy Forest area, came and took several specimens on to Mr. Howell at the California Academy of Sciences.

In 1961 our Garden Section had an invitation to bring a collection of our more rare flowers to the Wildflower Show in the Hall of Flowers at Golden Gate Park. We really made an interesting collection and transported it to the Park in beautiful shape. While our flowers were lovely, many of our identification cards were, to say the least, faulty. I knew this would be true, however, as I had never studied botany and only cared to find and enjoy the wildflowers. I only knew the parts of a flower, generally the family to which it belonged, and a "common name."

From 1961 on, the Flower Show has been sponsored by the Garden Section of our Unity Club (Women's Club). By 1963 we moved from Indian Creek to the County Fair Building at Boonville, and with more space we accommodated a large crowd of interested people. By now we surely realized that we must have an authority for our identification. Here Velma Farrer shouldered much of the work, and it was through her that we secured the help of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Knight who gave their time unstintingly and unreimbursed to correctly identify the specimens.

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