

Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras County Historical Society
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MORE PIONEER CALAVERAS FAMILIES

These interesting genealogical sketches were selected at random from the Historical Society's files. Fisk, Nicholls, Kirk, Haupt and Southworth descendants who are still living in Calaveras County contributed the family histories included in this issue.

The Herbert Southworth Family

By JENNIE SOUTHWORTH

Herbert C. Southworth and his wife, the former Mary Winans, were both born in Michigan. His grandparents came from England and settled in eastern U. S. His wife's ancestors, the McNalls, came from Scotland.

Mr. Southworth, his wife, mother, and two children, Bertha and Leroy, came to Calaveras County from Michigan in October, 1881 and settled on a 480 acre ranch in the Burson-Wallace area. Mr. Southworth engaged in raising grain and livestock. He also planted an almond orchard. Two more children were born here, Jennie and Elma.

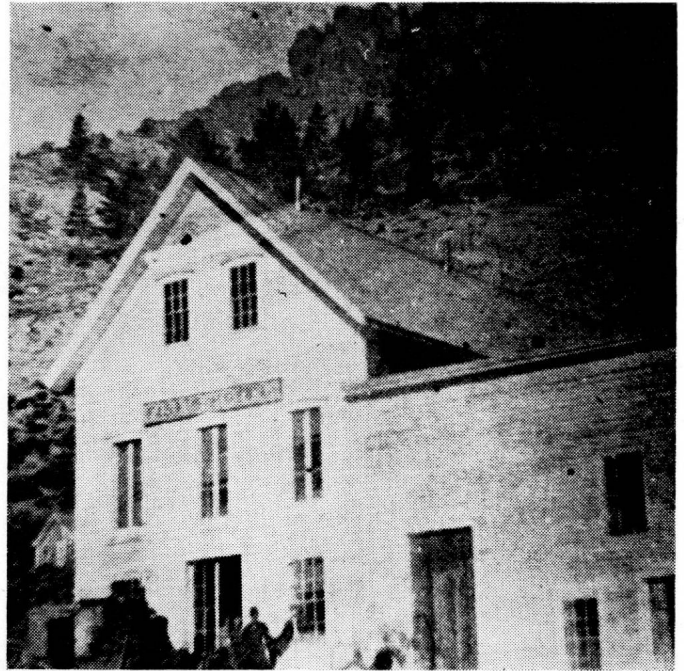
The ranch was increased, after a few years, by 320 more acres. In those days the ripe grain was cut by headers drawn by horses and it was stacked to wait the arrival of the thresher owned by the Sinclairs of Jennie Lind. This horse-drawn equipment traveled around to the ranches of quite a large area.

Trips were made from the Southworth Ranch every few weeks by horse and wagon to Stockton, 25 miles distant, to take in farm produce for sale and to purchase groceries, merchandise and supplies needed on the ranch. After the coming of the railroad to Wallace in 1883 and Burson in 1884, fewer such trips were necessary.

Indians from the Digger tribe who had a camp near Camanche used to come to the ranch to hunt jack rabbits. These were dressed and the meat cut into strips and hung in trees to dry. This was an important part of their winter supply of food.

Chinese gold miners who lived at Jenny Lind used to travel in single file through the ranch on their way back and forth from the Calaveras River to the Mokelumne River near Campo Seco.

The three Southworth daughters, Bertha, Jennie and Elma, became school teachers and taught in Calaveras and San Joaquin counties. Son Leroy stayed on the ranch and raised sheep and cattle. After Leroy's death in 1952, the ranch was sold to the neighboring Ospital brothers. Jennie, the only surviving member of the Herbert Southworth family, resides at Burson.



FISK'S HOTEL

As it appeared at Silver Mountain in the late '60s

The Frank Willis Fisk Family

By FRED FISK

Charles Fisk,* the father of Frank W. Fisk, was a native of Old Town, Maine. He came to California by way of Panama with his wife, Mary Ann (Eaton), and their thirteen children. The Fisks continued by boat up the Sacramento River and located at Washington, just across the river from old Sacramento. Here he established and operated a flour mill.

In the mid-'60s the Fisk family left Washington and moved to Silver Mountain, then a flourishing mining community in Alpine County. At that time many hopefully thought that Silver Mountain would become another Virginia City. At this place Mr. Fisk engaged in the hotel business. The Fisk Hotel was afterwards moved to Markleeville where the building is still in use. Charles Fisk also did considerable mining there. With associates, he drove a long prospect tunnel into Silver Mountain, but this enterprise did not prove successful.

The seven winters at Silver Mountain were very hard on Mrs. Fisk who was ill a good deal of the time. As a result, the family moved across the mountains to the easier climate at Murphys, and the children were placed in school there. After reaching adulthood, most of the Fisk children left the Murphys area.

Charles Fisk was in the mercantile business, with stores in the Murphys-Douglas Flat area (the latter in partnership with John Perry). The last store he operated was on the old post-office lot (which he gave to his son Frank when the latter was married).

He also tried his hand at mining around Murphys.

*The name was originally spelled with a final "e" but Mr. Fisk dropped this letter, saying he did not want any frills in his name.



THREE GENERATIONS OF FISKS

From left to right, Frederick Fisk, Charles Fisk, Jr., Frank Fisk and Charles Fisk, Sr., standing in front of Fisk's Store, Murphys, taken about 1900.

With Jake Stauer and a Mr. Frazier, he placer mined on the present Oro Plata property. This group also did some hydraulic mining in the vicinity.

Of the children who remained at Murphys, daughter Effie married Tommy Fowler, an employee of Wells Fargo Express's Murphys office for many years. Son Charles also lived at Murphys. Frank married Mary Shearer (daughter of Volney Shearer) and this couple also made Murphys their home.

In addition to storekeeping, Frank Fisk was the first Sealer of Weights and Measures in the county, and was Murphys postmaster for 35 years. At one time he owned a large tract of land east of town.

The Frank Fisks had two children. Their daughter Effie, unmarried, worked in the post office for many years. Son Frederick Fisk attended the University of California (Class of '09). He worked for a number of years in Nevada mines, but was also associated with California mining. He was interested in oil in Tulare County and also at one time farmed.

Frederick Fisk was married to Adelaide Stafford. Mrs. Fisk passed away in March, 1958.

The Thomas Nicolls Family

By the NICHOLLS CHILDREN

Our grandfather, William Nicholls, was born in Cornwall, England, in 1834. He worked with his father as a tailor until he decided to go to sea. On July 1, 1852, he signed on as a sailor and sailed around the Horn to San Francisco. He worked around the waterfront there and tailored for several years.

In 1858 he sent to England for Miss Grace Laity. She arrived in San Francisco in January of 1859, and shortly thereafter they were married. After this, Grandfather made several trips to the Mother Lode, becoming interested

in the mines, and so they moved to Mormon Island in Sacramento County. There, on November 15, 1860, our father, Thomas Nicholls, was born. There were four children of this union: Thomas, William, Mary and Emily.

The Nicholls family moved to Amador City where the children went to school and grew up. Father worked as a water boy in the mines. His mother passed away when Father was only 9 years old.

William Nicholls sent for his wife's sister to come from England and take care of his family. After a short time they were married, and of this union there were five girls and two boys born. William Nicholls died on March 11, 1888.

When Father was 14 years old, he left home and came to San Joaquin County, near Lockford and lived with the Thomas family. He worked on a threshing machine for the Scheaffer family at harvest time. There he met our mother. It should be noted that our grandmother, Rebecca Marvin Harper, and Mrs. Daniel Thomas, Mrs. Lula Higginbotham and Mrs. Emily J. Moffitt were all sisters.

The Marvin family came from Missouri to the Dalles, Oregon, by covered wagon. Grandmother Rebecca Marvin was born in Missouri on June 15, 1834. Grandfather Arnold Harper was born in Ohio, September 25, 1830.

The Arnold Harpers raised a family of seven children. The first four were born in Washington territory. Soon after Mother's birth, the family moved to Shasta County where three more children were born. Here the children went to school. Mr. Harper passed away on November 26, 1880. Afterwards Grandmother Harper moved with her children to Calaveras County to be near her mother, her sisters and other relatives who lived near the Higginbotham and Moffitt families.

Mother worked out from the time she was about 13 years old until she married. She lived with her mother until the latter passed away on October 2, 1891.

Father and Mother had known each other for fifteen years before they were married in San Francisco, on April 3rd, 1899. They bought the Lindville place near Mrs. E. J. Moffitt's where they raised their family of seven children. All but one are living (Rebecca passed away at 11 months). These are Grace (Nicholls) Hamilton, Emily (Nicholls) Swinborne, Thomas Arnold Nicholls, Lillie (Nicholls) Gruber, William E. Nicholls and Nellie (Nicholls) Messing.

The Thomas Nicholls celebrated their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary on April 3, 1954. Father passed away just three weeks later and Mother five weeks after that, on June 1.

The Haupt Family

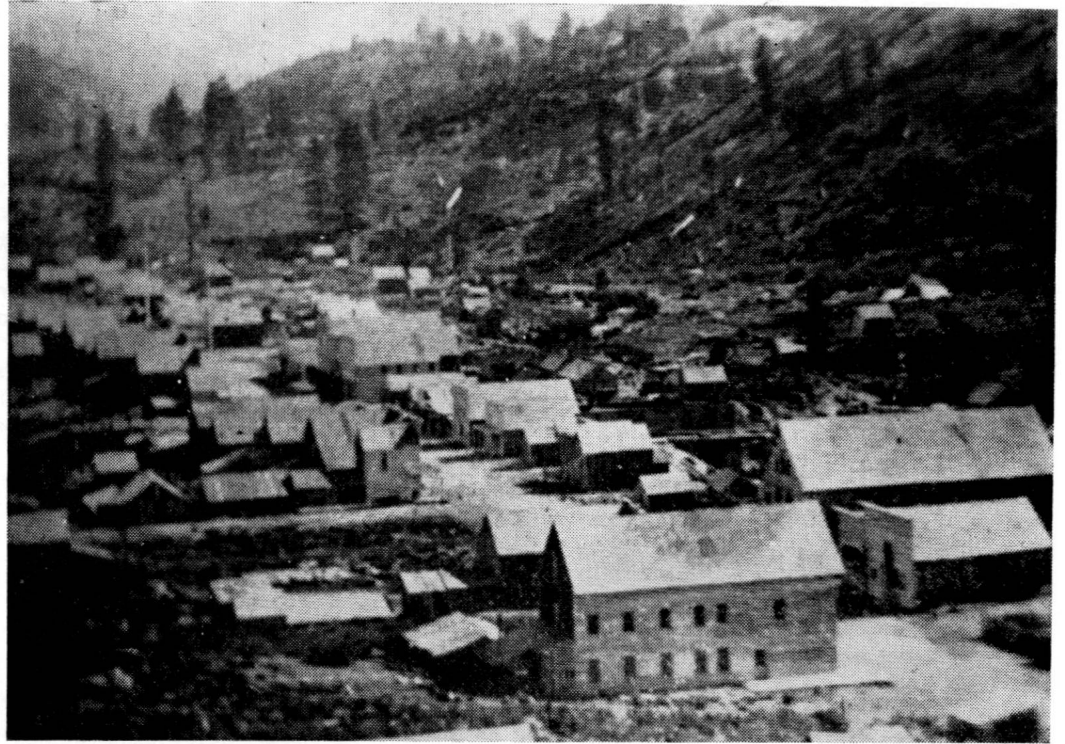
By MRS. GRACE H. REINKING

Gustavus Haupt and his wife, Mary Ann Schaefer Haupt, natives of Westphalia, Germany, are the ancestors of the Haupt family in Calaveras County. Gustavus was born in 1816 and his wife ten years later. They emigrated to the United States and settled in Missouri.

In 1846, Mr. Haupt enlisted at Fort Leavenworth as a private in Company C, First Missouri Volunteers for the Mexican War. His commanding officer was Colonel Doniphan. They joined General Kearny's army which was moving west to occupy California. Doniphan's regiment of 900 men marched south into Mexico, capturing the city of El Paso at the battle of Los Brazos. They defeated a

SILVER MOUNTAIN

The well-known but short-lived camp, taken at the height of the boom in the Sixties.



large Mexican army near Chihuahua and in late 1846 shipped from Matamoras, Mexico, to New Orleans.

The Haupt's were married in Missouri where their first child, Louis, was born. Mr. Haupt was naturalized in 1948. He came overland from Missouri to California, and later had his wife and son come by way of the Isthmus. He met them in San Francisco at the time the Vigilantes were active.

They settled at Stockton, where they occupied a lot at Miner and Hunter Streets. Later Mr. Haupt traded this property for a span of mules and freighted from Stockton to Mokelumne Hill. He did some mining and is said to be one of the early locators of the Gwin mine. After leaving Stockton, he took up land near French Camp and later near Paloma, which then became their home.

Gustavus Haupt sustained a serious fall and was forced to give up freighting and confine his activities to the ranch. He refused a government pension during his lifetime, but later his wife received a small one and was also paid \$40 for Mr. Haupt's horse that was killed during the Mexican War.

To his intimate friends, Gustavus was known as "Governor". He died in 1879. Many Ann Haupt was highly esteemed by those that knew her as a kind-hearted, generous woman, a loving mother, and a model neighbor. She lived for the rest of her lifetime at the old Haupt home not far from what is now known as Toyon, where she passed away in 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Haupt reared nine children:

Louis Frederick, born in Missouri, 1849, came to California with his mother in 1854. He was married to Mary Alice Barker, daughter of another pioneer Calaveras family, and they had three daughters and two sons.

Matilda Augusta (Tillie) was born in California in 1856, and married William Dorroh of Sheep Ranch. He was the brother of Dr. Dorroh of Angels Camp. There

were two girls and six boys in this family.

Herman Christian (Harmon) born in 1858, was married to Gertrude Holman, and had four children, three of whom died in infancy.

Katrina Emma was born in 1861, married William Schwoerer of Murphys and had a family of four girls and four boys.

Ann Marie (Mary) was born in 1865, married M. Javeaux and the family home was established at Sheep Ranch. They had one son, James. Javeaux was killed in the Sheep Ranch mine.

Charlotte Jane (Lottie) born in 1863, married Lee Lampson and they reared a family of four girls and three boys.

Ada Louise, born in 1867, was married to John Ursin. They had two sons, one dying in infancy.

Isadore Ellen (Nellie) and William Gustavus were twins, born in 1870. They never married. Aunt Nellie, who is 96 years old, is the only one of the original family living. She makes her home in Sonora. There are also a number of Haupt descendants who still live in Calaveras County.

Forthcoming Meetings

April 25—Dinner meeting at Mountain Ranch.

Panel of High School students on Early Roads and Transportation of the County.

May 23—The Penn Mine, Campo Seco.

June 27—The Sheep Ranch Mine.

July 25—Dinner Meeting at Murphys.

Installation of officers. Program to be announced.

December Meeting

The annual Christmas party was held on the 21st, with a pleasant and seasonal program arranged by Mrs. Eldridge.

OFFICERS OF CALAVERAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

San Andreas, California

President John P. Lemue, Angels Camp
1st Vice President Mrs. Otta Leonard, Angels Camp
2nd Vice President R. Coke Wood, Murphys
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Editor of Las Calaveras W. P. Fuller, Jr., San Andreas

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The Calaveras County Historical Society, a non-profit corporation, meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Grange Hall in San Andreas—except for dinner meetings which are held each quarter at different places in the county.

KIRK HISTORY

By MRS. MERVIN KIRK

The Kirks came from Scotland sometime between 1754 and 1774, and settled in Virginia. John Kirk (born in 1754) served in the Revolutionary War. The Kirks later moved and settled in Chillicothe, Missouri; but still the call to move farther west was strong. In 1850, John William Kirk (born in 1822) came to California with several brothers to establish a new home. They crossed the Sierra Nevada by way of Carson Pass, where they carved their names in a huge rock alongside the trail. They took up a homestead in the Jenny Lind-Bellota area, later some of them returning to Missouri for their families. In 1852, John William Kirk brought his wife and their two small children, 5 and 3, his father, and several brothers and sisters west.

They endured many hardships, as did all pioneers. John William's father was overcome by the heat and died on the plains of Utah, July 24, 1852. Indians, too, bothered them a great deal, trying to steal their oxen or to stampede them. The Kirk party arrived at Double Springs where they learned of the death of one of the brothers who had stayed in California in 1850. He had been shot the following year by an Indian.

John William had 10 children, one of whom was Giles Kirk, born in 1856. Giles lived all his life on the original homestead. He and his brothers and sisters were active in community activities. They attended the Douglas school which was located on the Kirk homestead, north of the Calaveras River. It burned down and was later rebuilt south of the river. Giles Kirk had nine children, seven of whom are still living. One of these, Frank Kirk, still lives in Calaveras County, two miles south of Burson.

The pioneer Kirks made their living by farming their land holdings.

RALPH CLEMENT TREAT

The diminishing ranks of our charter membership were once again thinned on February 14th by the death of Ralph C. Treat.

Ralph was an extremely active and energetic individual. Few have done more than he or have occupied such a significant place in this community. Yet he was a most modest and unassuming person, and always stood ready to help others and to take part in community activities. He was generous with both his time and his money.

The Society was extremely fortunate in having Ralph present his traditional "solo" at our recent Christmas party. It was almost his last public appearance before being taken ill. Music and singing were among his special interests, as most of us well know. Hunting was another of Ralph's favorite pastimes. He held a wide membership in local organizations. Yet at the same time he occupied a very demanding position as the managing owner of "Treats General Store," a family enterprise since 1852.

January Meeting

Dinner was served to the Society by the Methodist Women of Valley Springs at Perry Hall. At the business meeting it was decided to mail notices of the quarterly dinner meetings only. Each such notice will also serve as a reminder of the two following regular meetings.

The group then adjourned to the new Methodist Church to see a most interesting series of colored slides of the recent European tour of Mr. and Mrs. Drew Garland. Mrs. Garland narrated.

February Meeting

At the regular monthly meeting at the Grange Hall in San Andreas, Mr. Ed Leonard presented the early history of the Angels Camp mines, tracing the initial claim locations and early operations of a number of separate mines.

New Members

Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Folendorf, Angels Camp
Cmdr. Wm. R. Harlow, Campo Seco
Mr. Walter Huberty, San Andreas
Mrs. Bertha Dell'Orto, Mokelumne Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Basil E. Esmond, Wallace
Mrs. Cornelia Stevenot, Angels Camp
Pacific Cascade Land Co., San Leandro
Mr. Jeff Dennis, San Leandro
Mrs. James Field, Linden
Mrs. Don Lambert, Dublin
Mrs. Patricia Nester, Concord
Mrs. Blanche Ryland, Stockton
Mr. Stanway Thornicroft, San Leandro
Mr. Emmett Gregory, Linden
Mrs. Maxine South, Stockton
Mrs. Charles Thompson, Stockton
Mr. Elmer D. Sitkin, Linden
Mr. F. F. Thomas, Jr., Berkeley
Mr. and Mrs. Hoben Thomas, Mokelumne Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Kennedy, San Andreas
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Garamendi, Mokelumne Hill
Mrs. Estelle Deir, El Dorado Hills
Mr. William Gerberding, Valley Springs
Mrs. Marie Sanders, San Andreas
Mr. Will B. Weston, Santa Clara
Mr. James Field, Linden