

Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras County Historical Society
Volume XIII July, 1965 Number 4

MOKELUMNE

Compiled by Emmett P. Joy

The great Mokelumne River, beautiful and picturesque, concealing chapters of gold rush history, is known to almost everyone in California. Yet little do we know of the origin of its name, or of the people who lived along its banks, from the valley flatlands to the snowy Sierra.

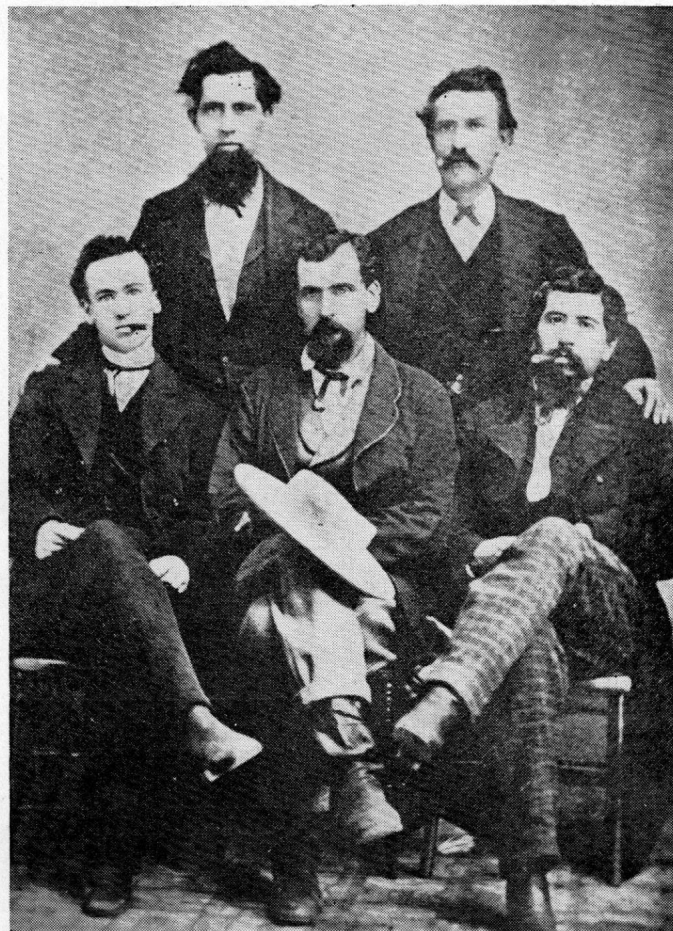
This place name has been spelled in many different ways since Father Narciso Duran first recorded it as Muquelemnes, in April, 1817. Thus was it spelt in the early California archives. Yet it received many phonetic spellings in those early years of California history. According to A. L. Kroeber, in "California Place Names of Indian Origin," Mokelumne River is named "from the Indian Mokelumni, 'people of Mokel,' a Plains Miwok village near Lockeford." Nellie Sanchez states in her book, "Spanish and Indian Place Names of California," that the word "is a corruption of the Miwok 'Wakalumitah,' the Indian name of the river." C. Hart Merriam spells this as "Ut-ta-Wah-ka-Loo," meaning big river in Miwok.

Some of the spellings, both before and after Capt. John C. Fremont wrote it as Mokelumne in 1848, are Mokkallemos (on the Wilkes map of 1841), Moquelemes (on the land grant map of 1844), Moquelumne (J. D. Borthwick, 1851), Mokelemy (P. T. Tyson, 1851), and, no doubt, many others in less well known written references.

The Miwok Indians consisted of a number of tribes, all connected by a similarity of language and culture, although there were distinct differences in dialect. There were the Northern, Central, and Southern tribes, often referred to as the Sierra Miwok, and the Plains and Coast Miwok. The Plains and Northern Miwok lived along the Mokelumne River, the dividing line being the lower foothills, where the river entered the valley. At this point a change in dialect and culture separated the two tribes.

The Northern Miwok region extended from the South Fork of the Calaveras River northerly to the Cosumnes. Merriam, in his "The Dawn of the World," tells the legend of how, in ages past, the Mountain Miwok got the fire from the Plains people — how Tol-Le-Loo brought it from the roundhouse near the present site of Stockton.

The Plains village of Mokel was attacked by the Spanish and Mexicans on several occasions. This caused the natives to scatter about, and their local culture soon declined and disappeared. As to the Northern Miwok



SOME PROMINENT SAN ANDREANS OF
A CENTURY AGO

Seated in the center is Wm. Jeff Gatewood, survivor of the fatal duel at Moonlight Flat in '59, who was later District Attorney and the last editor of the San Andreas Register. Gatewood gave the 4th of July address in San Andreas in 1865, but in September was defeated for the post of District Attorney. On his right is Rienzi Hopkins, who also served as District Attorney for the county. On Gatewood's left is Ned Bushyhead, last publisher of the Register and the Copperopolis Courier. Standing behind Hopkins is J. A. Foster, storekeeper in Upper Calaveritas, who was elected County Clerk in 1865. The other gentleman is H. G. Allen, of whose exploits we know nothing. The occasion for the group portrait, by E. W. Baker, likewise is unknown.

who lived along the river, little is known of them. Their way of life soon vanished with the tremendous impact of the gold rush.

This is most of what we know of the origin of this curious name, now applied not only to the river, but to the "Hill," to a peak in the high Sierra, and to a valley community known as Mokelumne City.

100 YEARS AGO IN CALAVERAS

This year the theme of the county fair at Frogtown was the Centennial of the writing of "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," by Mark Twain, considered by many to be our county's greatest claim to fame. There were a number of charming little glimpses into county life a century ago woven into certain of the exhibits. This leads us to ask, what **was** going on in Calaveras in 1865?

In that year the Civil War was finally concluded. The news of the surrender was well received, as, for example, at Camanche:

"Our people were wildly excited over the surrender of Lee and his rebel army to U. S. Grant. The old flag was hoisted as soon as the news arrived, and sixty guns were fired in honor of the glorious event. Not a rebel was to be seen on the street."*

The impact of the war on Calaveras County, however, was light. The events were far away. Most of the local participants had gotten into nothing more involved than the Arizona campaign.

A subject of considerably more intense local interest was the county seat controversy. Mokelumne Hill, the incumbent, was making a last ditch fight to save this valuable asset. The county's oldest paper, the CHRONICLE, being published at the Hill, naturally championed this cause, and was slugging it out, issue after issue, with its bitter rival, the SAN ANDREAS REGISTER. This provided the public with much good reading:

"Mr. Editor—WE are a San Andreas man. To be sure we are a recent convert to San Andreasism, but we think, after we have defined our position, even the oldest residents will not take exception.

"We feel proud, and justly too, of our new fire engine, and of the very efficient company of firemen who are ever ready to man it.

"We feel proud of our hotel, the Metropolitan, kept by Mr. Sharp, an uncompromising Union man, where can always be found three square meals a day — such as would do the people of the Hill good to sit down to — and a clean bed; and where will always be extended a generous welcome to the traveler, even though he come from Mokelumne Hill.

"Col. A. P. Dudley was in our town not long ago, and we think as he came from the Hill, and understand he is quite a prominent man over there, that he came for no good purpose. A. P. Dudley is one of those shrewd kind of fellows who talk a great deal and says very little — a capital hand to entertain a street crowd. He is very apt, too, to hear every word said by bystanders, and he may, during his short sojourn here, have heard something that will do him good, relative to the county seat question. . .

"Why is it, Mr. Editor, that, after we have so freely spent our money, wept like children and entreated like maidens, that the people of the Hill (cruel-hearted wretches that they are!) will persist in holding fast to that idol of our hearts — the county seat?"

An election had been held in 1863, as to moving the county seat to San Andreas, and had been won by that town. Although endorsed by the Board of Supervisors,

*Quotations are from the CALAVERAS CHRONICLE, during the year 1865, unless otherwise identified.

this election was contested by most of the county officials, and the matter dragged through the courts. The brand-new COPPEROPOLIS COURIER, which was started in April of that year, gives a brief comment on the REGISTER'S report of deposition-taking for one of the trials:

"The SAN ANDREAS REGISTER seems to have a poor opinion of the witnesses recently examined before Justice Tormey in that place, in relation to the county seat election held two years ago. Judging from the tone of his article, the REGISTER man is anxious to have somebody 'step on his coat-tail.' Says he, in his comments upon the testimony: 'A delegation of "Know-Nothings" from Mokelumne Hill met at this place on Tuesday last, to give testimony in the "county seat question." Their memories were very short; in fact, they "didn't know nothing." Having heard their testimony through, we have become a convert to the doctrine of universal suffrage to all mankind. We are in favor of admitting Chinamen and Diggers to the rights of citizenship. They ought to be allowed to testify, for their oath is just as good, and, we think, a little better than any white man's who would give such testimony as the following.' (Then follows the testimony given.)"

In the following year, however, the final legal hurdle was overcome, and San Andreas received the honor of becoming the county seat.

Then, as now, school problems occupied a prominent place in public and private discussion. The county's free school system had gradually come into being, and consisted of a large number of small schools. Buildings were often inadequate:

"The citizens of our town (Mokelumne Hill) have great reason to congratulate themselves upon the fine new commodious schoolhouse which has just been erected in place of the old shell that has stood so many years, a reproach to us in the mouth of every passer-by. No finer looking, or better finished schoolhouse, is to be found in the mountain towns of California, and great credit is due to the Board of Trustees for their energetic action in the erection of the building."

The question of the day was, should these schools be graded, and much was said upon both sides of this subject. As to the schoolhouse referred to above:

"I am sorry that the trustees have decided not to grade it according to the advancement of the scholars, regardless of age or sex, instead of simply separating the sexes. The fact that graded schools are infinitely better than ungraded ones, no person who has kept pace with the progress of education, will pretend to deny. . ."

And on the other side:

"There seems to be a numerous class of people in the community who are fond of novelty and change, ever fond of trying experiments in education, instead of following a plan which has worked well for years past. . ."

Mining was, of course, the principal industry. As the surface placers became depleted of their gold, and the more productive "tunnel" mines had breasted out their pay streaks, attention was turning more and more to the mining of the quartz veins. But this was getting off to a slow start, and was eclipsed by the big copper strike of several years back in the foothills. Copperopolis had become one of the liveliest camps in this part of the Sierra. But one of the problems of mining copper was the necessity of shipping the ore to smelters either in New England

or all the way to Wales. For example, in one week in May, 1865, some 11,175 sacks (100 pounds each) were shipped out of Copperopolis to the smelters:

"The Courier says that Charles T. Meader, of Stockton, the principal owner in the great Union copper mine, has concluded to ship no more ore to Boston or Swansea, Wales, for reduction, but will erect smelting works at Copperopolis, during the present year, that will cost about \$100,000."

At Campo Seco, all eyes were upon the new copper mine near there, looking better every day. The local correspondent reports on this and says that a company has been formed that proposes to:

"Erect smelting furnaces for working copper ore into a convenient form for shipping; thus doing away with sacks. The company, the Taunton Copper Smelting and Reduction Works, was incorporated June 15th. They do not propose to make copper, but regulus, a substance containing from thirty-five to forty-five per cent copper. These works will be the means of employing a large number of men. The works, while in operation, will consume six hundred bushels of charcoal every 24 hours. . . The lime used in erecting these works is furnished by Mr. A. R. Young, whose kilns are about one mile from the Spring Valley House, a little off the road leading to Campo Seco."*

The fabulous Comstock rush had created a great interest in silver. A substantial boom was underway, in Alpine County, at Silver Mountain. Blue Mountain City, boasting two hotels, was at the height of its short career, as confident prospectors discovered "rich" silver-bearing ledges in the vicinity. Few of these, however, proved to have much merit, and the local report was not encouraging; the leading operation was in financial straits:

"We do not expect, nor do we wish to write up this section — the day has passed for creating silver excitements — but we believe that the Blue Mountain district will eventually prove to be rich in silver. Other lodes in the vicinity will be opened in the due course of time, but until the main ledge (Heckendorn) is developed, there will be little done on the others."

Gold was still the old standby and the steady paymaster. There was activity in quartz mining in West Point, Murphys, Angels, Carson-Melones, and in smaller and less well-known districts, as well as continuing work in the many placer and gravel deposits. From Angels, in September, came this encouraging news:

"Although business has been almost a stranger to us for the past year, and the people began to wear an **emigration** look, yet at present things are assuming a more cheerful aspect. Quartz mines are changing hands, and the new proprietors, having capital at their command, will be able to give the lead, on which the principal claims are located, a thorough test.

"The Winters mine has changed owners. This mine is one of the best on the lead. . . The mine of Stickle & Company, which is located almost within the town, has also been a paying mine, and promises to be as good as any on the lead. The proprietors are now erecting a new mill. . . The Dr. Hill mine has had a battery of 12 stamps put upon it, and they are now crushing rock. . .

"Last Thursday was the hottest day of the season, the

*See pictures of the Young kilns in our April issue.

thermometer marking one hundred seven and a half degrees."

Judging from the many articles in the Calaveras papers about him, General Sherman was the most popular war hero. Ex-Senator Gwin, on the other hand, received much sharp criticism for his scheming with Louis Napoleon for a "Mexican Dukedom." A disillusioned and bitter man, Gwin was to come to Calaveras County just two years later, to devote his great energy to developing the gold mine at Paloma that bears his name.

Terrible fires plagued the gold camps of the Sierra. On Sunday, February 26th, a disastrous conflagration destroyed over fifty buildings at Mokelumne Hill:

"The alarm of fire was given at 12 o'clock on Saturday night, and in a few minutes it was discovered that the Union Hotel was in flames. . .

"The Mokelumne Engine No. 1 was on blocks, undergoing repairs, but was got out and in motion in a few minutes. Pennsylvania No. 2 had not been in use since the 4th of July, and, owing to the fact, would not work at first. The company had offered their machine for sale. . . It was over half an hour before they were able to force any water through their hose. The Eagle Hook and Ladder Company did good execution during the night, pulling down houses, chopping away awnings, and drawing off lumber. . .

"Leger has cut down his prices since the fire to fifty cents a meal."

Calaveras communities, a century ago, depended heavily on their own resources for entertainment. Literally every organization worthy of the name would have a grand ball or sponsor some sort of celebration or activity each year. The Independence and Admission Day celebrations were lavish. Even Chilean Independence Day (Sept. 13) was celebrated at the "Hill" that year. Travelling circuses were always well received, as were professional lecturers and other entertainers.

Roads were poor and travel difficult. Many smaller communities were still served by energetic expressmen like "Pony Denig." Road construction by toll companies was being actively pursued, as for example in that year by the Campo Seco & Mokelumne Hill Turnpike Co., Big Trees & Carson Valley Turnpike, and others. In spite of the county's remote location, however, excellent stage service from the principal towns to Stockton was available. There, connections could be made daily with river steamers to San Francisco. Freight was moving up by steamer to the Forks of the Mokelumne, then by barges in tow of the "Pert" up as far as Lockeford.

Tourists, albeit few in number by today's standards, braved the rigorous travel of the day to visit the Mammoth Grove, as Big Trees was then generally called. Once at the grove, they could count on the Sperry-Perry Hotel to make them most comfortable. The little hotel at Cave City kept by George Nichols, was advertising, hopeful of beguiling some of these tourists to stop by that out of the way resort.

All in all, things would seem vastly different a hundred years ago, in Calaveras County. Yet we have many of the same problems and situations today, in different garb, perhaps, but none-the-less the same. Country living, fortunately or not, hasn't changed nearly as much as one might think, over the span of a century.

Calaveras County Officers

(As they were after the election of Sept. 6, 1865. The following year they moved from the Hill into more comfortable quarters at San Andreas.)

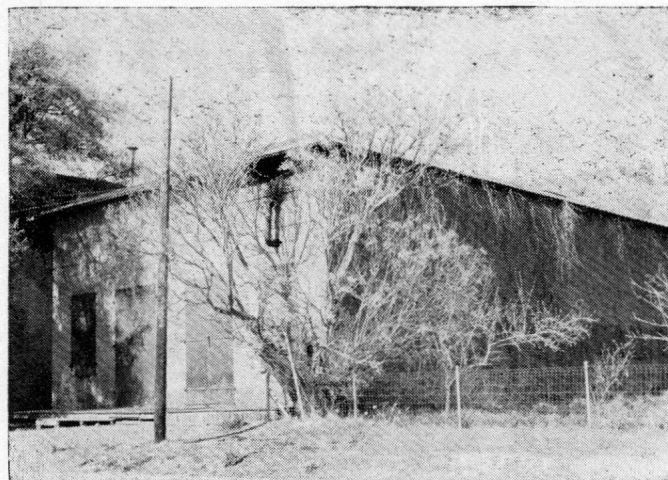
Wm. P. Peek, Supervisor, 1st Dist.
James Cole, Supervisor, 2nd Dist.
J. J. Stoddard, Supervisor, 3rd Dist.
James Barclay, County Judge
James Oliphant, Sheriff and Collector
W. F. Colton, Under Sheriff
D. S. Bates, Deputy Sheriff
J. A. Foster, Clerk and Recorder
N. T. Norcross, Deputy Clerk
H. M. Carey, Deputy Recorder
J. G. Severance, District Attorney
C. B. Hopkins, Treasurer
Rienzi Hopkins, Deputy Treasurer
T. J. Matteson, Surveyor
J. C. Kelley, Public Administrator
F. O. Barstow, Supt. of Public Instruction
Dr. A. H. Hoerchner, Coroner
A. J. Crooks, Deputy Assessor, U. S. Int. Rev.
P. W. Scribner, Deputy Collector, U. S. Int. Rev.

Wells Fargo & Co. Agents - 1865

Cohen & Levy, Vallecito
Ed. Loughlin, Telegraph City
C. M. Whitlock, San Andreas
E. Pallache, Murphy's
Wangenheind & Rosenberg, Jenny Lind
W. F. Moses, Mokelumne Hill
P. W. & J. C. Scribner, Angels Camp
N. T. Root, Campo Seco
E. R. Syme, Camanche
J. M. Pike, Copperopolis

Post Offices and Postmasters - 1865

Angels Camp, Geo. Stickles
Big Trees, John Perry
Camanche (Clay's Bar), Nicholas Zimmerman
Campo Seco, N. T. Root
Chili Gulch, H. A. Hodgden
Copperopolis, R. Fowler
Fourth Crossing, Wm. Reddick
Jenny Lind, J. G. Pollard
Mokelumne Hill, Max M. Hellman
Mosquito, M. Eldred
Mountain Ranch, W. H. Holmes
Murphy's, Chas. A. Hunt
North Branch, D. Latimer
Reynolds Ferry, Wm. Henderson
Rich Gulch, T. S. Bever
San Andreas, A. Severance
Vallecito, J. D. Gray
West Point, O. Mentzel



HELP SAVE THE COPPEROPOLIS ARMORY

This historic structure, built in 1861 by public subscription for the Union Guard, the local militia group, was used for training and enlistment purposes during the Civil War. Since then it has served as a community hall for social gatherings and activities in this town. Emergency repairs are needed to keep the Armory in proper condition for continued use. A Copperopolis Community Center committee, composed of Mrs. Edna M. Lane and Mrs. Ella M. Hiatt, is appealing for financial aid for this work. Those who wish to help may send their donations to Mrs. Edna M. Lane, at Copperopolis, payable to the Armory Repair Fund.

Local News - 1865

SERIOUS ACCIDENT—We learn that the stage from Mokelumne Hill to Latrobe on Tuesday morning last was upset, somewhere the other side of Jackson, breaking Mr. Wm. L. Dudley's left arm and dangerously injuring (District Judge) S. W. Brockway who were on board on their way to Sacramento. . . .

MAN SHOT NEAR EL DORADO—Mr. Jenkins, from Spring Valley, was shot by a robber near El Dorado, on Thursday last. He was about half-a-mile from town, when a man came up and stopped his team and demanded his money. He put his hand in his pocket, as if going after his money, drew a derringer and fired at the robber, and started his team, when the robber fired two shots at him, one of which took effect in the back of the neck. He then fell from the wagon and his team passed on, and the robber made good his escape, without getting his money . . . Dr. Ford . . . thinks his wounds will prove fatal. — San Andreas Register, April 6, 1865.

Telegraph Operators - 1865

W. F. Moses, Mokelumne Hill
C. M. Whitlock, San Andreas
Alonzo Rhodes, Murphy's
Thornton Westly, Copperopolis

Historical Essay Contest

The successful essayists read their papers at the April dinner meeting at Mountain Ranch, and were presented with their prizes. Included were the following:

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades

1st—"History of Avery School," by Caye Bailey, Valley Springs.

2nd—"The Two Halls of Murphys," by David Strohmeyer, Murphys.

Seventh and Eighth Grades

1st—"Under the Buckeye Tree," Linda Marie Richards, Murphys.

2nd—"Ora y Plata," by David Butler, Murphys.

High School Division

1st—"The Calaveras Timber Story," by Carolynn B. Bryan, West Point.

2nd—"Calaveras Hotel and Grandma Rolleri," by Penelope A. Newton, San Andreas.

These essays, the winners of the Ninth Annual Contest, will be mimeographed for the members of the Society. They will be assembled and stapled at the traditional gathering in August at Double Springs Ranch, the home of our secretary, Sadie Hunt.

May Meeting

Mrs. Ramona Dutschke, a delightful Miwok from Ione, enlightened and entertained a large audience at the May meeting of our Society. Her topic was "Indian Basket Weaving," and she demonstrated techniques and materials with partly finished and beautifully completed baskets that she and her grandmother, Mrs. "Queenie" Miller had made. Mrs. Dutschke learned her basket weaving from Mrs. Miller, an octogenarian, who was also present and who participated in the discussion.

Several members of the Amador Society attended also, including Mrs. Pauline Ringer, of Ione, past president; Mrs. Mary Podesta, now president, and several others. Wide interest in the talk was shown by the presence of visitors from several adjoining counties.

Following the meeting, President Lewis invited the guests to join the Society members present for pie and coffee at Blewett's Cafe. During this social hour plans were made for a joint meeting of the Amador and Calaveras societies (and possibly one or two others) to be held in Jackson in October. Walter Frame, of the California Conference, will be asked to speak at this event, hosted by the Amador Society. Mrs. Evelyn Gabarini has agreed to plan the joint dinner, at a date soon to be announced.

Stockton Stage Line - 1865

The coaches on this line leave Stockton daily at 6 o'clock, A. M., arriving in San Andreas at 2½ P. M. and Murphy's at 8½ P. M. Leave Murphy's at 2 o'clock A. M., arriving in San Andreas at 7 A. M. and Stockton at 3 P. M., in time to take the Boat for San Francisco, which leaves at 4 o'clock P. M.

June Meeting

The June meeting launched a significant and important Society project—the chronicling of the history of pioneer families in Calaveras County. This will be a continuing project, and one in which many county residents, whether members or not, can participate and are urged to do so. Charles Schwoerer, Hattie Hertzig, Eva Soracco and Madelon Carley were selected as the San Andreas committee. Other local committees will be formed at succeeding Society meetings.

George Poore was elected Society president for the coming year. Coke Wood, Alice Eldridge, Sadie Hunt, and Marian Brandt were re-elected to their respective offices. New directors will be Harry Buchanan, Albert Gross, Hattie Hertzig, Allen Peek, and Eva Soracco. They will be installed at the annual meeting this month. We all feel particularly fortunate in having Mr. Poore for our president. It will be remembered that he was one of four that organized the Society in 1952, sponsored by the Calaveras Grange. The other three were Amon Tanner, Coke Wood and Sadie Hunt.

Kenneth Castro and Coke Wood reported on the annual meeting of the California Conference, at Sacramento. A progress report was given on the Fourth Crossing site dedication. A donation of \$25 was voted for the Copperopolis Armory Hall Repair Fund. Hattie Hertzig presented an interesting talk about the Wade Johnston family, illustrated by the Effie Johnston journals, recently donated to the Society.

Dues

Our secretary wishes to advise the members that Society Dues for 1965-66 were payable on July 1st. New members joining in the second quarter of our fiscal year (October-December) pay only three-fourths of the year's dues. Those joining in January-March pay one-half, and in April-June, one-quarter. Any overpayment by new members last year ('64-'65) will be credited to their current dues, and they will be billed accordingly. The purpose of this is to place all members on an annual billing basis as of July 1st, the beginning of the fiscal year, in order to simplify record-keeping and billing.

Family dues (husband and wife) are only \$6.00, and Juniors (sixteen and under) are \$1.00 a year. All classes of membership include a subscription to LAS CALAVERAS. Back copies, as long as they last, may be purchased by members at 50 cents a copy from the secretary.

New Members

Again we are pleased to welcome new members to the Society. These listed below bring our total membership to 184:

Mrs. Eunice H. Rush, San Andreas.
Mr. Sam H. Bryan, West Point.
Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Johnson, Arnold.
Mr. Richard E. Tuttle, San Francisco.
Mr. Donald R. Dickey, Alleghany.
Mr. Ray Keran, Angels Camp.
Mr. Lester Soracco, San Andreas.

OFFICERS OF CALAVERAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

San Andreas, California

PresidentGeorge B. Poore, Jr., San Andreas
1st Vice-President R. Coke Wood, Murphys
2nd Vice-President Mrs. Alice Eldridge, San Andreas
SecretaryMrs. Sadie Hunt, Valley Springs
TreasurerMrs. Marian Brandt, San Andreas
DirectorsHarry Buchanan, Railroad Flat
Albert E. Gross, Murphys
Allen F. Peek, Mokelumne Hill
Mrs. Hattie Hertzig, San Andreas
Mrs. Eva Soracco, San Andreas

Editor of Las CalaverasW. P. Fuller, Jr., San Andreas

Las Calaveras is published quarterly by the Calaveras County Historical Society. Individual memberships (\$4.00 a year), Family (\$6.00) and Junior memberships (\$1.00) include subscription to Las Calaveras. Non-members may obtain copies of Las Calaveras from the Secretary. The original historical material in this bulletin is not copyrighted and anyone is invited to use it. Mention of the source will be appreciated.

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.

EDITORIAL

The accompanying report, by Dr. R. Coke Wood, of the annual meeting of the Conference of California Historical Societies, should serve to remind us that our Society is a member of this very active organization.

The Conference publishes the "California Historian" five times a year, with news of the member societies, Conference activities and various topics of interest to "local historians." Each issue contains at least one article on a subject of local historical interest that might not otherwise appear in publications of more general coverage or subject matter.

In addition to the annual get-together, regional meetings and "workshop" sessions are held. By attending these, delegates can not only have an enjoyable and enthusiastic time meeting and conferring with others having similar interests, but can also derive worthwhile ideas for historical projects here at home. Calaveras Society members who would like to serve as delegates should let Prof. Wood or other officers of our Society know of their interest so that arrangements can be made for their attendance.

The photograph of Wm. Jeff Gatewood, et al, on page 1, is from the extensive collection in the county museum. Judge Smith's story of the Moonlight Flat duel appeared in our January, 1963, issue.

Annual Meeting -- California Conference

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Conference of California Historical Societies was held at the El Rancho Hotel in Sacramento on June 17-19, with over 300 delegates from the 108 historical society members. The gathering was presided over by Richard Bailey, director of the Kern County museum at Bakersfield. The Conference opened with a reception on Thursday night at the historic Crocker Art Gallery which was followed on Friday morning by sessions at the El Rancho.

One of the most enjoyable presentations was a debate between Dr. Aubrey Neasham (president of the Western Heritage Council) and Robert Power (of the Solano County Historical Society—and the owner of the "Nut Tree") on the location of Drake's Landing, marked by the now famous brass plate, the earliest document written in English in America and still preserved. Dr. Neasham favored Bodega Bay while Mr. Power gave the evidence of his well-known stand that Drake landed near Sausalito, in San Francisco Bay.

The highlight of the Conference was the Friday night steak barbecue, served in the courtyard of Sutter's Fort. About 250 delegates enjoyed the balmy evening and listened to "Old Hutch" (William R. Hutchinson) deliver an amusing talk on the topic "California is not the West." Mr. Hutchinson is an instructor at Chico State College as well as a literary editor for the San Francisco Chronicle. The University of Oklahoma Press recently published his two volume study of Oklahoma Senator Thomas Bard, entitled, "Oil, Land and Politics."

The Conference presented, for the first time, Award of Merit Certificates for those who have aided in the presentation of California history. Dr. Rockwell D. Hunt, president emeritus, was granted the first certificate for his efforts in founding the Conference in 1953. Other certificates were awarded to Governor Brown and to several legislators.

The delegates selected Santa Barbara for the 1966 Annual Meeting and Oroville for 1967. New officers include: Walter Frame, of Sacramento, president; Edwin Gledhill, vice president; and Mrs. Beulah Linnell, Hayward, treasurer. Dr. R. Coke Wood, Calaveras, was re-elected for the 12th time as executive secretary. The regional vice president named for the Mother Lode (Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa counties) was Mrs. Evelyn Gabarini of Jackson, replacing Mrs. Dorothy Firebaugh, of Sonora, who held that post for the past two years.

The Conference has over 280 society and individual members, and has just acquired its third life member (\$100). This was Dr. Albert Shumate, regional vice-president from San Francisco. Plans were made for a fall workshop at Hayward State College on September 24-25 under the direction of Mrs. Linnell. This event will be the second workshop held, the first being at Yosemite in 1964, where outstanding leaders instructed members of the group on techniques of operating the small historical society and museum.