



Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras County Historical Society
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THE GOODWIN-GATEWOOD DUEL

One of the most newsworthy events that ever occurred near San Andreas was the Goodwin-Gatewood duel, in 1859. The story is as interesting now to the historically inclined as it was, when it happened over a century ago, to the local residents. Years later one of these, Wade Hampton Johnston, dictated his memories of the duel and of the people involved in it to his daughter Effie. She incorporated this material with many more of her father's recollections into an unpublished manuscript entitled, "Wade Hampton Johnston Talks to His Daughter." We let Wade Johnston tell us the facts in his own words, in the excerpt that follows, just as Effie faithfully transcribed them, more than 40 years ago.

Jeff Gatewood had been away. He may have been at Salt Lake where a former law partner, his brother-in-law, Charles Hempstead, lived. He came back while we were at the Big Trees.*

During Jeff Gatewood's absence, Colonel E. D. Baker had delivered an Abolition speech in San Andreas and he couldn't raise a chairman. When Gatewood returned, Dr. Goodwin was telling him about it and laughing over the incident. Gatewood said to Goodwin:

"I was personally acquainted with Colonel Baker in Mexico. If I had been here I would have acted as chairman through courtesy."

At that Goodwin said, "Then you must be a damned old abolitionist!"

"No, I am not," replied Gatewood.

"You're a liar," said Goodwin.

Whereupon Gatewood pushed Goodwin over, and Goodwin challenged him to fight a duel.

This incident took place in Charles Faville's saloon on Main Street, in San Andreas, opposite the Odd Fellows building. It was in the latter part of August, 1859, while Mrs. Gatewood was with us at the Big Trees. We were just getting through dinner at the San Antone Mill on our return from Big Trees when the expressman arrived with a message for Mrs. Gatewood. This informed her of the impending duel between her husband and Dr. Goodwin. After Mrs. Gatewood read the message, there wasn't a

*This refers to a group of some 32 people, including Wade Johnston and Mrs. Jeff Gatewood, from San Andreas, Bay State Ranch, Central Hill, and Fourth Crossing, who were on a five-day trip to see the Big Trees.

EFFIE ENFIELD JOHNSTON

One of our most beloved senior members, Miss Effie Johnston, passed away in Stockton on September 5th at the age of 98 years. Effie was a native of Calaveras County, the daughter of pioneers Wade Hampton Johnston and Martha Cottle Johnston, born on February 1st, 1868, at Paradise Gulch, two miles southeast of San Andreas.

Longevity is a well-known characteristic of the Johnston family, as her father lived to be 94, and Effie outlived her younger sister, Martha, 96, by only a few months.

We will remember Effie for her deep interest in local Calaveras history and in our Society. Much of the latter part of her long life was devoted to keeping journals and scrapbooks, and in copying and preserving her father's memoirs. The material that she accumulated by her industry will long be valuable as source material for local historians.

Effie was an avid letter writer as her many friends well know. She was a kind and gentle person, always busy and interested in everything about her. Her character is portrayed in her diary, kept over many years. She loved all nature, saw the good in people with whom she came in contact, and expressed all this in her clever verse compositions.

Although Effie lived alone at her Willow Creek home for most of the four decades following her father's death, she kept up surprisingly well on affairs of the county and of the outside world. She will be sadly missed.

bit of color left in her face. She went right off with the expressman and this took all the life out of the party.

Their friends tried hard to prevent the duel, and Gatewood was willing to compromise but Goodwin wouldn't. He wanted Gatewood to acknowledge that he was "a liar and a coward." Mrs. Gatewood wouldn't let him do this. She picked out the bullet for Jeff. They didn't fight the duel, though, until September 16th.

Jeff Gatewood's second was Captain Robert Pope, and Martin Rowen, alternate. Goodwin's second was Buck Lewis, with Major Glynn as alternate. They agreed to fight with rifles at a distance of forty yards. Jeff Gatewood used Captain Pope's rifle. Pope had carried it through the Mexican War. It took an eight-ounce ball. I think that Dr. Goodwin used a rifle that belonged to James L. Ray, the gunsmith in San Andreas. They rode out to a flat below Forman's where the duel was fought in early morning. I think Sam Seabrough and Skimmerhorn named it "Moonlight Flat" after the duel.

Dr. Goodwin had drunk until he didn't care whether he lived or died. Gatewood said to Captain Pope:

"I don't think Dr. Goodwin can hold up the rifle to shoot—I'll shoot over his head."

"Don't be a fool!" retorted Captain Pope, "Dr. Goodwin has already said that he wouldn't be satisfied with less than three or four shots."

When the signal, "Are you ready? One-two-three," was given, they fired about the same time, and Goodwin went down. Jeff Gatewood walked over to Goodwin and extended his hand, saying:

"I'm sorry."

Goodwin took his hand, saying, "You've acted the gentleman—I'm satisfied—That's all I ask."

Gatewood thanked him and left the field. Dr. Good-

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win died that morning, shot in the groin. Dr. Goodwin's rifle had made long fire, but it was a line shot. The bullet went into the ground a short distance in front of Gatewood. Goodwin did not have strength enough to hold up the rifle.

I didn't witness the duel. I don't know just who was there besides their seconds. No women, of course, not even Mrs. Gatewood. I didn't attend the funeral. I got my information from Captain Pope and Buck Lewis. I was well acquainted with all four men concerned. The dispute took place before election. The duel was fought after the election. Dr. Goodwin was buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery at San Andreas.

Dr. Goodwin had the name of being the best doctor around San Andreas. He was public administrator, and I think he held the office at the time of the duel. He was a high-bred Virginian about forty years of age and single. I think he was older than Jeff Gatewood. He was six feet tall and had dark eyes. I think both he and Gatewood wore chin whiskers at the time of the duel.

Wm. Jeff Gatewood was district attorney. I believe he held the office at that time. He was five feet, nine inches tall, and of blond complexion. Gatewood was fond of dancing. He was from Illinois but may have been born in Kentucky. He and Captain Pope were veterans of the Mexican War. In 1857 Jeff Gatewood was married to Miss Crosthwaite. They and Captain Pope were living together in the San Andreas Odd Fellows building at the time of the duel. Captain Pope played the violin, Jeff the flute, and Mrs. Gatewood the guitar. Sometimes I played the violin with them for a pleasant pastime together. A clipping I have from the **San Andreas Independent** states:

"Universal regret at the bloody affair and fatal termination is the sentiment that pervades the town. Everyone exonerates Mr. Gatewood from blame and all agree that the duel was throughout conducted upon the most humane and honorable terms known to the code. Perhaps no one more sincerely regrets its fatal termination than Mr. Gatewood himself."*

(Miss Johnston added the following comments to her father's remarks about Mr. Gatewood: According to historians, Gatewood was a man of fine personal appearance and great native talents. However, from the time of the duel until his death, his star went into decline and he struggled in obscurity in his later years. From one source came the statement that Gatewood, the pioneer publisher, died years later in the county poorhouse at San Diego. According to Smythe's history, he died on board the schooner "Rosita" in San Diego Bay on March 27, 1888. I don't think Gatewood was publishing the **San Andreas Register** at the time of the duel, as stated. The **Register** was started about 1862-63. Later, in 1868, Gatewood and Ed Bushyhead founded the **San Diego Union**.)

Mrs. Jeff Gatewood was a sister or half sister to a prominent lawyer of Salt Lake, Charles Hemstead, who was Jeff Gatewood's law partner for two years. She was

*This news story from the **Independent** of September 17, 1859, is more fully quoted in **Las Calaveras** for January, 1963. Gatewood's picture appeared in **Las Calaveras** for July, 1965.

from St. Louis and acquainted with some of my people. She and my cousin, Rose Parks, attended the same convent there. Mrs. Gatewood was a tall, good-looking woman, of light complexion. She was one of the most popular women around San Andreas. I don't think she had an enemy there. She had no children that I know of.

Captain Robert Pope was from Georgia. He was a light-complected man, weighing about 180 pounds, a six-footer, and single. He was not only a Mexican War veteran, but had taken part in the Seminole War as well. He used to say:

"When I was in the Seminole War, the mosquitoes were so bad in the Florida Everglades that the soldiers had to sleep under water! We would look around for a log to rest our heads on above water, keeping our bodies below the water. When a man turned over in the night you'd think it was a whale."

W. T. Lewis, known as Buck, was from Mississippi. He was a large man of stately appearance. His hair was curly, his complexion florid. He was a state senator for one term, and district attorney of Calaveras several terms. He was a brother to Ben Lewis who raised a large family at Vallecito. Buck Lewis was single at the time of the duel. He later (about 1868) married Miss Belle Welch of the old Welch-Findley pioneer family of Angels Camp and raised four sons and a daughter.

I first saw Colonel Baker in 1856 when he stumped the state for Fremont. He was a big lawyer in San Francisco at that time. He was one of the finest looking men in the state—about six feet, one inch tall, straight as a gun barrel, and of light complexion. Colonel Baker served in the Mexican War, although he was an Englishman by birth. We had a county judge here (I forget his name) who had very thick lips. I'm sure he had negro blood in him. He was a Virginian. I heard him make a speech in 1860 when he was stumping for J. C. Breckenridge. In 1861, when the Civil War broke out, he said, "I'm going back there to get Colonel Baker!" And I guess he did, for he left right afterward. Colonel Baker was found with eleven bullets in his body at the Battle of Balls Bluff, Virginia. He was leading a charge when he was killed, in 1861.

Minor Faville, a brother to Charles Faville, worked for us all one summer in the gravel mine. Another brother worked for J. K. Doak on Murray Creek awhile. This article from the **San Andreas Independent**, August 28, 1858, describes Charles Faville's place:

"Handsome Billiard Parlor—Mr. Charles Faville will soon occupy Mr. Pittman's new billiard saloon, in the course of completion, on Main Street, opposite the Odd Fellows Hall. It is 24 by 50 feet, 14 feet from floor to ceiling, and it will be by far the most elegantly furnished and finished building of the kind ever erected in this place. Mr. H. G. Pittman is the architect."

I think it was on the Philip Piper's negro chop house lot on Main Street. That house was burned in 1858.

(Effie Johnston added the following recollections of her mother regarding the duel and the principals.)

At the time of the Goodwin-Gatewood duel, John Cottle's family lived on the San Antone Creek less than a mile below Forman's. Martha Cottle, who later married

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THE METROPOLITAN HOTEL AT SAN ANDREAS

It was from the balcony that Colonel E. D. Baker gave his Abolition speech in August, 1859, that led indirectly to the duel resulting in the death of Doctor P. Goodwin the following month. The Metropolitan was built that same year and dedicated in March in

a gala celebration verging on a boisterous revel, which Wade Johnston reported many years afterwards to his daughter Effie. The fine old building was destroyed by the big downtown fire of 1927. This popular view was probably taken near the turn of the century.

THE GOODWIN INQUEST

(Reprinted from Judge J. A. Smith's column, "The Days of Old in Historic Calaveras County," in the Calaveras Prospect, April 8, 1944)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF CALAVERAS,
5TH TOWNSHIP.

Examination of witnesses produced, sworn and examined on the 17th day of September, A.D. 1859, at San Andreas, township and county aforesaid, before James Barclay, one of the justices of the peace in and for said county and now acting as coroner.

The following good and competent men of the said county were duly sworn as a jury of inquest, to inquire into all the circumstances attending the death of the late P. Goodwin, when, where and by what means the said P. Goodwin came to his death: P. W. Cornwall, J. A. Foster, C. O. Gilchrist, G. B. Sausman, C. Prag, Robert Irvine, Wm. Livies, William Mills and A. B. Cowan.

Dr. F. W. Brotherton was sworn as a witness, who as a physician explained the nature of the wound upon the body of the deceased, and explained the same to the jury, and that such would necessarily produce and he was well

satisfied did produce his death. The witness was then asked the following questions:

Q—Were you acquainted with the deceased, Dr. P. Goodwin?

Q—Did you see deceased at anytime yesterday?

Q—Did you know the deceased?

Q—Were you present yesterday at a meeting between W. J. Gatewood and Dr. P. Goodwin?

Q—Do you know when, where and by what means the deceased, P. Goodwin, came to his death?

Witness declined answering the above questions or any other as to the death of the late P. Goodwin, except as a physician.

E. C. Bellows, sworn as witness, resides at San Andreas, knew Dr. P. Goodwin, knew W. J. Gatewood, saw them yesterday. Saw P. Goodwin about a quarter to 5 o'clock in the morning at a place between Bannagans and the Kentucky House, saw them afterwards between San Andreas and Formans, on the lower Angels road. When witness arrived there saw Dr. Goodwin lying on the ground. Heard firing, did not see any person shoot; saw Gatewood, Major Glenn, John McKeon, Buck Lewis, Joseph Greer, Wm. Leonard, Capt. Pope, Martin Rowan, Daniel



MAIN STREET IN SAN ANDREAS

This is how Main Street in San Andreas looked three-quarters of a century ago, as seen from the Metropolitan Hotel. The view was taken in 1892, during

Cleveland's third campaign for the presidency. The original photograph has the identification of all the individuals to be seen on the sidewalks.

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Gallagher, J. P. Haskill and Dr. Brotherton; saw others but did not know who they were. Saw Dr. Goodwin yesterday have a rifle, did not see Gatewood have any firearms. Saw the above persons yesterday about half past seven o'clock in the morning in Township No. 5, Calaveras County, recognizes the person of deceased, it is that of the late Dr. P. Goodwin.

Joseph Grier sworn as witness, resides at San Andreas. Witness declined examining the body of the deceased. Q—Did you know Dr. P. Goodwin? Witness declined answering and stated that he was unwilling and would not answer any other questions. No other witness could be found who were supposed to know anything of their own knowledge concerning the death of the deceased. The law was read to the jury with instructions to return an inquest in accordance with the evidence. The above was all the evidence that appeared before the jury and were all the facts that could be obtained upon the inquest.

JAMES BARCLAY,

Justice of the peace in 5th Township, Calaveras County and in the above case, acting coroner.

We, the undersigned jurors, summoned to examine into the cause of death of Dr. P. Goodwin upon an examination of the body, find that his death was occasioned by a wound in his abdomen caused by a gunshot fired by some person unknown to the jury and at a place on the

Historical Landmarks Committee

This advisory committee has recommended minimum standards for the building of historical markers. A request has also been initiated to the State Highway and County officers to sign route the former Highway 49 on Main Street and the section now called Gold Strike Road, as Historical 49, in San Andreas, as has been done at Mokelumne Hill. The Historic Main Street project is shaping up, with good support from the property owners. Plans are proceeding on the County Museum.

Invite a Friend to Join the Society

lower Angels road leading from the Kentucky House to Forman's Ranch, in Township No. Five, in Calaveras County on the morning of Friday, the 16th day of September, A. D. 1859.

P. W. Cornwall, foreman; J. A. Foster, C. I. Gilchrist, G. B. Sausman, C. Prag, Robert Irvine, William Liars, William Mills, A. B. Cowan.

I hereby certify that the above is the inquest handed in by the jury.

JAMES BARCLAY,

Justice of the peace, 5th Township, Calaveras County, and in the above case, acting coroner.

Endorsed: Filed Oct. 3, 1859,
Wm. H. Hanford, county clerk.

ALEXANDER LOVE FAMILY

By ROSE HOGARTH FLETCHER

Alexander Love was born in Stewarton, Scotland, in 1820. He left Paisley, Scotland, in 1842, for New York. There he married Jane Anderson, a native of Paisley, and one daughter, Elizabeth, was born to this union in 1849.

In September, 1851, they embarked for San Francisco, California. On the Isthmus of Panama, the three-year-old Elizabeth was stolen by the Indians, as she was the first blonde child they had ever seen. When found, she was being fed some sweets and was unharmed, and so safely returned to her parents.

The Love family spent that winter in San Francisco. Alexander came on to Calaveras County first alone, and then in the spring, hired a four-horse team and brought them from San Francisco to Angels Camp, by way of San Jose and Livermore Valley. Upon their arrival (in 1852) he built a small cabin on upper Main Street, and homesteaded a large portion of land adjoining the town. Few families were here at that time. Angels had its second smallpox epidemic that year, and many of the population suffered from famine and disease. Jane Love helped with the sick. For many years afterwards she acted as midwife to many families.

Alexander Love's first interest was gold, but after a short turn at panning, he decided to engage in the dairy business. He built a larger and better home for his family. This house still stands and is owned and occupied by his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Charles Eberhardt, and her husband.

His next venture was in the mountains where he owned and operated a sawmill near Avery. The creek in that vicinity still bears his name, Love Creek. He was joined in this work by other members of his family, his brother Andrew and nephews and cousins: Robert Love, John Love, Ebenezer Love and Stephen Spindle.

Alexander Love served Calaveras County for twelve years as county assessor. At the expiration of his term of office, he entered the livery stable business and maintained this establishment until his death in 1901, at the age of 81 years.

He was always active in civic, political and fraternal affairs concerning the town and county. He was a stone mason by trade, and some of his handiwork is still standing in Angels Camp. He helped with the supervision and building of the Odd Fellows Building on Main Street, and was an active member of this lodge. He also was a member of the local order of Masons, and the gate-post entrance to this building on Bush Street was made by him from local lava rock. Two other pairs of gate-posts that he built are at the Dr. George Cooper residence and the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. H. Hogarth, on Bush Street.

Alexander's daughter Elizabeth married Lewis Knight McGaffey, of Lynden Centre, Vermont, a millwright by trade. They had five children, John, Jennie, Lillian, Lewis and Mabel. All were born in Angels Camp except for Mabel, who was born in Virginia City, where her father was engaged for a short time in building mills. Johnnie died when very young. The others grew up, attended school, and built their homes in the Angels area.

Jennie married Henry Hogarth and seven children were born to them: Harry, Alvin, Ruth, Rose, Lewis, Bessie

July Meeting

The annual dinner meeting was held in Murphys, at the Congregational Church. A ham dinner was enjoyed by some 70 members and guests present. Following the dinner, a brief history of the church was recounted by Prof. Coke Wood, who then read a tribute to Mrs. Eva Stephens. Mrs. Paul Lewis next took over and installed the new officers of the Society in an impressive and well-arranged ceremony. Guest James Cooper displayed some of the bells from his wonderful collection. Coke Wood then described a trip visiting a number of the California Missions, illustrated with excellent colored slides.

September Meeting

A resolution was passed by the Society endorsing the Landmark Committee's recommendation to designate Historical 49 Route. Following the business meeting, Percy Hunt presented a program dedicated to the pioneers of the Valley Springs and surrounding area. Papers were given as follows:

- Pliier and Lillie Families, by Myrtle Gallenger, read by Mrs. Lawrence Pliier
- Nicholls Family, by the Nicholls Children, read by Mrs. Bruce Swinborne
- Wheat and Gillam Family, by Mrs. Sadie Hunt
- Haupt Family, by Mrs. Grace Reinking, read by Mrs. Douglas Sloan
- Higginbotham Family, by E. M. Higginbotham, and read by Mrs. Verna Hood
- Wildermuth Family, by Miss Elsie Berry, read by Percy Hunt
- Dave Berry, "Half a Million Miles on the Box of a Stage Coach," submitted by Miss Berry, and read by Coke Wood

Mr. Ira Shank concluded the program by donating a copy of his manuscript history of the Jennie Lind community to the Society.

Forthcoming Meetings

- November 17th—Copperopolis Pioneer Families
Mrs. Ella Hiatt, Chairman
- December 15th—Christmas Party
- January 26th—Dinner Meeting—Location and Program to Be Announced

Back issues of **Las Calaveras** may be purchased from the secretary, at 50 cents each by members and one dollar each by non-members.

and William. Lewis and William died in infancy.

Lillian married Dr. Charles Freeman, and they had two children. The first one, a son, died at birth, and later a daughter, Gertrude, was born to them.

Mabel married George Lillie and had four children. The first, a son, died at birth, and a son, Louis, passed away at 17 years of age. The other children were Doris and Robert. Robert passed away in 1963.

Lewis married Mary Peirano and they had four children, Donald, Stephen, Lucille, and Barbara. Lucille died in infancy.

Members of the fourth, fifth and sixth generations of the Alexander Love family still reside in this locality and in other parts of the county and state.

OFFICERS OF CALAVERAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

San Andreas, California

President	George B. Poore, Jr., San Andreas
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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

It seems appropriate in this issue, in observance of the passing of Effie Johnston, to say that we owe her a real debt of gratitude for what she has done for our local history. This type of history is very dependent upon the personal impressions and descriptions preserved from contemporary writings and from the recollections of those persons who have keen and accurate memories. Miss Johnston understood this and did all she could to record her father's memories of the gold rush and early Calaveras history, as well as her own later life in the county in her journals and letters. But we deplore the fact that so few people are actually putting down such detailed recollections of the passing generation. We need this done, so that our local history can be chronicled more completely and in a more well-rounded fashion, for the enjoyment of future generations.

It is also appropriate to note at this time the successful formation of the Calaveras County Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee, and the several worthwhile projects already in the works. We are convinced that we can soon expect renewed public interest and action on the preservation and restoration of historical landmarks, as well as the creation of a museum second to none on the entire Mother Lode, all as the outcome of the work of this energetic committee. But it will also require the help of many of us to achieve the realization of these hopes and plans.

Wanted by the editor—A member to help index **Las Calaveras**.

Essay Stapling Party

The prize-winning essays were assembled and stapled at the annual stapling party at the Double Springs Ranch home of Percy and Sadie Hunt. This year the essays were stenciled by Elaine Bardsley and printed by Orrie Gruwell at the Calaveras Cement Company office. We thank them for the excellent job they did for us. A most appropriate cover was stenciled by Dorner T. Schueler, well-known professional artist who has recently moved into our county.

Following the stapling, a brief business meeting of the board of directors and officers was held, presided over by President George Poore, Jr. Then all present enjoyed a sample of Secretary Sadie's birthday cake—This occasion has traditionally marked her birthday and honored the many years of devoted service she has given to the Society.

New Members

We are happy to welcome the following new members to the Society. We appreciate their support and interest in our historical work.

California Historical Society, San Francisco
Dr. and Mrs. Milton B. Smith, Murphys
Mr. and Mrs. Homer E. Wyatt, Vallecito
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Jewell, San Andreas
Mr. and Mrs. Tone M. Airola, Angels Camp
Miss Kay Dale, Murphys
Mr Robert Finnegan, Valley Springs
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Snyder, Valley Springs
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick E. Butler, San Andreas
Mr. and Mrs. Glen Vergara, Copperopolis
Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Moomau, Oakland

The Goodwin-Gatewood Duel

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Wade Johnston, remembered the incident and tells the following:

"That morning my father, John Cottle, came into the house and exclaimed, "There was a duel fought right up here on the flat this morning, and Dr. Goodwin was killed!"

"Of course we youngsters all had to run up there and look around. No one was there. Everything had been cleared away. They were all very quiet about it and we did not know very much about the affair.

"The duel was fought on a flat about a hundred yards west of where Father later built our new house. There were two big oaks on the flat. One stood by each oak tree. Pa showed us where Dr. Goodwin stood. These oak trees were cut down long ago. After the land was surveyed, the Darnalls got the eastern part of the flat.

"Dr. Goodwin was a drinking man. He attended Ma with Florence and neglected her. He charged Pa \$75 and then dropped the case, and Pa had to go to Angels for another doctor.

"Jeff Gatewood and Aunt Elvira Ellis were engaged to be married about 1853. He made her quite a few presents. She changed her mind and married Joe Bryan who drove stage to Sonora, where they were married. Elvira returned the presents to Jeff, who threw them into the fire. Jeff Gatewood was a promising young lawyer at the time and the choice of Elvira's mother."