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October, 1998

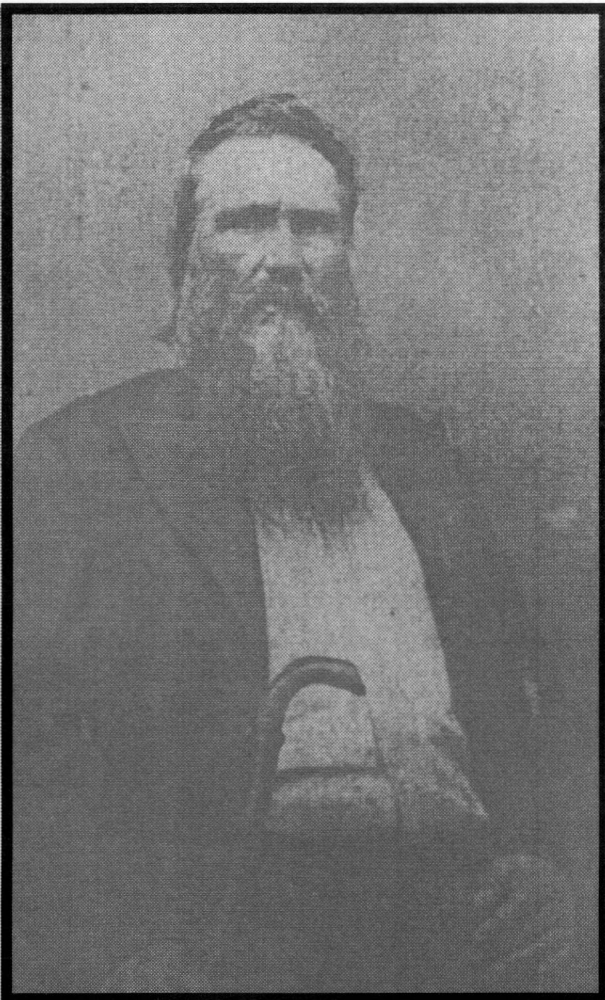
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Volume XLVII

Number 1

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## SHEEP RANCH PIONEERS



**CLEMENT VANN MCNAIR**

In the almost geographical center of Calaveras County lies a small flat between O'Neill Creek and San Antonio Creek. This flat was home to Native Americans for a few hundred years until the mid-1800's when it was discovered to be excellent range for sheep. It was at this time in history that southern sympathizers were known as "Copperheads." Many Southerners, whether sympathizers or not, found their way to this range and settled the community of Sheep Ranch. Although the name of Sheep Ranch stayed with the community through its history, the not so flattering nickname of "Copperhead Flat" was used for several decades. As late as 1869, the Calaveras County assessment rolls referred to the 15 acres owned by C. V. McNair as located in Copperhead Flat.

Three pioneers eventually settled in the community of Sheep Ranch and contributed to its complex history. Their lives were not only intertwined by living in the same small community, but through the various marriages of their offspring as well. Two Southerners, Clement Vann McNair, a part Cherokee born in Tennessee, travelled with his nephew, William Ellis Bean, from Georgia with the gold rush. Shortly thereafter, in 1852, George Andrew Fischer, a German immigrant living in Washington DC, came to California with his family. This issue of the *Las Calaveras* is dedicated to the history and legacy of these three pioneers.

The articles about McNair and Fischer were prepared by Elizabeth Fischer of San Diego, descendent of George Fischer. Complete accounts of Ms. Fischer's research, including detailed family genealogies, can be obtained at either the office at the Calaveras County Historical Society or at the Calaveras County Archives. Ms. Fischer has also recently completed an immense project to restore the plots and headstones of the Fischer family descendents buried in the Sheep Ranch Cemetery. The *Las Calaveras* is grateful to Ms. Fischer for providing these stories about her family, as well as sharing these photographs with us for our publication.

# THE LIFE STORY OF CLEMENT VANN MCNAIR, SHEEP RANCH PIONEER

By Elizabeth Fischer

Clement Vann McNair, who played a key role in the founding of the town of Sheep Ranch in Calaveras County, was part Cherokee and spent his early years in the Cherokee Nation in Georgia and Tennessee. He was born about 1814 in Tennessee. His father, David McNair, was of Scots descent and his mother, Delilah "Lily" Vann, was three-quarters Cherokee Indian, and was the daughter of James Vann, a very rich and prominent Cherokee. (Delilah's cousin Avery Vann was the great-grandfather of Will Rogers, the famous writer and entertainer.) David and Delilah were married in 1801 and raised their six children in Tennessee. They were very prosperous; their home was the first brick house in Tennessee and they eventually owned four farms there. David McNair died in 1836.

In the fall and winter of 1838 the U.S. Government forced the Cherokees to relocate to the new Cherokee Nation West, in Oklahoma. Many died on this journey, which became known as the Trail of Tears. One of those who didn't make it was Delilah McNair, who died on November 30, 1838, at the age of 53. Her adult children pleaded to be allowed to return and bury her beside her husband at the McNair place. They obtained permission to do this, and erected a tombstone that can be seen today in Polk County, Tennessee.

Clement appears to have been a respected man in the new Cherokee Nation West. He was a member of the Cherokee National Committee in the mid-1840's. He was also one of the men hand-picked by Acting Principal Chief Lowrey to go to Washington DC to negotiate and sign the Treaty of 1846, and he was elected a delegate from the Cherokee Nation to Washington DC in 1848.

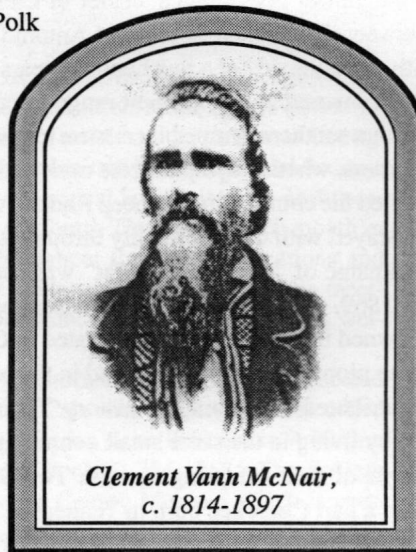
Around 1849, when he was about 35 years of age, Clement went west to seek new opportunities in the gold fields of California. He was accompanied by his nephew, William Bean, and the two of them spent some years moving around Calaveras County. In 1852 they were in Cherokee Flat (named for these Cherokee pioneers?), which later became Altaville, and in 1853 Clement was helping to draw up mining laws.

In the mid 1850's Clement was married to Martha Smith, who had been born Martha Childers. According to the information that has been passed down in our family, she was also from Tennessee and had been married there to a Robert Smith, with whom she had three daughters; Lucy, and twins Celestra and

Cereta. Robert had gone west in the gold rush and disappeared. Martha and her young daughters had come to California in 1852 in a wagon train led by her father-in-law, Ezra Smith, to search for her husband Robert, but she could not find him. Her brother Harvey Childers had also come west, probably at the same time. The marriage between Martha and Clement McNair produced six children, three boys and three girls, born between 1857 and 1869.

A discovery of gold led to the founding of the Sheep Ranch Mine and the town of Sheep Ranch. The accounts of this discovery and the development of the mine sometimes vary in the precise sequence of events, although they mention some or all of the same names: McNair, Bean, Childers, and Smith. It seems to me that the most definitive account is the one that appeared in the October 1958 issue of *Las Calaveras*, the journal of the Calaveras County Historical Society. This is the most detailed and mentions all of the people that appear in other histories. I have relied on this article for my account of this phase of Clement's life, with a few details gleaned from other sources. According to *Las Calaveras*, Clement and his growing family were living on their ranch near the present town of

Sheep Ranch during the late 1850's, and he and William Bean owned the Washington Mine near Indian Creek at this time. Clement took over a nearby sheep range when one of the owners died. In about 1867, his brother-in-law, Harvey Childers, who had come to help him on his ranch, picked up a rock on a hillside which proved to be rich in gold. Harvey showed it to Clement and William, who began digging and discovered a fissure that



Clement Vann McNair,  
c. 1814-1897



Martha McNair,  
née Childers

contained gold. Word spread and other prospectors flocked to the area and began digging and filing claims. Because there were a number of competing claims, the various parties made a compromise agreement in 1868. Clement McNair got a strip of land in the contested area, William Bean got a strip, and Tom Smith and C. P. Ferguson got a strip together. (Family lore states that McNair and Smith were the original partners and made the first discovery, which is also the way the story is recounted in an article in *The Oakland Tribune* from August 10, 1958.) Smith's interest was bought out by W. A. Wallace, who became Ferguson's partner, and Wallace and Ferguson's strip became the main Sheep Ranch Mine. It was very successful and mining became the main business of this area. As a result, the town of

Sheep Ranch grew up there and became fairly populous, so that by the 1870's there were two hotels, two churches, a brewery, several stores, a post office, a grade school and five saloons. Clement's strip was not as productive as the main Sheep Ranch Mine, and he sold it to Chevanne in 1877. Not long after, Wallace and Ferguson sold their mine to George Hearst, who eventually bought up the Chevanne Mine and all the mining interests in the area.

Clement and Martha McNair continued to live at their ranch near Sheep Ranch, raising their children and farming. None of their sons lived long lives or had children, so this was the end of this branch of the McNairs. Their eldest, Clement Alexander, lived in Arizona and Mexico. He served under General Nelson Miles in his campaign against the Apache and, according to the story told in our family, was present at the capture of Geronimo in 1886. His brother Ezra also lived in Mexico and died in 1906 in El Paso, Texas. Nicholas McNair died at the age of 34 in a mine cave-in and is buried in the Sheep Ranch cemetery. The oldest daughter, Amelia Delilah, married William A. Henry, had six children, and moved to Oklahoma. Mary Elizabeth, known as May, married Will Carley and had one son and, after Mr. Carley died, married William C. Armstrong. They made their home near Stockton. Clement and Martha's daughter Leoda Tennessee, who was born in 1863, was my great-grandmother. She married John J. Fischer in 1883 and they had four children.

Clement died on October 3, 1897 at around 83 years of age, survived by his wife and five of their six children. Leoda and John Fischer purchased the McNair ranch from Clement's widow, Martha, and combined it with John's adjacent homestead and a third homestead, for a total of nearly 500 acres. The property was sold out of the family in the 1930's but it is still there, with the farmhouse built by John and Leoda's son Grover Fischer, on Armstrong Road about two and a half miles north of Sheep Ranch.

In his long and eventful life, Clement Vann McNair was a member of the Cherokee Nation, a survivor of the Trail of Tears, a delegate to Washington DC, and a prospector and a rancher in the California Gold Country. He helped develop a successful gold mine, which led to the founding of a bustling mining town. The town of Sheep Ranch is now a peaceful hamlet, and he is buried in its quiet little cemetery. The town's glory days are past, as are Clement McNair's, but I think it is important to preserve their stories for future generations.

### SHEEP RANCH NEWS

#### Death and Funeral of an Old Pioneer of That Locality

SHEEP RANCH, October 5, 1897.-On the night of the 3rd inst., C. V. McNair passed away. He was the oldest resident of this neighborhood being 82 years of age, and was a resident of Sheep Ranch and vicinity for more than 40 years. A widow, two sons, and three daughters survive him. The funeral took place today at the cemetery here, a large concourse of friends and acquaintances coming from all parts of the county to pay their respects to the memory of the deceased.

*Calaveras Prospect, Oct. 9, 1897*

## WILLIAM ELLIS BEAN

By Bonnie Miller

William E. Bean was an emigrant from Georgia who also played a large part in the development of the community of Sheep Ranch. Bean was born on the Cherokee Nation East in Georgia in 1828. He was one of six children of Jesse Bean and Elizabeth McNair Bean. William Bean married a woman from Tennessee one year his junior, Miss Nancy Ann Blythe, whose parents were William Blythe and Nancy Fields, also of Tennessee. Together, William and Nancy Bean travelled to California and eventually Sheep Ranch and began a large family.

The Beans travelled with William's uncle Clement V. McNair to California in 1849 or 1850 to seek their fortune. The 1850 and 1860 census records listed the Beans as living in the Cave City area, although they sold land in Angels Camp in 1851 and in Vallecito in 1854, so it is probable that they moved around quite a bit. For instance, Bean owned property in El Dorado County in addition to his Calaveras County holdings. Each time Bean listed himself as a "miner" or "quartz miner" so he was undoubtedly a typical Calaveras County resident searching for the elusive gold. But apparently he was moderately successful either as a miner or a real estate dealer because by 1860, he listed his personal worth at \$1000 in real estate and \$500 in personal property.

### FOR SALE

The subscriber offers for sale the well known Cherokee House situated on the Stockton Road about one and a half miles west of Angels Camp. A small stock of liquors, provisions and clothing will also be disposed of at very favorable terms.

The house has a first rate run of customers at present, and teams going to Murphys Diggings make this house their stopping place.

WILLIAM BEAN

*Calaveras Chronicle - December 20, 1851*

The Beans eventually had seven children. It is possible that one additional child, "A.H.," was born to them before their arrival in California. This child was listed in the 1850 census as having been born in 1850 in Missouri. This child was probably born during their emigration to California but apparently died not long after their arrival.

In 1855 the Beans were rewarded with twins, Martha "Athenas" and Edmund. They were followed by Emily Jane in 1859, James in 1861, Robert Lee in 1864, Isabell ("Belle") in 1867, Mark (also known as Martin) in 1869 and George in 1873. Isabell and Mark remained in Sheep Ranch for the rest of their lives.

Despite the gold fever in California, the community of Sheep Ranch was not a mining settlement in the 1850's and early 1860's. Sheep Ranch was actually a summer range for sheep. The primary sheep ranchers in the area were Jaunty Dickens and George Folsom. Upon Dickens' passing, the sheep range was claimed by C. V. McNair as a cattle and horse range (see *Las Calaveras*, October 1958). Bean was visiting his uncle C. V. McNair on his sheep range when they made a discovery that changed life forever for the community of

Please see BEAN, continued on page 4

BEAN, *continued from page 3*

Sheep Ranch as well as ultimately contributing to the history of California.

Bean had come to California as a miner, so searching for the Mother Lode was always in his mind. In 1867, Bean must have intended to pursue mining in the Sheep Ranch area. He filed for water rights from the San Antonio Creek in April of 1867 "...for quartz mining purposes," and claimed the "...first right of water from this creek..." on Indian Creek in August of that year according to the Mining District Records. Surprisingly, no significant prospecting had as yet been done in the immediate area. But it was not until 1868 that gold was discovered on McNair's sheep range. Bean, Childers, McNair and Smith are all credited with the discovery, according to varying accounts. Regardless of who picked up the rock that proved to have such a high yield of gold, the Sheep Ranch gold fissure was no longer a secret. A partnership between McNair, Bean, and Childers was quickly formed and the Washington Mine was established. Of course, word of the discovery of gold in Sheep Ranch quickly spread, and the community was rapidly overrun with new miners staking their own claims. Eventually, the community included several well known mines such as the Chavanne (named for Desiree Fricot's adopted uncle) and the American.

The next few years were very busy for Bean and his partners. Eventually, the Sheep Ranch partners consolidated their various disputed claims and changed the name of their operation to the Sheep Ranch Mine, for which it was thereafter known. But despite several attempts at mining their claim, they always lacked the equipment or funds to sink the next shaft deep enough. Although the mine was moderately successful, it made none of the partners spectacularly wealthy as dreamed. In 1872, they finally sold their interest to W. A. Wallace and C. P. Ferguson, who also did not realize what they had hoped for in the mine. In 1875, the mine was sold again to George Hearst and his partners, Haggin and Lewis. The Hearst partnership proved to have the greatest success as they implemented steam power, air compressors, and all the latest technologies available at the time. Heavy rains caused the operation to slow down around 1893, and Hearst died shortly thereafter in 1895. It has been speculated that the fortune realized from the Sheep Ranch Mine by Hearst provided the financial impetus for the empire built by his son, William Randolph Hearst.

William Bean died only eight years after selling his gold mine. On March 16, 1880, he passed away in Sheep Ranch at the age of 52. He was survived by his large family who continued to contribute to the community of Sheep Ranch and surrounding areas. Two years after his death, Bean's daughter Emily married Joseph Raggio of Angels Camp. Their relatives continue to live in Calaveras County today.

By the late 1800's, Sheep Ranch had become a bustling community with all the amenities of an established town, including organized church services. One advertising periodical described it as:

*"Sheep Ranch is the most modern town. It sprang up like a mushroom with the discovery of the American and Chavanne gold-quartz mines, and maintains its prosperity by their scientific development and permanent yield."*

It was in this apparently promising economic climate that the Beans' son Mark, exhibiting his father's business optimism, chose to open a store. On July 13th, 1894 Mark Bean and H. G. Gebhardt entered into partnership as the "Sheep Ranch Market." The market was located next to what later became the town's dance hall.

At least one of the Beans' other sons maintained his father's interest in mining. James Bean left Calaveras County to pursue his career near Sonora. He was living in a cabin near Groveland when in October of 1900, at the age of only 38, he died. "His death was caused by hemorrhage of the lungs," reported the Union-Democrat of Sonora. It is most likely that he died a miner's worst death, tuberculosis. James' brother, Mark, also died of tuberculosis "...after years of battling consumption" in September of 1905, despite his spurning the career of a miner and choosing instead to work in the market.

Nancy Bean clearly had the gift of longevity. On January 22, 1908, she celebrated her 79th birthday. "Many residents honor a pioneer, friends at Sheep Ranch tender her a big reception," reported the Calaveras Prospect. She was highly regarded by the community, who was saddened less than two years later when she passed away at the age of 81. The Calaveras Prospect reported:

### DEATH SUMMONS PIONEER WOMAN

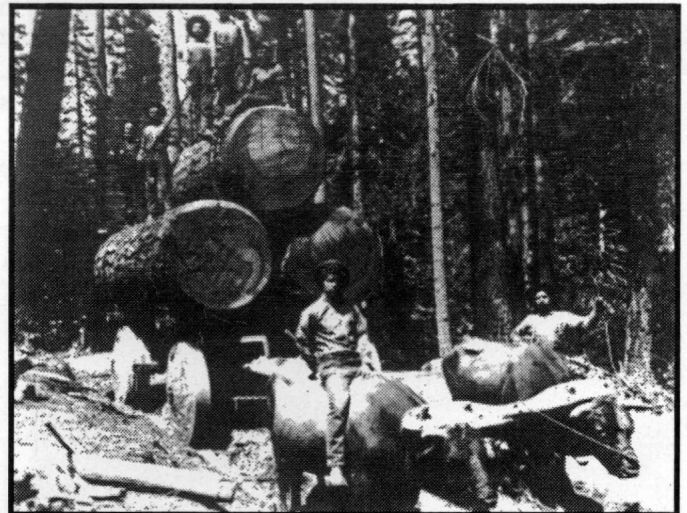
#### Mrs. Nancy Bean Lived in Sheep Ranch Over Forty Years

SHEEP RANCH, December 2, 1909.-Mrs. Nancy A. Bean, one of our pioneers passed away last Tuesday evening a few minutes after seven o'clock. She was in her 81st year. She had been in poor health much of the time during the last few months. About two weeks ago she was stricken with paralysis. At times she showed signs of recovering but would relapse again. The end came quietly and peacefully.

She leaves many friends and relatives to mourn her loss; some of her relatives are in this county and some are in Oklahoma. Miss Belle, her youngest daughter who has always lived with her mother, and Mrs. Jos. Raggio of Angels, another daughter, were at her bedside during the last hours.

The deceased came across the plains by team and has been in Sheep Ranch for more than forty years. She has four living children living-two sons and two daughters.

She will be buried today at two o'clock. Undertaker Carley from Angels will officiate.



RAGGIO LUMBER MILL - near Avery. Taken about 1912. Man on the ox is George Grover Fischer, man standing to the right is Bob Ross.

# GEORGE ANDREW FISCHER

## "The Other Fischer Family"

By Elizabeth Fischer

Much has been written about the Calaveras County Fischers who are descended from Martin Fischer, and who include the well-known educator Hazel Fischer, but I don't think anything has been written about the Fischer family that I belong to. This is probably in part because this family does not have very many descendants that still bear the Fischer name, but it has nevertheless played its part in the history of Calaveras County.

We are descended from George Andrew Fischer, who was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1815. He married Eva Hesler, who was born in Bavaria in about 1823. We do not know if they married before or after they came to the United States, but we know that they were living in Washington DC by 1847. Their three oldest children were born there: Franklin on January 18, 1847, Richard in about 1848, and William or "Billy" in about 1850. George A. Fischer was naturalized in Washington DC on April 6, 1850. In 1852 the family moved across the country to Tuolumne County, California, probably hoping to find prosperity in the gold country. Four more Fischer children were born in California: John James in 1856, George Andrew II in 1858, James in 1860, and Louisa, their youngest. The family appears in the 1860 census in Jamestown, minus Louisa, who was not born yet.

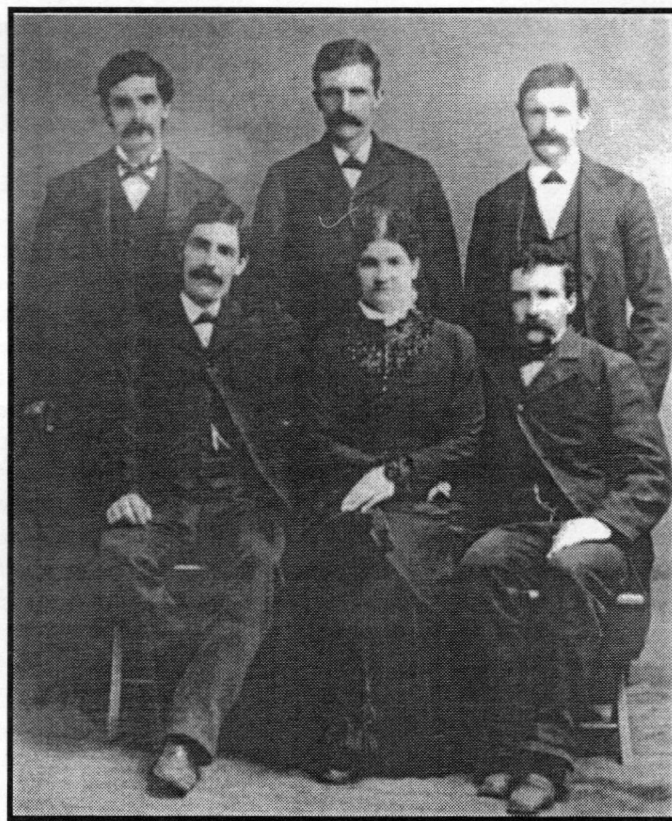
By 1880, at least three members of the family were living in Calaveras County: Frank, Billy and John. Frank Fischer married Ella Parmer on February 2, 1876. They appear in the 1880 census for Calaveras County with two children, Ella May and Frank Jr. I don't know if they had any more children after that. Louisa married a man named Carlin and they had a daughter, Eva. As far as I know, the only member of this generation who had children was my great-grandfather, John James Fischer.

John Fischer married Leoda Tennessee McNair in Calaveras County on August 4, 1883. She was the daughter of Clement Vann McNair, who had been a founding partner in the Sheep Ranch Mine and a pioneer resident of the town of Sheep Ranch. John and Leoda Fischer homesteaded in Sheep Ranch, next to Clement McNair's homestead. After Clement died in 1897 they bought his ranch from his widow Martha and added it to theirs, together with a third homestead that they acquired, so that the Fischer ranch contained almost 500 acres. John Fischer built a home for his mother-in-law, Martha on the property.

According to his granddaughter Elsie, John Fischer was a humorist with a twinkle in his eye, and his wife Leoda was a wonderful woman, if a little eccentric in some ways. She was given to shooting at people who ignored her "no trespassing" signs, but she assured her lawyer, who conveniently happened to be the District Attorney, that she was a good shot and only aimed at their feet. John and Leoda Fischer had four children: George Grover (my grandfather, called Grover), born in 1884,

Viva Clementine, born in 1886, Robert McLean, born in 1895, and Dewey McNair, born in 1898. To confuse matters, the other Fischer family of Calaveras County also had a son named Dewey who was born in 1898. Presumably the popularity of this name was due to Admiral Dewey's famous victory in the Philippines that year. Grover married Elsie Anne Russell on June 6, 1909, and they had two children, Elsie Leoda, born in 1912, and George Grover II (my father), born in 1914. Viva married Herman Mau and had two daughters, Ruth and Maxine. Robert married a young woman named Katherine. Unfortunately, Grover, Robert and Dewey were all destined to die young.

Grover Fischer and his wife Elsie were a lively young couple



### FISCHER FAMILY

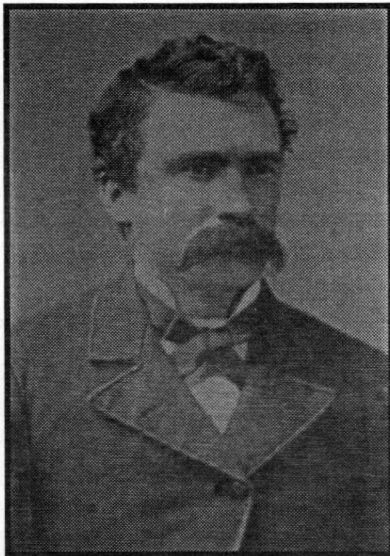
Offspring of George A. Fischer & Eva Fischer, taken c. 1878-1882. BACK, L to R: Billy, Dick, Frank. FRONT: George, Louisa, John.

who loved to socialize. Grover played the fiddle, sometimes accompanied by Elsie on the guitar. He played music with friends, and built a community dance platform so they could have dances. He was active in the local Masonic and Eastern Star lodges, along with his father. He was skilled in carpentry and turned his hand to various kinds of work. He worked for a time for the Raggio Lumber Mill near Avery, and as a ditch tender for the Utica Min-

Please see FISCHER, *continued on page 6*

FISCHER, *continued from page 5*

ing Company, maintaining the canal that supplied water for the operation. When his mother complained about the inconvenience of the two-story house on her ranch, he built her a new one-story house which is still in use today on Armstrong Road north of Sheep Ranch. He and his father, John Fischer, also built the concrete water trough that still stands at the side of the Sheep Ranch Road between Murphys and Sheep Ranch for their friend, County Supervisor A. J. Gianelli.



JOHN JAMES FISCHER

The year 1918 took a heavy toll in the family. In April of that year, Dewey, who was not quite 20 years old, died

of a congenital heart ailment. In December, Grover died in the influenza epidemic at the age of 24, leaving a large hole in his family and his community. His obituary in the December 7 issue of *The Calaveras Weekly Prospect* stated that "...as he grew to manhood, he gained many friends. He was honest, upright and trustworthy in all his dealings, a kind husband and indulgent father." As if these two deaths weren't enough, nothing had been heard of Robert, who was serving overseas in World War I, and his parents feared that he had been killed or captured. In fact, he survived and returned home, but he was seriously injured in a fall on the troop ship coming back and died in 1922. All three of John and Leoda's sons had died within the space of four years.

After Grover Fischer died, his widow Elsie was left with two small children. She married Charles Ream and they had a son, Charles Jr. However, within four years Elsie had joined her first husband in the Sheep Ranch cemetery, succumbing to cancer at the age of 31. Her two orphaned children, Grover II and Elsie II, were raised by their grandparents, John and Leoda Fischer, on the Fischer place in Sheep Ranch, and Elsie spent her high school years with her aunt May McNair Armstrong near Stockton. In 1927, when young Elsie and Grover were still in high school, John Fischer collapsed and died of an internal hemorrhage on his ranch at the age of 72. Leoda sold the Fischer ranch during the 1930s and moved to Columbia. She lived to the age of 90, long enough to know her great-grandchildren.

Elsie Fischer II and Grover Fischer II both married and had children. Elsie married Ben Lei and had three sons; Ben, David and Dennis Lei. Her second husband was Joseph Burns, who died in 1997. Elsie Burns lives in Benicia and is very busy with volunteer work. Her brother Grover married Jean King and had

two sons, one of whom died in infancy, and four daughters, of which I am one. I live in San Diego and my siblings all live in Washington state. My father died in 1973 and is buried in the Sheep Ranch cemetery.

This cemetery on Armstrong Road is the final resting place for a number of Fischer family members: John J. Fischer, Robert M. Fischer, Dewey M. Fischer, George Grover Fischer I, Elsie Fischer Ream, and George Grover Fischer II. David Lei Jr., great-great-great-grandson of George Andrew Fischer, recently purchased his father's ranch near Murphys, so that makes six generations of the family who have lived in the gold country, with five consecutive generations in Calaveras County.



LEODA MCNAIR FISCHER



THE FAMILY OF John J. Fischer, around 1900. L to R: George Grover, Dewey (little boy in front), John, Robert, Leoda & Viva.

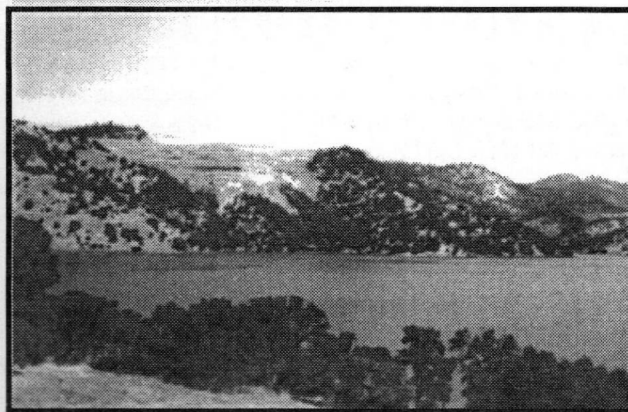
## NEW VISITOR CENTER OPENS

A new Visitor Center has opened its doors for visitors to the New Melones recreational facility. Although it has been built since 1992, it has taken until June of this year to get it ready to open to the public. The new Center is located off of Highway 49 just south of the Stevenot Bridge. The Visitor Center is right next to the Administrative Office, which replaces the facilities formerly located on Old Peoria Flat Road south of Lake Tulloch.

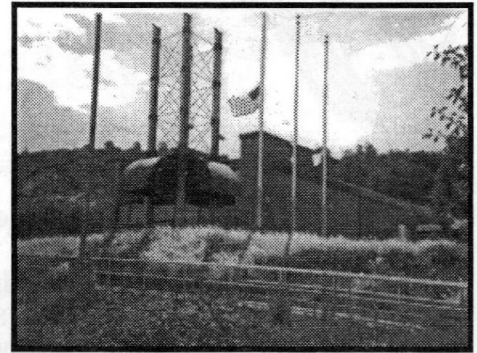
There are informative displays about the nature, history, pre-history and settlement of the Stanislaus River. One can view a video about the construction of the dam, admire a petroglyph or a stuffed bear, or see a model of the famous Calaveras Nugget from Carson Hill. Harold Vallee, a resident of Calaveras County, volunteers to work at the center as often as he can. He particularly appreciates the local nature and sense of familiarity found in the displays. He says that anytime a local resident comes in, they always exclaim that they remember, recognize or are even experienced with something shown in one of the displays.

The Center has much to offer to the general public as well. In addition to the campground, boating and fishing information for the recreational visitor, it sponsors lectures open to the public every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm. Prominent guest lecturers speak on a variety of topics such as natural, historical, cultural and contemporary issues. The schedule for the lectures is set monthly so you may wish to contact them regularly to learn of upcoming topics. Additionally, the Center hopes to expand their services to the public by providing a variety of books, periodicals and other items of interest for sale in the near future.

The new Visitor Center is similar to our museum. They will be



VIEW OF CARSON HILL as seen from New Melones Visitor Center.



New Melones Visitor Center.

dependent on volunteers and sporadic funding to keep it going. Volunteers assist the Park Rangers by staffing the information desk, providing information about the recreational, natural and cultural resources for visitors. The Center is looking for friendly, courteous adults who enjoy meeting people and learning and sharing about the Mother Lode's rich history. Training and ongoing workshops are provided, and volunteers are only asked to commit to one day (eight hours) a month. If you are interested in volunteering, you can drop by the Center or phone them at (209) 536-9094.

So the next time you go south, why not drop by the new New Melones Visitor Center?

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## New Faces...

There are some new faces at the Historical Society. A new board of directors was installed on July 23rd by none other than Black Bart himself. The bard, or Glenn Wasson as he's known to his friends, playfully installed the new board to an original poem. Many laughs and a good time were had by all as the villain installed the following board members: *President - Donna Schantz, Vice President - Joan Donleavy, Treasurer - Rosemary Faulkner, Recording Secretary - Shirley Huberty, Membership Secretary - Duane Wight, Directors - Cheri Folendorf, Willard Fuller, Sue Smith, Bonnie Miller*

There have been some changes around the office as well. In September, we re-welcomed Dee Tipton aboard full time as our new office manager. Remember Dee? She used to be the office manager from 1989 to 1993 when she retired. But, fortunately for us, she came back out of retirement and has rejoined the Historical Society. "It's like coming home," says Dee, who has found most everyone to be pleasant and welcoming.

And the *Las Calaveras* has a new editor. Bonnie Miller has assumed the position after the passing of our former editor, the late George Hoepfer. Bonnie has been a member of the Historical Society for many years and has served on the board in the past as the Treasurer and Vice President, and is currently a Director. Bonnie is enjoying the challenge of creating our publication and welcomes any suggestions or contributions.

Maybe these aren't such new faces after all. All of the above names sound familiar because everyone mentioned here has been a steady contributor to the Historical Society over the years. What about you??? New faces are always welcome, so please consider participating in the Society, either on the board, doing volunteer work in the office, or especially helping out once in a while at the Museum. If you're interested in getting involved, there are many levels of participation to suit your abilities. Please give us a call today and volunteer!!! You can call Dee at the office at (209) 754-1058 to discuss your interests. Thanks!

# Calaveras County Historical Society

30 Main Street • P.O. Box 721 • San Andreas, California 95249

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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The *Las Calaveras* is published quarterly by the Calaveras County Historical Society. A subscription to the *Las Calaveras* comes with membership in the Historical Society for \$16.00 per year. Non-members may obtain copies of the *Las Calaveras* from the Historical Society office. The original historical material presented in the *Las Calaveras* is not copy-righted and anyone is invited to use it. Mention of the source would be appreciated. Contributions of articles about Calaveras County is appreciated and may be submitted to the Historical Society.

The Calaveras County Historical Society is a non-profit corporation. They meet on the fourth Thursday of each month in various communities throughout the county. Locations and scheduled programs are announced in advance. Some meetings include a dinner program, and visitors are always welcome.

The Calaveras County Historical Society's office is located in historic San Andreas, the Calaveras County seat. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, and the telephone number is (209) 754-1058. The Society also operates the Calaveras County Museum which is open daily from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in the historic county courthouse located at 30 Main Street in San Andreas. Visitors are always welcome to stop by the office for assistance with research, and are encouraged to visit the museum while in the area.

## MUSEUM DONATIONS

The Calaveras County Historical Society wishes to thank the following persons who recently made donations to the Calaveras County Museum:

**Carol Maher:** in memory of Effie Johnson, cash.  
**Marilyn McDonnell:** five matted photos of Calaveras County.

**Rosemary Faulkner:** Ladies Home Journal from Feb. 1908

## NEW MEMBERS

The Calaveras County Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

### JUNE 1998

Julia Huddleson, Davis, CA  
Dee Tipton, Vallecito, CA  
Clifford Car, Colleyville, TX  
Mark & Shelley Mutzner, Sonora, CA  
Elliott & Cheryl Joses, Mountain Ranch, CA  
Ron & Cindy Fuller, Mountain Ranch, CA  
Warren Hewitt, Coronado, CA  
Calaveras Big Trees, Arnold, CA

### JULY 1998

Frank Pozar, Fresno, CA  
Doris Freed, Vallecito, CA  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Galli, San Andreas, CA  
Kristin Tiscornia, Geneseo, NY  
Frank Perry, Avery, CA  
Chris Sears-Gomez, Angels Camp, CA  
Gary Peters, Livermore, CA  
Jon & Julia Arbaugh, Salinas, CA

### AUGUST 1998

Richard Huber, Lufkin, TX  
The Alvarez Family, San Rafael, CA  
Elizabeth Hayes, San Andreas, CA  
Gary & Dottie San Andreas, CA  
Cherrill Thornton, San Andreas, CA  
Marie Blair, Windsor, CA  
Thea Schoettgen, Bear Valley, CA  
Robert Myers, Camp Connell, CA  
Gary Wassam, Brooklyn Park, MN  
Mary Snow, Worden, IL  
Hugo Stelte, Angels Camp, CA  
Andrew A. Toth-Fejel, Angels Camp, CA  
Douglas & Lynette Norfolk, Mountain Ranch, CA  
Janet Clifton, Sunnyvale, CA

**Donna Sears:** Photo of Dr. Holland's children.

**Debra & Jean Beaufort:** seven apothecary items.

**Mr. & Mrs. Lee Wilcox:** two pharmaceutical items.