

township, **in** the fall of **1866**. **His** ranch comprises seven hundred acres. He married, September 1, 1831, Permelia Ashcroft, by whom he has two children alive, John, a resident of San Diego county, and Joseph C., who resides with his father.

**WOODS, JOHN**, was born in Darke county, Ohio, November 5, 1825, and in 1833 moved with his parents to Kosciusko county, Indiana, where his father died and he was educated. In the year 1849 he crossed the plains to California, by ox-team, and on arrival settled in Napa county, where he engaged for a short time in mining, and afterwards in farming and stock-raising, which he continued until 1860, when he came to this county and located in Suisun valley, where he has since maintained a continual residence. Was elected Public Administrator of Napa county in 1855, Assess& for Solano county in 1875, and has held for several years, at different times, the minor positions of School Trustee and Road Master. In 1852 Mr. Woods paid a visit to his home, returning in the following year. He married Cynthia A., daughter of J. W. Aldrich, of Solano county, and has Nellie, Warren A., Clara, Sarah, and John.

**BERRY, GEORGE M.**, was born in Marion county, Tennessee, May 6, 1837. When about two years old, he, with his parents, moved to Christian county, Ills., where he was engaged as a farmer until 1849, when they changed their place of residence to Sangamon county, in that State. In the spring of 1863, Mr. Berry left home for California, crossing the plains with mule teams, arriving in Suisun valley on July 26, 1863. Here he worked for other parties for eighteen months, and then rented the land known as the Barbour tract, for four years ; then bought a portion of the Keeney tract, four miles west of Suisun, which he sold in 1877. He married Nancy Barbour, September 5, 1869. She is a daughter of Nathan Barbour, a pioneer settler in this county. George M. is their only child. Mrs. Berry was born in Suisun valley, September 24, 1851.

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**Nom.—The above was received too late for insertion in its proper place.**

## GREEN VALLEY.

**BALDWIN, J. M.**, was born in Troy township, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, June 14, 1826, where he resided until October 16, 1852, at which time he left for California, via New York City, arriving in San Francisco November 18, 1852. Having previously learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, he engaged in that pursuit. The Winter of 1852 and the year 1853 he spent in Sacramento, after which he moved to Amador county, working in the southern mines for three months; thence to Placerville, El Dorado county, working at his trade. In May, 1854, went to Oregon, but after two months returned to San Francisco. July, 1854, moved to what was then called Mormon Station, Nevada, where he engaged to build a grist and saw mill. He afterwards went to Carson Valley, followed farming until the Fall of 1864, when he came to Green Valley township, purchasing his farm, where he has since resided. Married Miss Carrie Cary, September 11, 1864. Katie, Bertha, J. Monson, and Carrie Louise, are their children.

**BIHLER, HENRY**, born in Effingen, Groshertzogehun, Baden, on September 16, 1831, and emigrated to the United States, landing in New York City in 1850, and next day went to Baltimore, Maryland, where he remained for five years. In 1856 he came to Napa county, California, and carried on the business of butcher in the city of that name for thirteen years. In 1869 he moved to Cordelia, where he carries on his occupation of a butcher. He married, May 9, 1858, Agatha Hock, by whom he has : Louisa, born February 21, 18:59 ; Wilhelmina, born October 1, 1860 ; Mary Agatha, born July 15, 1862 ; Sophia, born September 19, 1864 ; William Henry, born May 27, 1366, since dead ; William Henry, died September 6, 1867 ; Othilea, born September 14, 1868 ; Frederick W. born December 22, 1870 ; Bertha, born December 15, 1874, and George Henry, born January 20, 1876.

**HATCH, A. T.**, native of Elkhart county, Indiana ; born January 31, 1837. When six years of age his parents moved to Niles, Michigan, where he attended common school for five years. He then went back to Elkhart, and attended school until fifteen years of age, when he went to Michigan City, Indiana, and clerked in a grocery store for his father for one year. His father had a bar in connection with the store, and as the whisky business was distasteful to A. T. he left home, having only \$17 **in** his

pocket, and went to Marquett, Indiana, and clerked for \$10 per month, for one year, and afterwards worked in a flouring mill at \$15 per month for six months, when he was appointed superintendent of the whole affair, which position he held for one year, when he resigned. He then went to Cincinnati, and clerked in a large dry goods house about four months, after which he clerked in a hardware store for about one year, when he emigrated to California, crossing the plains with a drove of sheep. A gentleman in company with Mr. Hatch, C. C. Goodrich, walked all the way, cooked for the company, and stood guard every third night. The company started from Council Bluffs May 22, 1857, and arrived at Big Meadows, in Plumas county, September 8th, the same year. He immediately went to the North Fork of the Feather river, and mined for Daniel Kirkham about three months, afterwards engaged in mining and sheep-herding for some time, and finally bought an interest in the Dutch Hill mine, where he mined with good success until September 1860. He then made a trip to Michigan, and on March 14, 1861, he married, at Cass county, Michigan, Miss Mary Graham. On April 3, 1861, he and his newly-wedded wife started for California, with horse team, bringing a band of horses across with them. Arrived at Mountain Meadows August 22, 1861. In November he went to Cordelia county, where he and wife worked for \$40 per month, and in the spring he bought a ranch, and after farming it one year lost his ranch, owing to a defect in the title. He then leased it for one year, and on October 12, 1863, he went to Lander county, Nevada, where he prospected for a short time, and then went to Monmouth district, where he located several mines, among which was the Niagara Falls, and from which he extracted a handsome fortune. In January, 1871, he went to San Francisco, and in February following he came to this county and bought the place where he now lives, consisting of 2641 acres, situated about three miles north of Cordelia. Has reared a family of three children, one of whom is living, as follows : Arthur T., born August 28, 1864, and died June, 1870 ; Mary E., born June 2, 1868; Jennie P., died September, 1871.

**HUMPHREYS, JAMES H.**, of Cordelia, was born in Harrodsburg, Kentucky October 9, 1824. He received his early education in Georgetown in that State, and in 1839 removed to Hannibal, Missouri, with his parents. Ten years later he emigrated to California and prosecuted mining for two years at Placerville and vicinity. In the years 1851-'53 he was in trade in El Dorado county, and in the following year he located on the Sacramento and Placerville road and dealt in hay and grain. In 1855 Mr. Humphreys moved to Folsom, and there acted as agent for the Natoma Ditch Company for five years. In 1860 he went into business in Lincoln, Placer county ; in 1863 moved to Colfax ; thence, in 1865, to Sisco,

Placer county, from which place he went to Truckee in 1868, and in 1872 located in Cordelia, where he has since prosecuted his trade, selling dry goods. Is postmaster of the district. He married, October 1858, Katherine Sullivan, who was born in Boston December 19, 1840, by whom he has: Alice M., born 1859 ; Katie, born 1861; Harry J., born 1863; Daisy, born 1868; Maggie, born 1871; Charles, born 1874, and Frank, born 1876.

**JEWELL, W. T.**, is a native of Sacramento city, California, where he was born on September 26, 1855. His earlier years were passed at the Seminaries of Calistoga, in Napa county, and Rio Vista, Solano county, after which entered business as clerk in the post office at Calistoga, where he served during the years 1875-6. In the month of August in the latter year he was employed as operator in the telegraph office at Yountville, in the same county, and **in** April, 1878, he moved to Cordelia and took charge of the telegraph office for Cal. P. R. R. Co. there, and on February 1, 1879, he became agent for Cal. P. R. R. Co. and Wells, Fargo & Co., which position he still holds.

**JONES, F. S.**, was born in Windsor county, Vermont, March 1, 1828, where he was primarily and academically educated, first in the common schools, second in the Woodstock University. He changed his place of residence in 1849 to Brighton, Mass., and emigrated to this State in 1853, crossing via the Isthmus, settling in San Francisco, five years after which he moved to Sonoma where he abode ten years when he came to his present farm in Green Valley township, since maintaining a permanent residence. He is the largest grape grower in the valley as well as the most extensive manufacturer of all kinds of wine, which is fully set forth in the township history. Married in Sonoma, Mary, daughter of William Swift, a native of Henry county, Kentucky, in 1858. Mary J., Frederick H. S., and Luman H. are their children.

**PITTMAN, J.**, (deceased.) Born in England in the city of Bristol, in the year 1824, and emigrated to California in 1850, where he engaged in hotel keeping in Grass Valley, and conducting the International Hotel in San Francisco, after which he moved to Grass Valley, there also pursuing the same occupation. In 1854 he returned to England and having married, he, accompanied by his wife, returned to the United States and landed in New York City, but only sojourned there six weeks. Mr. Pittman once more started for California in the fall of 1854, on board the steamer " Sierra Nevada," and, arriving in San Francisco he became proprietor of the City Hotel there, which he carried on for some time. In 1855 he settled in Cordelia, where he kept a hotel, and moving once more in 1862, he built the Bridgeport house, which establishment is now kept by **his** widow.

Mr. Pittman married in Bristol, England, Louisa J. May, of that city, May 28, 1864, by whom there is an only daughter, Carrie E. J. **He** died in **1864.**

**PIERCE, LEWIS**, the subject of this sketch is a native of York county, Maine, and born March 16, 1832. Here his father died when he was but five years old, and at the age of ten he took up a residence in Baldwin. At the age of fifteen removed to Bedford, York county, Maine, where he was educated in a Grammar school. It is no easy task to give the reader an idea of the sufferings, hardships and toils this boy experienced, thrown into the world as he was and on his own resources to obtain a livelihood at the age of ten. But with a courage that is commendable in one so young, and a determination to surmount all obstacles be they great or be they small, he went at work with a will, saved his earnings, and in March, 1851,—then but 15 years old—had sufficient funds to pay for a passage on the steamer " Pacific " to San Francisco, arriving July 2d of that year. For five years after his arrival in that city he was apprentice to a baker, after which he did business on his own account for five more years, then came to Suisun with a few thousand dollars, engaging in the grain trade amassing a fortune equalled by few in this county. Married Miss Nellie B. Staples, January 22, 1874. On a plateau in a westerly direction from Suisun, on the banks of Suisun Creek, stands Mr. Pierce's handsome new residence. The location is one of the most picturesque and attractive to be met with in this part of the county. It commands a magnificent view of the bold mountains that fringe the western border of Suisun valley. Half encircling it, is a grand amphitheatre of cliffs dotted with timber, grass lands and cultivated fields. The building is of wood, two stories above a basement of cut stone, constructed in a most substantial manner, and in an unique and highly attractive style of architecture. It is finished and furnished in a manner appropriate to such an enterprise. This house enjoys a happy combination of the useful and the beautiful. It is a well-lighted, ventilated, convenient and cheerful home. Everything pertaining to its construction is substantial, heavy, rich and elegant, but not gaudy.

**SCHULTZ, C., & Co.** The brothers, C. and Henry Shultz are natives of Hamburg, Germany. The latter came to California in 1853, and in the spring of that year went to the mines, remaining until 1855, when he came to this county, settling near Bridgeport where he engaged in farming. In 1858 moved to Sacramento county, returning that fall buying his present farm in Green Valley township. Mr. C. Shultz came from Germany in 1860 joining his brother in business in the fall of that year. He married Anna Schacht in 1871. Their children are Maggie C. S., and

Gesine Henry. These brothers are engaged in manufacturing wine from their own vineyard, a full account of which appears in the history of this township.

**WILSON, CURTIS.** After receiving the foundation of a practical education, in the year 1848, with the rest of the world, Mr. Wilson emigrated to California, first proceeding to Oroville, Butte county, where he engaged in mining. He only continued at this occupation for one year, when, in 1850, he came to the Suisun valley and embarked in the occupation of farming. In 1852 he was elected to the office of Constable for Suisun township, which position he held until the year 1855, when he was called upon to take his seat as a Justice of the Peace for Green Valley township. Mr. Wilson was elected to the office at the general election of 1855 and filled the position until 1879, a lengthy period of twenty-four years. In the year 1860 he was one of the Associate Justices of the Court of Sessions. In 1867 he came to Cordelia, and in the following year was appointed station agent of the California Pacific Railroad Company and agent for Wells, Fargo & Co., which he held until this year.

On February 7, 1866, Mr. Wilson married Miss Melia A. Gilmore, who was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, April 14, 1829, by whom he had an only child, Thomas, who died March 24, 1870. Mr. Wilson was born in Wayne county, Illinois, June 18, 1827.

## BENICIA.

**BENNETT, WILLIAM F.;** is a native of England, born at Birmingham, August 23, 1822, and left his home at the age of seven for Australia, where he served an apprenticeship as carpenter in Sydney, remaining there until 1849, when he sailed for San Francisco, arriving in August. After two weeks he came to Benicia and began work at the Government Barracks, where he was employed on and off till 1874, when he went to Australia and sojourned for three years, again returning to Benicia, where he has since resided. Mr. B. married Mary Ann Boornes, a native of Scotland, March, 1874, she being born Septembr 2, 1833.

**BROWN, JOHN R.,** was born in Nova Scotia in 1845, where he learned the business of tanning and currying. He resided there until 1855, when he went to Woodburn, Mass., remaining there till 1859, when, in May of that year, he went to California and resided in Tuolumne county for one year, when, in the spring of 1860, he went to Santa Clara valley, where he began farming. In the fall of 1861 he purchased an interest in a stock farm on King's river and began the raising of stock, when the the flood of 1862 swept away most of the cattle. This disgusted him with the business, so sold out and returned to Santa Clara valley, where he found employment. He then went to Stockton and began tanning on a small scale. On March 16, 1866, he came to Benicia and again engaged in the tanning business. Messrs. McKay and Chisholm being afterwards in partnership in the same business.

Mr. Brown married Annie Ross in 1863, by whom he has two children, Anna L. and Elma D. Mr. B. is a member of the I. O. O. F. and has held office in the City.

**BURNS, JAMES,** was born in Ireland in the year 1840, and emigrated to the United States in 1864, first settling in California, for the last ten years of which he has been in this county, and for the last five years on his present farm. Married, in 1871, Mary Linehan, by whom he has John, Mary, Julia, Katie, Dennis, and an infant.

**CHISHOLM, A.,** is a native of Nova Scotia, and *was* born in 1845. In 1865 he went to the United States and settled in Boston, where he was engaged in the business of tanning and currying, remaining only a short time, when he started for California, first settling in Santa Cruz, where he resided for a little over a year. He then came to Benicia and connected himself in the same business in 1867, which he still continues.

**CLYNE, JAMES**, manufacturer of wagons, carriages, and agricultural implements, was born in County Longford, Ireland, February 22, 1847. In 1863 he came to California, and on September 20th of that year arrived in Benicia. There he served his apprenticeship with Charles Crawford Allen at his trade. In 1868 he established himself in the business which he still continues. Married in San Jose, May 14, 1871, Mary Donlon, by whom he has Joseph F., born February 14, 1872 ; Mary M., born September 9, 1874 ; Frederick, born February 23, 1877, and Therese, born March 25, 1879.

**CUMMINGS, FRANCIS**, is a native of Prince Edward's Island, having been born November 18, 1839, where he lived till the age of 18, and learned the trade of tanning and currying, when he went to South Flingham, Mass.; thence to Woburn, Mass., where he resided until 1873. Enlisted in Company G, 5th Mass. V. I.; serving one year, and participating in a number of engagements in North Carolina, under Major-General Foster, 18th Army Corps ; after which he was honorably discharged, and returned to Mass., where he resided till 1873, when he emigrated to California, first settling in Benicia on 16th of June of that year, and established a tannery, a history of which will be found in its proper place. Married in Woburn, Mass., Martha C. Richardson.

**DALTON, ALFRED**, was born in London, England March 13, 1830. At the age of 13 he went to sea, which he followed till 1852, during which period he visited his native place several times. He arrived at San Francisco in July, 1852, on the clipper ship, " Antelope." Thence he went to Sutter Slough, and engaged in gardening and chopping wood. He remained there until April, 1853, when he was obliged to leave on account of a flood ; and having made some slough boats, was enabled to drift down with the current to old Rio Vista, where he resided till the flood subsided, which was about three weeks. Thence he went to Cache Creek Slough, and fixed a tent in the fork of a tree for fear of another flood, and continued the same occupation until 1855, and came to Benicia in July or August of that year. In 1859 he laid the first pipe to supply the city of Benicia with water. In 1860 he purchased a schooner and traded in general merchandise on the Sacramento river, and returned to Benicia January 1, 1862, where he has since remained. Mr. Dalton has held the office of School Director for six consecutive years, being elected in, 1873. He is now clerk of the Board, and supervisor of this county, being elected September, 1878, on the Republican ticket.

Mr. D. married Mary Kenny in 1857, at Benicia, who died in 1871, by whom he has a family : John H., Alfred, Willie, James C., George E., Ella Florence, living, having lost four children—one daughter and three sons. Mr. D. married again in August, 1873. Emma Carr, by whom he has no issue.

**DEMING, CAPTAIN JOHN**, (deceased,) was born in Preston, Connecticut, January 9, 1792, where he resided till 1808, when he went to sea, and at the age of twenty-one years old, was commander of a vessel following the sea for many years ; his last sea voyage being on the ship, " Iowa," which brought General Riley to the State of California, and landing at Monterey, the place for which they were chartered, early in 1849. From there they proceeded to Benicia, where he afterwards was engaged as a pilot, between Benicia, Vallejo, and San Francisco, for many years. He married Clarissa Hillard, in Preston, Connecticut, September 11, 1817. She was born in Preston, January 29, 1792, and died in New York City December 18, 1846. By this union they had six children. Ann Louisa, born July 10, 1821, who married, in New York City, Charles Edward Shea, died, in New York City, July 27, 1857, leaving four children and her husband died, in New York City, November 21, 1859. Their third son, Edward, was born March 18, 1826, and *was* married in Peakskill, N. Y., on March 18, 1850, to Esther McCoord. He died in New York City, March 1, 1852, leaving an only son, who is now residing in Brooklyn, N. Y. Clarissa J., born June 19, 1829, in New York City, died June 23, 1830. Charles; born in New York City, October 29, 1832, died November 30, 1833. Charles Benjamin, born in New York City, March 29, 1837, now residing with his brother, John F., was married to Mrs. Annie G. Corwin, on August 12, 1868. John P. Deming, propri3t)r of Glen Cove Ranch, the second of the family, was born in New York City, July 9, 1823, where he resided till February, 1849, when he sailed for San Francisco, arriving there in the latter part of June, 1849. He immediately proceeded to the mines, on the north fork of the American river, and prosecuted mining for a few months when he returned to Sacramento in December, 1849, and began the general merchandise business on K street, when the flood of 1850 swept away all of his possessions. He then proceeded across the river. In April, 1852, he returned to New York, and on December 16, 1852, was married to Mehetabel C. Geron, she being born in Blooming-Grove, Orange county, N. Y., December 12, 1823. Mr. D. returned to California in 1853, and immediately proceeded to Benicia, where he remained *as* book-keeper until the spring of 1855, and again returned east, where he remained one year. In June, 1856, he again returned to California, this time being accompanied by his wife, and settling on their present estate, where he now owns 460 acres of land, all under good improvements. Their family consists of two children ; Clara, born November 19, 1858, and Henry B., November 14, 1861.

**DILLON, PATRICK W.**, farmer and stone cutter, Section 28, Benicia Township, Post-office Benicia, was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, February

3, 1820, where he resided till May, 1840, when he sailed for America, arriving in New York City **in** June of that year. He at once proceeded to Troy, N. Y., and resided three months ; thence to Lockport, N. Y., and remained one year. He then proceeded to Youngstown, on fourth Niagara, where he worked at his trade during the summer of 1842, and from there he went to Toronto, Canada, where he spent the winter of 1842, and '43. In March, 1844, he went to New York City, and worked till 1846, when in the fall of that year he went to St. Johns, New Brunswick, where he was employed till May, 1847. He again returned to New York and carried on his trade till Janaury, 1849, when he sailed for California, arriving in San Francisco July 8, 1849, and remaining in the city for a few weeks helping unload vessels at eight dollars a day. He then proceeded to the southern mines, on Wood's creek, and worked two months at mining with good success. He then went to Mogason's Creek, and from there to Mariposa, Mariposa county, but meeting with poor success he returned to Mogason Creek with a colony of Texans, who settled there for a short time, and continued mining in different .places till May, 1851, during which time he endured many hardships. The stories told by Mr. D., during his life spent in the mines, are very interesting, but for want of space we will have to omit them. In May, 1851, he came to Benicia, bringing with him eighteen hundred dollars, which he invested in the wharf built at Vallejo while the Capitol of the State was situated at that place.

In 1851, he opened a stone quarry on his fruit farm, and in connection with the other, started the Pioneer Stone business in San Francisco, and among the contracts taken by him, is the St. Mary's Cathedral, at San Francisco, and many other buildings. In 1856, he purchased his present farm, now consisting of four hundred acres of land, and seventy-six acres of tule. He married, at St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco, Bertha G. Jordan, January' 6, 1856, she having been born in Hanover, Germany, January 29, 1830.

**Di7RNER, GEORGE ADAM.** G. A. Durner was born at Weilheim, in Wurtemberg, Germany, February 16, 1827. In his early life he was apprenticed to a tailor, and has pursued his trade ever since. In 1847 he left Germany for America, and arrived in New York in April of the same year.

While working at his trade in New York he formed the acquaintance of one Rosy Anthers, the youngest daughter of the family of that name, to whom he was married in 1851. She was born at Algei, in Damstadt, Germany, September 10, 1831, and came to America in 1848, and resided in New York. In 1858 Mr. Durner left New York for California, by way of the ocean, and was followed the year afterwards by his wife. and

children. He arrived in San Francisco the forepart of May, but remained there only one month, after which he came to Benicia, where he built himself a splendid home and has resided ever since, except at one or two intervals.

In 1863 he went to Virginia City, Nevada, where he worked both at his trade and at mining, for about six months, after which he returned to Benicia. He then worked at his trade until 1874, when he was employed by the firm then known as Brown, McKay & Co., tanners, *as* night watchman, and has remained there ever since, although the firm is now known as McKay & Chisholm.

The products of his marriage were eleven children ; five were born in New York, two of whom died, both girls, and the remaining six were born in Benicia, one of which, a son, died some two years ago. At present he has living three sons, named John George, Charles, and Henry, the fourth son, Georgie, having died September 21, 1870. His daughters, five. in number, are named Katie, Elizabeth, Matilda, Annie, and Henrietta. The two former are married and live at present in Benicia. The remaining children are at present at home going to school.

His eldest child and son, John G., is at present employed as traveling agent for W. S. Townsend's Steam Candy Factory, San Francisco.

The second son, Charles, was for a while employed *as* salesman in a large clothing house at San Francisco, after which he came to Benicia and started a business for himself, known *as* Durner's Palace of Sweets. He is but nineteen years of age, being born January 14, 1860. He has a thriving business and is doing well.

His third son, Henry, was rather unfortunate in being born a cripple, March 23, 1862, being but seventeen years of age. He received a somewhat advantageous education, having entered St. Augustine College when but thirteen years of age, in August, 1875. He graduated here on June 1, 1878, with the first honors of his class and of the school. He was but sixteen years of age, still he was chosen to deliver the valedictory address on the occasion of his graduating, which won for him the hearts of many strangers. On September 28, 1878, he was appointed Page of the Constitutional Convention, then assembled at Sacramento, by the President of that body. He remained there the full session, which lasted until March, 4, 1879, since which time he has been studying law at his home in Benicia.

Mr. Durner is considered one of the most faithful and law-abiding citizens of Benicia. He is honest and upright in all his dealings, and his character is without a stain. His moral character can not be exceeded, and he is a diligent employe, aiming to do everything to the interest of his employers. He has lived a quiet life, never mixing himself in political affairs, and always casting his vote according to his sound judgment.

**ENOS, JOSEPH**, was born **in 1834**. **Iu** 1852 he' emigrated to the United States, and followed 'the sea for seven years. In 1859 he settled in Bedford, Mass., where he remained a short time, and in 1860 came to California, and worked in the mines for two years ; thence he came to Benicia, where he has since resided on his farm of 195 acres. Married to Mary Roderick in 1869, by whom he has a family of five : Constantine, born 1870 ; Joseph, born 1872 ; Mary, born 1874; John, born 1875, and Isabella, born 1877.

**FISCHER, JOSEPH**, was born in. Switzerland, March 7, 1823, where he received his education. In 1844 he emigrated to the United States, first settling in Staten Island, fourteen miles from New York, where he found employment on a farm. He remained there one year, when he went to New York City, residing there until the spring of 1849, during which time he was employed in various ways. On March 7, 1849, he started across the plains for California, and arrived in Sacramento September 20, 1849, where, after about ten weeks, he went to Benicia, and engaged in butchering, with Lawrence Graber, which they continued two years, at the expiration of which they had saved some money. His partner wished to return to the States, and died in Salt Lake City. Mr. Fischer then took another partner, John Gorrington, but a dissolution occurred in 1861, since which time he has conducted the business alone. Mr. F. married Catherine Hall in. May, 1854, by whom he has three children.

**GRAY, SAMUEL C.**, born in Boston, Mass., October 11, 1816, where he received his early educations At the age of sixteen went to Baltimore, and from there came to California. Married Miss Lucy, daughter of Chauncey Wetmore, of Middletown, Conn., December 14, 1847. In January, 1849, started for California, by way of Panama, where they waited seven weeks for the steamer " Panama," and arrived at Benicia June 3, 1849. Had remained in Benicia in business until elected County Treasurer in 1861. Has been in business, in the leather trade in Benicia, since June, 1867. Was a Trustee of the city of Benicia for seven years, until he left for San Francisco. Is the author of the interesting lecture on " Recollections of Benicia " in this work.

**HANBRICK, PETER**, was born in Rhenish Prussia, July 13, 1825, where he remained till 1849, serving an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade for two years, when he emigrated to America, first settling in Boston, Mass., where he resided until 1851, when he sailed for California, December 18th, on the ship " Flying Child," and arrived in San Francisco April 12th. He immediately proceeded to the mines in Nevada, and continued mining till 1871, but during this time he visited his native place. He

then returned to San Francisco, where he lived till 1878, when he came to this county and engaged in farming and the manufacture of wine. Married Mrs. Mary Diet, June 19, 1871, who was born in Europe December 18, 1853, and who has, by her first marriage, two children. Mr. Hanbrick has three children : John, born July 8, 1872 ; Benjamin, born November 10, 1875 ; Clara, born March 17, 1878.

**HASTINGS, D. N.**, was born in Newton, Massachusetts, December 17, 1821, and at six years of age went to Brighton with his parents, where he remained five years, when he removed to Wollertown, Massachusetts, and resided there three years. At the age of fourteen he left home and went to Boston, where his time was spent in the provision business, the last seven years of which being hard work. On September 5, 1849, he left Boston for New York, and sailed thence on the bark " Florida " on September 12th. At that time it being impossible to obtain a through ticket to California, but could secure one to Chagres, Panama, where he remained four days, and continued his journey to Chagres, arriving in San Francisco December 1, 1849. On the Sunday following he was engaged in carpentering at \$12 per diem, when, at the end of one week, he was put in charge of eight men at \$20 per diem, and resigned that position on February 1, 1850. He then proceeded to Sullivan's creek, and turned his attention to mining, and worked for eight days, taking out \$40, when he started for Stockton, a distance of fifty-six miles, when, after a week, he went to San Francisco, and was engaged to work in Fulton Market, on Washington street, remaining there until May 6th, when he was sent to Benicia, and opened a butcher shop, where he built himself a small market, 12x14 feet, which he occupied four months. A year afterwards he purchased a lot and carried on his business there until May, 1852, when he sold out, leased his property, and returned East to bring out his family. They sailed on the ship "Onward," via Cape Horn, and arrived in San Francisco December 11, 1852, going to Benicia the same day, there finding the Sheriff in possession of his property. It cost him \$1,600 before he could recover it, after which he engaged again in the business of butcher, combining stock-raising with great success, till 1860, when he sold his business and retired, owning at the time three-fifths of 44,000 acres of land. He now possesses 3,000 acres. Mr. Hastings has never been a politician, although he held office under the city government of Benicia, and is at present one of the City Trustees.

The main house now occupied by Mr. Hastings was built by Dr. Woodbridge, from whom he purchased it in 1852, and has resided in it ever since. Mr. Hastings planted all the trees with his own hands. The property was originally owned by eleven men, it having been purchased in lots the ultimate size being 75x125 feet. The house at first was 20x30,

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with a kitchen 8x12 feet, made of dry-goods boxes, which was rebuilt and is now 34x36 feet, the size of the lot being 270x450 feet. There are over seven hundred trees in the enclosure. Water is brought from a piece of land owned by Mr. Hastings over 9,000 feet to the house. The Seminary is also supplied in the same way. Mr. Hastings has five children : George A., born in Boston, Mass., December 8, 1846 William F. born in Boston, August 25, 1848 ; Hannah M., born in Benicia, March 8 1857 ; Alice (twin), born September 5, 1862 ; Eben J. (twin), born. September 5, 1862.

**HOYT, JOSEPH,** born in Belknap county, N. H., November 14, 1830.

Here he received his education, and when sixteen years Old went to Essex county, Mass., where he learned the stone-cutter's trade, afterwards going to Virginia, following this occupation, but returned to his native home, and in 1853 came by the way of Nicaragua to California, arriving in San Francisco in December of that year. Here he resided until the spring of 1854, when he went to the mines, but settled in Benicia in July following. February, 1855 went to Mare Island, working for the Government, but in 1857 moved to Salt Point, Mendocino county, Cal., where he had the contract of cutting the stone which was to build. the north battery at Alcatraz Island, San Francisco bay. Returned to Mare Island that year, removing to Contra Costa county in 1859, engaging in the stock trade-Again in 1862 we find him in Benicia, where he has since made it his home. Was elected to the office of County Assessor in 1871, since which time he has been agent for S. C. Hastings. Married Ellen A. Haggarty, at Vallejo, in 1855. They have Nellie J., Olivia R., Andrew J., Joe H. Orville L., Charles H., Walter D., and Maggie E.

**KINSTREY, THOS. T.,** was born in New York City, August 30, 1819, where he resided till 1852, when, on March 19th, he sailed. for California in the ship " Pioneer." After being wrecked, he arrived in San Francisco September, 1852 ; thence coming to Benicia, and began business as boiler-maker for the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. In 1864 he commenced his present business, which he has since continued. Mr. K. married Laura Valentine, in 1854, by whom he has a family.

**KUHLAND, WILLIAM,** was born in Germany, in 1835, and emigrated to America in 1852, first settling in New Orleans, where he resided until 1858, when he came to California. He resided in Tuolumne county, and began his trade of boot and shoe maker, at Chinese camp, where he lived till 1861, when he moved to Copperopolis, Calaveras county, where he continued his trade for two years and a half, when he came to Benicia, August, 1867, where he again worked at his trade, and in 1870 he began

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his business in the sale of gents' furnishing goods. Mr. Kuhland married Mary Seibert, in 1856, by whom he has four children : Lewis, Kate, Lillie and Mary. Mr. K. is a member of the I. O. O. F., Benicia.

**McKAY, THOMAS**, was born in Nova Scotia, in 1845, where he resided till 1862, when he went to Woburn, Massachusetts, remaining there until 1865 ; thence going to California and settling in Benicia, where he became a partner of the firm of Brown & McKay. In 1878 partnership was dissolved, and since, the firm has been McKay & Chisholm, engaged in the business of tanning and currying. Mr. McKay married Louise Harris, July 26, 1876, she also being a native of Nova Scotia, and born February 14, 1852. He has an only child, George Arthur, born September 7, 1877.

**McNALLY, BERNARD**, farmer ; was born in County Cavan, Ireland, November 12, 1847. In 1860 he came to America, first settling in New York City, where he resided eight years, when, in 1868, he came to California, and settled on his present property.' Married at San Francisco, August 18, 1873, Mary Fitzpatrick, a native of County Cork, Ireland.

**MIZNER, LANSING BOND**, was born in Monroe county, Illinois, on the 5th day of December, 1825. His father was educated for the law, in Geneva, New York, and settled in Illinois, in 1821, where he died eight years thereafter. His mother was the only daughter of Dr. Caldwell Caines, a leading member of the convention which formed the first constitution of Illinois, and niece of Shadrack Bond, the first Governor of that State.

Mr. Mizner was educated at Shurtleff 'College, Alton, Illinois, and in 1839 went with the American Legation, to New Granada, in South America, where he became familiar with the Spanish language. Returned to Illinois in 1843, and resumed his studies at the same college, and read law. In 1846 he joined the Third Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, en route for the Mexican war, and was appointed Commissary of the Regiment. On arriving at Carmarqo, on the Rio Grande, he was detailed as Interpreter, on the staff of Gen. Shields, and ordered to join Gem Wool's column, then invading Mexico from Texas, Was the bearer of dispatches to Gem Taylor through the enemy's country, alone, from the Rio Grande to Monclova and Saltillo, and took part in the battle of Buena Vista, in February, 1847. Returned to Illinois in July, of that year, and resumed the study of law. Arrived in California, via New Orleans and Panama, on the 20th day of May, 1849, and in the same month settled in Benicia, purchased real estate, and a quarter interest in the mercantile firm of Semple, Robinson & Co., the then owners of the ship " Confederation " and her East India

cargo of goods. Took an active part in electing the delegates to the Monterey Convention, which formed the first Constitution of California, and, on the formation of the State government, was elected an Associate Justice of the First Court of Sessions, of Solano county.

In 1853, Mr. Mizner was appointed by President Pierce Collector of Customs for the Northern District of California, which then included all that part of the State north of the Bay of San Francisco, and west of of the Sacramento River, to the Oregon line ; the Custom House being located at Benicia.

On the breaking out of the Rebellion in 1861, Mr. Mizner took strong grounds for the preservation of the Union, and has ever since been a firm Republican, and was elected to the State Senate in 1865, from Solano and Yolo counties. At the Session of 1867-8, was chosen President, pro tem., of the Senate, and was Chairman of the Committee on Commerce and Navigation, and also of the Committee on Swamp Lands.

As early as 1852, Mr. Mizner began to take a deep interest in connecting Benicia by rail with the interior of the State, and was a Delegate to the Convention, held in San Francisco in that year, on the general subject of Railroads. In 1866, he was sent as a special agent to Washington City, to procure Congressional aid for a railroad, from Benicia to Marysville, and succeeded in having a bill passed through the Senate making the usual land grant for that purpose ; but, for want of time, it failed in the Lower House, since which time he has been the active leader in securing the completion of the great Overland Railroad through Benicia.

Mr Mizner was admitted to practice law in the 7th District Court of California, on November 5, 1850, to the Supreme Court of the State March 9th, 1860, and to the Supreme Court of the United States, Dec. 6, 1866, and has been almost continually engaged in the practice of his profession ever since the first named date. He is a permanent resident of Benicia, has a wife and seven children, the oldest son a graduate of the State University of California, Class of 1879. Mr. Mizner is a life member of the Society of California Pioneers.

**NICHOLS, J. B.**, was born in. Fall River, Mass., June 17, 1844, where he remained till about nine years old, when he went with his parents to California, first settling in Benicia, where he has since resided, being chiefly engaged in farming. Mr. Nichols married Mary K. Freeman, December 25, 1866, who was born in Michigan, September 21, 1847, and by whom he has five children. Mary O., born October 10, 1867, Clara B., born Dec. 5, 1869, Joseph T., born April 26, 1871, Hattie, born August 5, 1873, and Oscar H., born January 17, 1877. Mr. Nichols is a member of the Solano Lodge, No. 22, I. O. O. F.

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**NICHOLS, WILLIAM H.**, was born in Berkeley county, Massachusetts, March 20, 1819, where he resided till seventeen years of age, when he went to North Carolina, remaining there thirteen years, and being engaged in merchandizing, lumbering, and ship building. In 1849, he returned to Massachusetts, and the following winter went again to North Carolina, and settled up his business. He sailed from New York, on board the steamer "Crescent City," June 1, 1850, via the Isthmus of Panama, and arrived in San Francisco August 24th. He immediately proceeded to Sacramento county, where he engaged in mining for about a year.

In November, 1851, he came to this county and purchased his present place, but returned to the mines, which, in November, 1852, he left and permanently settled where he now resides. For the last ten years Mr. Nichols has carried on a hay and grain business in San Francisco. His farm consists of 167 acres, all of which is under good improvement. He married at Fall River, Massachusetts, August 17, 1843, Eliza Dean, and has five children ; Joseph B., William D., Abbie A., Nathan D. and Mary G.

**OPPERMAN, JULIUS**, was born in Brunswick, Germany, in 1831, and emigrated to the United States in 1854, first settling in New York City, where he worked as a tailor till 1857, when, in the spring of that year, he came to California, via Panama. While in New York he enlisted in the Regular Army. From San Francisco he proceeded to Vancouver, Oregon, which was the headquarters of the 4th Infantry. He was afterwards stationed at Humboldt, remaining there three years and eight months. While at the latter place he acted as Hospital Steward for a time, thence he went to Hooper Valley, the port of Fort Gaston, to establish a new military post, where he remained till November, 1861, when the regiment was ordered East ; but, on arrival at San Francisco, he obtained his discharge on January 17, 1862, where he again worked at his trade till May of that year, and on the 28th came to Benicia, where he has since resided and carried on his present business.

Mr. Opperman married Maria Mitchell, a native of Ireland, at Humboldt, Cal., September 3, 1860, and has a family ; Katie, Mary, Lewis, Joseph, Julius, and William. Mr. O. has been Secretary of Phoenix No. 2, and an exempt fireman for several years.

**O'DONNELL, JOHN**, farmer, was born in County Limerick, Ireland, in 1824. In 1847 he emigrated to America and farmed in Onondaga county, New York, till 1852, on January 5th of which year he sailed from New York for California, being shipwrecked on the voyage, arriving ultimately in San Francisco in April of that year. In 1852 he proceeded to Benicia, where he remained two years, then moving to his present farm, consisting of 230 acres. Married in San Francisco, September 7, 1856, Ellen Kelly, by whom he has Mary F., Anna Eliza, John, and Thomas W.

**PERIN, AARON**, was born on March 4, 1806, and has a twin brother, Moses, who is living thirty miles back of Sandiago, Cayuga county, New York, where he resided till 1810, when he with his parents sailed down the Ohio and located in Madison, ten miles from Cincinnati, Ohio, where he remained until 1814 ; thence he went to Fayette county, Indiana, near Cannonsville, where he lived till about 1840; after which he removed to Scott county, Iowa, and remained there until 1846, when he went to Dubuque, where he worked at the trade of blacksmith. On February 24, 1852, he, with his family, started for California across the plains, and arrived in Benicia early in October of same year, continuing his trade until 1877, when he retired into private life. Mr. Perin married Elizabeth Simpson, March 3, 1825, she being born in Kentucky, and died May 6, 1847, in Dubuque, Iowa, by whom he had eight children : Mary, born November 16, 1829 ; Zackariah Taylor, born April 18, 1847, still living ; Rachel, Simpson, John A., William, Theodore, Isaac, deceased. Mr. Perin married his second wife, Mrs. Lucy A. Madan, December 19, 1847, she being born August 27, 1808, by whom he has no family.

**PRESTON, WILLIAM E.**, farmer, is a native of England, and came to America about 1847, first settling near Buffalo, New York, where he worked on a farm for two years. He then moved to Michigan, and there resided till the year 1852, thence removing to New York City, from whence he sailed in that year for California. On arrival he proceeded to the southern mines in Tuolumne county, and there remained four years. We next find Mr. Preston farming on what is known as the Pearson tract. in Napa county, where he lived till 1871, then purchasing a ranch in Contra Costa county he removed thither for ten months, when he finally settled on his present farm of 90 acres. Married in 1860, Eliza Jane Powers, by whom he has Willie F., Mary G., Carrie Belle, and Catherine F.

**QUIGG, CHARLES**, was born in County Derry, Ireland, in 1831, and emigrated to America in 1845, settling in New York City, where he remained till January 20, 1851, serving an apprenticeship of boiler maker, when he sailed on board the " Brother Jonathan " to Nicaragua, thence to San Francisco on the ship " Pacific," arriving there March 16, 1851. There he stayed but three or four weeks, when he came to Benicia and engaged to work at his trade in the service of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. In 1863 he opened his present place of business. Mr. Quigg is an exempt fireman and has held the office of Roadmaster.

**MUM, E. C.**, was born in Harrisburg, Pa., October 23, 1818, where he remained until 1828, when he removed to Franklin county, Pa., staying

**there nine years, when he again moved with his parents to** Wooster, Ohio. When at the age of twenty-five he went to Jefferson county, Iowa, remaining there about one year, spending a part of his time in Iowa City. He then proceeded to Lake Superior copper mine, when, after the lapse of nine years, again returned to Jefferson county and began a grist mill, which business he conducted till the breaking out of the Rebellion. In 1862 he crossed the **plains** to California, first settling near Woodland, Yolo county, where he engaged in farming, but at the end of two years was compelled to leave on account of drought. Thence he went to Carson valley, Nevada, where he remained four years, when he went to Marysville, and, in July, 1868, engaged in the manufacturing of gloves. Mr. Raum married his first wife in Jefferson county, Iowa, April 2, 1857, Louisa Muller, by whom he has five children living. She died in 1875. Married his present wife, Mary F. Acres, at Benicia.

**RIDDELL, GEO. HUSSEY**, was born at Nantucket May 25, 1810, where he resided till sixteen years of age and went to Boston and six years afterwards returned to Nantucket engaging in the business of dry goods. In 1849 he left New York and arrived in San Francisco December 1, 1849, thence coming to Benicia on December 8, where he again carried on a business of general merchandise. In 1855 he was elected Justice of the Peace, to which office he was again elected. In 1864 he was elected County Auditor and held that office two years. During the re-election of Abraham Lincoln he was chairman of the County Committee. Through his perseverance the county gave a majority of between four and five hundred. Mr. Riddell married Emma G. Barnard at Nantucket September 2, 1833, she being born October 14, 1814, by whom he has four children, George William, Mary C., Henrietta and Herbert.

**ROSE, ELISHA L.**, is a native of Ledyard, New London county, Connecticut, where he was born in July, 1828. On August 20, 1849, he sailed from New York City on the bark "Curtis" for California, arriving in San Francisco on March 8th of the following year. After working at his trade as a carpenter in San Francisco for two weeks he moved to Benicia, and there following his occupation; among other buildings built the old Solano Hotel. Shortly after he tried his luck at mining but in 1851 he returned to San Francisco and engaged for three or four months at ship work. After this he moved to Contra Costa county where he started a chicken ranch, when in the fall of 1852 he established himself on his present property. Is unmarried.

**RITEGER JOHN**, is a native of Switzerland and born on January 9, 1817. In 1834 he came to the United States settling in Washington City, where

he remained two years and a half when he returned to Switzerland. In 1848 he again came to America and in 1849 crossed the plains to California locating where Marysville now is. He was unable to perform any labor until 1850, when he began the erection of a brewery, it being the first built outside of San Francisco in the State. In 1855 he disposed of the business and came to Benicia where he again engaged in brewing. Mr. Rueger was elected City Treasurer of Benicia in May, 1878, for a term of one year. He was married in Switzerland to Barbera Shorwart in 1838, who died in 1842, by whom he has two children, Eliza Matilda and John. In January, 1843, he married his second -wife Elizabeth Wartenweiler by whom he has one son Carl who is at present in Nevada.

**RYERSON, A. P.**, (deceased) was born in Patterson, New Jersey, December 11, 1822. When about thirteen years of age he went to New York and there learned his trade of silversmith, which he followed up to 1849, when he came to California passing his first year in Los Angeles. In 1850 he made a trip back to New York but returned in the same year and settled in Benicia where he conducted a hotel, and in 1855 settled on his present farm where great improvements have been made. Situated on the farm is what is known as the Ryerson Cotton-wood Grove covering ten acres of land, one of the few clusters of trees to be found in the township of Benicia. The trees are raised from seeds planted by Mr. Ryerson in the year 1858. The residence is situated midway between Vallejo and Benicia, and was up to his death on June 17, 1874, kept as a place of entertainment by Mr. Ryerson. He married at Benicia, Esther Bower, on March 1, 1855, by whom there is a large family, viz.: Henrietta, Isaac, Adrian, Virginia, Alice, George L., Clara M., Joseph G. and Anna Rebecca, who are now alive. Mrs. Ryerson resides on the farm.

**SAGE, TIMOTHY**, was born in Middleton, Connecticut, November 12, 1813, where he remained till the age of sixteen when he began the manufacture of Britannia ware at Yalesville, Connecticut, and stayed there until twenty-one years old when he returned to Middletown, when in 1845 he removed to St. Louis, Missouri, and engaged in the same business till the spring of 1850. In April of the same year he started for California across the plains arriving at Sacramento the latter part of August. He then went to the mines on the north fork of Dry Creek for a short time and did very well. In the spring of 1851 he came to Benicia where he has since resided, having started a brick-yard which business he carried on for a period of fifteen years. He is now engaged in farming. Mr. Sage married Mrs. Perlina Booth, September 20, 1853, by whom he has one son Charles P., born November 3, 1857, having lost five children, Edward T., Henry B., Nelson, William and Lillia. Mr. Sage is a Mason.

**SPALDING, CHARLES**, was born in Maine, February 9, 1819, and went with his parents when young to Suffolk county, Massachusetts, near Boston, where he remained till 1849, when he started for California via Cape Horn, arriving in San Francisco in September, whence he proceeded to the mines in Shasta and where he remained until the fall of 1850 when he went to Sacramento and began business in general merchandise which he continued till the fall of 1851. He then went to Colusa and engaged in the same business till 1868 when he came to Benicia and erected the Benicia Flouring Mill in the fall of the same year. Mr. Spalding was engaged in taking the census of the county ; was also resident of Marshall in 1870. Mr. Spalding married Mary A. Silsby at Boston, Massachusetts, April 30, 1843, who died in Benicia January 3, 1876. Their only child Edward A. was drowned in the Sacramento river at the age of nine years.

**VON PFISTER, E. H.**, among the California pioneers Benicia claims several who still reside here and were of the most important citizens of the State in the days of '48, '49 and '50, and some were her citizens who have long since passed away, whose names will forever grace the pages of history of this part of the United States. Of the former, we propose to give herewith a brief biographical sketch of one who has been a resident of Benicia for over thirty years : we allude to E. H. Von Pfister. " Von," as he is familiarly called, first came to the coast of California in 1846 ; being so well pleased with the climate, he determined to settle in the State. With this object in view, he went down to the Sandwich Islands and purchased a stock of general merchandise and returned to this State in March, 1847. He had intended to open a store at San Jose, but, while yet at Yerba Buena (San Francisco), Dr. Semple, the founder of the city of Benicia, had heard of the advent of the enterprising Von Pfister, and he determined that the new stock of goods and its owner should be brought to Benicia. So he went to San Francisco in a whale-boat, and succeeded in getting Mr. Von P. to at least consent to visit Benicia. Embarking in the whale-boat with the Doctor, they occupied four days in making the voyage. They made soundings all the way up to verify the claims made by the Doctor that Benicia's location was unsurpassed for commercial purposes. Von Pfister says, being a sea-faring man, and finding a fine, ample channel for deep-sea vessels, and the result of his observations being that almost all large commercial cities were situated near the head of navigation, concluded this was the place for him to locate. He purchased an unfinished adobe building, and, after putting it in condition, opened out his stock of goods in August, 1847. The building is standing and is still his property ; it is situated in the rear of Jos. Ewing's store, on First street. His trade was of a very satisfactory

character. The prices obtained for goods were much the same as those of the present day. There was very little cash. The standard currency of those days was hides, valued at **\$1 50 each**, which were frequently styled "California bank-bills." Corn, barley and other articles of produce were readily taken in lieu of coin. Early in May, 1848, one evening while a number of persons were assembled in Von's store talking over the prospects of the State, a gentleman present said a good coal prospect had been found near Mount Diablo. Another said-if that was true and coal should be found to exist in quantity, a great future was in store for California ; but without coal he did not think much of the State's prospects. A stranger, who had been a quiet listener to the conversation, said: "Gentlemen, I have something here which, if it is what I think it is, will beat a coal mine and make this the greatest country in the world." He then produced a little buckskin bag holding about \$100 worth of gold-dust. The dust varied in size from a flax-seed to a good-sized pea. This he handed around for the inspection of those present. He said his name was Bennett, and that the "stuff" had been found in Coloma while digging the race for the Sutter mill. Thinking it might be gold, he had brought it down to Slitter's Fort to find out ; but as there were no chemicals there, he was on his way to Monterey to submit the metal to Governor Mason. If \*it was gold, there was any quantity of it. The Beniciaites were quite incredulous. A few days after this there was a great rush down the river and by land of people who possessed samples of the new discovery. Some carried it in old stockings, old boots, and anything that would hold the yellow dust. Some of those who came down the river had old rattle-traps of boats which required constant bailing to keep afloat ; pieces of blankets were utilized for sails, and all were greatly excited. About this time Samuel Brannan, Esq., who had been a shipmate of the subject of this sketch, came along, and said gold had really been discovered and that the mines were good. He advised Von to pack up his goods and go to the mines with them. \_ This he did. He chartered Dr. Semple's flat-boat, and in six days reached Coloma with his goods. At Sacramento he was joined by Brannan with an equal quantity of goods, and the firm .of Von Pfister & Brannan did a thriving business until October, when the former sold out and left the mines. In the spring of 1849 he returned to Benicia and rented the adobe building where stands the present Benicia Brewery, and opened a hotel. He paid \$500 a month rent, and \$150 per month for a cook ; \$125 each for two stewards ; \$100 each for a housekeeper and barkeeper. Notwithstanding these heavy expenses, Mr. Von Pfister cleared \$12,000 in eleven months. During his long residence in Benicia he has been three different times the proprietor of the Solano Hotel. The first deed on the records of the county **is in** the handwriting of Mr. Von P. He has filled official positions of honor, trust and importance. Von

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has always had great faith that the future of Benicia was that of no ordinary town, and acquired considerable real estate in the place with this belief. In '48 or '49 he sold a lot on the corner of Pine and Dupont streets, San Francisco, for \$2,500, and immediately invested the money in Benicia property, which he still holds ; and there are none here who are not pleased to congratulate the old gentleman that the time is near at hand when there will be a full realization of his fondest hopes of Benicia's prosperity.

**WALSH, CAPTAIN JOHN.**—The oldest inhabitant of Benicia, Captain John Walsh, deserves more than an ordinary notice. It is but seldom that a man is permitted to outlive God's statute of limitations — with as clean a record as that the subject of this sketch leaves behind him. He was born on the 25th of October, 1797, on Prince Edward's Island, Nova Scotia, of Irish parents. He went to sea at the early age of twelve, in the year 1809, as a " sailor boy " with his uncle on the ship " Partheon ;" but " mine uncle " being too harsh, young Walsh went ashore at Liverpool, and his uncle never heard of him until some ten years later he met him in command of a ship at Gibraltar. In 1818 young Walsh was first officer of the ship " Honqua," sailing to China ; and on her he came into the Bay of San Francisco in that year, and stopped at the Presidio,—now Fort Point, and at Goat Island ; and on the same voyage he went into the Columbia river, Oregon, which latter place he visited in command of a Government vessel forty-two years later. He afterwards commanded the ship " Gray Hound;" and in 1825 was sent by Messrs. Perkins & Co., of Boston, to the Pacific Ocean, in command of the ship " John Gilpin," where he ran his vessel as a regular packet from Valparaiso, in Chili, to Canton, for more than twenty years, having, on a short visit to Boston in 1830, married, and returned to Valparaiso with his wife, where seven children were born to them, all of whom are now dead. The last, the wife of Col. D. Fergusson, died **in** the city of Mexico some two years since ; and soon after, his venerable wife, who had been his companion for nearly forty-six years, also died, leaving the old man, now over eighty years of age, alone in the world—the last leaf on the tree—his kindred have all perished, save only the children of the deceased daughter. But in place of kindred, hosts of friends surround the old man in his declining years ; hundreds who have partaken of his hospitality in Valparaiso, San Francisco and Benicia, now take pleasure in extending acts of kindness to him. He settled in Benicia in 1849. Here he filled the position of Deputy Collector of Port for many years ; and the records at Washington show that he was one of the most faithful and trustworthy officials ever in the employ of the Government. He has spent much of his time in building and ornamenting his beautiful home here, which has been

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open to his many friends, and especially to the Army and Navy, for more than a quarter of a century; and notwithstanding his May of life is fallen into the sear and yellow leaf, that which should accompany old age, as honor, love, obedience, troops of friends he has. May the date of his decease long remain blank on his family tomb.

**WESTABY, RICHARD**, is a native of England, having been born in Hull, November 22, 1822, where he served an apprenticeship of seven years as ship carpenter. At the age of 20 he went to sea, and followed that occupation till 1850 when he arrived at San Francisco, and engaged in the same business, when he was burned out in the big fire, on June 22, 1851. He then took the mail steamer for Panama, returning to Benicia in August, 1851. In 1858 and 1859, he visited his native land, and the scenes of his childhood.

Mr. W. married Elmer Miles Raper, at Hull, November 22, 1846, who died at Benicia, February 22, 1876. Mr. W. has two children, Elmer and Margaret, both married.

## VACAVILLE.

**AMMONS, HENRY B.**, born in Richmond, Madison county, Kentucky, in 1821, and in the year 1826, moved with his parents to Montgomery Co., Missouri, thence to Howard county, where his father died in 1846. He then moved to Clay, where he enlisted, 1846, in 1st Regular Mounted Volunteers, commanded by General A. W. Doniphan, Co. C, under Captain O. P. Moss, and with it took part in the Mexican war. With his regiment he went from the frontier to Santa Fe, thence to Chihuahua, Buena Vista and New Orleans, where he obtained his discharge in 1847. After his return home Mr. Ammons entered into mercantile pursuits, which he continued till 1849, when he came to California by way of the plains, arriving at Long's Bar, Butte county, in September of that year, where he embarked in merchandising. In 1852, he moved to Solano Co., Cal., where he set about stock raising. At the general election of 1853, Mr. Ammons was elected County Assessor, which office he held for two years, and then was appointed Deputy Sheriff for two years following. He afterwards engaged in agriculture, until 1871, when he was made a Notary Public which office he still holds.

**BAKER, GEO. H.**, born April 9, 1852, in Vermont, where he was educated, and at the age of fifteen, emigrated with his parents to California, making the trip by water, landing at Sacramento June 4, 1867, and resided there one year, where his father followed farming. From there Mr. Baker went to San Francisco for two years, thence to Colusa Co., where he engaged in the trade of a carpenter, and settled in this county in the spring of 1875, still working at his trade, In the fall of this year he purchased a tract of land in Vaca Valley, containing twenty acres, and added fifty acres thereto in the spring of 1878, all of which is adapted to the raising of cereals and fruit. He married, December 16, 1877, Miss Luella Hawkins, who was born January 3, 1858, by whom he has one child, Duff G., born October 8, 1878. •

**BASSFORD, H. A.**, was born June, 1854, in Benicia, Solano county, California, and in 1862 moved with parents to Napa, Napa county, but the family returned to Solano county, settling in Lagoon Valley, in June, 1869, where the subject of this sketch now resides on the old homestead. Married Miss Addle Lassen, of San Francisco, on September 5, 1876. She was born in October, 1857, in Smithfield, Maine. They have one child.

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**BASSFORD, J. M.**, was born in Benicia, Solano county, June 25, 1852, which he left with his parents in 1858, and settled in Napa county. Moved with Mr. Bassford, Sr., into this county June, 1868, and located on what is known as the Sunny Dale Farm, three miles west of Vacaville, where he resided until September 5, 1876, when he took charge of the Barker Tract, known as the Cherry Glen Farm, containing 308 acres, where he now resides, and is engaged in raising fruit in great abundance. He married Miss Ida C. Barker, September 5, 1876. She was born in Napa county, Cal., Dec. 31, 1857, by whom he has one child, Lillie C., born. June 13, 1878.

**BRINCK, H. W.**, was born September 20, 1844, in France, and there educated; emigrated to the United States in 1869, settling in New York City for three years, engaging in various occupations until the fall of 1873, when he came to this State, and stopped in San Francisco one year. The fall of 1874 he came to this county, with his brother William, and settled on the ranch they now own, consisting of 210 acres. Married November 20, 1877, Miss May E. Maiming, a native of St. Louis, Mo. Henry Roy is their only child.

Mr. Brink's brother, William Brinck, was born in Alsace, France, October 15, 1849, where he was educated. As is shown he came to this country with his brother in the fall of 1874, where he still resides.

**BUCK, L. W.**, was born July 8, 1834, in Trenton, Courtland county, N. Y. Was educated in Homer, N. Y., at Courtland Academy, and on September 10, 1856, married Anna M., daughter of Dr. M. B. Bellows, of Seneca Falls, N. Y. She was born September 23, 1834. Emigrated to Clinton, Iowa, in 1865, where he resided till the spring of 1874, at which time he came to California, locating in Vacaville, Solano county, in March of that year; and on October 1, 1874, he moved to his present farm, formerly known as the old Weldon rancho, consisting of 156 acres, in said township, where he has since permanently resided. In August, 1862, Mr. Buck was commissioned First Lieutenant of Company "H," 157th N. Y. V. I., but resigned in February, 1863, on account of ill health, returning to his home in New York State. His children are Emma L., Frank H., Nellie M., Fred M., and Anna M.

**CAMPBELL, ROBT. G.**, born November 3, 1814, in Kentucky. In 1831 moved with his parents to Missouri, where he learned the carpenter trade, and followed it and farming as a business until 1850, when he emigrated to California, and arrived at Hangtown, now Placerville, on August 20th of that year. At once proceeded to the Sacramento valley, on the American river, and was among the first who raised grain in that valley. He

farmed, teamed, and mined until 1854, when he came to Vaca valley, Solano county, and settled on the place now owned by Mr. Butcher, and farmed, in company with A. D. Starke, for one year, moving in the fall of 1855 to a place then known as Wolf place, about a fourth of a mile east of Vacaville, and in company with Dobbins and Starke put in grain for the sole purpose of providing hog-feed, thinking it more valuable for that purpose ; from here moved upon another tract, a portion of the Barker grant, and soon after purchased the plot (squatter's title) of one hundred and sixty acres, and followed ranching from this time up till 1866, when he sold out his interest and turned his attention to carpentering, continuing this until 1869, when, in partnership with Starke, he went to Oregon and bought horses, bringing them to this State on speculation. This, however, not proving sufficiently lucrative he went back to his trade, working at it till 1872, when he entered into partnership with G. M. Gates, and dealt in live stock for about two years. Was appointed Road Master of Vacaville township in March, 1875, which office he still holds.

**CONNELLY, JAMES**, born March 15, 1828, in county Roscommon, Ireland. At the age of twenty-two he emigrated to the United States, and made his home in Boston for about four years, where he carried on a farm. In June, 1855 he started for California, making the trip by water, and on arrival settled in Napa county and commenced farming. On November 2, 1856, he married Miss Margaret Fleming, of San Francisco, who was born in county Waterford, Ireland, March 24, 1834, and at once located in Pleasant valley, where he purchased a tract of land, which he disposed of after residing on it over six years. He next purchased fifty-six and one-quarter acres in the Gibson Canon, about two miles north of Vacaville, where he cultivates fruit, etc. His only living child is Alice F., born July 4, 1866.

**CUMMONS, JOHN HARBERT**, born January 21, 1843, in Licking county, Ohio, from whence he moved with his parents, at the age of four years, to Bates county, Missouri. In the Spring of 1857 started with his father for California, driving a band of cattle across the plains, and arrived at Stockton on November 18th of that year. From this place they proceeded to Calaveras county, and farmed until 1862, when he left for Aurora, Nevada, and here married, March 19, 1864, Miss Margaret Parry, who was born August 6, 1844, in South Wales, Great Britain. In 1865 moved to Colfax and built the first house in the town; thence to Truckee for two years, after which he proceeded to Alameda, where he put up the first turn-table on the coast, for the Central Pacific Railroad Company. Mr. C. now took up his residence in Vallejo. In 1873 he, however, moved to San Francisco, but in June, 1877, he returned to Solano county, Wand located at Vacaville. He has a family of six children.

**DAVIS, W. B.**, was born in Madison county, Kentucky, September 5, 1828, which he left with his parents in 1835, for Missouri. When in this State he commenced the occupation of farming, which he successively pursued in Calaway county for three years, and Macon county until 1850. In this year he left for the Rocky Mountains, and arrived at Green River, where he traded with the Indians and emigrants, as well as run a feily over Green River. Here he remained five years, after which he came to California, where he has since resided. Mr. Davis married, in December, 1846, Miss Emeline Wells, by whom he has Francis A., born March 6, 1848; Clara P., born December 22, 1851; George W., born September 18, 1860; Eva, born July 28, 1863; and Jessie, born September 22, 1867.

**DAVIS, I. F.**, is a native of Canada, where he was born April 13, 1826. Here he was educated, and where he first engaged in farming, but during the latter part of the time he resided there he followed the lumber trade. In November, 1868, he moved to Norton, Essex county, Vermont, where he kept a hotel. Here he remained until August, 1873, when he sold his furniture, rented the hotel, and returned to Canada, but only remained there till December 10 of that year, when he left Montreal for California, arriving in Oakland, December of that year, where he settled for nearly four months, residing with his brother, E. S. Davis. From Oakland he came to this town, where he has been the proprietor of the Davis House. Married Miss Minerva, daughter of Nathaniel Green, of Canada. They have Emma F. and William H.

**DAY, M. D., EDWARD W.**, born in Baltimore county, Maryland, in 1831. His father, during the Rebellion, was a real estate agent and farmer, and at the time the advance-guard of Stewart's Cavalry made a raid through Baltimore county he had the "Stars and Stripes" floating from the flag-staff in front of his house. The rebels sought to pull it down, but were told by Mr. Day that if any one attempted so to do he would certainly be killed in the venture. They did it; and he shot one man and wounded another, and, finding it growing too warm for him, he effected his escape to Baltimore City, where he remained. On his departure the rebels burned his house and everything belonging to him. He was at the time seventy-five years of age, and died nine years later, when eighty-four. His son Edward, the subject of this sketch, in 1853, having passed through a course of medical studies, and graduated from the University of Maryland, left in that year for California, which he reached in May, and with his brother went to the mines about twelve miles from French Corral. Shortly after his brother sold out, and they both went to Rogue River Valley, Oregon, where they prosecuted mining at Jackson Creek and vicinity, but, the Indians becoming troublesome and committing great

depredations, the valley inhabitants were forced into hostilities, which eventuated in a treaty that was observed for only one short year, when the same tactics were again pursued by the aboriginals. At this juncture volunteers were called out by the Governor, and on their formation Doctor Day acted *as* Assistant Surgeon of the Southern Battalion of the Oregon Volunteers. They waged war with the Indians for eight or nine months, with the result of the enemy being dispersed. In the year 1858 he left Oregon, and in June came to Vacaville, where he now resides.

**DOWNEY, D. M.**, was born in Pietobury, Pennsylvania, September 23, 1838, where he followed farming until he emigrated to this State in October, 1858, locating at San Francisco; thence to Sacramento, and from there to Nevada, where he remained only one month, prospecting among the mines, then came to Solano county and settled in Vacaville, and located on a farm. In the Spring of 1865 made a trip to Oregon, but after two months returned and visited his native State, and was gone three months. With the exception of two visits he made in the East in 1876 and 1877, he has been a permanent resident of this county.

**DUTTON, DAVID DEWEY**, was born in Berkshire county, Mass., in the year 1816, April 4th, where his father was a farmer. In his boyhood he left home and went to Illinois and engaged in farming until the year 1839, when he crossed the plains to Oregon in company with D. G. Johnson, Charles Klein, Peter Lassen, J. Wright, William Wiggins and others, and there remained one winter, when they sailed for California in the vessel "Lausenne," and were three weeks in reaching Baker's Bay, a distance of only ninety miles. On the 3d of July the ship left the mouth of the Columbia River, and after being out thirteen days arrived at Bodegâ, a harbor then in possession of the Russians. Here a dilemma arose of quite a threatening character. The Mexican Commandant, General Vallejo, sent a squad of soldiers to prevent their landing; however, at this crisis the Russian Governor arrived and ordered them to leave, which they did. The subject of this sketch did not land, but started with the vessel to the Sandwich Islands, where he remained for one year, being employed in the American Consul's store. From there he next sailed to the Society Islands, staying at Otaheite for about six months, when he left for Valparaiso, in South America. Here he resided for six months and thence to Callao, then went to Pata, a port much frequented by whalers, and, after six months, took passage for Guayaquil in Columbia, South America. Six months after he returned to Valparaiso and there set sail for California, having entered into arrangements to construct a mill in that country for a Mr. Smith. He landed at Bodega, the very port from which he had previously sailed, and starting thence he paid his

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way by work, after building the mill at port Bodega, until he gained Sutter's Fort-now Sacramento-where he was employed at his trade of a carpenter. From the Fort he removed to Butte county and commenced farming operations, which he continued for several years in that district, and in 1846 located in Solano county and engaged in stock raising and farming, the lands of which he eventually sold out, but still owns property in the southern part of the State. Mr. Dutton married February 19, 1856, Miss Martha J. Pearson, who was born in 1829, and has children born : Ellat Lovina, born September 1, 1857 ; Charles Dewey, born September 11, 1860 ; Wallace Newton, born October 8, 1863 ; David Willoughby, born August 20, 1866 ; Cora Belle, born September 7, 1869 ; Esther Maud, born September 27, 1872; Nina Martha, born April 5, 1876.

**ESQUIVEL, ANTONIO MARIA**, born September 10, 1826, in New Mexico and came to California August 10, 1854, working for wages until 1866, when he commenced the yearly purchase of land as mentioned below: In 1866, 320 acres; 1867, 90 acres; 1868, 680 acres; 1869, 120 acres; 1870, 280 acres; 1872, 1,000 acres; making a total of 2,490 acres, all adapted to grain growing, situated nine miles west of Dixon and five and one-half north of Vacaville. Mr. Esquivel resides on his property.

**EVERSOLE, HENRY**, born March 27, 1835, in Perry county, Ohio, where he assisted his father on the farm of the latter. On March 5, 1854, he left his home and came to California, arriving at Grizzly Flat, El Dorado county, on September 5th of that year, and remained there until August 15, 1858, following his trade of a carpenter, with mining, until he came to Vacaville, Solano county. He married, May 4, 1865, Miss Isabella Creighton, born September 26, 1845, in Davis county, Iowa, by whom he has Effa Jane, born November 15, 1866; Elton Mantz, born April 24, 1869 ; Mary Olive, born November 12, 1870; and Frank Creighton, born May 11, 1876.

**ELLIOTT, JAMES MONROE**, is a native of Harrison county, Kentucky, having been born there July 1, 1820. Removed with his parents, when fifteen years of age, to Washington county, Missouri, where he remained one year ; thence to St. Louis county, Missouri, and remained until he was twenty-five. In 1846 returned to Washington county and married, March 5th of the above year, Miss Celia A. Paul. In the spring of 1849 he emigrated to California, crossing the plains with an ox team, in company with a brother and several neighbors, leaving behind his wife and two children. Arrived at Hangtown, now Placerville, on September 15, 1849, and followed mining until the end of January, 1850, when he embarked on the steamer " Panama," at San Francisco, for the Eastern

States ; arrived home on March 20th, and on April 4th, following, started to re-cross the plains with his family and several friends. At Independence, Missouri, they were joined by several other gold seekers, making a train of about forty wagons. Here Mr. Elliott was appointed Captain of the train, as he had experience on the plains and was acquainted with the lay of the land. At Fort Hall the company became disorganized, having had a good deal of sickness from cholera and fever. It was, therefore, decided to turn their faces towards the Oregon line, as the direction they were then pursuing seemed to entail destruction to man and beast. Thus they moved northward and landed in Linn county, at the forks of the Santiam river, where he had one section of land donated to 'himself and his wife by the Government. On this tract they resided for seventeen years. In the fall of 1867 Mr. E. came to Solano county and farmed for one year ; thence to Mendocino county for five years, making farming and stock raising his business. In 1874 he returned to this county and settled in Lagoon valley, purchasing the Scanlett ranch, containing 320 acres, and followed farming and stock raising until 1877, when he sold his property and moved to the town of Vacaville in order to give his children school advantages. Mr. Elliott has eight children, four boys and four girls : Erastus P., Amanda J., Mary E., Adelaide, Sophronia, Winfield S., James L., and William P.

**GETCHINS, WILLIAM W.**, was born in Green, Chenango county, New York, August 30, 1828. At the age of twelve he moved with his parents to Luzerne county, Pa., and in the year 1851 emigrated to Illinois. In the year 1850 he came to California and worked in the mines until 1861, then turned his attention to farming and different speculations in Shasta county. He next left for Oregon, where he once more followed mining, and in the year 1866 returned to Shasta and passed about two years there, when he proceeded to Siskiyou county, and, after four years there, settled in Vacaville, Solano county, November, 1875, where he is engaged in the saloon business.

**JOHNSON, W.** When but twenty-one years of age the subject of this sketch left his home in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, where he was born on December 15, 1837, and went to Black Hawk county, Iowa, and remained there for only a short time, removing to Leavenworth, Kansas, from which place he proceeded to Salt Lake City. From this point he joined a party who were on the point of leaving for Arizona, but hearing that the Indians were hostile they altered their course and made for San Bernardino, in Southern California, arriving there in the winter of 1857-58. Hence, Mr. Johnson proceeded to Los Angeles, and, obtaining employment with one Will Wolfskill for eighteen months, he next left

for Pleasants' valley, where he was occupied but for a short time, when he commenced farming on his own account. This he continued only for one year, when he returned to the employ of Mr. Pleasants, remaining with him three years, when he purchased the place on which he now resides, engaging in the pursuit of raising fruit and grain. He married Florence Powell, September 5, 1873, who was born July 28, 1853. He has one child, Benjamin, born July 8, 1875.

**KIDD, W. B. R.**, was born Nay 14, 1826, in Fentress county, Tennessee, where he was educated. Married Miss Jane Williams of Tennessee, in October, 1848, who died. In October, 1863, married Mrs. Jane Upchurch, and in 1870 left native State with family, and went to Clinton Co., Ky., where he followed farming and trading for two years. Emigrated to California July, 1871, and landed at Stockton, where he remained two years, when he returned to his native State, where he remained until June, 1874, when he returned to California, and settled in Stockton for a short time ; and thence to Union Island, where he resided about one year. Came to this county in February, 1877, and settled in Lagoon valley, purchasing the old Scarlett ranch of J. M. Elliott, comprising 330 acres of land, where he now resides. Has a family of nine living children — four by first wife, and five by second, as follows : Mary E., born July 21, 1849 ; Elsie L., born June 4, 1850 ; Millie Ann, born Dec. 6, 1853 ; Margaret Jane, born Jan. 11, 1855 ; Laivery J., born July 27, 1864 ; Granville T., born Dec. 12, 1866 ; Johnny, born Nov. 26, 1871 ; William, born Nov. 26, 1875 ; Viola Jane, born May 26, 1878.

**KORNS, LEVI**, was born February 16, 1829, in Pennsylvania ; and at the age of one year, moved with his parents to Holmes Co., Ohio, where he was educated. Emigrated to California, on January 5, and arrived at Sacramento February 27, 1852 ; thence to Marysville, where he remained one year farming ; from here he went to Oregon ; but after a stay of only nine months returned to this State, and engaged in farming at Yreka, where he also worked in the mines five years ; and in the fall of 1858 visited his native State. In September, 1859, he came back to California and located in Vaca valley. Purchased his farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres, known as the " Bunker Hill " ranch, in 1870, on which he now resides. Mr. Korns married, August 21, 1878, Mrs. Hattie Thompson, of Fredonia, N. Y., who was born May 25, 1841.

**LONG, S. W.**, was born in Versailles, Kentucky, March 17, 1822 ; and when still young moved with his parents to Clay county, Missouri. In 1846 he enlisted and took part in the Mexican War, under Captain O. P. Moss, Col. Doniphan, and General Taylor, in Company C, 1st Regiment

Mounted Volunteers. In the following year was discharged ; and returning home, he remained there until 1849, when he started across the plains for California, arriving at Sacramento on August 7, 1849, having performed the long journey in four months, and meeting with neither let nor hindrance on the way. Mr. Long passed one year at the mines at Long's Bar ; and in March, 1850, he came to Vacaville, where he has since resided.

**MARSHALL, R. C.**, received his education at the Western Reserve College, at Hudson, Summit county, Ohio, and, after a term of three years, he taught school for six. In 1850, he emigrated to California and reached El Dorado county, where he engaged in placer and quartz mining. In 1855 he was joined by his family and settled in Grizzly Flat, where he resided until 1858, when he moved to Vacaville on a visit, but during his stay his residence at Grizzly Flat was consumed by fire; he, therefore, did not return thither but remained in the vicinity of Vacaville. Mr. Marshall was born in Weathersfield, Trumbull county, Ohio.

**MORTON, HENRY**, born in Genesee county, New York, January 4, 18:39. Came to California, June, 1864, by sea and the Isthmus of Panama, landing in San Francisco, but soon after proceeded to Vacaville, where he is engaged in farming.

**PENA, DEMETRIO**, is, without doubt, one of the oldest settlers in the county ; born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1826, he accompanied his parents to California in 1840 and arrived in Los Angeles, where they remained one year, and, in 1841, came to Vacaville. His father, in company with Manuel Vaca, took up ten leagues of land in and around Vaca valley, including the site of the present town of Vacaville. In 1844, the subject of this sketch, in company with his father, moved on his present rancheria in Lagoon valley, comprising 800 acres. He married, in 1849, Miss Inez Bellyessa, of Sonoma, by whom he had a family of twelve children, there being now alive : Neavis, David, Juan, Seto, Isabella and Frederica.

**PLEASANTS, WILLIAM J.**, born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, May 31, 1834. His parents went to Missouri in 1835 and followed farming until 1849, when they emigrated to California, arriving first at Bidwell's Bar, in 1849, and, in 1850, they moved to Pleasants' valley, Solano county. He married, December 3, 1857, Miss Nancy Hopper, by whom he has eight children, four sons and four daughters : Sarah Alice, born Nov. 11, 1858 ; Ansal Putnam, born Feb. 6, 1861; Emma Belle, born Mar. 18, 1863 ; Lydia Tolitha, born Feb. 28, 1865 ; Wm. James, Jr., born June 30, 1867 ; Laura Frances, born Dec. 16, 1869 ; Thomas Royal, born Aug. 5, 1872; Russel Mason, born Dec. 18, 1874.

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**ROGERS, JAMES ROE**, was born in Kentucky, November 14, 1826, and, at the age of fourteen, moved with his parents to Missouri, where he remained until Spring of 1850, when he emigrated to California, making the trip across the plains with ox teams. He first settled in Sacramento, where he bought a hotel on the road leading from that city to Bear river, Grass valley and Nevada. This business he followed until early in 1857, when he left for Poor Man's, Nelson and Hopkins' creek, on Feather river, and from there to Middle Yuba, where he worked until the Fall, whence he proceeded to the southern mines. In the Spring of 1853, he paid a visit to the State of Missouri, once more crossing the plains in the Fall of the following year and located in Santa Rosa valley, Sonoma county, engaging in stock raising. In the Fall of that year he purchased a farm of five hundred acres in Elmira township, on which he now resides. Mr. Rogers married, first, in Sacramento, September 15, 1853, Miss Mary Ann Williams, she died June 4, 1865 ; and, secondly, January 14, 1866, Miss Laura C. Church, of Dixon, who was born June 15, 1844. His family consists of six children, four by his first and two by his second wife ; their names are • Ann Eliza, born October 9, 1854, died January, 1857 ; Commodore Perry, born February 17, 1857 ; Seldon M., born April . 26, 1859 ; Zilla N., born September 25, 1861; Celia May, born May 30, 1873; and Bertie Agnes, born January 16, 1876.

**SCARLETT, J. E.**, was born May 8, 1853, in Iowa, and at the age of seven years, moved with his parents to Oregon. In 1862, came to this county with his father, W. W. Scarlett, and settled in Suisun valley. In 1874, returned to Oregon and remained one year, when he returned to this State and county, and entered the Baptist College, at Vacaville, which institution he attended for three years. He then went to Los Angeles, where he engaged in the butchering business, for a short time ; thence to Bakersfield, where he engaged in same business until 1879. On April 1st, 1879, he returned to this county and settled in Vacaville, buying out James Rogers, in the butchering business, and entered into partnership with Geo. F. Wooderson, where .he still continues the business.

**SEAMAN, H.**, was born in Prussia, October 12, 1826. In 1837, emigrated to United States, and lived in Ohio until 1852, when he emigrated to California, . crossing the plains, and landed at Sacramento in July of the above year, where he resided for seven years, running a hotel the major portion of the time. In January, 1859, came to this county, and settled upon the present farm he now owns, comprising 2,200 acres, in Putah canon, about four miles west of Winters. Married Miss Ellen Ryan, August, 1865. She was born in November, 1834, in county Limerick, Ireland. Has had one child, John Henry, who was born August 19, 1867, and died March, 1874.

**SMITH, W. W.**, born May 11, 1832, near Glasgow, Barren county, Kentucky, where he received his early education, and at the age of twenty moved to Abingdon, Illinois, where for five years he worked at the trade of cooper. Next entered the Abingdon College, but after two and a half years was obliged to relinquish his studies on account of sickness. In the spring of 1864 he emigrated to California, first settling in Napa city, June 1st, of that year, where, in the following fall, he purchased the farm known as the Spring Garden Nursery; he also bought the farm now owned by Henry Bassford, but continued to reside on that first named for ten years, with the exception of one year which he passed on that in Solano county. In the fall of 1873 he acquired the tract of land on which he now lives, which comprises one hundred and sixty-five acres, about one-half of which he has set out in fruit trees. He married, March 12, 1857, Miss Matilda C. Marshall, who was born in Knox county, Mo., by whom he has had three children, two of them, Genevra, and Rosa Ophelia are still living.

**STAHL, J.**, was born March 14, 1844, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, on September 10, 1864; entered the army, Company G, 93d Pennsylvania Volunteers, *was* in the battles of Petersburg and Sailors' Run, and remained until the close of the war, 20th June, 1865, when he returned home to his native State. In August of the above year he went to Illinois, and worked at his trade (wheelwright) until the fall of 1866, when he returned to Pennsylvania, and remained but a short time. Emigrated to this State, making the trip by water, in 1866, landing in San Francisco on November 6th. He went directly to Amador county, and worked on a farm until spring opened, when he went to San Louis Obispo, at which place he remained but a short time. Came to this county June 16, 1867. In the fall of 1869 he returned to the place of his birth; thence to Illinois, where he spent the winter, and in the spring of 1870 went to Texas, remaining a short time; thence to Missouri; thence to Iowa, and in 1871 returned to California, and settled in Vacaville, this county, where he still resides and follows his trade.

**THISSELL, G. W.**, born April 25, 1829, in Morgan county, Ohio, where he was educated, and learned the trade of carriage-making, which he followed until he left his native State, March, 1849, when he started for California. He stopped in Mashaska county, Iowa, with his brother Ezra, until March, 1850, when he set out on his long trip across the plains with an ox-team, and landed at a town known at that time as Hangtown, and is now known as Placerville, October 16, 1850, where he followed mining until May, 1851, when he established a hotel, and in July was one of the parties who formed a company and commenced the second tunnel that was ever run in the State, after which he found very rich

diggings, taking out *as* high as \$125 to the pan. Followed mining, in connection with the hotel, until 6th of January, 1852, when he returned to native State, and from there to Iowa, when he married Miss Asberrene Chambers, May 8, 1851, who was born February 5, 1831, in Bartholomew county, Indiana. In March, 1853, again emigrated to this State, re-crossing the plains with ox-teams, and again settled in Hangtown, and followed same business as in 1850-1 until July, 1855, when he came to this county and settled in Suisun valley, and followed farming. In July, 1857, took up his abode in Pleasants' valley, settling upon the present tract of land upon which he now resides, comprising 165 acres, adapted to fruit-growing. Has 6,000 fruit trees, most of which are apricots ; also 10,000 grape vines, all foreign varieties. Has a family of six children, as follows : Mary E., born June 6, 1852, on the loop fork of the Platte river ; John N., born November 29, 1856 ; George W., born April 25, 1858 ; W. K, born July 4, 1861; Sarah E., born July 15, 1865 ; Minnie L., born, May 23, 1870.

**TROUTMAN, GEORGE W.**, born in Hardin county, Kentucky, March, 1836, where he received his education. At the age of eighteen went to Illinois, and until the spring of 1855 followed farming, when he emigrated to California, and settled in Sierra county, there working in the mines until August, 1861; he then came to this county and purchased a tract of land, between Vacaville and Elmira, which he worked till the spring of 1866, next moving to Vacaville, and from there on to property bought by him in Gibson Canon, where he resided from 1874 to 1876. He afterwards disposed of this tract and purchased an adjoining piece on the south, containing ninety-three acres, upon which he now has his residence. Married May 15, 1872, Miss Essie Gamble, who was born in Beloit, Rock county, Wis., in December, 1854, and has one child living, Susan Irean, born July 22, 1875.

**WOODERSAN, G. F.**, born in Bangor, Maine, October 10, 1849. When fourteen years of age he left school and entered the Provost Marshal's office, under Captain Elijah Low, *as* clerk, remaining there until the close of the war, when the office was abolished in November, 1865. He then went into the employ of Ricker & Ireland, dealers in and importers of crockery, where he stayed until October, 1868, when falling into ill-health he went to the north of Vermont, sojourning there until July, 1875, when he came to California and settled in Vacaville,, going into the employ of Gates & Long, butchers, until October, 1877, when he, in partnership with J. B.. Rogers, bought out the firm, and have since carried on the business. Married Miss Susan B. Pease, August 1, 1872, at Coaticooke, Canada, who was born April 25, 1856. Had one infant, who died at the age of three years.

## MAINE PRAIRIE.

**ELLIOT, GEORGE T.**, is a native of Genesee county, New York, and born October 12, 1834. His father died when he was but two years old, and at the age of eleven he was sent to reside with James Relya, in the pineries of Allegany county N. Y., who agreed to give him an education. Young Elliot was furnished with an abundance of work, but no schooling, which did not accord with his inordinate love for knowledge. For three years he was subjected to this treatment, but, during the time, managed to master Dayball's Arithmetic, by diligent application during his leisure moments, and after the toils of the day was over, and many times midnight found him at his studies. Returned to his native county—being only fourteen years old—engaged in farming during summers, and attending schools during the winter, and in 1854 graduated at the Warsaw Academy, in his native State. After traveling in Upper Canada, and all the Western States, finally settled near Rockford, Winnebago county, Ills., where he was engaged as clerk in a store, having full charge of the business, until he was obliged to seek other employment on account of over work and ill health. After regaining his health he taught school two terms. Moved to Cheshire county, New Hampshire, in 1855, taking charge of a wooden manufacturing establishment for one year. Married here Sarah L. Trowbridge, on March 12, 1856. She was born December 24, 1838, at Swanzey, Cheshire county, New Hampshire, and is a graduate of Mount Caesar Seminary. Mr. Elliot moved near Watertown, Jefferson county, Wis., where he was appointed Deputy Sheriff, and in connection with the duties of his office, taught school in winters, also studied law. In 1859, went to Columbia county, Wis., where he farmed and taught school. After one year he returned to Cheshire county, N. H., taking charge of a blooded stock farm, remaining until April, 1861, when he emigrated to this State, making the trip by steamer, settling on the Wolfskill grant in this county. In June, 1864, he took a claim in Maine Prairie precinct, six miles from Maine Prairie, where he has since maintained a continuous residence, and engaged in farming and stock raising. Although he pre-empted only 160 acres, he now owns about 1200 acres of land. He has taken an active interest in the political affairs of the county, making his first speech at a primary election in old Washington Hall, at Silveyville, in 1863. In 1872, during the Greeley campaign, he lectured in several counties through the State, under the direction of the county committee. In 1876, addressed large audiences in the counties

down the coast for Hayes Has lectured on temperance, and made speeches all through this county. Has been Deputy Grand W. C. T., and **in** that capacity lectured in many of the counties of the State, as well as before the district session of the Grand Lodge, in Yolo county, in 1877. Has practiced his law profession in Maine Prairie for the last three years. In every position which, in his eventful life, he has been called to fill, Mr. Elliot has been successful in the highest sense. He has left an untarnished record and unspotted reputation. As a business man he has been upright, reliable and honorable. In all places, and under all circumstances, he is loyal to truth, honor and right, justly valuing his own self-respect, and the deserved esteem of his fellow men, as infinitely more valuable than wealth, fame, or position. None excel him in unselfish devotion and unswerving fidelity to the worthy recipients of confidence and friendship.

Hattie Eleanor, born Aug. 12, 1857, George Albert, born June 15, 1860, died January 25, 1876, John F., born February 25, 1863, Chas. R, born Sept. 6, 1866, Joseph D., born May 20, 1870, and died July 10, 1870, and Harold E., born October 18, 1874, are his children.

**TUCK, J.**, born in York county, <sup>IN</sup>nine, January 22, 1823. When about seven years of age he went with his parents to Niagara county, New York, where he lived about seven years. His parents then died and he went to Lawrence county, Michigan, where he made it his home, but was in Ohio a portion of the time until about eighteen years old. He then went to Illinois and farmed and run a threshing machine for five years. From here he went to Dodge county, Wisconsin, and farmed for about four years when he went to Appleton and engaged in grocery and lumber business until the fall of 1851, when he emigrated to California via Panama. In January, 1852, he settled on the Vaca grant, about two miles east of Vacaville, where he lived for about four years, and then settled on his present farm about two and a half miles south-east of Batavia. He married Ella Eugle August 21, 1869. She" was born in Indiana, December 13, 1840. Frank E. and Geo. C. are their children.

## RIO. VISTA.

**BEGUHL, HENRY**, was born **in** the State of Mecklenburg, Germany, where he received his education. At the age of twenty-one he sailed in a German ship as carpenter, this being his trade, which he followed for three years. He left the ship in New York City and came to California in January, 1852, and stopped in San Francisco about six months, thence proceeding to Redwood City where he worked at his trade until 1855, then purchased a fourth interest of the sloop "Caroline," of which he was in command till 1859, when he sold his interest and left for San Francisco. Married February 6, 1859, Miss Amelia C. Jurgensen who was born in Holstein, Germany, July 26, 1836, and the day after, coming to Solano county, he settled on a quarter section where the Shiloh church now stands, but sold out in the following June and moved upon the ranch, containing 640 acres, where he now resides, four miles west of Rio Vista. When Mr. Beguhl first located there was only one house between him and Sacramento. He has owned real estate in the county since 1855. His living children are Lena A., born November 7, 1859 ; Mary E., born January 4, 1863 ; Johannah A., born October 29, 1865 ; Henry J., born August 19, 1867 ; John P., born November 1, 1869 ; \_\_\_\_\_, born April 10, 1873 and Bertha C., born August 10, 1875.

**BROWN, D. B.**, was born in Exeter, Penobscot county, Maine, April 22, 1848, When six years old his parents moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, remaining there till the breaking out of the rebellion, when they emigrated to this State, settling at Oroville, Butte county, in the winter of ,1862, where the subject of this sketch attended school. After clerking in a hotel at Marysville for some time he went to the mountains of Yuba county, working in a saw mill, afterwards engaged in mining one year or over, after which he went to San Francisco, attending Heald's Business College, graduating in 1867. He then followed clerking for a period of two years, a portion of this time being in the employ of the Merchants' Forwarding Line and Meeker, James & Co. of San Francisco. He then went to Benicia in the employ of J. G. Johnson, J. W. Jones and J. Hoyt ; from here he went to Collinsville in employ of T. P. Hooper, where he remained for two years, and then went to Emmaton and stopped two years ; thence to Antioch, clerking ; then to Vallejo, and from there to Isleton, Sacramento county, and built a saloon which he conducted about one year and then took up his abode in Amador county and clerked in

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store for some time, and. then came back to Isleton, and from here to Rio Vista where he rented River View Hotel which he runs at the present time. Married September 18, 1878, Miss Sarah A. Pease, who was born September 26, 1852, in Columbia county, Wisconsin.

**BRUNING, JOSEPH**, was born in Vichtee, Grand Duchy, Oldenburg, July 18, 1822. When about twelve years old he went to the city of Amsterdam where he was employed as clerk in a general merchandise store for about six years, after which he followed the sea for twelve years. In 1850 he came to this country and landed in San Francisco and immediately went to the mines on Yuba river. He then went to San Francisco and engaged in the hotel business which he followed until 1858, when he came to this county and settled on the Los Ulpinos grant, the present site of Rio Vista, where he has resided ever since, carrying on farming on a large scale. Has also several large and commodious warehouses. Mr. Bruning married Miss Gertrude Blase April 25, 1855. She was born in Osnabrick, Germany, July 25, 1829.

**BUTLER, N. C.**, born in Tennessee, January 16, 1826. When about eighteen months old he moved with his parents to Morgan county, Illinois, where they lived for three years, and then moved to Warren county where they lived until 1839 when they emigrated to Iowa City, Iowa, where his father built the second house ever erected in that city. He died November, 1845. N. C. remained there until 1850 when he crossed the plains to, California, arriving at Washington on the Yuba river September 26th of the same year, leaving his mother at Iowa City who is still living at the advanced age of 76. The subject of this sketch mined at Washington for about one month and then went to New Town where he mined until March of the next year. He then went to Bidwell's Bar on Feather river where he mined for about two months and then engaged in merchandising at Little Grass Valley for about three months. He then mined on the Alabama Bar on the Yuba river until September. He then mined for about one year at Sucker Flat. He came to this county in fall of 1852 and settled in Suisun valley, two miles west of Suisun, on 80 acres of land, where he farmed for one year. He then went on to the farm commonly known as the Lewis Winn place, situated in the upper end of Suisun valley, where he farmed for one year. He then bought 80 acres adjoining the first farm that he lived on when he first came to the county, where he farmed until 1856. He then bought 33 acres of R. H. Waterman about two miles north of Fairfield where he lived until the fall of 1859, when he moved to Fairfield where he made a business of training horses, and held the office of Constable for four years. In the fall of 1869 he moved upon the farm where he now lives, about eight miles north-west of Rio Vista. He owns and farms 320 acres of land.

Mr. Butler married Miss Paulina Barker in December, 1853. She was born in Estill county, Kentucky, April 18, 1825. Their children are Mary E., deceased, Arthur W., Henry W., Leathie J., Mary E., Lulu B. and John H.

**CARTER, ROBERT C.**, is a native of Reding, England,- and born February 3, 1834, emigrating to America with his parents in 1841, the family taking up their residence in Brooklyn, New York, where the subject of this sketch was educated in the public schools of that city, and where he resided until March, 1852, when he came to California, remaining in San Francisco until 1859, when he came to old Rio Vista, in company with his. father, Robert Carter, who had come to this State. They carried on. a fish cannery, it being the first one operated on this coast. This business they followed until their buildings were swept away by the mood of 1862. The subject then moved to Rio Vista and conducted a small cannery business until 1865, when he opened a tin store. In 1875, he originated and carried out the plan for supplying his town with water from the river. Married, February 3, 1865, Miss Susan Davis, of New York City, and born May 13, 1838 ; have one child living, Robert D., born January 6, 1866.

**CURRIE, ALEXANDER**, was born October. 30, 1844, in New Brunswick, where he was educated and followed farming; emigrated to California, settled in Solano county in October, 1868. He purchased at that time 160 acres of fine farming land, located seven miles west from Rio Vista. Although, when he came to this place there were no farms among the " hills," and all among these hills and down the valleys, as far as the eye could reach, wild oats grew in profusion, but now how changed 1 All around ,are well-kept farms, groves and fruit trees. Mr. Currie commenced life on this farm with one dollar in money, but now he has a beautiful home, showing what perseverance and determination will do. Mr. C.'s father and mother came with him to this country; his father, John Currie, was born May 17, 1792, and died January 3, 1875. His mother was born March 16, 1806, and died July 12, 1875.

**DOZIER, W. G.**, born in Georgetown, South Carolina, on May 5, 1833. Entered U. S. Naval Academy April 1, 1850 ; remained in the navy until latter part of December, 1860 passing through the various grades to lieutenant, when he resigned and returned to South Carolina on her seceding from the Union. Served in the naval branch of the State forces until turned over to the Southern Confederacy; remained in the C. S. navy until the close of the war, and surrendered at Appomattox C. H., Va. Held several commands during the war and served at various places from New Orleans to Richmond. Was married to Mary B. Atkinson, in

Georgetown, South Carolina, on December 22, 1859, and by her had five sons. This lady was born near Georgetown, South Carolina, in August 1835, and died and was buried there December, 1868. In 1869, Mr. D. moved to California and located in Rio Vista, this county. While acting *as* agent for the P. C. S. S. Co. at San Diego, California, he married Miss Louise M. Williams, daughter of Dr. John S. Williams of that place. They have two children, a daughter and son. He is now a member of the mercantile firm of Wilcox, Ruble & Dozier, at Rio Vista.

**EMIGH, T. P.**, born in Saratoga, New York, January 24, 1840, where he was educated and followed farming until 1862, when he emigrated to California, via Panama, arriving in San Francisco April 26, of same year, with \$7 00 in pocket and \$100 in debt. He immediately hired out to S. Daniels, in Alameda county, and worked at farming for eighteen months, after which he rented a farm at Lakeville, Sonoma county, which he conducted for one year. He then bought the milk route, at San Francisco, known as the " S. F. Dairy," which business he followed for two years. He then came to this county and settled on the ranch known as the Gardiner ranch, just north of Rio Vista, where he farmed for three years, the last year, however, he had charge of the Bruning warehouse. In the Fall of 1870, he took a flying trip to his native State, where he remained only one month. After his return, he went into partnership with Captain James Johnson, where they conducted the Bruning warehouse, in connection with the lumber business for two years, when they bought Perry's Landing, which is now known as New Town Landing, where they have three large warehouses and deal extensively in lumber. Mr. Emigh married Rachel Lawhead, September, 1869, a native of Ohio. Their children are William J., Nellie M., Milton, James P.

**FERGUSON, WM.**, born in Province, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 11, 1872, where he received his education, and learned the carriage maker's trade, which he followed until October, 1865, when he went to Massachusetts, and resided about one year. In 1866 he returned to Canada on a visit, and from here came to California, arriving in San Francisco Nov. 29, 1866, and from here to Mission San Jose, and followed his trade for about 8 months. He then returned to San Francisco, where he remained for a short time, and then came to this county, locating in fall of 1867, taking up his abode in Binghamton, where he resided for two years. He then went to Sacramento, where he remained about 5 months ; thence to Rio Vista, in March, 1870, where he has resided ever since, with exception of one year, (part of 1870 and 1871), up to the present time. He carried on wagon-making and blacksmithing: Married August 19, 1874, Miss Mary Cook, of Rio Vista, She was born Aug. 15, 1853, in Province,

Canada. Have 2 children, Mary Edith, born June 1, 1876; William C., born July 19, 1877.

**FISCUS, JOHN B.**, is a native of Armstrong county, Pa., having been born there February 27, 1843. Until eighteen years of age he followed the Pursuits to be found on a farm, when he essayed his fortunes in the oil regions, continuing there for two years. In 1862 he started for California, crossing the plains, but stopped in Nevada, from July 4, 1862, until March, 1865, where he had charge of a stock and hay ranch; then he proceeded to the Golden State, and settled in Solano county, in the town of Rio Vista, where he clerked in a hotel and post office until a year ago, since when he has kept a livery stable. Was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Solano county, in 1875, and, June 3, 1878, was appointed Constable for Rio Vista township, both of which offices he continues to hold. Mr. Fiscus married April 2, 1863, Miss Ida Squares, who was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., October; 1852, by whom he has one child, Chester S. born January 14, 1875.

**GARDINER, JOHN** H4 is a native of New Jersey, where he received a common school education, finishing with an academical course in Philadelphia. On leaving school he entered a dry goods store in that city, where he remained five years.

Upon becoming of age he received an engagement to take charge of a branch store of a large dry goods house doing business in Baltimore. During his connection with the house he resided at intervals in the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois and Maryland. Upon the receipt of the news of the discovery of gold in California, he, with a party of seven others, embarked for this State, leaving Baltimore in the latter part of December, 1848, in the schooner Sovereign, the vessel having on board a company of 125 passengers. The schooner landed at Porto Bello, at the mouth of the Chagres, the passengers ascending the river and thence by mules to Panama. There being no established communication with California the party chartered a vessel—the bark John Ritson, of Marysport, England—and sailed for San Francisco in February, arriving on the 18th day of May, 1849, after a tedious voyage, prolonged partly by the vessel being obliged to put into Acapulco for supplies of provisions and water. Remaining in San Francisco but a short time, he proceeded to Sacramento, and thence to the mines—then known as New Diggings, now the town of Auburn.

Notwithstanding the large pay at that time, Mr. Gardiner abandoned the mines and returned to San Francisco, for the purpose of engaging in mercantile affairs—his last day's work as a miner being rewarded by more than one hundred dollars worth of gold. dust, **The** party of seven

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members remained together, and engaged in Merchandising, having three stores in operation in the city, erecting the first building that stood upon the south-west corner of Montgomery and Washington streets. The concern of Cooper & Co. prospered largely, and soon found themselves possessed of a large stock of goods, they doing a large wholesale trade. The great fires that laid waste the city in 1850 swept away all they had, and the party broke up. Getting together a stock of assorted merchandise Mr. Gardiner and another member of the old firm opened store at Santa Cruz, where he remained six months. Retiring again to San Francisco he continued in the mercantile business, in which occupation he continued until his removal to this county.

During the year 1867 he revisited the Eastern States, extending his trip to Europe, visiting Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, France, England, etc. After his return to the State he married, and soon thereafter moved to his present pleasant home on the bank of the Sacramento river, at Rio Vista.

In 1876 Mr. Gardiner and his wife visited the Eastern States, for the purpose of attending the Centennial Exhibition, and paying a last visit to his former home—attending the sessions of the National Agricultural Congress, *as a* delegate from California.

In the formation of society, in the early days of San Francisco, he was amongst the foremost, being one of the founders of the Mercantile Library, serving as Director and Secretary in the institution, and is a prominent member of the Society of California Pioneers, being, at the present time, Vice-President of the Society.

He has always taken an active part in all matters, both political and social, pertaining to the welfare of the country ; and it can be truthfully said of the subject of this sketch, that he has always regarded toil as manly and ennobling ; and after passing through an honorable yet checkered life, he is now enjoying the comforts of a happy home, beloved by his wife and friends, and respected by the citizens of the State in which he lives.

**GURNEE, JACOB**, was born in Rockland county, N. Y., June 16, 1820, where he was educated and lived until about fifteen years old, when he moved to Westchester county, where he was employed in a brickyard until 1840 ; he then went to Stratton Island, where he found employment on a schooner which run between the above place and New York City, where he was employed until 1850. He then took the steamer " W. J. Pease " for San Francisco, arriving Jan. 19, 1851, being nearly one year making the trip. After remaining in San Francisco about three months went to mining on the American river, where he remained six months, after which he followed boating on the San. Francisco bay, until March, 1852. He then took passage on the steamer " Independence," for New

York City ; but returned to California in about three months, and followed mining at Downieville for a short time ; after which was engaged as pilot on the Sacramento river until 1862 ; then took charge of a large ocean steamer which was lying at anchor, for about seven years. In January, 1870, bought the " Eclipse " saloon at Rio Vista, which he still owns and has charge of at the present time. Married Miss Caroline Eddie in 1841, who died in 1849, leaving two children—William, and Harriet. Married his present wife, Miss Mary Ann Higgings, 28th day of February, of the year 1867.

**JOHNSON, CAPT. JAMES**, was born in Denmark, Aug. 26, 1836. At the age of twelve years commenced following the sea. At the age of fifteen years went to England, and shipped on a vessel bound for Melbourne, Australia. Paid the gold mines there a short visit. Left Australia on the ship " James T. Ford," bound for Callao, Peru, where he shipped and was employed as Quartermaster on the mail steamers plying between Valparaiso and Panama, for about six months, arriving in San Francisco, Sept. 1852. Followed the sea, with slight interruptions, until 1859, when he made a trip to his native country, returning after an absence of four months. Purchased a schooner shortly after his return, which he commanded, and continued in the coasting and inland trade until 1870, when he located at Rio Vista, and formed a partnership with T. P. Emigh, in the warehouse and lumber business. In 1872, bought their present place of business, Newtown Landing, formerly Perry's Landing. They employ in their grain and lumber business, two schooners — "St. James," and " Wonder," which were built and owned by Mr. Johnson before his partnership with Mr. Emigh. Mr. Johnson married Miss Catherina C. Lorentzen, February 6th, 1863, a native of Denmark. Their children are James, Frederick C., Otto J., Hannah C., William, Adeline C., Lena C., Katie, Selma.

**MENZIES, THOMAS**, was born in New Brunswick, June 13, 1832, where he received his education and followed farming. Married, January 4, 1855, Miss Margaret Currie, who was born January 4, 1834, in New Brunswick. Mr. Menzies came to California by water, in 1866, and settled in Petaluma, where he resided and worked on a farm for one year. Came to this county September 16, 1867, and purchased 160 acres of land, where he now resides, six miles west of Rio Vista and nine miles east of Denverton. He farms in all 320 acres. Has reared a family of twelve children, ten of whom are living: James, born January 17, 1856; John C., born June 17, 1857, and died January 9, 1872; William W., born July 5, 1859; Dora A., born November 1, 1861; Thomas, born November 8, 1863; Robert A., born April 2, 1866; David S., born June 4, 1868;

Eliza J., born March 21, 1870, and died December 31, 1871; Emma J. and Edward A. (twins), born October 23, 1872; Maggie E., born March 22, 1874; John B., born July. 22, 1877.

**PIETRZYCKI, M. D., MARCEL**, was born April 25, 1843, in Galicia, a Polish province of Austria, where he was educated as an apothecary and chemist. Came to the United States in 1866. Took up his abode in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, where he studied medicine with Dr. Arnold part of 1866 and 1867. Emigrated to California in the Fall of 1867, and settled in San Francisco, receiving the appointment of an apothecary in the German Hospital, where he remained for five years, during part of which time he attended the Pacific Medical College, where he graduated in 1872. In 1873 went to Stockton to practice his profession, remaining there about five months. Came to this county in November of the same year, and settled in Rio Vista, where he now resides and practices medicine. Has always taken an active part in enterprises pertaining to the welfare of the town. Was twice elected School Trustee, also Clerk of the Board. Took a very active part, and in fact was one of the prime movers, in establishing the Montezuma Telegraph Line from Suisun to Rio Vista.. He married, June 29, 1876, Miss Mary Warren, of San Mateo, daughter of Rev. J. R Warren, Superintendent of the Home Missionary Society of the Congregational Church.

**POND, DAVID A.**, born in Carlton, Green county, Illinois, February 24, 1840, where he was educated and followed farming. Married Miss Matilda Ferguson, June 24, 1863. She was born February 27, 1845, in Carlton, Illinois. In October, 1873, the subject of this sketch emigrated to California and settled at Rio Vista, this county. Was employed as a butcher, by different firms, up to about two years ago, when he formed a partnership with James U. Chase, and carried on butchering, but on October 25, 1878, Mr. C. sold out, and the firm is now known as Pond & Knox, where they are doing business. Has had two children, but both are dead. Edward, born February 23, 1866, died July 27, 1868; Clara, born December 13, 1868, died May 31, 1874.

**SICKAL, M. T.**, born in Hancock county, Illinois, January 23, 1850, where he resided until April, 1858, when he set sail with his parents for California, via Panama. Arrived at San Francisco May 15th, same year. Came immediately to Benicia, where he remained but a short time, crossing the straits to Martinez, Contra Costa county, going to school most of the time until January, 1868, when he entered the State Normal School at San Francisco, where he remained five months, when he came to this county, and taught school near Dixon for four months. He then entered

a business college at **San** Francisco, remaining three months, when he again taught school, this time in Contra Costa county, for one year. He then entered the State Normal School again, where he remained for three months. He again taught school for five months, in Sutter county, when he once more returned to the State Normal School, where he remained until he graduated, March 15, 1871. He then returned to this county, and taught in Dixon for two years, being the first teacher to grade the Dixon school. He then taught the Los Angeles City Grammar School five months; then entered St. Augustine's Academy at Benicia, remaining but three months, when he went to French Corral, Nevada county, where he taught one year; then returning to Dixon, he taught the school there for five months, then taught the Silveyville school one year. He then settled in Rio Vista, where he has been continually engaged in teaching ever since. Mr. Sickal married Miss Mary A. Brane, July 3, 1878, who was born in Yuba county, June 9, 1858.

**SIDWELL, J. M.**, was born in Belmont county, Ohio, January 7, 1827. When about eleven years of age he moved with his parents to Fulton county, Illinois, where he finished his education and lived until 1850, when he went to Green Bay county, Wisconsin, where he followed lumbering and hunting for about two years. In the spring of 1852 emigrated to California, making the trip across the plains, with ox teams, in five months and sixteen days, arriving at Marysville, September 24, 1852, where he stopped one week, then went to Forbestown, on Feather river, where he mined until May, 1858, when he came to this county and worked on the Twin-house farm for five months. He then opened a store on Sleightman's farm, where G. H. Gardiner now lives, just above Rio Vista—the first store ever started in that neighborhood. He continued in the merchandise business there until May, 1854, when he moved on to Grand Island, Sacramento county, when he again opened a store and remained until the fall of 1857, acting at the same time as Postmaster of Georgiana post-office. He then sold his goods to A. G. Westgate and came back to this county and entered into partnership with Col. N. H. Davis—who owned, at that time, the land where old Rio Vista was built—and built the town called Brazos Delrio, afterwards changed to Rio Vista. The post-office was then moved to Brazos Delrio, and Mr. Sidwell retained the office till 1859, when in that year the name of the town was changed to Rio Vista, also post-office, and was contractor on the levees until 1862. The town was then flooded out and washed away. Mr. Sidwell, then in company with S. R. Perry, W. K. Squires, and Isaac Dunham, contracted with Mr. J. Bruning for the right to build the present town of Rio Vista. Mr. Sidwell built the first hotel in this town, which he conducted for some time. He then commenced contract-

ing again, building levees, flood gates, etc., which he has followed ever since. Mr. Sidwell married Miss Annie Elliott, May 14, 1864. She was born in Termanah county, Ireland. Names of children ; John R., Sarah E., Mary L.

**SMYTH, HON. MICHAEL, is** a native of Ottawa, Canada, where he was born October 4, 1832. Here he was educated and worked on a farm and at lumbering, until about twenty years old, when he emigrated to California, via, the Nicaragua route, arriving in San Francisco December 20, 1853. He at once settled in Crescent City, Del Norte county, and thence to Silver Diggings, residing in the latter place about two months, when he returned to Crescent City, settling on a farm, on which he remained till November, 1862, when he went to Idaho, Idaho county. After two years in this place he settled in Ada county, and kept hotel, as well as farming and merchandising. He was elected to the Lower House of the Legislature of that Territory one term, serving his constituents in a way that reflected credit and honor to himself as well as them. He was afterwards elected School Superintendent, but his own business demanded his attention, and he was forced to decline serving. The winter of 1867 he spent in Albany, Oregon, and the following spring purchased three hundred cattle and came to this State, adding two hundred more to the band on the road. Having brought the cattle to Solano county, and sold them, he settled near Dixon, but after three months moved on a farm at Poland's Landing, where he remained one year, and then bought a ranch about nine miles west from Rio Vista, but in 1873 he sold out and permanently settled in that place. In 1875 Mr. Smyth was appointed Notary Public, which office he still continues to hold. Married Miss Maria Killo-ran, in November, 1852. She was born in Ireland and came to this country when twelve years old. James L., Charles, George W., Robert C., and Frank H., are their living children. Lost three ; Edward, Mark, and John.

**SQUIRES, WILLIAM K.,** was born in West Cornwall, Litchfield, Conn., December 18, 1817, where he received his education and lived until about 21 years of age. He then went to Brooklyn, New York, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for some time, and then acted as detective, constable and sheriff for about seven years. In January, 1848, he married Miss Margaret J. Brandow, who was born in Catskill, N. Y., July 13, 1824. In 1852, he left his wife and daughter, Ida I., in New York, and emigrated to California, via Panama. He mined on the Cosumnes river, in Sacramento county, for about one year, when he went to Sacramento city and followed fishing for three years, at the expiration of which time he made a trip to New York, and returned with his wife and

**daughter** by water; spent one year on the Isthmus, as foreman of Panama car shops, after which he settled in Sacramento and engaged in the fish trade until 1857. At the time of the Frasier river excitement he repaired to this place, and was engaged as a ship carpenter for about one year at Fort Langley. He then made a contract' with the Hudson Bay Fur Company to furnish them salmon for six months, and with assistance of two men, would frequently furnish, at forty dollars per ton, as high as twelve tons a day. Mr. Squires, Russion and Thompson were the first parties who fished a gill net in Frasier river. After completing his contract he came to this county, and settled in old Rio Vista, where he built a hotel in 1859, it being the first public house erected in the place. He remained here until the flood of '62, when he came to new Rio Vista, and built the house he now keeps. In 1870, he leased his hotel and moved to San Francisco, where he resided for three years. when he returned, and has had charge of the house ever since. He was Deputy Sheriff of Yolo county, in 1857. In 1863, he was appointed Post-master of Rio Vista, which position he held for over six years.

**STOLL, CHARLES M.**, was born in Bavaria, Germany, October 21, 1849, where he received his education. Left his native State in 1866, and emigrated to California, visiting all the prominent places on his trip, and landed at San Francisco December 4, 1866, and from here he went to Sacramento, where he remained until 1868, when he went to Marysville, thence to Red Bluff, and worked at his trade, harness-making. In January, 1869, went to Sacramento county ; from here to White Pine, where he remained until May 1, 1869, when he visited Virginia City ; thence back to Sacramento, and from there to Rio Vista, where he opened a harness shop on the 12th of May, 1869, where he still resides and carries on his business. Married, October 8, 1871, Miss Ellen Bowman ; she was born April 17, 1853, Augusta,, Maine. Has reared a family of three children, two of whom are living : Frederick Chas., born May 29, 1872 ; Ida, born June 31, 1874 ; Minnie, born January 14, 1878, and died June 22, 1878.

## ELMIRA.

**BARRETT, J. H.**, the County Recorder, was born in Morris county, N. Y., June 12, 1836. His parents moved to Lake county Illinois, in 1845, where the subject of this memoir was educated in the public schools. In 1853 he emigrated to this State, first settling in Downieville, where he was engaged in mining until 1862, when he was appointed Internal Revenue Assessor. October, 1867, he came to Elmira, this county, and has maintained a continued residence in that place. When his township was first organized he was elected Justice of the Peace, and has been re-elected at the expiration of his office to the present time. Was appointed County Recorder May 6, 1878. Married Alice E. Bushnell, daughter of George Bushnell, a native of Herkimer county, N. Y. Their only child is Edith May.

**MARCH, RUDOLPH BUCKHART**, born September 18, 1822, in Howard county, Missouri. April 16, 1857, he came to California, crossing the plains, and settled in Napa county, and there farmed until the spring of 1862, and then came to this county, taking up a quarter section, and purchasing soon after a like quantity, making a total of 320 acres, situated about four miles south-east of Elmira. In the fall of 1877, sold out his ranch and moved to Elmira town, where he has since been engaged in the livery business. Mr. March married, May 21, 1844, Miss Rachel Bradley, a native of Howard county, Missouri, who was born October 17, 1829, and has thirteen children, viz.: Dudley, born December 23, 1844 ; Crecy Ann, born August 28, 1845 ; William F., born May 3, 1849; Richmond, born May 8, 1851; Savannah Elizabeth, born August 15, and died September, 1853 ; Alfred, born August 23, 1855 ; Mary Jane, born August 21, 1857 ; H. Thomas, born October 18, 1859 ; Alice, born November 5, 1861; Angeline, born July 11, 1863 ; Silas R, born June 10, 1866 ; Walter R., born May 3, 1868, died February 13, 1869 ; Joseph, born December 28, 1869, died January 9, 1870.

**MELBOURN, THOMAS**, native of Boston, Linkinshire, England, born June 20, 1829, where he was educated. Emigrated to United States, at the age of twenty-two years. He first took up his abode in Mt. Morris, *New York*, where he remained for some time. After visiting several other places in the State, working most of the time at farming, he finally settled in Rochester, N. Y., where he married, October 10, 1855, Miss