

represented his district at Sacramento with fidelity and appreciated distinction. By his marriage with Miss Emma Grove he has five children, namely : Miller, Homer, Marius, Linvil and Hazel. The last-mentioned is a graduate of the University of California and the champion tennis player of the world. The old homestead, purchased by the elder Mr. Hotchkiss some time after his arrival in Sonoma county, comprises three hundred acres lying near Healdsburg. A portion of the land is in hay and pasture, supplying feed for the live-stock kept on the place. By far the greater part of the land is under cultivation to fruit of different kinds, the aim in each being to secure a superior quality as well as a variety that bears in abundance. Prunes and apples are among the specialties and each is an income-producer of no small proportions. The improvements inaugurated by the former owner have been maintained by the widow and son and no pains are spared in keeping the large orchards in thrifty condition. In the year 1911 they set out three thousand new prune and apple trees. Since early girlhood Mrs. Hotchkiss has been identified with the Christian Church, which was also the religious preference of her husband, the two being generous contributors to that organization in its missionary movements, while at the same time they were sympathetic co-operators in all enterprises for the well-being of their community.

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#### HARVEY GREGORY.

Not unlike many others, Mr. Gregory came to California in the hope of regaining health impaired in activities east of the Rocky mountains. The delightful health-giving climate repaired the inroads which duties in a more rigorous climate had made, and for more than a quarter of a century thereafter he was able to accomplish what at the time of coming to the west he thought was impossible. He passed away at his home in Santa Rosa May 30, 1910, beloved by a host of friends who had learned to love him for the sturdy qualities which had been the foundation of his long and useful life.

Near Goshen, Orange county, N. Y., Harvey ,Gregory was born October 13, 1833; the son of parents who tilled the soil as a means of livelihood. He was educated in the public schools and academy near his home, after which he followed teaching for some time, or until he removed to Muscatine, Iowa, where he purchased a farm and began life as an agriculturist. At the time of purchase no improvements had been made on the property, and the work involved in its transformation into the fine property which it later became was the means of impairing the health of the owner and ultimately bringing him to the Pacific coast. Coming to Sonoma county in 1883, Mr. Gregory located on a ranch two and a-half miles from Santa Rosa, where he was engaged,in horticulture, selling out orchards of apples, prunes and pears, a business which lie followed until January, 1904, when he disposed of his property and located in Santa Rosa, where he was living at the time of his death, May so, 1910.

It was due to the untiring energy and indefatigable labor on the part of Mr. Gregory that the Sonoma County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company came into being in 1898, at the organization of which **he** was elected secretary, and continued in the office up to the time of his death. For the last five months

however, he was unable to perform the duties of the office, and his wife nobly and efficiently assumed the responsibility, and after his death she was elected secretary for the remainder of his term.

The first marriage of Harvey Gregory occurred in Iowa and united him with Miss Melissa Holcomb, who at her death a few years later left one child, Clara, who is now Mrs. Shepherd, of Muscatine, Iowa. His second marriage was to Almira Bamford, who passed away in Sonoma county, leaving three children, as follows: Frank, who died in Oregon; Bion, of Mexico City ; and Lester, of Fort Bragg. On March 17, 1897, Mr. Gregory was married in Santa Rosa to Mrs. Mary M. (Gilbert) Kniffin, who was born near Muscatine, Iowa, the daughter of Hiram and Eliza (Benefield) Gilbert, born respectively in Kentucky and Indiana. Mrs. Gregory's paternal grandfather, Mordecai Gilbert, was a native of Virginia, whence in the early days he removed to Kentucky, and still later to Iowa. The maternal grandfather, Robert Benefield, came from Indiana to Muscatine county, Iowa, when that county was as yet practically uninhabited by white men. Mrs. Gregory was fourth from the oldest of a family of nine children born to her parents, eight of whom are still living. She was given the privileges of the public schools of Muscatine county. Her first marriage was with Isaac Kniffin, a native of New York state and later a farm& in Muscatine county, Iowa, where he was living at the time of his death. Some years afterward his widow removed to Hodgeman county, Kan., where she entered one hundred and sixty acres of land, but the country suffered from lack of rain during the years she remained upon it, and when the opportunity came she disposed of the land, after which she removed to Topeka. One child was born of her union with Mr. Kniffin, Minnie L., who became the wife of Dr. Beatty, of West Branch, Iowa. In his political belief Mr. Gregory was a stanch Republican, and with his wife was an active member of the Grange and the Methodist Episcopal Church. Personally he was a man of kindly, lovable qualities, a man of integrity and true worth, one whose greatest happiness was in showing kindness to those about him.

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CHARLES E. WYATT.

A native son of the state, Charles E. Wyatt was born in Petaluma, Sonoma county, May 14, 1873, and was brought up and educated in the public schools of his native town. The financial condition of his parents made it obligatory upon him that he assume the responsibility of his own support at an early age, and as he had no opportunity to learn a trade, he followed the line of least resistance when he applied for work in the care of horses. A natural and inborn love for horses prompted him in his choice, and that it was a 'wise one has been apparent in all that he has undertaken along this line, and indeed throughout his life he has been associated with horses in one way or another. His first experience was at Agricultural Park, where he helped to care for Thorough and Standard bred horses, and it was not long before he had developed an ability in riding and training them that was to be of invaluable help to him later on. In fact, for years he followed this business with splendid success, and gave it up reluctantly when he became too heavy for the exercise.

A subsequent position which Mr. Wyatt filled acceptably was as foreman of Haney's livery stable, continuing there for five years, when he became associated with Theodore Skillman, of Petaluma, an extensive importer of draft horses, and still later he was connected with the Petaluma Transfer Company, remaining in the last-mentioned position for two years. It was in 1892 that he entered the employ of George P. McNear, and his long retention in the position of foreman of the large stable of this well-known citizen speaks eloquently of his ability and all-around fitness for the position. Without exception the McNear stable takes first rank in Sonoma county, and no small credit for this high standing may be given to Mr. Wyatt, who is an excellent judge of the value of a horse, whether draft or roadster, years of experience and association with horses, making this accurate judgment possible.

In Petaluma occurred the marriage of Charles E. Wyatt and Miss Sadie Edwards, who was born in this city and has passed her entire life here. Three children have been born of this marriage, Anita, Gladys and Alice. Mr. Wyatt's fraternal associations are with the Eagles and Moose.

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#### SAMUEL ELMER ADAMS.

A comparatively late arrival in the west and Sonoma county is Samuel E. Adams, who came here from the middle west in 1860 and has every reason to be satisfied with the opportunity for advancement which has come to him during the past decade. The earliest member of the Adams family of whom we have any definite knowledge is the paternal grandfather, Benjamin Adams, who was born in Kentucky and who in an early day became a pioneer settler in Brown county, Ill. Near Mount Sterling he entered a tract of land from the government for which he paid \$1.25 an acre, and there his earth life came to a close. The duties which he laid down at his death were assumed and faithfully continued by his son and namesake, Benjamin Adams, until he too laid down the burden of life, his death occurring when he was only forty-four years of age. His marriage united him with Miss Mary McCoy, a native of Brown county, Ill., her father, Samuel McCoy, immigrating there from Ohio. Mrs. Adams survived her husband many years, passing away at the age of sixty-three years.

Of the three children originally comprised in the parental family Samuel Elmer Adams is the only one now living. He was born October 8, 1867, on the farm near Mount Sterling, Brown county, Ill., which had been the home of his grandfather and father before him. He was educated in the public schools in the vicinity, and in addition to his educational training he gained a good insight into farming through doing his share of the chores that almost without exception fall to the lot of farmers' sons. The training proved timely, for at the time of his father's early death he was able to step in and assume responsibilities which otherwise would have been impossible. He proved equal to the task thus suddenly laid upon his shoulders, and he continued the management of the farm until he was thirty-three years of age. After spending a short time in Chicago he came to California in 1900, and at Reclamation, Sonoma county, he was fortunate in securing employment as foreman on the Rose ranch, property of the California Sugar

Company, where he continued for two years. He then came to Petaluma and became foreman of the warehouse for George P. McNear, after which he was foreman of a large alfalfa ranch in Humboldt county, Nev., for two years. At the end of this experience he again came to Petaluma and for one year was engaged in the poultry business, after which he carried on a grocery business in Santa Rosa for two years. It was in 1909 that he undertook the **business in** which he is now engaged in Petaluma, general contracting, teaming, heavy hauling, street grading and excavating. Beginning the business in a modest scale, it has constantly grown until from six to ten four-horse teams are necessary to carry on the business. One of the contracts which he executed was grading the switch yards for the Northwestern Pacific Railroad at Petaluma.

In Brown county, Ill., Mr. Adams was married to Miss Ada Frank, a native of that county. and four children were born of their marriage, Merle, Rita, Nanetta and Ila. In his political sympathies Mr. Adams is a Democrat, and fraternal<sup>y</sup> he is a member of the Redmen and the Woodmen of the World. Push and enterprise are strong points in the make-up of Mr. Adams, and all who know him admire him for his integrity and straightforward business methods-

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#### CHARLES WARREN YORK.

Although Mr. York had lived a quiet, unostentatious life, when death claimed him and removed him from the midst of those who had been associated with him for over thirty-five years, his loss was deeply felt, and they realized as they had never done before what his life and accomplishments had meant to the community in and around Healdsburg. For many generations his ancestors had been associated with the far-off state of Maine, and in that state he too was born, his birth occurring in Franklin county in 1838.

A natural inclination toward the blacksmith's trade led Mr. York to take up this business as soon as his education was completed and when he was strong enough to wield the hammer. He found the business fully as interesting and remunerative as he had anticipated and had followed it in his native locality for a number of years when the attractions of the west brought him to California in 1861. After a time spent in northern California and Nevada he came to Sonoma county, and in Healdsburg established a blacksmith shop which he maintained until his death in 1896. During the years that intervened the merry ring of his anvil became a familiar sound to those who had business dealings with him, and his removal from accustomed scenes after many years of unabated energy was felt individually and collectively.

In his wife, to whom he was married in 1866, Mr. York had a true companion and help-mate. Before her marriage she was Miss Mary Chapman, a native of Ireland, who was born in 1839, the daughter of Irish parents. Four children were born to Mr. York and his wife, but only one of the number is now living, Anna M. Politically Mr. York was a believer in Republican principles, and upon all occasions supported this party's candidates and tenets. The only public position which he ever filled was that of town trustee, a position in which he discharged his duties efficiently and well, and had he any desire for other offices

of trust he might have had them, for he was well qualified to fill any position to which his fellow-citizens might have elected him. His greatest interest centered around his home and family, and it was only those who were most intimately associated with him who were able to penetrate into his deeper nature and realize to the fullest extent the depth and breadth of his kindly, wholesome nature. Fraternally he was associated with but one order, the United Workmen of America.

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#### HANS JUHL.

Not only is Mr. Juhl known as a tiller of the soil in the vicinity of Petaluma, but he is also known as a genial "mine host," owning and maintaining a small hotel at the head of Chelino valley, on San Antone creek. Mr. Juhl is one of the sons of Denmark who have found in the United States an opportunity for the development and expression of ideas and ideals which would not have been possible in the land which gave them birth. To the man willing to work for the attainment of his ideal even in the face of obstacles if need be, this new country has been a boon, as for one Mr. Juhl can testify. Born in Hadersleben, Denmark, November 18, 1848, he was a young man of eighteen years when he determined to come to the United States and begin life under new conditions, confident that if one avenue of support failed, another could be found whereby he could at least make a living. The voyage was made by way of the Isthmus of Panama, and on the 26th day of December, 1866, he landed at San Francisco, after a long voyage of land and sea travel.

From the metropolis Mr. Juhl came to Sonoma county and in the agricultural district he found ample opportunity to put his knowledge of farming to good account, for in the old country he had attained considerable proficiency in this line of endeavor. He worked in the employ of others for a number of years, in the meantime laying aside from his wages whatever was not actually needed to supply his wants. His object in so doing was a desire to become a property owner, but before taking this step he made investigations in other parts of the state, going first to Humboldt county and from there to other localities ; but he finally returned to Sonoma county, satisfied that this particular part of the state offered advantages over any others that he had investigated. It was therefore with considerable assurance that he came to Petaluma and purchased the ranch of forty-one acres upon which he has resided ever since. As has been stated, in addition to maintaining this property, he also runs a small hotel for the traveling public in the Chelino valley, on San Antone creek, just over the line in Marin county. His ranch, which adjoins the Sonoma county line and is five and three-quarters miles west of Petaluma, was formerly known as the Laguna station, but now is called Chelino Valley station.

Mr. Juhl's marriage, which was celebrated October 7, 1876, in San Francisco, united him with Miss Matilda Peterson, who was born on the island of Fohr, Schleswig, Germany, the daughter of John and Anna Peterson, who were born in Germany in 1823 and 1821 respectively. Four children were born to these parents, Nicholas, Claudius, Anna and Matilda, and all are married and established in homes of their own. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Juhl, one son and two daughters growing to maturity, Luis, Ida and Henrietta.

The last-Mentioned, a resident of Marin county, is the wife of Henry DeWitt and the mother of two children, Roger and Marjorie. The other children are still at home with their parents. Public-spirited and enterprising, Mr. Juhl has done his part at all times to advance the welfare of the community in which he lives, and for a number of years was road master of his district and also school trustee. Fraternally he is affiliated with Petaluma Lodge No. 38, U. A. O. D., and socially he mingles with his fellow-countrymen in the Dania, a Danish society. When opportunity is afforded to express his political views he speaks and votes in favor of the Democratic party, believing that its principles, if rightly understood and expressed, will bring the greatest good to the greatest number. For thirty-five years Mr. and Mrs. Juhl have resided in this vicinity and of this period twenty-five years have been spent at Chelino Valley station, where for six years Mr. Juhl served as postmaster until the office was discontinued and rural delivery established. Both Mr. and Mrs. Juhl are beloved by all who know them for their many deeds of kindness, rendered not only to those in their immediate vicinity, but to wayfarers who come to their doors.

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#### JOSEPH B. SMALL.

Holding a position of prominence among the foremost citizens of Sonoma, Joseph B. Small is one of the best-known and most reliable builders and contractors in this section of Sonoma county, where he located over thirty-nine years ago, and in the meantime has built up an excellent reputation. A man of ability, intelligence and excellent business talent, he is very influential in the management of public affairs, and is rendering good service in the community in which he resides as city clerk, a position which he has filled for ten years, and for twenty years he served efficiently as justice of the peace.

A native of Maryland, Joseph B. Small was born in Baltimore July 12, 1852, the son of parents who were natives of Ireland (the mother born in Dublin), and both of whom were brought to the United States by their parents in childhood, the father at the age of four years, and the mother when she was two years old. Joseph B. Small was reared and educated in Baltimore to the age of fourteen years, when, in the early spring of the year 1866, the family set out for the far west, and reached San Francisco May 23d of that year. Mr. Small remained in the metropolis with his parents until May, 1871, at that time coming to Sonoma county and taking up work at the carpenter's trade. From this has developed the business as contractor and builder which is his today, and which takes him to all parts of the county. Many fine specimens of his handiwork are to be seen in Sonoma, and the first house put up in Glen Ellen was constructed by him. His business affairs however have not consumed his time and attention so completely as to blind him to his duty as a good citizen, and during the thirty-nine years that he has been a resident of Sonoma no one has been more wide-awake or active in the town's upbuilding and advancement. On the Democratic ticket he was elected to the office of justice of the peace, filling this position efficiently for twenty years, and on the same ticket he was the successful candidate for the office of city clerk, in 1900, a position which he filled continuously until the expiration of his term in April, 1910.

Mr. Small's marriage, August 15, 1883, united him with Miss Emma A. Poppe, a native of Sonoma county, and on both sides of the family a descendant of German ancestors, both parents being natives of Germany. Her father is deceased, but her mother is still living, a resident of Sonoma. Four children have been born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Small, and of them we mention the following: Norine C. became the wife of Frederick Bulotti and the mother of one son, born in 1907, and they make their home in Sonoma ; Joseph Lester, born in January, 1886, is a graduate of the high school at Sonoma and is now studying law in the office of Robert A. Poppe; Annie Gladys, born in 1888, is a graduate of the local grammar school; and Bernice D., born in June, 1892, is a graduate of Presentation convent of Sonoma. Fraternally Mr. Small is a well-known member of the Ancient Order of Foresters, in which body he is at present filling of office of district deputy. Mr. Small's mother is deceased, and his father, who was born in Belfast June 5, 1819, died at his son's home November 19, 1910, at the venerable age of ninety-one years.

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#### JAMES R. ROSIE.

For over twenty years J. R. Rosie has been identified with ranching interests in the Molino section, Sonoma county, beginning with a small acreage, but increasing his holdings from time to time as he was able, until today he has Seventy acres, all under cultivation. By far the greater part of his land is in hops, in the cultivation of which he is an acknowledged authority, notwithstanding the fact that, for him, this is a latter-day industry. The raising of blackberries and apples of all the best-known varieties represents another industry equally interesting and remunerative to the fortunate owner, who has been more than ordinarily successful from a financial standpoint.

A native of Scotland, Mr. Rosie was born near the city of Kirkwall, November .2, 1863, the son of parents who never left their native home, Scotland. The parents were farmers, and it was therefore quite natural that ale son should imbibe some knowledge of agriculture from his surroundings, even though he had not been a participant in their duties. However, he had a taste for agriculture, and father and son worked side by side in maintaining the home farm until the latter was twenty years of age. It was then, in 1883, that he bade farewell to parents and friends and set sail for the new world, with California as his destination. The voyage was accomplished without accident or other unusual occurrence, and a few months after he left his home in Scotland Mr. Rosie settled in Alameda count<sup>y</sup>, Cal. There he engaged in the dairy business, milking forty cows, and he continued in this business for six years, or as loLlg as he remained In that county. On coming to Sonoma county in 1889 he bought a ranch of ten acres in Green valley, near Sebastopol, which he cleared of timber and underbrush, and subsequently enlarged it by the purchase of a similar amount of land, all of which he used as grazing and pasture land for a time. All of the twent<sup>y</sup> acres have since been placed under cultivation, nine acres being in blackberries, and the remainder, or eleven acres, in apples of the best varieties. That Mr. Rosie thoroughly understands the business in which he

is engaged needs no emphasis beyond the statement of the yield of his crops. From nine acres of blackberries he gathers twenty-five tons of fruit annually, while his eleven acres of apples yield two thousand boxes. In addition to his orchard Mr. Rosie maintains a still greater enterprise in his hop yard, which covers fifty acres, from which he realizes sixteen hundred pounds of hops to the acre.

In 1888 Mr. Rosie returned to Scotland to claim his bride, in Miss Lizzie Liddle, and the wedding journey of the young people consisted of a journey to the United States, to the home which Mr. Rosie had prepared in Sonoma county. The house to which they then came sheltered the family for about twenty years, until Mr. Rosie erected the present fine residence on an elevation over-looking the entire valley. Fraternally Mr. Rosie is a Mason, having attained the Royal Arch degree, and he also belongs to the Independent Order of Foresters.

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#### A. L. LANDIS.

The wide popularity which of late years has been given to the varied uses of cement and concrete has made an opening in the commercial world which the young, ambitious man has not been slow to recognize. Among those engaged in cement contracting in Santa Rosa is A. L. Landis, who during the past five years has done much of the best work of this character in the city, including sidewalks and curbs, and foundations for residences and business structures.

A native son of the state, A. L. Landis was born in Woodland, Yolo county, February 9, 1870, the son of Daniel and Phoebe (Smith) Landis, who were born respectively in Pennsylvania and California. Both are now deceased, the mother passing away March 31, 1885, and the father March 31, 1907. The latter came to the west from his eastern home in young manhood, during the early '60s, and from then until his death he was interested in agricultural affairs in Oregon and California, principally, however, in Yolo and Sonoma counties, this state. It was after coming to the west that he met the lady who was to become his wife, Miss Phoebe Smith, their union being one of mutual helpfulness and happiness. It was while they were making their home in Woodland, Yolo county, that the birth of their son occurred and there he was educated and trained to habits of usefulness by his parents. At an early age he decided upon his future course in life. Noting the rapidity with which cement was being made to take the place of wood, not only for sidewalks and curbing, but also for building purposes, he determined to learn the business and engage in it in all of its varied departments. It was with this end in view that he went to San Francisco and became an apprentice at the business, learning it in all of its details, and subsequently working at his trade in that city for a number of years. Many foundations of fine structures in that city stand as evidences of his workmanship, besides many blocks of sidewalks and curbing. It was with this experience to his credit that he came to Santa Rosa in 1906 and continued the good record for conscientious work that had brought him such success in the metropolis. All recognize that his work is uniformly of the highest order, and in placing a contract in his hands the patron is assured of the best work possible to be secured. Besides many miles of cement sidewalks and curbing, foundations of many of the best structures in the city

have been laid by him, including residences and business structures. Mr. Landis is one of the young, enterprising business men whom Santa Rosa is proud to number among her citizens, and with the continued development of the cement business a bright future awaits him in his chosen calling.

Mr. Landis was married in Sonoma county, in 1894, to Miss Cora Barnes, whose father, William Barnes, was one of the early settlers of Sonoma county. Four children have blessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Landis, named in the order of their birth as follows: Raymond, Wallace, Helen and Norma.

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#### WILLIAM JONES.

If Mr. Jones could be induced to write a history of his life it would be found to contain much of interest to old and young alike, for his experiences have been associated with the early historical epoch -of this Pacific commonwealth. A native of the south, he was born March 18, 1836, in Jefferson county, Tenn., near the line which separates that state from Virginia. His knowledge of his birthplace is very vague in his memory, however, for from the age of four years he was reared in Cass county, Missouri, remaining there until he was sixteen years of age. It was about this time, in the fall of 1853, that he made a trip to Old Mexico in the interests of the United States government, carrying supplies to the soldiers there. His return to Missouri in the fall of that year was followed by preparations for his immigration to California, and May 2, 1854, found him starting on the journey. The party of which he formed a part consisted of forty men and women, under the leadership of Captain Norman Rosson. The Sacramento river was crossed at Red Bluffs, and from there they proceeded without accident or injury, and when they reached their destination, each went in the direction that choice or inclination dictated. Mr. Jones went to Placer county and secured employment in panning gold. The habits of uprightness and honesty which have been marked characteristics throughout his entire life, became apparent at an early age and were put to a test while filling the position just referred to. Being at one time left in charge of the premises for two weeks, in the course of his duties he found hidden in the barn two sacks of gold, which he put in a place of safety and gave to his employer upon his return. Subsequently he came to Sonoma county, locating first near Sebastopol, and later on Sonoma mountain, near the old adobe. Still later he located on his present property near Petaluma, -where he has one hundred acres of choice land, upon which he carries on dairying, owning twenty cows of fine breed, considerable live-stock, besides which he has seven hundred chickens. Although he is advancing in years he is still caring for his ranch interests with the same interest and-„enthusiasm as formerly and is as keenly interested in the affairs and happenings in the world at large as he was a quarter of a century ago.

The marriage of William Jones occurred in Petaluma and united him with Miss Rebecca A. Farley, who was born in Indiana in 1844, the daughter of S. H. and Elizabeth (Grant) Farley. Their marriage was celebrated in the old Casa Granda fort, on the Sonoma road, February 14, 1860, and on February 14, 1910, the<sup>y</sup> celebrated their golden wedding in the home which has

enshrined about it the memories of their happy married life. The participants consisted largely of relatives, numbering thirty-seven, all of whom were rejoiced to see the happy couple in such buoyant spirits and excellent health. A large family of twelve children blessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Jones, of whom we mention the following: Frances E. became the wife of A. Wilsey, by whom she has two children, William and Zelpha, the family making their home in Petaluma. Amanda E. became the wife of Benjamin R. Bowman and the mother of three children, Robert, Beatrice and Claire. Mary Alice is deceased. William F., a well-known rancher of Marin county, married Mary Dennett and they have four children, Dennett F., Cecil M., Wilma A. and Elliott McG. Carrie Ann became the wife of William Meyer, of Hollister, California.- Robert Grant is a guard at the San Quentin prison. Charles Milton is a resident of Ross Station; his wife was formerly Miss Elizabeth McGrath. Emma Jane is the wife of Henry King of Petaluma, and they have four children, Kenneth; Elvus, Gertrude and Everett D. Walter Graves is still at home. Martha Lena is a school teacher in San Rafael. Edith Jeanette is the wife of Otto Ingram. Vivian Aletha is the wife of DeWitt Appleton and the mother of two children, only one of whom is living, Dederick.

Politically Mr. Jones is a Democrat of no uncertain stand, the only instance of his 'departure from the rule to cast a straight Democratic vote being the time when he voted for Gen. U. S. Grant. For ten years he filled the office of school trustee of San Antone, now Union, district and in every way possible has exerted an influence toward betterment of conditions in the locality in which he lives, as well as in the state in general. When in a reminiscent mood Mr. Jones is very entertaining in his account of happenings and events of the long ago. Hunting and fishing were sports in which he indulged whenever the duties of his pioneer life would permit, but ordinarily, however, the former of these pastimes was waiting at his door, for he relates that during the years from 1859 to 1870 he could go to his door with his gun and find game plenty, and on a number of occasions he shot bear:

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#### FREDERICK GROHE.

Many of the successful and prosperous agriculturists of Sonoma county are of foreign birth and to this land of fertility and plenty have transported the habits of thrift and industry to which they were trained in their native country. Among these there is none better known or more widely respected than Frederick Grohe, whose reputation as a raiser of flower seeds has made his name a household word all over the state. A visit to his ranch at the corner of McDonald and Park streets reveals a blaze of splendor radiating from the beds of petunias, Shasta daisies and delphinium, which are his specialties, as is also the strain of pentstemon which he raises, this latter being obtainable from no other source. In addition to caring for his ranch and hot-houses Mr. Grohe is prepared to do floral work and also to supply cut flowers to the trade.

The first seventeen years of Mr. Grohe's life were passed in the home place in Germany, his birth occurring there in 1847, and in the meantime he had learned the rudiments and also had considerable experience at the florist's

trade. When he landed on our shores in 1864 he found the country in the throes of warfare, and in the same year he volunteered his services in the restoration of peace. Enlisting in a company of New Jersey cavalry he continued in the service until peace was declared, after which he came to the west, reaching San Francisco, in April, 1866. About this time the mines of Idaho were attracting considerable attention and Mr. Grohe was one of the number who went there that year for the purpose of trying his luck in the field of mining. Just what success he had there is not known, but the records state that he later went to Arizona and combined mining and ranching for seven years. He then came back to California, but instead of settling down at that time, he returned east and remained there altogether about ten years. In reality his association with California dates from the year 1891, when he located in Stockton and established himself as a florist. This was the business in life for which nature intended him, and it has therefore been along this line that his greatest achievements have been brought about. After continuing in that city for about ten years he came to Sonoma county in 1900 and his success in the meantime has been marked and rapid. Upon first locating in Santa Rosa Mr. Grohe rented what is known as the old Meldrum property for seven years, transforming it into a flower garden. After he had been on the place for about three years he purchased his present ranch on the corner of McDonald and Park streets, and at once began its development. Finally he gave up the rented property and gave his entire attention to his own ranch. While he raises for seed purposes flowers of various kinds, which are shipped to all parts of the United States, as has been stated, he makes a specialty of petunias, Shasta daisies, delphinium and pentstemon, in the cultivation of which he is especially successful and has made his name known all over the United States. In 1909 he shipped about \$750 of the above varieties of seed. His gardens cover about two acres, with hot-houses and accessories, making about twenty-five thousand feet under glass, to which he expects to add six hundred feet during the season of 1910.

Politically Mr. Grohe is a Republican, and fraternally is identified with the Masonic lodge at Santa Rosa. He is affiliated with Ellsworth Post, G. A. R., and is a member of the Lutheran Church, in the faith of which he was reared from boyhood.

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#### WILLIAM KING.

The acquisition of a comfortable home and large holdings of land represents years of unwearied industry and the endurance of hardships innumerable on the part of William King, an honored pioneer of Sonoma county, who has risen to agricultural prosperity only after great toil and countless privations. Of Canadian birth, he was born in 1855 near the St. Lawrence river across that stream from New York state, and during the year 1876 he crossed the plains to California, where his adult years have been passed in Sonoma county. The land which he first secured still remains his homestead, but its boundaries have been greatly extended through wise investments and frugal thrift. At the time of settling on West Austin creek no roads had been opened to Cazadero or Guerneville, the nearest markets, and often he carried supplies on his

back over the mountain in order that his family might not perish from starvation. For years his chief dependence was a trusty mule, on whose back supplies could be placed and the animal would then cross the mountain and swim the creek several times in order to reach the station. When it was impossible to get to the Market the pioneer would shoulder his rifle and go forth into the woods in search of deer. When game was plentiful he would kill more than one animal, which would necessitate packing as much as possible on his back and hanging the balance on a tree to be taken home the following day. In that way the winter supply of meat was secured. In addition there were fish in the creeks and mountain trout was especially plentiful and appreciated by the family.

The parents of this western pioneer were David and Eliza (Colwell) King, both born in Canada in 1822 and continuous residents of that country until their deaths, when seventy years old. There were six sons and four daughters in the parental family, namely : Thomas, James, William, John, David, Chester, Jane, Helen, Margaret and Eliza. James married Augusta Dahlman, who died after giving birth to one son, Chester ; his second marriage was to Mabel Willis, of Petaluma, by whom he has eight children. David chose as his wife Miss Anna Barnes, and they have three children, Thomas W., John D., and Lora Belle. Margaret, wife of John Mills, of Canada, has three children, David, Hazel and Electa. During early manhood William King married Lora Z. Adams, who was born in 1862 near the St. Lawrence river in Canada. One daughter, Edith, blesses their union. Excellent advantages have been given to this only child and her education was completed in the State Normal School at San Jose, where she made a flattering record for progress in studies. The father of Mrs. King was a Canadian, Levi Adams, who was born on the St. Lawrence river in 1810 and died in Canada during the year 1876, after having spent his entire life in the same locality. Two children, George and Ruth, were born of his union with Sarah Sparahawk, who was born in New York in 1823 and died in Canada during young womanhood. After her demise Mr. Adams married Miss Zerviah Fenton, by whom he had seven children, named as follows : Azro H., John O., Colin C., Sarah J., Edith, Lora Z. (Mrs. King) and Maruella J., wife of F. D. Trosper, a leading Democrat of his locality and for twenty-four successive years the incumbent of the office of township judge.

The possessions accumulated by Mr. King aggregate sixteen hundred and ninety-five acres of land, a large part of which is in timber, some in meadow and a small tract in pasture. Twelve acres have been planted in choice fruits. From the home place a magnificent view is afforded of the mountains bounded by the great redwood trees. To the casual inspector the land on the mountains would seem barren. Experience, however, has proved that the soil will grow fine apples and luscious grapes. When the woodman's axe shall have cleared away the giant trees and when the horticulturist shall have come into the now timbered region, then fruit orchards will arise with their wealth of golden fruit and this part of Sonoma county will take rank with the other rich sections of imperial California. Such is the theory of Mr. King and close observers hold this judgment in the matter to be correct. In the township he is a man of prominence and high standing. He is now county supervisor of

the fifth district of Sonoma county and for fourteen years he held office as deputy assessor, while in other local posts of trust he has proved efficient and trustworthy. Fraternally he is identified with Mount Jackson Lodge No. 295, F. & A. M., in Guerneville.

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#### CAPT. C. GUSTAFSON.

The subject of this biographical sketch is a native of Sweden, born in Gottenberg, June 28, 1864, and a typical representative of his race, energetic, thrifty and a lover of the sea. His father, Gustaf Gustafson, was a farmer in Gottenberg, and in the rural district about the family home Captain Gustafson was educated. At the age of fifteen years the sea-faring spirit took possession of him and he sailed first on the Baltic and then on the Mediterranean, later going on a trading vessel to Brazil. From there he came to the United States and landed at New Orleans, where he went on the American ship Lucile in the European trade. In the year 1882 he came to California and spent a year in the coasting trade, but since then has been sailing on the Bay. The following year he entered the employ of the Sausalito Ferry Company, first as mate on the Donahue, and then as pilot. In 1890 he was mate and pilot on the Ukiah, until the completion of the Tiburon. Four years later he went on the Sacramento river with the Sacramento Transportation Company, then with the California Transportation Company. During the time he was in the employ of the latter company he was appointed captain, and took charge as master of the Richelieu, serving until 1911, when he became captain of the Napa City for the Petaluma & Santa Rosa Railway Company.

Still a young man and a busy one, Captain Gustafson has been so provident as to invest in a fruit ranch of twenty-four acres at Graton, Sonoma county, where he resides, his family taking care of the place. All of the land is set to fruit, nearly one-half of it to apples of the Gravenstein variety principally. Here Captain Gustafson loves to spend *all* the time he can spare from his responsible duties as master of his vessel, taking the keenest enjoyment and delight in his surroundings.

Captain Gustafson's marriage united him with Miss Anna Pearson, a native of Sweden, and to them were born two children, Gladys G. and Roy H. Captain Gustafson is a Master Mason, and a member of the California Association of Masters and Pilots. Politically he is a Republican. A man of kindly and sympathetic nature, his liberality and interest in public-spirited measures are felt upon all sides.

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#### JOHN KENNETH GIBERSON.

Numbered among the prominent and substantial men of Petaluma is John K. Giberson, a prosperous agriculturist, who has long been identified with the farming interests of this part of the county. As a citizen he is held in high repute, and by his excellent character and straightforward business course in life has fully established himself in the esteem and confidence of his neighbors and associates. He was born in Hightstown, Mercer county<sup>y</sup>, N. J., December 24, 1862.

Charles McChesney Giberson, the father of John K. Giberson, was also a native of New Jersey, born in Hightstown, August 25, 1834. At the time of the breaking out of the war between the north and the south he served as a government telegraph operator at Hightstown, and after the close of the war engaged for a number of years in building telegraph lines for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. He had a congenial life companion in Meribah Jane Gravette, who was born in Clarksburg, N. J., July 16, 1838, and to whom he was married in Philadelphia, Pa., August 8, 1860. The parents came to California in 1870 and were farmers at Two Rock, Sonoma county.

John K. Giberson attended the elementary schools of Hightstown in his early boyhood, and completed his education in Sonoma county, Cal., whither the family removed in November, 1870. This has been his home ever since, and so satisfactory are his surroundings from every viewpoint that he has no desire to change his home place to any other part of the state or county. Ever since leaving school he has been interested in agriculture, and since 1872 has been engaged in farming two hundred and twenty acres with his uncle, Charles McChesney, in Two Rock. In April, 1911, he located in Petaluma, where he purchased a residence and four acres on Bodega avenue, and here he is now engaged in the poultry business.

During the summer of 1909 Mr. Giberson returned to New Jersey to claim his bride in Miss Kate L. Gravette, their marriage occurring in Trenton, N. J., June 2 of that year. She was born in Hightstown, N. J., October 5, 1862, the daughter of William LaRue and Hannah C. (Osborn) Gravette. Mr. Gravette rendered valiant service in the United States Navy during the Rebellion, serving until the close of the war, when he received honorable discharge. Politically Mr. Giberson upholds Democratic principles, and with his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church at Petaluma. Fraternally he is identified with Petaluma Lodge No. 139, I. O. R. M.

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#### . ELZI BROTHERS.

The opportunities which California offers to young men of determination and perseverance find appreciators in Anton J. and Joseph T. Elzi, natives of Canton Ticino, Switzerland, who have been residents of Sonoma county since 1881, since which time they have followed the dairy business in Sonoma and Marin counties. The year 1906 marks the date of the establishment of the dairy business which they are maintaining near Petaluma, on eighteen hundred acres of land which they lease from Mrs. Mabel Burdell Smith. Here two hundred and fifty cows of excellent breed find pasturage, besides a large number of stock, twelve head of work horses and colts. The brothers are mutually interested in the maintenance of the ranch enterprise carried on under their name and each year notes an increase in their business and a corresponding enlargement of income. They are both young men of push and determination, and the progress which they are making is being watched with interest by their fellow-citizens.

Anton J. Elzi was born in 1868, and since thirteen years of age has been a resident of Sonoma county. He was married in San Francisco to Miss Reta

Rasmussen, a native of Denmark, born in 1879. Four children have been born of this marriage, Alfred J., Clarence E., Anna C. and Lillian C. In their political proclivities both Anton J. Elzi and his brother are Republicans, and they have never departed from the faith of the Roman Catholic church in which they were reared. Joseph T. Elzi was born in 1872 and came to California in 1885, and is now actively associated with his brother in the maintenance of the dairy.

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#### FREDERICK THOMAS CULLEN.

A native of the East Frederick Thomas Cullen was born in Utica, N. Y., January 26, 1874, the son of John L. and Frances (Ackerman) Cullen, the former born in Ireland and the latter in New York state. Following the trade of contractor and builder, John L. Cullen, believing his opportunities would be greater in a new country, took his family to Nevada City, Nevada, in the year 1876 and the following year to Petaluma, Cal., where his son, apprenticed to the same trade as that of his father, has succeeded him with a goodly measure of success.

Frederick Thomas Cullen was one of seven children, all of whom were reared and educated in the public schools of Petaluma. At the age of sixteen he was apprenticed to the carpenter's trade and received good training from the start, as it was at this time the fair grounds were being remodeled, and his services were called for and highly approved. At the age of nineteen he became foreman for Camm & Hedges, which position he held for three years, then spent three years in Arizona in the employ of the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad at bridge building, after which two years were spent in Butte, Mont., at his trade. In 1900, he returned to Petaluma, and launched out as a contractor and builder of the very highest standard and his ability and art are shown in many of the most beautiful buildings in Petaluma, chief among which are the residences for Messrs. Brainerd, Dittman, Clamer, Webber and the McKinley school building.

In this city Mr. Cullen was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Stephens, a native of Wisconsin, and four children have blessed their union, Frederick Stephen, Vivian Margaret, Dorothy and Richard. Although but thirty-seven years of age Mr. Cullen has made distinctive strides in his profession and during the eleven years of his residence in Petaluma has made for himself an enviable position, bidding fair for a future of unusual success. As a member of the community and St. Vincent's Catholic church, his charities and good citizenship are favorably commended.

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#### MRS. MARGARET T. DRAGO.

The estate known as the Drago ranch forms one of the early cultivated places of Sonoma county and comprises four hundred and eighty acres lying in close proximity to Occidental. The house that Mrs. Drago occupies was erected more than sixty years ago and is one of the few remaining landmarks associated with an interesting period of Californian history. Notwithstanding its great age and long use, the building presents a neatness of appearance and solidity

of construction not always to be found in houses of more recent date. It was during October of 1862 that Mrs. Drago began to reside in this historic structure and since then she has witnessed the changes transforming the country from a wild region into a cultivated area. In the early days her table was abundantly provided with venison, bear-meat and other kinds of wild game that frequented the country and among her guests were not a few Indians, for the red men had not yet disappeared before the ambitious sway of the Anglo-Saxon.

Born in County Wexford, Ireland, in 1830, Mrs. Drago was a girl of fourteen years when she left her native land and went to London, England. During 1856 she crossed the ocean to the United States and landed at Boston, from the sailing vessel Grace. Finding employment, she remained in Boston seven years. From that city she removed to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where, August 21, 1859, she became the wife of John Morgan, a native of Ireland, born in 1823, and deceased in Sonoma county December 5, 1867. Four children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan. The eldest, William N., was born in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and died in Sonoma county, Cal., at seventeen years of age. The second, John L., was born in Sonoma county in 1863 and still resides at his birthplace. The third child, Mary Jane, makes her home in Oakland, Cal. The youngest member of the Morgan family was Nellie W., born in Sonoma county in 1868 and married in 1891 to Robert Lee Adams, a native of this state and a resident of Point Richmond.

After the death of her first husband Mrs. Morgan remained a widow about two years and in 1869 became the wife of Nelson Drago, who was born in Quebec, Canada, in 1832 and died in Sonoma county November 20, 1904. Surviving him are his widow and two sons, Frank and Nelson, Jr. The elder son, Frank, was born January 5, 1871, and grew to manhood at the old homestead, receiving fair advantages in the county schools. During 1901 he was united in marriage with Miss Agnes Mabel Glynn, who was born in San Francisco. Of their union two sons were born, namely: George Francis, who was born in 1902 and died in infancy; and David Patrick, who was born September 5, 1903, and is now a pupil in the local schools. The youngest son of Mrs. Drago and his father's namesake was born March 30, 1872, on the ranch that has been his lifelong home. In the supervision of the large property Mrs. Drago has the assistance of her three sons and maintains improvements of a high character, including a large vineyard, a well-kept fruit orchard and a thrifty garden. Formerly she made a specialty of the dairy business, but of more recent years she has given attention largely to the pasturage of sheep and the raising of lambs. Life's twilight finds her still busy and active, retaining full possession of her physical and mental faculties and enjoying the companionship of her children and a competency accumulated by years of self-sacrificing effort.

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#### WILLIAM FREDERICK BOWMAN.

On Rural Route No. 3 from Petaluma may be seen the unpretentious but nevertheless thrifty ranch of which Mr. Bowman is the owner and proprietor. Here he is engaged in the dairy business, on a much smaller scale than formerly, but in the care of five cows he finds enough to occupy his time and to maintain himself and wife in comfort.

A native of the east, W. F. Bowman was born in Boston, Mass., in 1845, and in that city of culture he received an excellent education, attending first the grammar schools and later the high school, from which he was graduated. With the splendid educational preparation which had been granted him he might have filled successfully any position in the commercial world that he had chosen, but he preferred agricultural life and it was to this that he turned his attention as soon as his school days were over. He had followed farming and dairying in the vicinity of Boston for a number of years when, in 1873, he determined to come to the west and locate. Setting sail from an eastern port, he made the voyage by way of the Isthmus of Panama, and without unusual delay or disaster he finally reached his destination, San Francisco. Five years were passed in the metropolis in the milk business before he finally took up his residence in Sonoma county, which he did after selling his business and goodwill in San Francisco for \$3,000. Near Petaluma he purchased eighty acres of land upon which he established himself in the dairy business on a moderate scale, having twenty-five cows, and during the many years in which he continued the business as then started he laid by considerable means and is thereby enabled to live at the present time with less effort to provide for necessities of life than would have been possible otherwise. He has disposed of a large part of his original acreage, now having only twenty-three acres, and caring for only five cows.

Mr. Bowman's first marriage united him with Miss Rebecca Lougheed, a union which resulted in the birth of two children, Charles J. and Rebecca, both of whom are married and have families. The daughter is the wife of Clayton Shader and the mother of five children, George W., William, Clayton, Gertrude and Florence. Some time after the death of his first wife, Mr. Bowman was married, July 3, 1894, to his present wife, who was formerly Mrs. Louise (Miller) Sunderhous. She was born in Basel, Switzerland, in 1855, the daughter of Jacob and Marie Louisa Miller, they too being natives of Switzerland. No children have been born to Mr. Bowman and his wife and they live quietly and alone on the ranch near Petaluma. Their lives, however, are not devoid of activities, for they are active workers in the Episcopal Church in which they hold membership, and are constantly helping and cheering those with whom they are brought in contact. Mr. Bowman has no inclination to recreation of an active kind, finding sufficient activity in the care of his ranch and in doing for his fellowmen and his community whatever benefit lays in his power. Politically he is a Democrat.

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#### DAVID BOCK.

Coming to California in pioneer days, the late David Bock was for many years intimately associated with the agricultural interests of Sonoma county as an industrious and prosperous rancher. A man of energy and thrift, frugal and prudent, he was in truth the architect of his own fortune, by his persistency and perseverance obtaining a good annual income from his property.

A native of the east, David Bock was born in McKeansburg, Schuylkill county, Pa., in 1822, and died June 28, 1888. He was the son of Andrew Bock, whose father came from Germany and settled in Pennsylvania, and served in the Revolutionary war. David Bock learned the blacksmith's trade, after which he

followed this until coming to the west in 1852. In April of that year he set out for California on a sailing vessel which made the perilous voyage around Cape Horn, but the vessel was sea-worthy and made the voyage in safety, consuming nine months. In San Francisco, where the vessel landed her human freight, he remained one year working at his trade. Following this he farmed at San Leandro for one year, and in 1854 he came to Sonoma county and this was his home continuously thereafter until his death. Soon after locating here, in 1854, he selected and purchased the ranch upon which his life was thereafter passed, consisting of three hundred and sixty acres of land near Petaluma. Politically he was a Republican.

The marriage of David Bock, in 1850, united him with Miss Lucy Renn, who was born in Sunbury, Montour county, Pa.; in 1828, and who died, **in 1896**. Eight children were born to them, five sons and three daughters, all of whom were born in California except the eldest. Named in the order of their birth they are as follows : Andrew, deceased ; Edward H.; George L., deceased; Walter B.. deceased ; John P.; Kate M.; Blanche E. and E. Josephine. The eldest daughter, Kate M., became the wife of W. H. Magoon, formerly postmaster at Ston<sup>y</sup> Point, and an instructor in the schools of this county for many years ; he is deceased, and his widow is living at Stony Point. Edward H. married Miss Emma Colyar and has two sons, Lester and Harley. Walter B. chose as his wife Miss Anna Parks, by whom he has three children, Shirley, Charles and Clarence ; the family reside near Goshen, Cal. Since the death of the father John P. Bock and his sisters Blanche E. and E. Josephine have maintained the homestead ranch, property which their father purchased over fifty-six years ago. This now consists of two hundred and thirty-seven acres of land, of which twelve acres are in orchard, the balance of the land in hay and pasture, the latter supplying grazing for the twenty-six cows which comprise the dairy.

A department of the ranch enterprise which is of special interest to the present managers of the ranch is the hennery which forms such a large income from the property, the returns for the year 1909 amounting to \$3,000. They have a cherry orchard of ten acres, principally Royal Anns, which they set out eight years ago. This is -a splendid variety of cherry and bears bountifully. There are several old cherry trees on the ranch set out years ago by the father, and two of these are probably the largest cherry trees in the county. The ranch is located on the Bloomfield road, one mile west of Roblar station.

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#### JAMES FRANKLIN ELPHICK.

From the age of ten years to the present time Mr. Elphick has been a resident of California, and ever since early manhood he has followed ranch pursuits, his tastes inclining him to make a specialty • of the raising of fruit, in which he has been successful to an unusual degree. The place which he owns and occupies comprises eighty acres of valuable land lying near Penn Grove in the county of Sonoma. For a long period he has devoted his time and attention to the cultivation of the land, specializing with four acres of fruit of the very choicest varieties. Through intelligent care in the selection of his trees and vines and through wise management iia the cultivation of the orchard as well as skill in the marketing of products, he has been rewarded with considerable

financial success as well as a growing reputation in horticultural circles of the county.

Genealogical lore connected with the Elphick family indicates their long residence in the old town of Hastings, England, associated so inseparably with the history of the Norman Conqueror. Thomas Elphick was born at Hastings, October 13, 1821, and received a common-school education in the city where his boyhood years were passed. An early-formed decision to seek a livelihood in America led him in 1839 to bid farewell to the friends and environment of his childhood, after which he crossed the ocean to the United States. At the time of his emigration from the old country he was scarcely eighteen years of age and it was not until some time afterward that he established domestic ties through his marriage to Sarah Estherline, who was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1820. His first employment in the new world was that of mining in Michigan, and later he secured work at South Bend, Ind., after which, in the spring of 1858, accompanied by his wife and children, he started across the plains for the west, bringing with him a large band of horses. The trip lasted five months and nineteen days, when the party landed at Woodland, Yolo county, Cal., with a loss of only eight out of the large drove of horses.

During the sojourn of the family in Ohio James Franklin Elphick was born February 28, 1848, and he was ten when he started for the west in a "prairie schooner," meanwhile aiding his father in the care of the horses and in the other work incident to such a tedious trip. Across the chasm of a busy half-century he recalls vividly some of the happenings of that journey, which made an indelible impression upon his mind. One of the amusing though dangerous incidents occurred in a camp one night, when a man was awakened by feeling something pulling at a toe. Hastily investigating the cause he raised the tent and found a black bear had been the intruder. Needless to say that the animal was dispatched in haste.

The other members of the parental family were Filora, Mary J., Sophronia, Amos F. and Thomas. Two children, Clarence and Herbert, were born to the union of Thomas Elphick and Anna Defreaze, while after her demise he married Elizabeth Doerson, by whom he had five children, Roy, Linn, Pearl, Blanche and Sarah Jane. Filora, Mrs. George Whitley, had three children, Harry, Frank and Ora. Mary became the wife of J. W. Morris and had a family of eight children, seven of whom attained mature years, namely: William, Ralph, Edwin, Eben, Edward, Ida and Isabel. Sophronia married Thomas V. Barney, their union being childless. In 1877 James Franklin Elphick moved from Susanville to a farm in Sonoma county, where he still resides. To this place in 1880 he brought his bride, who was born at Petaluma in 1860 and bore the maiden name of Hester C. Blackburn. Five children blessed their union, Oscar, Frank, Mayze, Sidney J. and Lottie.

The father of Mrs. Elphick, Charles Blackburn, like the father of Mr. Elphick, was born in England in 1821 and came to the new world in 1839. Immediately afterward he landed in California, where he lived during his remaining years, being for a long period an honored resident of Sonoma county. The mother of Mrs. Elphick bore the maiden name of Jemima Richardson and was born in Illinois in 1825, coming to California in girlhood. There were ten children in the Blackburn family, namely: John S.; Charles, who married

Laura Bennett ; Allen, who married Anna Winqvist and had two children, Walter and Alma; Frank M., who married Cora Williams ; Mary E., who died in infancy; Martha ; Mary J.; Hester C., Mrs. Elphick ; Emma H., who is unmarried; and Lillie M., who married Harry Parsons and has five children; Charles, Harry A., Russell, John B. and Gladys. Mary J. Blackburn was first married to George Faith, by whom she had a son, George, and later she was united with Samuel Rudd, their union being blessed with a daughter, Dora. Ever since attaining his Majority Mr. Elphick has voted with the Republican party in national elections and has been firm in his allegiance to the principles for which the party stands. The community has in him a patriotic citizen, accommodating neighbor and loyal friend, and his long and honorable identification with the count<sup>y</sup> has brought his name into permanent association with the local advancement.

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#### ALEXANDER BENJAMIN.

The life which this sketch depicts began in Lansingburg, Rensselaer county, N. Y., January 16, 1834, and came to a close on his ranch in Sonoma county, Cal., near Santa Rosa, February 16, 1909. Between these dates is encompassed a record of usefulness and industry begun in the middle west and completed more fully in the Golden state.

Contributions from two sturdy nations blended in the subject of this sketch, his father being the son of English parents, while his mother was of Holland-Dutch extraction. Both were natives of New York state, and the early years of their married life were passed in Rensselaer county, N. Y., in the outskirts of Troy, Lansingburg being a suburb of that city. While Illinois was still in its infancy historically, in 1837 the father took his family to that frontier state, settling near New Salem, in Pike county. There he took up a farm and engaged in its cultivation for many years, besides which he carried on wagon-making and blacksmithing on the farm. In the meantime the son grew to be a sturdy boy and became a pupil in the public school in New Salem. When he was sixteen years old he started across the plains with his father, in 1852, but the father did not reach his destination, his death occurring on the plains. After this bereavement the son resumed the journey alone, finally reaching Jacksonville, Ore., where he spent three years engaged in harness and saddle making. He also engaged in mining with fair success, after which, in 1856, he returned to his home in Illinois: Purchasing the old home farm of his mother, he continued its cultivation for about two years, when, in 1858, he moved to Rockport, Pike county, and for the following fifteen years was engaged in the meat packing business and in merchandising.

In 1872 Mr. Benjamin turned his face once more toward the setting sun, this time with California as the favored location. He came to Sonoma county that same year, but it was not until several years later, in 1877, that he selected and purchased the ranch with which so many years of his life were associated thereafter. This consisted of one hundred and three acres of land in Bennett valley, near Santa Rosa, for which he paid \$35 an acre. Wheat and corn constituted his principal crops, while the raising of sheep and cattle proved equally

remunerative. Since his death his widow has continued the policy which he had inaugurated, still raising grain extensively, as well as raising a band of sheep.

Before her marriage Mrs. Benjamin was Miss Maria Ducker. She is a native of Missouri, born at Independence Landing, Jackson county, July 15, 1837. Five children were born of this marriage, but of the number only three grew to years of maturity. The eldest of these, William Edward, was born January 25, 1858, in Pike county, Ill.; he is married, and with his wife and two children makes his home with his mother on the homestead ranch, having the care of its management. Eudora Ann was born October 8, 1860, and died at the age of three years. Charles Alexander was born in Illinois October 8, 1862, and died April 24, 1877. On her father's side Mrs. Benjamin is of English descent, although he was a native of the south, his birth occurring in Kentucky in 1795. He lived to reach a good old age, passing away at the age of ninety-one years in 1885. The mother was a native of Illinois, born in 'goo, and upon the birth of the following century she passed away, in i900. Mrs. Benjamin came with her parents to the west in 1853, coming overland and making settlement in Jacksonville, Ore., and there she was married to Mr. Benjamin, September 21, 1854. Her parents ultimately came to California and settled in Sonoma county, near Petaluma, making their home there until 1865, when they moved to Rincon valley, near Santa Rosa, and continued there throughout the remainder of their lives.

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#### WILLIAM D. AYERS.

A native son of California, William D. Ayers was born at Stony Point, Sonoma county, March 21, 1869, the youngest of the seven children born to his pioneer parents, William and Martha (Wade) Ayers, natives of Ireland and Virginia respectively. A sketch of the former appears elsewhere in this volume.

The primary education of William D. Ayers was begun in Stony Point and continued in Petaluma, whither the family removed when he was 'eleven years of age. He was about seventeen years old when he entered the employ of the Wells-Fargo Company as a messenger, and for nearly twenty-five years he has continued with the same company. Year by year he was advanced to positions of greater trust and responsibility, and at one time his duties on the road took him as far east as Ogden, Utah, and as far north as Oregon. For a number of years he has been the efficient incumbent of the position of general manager of the company at Petaluma, his long training in the various depaitinents of the company's business fitting him admirably to cope with any problem that might arise. Interests outside of his position with the express company have contributed to his income for some time, one of which is the handling of dairy' produce, eggs and poultry, and besides this he has bought and sold considerable real-estate. Considerable of his means has been invested in choice business property in Petaluma, besides which he owns a fine ranch of seven hundred acres in close proximity to town. From the foregoing enumeration it might be inferred that he is so absorbed in his personal affairs that he has no time for matters of public import. This would be unjust, for he is intensely interested in, the welfare of his home city and has served as school trustee for many years.

The marriage of William D. Ayers occurred October 31, 1892, and united him with Miss Ada May Carlisle, who, like himself, was born in California. They have three children, William D., Jr., Mervin W. and Harry W. Mr. Ayers was made a Mason in Petaluma Lodge No. 180, and is a member of Petaluma Chapter No. 32, R. A. M., Mount Olivet Commandery No. 30, K. T., Islam Temple, N. M. S., of San Francisco, and is also a member of the local lodge of Elks.

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#### W. P. BARNES.

As one of those who has seen this part of California changed from a wild, rugged, uncultivated region to a fair garden spot dotted over by beautiful homes and productive ranches, mention should be made of W. P. Barnes. At the time of his birth his parents were living in Mercer county, Missouri, but when he was a child of three years, in 1850, the parents loaded their household effects in a prairie schooner and started on the overland journey for California behind slow-plodding oxen. The father, Aaron Barnes, had been attracted hither by the extravagant stories of wealth in the mines, and consequently as soon as the long journey came to an end and he had settled his family in as comfortable quarters as the times and circumstances would permit, he turned his attention to mining in Oregon gulch, in Butte county. It is reasonable to suppose that he met with more than average success, as he continued mining for about six years in that locality. In 1857 he came to Sonoma county and settled in Green valley, where as a rancher he rounded out a long and successful career, his death occurring in 1900.

As he was only three years old when he came to California W. P. Barnes has never known any other home than this. He followed the fortunes of the family until attaining his majority, working with his father on the home ranch after his school days were over, but at the age of twenty-one he started out independently. On a ranch of one hundred and sixty acres near Fulton which he purchased about that time, 1868, and which is still in his possession, he made his first attempt at ranching independently. This is now a rich, productive piece of property, devoted to the raising of hay and grapes, and also to maintaining a large stock and dairy business. This initial purchase of land has been followed by many others in the course of his long residence in Sonoma county, and at different times he has owned large herds of cattle and raised many fine blooded horses. These have since been disposed of, however, as has also the hotel of which he was at one time the proprietor in Cloverdale. At another time he was the proprietor of a grocery and wine store in Fulton, but this has also been sold. Besides the ranch which he owns near Fulton he also owns a forty-acre vineyard in Russian river township, and with these exceptions his holdings are in town property, comprising four brick blocks in Sebastopol and twelve houses in Santa Rosa, all of which are rented and yield the owner a good annual income.

Mr. Barnes was first married in 1866 to Miss Elizabeth Ann Rader, a native of Iowa, and ten children were born to them, as follows : Carrie E., deceased ; Lydia, Mrs. William A. Russell; Mary, Mrs. Ed Crone ; Cora , Mrs. A. Landers : William A., of Santa Rosa : Perry, a farmer near this city ; Charles,

also a resident of Santa Rosa ; Benjamin, deceased ; Jesse, deceased; and Gussy, a rancher near Santa Rosa. Mr. Barnes' second marriage occurred in 1902 and united him with Mrs. Irene Butts, by whom he has one son, Frederick.

For years Mr. Barnes was connected with the Fulton Wine Company, a corporation which is now controlled by the Asti Colony Company. On two occasions he was a candidate for supervisor from Santa Rosa district, but both times was defeated by the landslide against the Democratic party. For the past twenty years he has been a delegate to state and county conventions. He holds honorary membership in the Santa Rosa Lodge of F. O. E., of which he is also the oldest member in point of years. He vividly recalls the appearance of Sonoma county at the time the family located here in 1857; it was an unbroken wilderness and many a time did he pass over with herds of cattle what is now the site of the thriving city of Santa Rosa. In those days **he drove ox-**teams in hauling lumber, and at one time he drove twenty-one yoke of steers in moving a large house. Few residents of this city have traveled over all parts of this state to the extent that Mr. Barnes has in the interest of the enterprises in which he has been engaged from time to time, and few if any are more ready to sound the praises of this city and county than is he.

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#### LEWIS M. BISH.

The earliest experiences of Mr. Bish are of a care-free life on his father's farm in Scotland county, Mo., where he was born in 1855. He well remembers the journey to Iowa when he was a child of six years, the family then settling in Bloomfield, Davis county, whence three years later they again started westward, this time with California as their objective point. The journey was made overland with horses, in three months and twenty-one days, the party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Bish and Mr. Bish's five sons and two daughters. The mother of these children had died during the infancy of her son Lewis ; she was a native of Ohio. The father was a native of Virginia and died in California at the age of eighty-three years.

Although Lewis Bish was about nine years old when he came to California he had had little opportunity for an education, and indeed after coming here the migrations of the family for a time militated against any satisfactory accomplishments in this line. In 1871, when the family removed to Oregon and remained seven years. he had an opportunity for continued study and it is needless to say that he employed his time to good advantage, the schools of Ashland, Ore., being considered as high class as any in the state. When Mr. Bish returned to California in 1879 he came to Santa Rosa and for a time:vas in the employ of Pleasant Wells, but soon afterward leased the ranch which is now his home, on Rural Route No: 6. Here he has seventy-five acres, all of which is income-producing, a part of the ranch being in hay, corn and fruit, while on the remainder he raises poultry on a large scale for the market. The prosecution of his own private interests does not consume all of his time, however, for as a live, active and interested citizen of his community he has given considerable time and effort toward the development of public improvements. None of these

have been of more widespread benefit perhaps than the telephone line which he was instrumental in having established through Rincon valley. He has also served efficiently on the school board of his district, and has been an indefatigable worker in the cause of education, as he has in fact in every cause that is of an uplifting and beneficial character.

In 1891 Mr. Bish was united in marriage with Miss Bertha Norris, a native daughter of California, born in Sonoma county in 1874, on a ranch adjoining the one on which she now lives. The eldest of the four children of this marriage was Alta Lynn, born in 1892, and educated in the public school of Santa Rosa. Rena Marie, born in 1894, is now (1910) a second-year student in the high school of this place. Lewis M., born in 1898, and Charles M., born February 14, 1901, are both students in the public schools. Politically Mr. Bish is a Republican. A very genial, considerate and tactful man, he represents first of all the successful rancher, and in no less degree the citizen of whom any community might be proud.

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#### EMIL E. DREES.

A native of the town towards whose upbuilding he has contributed so much, Emil E. Drees was born in Petaluma April 4, 1864, the son of August H. Drees, who came to California from Germany in 1852 and settled at what has since become the thriving town of Petaluma. For a time after locating here the father was engaged in a number of occupations, accepting any labor that offered fair remuneration, and subsequently he became interested in the hotel business, as half owner of the Franklin hotel on Main street. Later he sold this interest and bought a ranch west of town which he maintained for a time, but finally sold it and returning to Petaluma engaged in the produce business until his death in 1882. Besides handling all kinds of country produce, such as poultry and eggs, he also dealt in hides and pelts and game, and up to the time of his death carried on a lucrative business in dealing in these varied commodities.

Emil E. Drees attended the schools of Petaluma with considerable regularity until he was fourteen years of age, when he became his father's assistant in the store, the two working harmoniously together until the death of the father terminated the association. An experience of four years in the store had made him familiar with the business, which the death of his parent left to his management, and although he was only eighteen years old at the time, the ability which he then displayed proved beyond question that youth is no bar to success when ability and determination are a part of the make-up. He is still proprietor of the business inaugurated by his father so many years ago, a business that has kept pace with the growth of the town.

Although Mr. Drees has a splendid reputation as a merchant and business man in his home town, he is even better known as the agitator and leader in the movement which has resulted in the good roads and sidewalks which the citizens of Petaluma refer to with such pride, and well they may, for it is conceded that no city in the state can surpass them in these respects. It was during his service of two terms as city trustee, beginning in the year 1892, that his initial efforts were exerted along this line, in the face of much opposition, and during his third term, following the incumbency of a political opponent, he brought

to fruition the agitation and work of former years. In 1893, on the Democratic ticket, his fellow-citizens honored him further by making him their representative in the state legislature, representing the people of the sixteenth district. At the present time he is a member of the Freeholders board, who have under way the drafting of a new city charter for Petaluma, the old charter no longer filling the needs of a town of its present size.

In 1894 Mr. Drees was united in marriage with Miss Emma Gossage, a native of Petaluma and the daughter of Jerome B. Gossage, an early pioneer of the state, an account of whose life will be found elsewhere in this volume. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Drees, Alvin and Darrele. Fraternally Mr. Drees is associated with a number of orders, among them the Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks and the Yeomen.

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#### HENRY ELPHICK, JR.

One of the young fruit-growers and progressive ranchers in Sonoma county is Henry Elphick, Jr., whose ranch of twenty acres near Sebastopol shows the work of a master hand, for everything about the place denotes that the owner is careful of details, the trees of his orchard showing the best of care, as do also the residence and ranch buildings.

Mr. Elphick takes pride in the fact that he is a native son of the Golden State, and also that he is a son of one of the state's worthy pioneers, Henry Elphick. The latter was a resident of Marin county, Cal., at the time of the birth of his son in 1874, and soon after that event he came to Sonoma county and near Sebastopol, at Pleasant Hill, purchased and settled upon what proved under his care to be one of the most profitable ranches in Sonoma county. Henry Elphick, Jr., was a small child when his parents removed to Sonoma county, and here his life has since been passed in the main, in his boyhood days attending the schools of Sebastopol and later working on the homestead ranch with his father. His first independent business venture was in Santa Cruz, where he was interested in the fruit business for about six years, after which he was interested in buying and subdividing land and putting it on the market. This latter business was conducted near Sebastopol, and consisted of buying large tracts of land, which he subdivided, and after improving the property, sold at a good profit. A number of pieces of property were thus handled, but he finally gave up this business and devoted all of his time to ranching on the property on which he now lives, which he purchased in 1906. Here he has twenty-four acres of fruit land, mostly in apples, ten acres in bearing, and ten acres in young trees which he set out himself since taking up his residence here. From the trees in bearing he shipped during the season of 1909 fifteen hundred boxes which brought \$2,300, besides ten tons of dried fruit. The ranch is equipped with an excellent drier, and thus he is enabled to dry fruit for other parties not provided with driers, thirty thousand tons being an average year's output from this source alone. Besides his apple orchard, which includes Gravensteins, Belleflowers, Spitzenbergs and Kings, he also has a number of cherry trees that are good producers. As it now stands Mr. Elphick's ranch is without doubt one of the most valuable ranches in Sonoma county, the improvements alone amounting to over \$4,000, and when the ten acres of young trees come into bearing it will be

an exceedingly valuable ranch property, one of which the young owner may well be proud\_

In 1900 Mr. Elphick was united in marriage with Miss Birdie Briggs, a native of Santa Cruz. Politically Mr. Elphick is a Republican, and fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, holding membership in Santa Cruz Lodge. In addition to his valuable ranch property near Sebastopol,. Mr. Elphick also owns property in Santa Cruz, Oakland and rich timber land in Sonoma county.

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#### THOMAS BELL MILLER.

In Rhea county, Tenn., Thomas Bell Miller was born December 31, 1826, a son of James P. and Charlotte (Bell) Miller, the former a native of Virginia, who went to Tennessee in his youth, and the latter a native of the state of Tennessee. From 1830 to 1835 the Miller family resided in Alabama and then moved to Arkansas. In 1840 James P. Miller located in Newton county, Mo., and after two years he returned to Benton county, Ark. In 1846 he enlisted in the Twelfth Regiment of United States Infantry, and served throughout. the Mexican war with distinction, as lieutenant of his company. At the close of the war he returned to his family and in 1849, with his two sons, Thomas Bell and Gideon T., set out on the overland journey to California and located at what was afterwards known as Millerstown, near Auburn, Placer county. There he opened a general merchandise store and later went to Marysville, where he located on the Yuba river and continued his mercantile pursuits until 1850, when he returned to his family with the intention of 'bringing them to the coast, but his death occurred a short time afterward.

On the arrival of Thomas Bell Miller at Sacramento he proceeded to the mines in Placer county, near Auburn. There he was engaged until the spring of 1850, when he went to Nevada City, Nevada county, Cal. In that city he made quite a strike and became the owner of a very good mine. Leaving there, he went to the middle fork 'of the Yuba river, and was engaged with thirteen others in digging a large ditch into which they turned the middle fork of the river, thinking to find much gold in the bed thus made dry. The enterprise was a failure as far as finding gold was concerned and Mr. Miller went to Cache creek, Yolo county, abandoned mining operations and, for the winter, farmed at this place. Not satisfied with his location in Yolo county, in the fall of 1851 he came to Sonoma county and engaged in farming near what is now known as Sebastopol. In 1853 he went to Blucher valley, about three miles south of Sebastopol, and there entered into farming operations. From there he went to Marin county, near Tomales, and remained until 1855. Near Healdsburg, on the **Rus-**sian river, he first purchased a settler's claim to one hundred and sixty acres of land, taking up his residence upon it, and later was compelled to purchase the claims of the grant holders. There and on the coast he engaged in farming and in stock-raising until 1874. In that year he sold out and came to Santa Rosa and later purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land on Santa Rosa creek in the Hall school district, about five miles west of Santa Rosa\_ From that date until his death Mr. Miller devoted his time and attention to the cultivation

and improvement of his farm. Fifty-five acres were devoted to hop cultivation and there were two large hop-curing houses on the place, measuring 80x24, with twenty foot studding, the capacity of these dryers being four tons daily, which was considered very good at that time. A portion of the land was devoted to prunes, peaches, cherries, apples and pears. After his death the land was subdivided and sold off in small tracts.

On April 17, 1853, Mr. Miller was united in marriage with Mary Ann King, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Hohn) King, natives of Virginia, who resided in Missouri before coming to California in 1850. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Miller there were born the following children: James P., a resident of Russian River ; Charlotte E., the wife of E. H. Parnell, and residing near Graton ; Thomas Boone, an extensive hop-grower in Russian River township ; Louisa H., the wife of Samuel Walter Purrington ; Mary Alice, the wife of Alexander Ragle, of Eldorado county ; Irene B., the wife of S. E. Ballard, of San Jose; Josephine, now Mrs. Spencer Grogan, of Santa Rosa ; Laura E., widow of Thomas Barlow, of Sebastopol ; Henrietta, the wife of F. Byron Chenoweth, of San Francisco; and Robert L., deceased. Politically Mr. Miller followed Democratic principles and religiously was a member of the Christian Church. His life was one that was an open book and of him it is said that he sincerely strove to do all the good in the world that he was able to. He died January 26, 1892, and his wife died January 9, 1904. Mrs. Miller was a very active member of the Christian Church of Santa Rosa. She came across the plains with her father and brothers in 1850. They finally located in Marin county, where her marriage occurred.

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#### HENRY E. LAWRENCE.

Although now in his eighty-fourth year Henry E. Lawrence is still as interested in the activities of the world at large as he was half a century ago, and he takes personal and intimate interest in affairs in Petaluma, with which he has been identified as a resident since 1875. Of English descent on the paternal side and German-French ancestry on the maternal side, Mr. Lawrence comes of a family long resident in Tennessee, and there too, in Robertson county, he was born January 17, 1828. His grandfather on the paternal side passed the greater part of his life in Tennessee, but when well advanced in years accompanied his son James to Missouri and passed away in that state when over ninety-years of age. James Lawrence settled near Independence, Mo., about the year 1833, and upon the farm upon which he later settled, in Cass county he passed away in 1864, when he was sixty-five years of age. Politically he was a Democrat, but was not an active worker in the party, giving his energies to the duties of the home and farm, his chief source of income being from large numbers of fine stock which he raised. He was justice of the peace for many years. His marriage united him with Miss Elizabeth Damewood, who was also a native of Tennessee, and at her death, which occurred in Missouri in 1844, she left nine children. She was the daughter of Henry Damewood, of French descent.

Next to the oldest in this large family, Henry E. Lawrence was born in 1828 and was therefore five years old when removal was made to Missouri.

His educational and agricultural training was acquired in the years which followed, and it was there too that the news of the finding of gold in California reached him. He was then a young man of twenty-one years, full of activity and eager for an opportunity to put his powers to a test. He found three congenial friends who were as anxious to test the validity of these reports as himself, and as soon as arrangements could be made they began the purchase of ox-teams and wagons and such other equipment in furnishings and supplies of food as the long journey made necessary. Altogether there were thirty-three wagons in the train, known as- the Pleasant Hill train, Jim Hamilton being the captain. The entire party reached their destination, Sacramento, after the usual six months "of travel, and there they dispersed, many with tears in their eyes, each taking his preferred course. For a time Mr. Lawrence engaged in mining near Mount Shasta, in Shasta county, going- from there to Trinity county, and in the fall of 1850 came to Sonoma county, where for one year he worked on the ranch of J. M. Hudsmith. It was during this experience that he noted the scarcity of fine cattle in the west, and coincident with this discovery was the opportunity to form a partnership with Mark York in the importation of cattle to the west. Mr. York remained in California, while Mr. Lawrence returned to Missouri by way of Nicaragua. After securing the desired cattle he returned west, bringing them overland in 1852, and settled on a ranch near Stony Point, Sonoma county. In 1856 he again went east, making this trip also by way of Nicaragua, and in 1857 he made the return voyage across the plains with cattle. The partnership had been dissolved in 1856, and with the cattle which he brought with him Mr. Lawrence stocked a ranch in Marin county. There he was very successful in raising stock for many years, or until 1875, when he leased his ranch of fifteen hundred acres and stock for dairying purposes and removed with his family, to Petaluma. In the years that have intervened between that time and the present he has not been idle, but on the other hand has turned his energies to account in a number of directions. Besides buying and selling considerable land on his own account, he has interested himself in every public enterprise inaugurated in the community in which he settled, among them the waterworks, in which he owned stock and was a builder, and directed its affairs until 1900. He was one of the organizers and stockholders and a director of the Exchange Bank and at one time vice-president of the Tomales Bank, in Alarin county. He is also deeply interested in educational affairs, and has served efficiently on the school board of Petaluma. His real-estate holdings include considerable town and country property, among which latter was a ranch of three hundred and twent<sup>y</sup>

The first marriage of Henry E. Lawrence occurred in 1860, near Springfield, Mo., and united him with Keziah Hicklin, their marriage resulting in the birth of three children, as follows : Linnie B., the wife of T. B. Dalton, a rancher of Sunny Slope; Josiah M.T., a farmer near Petaluma ; and Myrtle L., the wife of Lewis Winans, a grocer in Petaluma. Mrs. Keziah Lawrence passed away in 1898 and subsequently Mr. Lawrence married his present wife, who was then Mrs. Millie (Donley) Falkner. Politically Mr. Lawrence is a Democrat, but is not active in party ranks beyond casting his vote and endeavoring - to put good, honorable men in office. Although advanced in years Mr. Lawrence is

still active, and his interest in the welfare of his fellow-citizens is as keen as it was in the days when he first came to make his home in this community, where he has won and retained the love and esteem of all. His associations with men of affairs in the different corporations he has been interested in have been most agreeable and pleasant, and with none of them has he ever had any difficulty nor misunderstanding. It is to men of his calibre and energy that Sonoma county owes its place today as one of the first counties of the state in its agricultural and horticultural returns.

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#### JACOB CONKLE.

One of the comfortable, home-like and prosperous ranches in the vicinity of Healdsburg is that owned and occupied by Jacob Conkle, a man of kindly, genial disposition, as was also his aged father, who until his death, in April, 1911, made his home with his son on the ranch. A native of Ohio, Jacob Conkle was born in 1848, the son of William and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Conkle, born respectively in that state in 1822 and 1824. Besides Jacob, the parental family included three daughters, all of whom are married and settled in homes of their own. The eldest daughter, Christina, became the wife of Marion Lawthan, and is the mother of three sons, Charles, Edwin and Hiram. The second daughter, Josephine, became the wife of Ira Gaston, and they have two daughters, Elizabeth and Adaline. The youngest daughter of the parental family, Adaline, became the wife of John Snyder, but no children were born of this union.

Jacob Conkle has never married, and since the death of his father has lived alone on his ranch. Altogether he owns six hundred and seventy-five acres of land, much of which is in timber, and from which in 1909 he cut and sold fifty cords of wood. Five acres have been cleared and set out to fruit trees, which are now in bearing and yielding excellent crops, and fifteen acres are in hay, this crop also yielding abundantly and adding considerably to the annual income from the property. Politically Mr. Conkle is a Republican.

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#### JOHN CHRISTENSEN.

While the pioneers of early days did a noble part in paving the way for those who were to follow and continue the work which they started, the latter have been faithful to the trust, so to speak, and but for their combined efforts present-day conditions could not be portrayed in the glowing colors we see today. Without doubt one of the youngest ranchers in Sonoma county is Mr. Christensen, and it may be said with equal emphasis that it would be hard to find a more complete, up-to-date apple orchard than is his within a radius of natty- miles of Sebastopol, which is his postoffice and market town.

A native of Nevada, Mr. Christensen was born in Douglas county in 1881, the son of Lawrence M. and Annie (Christensen) Christensen, the father a native of Denmark, but since 1866 a resident of the United States. In the same year that he came to this country he went to Nevada and settled on a farm near Reno, Washoe county, which continued to be the scene of his labors until locating

in Douglas county, where he was living at the time of the birth of his **son in 1881**. When the latter was still a small child he was able to perform many duties on the home ranch, and year by year he undertook added duties, until at the age of twenty he was a full-fledged rancher. It was with the knowledge and experience gained under the careful training of his father that he came to California in 1901 and on the Gold Ridge section, near Sebastopol, Sonoma county, purchased the twenty-acre ranch upon which he now resides. Here may be seen row upon row of as fine apple trees as one might wish to look upon, the most of them of the Gravenstein variety, although there is also a good representation of Kings, Spitzenbergs, Wagners, Roman Beauties, Baldwin and Bellflowers. Seven hundred trees of the orchard are old stock and in full bearing, while the remainder of the orchard, or six hundred trees, are young and just coming into bearing. Under present conditions he averages a crop of two thousand boxes of high grade apples, and from six to seven tons of dried fruit, representing the crops from eight acres, which is a remarkable showing and denotes beyond a question that Mr. Christensen has made a careful study of the special branch of agriculture which he has undertaken. A well-kept, up-to-date drying house forms a necessary equipment to the ranch, enabling him to prepare his own fruit for shipment direct to market. Mr. Christensen's accomplishment is another evidence that congenial work means success, a fact which is demonstrated anew from day to day.

Mr. Christensen's marriage occurred in 1907 and united him with Miss Lena Heitman, a native of Nevada, and two children, Lawrence M. and Annie L., were born to them. The latter died November 14, 1910.

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#### THOR WALD TRONDSEN.

In Christiania, Norway, Thorwald Trondsen was born November 27, 1859, the son of Tron Trondsen, who was an employe in the custom house in that city, and held this position until, he retired from active business life on account of old age. He died at the age of ninety years, and his wife, Bergitta Mickelsen, died when in her sixty-eighth year. To these parents were born eight sons, three of whom are living at the present time, and of these, Thorwald is the youngest. As a boy he was sent to the public schools of his native place and there he received the rudiments of the education- that has since stood him in good stead. Early in life he developed a love for the sea, and at the age of fifteen years we find him starting out as a sailor, commencing at the bottom of the ladder and working his way up gradually. His first adventure took him up and down the Baltic And White Seas in a trading vessel. Subsequently he went on the ship Marion to Brazil, then to St. Thomas and thence to New Orleans, at which place he left the ship to remain in the United States. This was in the year 1880. From year to year he grew more fond of the country which he had selected for his future home, admiring her freedom and the principles of democracy for which she stands. In 1894 he located with his family in Petaluma, which place he also made his headquarters, and where he owns a fine residence at No. 140 Howard street, as well as being the owner of other property in the same city. Before

locating in California and settling in Petaluma, however, he made several trips that are worthy of mention in this record, in that they permit us to know something of the spirit of the man and something of the work that he did before he arrived at that stage of achievement that is his today.

Shortly after arriving in America in 1880, Mr. Trondsen went to New York City, and for four years worked on steamers plying between Sandy Hook and New York. He then took a trip to the land of his nativity, Norway, and visited his home city of Christiania. Several months were spent in this trip, after which he returned to the United States, going almost immediately to San Francisco, Cal. After arriving in San Francisco he was employed until 1886 on the Goodall Perkins' steamer running out of San Francisco. In the year mentioned he bought a scow schooner engaged in freighting on the bay between Sacramento and San Francisco. After selling his first boat, the Energy, he bought the Plow Boy, one hundred and ten tons, and later bought the Fourth of July, of two hundred tons, and ran the two boats until after the fire. He then sold the Plow Boy to advantage and purchased the tug Sentinel. He is at present engaged in the freighting business between Petaluma and San Francisco. Mr. Trondsen is so well known in this particular line of work, because of his honesty and general good character, that he has all that he can do between these two points without going elsewhere for freight.

Mr. Trondsen was married in Oakland, Cal., to Miss Olava Johnson, a native of Christiania, Norway, who came to San Francisco, Cal., in 1887. To this union three children were born : Ruth, a graduate of the Petaluma high school and Heald's Business College, Oakland, and now private secretary to Col. Loveland, in San Francisco ; Norman, who is taking an electrical engineering course ; and Emily, at present attending Petaluma high school, being a member of the class of 1912. Mr. Trondsen is a member of the Master Mariners' Association of San Francisco, and also a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Possibly no man of foreign birth in Petaluma, or in Sonoma county, has achieved such a measure of success as has Mr. Trondsen, and for many years to come his name will be actively associated with the business activities of this city and San Francisco.

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#### GUSTAV SCHULTZ.

A native of Berlin, Germany, Gustav Schultz was born April 19, 1858, the son of Andrew and Mary (Fritchie) Schultz. At the age of twenty the father enlisted in the Germany army and became a police captain, serving continuously and conspicuously until 1860, when he was retired. His death occurred in 1870 and his wife died in 1884.

Gustav Schultz attended the local schools until he reached the age of fourteen years, when, according to the requirements of the country, he was set to a trade, being apprenticed to the car-builders' vocation in the railroad shops of his native, country. He continued at this trade until 1874, when he left the land of his nativity and came to the United States, working at his trade in Chicago and other places until 1878, when he went to Colorado. As early as 1880 he came to California but did not remain long in the state, going to the southern states

of the Union and following car-building with success. In 1907 he returned to San Francisco, where he held the position of foreman of the car department for the Western Pacific Railroad Company and later held a similar position with the Ocean Shore Road. In the spring of 1911 he located in Sonoma county, and purchased thirteen and one-half acres on the Baxter tract, three and one-half miles east of Sonoma. On this acreage he is engaged in general farming; one of his most recent enterprises is the digging of a ditch from the creek, which provides ample water for his ranch and has greatly benefited its general condition.

Mr. Schultz was united in marriage with Mary Nay, the ceremony taking place in San Francisco. He is a tireless worker and by his energy is bringing his place up to a high state of cultivation.

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#### JOHN SKIFFINGTON.

The citizenship of America is essentially cosmopolitan, practically all of the countries of the world contributing at some time or other to its solidarity. The Republican form of government, with its broad constitution, its splendid institutions and its humanitarian aspects is the form of government best calculated to draw from citizenship the highest success and the noblest achievements. It has been said that Ireland is the most useful country in the world today in that she is ever ready to send forth her sons and daughters to other lands, where their national characteristics are of great worth in the building up of cities and communities as well as in the establishing of nations. Whether this broad statement be true or not, we are not able to state, but certain it is that Ireland has materially contributed to the prosperity of the American people in the manner just indicated. A splendid example of this is found in John Skiffington, a most estimable and successful man, whose public spirit and enterprising energy have won for him a place in the regard of the people of Petaluma.

John Skiffington was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, April 22, 1833, a son of Frank and Mary (Toner) Skiffington, who brought their family to St. John, N. B., in 1840 and seven years later located in Hopkinton, Middlesex county, Mass. There they resided for a while, ultimately removing to California and spending their last days in this "sun kissed" land, whither their son had preceded them. Mr. Skiffington received the education offered by the common schools of the day and on leaving school was employed in a shoe factory in Massachusetts until nineteen years of age. Many and varied had been the tales told by those returning from California concerning the discovery of gold and the many uses and opportunities of this western state. These stories burned into the heart of the ambitious young man and lured by the music of the adventure, he determined to journey westward himself. In 1852 he came to California, making the trip via the Nicaragua route and going directly to the mining districts. After spending a year in the mines in Yuba county, he returned to San Francisco and until 1858 was engaged in the draying business, after which he came to Sonoma county and purchased a farm in Petaluma township about three miles from the town. Here the young man engaged in general farming and dairying until

1885, when he leased his ranch and located **in** Petaluma, building a fine residence on Sixth street.

The first marriage of Mr. Skiffington took place in San Francisco in 1861, when he was united with Miss Johanna Kennedy, a native of Ireland, who came to California in 1858, via the Panama route. After many years of happy married life Mrs. Skiffington died in February, 1907. They had one adopted daughter, Ella B., now Mrs. Prendegast. The second marriage of Mr. Skiffington united him with Mrs. Mary (McCarthy) Kelsey, the ceremony taking place in Petaluma. Mrs. Skiffington was the daughter of Patrick and Honora (Cain) McCarthy ; after the death of the latter, the former brought his family to St. Louis, Mo., in which city he died. In 1853 Mrs. Skiffington came to San Francisco, Cal., via the Nicaragua route and was educated at the school of the Sisters of Charity there, the institution being located on the present site of the Palace Hotel. Five Sisters were teaching in this school, Sister Frances being the Superior and continuing in this vocation until her demise. Mrs. Skiffington was first married in Nevada City, Nev., to Richard Kelsey, a native of England, who first located in Alton, Ill., and in 1853 came to California.

He was engaged in mining with his brother Edward and they were considered successful miners and business men of Nevada City, Nev., in which metropolis he erected a number of large buildings that were destroyed in the great fire of 1864. Mr. Kelsey located in Petaluma in 1873 and began farming in Vallejo township. He had a ranch of three hundred acres of good land, three miles southeast of Petaluma, at the time of his demise in 1889. Mrs. Skiffington has added sixty acres to the ranch since the death of her former husband and now owns three hundred and sixty acres. Of her union with Mr. Kelsey, five children are living: Richard, engaged in farming on the home place ; Mary, now Mrs. Davis, residing in Penn Grove ; Thomas H., a traveling salesman, residing at Auburn, Cal.; Edwin Joseph, in partnership with his brother Richard on the home place ; and Alice, who resides at home. Mr. Skiffington is enjoying the twilight of a useful life, spent in the service of others, and he enjoys the goodwill and respect of all who know him.

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#### WILLIAM HENRY SCHIEFFER.

As the name might suggest, the Schieffer family is of German origin, and was established in this country by the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. He came to this country in 1850. when his son, Christian Henry, was eight years of age. His parents removing to Wisconsin, C. H. Schieffer grew to manhood on the home farm. When he was about twenty-one years old, or in 1863, he left home for New York City, and from there embarked on a sailing vessel for San Francisco. The voyage was made by way of Cape Horn, and after an exciting trip (mutiny on board being caused by the war) the boat finally landed at its destination in 1863. In San Francisco Mr. Schieffer formed the acquaintance of the lady who later became his wife, Miss M. A. Faulhaber, a native of New York. Besides William H. their family included six sons, three of whom are residents of Santa Rosa, and seven daughters, who are residents of San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland. Cal.; and Tacoma, Wash.

At the time of the birth of William H. Schieffer, September 8, 1871, the family were living in San Francisco, and there and in the schools of Oakland he was given an excellent education. His school training **in** those institutions was destined to be short, however, for at the age of thirteen years he removed with his parents to Windsor, Sonoma county, and some time later to Healdsburg, and finally to Santa Rosa, with which locality the greater part of his life has been associated. It is not unlikely that Mr. Schieffer inherited a love of artistic gardening from his German ancestors, for ever since he was a child, work of this character has engaged his attention. Before coming to Santa Rosa he had been employed at farming and gardening, and his experience and knowledge along this line was the means of his securing a position as gardener with Luther Burbank, the world-famed wonder-worker in plant life. He remained in the employ of Mr. Burbank at various seasons of the year for ten years, and then was similarly employed with R. W. Bell, also of Santa Rosa. Finally he bought out the nursery business of his employer, in 1896, and has continued the business ever since under the name of the Santa Rosa nursery. In 1909 he assumed other responsibilities by accepting the position of superintendent of the orchard addition to Santa Rosa, a tract of three hundred and twenty acres, all of which is in walnuts of the Franquette variety. After filling the position for two years he resigned in order to give his entire attention to the care of his nursery business. This is probably the oldest enterprise of the kind in Sonoma county, it having been founded and in operation since 1876, at what has since become known as No. 808 Tupper street, but was then not in the city limits.

Mr. Schieffer's marriage, in 1906, united him with Della Amy Evans, a native of Nebraska, and the daughter of E. R. and Sarah A. (Given) Evans, natives of Iowa and Ohio respectively, and both of whom are still living. Two children, Harold and Gladys, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schieffer. Politically Mr. Schieffer is a Democrat, but is not active in the ranks of his party, neither has he ever held, or had any desire to hold, public office ; however, he never neglects his duty as a voter, casting his ballot for the best man, irrespective of the party nominating him. Mr. Schieffer's name appears on the membership roll of a number of fraternal orders, among them Lodge No. 53, I. O. O. F., the Encampment, the Maccabees, and the Yeomen, in all of which he is an active member.

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#### LORENZ RAMBASH PETERS.

In Mr. Peters one distinctly sees all of those characteristics that have made the German citizen welcomed in every community in which he has elected to make his home. These have come to him through a long line of German antecedents, as well as training during the formative years of his life in the typical German home of his parents. They were Hans and Amelia (Schel,vhoff) Peters, natives and life-time residents of the Fatherland. In their home in Fohr Lorenz R. Peters was born in 1873, and in the excellent schools for which the Fatherland is noted, he received a good fundamental education. Reading and observation have since added immeasurably to his fund of information, especially has this been true since coming to the United States. This he did when a youth of seven-

teen years, coming here -alone and with no knowledge of the language of the country to which he had come. This inconvenienced him but a short time, however, for he was apt and eager to learn and soon had a good working knowledge of the language, and every day added to his knowledge and understanding of the customs of the country also.

Ever since coming to the United States in 1890 Mr. Peters has been a resident of Sonoma county, where he worked on ranches in the vicinity of Petaluma for about ten years before undertaking the responsibilities of a ranch of his own. By carefully saving from his income whatever was not necessary for his support he accumulated a sum which made this step possible, and it was with commendable pride that he purchased the ranch upon which he now resides, nine miles from Petaluma and about one-half mile from Two Rock. Petaluma, however, is his postoffice, from which mail is delivered daily by carrier on Rural Route No. 4. Here he has seventy-five acres of rich land, of which twenty acres are in vineyard, while the remainder of the land is in hay and pasture, at least, such of it that is not used as pasturage for his six head of stock and that occupied by his chicken industr<sup>y</sup>. Without question the latter is the most fruitful source of income on the entire ranch, four thousand laying hens constituting his flock at the present time, and it is his intention to devote more time and space to this industry as conditions make this possible, for he is convinced that this locality has no equal as a chicken-raising and egg-producing center.

Mr. Peters' marriage in 1900 was solemnized in Fohr, Germany, uniting him with Miss Amelia Hansen, who like himself was born in Germany in 1873. Three children have been born of their marriage, William, Chriska and Rosie. Politically Mr. Peters is a Republican, and with his wife is a communicant and member of the Pr::byterian Church.

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#### WILLIAM HENRY LOCK.

England contributed to the citizenship of California when William H. Lock came to this western country in young manhood to take up his permanent abode and identify himself with her best interests. Up to the present generation the Lock family had been residents of England continuously for many hundreds of years, passing their entire lives there, and William Henry Lock was the first to establish the name in the United States. Somersetshire, England, was the place of his birth, and October 19, 1810, the date of that event. His parents, George and Mary Ann Lock, were natives of that same section of England, and there their entire lives were passed, the father passing away in 1905, at the age of seventy-seven years, and the death of the mother occurring, in February, 1910, when in her eighty-third year.

The public schools of Somersetshire, England, directed the early educational training of Mr. Lock, and later he turned his attention to more practical affairs by working as a farm hand in the vicinity of his home. Interest in affairs of his native country did not prove deep or lasting enough at the time he was twenty years old to deter him from coming to the United States to cast his fortunes in with the new and growing states to the west, and the year 1880 found him land-

ing on our shores at the port of New York. From there he went to Lacygne, Linn county, Kan., where he was interested in farming for a number of years, or until 1884, this year marking his advent in California. He came direct to Sonoma county, where for a time he worked on ranches in the employ of others, but finally, in 1888, was enabled to purchase property in Santa Rosa, and since 1902 has been the owner and occupant of his present ranch, within the limits of town, at No. 426 Hendley street. Here he has twenty acres of choice land, the residence being surrounded by a five acre orchard of prune trees, a vineyard of five acres, while in the rear of these, ten acres are in grain. Taken as a whole this is one of the finest and most productive ranches in the vicinity, one of which the owner is justly proud.

For a wife Mr. Lock chose one of his countrywomen in Miss Julia Norris, who was born in Somersetshire October 9, 1861, their marriage occurring in Santa Rosa in August, 1889. Both of Mrs. Lock's parents were natives of England, and there too they passed away, the father at the age of fifty, and the mother when sixty-five years of age. Three children were born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Lock, but the eldest, Alfred George, who was born in 1891, died the following year. The others are Arthur George, born April 8, 1893, and Ethel Mary, born October 3, 1895, both of whom are students in the schools of Santa Rosa. Politically Mr. Lock votes the Republican ticket at national elections, but in local matters he casts his ballot for the candidate best suited for the office, independent of the party. With his wife he is a member of the Episcopal Church of Santa Rosa, in the social and benevolent circles of which organization they are both active workers, as they are also in every project which has for its end the advancement of their fellowmen or the upbuilding of the community in which they live. Besides William H. Lock the parental family originally included four sons and two daughters, but of the number only two sons are living (one in Beileview, Cal., and the other still a resident of England) and one daughter, a resident of Australia. Other members of the family were also at one time residents of that island, Mr. Lock's uncles, William and Frederick Marsh, being the first to import English hares into that country and thus became the founders of what at one time was a thriving industry there.

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#### JOHN LAURITZEN.

The captain of the Napa City, John Lauritzen was born in Petaluma in 1885, the son of Jeppe C. and May (Claassen) Lauritzen, whose sketch appears on another page of this work. He was the oldest of four sons born to his parents and received his primary education in the public schools in Sonoma county, in which section of the state he was brought up. On completing the course in the primary schools he attended the Petaluma high school and later graduated from that institution, having successfully completed the curriculum. In 1904 he entered the employ of the Petaluma and Santa Rosa Railroad Company, spending his first year in the company's warehouse, after which he became purser on the steamer Sonoma and later filled the same position on the Gold. Being an ambitious young man he was not content with a menial position and by his sterling

worth and steadiness of character rapidly advanced in the favor of his employers. From the Gold he went as mate on the steamer Leader and was later appointed as pilot on the steamer Gold. So well did he discharge his duties that on July 15, 1908, he was made captain of the Napa City, plying between Petaluma and San Francisco.

Captain Lauritzen is a general favorite with the traveling public, his genial disposition and ready wit winning him a place in the hearts of the patrons of the company he serves. He is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks in which organization he is well known. He is also a member of the American Association of Masters, Mates and Pilots. Politically he believes in Republican principles. Although young in years, he occupies an important position, to which he has climbed not because of outside influence, but rather because of his own ability, as demonstrated in the steady application to his work.

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#### JEFFERSON ROLLA HARDIN.

The records fail to make clear who it was who first established the family fortunes upon the Pacific coast, but it is known beyond a doubt that at least three generations have flourished in California, particularly in Sonoma county. The grandparents of the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, William J. and Rebecca Hardin, came to Sonoma county about 1849. In 1859 their son Marcus (the father of our subject) was born on the homestead in this county near Petaluma. The district schools of the time and the faithful training of his parents all contributed to the well-being of Marcus Hardin, and upon attaining manhood years he emulated his worthy father in the maintenance of a ranch property, and after his marriage settled on the homestead ranch. In maidenhood his wife was Miss Lulu Rodehaver, who was also a native of Sonoma county, born in 1865. They now live retired in Petaluma.

The only child born of the marriage of Marcus and Lulu (Rodehaver) Hardin, was Jefferson R. Hardin, who was born on the family homestead in Sonoma county November 10, 1883. Although reared and educated in the same locality which had supplied the foundation of his father's life training the passing of years had witnessed a progress in advantages which the earlier generation knew not of, and it therefore followed that J. R. Hardin was the recipient of good school advantages, which he appreciated, applying himself diligently to his school tasks, as he did in fact to whatever he gave his attention. This trait was equally noticeable in the performance of his duties about the home ranch, and by the time he had reached maturity had crystallized into a habit or principle from which he has never deviated, and which undoubtedly has been the keynote of his success. The fine appearance of his ranch marks him as a tireless untiring energy and as one who is familiar with all branches of agriculture carried on in this section of country. Seven miles north of Petaluma he has a ranch of three hundred and fifty-five acres of choice land, of which two hundred are under cultivation to hay and grain, while the remainder of the land is used as pasturage for fifty head of cows and young stock, eight head of horses and fifteen hogs, besides which he has a poultry industry which numbers three thousand chickens.

Mr. Hardin has every reason to be proud of the success that has been his thus far, and the coming years have every possibility for even greater success.

In 1904 a marriage ceremony was performed in Petaluma that united the destinies of J. R. Hardin and Nellie Tonini, who was born in Marin county, Cal., and their home has been brightened by the birth of two sons, Marcus Jefferson and Ray Rolla. Mrs. Hardin is a daughter of Bernardo and Caroline (Dolcini) Tonini, both natives of Switzerland, born respectively in 1841 and 1845. Five children, two sons and three daughters, were born to them as follows : Bernardo; Eugene, Nellie, Ida and Erma. The eldest son, Bernardo, married Miss May Cope; Ida is the wife of Peter Pronzini, and the mother of two children; and Nellie is Mrs. Hardin. Politically Mr. Hardin is a Democrat. He is a liberal contributor to all projects that tend to upbuild the community or add to the comforts of those less fortunate than himself. Although he is a hard worker he is a strong believer in the adage that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" and when occasion permits he indulges his love for hunting and fishing.

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#### THOMAS JEFFERSON GRAHAM.

The life of Thomas Jefferson Graham commenced in Canada in 1818 and it ended in California in the year 1897. Between these two dates we have a period of great individual activity, the moulding of a life and the shaping of a destiny. The life delineated herein is one that commends itself to posterity for the sterling qualities of the man and also for the success accomplished and wrested from the face of difficulties and obstacles. It presents all those rugged outlines that cause us to stop in our hurry of work and of play and remark upon the one who could so develop and establish a reputation that stands upon the pages of the history of Time, as one that is well worthy the emulation of the young of every generation.

Mr. Graham was reared in the city of Toronto, Canada, in which place his father died when the boy was fourteen years of age. Although deprived of the care and counsel of his father, he did not give way to the temptations and the trials that came upon him, but determined to go ahead and win out. He began work in a store and spent his nights in a school accumulating knowledge to be used at some future time for the advancement of his own ambition. Thus he continued in the place of his nativity until he was twenty-two years of age and then he came to the United States and settled in Sheboygan, Wis., where he engaged in the grocery business on his own account. There he continued until the year 1852, when he sold out his interests and started across the plains with a party of fifteen wagons. In the fall of that year they arrived in Sacramento, Cal., after a trip that was filled with adventure and experiences of many kinds. On the way they were attacked with the cholera and a number of the party succumbed to the ravages of this dread malady. One of the party was drowned as they were fording a stream. At Sacramento Mr. Graham left the party and with his wife he came to San Francisco by boat, and in November of the same year took passage by boat to go to the east via Panama. After reaching New York they turned their steps toward Wisconsin and returned to Sheboygan. Mr.

Graham again engaged in the grocery business and was so occupied until the spring of 1856, when they sold out and took passage from New York to San Francisco via Panama, arriving there in the midst of the excitement caused by the operations of the Vigilance Committee. After three or four days stay in San Francisco they took passage for Santa Clara and from there they came to Petaluma, Sonoma county, which place was then only a small village. Intending to go into business as he had done in other places, Mr. Graham erected a store for this purpose, but realizing the opportunity along the lines of real estate, he sold his store before commencing business and invested the money in city property, which he sold again. He also conducted an insurance business at the same time, securing the agencies of the Aetna and Hartford companies. In the fall of 1883 Mr. Graham retired from active business and was so living at the time of his demise, in November, 1897. He was a member of the Masonic order, belonging to the Blue Lodge and also to Petaluma Lodge No. 77, R. A. M. He was a well-known citizen and a man who was always agreeable to everything that stood for the advancement of the highest interests of the community in which he resided. His kindly disposition and courteous manner won him many friends in Sonoma county, and he was especially beloved by all the children of the town on account of his great kindness toward them.

In Wisconsin on April 17, 1852, Mr. Graham was married to Miss Elinor McCain, daughter of Allen and Jane (Coulter) McCain, both natives of Delaware county, N. Y., who had moved to Wisconsin in the early days and made their home in the vicinity of Sheboygan until their deaths. Since the death of Mr. Graham the widow has made her home in Petaluma, where she is actively identified with the Episcopal Church, being one of the founders of the same, also a member of the vestry for a number of years, and also the Woman's Guild, in which she has taken a prominent part. Mr. and Mrs. Graham assisted in the building of the first Episcopal Church in Petaluma and after the congregation had outgrown the building they assisted in the erection of the edifice in which the church meets today. They have given liberally to the church and its charities. Mrs. Graham had a window placed in the church in honor of Rev. John Potridge, who has officiated for the past twenty-one years.

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#### ARMSTED GOATLEY.

Coming to California during the period of her most rapid growth in population, it so happened that Armsted Goatley found himself in Placerville on the day that the state was admitted into the Union, September 9, 1850, prepared to engage in mining. Between that day and the day of his death, April 23, 1904, he watched with interest the rapid development in this western country, and none was more keenly alive to her possibilities than was he. His mining experience was but a stepping stone to his real accomplishments in the west, his later and more profitable years being passed as a rancher in Sonoma county, and the work which he laid down at his death has been ably continued by his widow.

Mr. Goatley was of southern origin, his birth occurring in Kentucky in 1828, and he remained in the south until the attractions of California at the time

of the gold fever proved too strong to be resisted longer. As stated, he reached the mines of Placerville on the day when the state was celebrating her admission into the Union, September 9, 1850. The records make no special comment, as to his success as a miner, but it is known that he ultimately gave it up to undertake ranching, and at the time of his death was proprietor of one of the most thrifty and prosperous ranches in Sonoma county. Here on three hundred and fifty acres which he owned four miles west of Petaluma he undertook dairying on a large scale and as he was one of the first in the country round about to venture upon this branch of agriculture he rightly claimed the distinction of being a pioneer dairyman in this section of country. Forty head of cows of the Jersey and Durham breeds now constitute the dairy, besides which there are six horses and over one thousand chickens. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Goatley has continued the maintenance of the ranch along the lines which he had found to be successful, and she is also making a success of the undertaking.

Before her marriage Mrs. Goatley was Miss Charlotte Langford, born in Somersetshire, England, in 1849. She came to California in 1884, and the following year she was married to Mr. Goatley in Oakland. Two children were born of their marriage, John L. and George A., the latter of whom graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1910, with the degree of B. S., and later engaged as an electrical engineer in San Francisco. John L. has the management and supervision of the ranch.

Mrs. Goatley was one in a family of ten children born to her parents, George and Caroline (Lloyd) Langford, who were born in England in 1825 and 1827 respectively. Besides Mrs. Goatley the children born to them were as follows : Thomas ; George ; John ; Charles ; Sarah, Mrs. Morton; Sophia; Mary, Mrs. Walters ; Emma ; and Amelia, Mrs. Watson, all residents of Eureka, except Mrs. Morton, who lives in San Francisco. Mr. Goatley has three sisters, viz.; Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Sims, whose families reside in Missouri, and Mrs. Martin, whose family are in California. One daughter, Mrs. R. F. Allen, is a resident of Petaluma.

Throughout his life Mr. Goatley espoused Democratic principles, and always voted for the candidates of that party. He was a member of the Methodist Church South and was a trustee of the church in which he held membership. He was also identified with the Grange, wherein he met his fellow-ranchers socially, and they as well as all who were brought in contact with him in any way mourned his death deeply, for they lost a true friend and well-wisher.

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#### REV. THOMAS J. COMERFORD.

Although a resident of California only since 1898, Rev. Thomas J. Cornerford, rector of St. Francis Solano, has been an interested spectator and an undoubted factor in the development of the community in which he resides. He was born in Kilkinney, Ireland, and early in life received an education that would ultimately permit of his entry into the priesthood. He made his studies for his life work at St. Kierns College, and after a successful completion of the curriculum, was ordained in June, 1898, by Rt. Rev. Bishop Browrigg for the diocese

of San Francisco. Immediately on his ordination he came to California and was assistant rector of St. Agnes and Sacred Heart, of San Francisco, remaining there until appointed to his present incumbency.

The parish of St. Francis Solano, is one of the oldest congregations in the country, the followers of Cite particular faith it represents having met to worship there many years ago. The present large church has been built about thirteen years ; the property occupies about half a block on Napa street and is a valuable piece of land from a commercial view point. The Convent is being run by the Presentation Sisters, who, in addition to the work which this involves, have charge of the parochial school and perform a splendid work in the education of the young in this institution.

During the incumbency of Father Comerford, the various activities of the church have increased, and at present he has charge of the largest congregation in Sonoma. In addition to the arduous duties of this parish, he also has charge of St. Mary's church at Glen Ellen. He is a man of strong personality, capable of adapting himself to the varying circumstances of his life work, and is peculiarly qualified by nature for the performance of his high and lofty calling. A progressive man, he stands for the highest code of ethics and the attainment of civic righteousness in his town, and for these reasons, as well as for his personal characteristics, he is well known and respected by all.

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#### FRANK FENK.

Whatever part of the world draws to its citizenship representatives of the sturdy Swiss race, they invariably bring to their new homes the same energy, economy and thrift characteristic of the nation from the earliest records of history. In Northern California, as in the old home land, they have found dairying congenial to their tastes. Nature endowed them with the patience and skill necessary to the successful prosecution of the industry. Education brought the requisite knowledge of the work in which they have gained a reputation second to no people in the entire world. It is therefore a natural result of certain causes that Frank Fenk should enter into the dairy business after his arrival in Sonoma county, where since 1909 he has engaged in ranching and dairying near Petaluma. Under a lease. of one year he secured five hundred acres of land from Charles Lewis and here he established himself as a dairy farmer, building up a splendid herd of forty-one much cows. In addition he owns some young cattle, eight head of horses and a flock of two hundred chickens. Through unremitting efforts he is establishing a reputation for sagacious farming, and he has many friends who predict for him a successful future.

Born in Canton Unterwalden, Switzerland, in .1879, Frank Fea---i-s :17-~~g~~m of Joseph and Pauline (Diller) Fenk, also natives of that country. The father, who was born in the year 1845, grew to manhood upon a dairy farm, and at an early age had acquired a thorough knowledge of the occupation. This work he followed after he came to the United States in 1881 and settled in California, where for fourteen years he made his home in Sonoma county. While general ranching was his occupation, he made a specialty •of dairying and always kept a large herd of

good milkers on his farm. Besides his son, Frank, he had three children, Joseph, Matilda and Mary. Joseph, who is living in Petaluma, is married and has five children, Joseph, Arnold, Frances, Mary and Jessie. Matilda, who remains in Switzerland, is the wife of Fritz Bokar. Mary, who also resides in her native country, married Frank Frie and has two sons, Charles and Frank.

Upon the completion of the studies taught in the schools of his home land Frank Fenk took up dairy pursuits and learned the industry in all of its details. During the year 1902 he came to the United States and settled in Monterey county, Cal., where he secured employment as a hired laborer on a dairy ranch. Since coming to Sonoma county in 1909 he has established himself in the business, and with the aid of a capable young wife he is rapidly rising to a position of influence among the dairymen. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Fenk was Miss Alice Josse; she is a native of Switzerland, born in 1883, and received a fair education in the Swiss schools. During the year 1908 she came to California, where she married soon afterward. Her parents, Peter and Alice (Ophill) Josse, were born in Switzerland in 1848 and have been lifelong residents of that country. Their sons and daughters are named as follows : Andrus, Peter, Daniel, Michael, Otto. John, Arnold, Henry. Catherine, Elizabeth, Grati, Anna, Johanna, Franna and a child that died in infancy. Three of the sons and two daughters are married, and two of the family, Michael and Franna, reside in Oregon, making their home at Portland. All are devoted adherents of the Roman Catholic Church, and Mr. and Mrs. Fenk contribute to the activities of that religious organization, as well as to general movements for the upbuilding of the race. Since becoming a citizen of the United States, with the privilege of franchise, Mr. Fenk has exercised that right in favor of the Republican party, and has been a steadfast upholder of its principles. The anxieties connected with his occupation and the necessity of unceasing industry do not permit him to take an active part in lodge work, public affairs or any form of recreation, but occasionally, when free from home duties, he finds ardent pleasure in the sport of hunting, and as a Nimrod has displayed more than ordinary skill.

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#### EDWARD W. MERVYN EVANS.

Synonymous with the name of E. W. M. Evans, of Petaluma, is the Cypress Hill Cemetery works of which he is the proprietor. It is a conservative statement to say that there is probably no cemetery in the country of equal size which has so many beautiful stones of varied kinds as may be seen in Cypress Hill Cemetery. Mr. Evans has been the chief contributor to this condition, for nearly all of the tombstones and monuments here seen have been designed, made and set up under his direct supervision during the twenty-eight years that he has been engaged in business in Petaluma. He is one of the pioneers in this line of business in the town, and is now the only one thus engaged. Several expert workmen are given employment in the execution of the many orders which come to him for headstones, tombstones, monuments, vaults and curbing, as well as in the making of store fronts, tiled flooring and wall tile. One of the best examples of Mr. Evans' handiwork may be seen in the Swiss-American Bank, the marble

work which he furnished in this building being the finest work of the kind in the city.

Edward. W. M. Evans was born in County Armagh, Ireland, May 30, 1861. When he was a youth of about eight years the parents brought their family to the United States, the year 1869 witnessing their landing on these shores and their settlement in Virginia. Subsequently they came as far west as Denver, Colo., and finally, in April, 1876, they came to California. Near Stony Point, Sonoma county, the father purchased a small ranch upon which the family lived for a number of years, after which the father removed to Alameda, and it was there that his death occurred in 1897. As he left his native land before his schooling had been begun, E. W. M. Evans acquired all of his book learning after coming to California, attending school in the various places in which the family lived. Coming to Petaluma in 1882, he started the nucleus of his present large marble works on Main street, later removing his plant to Cypress Hill, his present location. Others have carried on similar enterprises in the town from time to time, but the Cypress Hill Cemetery works is the only one now in operation, the superior class of work here turned out accounting for its permanency.

Mr. Evans' marriage occurred in Petaluma July II, 1883, uniting him with Miss Martha Ellen Tupper, who claims the distinction of being the first white girl born in Petaluma. She is the daughter of John B. Tupper, who came to Petaluma in 1850 and consequently was one of the earliest settlers in this part of the county. Before her marriage his wife was Miss Martha Douglass, a native of Maine, and their marriage was the first one celebrated in Petaluma. Robert Douglass, her father, built the old Brooklyn hotel in Petaluma, and he also brought the first frame house to Petaluma. This was first erected in Vallejo, but later was taken down and brought to Petaluma, where it did good service for many years. Seven children were born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Evans, named in the order of their birth as follows : Vivian M., the wife of Fred J. Tolberg, of Monmouth, Ill.; Edward E. and Arthur B., both of whom are interested in business with their father ; Roy M., who is employed with Brainerd Jones, the well-known architect of Petaluma ; Alma M.; Isabelle Virginia ; and Roscoe D. All of the children have been the recipients of good educational advantages and are a credit to their parents; one of the sons, Roy M., has made a splendid record as an athlete. Mr. Evans was made a Mason in Arcturus Lodge No. 180, which has since consolidated with and is known as Petaluma Lodge No. 180, F. & A. M. He served as master of the lodge two years, and was inspector of the sixteenth district for seven years. He is also a member of Petaluma Chapter No. 22, R. A. M., and both he and Mrs. Evans are members of the Eastern Star, of which he has been worthy patron. Mr. Evans is a member of the Merchants Association.

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#### JAMES WESLEY WOOD.

Born on a ranch about seven miles from Santa Rosa, on Guerneville road, March 6, 1873, James W. Wood is a son of Wesley Wood, who came to California in 1857 and located near Santa Rosa, being employed on what is now the VoOrhman ranch. Being enterprising, he farmed this ranch for a time for himself, together with the Horn ranch adjoining it. Immediately after his

marriage, and after twelve years of successful farming, he bought one hundred and fifty-seven acres of land near what is now known as Fulton, and here he made his home and farmed until his demise. In 1870 he married Annie Warner, of Santa Rosa, the daughter of Phileman and Sarah Warner, pioneers of Santa Rosa, who came there in 1853 and lived there until their death. To Mr\_ and Mrs. Wesley Wood four sons and one daughter were born: Henry (deceased), James Wesley, Frank W., William H. and Ella W.

James Wesley Wood was reared on the farm, educated in the public school at Olivet, and later took a course in the Santa Rosa Business College. After graduating he and his brother Frank W. farmed the home place, besides one hundred acres that they rented, until the year '90, when they bought sixty and one-half acres to the south and east of their original holding, both places being farmed at the same time. Five years after this purchase J. W. Wood bought out his brother's interest and has since farmed on his own account. He owns a splendid ranch of one hundred and twelve acres, thirty-five of which he has in vines, four acres in fruit trees and the balance in hay, grain and pasture. His mother lives on the home place.

In December, 1907, Mr. Wood married Madeline Roat, a native of Iowa and a resident of Santa Rosa, the daughter of Isaac and Sarah Roat. To Mr. and Mrs. Wood one child, James Roat Wood. was born April 14, 1909. Mr. Wood is a member of Santa Rosa Lodge No. 53, I. O. O. F., of the Encampment of the Rebekahs, Santa Rosa, and the Woodmen of the World, of which he is past council commander of Fulton Lodge No. 428. Politically he is a Republican and a hearty supporter of his party in public and in private. Mrs. Wood holds membership in the Eastern Star of Windsor, Cal., and the Rebekahs of Santa Rosa. A descendant of pioneers in this western world, Mr. Wood has given evidence that he possesses many of those qualities of indomitable energy and enterprising skill that characterised the men and women who came to this country when it was unsettled and wild. Mr. and Mrs. Wood have a host of friends who honor and respect them and wish them every success in the "enfolding of life.;"

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#### H. H.. MOKE.

In the line of his profession, undertaker and embalmer, there is no name better known in Santa Rosa than that of H. H. Moke, who is an experienced and licensed practitioner, as is also Mrs. Moke, and as a member of the firm takes charge of the women's and children's cases. The history of the business now carried on by Mr. Moke dates back to the year 1875, when M. S. Davis opened the first undertaking establishment in Santa Rosa, conducting it alone until December 31, 1904, when H. H. Moke bought out Mr. Davis.

H. H. Moke was born in San Francisco May 7, 1871, and since the age of thirteen Years has been a resident of Santa Rosa. His primary education was received in the grammar schools, and later he attended and graduated from the high school also. In 1884, while but a lad in years, he entered the employ of M. S. Davis. who was the leading undertaker in Santa Rosa, and after he had mastered the details of the business thoroughly and had received his certificate as a graduated embalmer, he still continued in the employ of Mr. Davis.

In 1904, upon his employer's wishing to retire from the business, Mr. Moke purchased the business on December 31, 1904, and since that time has conducted the business with entire satisfaction and has installed modern methods to facilitate the work he is called upon to do.

Mr. Moke has been twice married, his first marriage occurring in 1892 and uniting him with Miss Lottie J. Reid, the daughter of Joseph B. Reid, one of the early settlers of Sonoma county. A deep bereavement befell Mr. Moke in the spring of 1906, when both his wife and daughter, the latter ten years of age, were killed in the earthquake which made that year memorable in the history of California. On July 17, 1907, Mr. Moke married his present wife, Mrs. Naomi E. Davis. In fraternal circles Mr. Moke is well known, being a member of the Masons, in which he has attained the degree of Knights Templar ; a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Woodmen of the World. As a citizen, Mr. Moke is found ready to forward any movement that has for its object the advancement of his home county or city.

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#### VERNON DOWNS.

One of the many worthy citizens and capable and progressive agriculturists of Sonoma county is Vernon Downs, whose ranch of three hundred and seventy-three acres on Rural Route No. 6 from Santa Rosa is admirably located for the cultivation of grain and fruits, and the land not so used is devoted to stock-raising. This has been the continuous home of Mr. Downs for the past forty-one years, and notwithstanding the fact that he is now in his eighty-sixth year, he still superintends the management of his property and is as interested in the affairs of his home community and of the affairs of the world at large as he was half a century ago.

The descendant of New England ancestors, Vernon Downs was born in Hancock county, Me., May 3, 1825. His parents died when he was a young boy, and thereafter he was reared by a neighboring farmer until he was nineteen years of age. Then, in 1844, he went to Tallahassee, Fla., where he clerked in a merchandise store for a year and a half. He then went to Georgia, and in Decatur county he carried on a store of his own under the name of V. Downs & Co. It was while he was engaged in the business just mentioned that the news of the finding of gold in California first reached his ears. While he was young and impressionable, and apparently waiting for just such an opportunity as this news seemed to offer, it was not adventure alone that prompted him to respond to its call, but rather a deeper desire to find a suitable niche in the world for his abilities, where their application would redound to his credit and bring him satisfaction and happiness. It was after weighing the matter carefully that in December of 1849 he set sail for Panama, with California as his ultimate destination, and on May 6, 1850, he landed in San Francisco. The attractions of the mines of Placer county drew him to that locality, and for three years his interests were centered there, but with what success the records fail to mention. His first appearance in Sonoma county was at the close of his experience in Placer county, when he came to Santa Rosa and assisted in building the flouring