

Auburn's 49ers

Stories of the brave men
and women who came to California
for gold in 1849 and early 1850.

VOLUME FOUR

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*“The whole tract of the mountainous land is
impregnated with gold
but it is verrey hard to be got.”*

Isaac Annis - 1849

Introduction

The general story of the 49er's is well known. In 1848 and 1849, young men, excited by the news of the gold discovery, flocked to California. Initially, the area around Auburn was rich with opportunity. Spanish Flat, near present-day Nevada Street, Rich Flat, near the Gold Country Fairgrounds, and the Auburn Ravine and its tributaries all yielded substantial amounts of gold in the first few years of the Gold Rush.

One of the most common attributes of the newly arrived would-be miners was their propensity to move about following rumors of the next "big strike." As such, not very many 49er's stayed put once they arrived in California and few left a record of their time here.

When we started researching for this project, John Knox and I were hoping to identify maybe 20 forty-niners who came to Auburn in 1849 and early 1850. So we were astonished to find over eighty men and women who came to the Auburn area in the first years of the Gold Rush. Most did not stay but they still left a record of their time here.

Each story is a unique tale about a pioneer who came hoping for gold. Though they rarely found it, they ended up loving California and cherishing the memories of the biggest adventure of their lifetime.

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Chesterfield Jackson

1818 - 1874

Chesterfield Jackson, was likely born in Kentucky but little is known of his background. The first time he is mentioned in public record is in June of 1850 when he was selected as one of the first trustees of the Methodist Church of the Colored People of Sacramento City.

By 1852, he was in Millertown, outside Auburn, where he was successfully mining.

In 1853, he married Caroline (Waddy) Roussin. Even though they lived in California, Chesterfield purchased Caroline's freedom from the Auburn butcher Siffroid Roussin. Caroline was born a slave in Missouri in about 1828. When she was in her early 20s, she was sold or given to the Roussin family. Siffroid came to California in 1849, then returned to Missouri to bring his family back to California and Caroline traveled with them. Roussin agreed to free her after three years service.

When she and Chesterfield married, the *San Francisco Examiner* would later report, "Chesterfield Jackson, a courtly gentleman of color, took a liking to her and did the fair thing by paying \$300 for a release from her master." Caroline later said he knew that under the laws of California, slaves could not be held, but that her husband was honorable and would not accept a wife without paying fairly for the time she had agreed to serve.

Chesterfield was a very successful man, he owned two houses, a commercial building, a barber shop and a laundry business.

In 1856, the County Board of Supervisors awarded Chesterfield with an award of \$200 for his service of saving the courthouse from burning down in the 1855 fire.

In the late 1860s, they moved to Sacramento, where Chesterfield acquired several properties and took up teamstering. Chesterfield died in Sacramento in 1874.

The faint grey lines show the boundary lines of the Jackson's property in Auburn



Caroline would later gain some amount of fame when she became involved in a lawsuit over inheritance. Caroline's father had purchased his freedom from slavery and came to California in 1852; it is not known if he traveled with the Roussins. He became quite successful in San Francisco accumulating property and wealth. When he died, the question of Caroline's right to inherit came into question because her parent's marriage occurred during their enslavement and thus was not legally recognized. Her father's sister brought the law suit claiming her right to the inheritance as the legal next of kin.

In 1889, a judge found that Caroline was entitled to the inheritance. The court case was precedent setting.

Caroline remarried in that same year. She died soon after in San Francisco in 1890.

Edward Twigg Loving

1828 - 1913

Edward (Ned) Loving was born in Virginia in 1828. He made the trip to California via Cape Horn arriving in 1849. He came immediately to what is now Placer County and mined near Millertown.

In 1854, he married Mary Gwynn Gambell. Mary was most likely a widow, as a John and Mary Gambell and their two boys appear in the 1852 census beside the Gwynn family in Placer County.

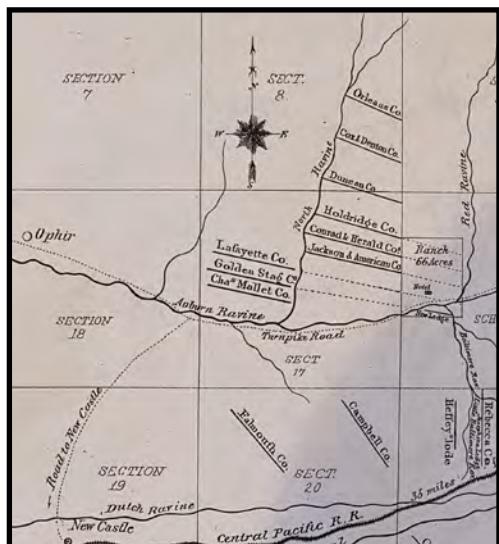
Ned would engage in a mercantile business with A. J. Newton but dissolved that partnership in 1861. Ned and Mary lived on a farm in Millertown and while farming, Ned continued to search for gold. He was sometimes successful, sometimes not. The local newspaper called him "an indefatigable prospector."

The Loving family was hit with several tragedies. In 1858, their son Albert died. In 1863, their daughter Francis (Fanny) died at age 5. Still more tragedy would occur in 1865, their daughter Jennie (one year old) died as did John Gambell, Mary's son. He was age 14.

The Lovings moved to the North Ravine area and Ned continued to farm and to mine.

Mary died in 1906. Ned died in 1913.

Map showing North Ravine



Governor Fredrick Ferdinand Low

1828 - 1894

Most of the 49ers went on to lead fairly normal lives, but a few went on to more prominent positions. Frederick Low was one of these men.

Low was born in Maine and educated there until he was fifteen years old when he apprenticed in accounting to a trading company in Boston.

The news of gold in California sent Low on his way. He left New England in the fall of 1849 via steamer to Panama. Though stranded on the Isthmus for 63 days, he finally boarded the severely overcrowded steamer, the aptly named *Panama* and arrived in San Francisco a few days before his twenty-first birthday on June 30th.

Soon after arriving, Low went to Horseshoe Bar and was very successful, leaving the area with \$1,500 in his pocket. That would be about \$50,000 in today's dollars. He spent the winter in Auburn. By 1850, Low was in San Francisco and formed a mercantile partnership with a Mr. Lambert selling the cargo of two ships. Unfortunately a fire swept away most of their goods and left them with little cash. The partnership dissolved and Low left for Marysville to join his brother.

In 1857 Low married Mollie Creed: they would have one daughter, Flora.

When the Adams Express Company failed in 1855, the brothers, by this time joined by a third brother Charles, formed Low Brothers & Company. This proved to be an exceedingly lucrative move. During this time the brothers



bought several of the small steamboats that ran on the rivers in northern California.

Low became involved with the California Steam Navigation Company, consolidating all the transportation of passengers and freight on California's inland waterways. The success and profits "were enormous." The company would prosper until the railroad began to cut in on its profits.

In 1862, Low was appointed by President Lincoln as Collector of the Port of San Francisco, a very important post during the Civil War years. He went on to successfully run for Governor of the state in 1863.

Low proved to be an outstanding governor, speaking out for the fair treatment of minorities, including the Chinese and Indians who had been excluded from civil rights in California. He advanced education by laying the groundwork for the state university system and laid aside large tracts of land for state schools. The progressive governor oversaw the establishment of Yosemite Valley as the first state park in 1866.

In 1869, Low was appointed minister to China. He had only been in China a few months when the Tientsin massacre happened leaving mutual hostility between the East and the West, but Low was the first Western envoy granted an audience by the Emperor of China. Unable to dampen the hostilities, Low left China in 1873.

Back in San Francisco, Low held a large interest in the Bensley Water Company which in turn was associated with the Spring Valley Water Company. That company had a



monopoly on all water coming into San Francisco. This was another hugely profitable business venture.

Low was president of the Sutter Street Railway, originally a horsecar line in San Francisco; later it was converted to a cable car operation. He was associated with the Anglo-California Bank, not to mention his involvement in Hawaiian sugar plantations, lumber and milling properties in Humboldt County and several other enterprises.

In 1884, Low managed to carve out the time to take his wife and daughter on a world tour that lasted over a year.

Low was a highly respected man known for his integrity, honesty, good humor, moral courage and fearlessness.

Later in his eventful life, Low would recall that "the time in the mining camp on the river was the most enjoyable time of his whole life," that at age 21, California represented a joyous time of life. He noted that he loved the hopefulness and gaiety of those days and those memories would influence him to the end of his days.

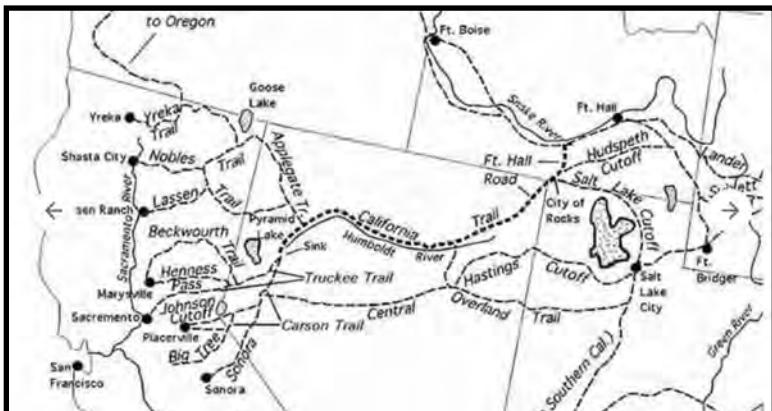
Low died in San Francisco in 1894.

John A. Markle

1827 - 1894

John Markle was teaching school when news of the Gold Rush began circulating in Westmoreland, Pennsylvania. John quickly joined a large group called the Pittsburgh and California Enterprise Group headed overland for California in April 1849.

Markle left a remarkable daily diary of his adventure. It is so full of detail, that the part he wrote when traversing the Sierra was used by the Donner Trail Marking Expedition of the United States Forest Service to mark the Emigrant Trail. For many years, Wendall Robie, a prominent citizen of Auburn, was part of the trail marking effort and had the only known copy of this diary. Today is it available online.



California Emigrant Trail Map

For a glimpse of his diary, here is a passage from August 23, 1849.

“Today we traveled 15 miles. The road today was indescribable, but it was the damn-dest, roughest and rockiest road I ever saw. About 3 miles from our camp, we had to take out our mules and let our wagons down with ropes. It was off of one rock and on to another, all day except a short distance after we started and a few places in the bottom of the river.”

Markle's party arrived at Sutter's Fort September 2, 1849. By the 27th of the month they started for the North Fork. Before they hit the river, they stopped in Wood's Dry Diggings (Auburn). They would spend time at the river and at the Diggings. He related on October 7:

“Today we were wandering around in the Dry Diggings, and I succeeded in picking out a lump worth from three to four dollars; I then gathered up about a gallon of dirt, carried it to the water and washed it, and found about two dollars more.”

The Dry Diggings was notorious for its lack of water in summer and fall, before the rains came.

Markle loved the adventure, and reveled in the camaraderie of the men he met and worked with.

Markle eventually settled in Mosquito Valley about nine miles east of Placerville. In 1870, he married Julia Golden, a widow with two sons.

He continued mining along with farming for the rest of his life. John died in 1894 and Julia died in 1899.

Deputy Tax Collector George M. Martin

1826 - 1859

George Martin was born in Tennessee. Little is known of his life before or even after coming to California in 1849. Most likely he tried his hand at mining at first. By 1856 he had served as a deputy sheriff and a deputy tax collector.

In July 1856, in his law enforcement role, Martin heard that the bandit, Rattlesnake Dick and another companion, had just come through Auburn. Martin collected Deputy Sheriff William Crutcher and Undersheriff George C. Johnston and they set off in pursuit. Near the present-day Martin Park, across from the firehouse #1, the posse encountered Dick. A gunfight ensued and George Martin was shot and killed. Johnston and Crutcher were both wounded as were the two outlaws. Dick and his companion were able to ride away.

The wounded deputies headed back to town looking for help. They did not find the outlaws. The next day, the stage coming up from the river came across a body laying in the road. This site is near the present-day Raleys market on Lincoln Way. They had discovered the body of Rattlesnake Dick. Dick had been shot twice in the body and once in the head. Dick, who always said he would never go back to jail, (he had spent some time in San Quentin) most likely shot himself or asked his partner to do it when he realized that he would not recover from his wounds.

George Martin was laid to rest in 1859 by his Masonic brothers in a funeral that was the largest ever seen in the county.



Tabb Mitchell

1823 - 1879

Tabb Mitchell was born in Shepherdstown, Virginia October 24, 1823. He learned the printing trade at his father's office at the *Western Palladium* newspaper. When still a young man he moved to the Territory of Iowa and established the *Times* newspaper. He was in Iowa when news of the gold strike in California began to circulate.

Mitchell joined an overland wagon party. They took the northern route or Lassen Cut-off.

This route brought him to the Feather River. He mined at Ophir (now Oroville - not the Placer County Ophir), Long's Bar and Bidwell's Bar.

He was not very successful. In 1852, he came to Marysville and helped form the *California Express* newspaper; later in the same year he moved to Auburn and established the *Placer Herald* with Richard Rust and John McElroy. The first edition of the *Herald* was published September 11, 1852.

The importance of this newspaper to the fledgling town of Auburn cannot be overstated. It bought national news as well as local news to the public.

The printing press that the *Herald* used is now at the Placer County Museum at the historic courthouse in Auburn. It is the Acorn Press brought to California in



1846 by Sam Brannon. Brannon used it to publish the *San Francisco Star* in 1847, the first San Francisco weekly newspaper.

The press received its name from the shape of the frame, it was a generic term for many presses with the same basic frame design.

In 1856, Mitchell married Carrie S. Smith. They had three children, but unfortunately one died in infancy.

Mitchell ran the paper until 1867 when he and his brother, Charles, by this time part owner, sold the newspaper and printing equipment to Joseph Walkup. In 1868, he took the position of Clerk in the State Controller's Office. He later moved to San Francisco, he died there in February 1869. His wife Carrie died in December of that year. Their two children were raised by her brother, E.G. Smith who lived in Auburn.



Gordon Newell Mott

1812 - 1887

Gordon Mott was born in Zanesville, Ohio in 1812. After his regular schooling, Mott studied law and was admitted to the bar in Ohio in 1836. In that very same year he enlisted in the Army of The Republic of Texas during the American-Mexican war and served as a captain. After the war, he returned to Ohio and his law practice.

Always looking for adventure, as soon as he heard the news of gold in California, Mott joined a party headed across the Plains. In 1849, Mott and another attorney, P.W.

Thomas had settled in Auburn and according to historian Myron Angel, they "mingled mining and law together." Mott was appointed a Sutter County judge in 1850 and then he was a District Judge. Mott stayed in Auburn until 1853 when he moved to Marysville to open a law practice. In conjunction with his law practice, Mott operated a stage service between Downieville, California and Virginia City, Nevada.

In 1861 Lincoln appointed Mott as an Associate Justice of the Nevada Territorial Supreme Court. He and his family, his wife and daughter had previously come to California, settled in Carson City.



Mott became embroiled in a famous law case; Chollar Mining Company v Potosi Mining Company which centered on the “single-ledge” versus the “multiple ledge” mining theory. Supposedly money changed hands to influence the judge’s decision. Mott decided that the famous Comstock Lode was a single vein of ore, or ledge, rather than many smaller ledges. The decision favored the larger corporations and was very unpopular with the small miners with small claims. In 1863, Mott resigned from his position on the Supreme Court and was a delegate representing the Nevada Territory to the 38th Congress.

After the Congressional session of 1863-64, Mott was returning to Nevada by overland stage. The stage was attacked by Indians. The driver was wounded and lost control of the horses. Mott managed to swing himself from the coach to the driver’s seat, he took the reins and lashed the team on. According to a local account, the chase lasted more than 10 miles “but the old man won out and reached the station in safety.”

When his term ended and Nevada became a state, Mott and family moved to San Francisco where he continued to practice law. He became a Court Commissioner for the Nineteenth District Court.

Mott died in San Francisco in 1887.

James Munsell

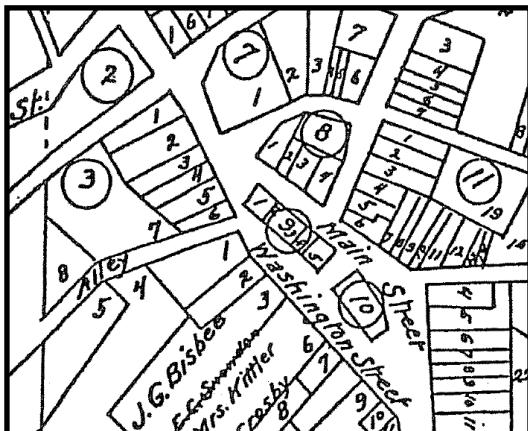
1802 - 1879

James Munsell was born in New York and came to California in 1849. He had a mining claim right in the heart of Old Town in 1851. He mined for a while but very soon returned to his trade as a carpenter and wagon maker.

Munsell had his wagon shop on Lot 1 Block 9 in the Center Block.

For some time Munsell had ownership of the Mechanics Hall building and the local French restaurant. He and several partners also ran the Empire Saw Mill. The mill was eight miles above Auburn on the Auburn-Illinoistown Road.

Munsell was an early member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and is credited with building the church that still stands at 1338 Lincoln Way.



The Pioneer Methodist Church has been modified over the years but many of the walls are original



Munsell and his wife Clarissa moved to a large ranch in Newcastle. Munsell died there in 1879. It is unknown when Clarissa passed.

Willard Loring Munson

1827 - 1886

Willard Munson was born in Maine in 1827. He left when he was twenty-two years old to travel around the Horn on a three month journey to California. He arrived in San Francisco in March of 1850.

He lost no time in heading to Negro Bar (near Folsom) and mined there successfully for four years. He then moved to Little York, Nevada County and continued to mine. Here he married Elizabeth Searles in 1859.

In 1862, the family moved to Gold Run and Munson combined mining with carpentering. While there he was elected Justice of the Peace, the first in a long line of public service jobs he would have. He was also elected Postmaster of Gold Run. Their family would eventually include six children.

In 1871, Munson was elected as County Collector. Then he was elected County Assessor in 1875. The family moved to the county seat in Auburn. He was again elected Assessor in 1879, 1882 and 1884.

Munson left a proud legacy of public service. He died at the rather young at age 58 in 1886.



Charles Joseph Murphy

1832 - 1921

Charles Murphy was one of those 49ers who would later achieve great success and great honors. He was born in England in 1832. His family came to New York in 1834. He was educated in New York schools.

At age 15, he enlisted to fight in the Mexican War. Still in search of adventure, at age 17 he boarded the *South Carolina*, one of the first sailing ships to leave New York for California after the gold discovery. They left New York in January 1849. Arriving in Sacramento, Murphy and several others went to Wood's Dry Diggings (Auburn). He spent several years mining in the area and at the river with a great amount of success. It was reported that he "amassed a small fortune."

It is not known exactly how but Murphy became involved in "the Chinese trade." But he traveled to China and opened a commercial house in Shanghai to ship Chinese products to San Francisco. He was part owner of the schooner *Daniel Potter* to facilitate the trade. He brought the Mandarin orange to California in 1854 and in 1855 introduced the navel orange from Rio de Janeiro to California.

Still ready for adventure and with a sense of patriotism, he joined the Union Army ranks when the Civil War broke



out. He fought at the first battle of Bull Run and when the rest of his unit left the field, Murphy stayed and provided aid to the fallen. He was captured and sent to the Confederate prison in Richmond, Virginia. He and two other officers escaped and spent two harrowing weeks getting back to their own lines. Murphy was in the Seven Days Battle in Virginia and later erected with his own funds, a field hospital at Harrison's Landing. For his service and bravery, he was awarded with the Medal of Honor by Congress.

After the war, Murphy continued with his adventurous life. He began his lifelong career in promoting and shipping California agricultural products around the world. He was the first to bring California fruit to Belgium, France and Germany. He also introduced California wine worldwide. Murphy was a great proponent of California Indian Corn for use to combat world hunger.

In 1890, he was appointed Special Commissioner of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. His role was to promote American cereal grains. When the Russian famine broke out in 1891, Murphy organized the American response and sent five steamer loads of corn meal to the starving peasants. He went to Russia to show the various uses of Indian corn; he also introduced the American hydraulic dredge into Russia. He was honored by the Czar of Russia with the Knight of St. Stanislaus medal.

Along the way, Murphy married Catherine (Kate) Tone of New York and they would eventually have ten children. When he wasn't traveling the world, they lived in this brownstone in Brooklyn, New York.

Known by the press as "Cornmeal Murphy," his illustrious life ended in New York City in 1921.



James P. Murphy

1829 - 1858

The James Murphy story is a sad one. Murphy was born in Ireland. He and his friend and partner James McGinley joined the Gold Rush and arrived in California in early 1850. The two set up at Doty's Flat (Ophir) initially to sell liquor and then later to sell liquor and merchandise.

In 1852, Murphy left McGinley in charge of the business and went back to Providence, Rhode Island where he had left a wife, Ann and daughter, Arametha. He returned to California with them.

A deed from 1853 indicates Murphy and McGinley were running a small hotel and saloon that had a "stable, beds, bedding, bar and fixtures."

Later in 1853, Murphy and McGinley moved to Auburn and opened a brickyard. They both continued to "dabble" in mining ventures as did so many 49ers even after they turned to other means to make a living.

Both McGinley and Murphy were excellent brick masons. They won the contract for the county jail in 1855.

Ann and James had another child, Mary Ann, in 1856.

Both Murphy and McGinley were active in local politics. Murphy was a delegate to the County Democratic Central Committee and served on the County Grand Jury in 1855.

Murphy was an upstanding, popular citizen in a small community. The town was shocked when suddenly in February 1858, Murphy was found laying on the ground with his head bashed in. He had been struck by a pickaxe. The pick crushed his skull and penetrated deep into his brain.

Somehow, Murphy was conscious and able to speak and named his neighbor, the Negro Aaron Bracy as his attacker.

Bracy gave himself up and went to the very jail that Murphy and McGinley had built. The citizens of the town were incensed at the senseless act of violence.

A mob formed and broke into the jail removing Bracy. Some sixty or seventy men formed the mob. It surged to over one hundred by the time they reached the spot where they hanged Bracy.

It took several days for poor James Murphy to die, he left his wife Ann and two daughters. Ann gave birth to another daughter, Elizabeth, four months after Murphy was struck down.

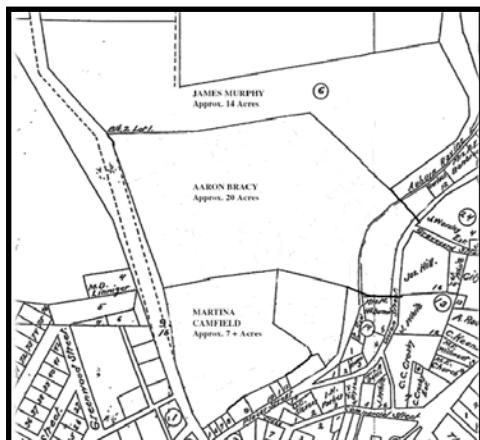
Murphy's funeral closed down the business places in town. "An immense concourse of people followed the remains to their last resting place."

The citizens of the town were evidently not done with their revenge and Bracy's house was burned down. In an odd form of restitution, Bracy's land soon became the property of Ann Murphy.

James McGinley and his crew built a new brick house for Ann and her family in 1859. It was said to be the finest house in town.

By November of 1860, Ann married her neighbor, John Fogarty.

Ann died in
1903 she was
noted "for her
charitableness and
public spirit, and devotion to her church."



Capt. John Nye

1812 - 1871

Capt. John Nye was another Auburn 49er who had an adventurous life. He was born in New York in 1812. Little is known of his early years but when he was twenty-three he went to Alabama following the news of a gold strike. While he didn't strike gold there he did marry a wealthy widow. She was more than 18 years older than Nye, and Arabella Hayes was said to be a beautiful woman. She owned a small cotton plantation and held fifteen slaves.

Somehow, Nye became mayor of Mobile, Alabama. It was reported that while Nye and Arabella had one son together, upon hearing the news of gold in California, Nye left Alabama and "apparently never looked back" and Arabella never left the South.

Nye came via the Panama route in July 1849. By 1851, Nye was a charter member of the local Eureka Lodge of Masons. By 1852, Nye was mining on Calf Bar on the North Fork. He and his company had a substantial dam turning the river and were taking out \$25 per day per man. In that same year he was elected as a delegate to the Democratic Convention.

Nye held property around Auburn and was one of the several local citizens signing an ad addressing Miss Ella Bruce, the Gold Rush songstress.

**Complimentary Benefit
TO MISS ELLA BRUCE BY THE
CITIZENS OF AUBURN.**

AUBURN, August 1st, 1853.

To Miss Ella Bruce:

The undersigned, citizens of Auburn, are desirous of expressing to you our appreciation of your talents and acquirements; and, as we understand it is your present intention to visit the eastern portion of our county, if on your return you will honor us again with one or more of your agreeable concerts, by naming now the time we assure you that our utmost endeavors will be put forth to secure you the attention and attendance which your merits so deservedly call for.

In conclusion, allow us again to express our feelings, and assure you that the place of the *First* among those who have formerly visited us, is now occupied by *yourself* in the hearts of the citizens of Auburn. Very respectfully your

sincere friends and obedient servants,
H. FITZSIMMONS, JOHN D. HARPER,
H. R. HAWKINS, JOHN NYE,
WM. M. JORDAN, GRO. H. VAN CLEFT
ED. M. HALL, JOHN Q. JACKSON,
A. A. STEVENS.

NATIONAL HOTEL, Auburn, Aug. 2d, '53.

Gentlemen: Your kind note has been duly received, extending to me the invitation of appearing again before you in Auburn; and in reply I would assure you that I fully appreciate the compliment, and am pleased to appoint Saturday, August 6th, as most agreeable to me and hope it may be equally so to you.

I am, gentlemen, yours,
ELLA BRUCE.
To Judge H. FITZSIMMONS and others.

Nye stayed in Placer County mining for several years. But in 1861 when his brother James was appointed by President Lincoln as Governor of the territory of Nevada, John Nye left the area.

Nye was one the fourteen men of the Irish Brigade immortalized in Mark Twain's story *Roughing It*. Twain also followed his brother to Nevada when Orion Clements was appointed as secretary of the Territory. He described the fourteen men as Nye's camp followers. They were called the Irish Brigade but only four of them were Irishmen. They seemed to be involved in all sorts of "get rich quick schemes."

Twain wrote of Capt. Nye that he "had a good memory, and a tongue hung in the middle: Nye never suffered the talk to flag or falter and he had a singular hardiness about doing anything and everything."

In *Roughing It*, Twain described the week or so he spent taking care of a sick Capt. Nye. Nye recovered and became involved in a timber company along the shores of Lake Tahoe.

In 1864, when James Nye was elected as a Senator from the state of Nevada, John Nye followed along to Washington D. C. where he held several federal offices and became a lobbyist.

Nye died in Washington D. C. in 1871.

Joseph Perkins

1826- 1880

Joseph Perkins came from a seafaring family. As a very young man he sailed on many voyages around the world. There are two versions of how Perkins came to California, one is that he came aboard either as a passenger or member of the crew on the sailing ship *Eliza* that was one of the first to leave Salem Massachusetts for California in December 1848. It was captained by his brother Augustine. The other version is that he came on the ship *La Grande* with the Salem and California Trading and Mining Company. That ship also left Salem very early in February of 1849.

Perkins married Ellen Pulsifer in Salem in 1840 and they had three children but Ellen had evidently passed early and he married Emily Cole in 1856 in Sacramento.

It was reported that Perkins had piloted one of the first small steamers that came up the Sacramento River in 1849.

Very little is known about Perkins' life here. He is listed as a farmer in Auburn in the 1870 census. He seems to have settled near Clipper Gap. He was known for his stories of his adventures on the high seas when he was a young man.

He died in Clipper Gap in 1880.

Salem & California Trading & Mining Expedition.

No 54-14

250

BE IT KNOWN, That *Seawell Prince* of *Salem, Mass.* is Proprietor of One Share in the Capital Stock of the
SALEM & CALIFORNIA TRADING & MINING EXPEDITION,
which is not transferable.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the President and Treasurer have hereunto set their hands, this *thirteenth* day of *February* in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine.

Joseph Dering

Em'gr.

Benjamin F. Woodbury President.

Share of Stock in the Salem and California Trading and Mining Expedition

Samuel Osgood Putnam

1826 - 1882

Putnam was born in Merrimack County in New Hampshire in 1826. He was a young man of twenty-three years when he arrived in San Francisco in July 1849. Like most, he made his way to the mines. He and several others operated on the Middle Fork "with fair success."

He mined and had a store until about 1854 when he went into the lumber business in El Dorado County. Sometime before 1860, he married Susan. (Susan's maiden name is unknown.) In the 1870s, Putnam and his brother had a saw mill near Emigrant Gap. Susan died in 1872.

Putnam's mill provided lumber for the box factory he established in Auburn about 1877. The box factory was on the site of the modern day First Foundation Bank at the top of Lincoln Way. He would eventually sell to the Towle Brothers who in turn would sell to the Robie Family for the Auburn Lumber Company.

In 1879, Putnam bought the old Alden Fruit drying building on Lincoln Way and converted it into a hotel. It had only had its doors open for two weeks when a faulty flue caused a fire that destroyed the entire building in January 1881. It had been a bad time for Putnam, along with the disastrous fire, his second wife Eunice Meriha had died in 1880.

Within six months, Putnam had a new, larger hotel built on the site. Perhaps the tragedies took a toll, for Putnam died at the early age of 56 in 1882.

Putnam House



PUTNAM HOUSE, AUBURN, PLACER CO. CAL.
SAM'L PUTNAM PRPT.

