

CLIMATE BEST BY GOVERNMENT TEST

The Story of a City: Redwood City, California

By: Roy W. Cloud

Assisted by John Edmonds

Forward

This essay is being written from a manuscript written by Roy W. Cloud who died before this could be published. The words are his. I simply retyped it for him so it could be published. I added the pictures to give it a more visual and enjoyable appearance. Roy would have wanted it this way.

The manuscript was discovered by Roy's great granddaughter, Susan McClellan who owns the house that Roy, his son Roy Jr. and Jean Cloud, lived in for years. Susan's grandmother with whom Susan has lived most of her life passed away several years ago. Susan has been living in the original house that Roy W. Cloud purchased when he was Superintendent of Public Instruction first for San Mateo County and finally for the State of California under the auspices of then Governor Earl Warren.

Susan wanted this book published in memory of Jean Cloud and of Roy W. Cloud.



Roy W. Cloud at the speaker podium and Governor Earl Warren seated to his right.

Redwood City, where “Climate is Best by Government Test” has had a colorful history. The slogan concerning the climatic condition of the community, coined by Wilbur H. Doxsee of the San Mateo County Title Company, was submitted in a contest and won for him first prize of \$5, as the best descriptive characterization of this friendly little town.

Mr. Doxsee got his inspiration for the slogan from a United States Government report which stated that Camp Fremont, the bit World War 1 camp at Menlo Park, was located in the center of the most ideal climate belt in the whole United States.

The descriptive phrase by Mr. Doxsee received instant acclaim and was placed in glowing letters upon a sign across El Camino Real at the Broadway entrance of the town. Now, anyone who says that he lives in this city usually gets the immediate response, “Oh, that’s where ‘climate is Best by Government Test!.’

Redwood City is located near the shore line of San Francisco Bay in Township 5 South, Range 3 West, Mount Diablo Base Meridian, is seat of

government of the County of San Mateo, State of California and is approximately 25 miles south of the metropolis, San Francisco.

During the early years of its settlement all of our great State was under the rule of Spain. Spain's claim to the Americas came through the discovery of Christopher Columbus in 1492 and by the Treaty of Partition of the Oceans, signed June 7, 1494 by Pope Alexander VI. This treaty provided that Spain should have control of all lands discovered west of a line drawn from North to South in the Atlantic Ocean and Portugal should have all newly discovered lands west of that line.

Within a very few years the Spanish conquest of the new world began. Cortez, representing the King of Spain became the absolute ruler of Mexico. In 1534 accompanied by Fortun Jiminez and a small band of retainers Corte crossed the mainland and the Gulf of California and landed on the Peninsula of Lower California.

It is probable that Hernando de Alarcon was the first white man to land on California soil although Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo is credited with being the discoverer of the Golden State. On May 9, 1540, Alarcon in command of two ships left Acapulco, Mexico and sailed north on the Gulf of California to the mouth of the Colorado River. In a small boat he went up the Colorado to its juncture with the Gila River and on August 26, 1540, he went ashore on the west bank of the Gila, thus gaining the distinction of being the first European to walk on California soil.

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For approximately seventy years, missionaries belonging to the Society of Jesus worked unceasingly to Christianize the Indians of Baja or Lower California. In 1767 the Jesuit priests were expelled from their missions. Two years later, 1769, the order of Saint Francis was assigned the work of carrying the message of the cross to the heathen. The leader of the little band of Franciscans was Father Junipero Serra.

This man of God left an indelible record upon the history of California. Following instructions he determined to carry his work into Upper California. Preparations were made for the settlement of the new mission field. Expeditions by land and by sea left for San Diego where the first mission was to be founded. Those who sailed up the Coast of the Baja California landed at San Diego and prepared for the arrival of Father Serra who traveled by land.

July 1, 1769 the land contingent arrived at San Diego. With Father Serra was the military leader, Don Gaspar de Portola, who in addition to his duties as commander-in-chief of the project had been commissioned Governor of the Californians'.

While San Diego was to be the first mission station, Monterey had been selected to be the capitol of the new province.

Two weeks after reaching San Diego on July 14, 1769 he started on the journey, taking with him Father Crespi and Francisco Gomez, Lieutenant Pedro Fages who was an engineer, twenty-seven soldiers and mule drivers and Christian Indians from Baja California.

The trip north was beset with difficulties as trails had to be cleared in many places. Because of heavy fog Monterey was passed on October 3rd and they rested on that day on land that was later to be part of San Mateo County. On Sunday October 29, Father Crespi said mass at Half Moon Bay.

From a point near Montara on November 1st, Sergeant Ortega saw the outer waters of the San Francisco Bay. The route was then changed and traveling southward and near the top of the mountain chain through San Mateo County the broad expanse of inner San Francisco Bay was discovered. Governor Portola then gave orders to go down to the shore of the bay and from November 7 to 11, the entire party camped on a site in or near the present city of Redwood City. For the first time in history white men traversed the territory and enjoyed the salubrious air of the place where we call "Climate Best by Government Test."

Portola broke camp November 12, and without accident of any San Diego was reached January 24, 1770, on board the San Antonio, Father Serra sailed from San Diego for Monterey. Governor Portola left with a military contingent the following day and the two parties met at the new capitol May 31st. Father Francisco Palou who accompanied Serra and was his trusted assistant was the historian of the expedition. Palou's diary which was kept with meticulous care is the source material which records many events of California's early history.

Mission San Carlos de Monterey was founded by Father Serra, June 3, 1770 and on the same day Governor Portola assisted by the good fathers and the soldiers founded the Presidio of Monterey and took possession of the land in the name of his majesty, Charles III, King of Spain.

Little of historic importance transpired except that priests and soldiers made trips through territory adjacent to Monterey. Two such journeys were made as far north as the future site of San Francisco. Dr. Herbert Eugene Bolton, Emeritus Professor of History, University of California, Berkeley, the chronicler of California history in his "Outpost of Empire – The Story of the Founding of San Francisco" describes one of these journeys. (Page 249.)

Dr. Bolton gives the picture as it was seen by the first European who visited our section and marveled at its beauty. The start of this trip was made on November 23, 1774.

Beside Rivera (commander of the Provincial troops) and Palou this company consisted of sixteen soldiers, two servants, and a muleteer for the pack train and provisions for forty days. To the Santa Clara Valley they followed in general the route opened by Fages and Crespi nearly two years before, approximating the present day highway through Salinas, San Juan Bautista, Hollister and Gilroy to Coyote. Swinging westward now and skirting the hills on the left, on the third night they camped on the San Francisco Creek (now called San Francisquito Creek) near the tall redwood (Palo Alto) that gave its name to Palo Alto and that still stands to bear witness to the days of romance. The unsurpassed beauties of the place charmed the explorers and here they selected a site for one of the two missions. To mark the spot they set up a substantial wooden cross near the ford, "fixing in it our earnest desire to found on this same site a church dedicated to my Seraphic Father San Francisco," says Palou.

"Rivera and Palou continued northwest for several miles along the beautiful oak covered plain near the shore of the bay.

Although Palou was impressed with the grandeur of the scenery and surroundings of this part of the Santa Clara Valley the inclemency of the weather had a most dampening effect on many of his followers.

Meanwhile back in Mexico plans were going forward for the establishment of a settlement, a presidio and a mission to honor Father Serra's patron Saint, St. Francis.

The group selected to settle San Francisco left on their long journey September 29, 1775 under the leadership of Captain Juan Bautista de Anza. The gathering place for the colonists was Horcasitas in the province of Sonora, Mexico.

Anza had made the trip to California to determine the best route for such an expedition. With this intrepid leader were 240 men, women and children, 165

mules, 304 horses and 302 head of cattle. He was also accompanied by Fathers Pedro Font and Francisco Garces.

Many hardships were encountered by these hardy settlers but so carefully had been the planning that the destination was reached with only one death but to offset this eight babies were born during the six months trek and San Francisco was reached on March 28, 1776 and the settlement of the city by the Golden Gate was begun.

Anza's great caravan did not complete the trip with him as a number of the families remained at Monterey until preliminary plans for their housing near the mission which was to be established had been completed. After several days at the port that was to be San Francisco, Anza departed for Monterey and from that point he returned to Mexico. In June under Lieutenant Moraga the remaining colonists passed through the future site of Redwood City and on June 27, 1776 just a few days before the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia, Father Palou said mass to the entire group of colonists and San Francisco entered its first phase of history.

Shortly after the establishment of San Francisco the territory which was to become San Mateo County received its name. Father Cornelius Kennedy former pastor of Mount Carmel Church in Redwood City informed me that it was probable that some of Anza's group traveled south to inspect the country adjacent to their new homes. He believed that this party camped on the bank of a creek on September 21 and said mass. Because September 21 is the feast day of St. Matthew the creek was dedicated to the tax gatherer who became a disciple of Jesus.

One of the illustrations in Dr. Bolton's "Outpost of Empire" page 266 is the Map of Exploration round San Francisco Bay drawn by Father Pedro Font in 1777. Certain creeks are named on the map and one is St. Matthews Creek another is R. de Francisco (San Francisquito). From St. Matthews Creek the San Mateo Land grant derived its name and from the land grant the entire area was named in 1856 when the County of San Mateo was officially established. From Font's map we know that the creek was named in 1777 or earlier.

The first Englishman to pass through our fair city was Captain George Vancouver of the sailing ship Discovery. Captain Vancouver entered San Francisco Bay in November, 1792 and, after spending several days at the fort, he decided to visit the mission at Santa Clara. He traveled through the future San Mateo County making notes as he passed certain places. After passing San Mateo Creek he described the country as resembling an English park because of its rolling foothills and beautiful groves of oak trees.

Records indicate that only one land grant was made in the present San Mateo County during the Spanish regime in California. All of the other grants were made by the Mexican governors of the state.

In 1795 Governor Diego Borico made a provisional grant on the San Francisco Peninsula to Don Jose Dario Arguello for services rendered the King. This grant which was bounded on the north by the San Mateo Creek and on the south by the San Francisquito Creek, on the east by the shore of the San Francisco Bay and on the west by the mountain top and was supposed to contain 69,120 acres but as confirmed to the Arguello heirs by the United States it contained 35,240 acres.

The first of the Arguello family was Don Jose Dario Arguello who came in 1781 as an officer in the military service. He was advanced to Lieutenant and in time became commandant of three of California's most important military establishments.

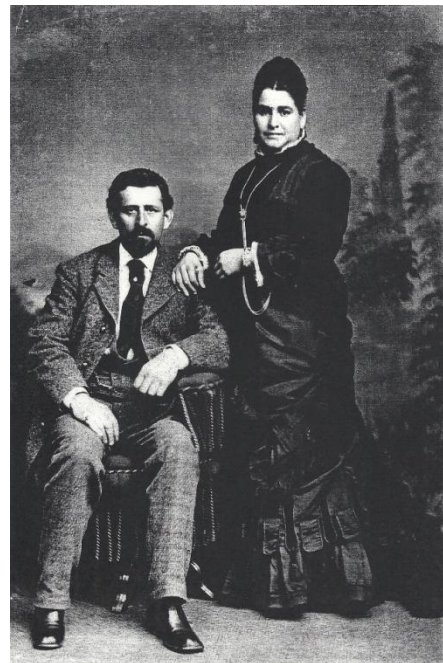
Captain Arguello, on July 24, 1814 while serving as commandant of the presidio of Santa Barbara, being the ranking military officer in California, became ad-interim governor. This distinction came because of the death of Governor Arrillaga who died at the Soledad Mission. Governor Arguello continued in the office as acting governor until he was relieved by the arrival at Monterey of Governor Pablo Vicente Sola. Jose Dario Arguello was then appointed governor of Lower California and served in that position from 1815 to 1822. He died at Guadalajara in 1828.

Jose Dario Arguello was married to Ignacia Moraga and their son Ljuis Antonio Arguello was born at the presidio of San Francisco June 21, 1784. This son was destined to become one of California's most prominent citizens. On September 6, 1799, he entered the military service as a cadet in the San Francisco Company. In 1806 he received his promotion to Lieutenant and on November 30, 1817, Governor Sola commissioned him Captain. In 1819 he married Dona Soledad, daughter of Sergeant Jose Dolores Ortega, 1830.

Shortly before his election as governor, probably in 1821, Luis Antonio Arguello received a confirmatory grant of the Pulgas rancho.

Another member of the Arguello family received much notice because of her blighted international romance. Maria de la conception Marcela Arguello, daughter of Jose Dario was baptized at Mission Dolores, February 26, 1791. AT 15 she was a mature and lovely girl. Nikola Petrovich Rezanov, the Imperial Chamberlain of Russia arrived in San Francisco Bay on April 4, 1806, commanding the ship Juno. His visit was made necessary because of lack of food and water. Rezanov met and fell in love with Conception, much to the dislike of her father. However the two were betrothed and Rezanov left to secure the consent of the Tzar of Russia. On his way through Siberia he was stricken with fever and died. It was nearly fifty years after his death that Conception learned why he had never returned. In April, 1851 she took the vows as a Dominican Sister, assumed the name of sister Dominica and became the first native California nun. She died on Christmas Day, 1857 and was buried in the Dominican Cemetery at Benicia. Because of her religious connections she was not a claimant for any part of the De Las Pulgas grant.

Luis Antonio Arguello had a home in San Francisco and also one on the Las Pulgas Rancho. The ranch home was located near the corner of



*Don Luis Antonio Arguello &
Dona Angela Berryessa De
Arguello*

Cedar and Magnolia Streets in San Carlos where the home of Fred Drake, the pioneer San Carlos realtor now stands. In 1830, shortly after the death of Governor Arguello, Alfred Robinson, known as Don Alfredo, visited the widow Arguello at her San Carlos home and had dinner at her hospitable board. Don Alfredo was one of the first eastern Americans to write the history of California. While he never lived in this section, one of his sons, James A. Robinson was a Redwood City resident for many years and married Carry Hawes, daughter of Horace Hawes whose holdings covered a large part of the present Redwood City. A. Robinson, son of James A. and grandson of Don Alfredo Robinson' now lives in Burlingame. Don Alfredo describes his visit with Mrs. Arguello on page 70 of his "Life in California."

The land grant of the Las Pulgas ranch, which was later confirmed by the United States, was made to the widow and heirs of Don Luis Antonio Arguello by Governor Jose Castro, November 26, 1835. Most of the grants which covered practically all of the land in San Mateo County were given during the Mexican era.

When the treaty between the United States and Mexico was signed shortly after the close of the Mexican War, the present State of California was part of the



*Maria De La Soledad
Ortega de Arguello*

territory ceded by Mexico to the United States. By this treaty, which was signed at Guadeloupe Hidalgo in 1848 the United States Government agreed to respect and confirm all property rights of all who had received land grants from Mexico. In March 1851 Congress enacted a law, "To Ascertain and Settle Private Land Claims in the State of California."

Between 1850 and 1853 many people from various sections of the world were attracted to this section by the climate and fertility of the soil.

The majority of these new comers became squatters. They believed that the Arguellos would not be able to prove ownership to their vast holdings so without any right or reason they "squatted" on the land and built makeshift

homes which they thought would give them a real claim to the particular plot which they desired. In conformity with the federal law of March 3, 1851, three commissioners were appointed to see that the law became effective. One of the first matters to come before the General Land Commission was the ownership of the Las Pulgas Grant. The claimants were Maria de la Soledad Arguello and Simon M. Mezes who filed their claim on January 21, 1852.

S. M. Mezes was a Castilian gentleman who acted as agent for the Arguellos and was the attorney for the widow and her sons. The land so claimed was supposed to comprise 69,120 acres.

The Board of Land Commissioners on October 12, 1853 confirmed the Las Pulgas Grant so far as the northern, southern and eastern boundaries were concerned, but the western boundary was brought back from the mountains to the brow of the hills just west of Belmont, San Carlos and Redwood City. This change of boundary brought the grant down to 35,240 acres.

Squatters living on the land were not satisfied with the confirmation and the matter was taken to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

The District Court gave its opinion favoring the Arguello family. An appeal was then taken to the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of the United States at the December term in 1855 (18ty Howard Reports) rendered the following decision:

“On the whole we are of the opinion that the judgment of the District Court is correct and it is adjudged that the said claim of the petitioners is valid as to that portion of the land described in the petition which is bounded as follows to wit: On the South by the Arroyo or Creek of San Francisquito. On the North by the Creek San Mateo, on the East by the Esteros or waters of the Bay of San Francisco and on the West by the Eastern borders of the valley known as the “Canada de Raymundo.”

The Supreme Court decision goes to the widow Arguello and her seventeen-twentieths of the rancho and to S. M. Mezes three-twentieths of the rancho.

During the course of the case in the courts the Widow Arguello, being greatly in need of money, sold 2200 acres of her holdings to William Carey Jones, one of the Land Commissioners who had come to California to settle the various claims. These 2200 acres acquired by Mr. Jones comprised some of the choicest land of Mrs. Arguello's holdings. It was bounded on the North by the Cordilleras Creek which now separates the cities of San Carlos and Redwood City; on the East by "the Old County Road", on the South by the Woodside Road and on the West by the western boundary of the Las Pulgas grant. Contained within this acreage is practically all of the city of Redwood, west of the right of way of the Southern Pacific Rail Road.

S. M. Mezes received 5,286 acres of land as his share of the Pulgas grant. Mr. Mezes, in his settlement with Mrs. Arguello was given several pieces of land. One was at Belmont where he made his home; another tract was north of the Middlefield Road near Menlo Park. A third made up practically all of the old town of Redwood City which lay roughly between Whipple Avenue on the north, Arguello Street on the west, Charter Street on the south and Chestnut on the east. (This description however is not exact and the general boundary deviated in places from these lines.)

During all of the time that the ownership of the Pulgas grant was before the Land Commission and in the process of litigation before the United States District and Supreme Courts the rancho was within the confines of the County of San Francisco. The act of the California Legislature which was introduced by Honorable Horace Hawes, Assemblyman from San Francisco, and which created the County of San Mateo, was signed by Governor J. Neely Johnson, April 19, 1856.

From 1850 to 1856 the section of San Francisco which became San Mateo County was represented by the following members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

1850-1842: First township: all of north end of our county,

John Treat;

Second Township: Colma to San Mateo

Francis Francisco Sanchez;

Third Township: San Mateo Creek to San Francisquito Creek

Dr. R. O. Tripp, for many years one of the best known men of the area. Dr. Tripp came from New York State in 1849.

1852-1853: The supervisors were:

First Township: William McLean;

Second Township: J. D. Musgrove;

Third Township: J. F. Hill:

1854-1855: First Township: James P. Casey;

Second Township: J. D. Musgrove;

Third Township: Andrew Teague.

The representative of the first township in 1854-55, James P. Casey, attained great notoriety by his killing of James King of William, the owner and publisher of the San Francisco Bulletin. This killing was the spark which caused the formation of the Vigilance Committee of 1856. Casey was hanged by order of the Vigilance Committee. From 1850 to 1853 all residents of Redwood City were required to go to Woodside to vote.

The owner of Redwood Farm, William Carey Jones, in September, 1853 mortgaged the property to the guardian of Alonzo de Haro, a minor, for 15,000 at 2% per month compound interest. Within a relatively short time the interest on the mortgage became so great that foreclosure proceedings were instituted and Mr. Jones lost the entire property.

The name, William Carey Jones continued to be well known in California for William Carey Jones Jr. became one of the outstanding and most popular professors at the University of California where he served for many years. Mrs. S. A. Fryer of San Carlos is a daughter of the professor and granddaughter of the first purchaser of Redwood Farm for \$20,000 and shortly thereafter came to this community to reside.

Redwood City, since the first white people came to this section, has had three names. They were:

1. Embarcadero
2. Mezesville (1854)
3. Redwood City (May 11, 1867)

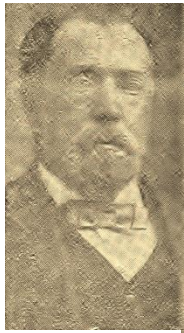
The first settlers called the section "Embarcadero", because much of the lumber and shingles out in the neighboring foothills was brought to the Creek here to be shipped by schooners to San Francisco.

In 1854 S. M. Mezes, because of the insistent demand of the residents of the section, had a survey made and laid out the Town of Mezesville. Mr. Mezes depended upon the decision of the United States Commissioner of Lands when he plotted the town and those who purchased lots from him in 1854 and 1855 were satisfied that the Supreme Court would decide in favor of the Arguello family as the lawful owners of the land.

The legal name of the community was Mezesville until 1867 and purchasers of lots received deeds described as being in the Town of Mezesville. On May 11, 1867, the community was incorporated under the laws of California as the Town of Redwood City, although it had been called by that name for at least twelve years before incorporation.

Redwood City or Embarcadero had its first permanent resident in 1849. From reports, but not from any official record, the first resident was an Englishman named William Holder, but familiarly known as Joe Holder. Mr. Holder came to this place as the agent for a San Francisco lumber company. He did not build a house at the time, or even a shack, but is supposed to have had

shelter in the piles of lumber. Later he purchased acreage from the Arguellos where the industrial area of Redwood City is now located. He built his home at the end of Main Street near the Frank Tannery and there he lived for many years. Before his death he was tenderly cared for by his friend, Mrs. Mamie Glennan, who made his declining years, as an old man, as comfortable as possible.



*William
Holder*

About the same time that William Holder came here, Ben Bailey built a little shack on the Pulgas property near the corner of the highway and Woodside Road. Liquid refreshment and some supplies could be secured at the Pulgas House and it was the common practice of travelers to spread their blankets and sleep under the oak trees which then surrounded the place.

Late in 1849 James Dolan who had come to the Golden State directly from Ireland came to Southern San Francisco County. He purchased a small acreage and for many years was a prosperous farmer. His home was located on the west side of the highway, just north of Selby Lane in territory that is now part of Redwood City.



William Littlejohn

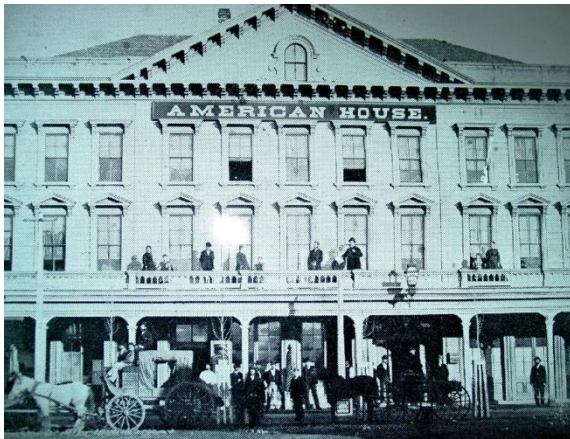
In 1851 Captain A. Smith built the first real house in Redwood City. It was located on the present Broadway just west of Jefferson Avenue. The community then enjoyed sudden prosperity from the ship building industry which had its start in 1851. In that year G. M. Burnham began the building of a lumber schooner named "Redwood", which sailed from this port to San Francisco Bay points for many years. Other vessels built at Burnham's year were, the Mary Martin, the Caroline Whipple, the Harriett, and the Dashaway.

Peter Tyler and his wife who came in 1851 were the parents of the first babies born here. Tyler was a shipwright and soon after he located in the community his twin daughters, Mary and Caroline Tyler were born.

William Littlejohn, a carpenter who had come to California in 1850 from England, settled here in 1852 and bought the Captain Smith house where his own son Chase was born. Chase Littlejohn was supposed to have been the first boy born in Redwood City. Chase Littlejohn lived in the city of his birth for over eighty years and was the source of much of the early history of the section.

The Embarcadero's first store was established in September, 1852 by William Shaw. Mr. Shaw's store was stocked with both provisions and liquid refreshments. Also it is reported that a card table was adjacent to a large round-bellied stove. The establishment might be easily described as one of the first groceterias in the world's history, for when Mr. Shaw was engaged in a card game he required the customers to serve themselves and leave the money for the goods on the counter as he didn't want it mixed up with the cash on the card table.

The first hotel in our town, the American House, was constructed in 1853 by A. Harris. So far as I know there is no record of what the "A" stands for as



American House: On Main Street at the foot of Bridge Street.

"Harris Hotel" or "American House." The building was located on Main Street (then known as the County Road) at the eastern end of Bridge Street, now Broadway. Years later the building which occupied the spot where the American house once stood, was removed to permit the extension of Broadway.

The American House consisted of one room for the proprietor and one large sleeping room with ranges of bunks along three sides. The building and its successor, a large and well fitted American House were both destroyed by fire.

Because the principle industry of Southern San Francisco County was milling and lumbering, a number of blacksmiths opened forges here. The first, in this line, was George Dysart who came in 1851 and soon had a thriving business.

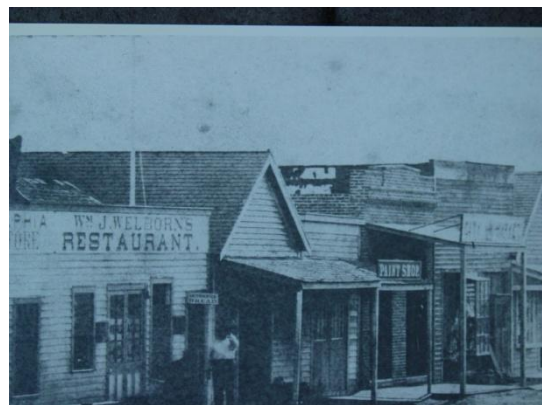
Soon Smith and Chew opened their blacksmith shop on Main Street where for some many years the Odd Fellows building housed most of the town's fraternal organizations.

In 1853 J. W' Allen bought the corner of Main Street and the County Road, now the corner of Maple Street and Main Street and erected a wagon making factory there. When the railroad was built it took the rear end of Allen's establishment and he had to erect a larger shop across the street on the corner of Heller Street just off of Main. In later years this property was acquired by William Beeson who had a blacksmith and wheel repair shop until the early nineteen hundreds.

Ralph Dodge, City Clerk and Mrs. Clarissa Bray, wife of Police Officer Phil Bray and Edward M. Allen are grand children of J. M. Allen and Willie Leslie, deputy chief of the Redwood City Fire Department is the grandson of W. W. Beeson.

Daniel Ford, a blacksmith, opened a blacksmith shop on Bridge Street in 1855 and after about a year there went to Searsville to work for Denis Martin, but after a year returned and reopened his Bridge Street forge. Later he was joined in business by his son Bill while his other son, Jack, learned the printing trade on the old Times and Gazette. Bill ford for years aided in every Fourth of July celebration by exploding huge quantities of powder between two anvils. Jack Ford started the taxi business in Redwood City with the second Ford auto in the town.

Daniel Ford occasioned much excitement in the 70's. He had been called as a juror and at noon time the jury was locked in a room on the second floor of the court house. On the calling of court at one o'clock it was found that only eleven jurymen were present. Shortly afterwards Mr. Ford entered the court room and after receiving a stinging rebuke from the Judge



South side of Bridge St. Broadway in 1865, Ford's Shop was to the right.

explained that he had climbed out a window and had dropped fifteen feet to the ground. Mrs. Ford had a special dinner of corn beef and cabbage which he didn't want to miss.

Another blacksmith who went to work for Denis Martin in 1856 at Searsville was William Lloyd, A Scotsman. Mr. Lloyd later moved to Redwood City and built his home on Hamilton Street on the corner across from the court house. His family consisted of one son and four daughters. The eldest daughter was married to P. H. McEvoy who came from Australia with his mother and took up a large acreage on the Woodside Road in 1852. The McEvoy's arrived in California in 1849 and after three years in the mines came here to make their home. P. H. or Patsy McEvoy was a handsome affable man and served several terms as a member of the Board of supervisors from this district. One of the great granddaughters of Mr. McEvoy is now the wife of James O'Keefe Jr., one of this city's prominent lawyers and city attorney of Menlo Park.

The youngest daughter of the William Lloyds, Gilen, married William McDonald, Redwood City's singing blacksmith. As a youth William McDonald, entered the blacksmith business here. He and will Bement bought the shop of Hilton and Titus located on the ground floor of the Old Odd Fellows building on Main Street. McDonald had a marvelous bass voice. He became a member of the choir of the Congregational Church. There his solos attracted wide attention. He was offered a position with the Bostonians, the leading grand opera company of the country. He accepted the call and the balance of his life was spent as a grand opera and concert singer. He was one of the earliest performers to have his songs recorded on discs for the newly invented phonographs.

Now passing from smiths to business, two merchandise stores were opened at about the same time. Charles Livingstone, whose family occupied a most prominent part in New York society, opened his store on Bridge Street, now Broadway. His home, one of the finest in town, occupied a full block and the house was on the corner of Arguello and Brewster. His store was on the side which adjoins the present Sequoia Hotel. His only daughter became Mrs. Wooll and her son still owns the property on which several Broadway stores are located.

The other merchant who opened his business on Main Street on the present parking lot of the First National Bank was George Thatcher. With his son he soon had a prosperous business. Later his wife and daughter Rose came from Australia and joined him. In 1853 the Post Office was moved into Redwood City and George Thatcher was appointed Post Master.

Rose Thatcher grew to womanhood here and was married to Percy B. Jamieson, a native of New Zealand, came with his parents and sisters in 1852. The family settled at Woodside where Percy grew to manhood. After finishing school at Woodside he moved to Redwood City and learned the business of plumbing with Henry Horton. After finishing his apprenticeship he married Rose Thatcher and opened his own shop which was located on the site of the present Masonic Hall. There were three children, Harry, a retired P.G. and E. employee, William Jamieson, now deceased, a plumber and Mrs. Ben Stafford of this city. Mrs. Stafford has informed me that her grandfather, George Thatcher, went into the China trade in the sixties and while in the Orient was exposed to cholera and, although he did not have that terrible disease, died as the result of the contact. Percy Jamieson, while following his trade as plumber, was for many years the Town Marshal. Grandma Thatcher, as an old, old lady conducted a notion store on her property located 50 feet south of Stambaugh Street on the east side of Main.

J. V. Diller, in 1853 or 1854, came to Redwood City and built a two story structure on the creek near the County Road (now Main Street) about 200 feet north of Bridge Street. Because of the scarcity of nails, wooden pegs were used throughout the building to fasten the rafters, the girders, the flooring and the outside boards in place. The lower floor was used for storing provisions and the upper story consisted of an office and sleeping rooms. Adjoining the building was a lumber yard where cut lumber and shakes were hauled for shipment by schooners to San Francisco.

Mr. Diller was agent for mill owners in the Woodside, Searsville and West Union areas and large stocks of lumber covered his yards which extended for over a block to the point where the creek turned to pass the present Frank Tannery.

He also acquired other property and purchased what was known, even down to the nineteen hundreds, as Diller's Island. This acreage which was the first tract outside of Mezesville extended from Jefferson Street to Maple and was known as the Diller addition. The western boundary was the highway or El Camino Real and the old Redwood Creek formed the eastern edge of Diller's holdings.

During the late fifties Diller's new and enlarged store was opened on Main Street in front of the Tremont House. It was a one story brick building which was later known throughout the County as Chamberlain's Store where the County Treasury was maintained. About this time Mr. Diller took in a partner, a young man named Benjamin Franklin Cooper, who resided here during the balance of his life and was the father of Morris S. Cooper who recently passed away.

In addition to his other activities, Mr. Diller was a member of the first board of Town Trustees. He then sold his lumber yards to Hanson and Ackerson, which firm later became the Tacoma Milling company. His partner, B. F. Cooper purchased Diller's' interest in the store, which was later acquired by P. P. Chamberlain and Wilbur J. Wilcox.

Wilbur J. Wilcox was one of Redwood City's most popular citizens. He was Postmaster and in 1876 was elected County Treasurer, serving in that position until 1882. During his term he studied medicine and on being admitted to practice, moved to East Oakland where, in addition to his duties as a doctor, he was for many years a member and president of the Oakland City Board of Education.

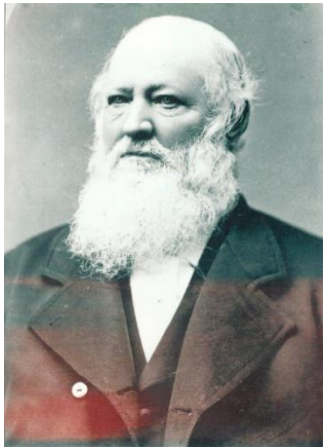
P. P. Chamberlain who entered business with Wilbur Wilcox came to Redwood City shortly after the War Between the States, or Civil War. He was in the Union Army for practically the entire war and took part in many engagements. In 1867 he located here and began his business career as a clerk for B. F. Cooper. As recorded above, he later became proprietor of the store and Mr. Cooper was one of his faithful employees until his death.

P. P. Chamberlain was a rare individual. Most of the people in Redwood City and the surrounding sections at time owed him for provisions for long

periods of time. He rarely billed a customer and more rarely ever lost anything by giving unlimited credit. No matter how poor a family might be, Mr. Chamberlain always carried their account on his books until they were able to pay.

He was one of the founders and most active members of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and took part in every Memorial Day observance until his last year. In 1874 he became Worshipful Master of the Redwood City Masonic Lodge. He also was active in most of the other fraternal organizations in the Community.

Philander Perrigrine Chamberlain was Treasurer of San Mateo county from 1882 to 1925 and the first twenty five years as Treasurer he maintained the office in the Pioneer Store on Main Street. In 1925, because of infirmities, he turned the office over to his trusted assistant, Mrs. Grace Lawrence Cooper who was elected for a full term the next year. Mrs. Cooper is still a resident of this city.



Judge Benjamin Fox

And now to return to the early 1850's and the important people who helped to develop our town. In 1852 Harry Morse opened a so-called hotel on Main Street and conducted it for several years, then went to Oakland and soon after was elected sheriff of Alameda County in which position, for 12 years, he became known throughout the State for his rigorous enforcement of the law.

Dr. A. T. McClure was our first doctor. He was here by 1853 and purchased a ten acre tract between what later became the right-of-way of the Southern Pacific Railroad and the highway and between Jefferson Avenue and the creek which now borders James Street. His house was in the middle of the tract. Later this property was acquired by Steve and Al Davis, pioneer butchers who had a slaughter house on the property which has ever since been known as the Butcher Field.



Attorney, Charles Fox

For the first four years of its existence, Redwood City had no resident attorney but Charles Livingston had a book entitled "Everyman His Own Lawyer,"



Attorney, George Fox

and his legal forms in this book were used liberally by the citizens who needed to convey or purchase property or make or secure loans. Soon however lawyers were attracted to the locality. Benjamin Fox was the county's first Judge. His sons, Charles N. Fox and George W. Fox, were early disciples of Blackstone. Charles N. Fox became District Attorney of San Mateo County in 1858

and went on from that position to a place as Justice of the State Supreme Court and in point of honors became the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of the State and was the first president of the Western Pacific Railroad Company.

George W. Fox was also District Attorney of San Mateo County and was a prominent practicing attorney until his death. He was the second foreman of Redwood City's Fire Department and was active in all fraternal organizations. His son, Claude Fox, one of the oldest living natives of Redwood City, and two daughters, Mrs. F. H. Thorpe and Mrs. L. Otzen are local residents and his grandson, Winthrop H. Thorpe is now Police Judge of Redwood City.

Other early day attorneys were C. T. Gough, first District Attorney, H. A. Schofield, Harvey Kincead, whose son Archer was one of Redwood City's long time attorneys. Archer Kincead was a member of the first (1892) graduating class at the newly opened Stanford University.

Cobblers were very important people in Redwood's early history. Store shoes were not so plentiful as at present and the cobblers not only sold shoes and boots but they also made the foot wear for most of this town's early male population. Fred Botsch, a fine German gentleman was the first to open a shop here. He was soon followed by Pat McCarthy and William Douglas.

Botsch's shop was located on Main Street on the east side between Stambaugh and Phelps (Middlefield Road) Streets. Fred had a very decided

impediment in his speech and stood just so much mimicking by the younger generation before taking after them with a leather strap that just stung the posteriors a wee bit before the wielder could return to his shop.

Pat McCarthy's shop was on the corner of "A" and 3rd streets (now Broadway and Hamilton) cater cornered from the Court House. His sign had a big boot. Above the boot was "P. H. McCarthy" and below was the single word "Maker." Pat was as fine and as amiable a man as ever lived in Redwood. He was devout in his religious observance and his charges were so small that it was always a wonder how he could support his wife and daughter.

William H. Douglas had his shop about where the Masonic Hall is located and adjoined Jamieson's plumbing establishment. Mr. Douglas was Justice of the Peace and often was called upon to marry people. When a wedding party appeared Judge Douglas removed his cobbler's apron and donned his coat and discarded a chew of tobacco and performed his official function.

I think my greatest thrill was when, as a boy of nine, my father took me to "Old Man Douglas' shop and had a pair of boots made for me. I wore short britches at the time. The boots had copper toes and were topped by "beautiful" red leather that came nearly to my knees and they lasted so long that when I started to wear long pants the boots became a difficult problem and besides that, the feet didn't correspond to the size of the foot wear. The old artisans of Redwood certainly knew their business.

In 1856 the City of San Francisco decided to try a new form of government. San Francisco County was pestered with groups of outlaws, thieves and murderers who lived in the sand hills south of the city's boundary. The police officials could not cope with these individuals so the law and order groups of the city determined to form a government which would consolidate all of the affairs of the city and county under one central governing body. To do this it became necessary for the County and City to have common boundary lines.

Accordingly the assemblyman from San Francisco County, Honorable Horace Hawes was instructed to introduce a bill in the State Legislature of 1856 to

form the “Consolidated City and County of San Francisco” and to set apart all of the rural area of San Francisco County into a new unit to be known as San Mateo County. All of the unwanted population was by this manner to be dumped into the new county.

The “Consolidation Act” passed both houses and was signed on April 19, 1856, by Governor Neely Johnson. By the terms of the act the citizens were required to hold an election on the second Monday of May, 1856 to elect offices for the newly formed county and to select a county seat.

In conformity with the law, the election was called, election officers were appointed and polling places were designated. My grandfather lived on the top of the mountain on the Half Moon Bay Road. In his precinct there were 21 families and 21 regular voters. At the election on May 12, nearly 300 votes were cast in that precinct. Strangely the list of voters, with 21 exceptions, was the exact passenger list of a vessel which had reached San Francisco a few days before. The same excessively large number of votes were cast in another section of the county.

The results of the election showed that several men who were friendly with the undesirable element had been elected to office and Belmont was chosen as the County’s first County seat.

All ballots cast at the election were to be delivered on May 14th to three election commissioners, John Johnson of Half Moon Bay; R. O. Tripp of Woodside and Charles Clark of the Ten Mile House at the hotel of Edward Hancock in Redwood City.

Between May 12th and 14th certain candidates for county offices seized some of the ballots and after examining them substituted others in their place. They were then delivered to the commissioners at Hancock’s hotel. After tabulation of the votes it became so apparent that the whole election procedure was fraudulent, that election contests were instituted. Judge Benjamin Fox held the County Court at Belmont and after full hearing the legitimate list of officials were declared elected and Redwood City was named as the County Seat.

The officers elected by the court's decree were:

J. W. Ackerson, Sheriff

Benjamin Lathrop, County Clerk

Curtis Baird, Treasurer

S. B. Gordon, Assessor

Supervisors, James Berry, John Johnston and Charles Fair.

County Assessor Gordon was ex-officio, County Superintendent of Schools.

The election was then contested on the grounds that the "Consolidation Act" did not become effective until July 1, upon any official. The State Supreme Court ruled that this contention was correct and that the officials were named illegally. However the County official continued to function and at the State Legislature in 1857 an act was introduced by the Honorable Timothy Guy Phelps, Senator from San Carlos, which was passed and signed April 18, 1857 which legalized the election of the County officials and confirmed the actions of such officials from the time they had assumed their official positions.

Moore and DePue in 1878 published a History of San Mateo County which contains a great amount of factual material. From this publication we learn that the first meeting of the Court of Sessions was held August 4, 1856 in the Court House, a two story building rented from J. V. Diller at \$40 per month.

The court convened on August 5th the first heard was the application of Horace Templeton for a license to practice Law. Judge Fox, appointed district Attorney W. F. Gough and James McCabe to examine him as to his qualifications. After careful examination the committee reported favorably and on the following day Mr. Templeton was admitted to practice. A few years later Horace Templeton was elected County Judge and served from 1860 through 1872.

The first case tried was the People vs. Joseph Gray. Gray was convicted of simple assault, fined \$50 and placed under bond of \$500 to keep the peace. On

the same day, August 5th, George W. Gaffney was convicted and sentenced to serve one year in the state prison. The Court then adjourned.

The second session of the Court convened October 6, 1856, Judge Fox presiding. The first person to be granted the right of American Citizenship in San Mateo County was Hugh Kelly of Woodside who was long regarded as one of the community's leading citizens and later represented this township as a member of the County Board of Supervisors.

The first meeting of the County Board of Supervisors was held at Diller's Store, July 7, 1856 and completed arrangements with Mr. Diller for the rent of the property. Two men were appointed to fill the offices of Justice of the Peace in the 1st and 3rd townships. It was then decided that the sum of \$50 should be expended to repair the road leading from San Francisco to San Jose and so San Mateo County began its official entity.

In 1857 Horace Hawes, author of the "consolidation Act" which set San Mateo County apart from the City and County of San Francisco, moved to Redwood city, having acquired Redwood Farm, Mr. Hawes decided that he should supervise the farming of his large holding. He immediately contracted for the erection of a large home which for years stood on the site now occupied by the Standard oil station adjoining the Southern Pacific Depot. Soon however, he let a contract for a larger and more ornate home which stood, until the earthquake of 1906 on the present site of Sequoia High School.

Mrs. Hawes was a southern lady and brought from her old Kentucky home a Negro boy, James Coombes, who attended the local school and also acted as the Hawes coachman. There were no color lines in Redwood City at that time and Jim Coombs mingled with all of the white folks and was a welcome partner of the local girls at the various dances held at the Odd Fellows meeting rooms and later at the Germania Hall.

There were two children in the Hawes family, Carolyn and Horace Hawes Jr. The two children became very popular and March 22nd of each year was eagerly anticipated by the youth of the village as on that day Horace Hawes had a big

birthday party for his son Horace. The festivities began in the morning and lasted throughout the day with games, dancing and abundant supplies of the choicest foods. Later in the year the birthday of the daughter was celebrated.

Carolyn Hawes as a beautiful young woman was married to James A. Robinson, son of Alfred Robinson who had arrived in California in 1828 and was the author of "Life in California", one of the earliest histories describing this state and its early settlers.

A second house on the present high school site was built and became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson. Two children were born to this union, Eloina, now deceased, who was married to J. W. Goodwin; and A. Porter Robinson, a certified public accountant, now residing in Burlingame. The Robinsons lived in Redwood City until their last years which were spent in traveling.

Horace Hawes Jr. was married in Redwood City but died as a young man, leaving a young widow and one daughter, Eugenia. This daughter was married to David M. Crabtree, rector of the local Episcopal Church and their son was recently decorated for meritorious service. Both Reverend Crabtree and his wife are now deceased.

On March 11th 1871 Horace Hawes published a deed of trust in the San Francisco Bulletin which gave his whole Redwood farm for the purpose of founding the Mount Eagle University." The trust agreement long and involved and contained many conditions and reservations. One condition was that either he State or by some other means a contribution of \$6,100,000 should be added to the value of his gift so that the University could be adequately maintained.

In this instrument Mr. Hawes reserved the home site and certain tracts of land surrounding it for the use of Mrs. Hawes, his son and daughter. He also made provisions for annuities for his wife and two children.

Ten days later, March 13, 1871, Horace Hawes died at the age of 60. Shortly after his death, Mrs. Hawes brought suit to have the Trust Agreement vacated and the estate given to her and the two children. The suit to void the Trust dragged through the courts for many years and cost Mrs. Hawes most of her

huge fortune. Mrs. Robinson's share of the estate was not lost. It consisted of considerable acreage south of the present James Street and was sold as town in the Robinson subdivision.

During his life in Redwood City Mr. Hawes contributed liberally to the welfare of the community. He gave the right of way for the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad, now called the Southern Pacific Railroad, on condition that all trains passing through the town would stop to entrain and detrain passengers. This provision was allowed to lapse in the early 1900's as it placed an unnecessary burden upon the Railroad Company to stop its fast Los Angeles trains when there were few or any passengers for this stop.

Mr. Hawes, in 1863, donated acreage for the erection of Redwood City's first large school house. The property is partly owned now by the city and on it are located the Redwood City Fire House and the City Hall. On January 15, 1864 the school trustees gave a contract to J. J. Dorland to build a two story building 62 by 32 feet, with separate entrances on the boys and girls sides of 10 by 21 feet. After the building was started the Hawes paid the amount necessary for the final payment.

On April 17, 1869 Mr. Hawes made a gift of \$2,500 to the Redwood City School Trustees for the erection of a gymnasium on the school property. This was almost unheard of sum for school equipment at the time and the youth of the town, for many years, had recreation facilities enjoyed by very few communities. The building which is still standing back of the Fire House was used as a skating rink, a dance hall, a rallying place for big political meetings and in 1906-1907 after the big earthquake it was used as the Court House for San Mateo County's elective officers.

Religious work was begun early in Redwood City. So far as is known the first protestant sermon ever preached in the town was delivered by Reverend J. Emery, a traveling congregational missionary in 1857. The reverend traveled on horseback to carry the gospel to rural areas but did not endeavor to start any churches in this county.

I have been unable to secure any printed evidence as to the exact year when Denis Martin furnished facilities for the faithful of his belief, but I think it was in 1853. About that time the Catholics of this community walked or traveled on horseback or by cart to the Denis Martin ranch on the Sand Hill Road near Searsville where missionary priests from Santa Clara ministered to their needs. Not only did Mr. Martin furnish a church but he also provided a consecrated plot where pioneer Catholics were buried.

S. M. Mezes on November 26, 1859 donated block 4, Range C, situated in the northwest part of Mezesville to Archbishop J. S. Alemany, Bishop of California, in trust for the Catholic population of the town. It was expected that a church would be erected the following spring. However it was not until April 1866 that the subscription lists were completed to secure funds to erect Mount Carmel Catholic Church.

Early the following year the church was erected and Reverend Dionysius M. Dempsey became the pastor. Father Dempsey was then the parish priest of St. Matthews Church in San Mateo and in addition to Mount Carmel he also organized the Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park. Father Dempsey was assisted in his parish work by Father William Bowman. Father Dempsey died April 5, 1881 and Father Bowman passed away just seven months later.

The first United States Census of San Mateo County was taken in 1860. The County listed 3,214 residents while Redwood City was credited with a population of 906.

The first regular protestant religious work was begun in 1861. On March 30, 1861 Reverend J. S. Zellie, a young Congregational Minister came to Redwood. He conducted services in the new Court House and soon had as hearers a considerable number of people who had been church members in their homes in eastern states. On May 20, 1861 a committee was organized to form the 1st Congregational Church. Charles Livingston was selected as Chairman and John Ames as Secretary. The other committee members were Reverend J. S. Zellie, Charles N. Fox, J. W. Turner and J. L. Snow. Articles of Association were presented and adopted and the church had its official beginning.

Services were thereafter conducted every Sunday at the Court House until 1864. Early in that year funds were collected and on May 29, 1864 the new edifice was consecrated. It was erected on a lot on the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Webster Street, purchased from J. V. Diller and the present church is on the same location. A large organ with pump and bellows was the gift of Horace Hawes. The big bell to call the faithful to service arrived from the east, February 25, 1865.



First Congregational Church, corner of Jefferson and Middlefield. Notice the bridges over the several arms of creeks that ran through town to the Bay.

This church, in addition to its regular pastoral work, has sent five of its members into the Christian ministry. They were: Carrol Davis, Redwood City's first native son to graduate from the University of California; J Boaz Hughes, son of J. S. Hughes, for many years Redwood's street superintendent; Roy Woodhams, brother of Clifton Woodhams of the San Mateo County Title Company; Kenneth Bomberg, son of the Reuben Bomberges of this city and Wilbur Woodhams, son of Clifton Woodhams.

Reverend Carrol Davis became an Episcopal clergyman and held several important church pastorates in some of the largest cities of the east.

Reverend Boaz Hughes went east and after graduating from Oberlin College entered the Congregational ministry. After serving in two churches in California he became a high school principal and for over twenty years, until the time of his death, was principal of the Oroville High School. His wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes was California's first woman member of the State Legislature; and their son, Colonel James S. Hughes, a former U. A. Army officer is now a member of the faculty of the City College of San Francisco.

Reverend Roy Woodhams, after graduating from medical college, entered the mission field and for over 25 years has been an interdenominational medical missionary in Africa. He is at present at home on leave.

Reverend Kenneth Bomberg became a Presbyterian minister and has filled two pastorates.

Reverend Wilbur Woodhams, after graduating in law from Stanford, worked for a time in the Abstract firm of his grandfather, C. M. Doxsee. He then attended Harvard and after graduation from there entered the Episcopal Ministry. He was for several years assistant pastor of St. Lukes Church in San Francisco. He is now rector of a large church in Washington State. His wife is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Waldo Coleman of Woodside.

The Episcopal denomination was the next protestant group to start its work in San Mateo County. Reverend Giles A. Easton came to Redwood City and called together a small group of interested citizens. Receiving much encouragement, Mr. Easton decided to start a church here. He preached his first sermon at the County Court House on Sunday, April 10, 1864 and continued as rector until October of that year. He then resigned and the Missionary Society sent a call to Reverend Alfred Lee Brewer who was in charge of a church in Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. Brewer accepted the call and on February 12, 1865 conducted his first service at the public school house. Later a room in the Court House was set apart for the congregation. In July, 1865 a lot was purchased, the site being in the Diller Addition on Jefferson Avenue, directly across the street from the present Post Office.

In August, 1856 Reverend George Burton became assistant to Reverend Brewer and the two clergymen alternated in holding services in the newly established parish at San Mateo. In October Mr. Brewer resigned to devote all of his attention to San Mateo and Mr. Burton was placed in full charge of the Redwood City station.

Filled with determination to have a church building of their own, contributions of \$1,800 were secured and on May 4, 1867 the cornerstone was

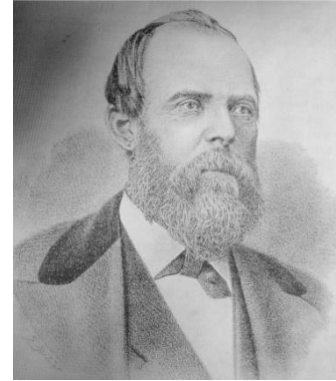
laid with appropriate exercises by the Reverend Bishop William Kip. The completed structure was consecrated by bishop Kip. Mr. Burton resigned in February, 1868 and was succeeded by Reverend J. N. Hume who remained for one year and for two years services were suspended. Thereafter for a number of years only occasionally were services conducted by Mr. James Crowe, the local undertaker family kept the church in good condition. With the coming of the 1900's services were regularly resumed and a goodly membership was secured. Later the church was moved to a new location on the corner of Brewster and Clinton Streets and the membership has become so large that more commodious quarters are now being constructed.

Next in church activity was started when the Baptist Church was organized April 5, 1868, with Benjamin F. Fox, Deacon and J. W. Bartlett, clerk and in 1872 a lot was purchased on Heller Street. The Reverend Eli Reese was the first Baptist clergyman in charge of the work. Through his efforts the sum of \$5,000 was secured for a church edifice. On March 15, 1874 the First Baptist Church of Redwood City was dedicated with appropriate exercises Sunday afternoon, at 2:30. Reverend Will Hildreth of San Francisco and Reverend C. B. Post of Oakland were the ministers in charge.

The congregation of this new denomination was small but in 1879 an evangelist known as Sister Clark came to Redwood and erected a big tent on the lot where the County Jail is now located and preached for six weeks to capacity crowds. The good lady exhorted bar hearers to seek salvation through emersion and on the last Sunday of her stay here she baptized a large group of converts in Conner's pond, a swimming pool on the rear of the General Conner home site. Following the visit of Sister Clark, the Baptist Church had an influx of members. Then in later years Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Stevens, who maintained a nursery on the south side of Broadway from the present site of the Bank of America, to the highway, regularly opened the church every Sunday and talked to anyone who happened in. Then with the growth of Redwood City a little group of Baptists purchased a fine lot on the corner of James and Hudson Streets and erected a beautiful church there and today it is one of the best attended of the city's religious institutions.

In 1872 a Methodist Church was organized and on January 25, 1873 a contract was let to C. C. Underwood and J. O. Shaw for \$1,500 to build the church on the east side of Elm Street, between Stambaugh and Phelps Streets.

Alexander Gordon and Sheldon Purdy Pharis were the principal donors in financing the erection of the edifies and each contributed liberally to the undertaking. Mr. (known as the Shingle King) and Mr. Gordon, a farmer. Mr. Gordon's daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Morgan is still a Redwood City resident.



*Sheldon Purdy
Pharis*

On April 27, 1873 the new church was dedicated. Reverend F. F. Jewell delivered the sermon and Reverend Mr. Buchanan assisted in the dedicatory service. All of the debts for the church, with the exception of \$150, were paid and this was raised at the dedication service in a special collection whereupon Mr. Pharis gave an additional gift of \$100 for general expenses.

The church on Elm Street was enlarged and used until a new site was acquired on the Gore lot at the junction of Brewster Avenue and Broadway, just across from the High School. There a beautiful church was erected and as at the

present time, because of the growth of the membership, a large addition is being constructed on the rear of the church lot.



"A" Street looking toward Redwood Creek. Observe the ships crossing "A" and Bridge on the other side. The two buildings on the immediate right are the Masonic Hall and the Odd Fellows buildings which still stand.

Now that denominational work has been discussed, some attention should be directed to fraternal affairs. The first effort to form any lodge in San Mateo County is noted in the Gazette, the County's oldest newspaper. A call was made there in that all

Masons were invited to attend a meeting at the Court House, Redwood City, on June 12, 1859 to discuss the formation of a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. Those who attended were filled with determination to organize but four years were to elapse before their desire was realized.

Meanwhile a group of another order worked more rapidly and on October 4, 1862 the Bay View Lodge #109 was instituted with the following charter members: Charles N. Fox, J. W. Turner, S. H. Snyder, Andrew Teague, Thomas W. Lathrop and J. S. Keith. The first officers were: Charles N. Fox, N. G.; J. W. Turner, V. G.; S. H. Snyder, Secretary; T. W. Lathrop, Secretary.

The Odd Fellows was the first organization to secure quarters of their own and a lodge room was furnished in the top story of the Hilton-Titus Blacksmith shop on Main Street. Here for many years, the various fraternal organizations of the town regularly held their meetings until 1895.

On August 28, 1863 Most Worshipful Grand Master, William C. Belcher granted dispensation to the masons of San Mateo County to organize in Redwood City, San Mateo Lodge #168 Free and Accepted Masons. This dispensation was granted upon application of S.

M. Cook, F. E. Bartlett, Andrew Teague, B. F. Gillum, J. M. Allen, A. Erkerenkotter and Thomas Lathrop. In addition to the above the following were charter members: William H. Jones, James Hatch, John Johnston and William M. Johnson.

On September 1, 1863 the first stated meeting was held in the Odd Fellows Hall.

The first officers were: Frederick Bartlett, Master; Samuel M. Cook, Sr. Warden; John M. Allen, Jr.; Warden; David W. Aldrich, Treasurer; Thomas W. Lathrop,



Metamora Tribe of Redmen c1880

Secretary; Andrew Teague, Sr. Deacon; William H. Jones, Jr. Deacon; Benjamin T. Gillum, Tyler.

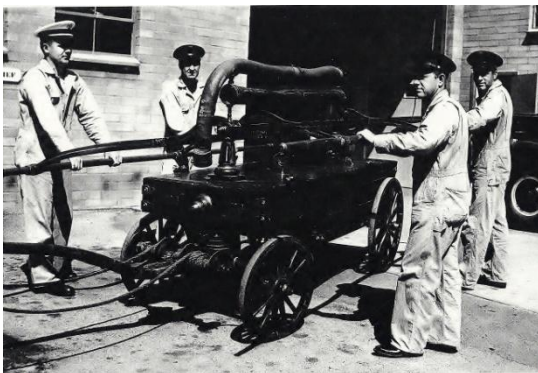
During the year fifteen additional members were added to the membership. On November 1, 1864 the lodge was regularly constituted. Meetings were held above the blacksmith shop until July 6, 1895 when quarters were rented in the new Odd Fellows Hall. In 1922 a committee recommended the purchase and remodeling of the Alhambra Theatre next door to the I.O.O.F. building. The committee report was adopted and on April 12, 1923 Redwood City Lodge moved into its own building.

The next fraternal organization was the Metamora Tribe, Improved order of Red Men, which began its work in Redwood City August 28, 1869, with the following Dr. C. A. Kirkpatrick, members: D. M. Knowlton, Sachem; C. A. Kirkpatrick, S. S; J. W. Bag. R. Warren, K. of W.; A. T. Warren, K. of R.

Metamora Tribe has continued its work throughout the years and is still one of the sound fraternal organizations of this city.

Other organizations came into being in this city at later times. Among them were: The Native Sons of the Golden West; Chosen Friends; Foresters of America; Fraternal Order of Eagles; The Moose

Lodge, but it will be left to someone else to record the activities of these organizations.



Redwood City's First Fire Engine



The First Fire Station was on Main St. almost beside the brick store that Diller built and Chamberlain occupied later.

Only two other activities will be recorded in this article, namely the fire company and the Grand Army of the

Republic.

Redwood City Fire Department, Company #1 was organized in September, 1861. At the first election in January, 1862 John W. Ackerson was elected Foreman and was followed by George W. Fox who headed the new company for two years; Frank King was first assistant; Dr. Carroll, 2nd assistant; William Durham, Treasurer and John C. Edgar, Secretary. (John C. Edgar was later County Sheriff and served for many years as Captain of the Guard and then Warden of San Quentin Prison.)

On September 13, 1862, it was a cowing No.2 piano engine of the pump variety with handles running parallel to each side to be manned by ten firemen, five on each side. It was described as "A little beauty." Lengths of hoses were carried which were to be lowered into the cisterns which were constructed on several corners of the town and from which the water was to be pumped and squirted on the fires from a bright brass nozzle.

On July 1, 1864 the new fire bell, which, could be heard all over town was installed. There after whenever the fire bell was rung the people of the town gathered to help the firemen and helpers were very much needed to open the cistern, lug the big hose and help in a number of other ways.

A lot on Main Street was purchased from Mr. McCloud, the pioneer ship-builder, for \$380 on November 28, 1868 and a two story building was erected thereon. For many years thereafter the lower floor was used by the Fire Company and the upper story was the Redwood City, City Hall.

The fire company functioned regularly with only one company until May 8, 1889 when the first reorganization took place. At that time the old order was charged and Fire Companies No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 came into being and the Hook and Ladder Company was added. The officers of Hose Company #1 were; E. B. Twombly, foreman; Antone Joseph, 1st assistant and Alfred J. Beer, 2nd assistant.

The officers of Fire Company #2 were: Henry Beeger, foreman; J. P. Allen, 1st assistant; William H. Kinney, 2nd assistant. Company #3; John Ford, foreman; James V. Swift, 1st assistant and Joseph J. Cloud, Jr, 2nd assistant. Officers of the

Hook and ladder were: Dan Mullen, Foreman; George Whootan, 1st assistant and Antone Genochio, 2nd assistant.

The fire department was then equipped with three new fire carts with long lengths of two and one half inch hose and hydrants were installed around town to



Times-Gazette Building on Main St.

replace all old cisterns. The Hook and Ladder Company was furnished with a long, horse drawn wagon with extension ladders and big hooks on 12 and 16 foot poles to pull down burning walls and roofs. Each fire company received a good supply of fine red handled axes.

Officers of the several companies then met together and elected George W. Lovie,

Chief; William E. Wagner, first assistant and Edward I. Fisher, second assistant.

Under the above form of organization the Fire Department functioned most efficiently until 1915, when the present organization was effected. Mark Ryan became the first full time chief of the department and in 1920 had the fine new building erected on the site Redwood City's old School house. Mark Ryan was a most efficient Chief and served with distinction until ill health forced him to resign and turn over his authority to his assistant, the present chief of the Redwood City Fire Department, Joseph L. Lodi and his fine group of assistants.

During the first few years of its existence San Mateo County had no newspaper to disseminate its news or in which to publish its official doings. This deficit was overcome on April 9, 1859 almost exactly three years after the formation of the County. On that day William Godfrey published the first issue of the San Mateo County Gazette.

Charles N. Fox was the editor of the Gazette for the first six months, then turned over his editorial duties to Mr. Godfrey who up to that time was printer

and pressman. On July 27, 1861 David Downer became the proprietor and publisher of the Gazette and in 1864 George W. Fox became its editor. Horace Hawes next owned the Gazette but in January, 1866 Harvey Scofield and A. Warren became proprietors with Mr. Scofield as editor and Warren in charge of the mechanical end. In 1876, Duncan McPherson and Alexander (Sandy) McPherson of the Santa Cruz Sentinel acquired ownership which they maintained for 10 years.

In 1876, the Spring Valley Water Company bought the paper with several prominent citizens in charge. William H. Lawrence, President; (Mr. Lawrence was the father of Mrs. M. S. Cooper), State Senator James D. Byrnes, Secretary, Judge James W. Bicknell, Treasurer; Harvey N. Nutting, Editor. Mr. Nutting was principal of the local schools and County superintendent of Schools from 1867 to 1871 and District Attorney of San Mateo County from 1871 to 1879. A number of very prominent men were editors of the paper following that time, among them being Fremont Older who later became one of the state's best known reformers and editor of the San Francisco Bulletin.

On July 25, 1874, P. H. McGowan began the publication of the San Mateo Times. This paper was sent to its subscribers until January 29, 1876 when it was purchased by the San Mateo County Gazette. The two papers were consolidated and the paper of the 5th day of February, 1876 was the first issue of the Times-Gazette which continued its publication down to the 1930's.

Denis Edward O'Keefe and James T. O'Keefe, two young native sons, recent graduates of St. Ignatius College, San Francisco, purchased the Times-Gazette April 15, 1893. This twin brother team continued until 1897 when James T. O'Keefe retired to enter upon the practice of Law in Redwood City and he is still practicing as the Dean of all attorneys of San Mateo County. D. E. O'Keefe continued as editor until 1922 when he accepted an appointment, made on the nomination of United States Senator Samuel M. Shortridge, as Assistant U. S. Appraiser at the Port of San Francisco. Several years after giving up his position at the Customs House, Mr. O'Keefe sold the Times-Gazette to the Redwood City Tribune and is now enjoying well earned retirement at his home in Menlo Park.

The Times-Gazette had little local opposition until October 18, 1886 when the Redwood City Democrat was started by Nathan C. Cornell. After several changes of ownership James V. Swift, who had learned the newspaper business from the ground up on the Times-Gazette, became the editor and proprietor of the Democrat. When Mr. Swift, became the local postmaster his son, Arthur V. Swift and James D. Hedge became the publishers. These two young men with Ed. McGettigan added to their responsibilities by publishing for one year Redwood City's first daily paper, the Star. After discontinuing the Star the Democrat changed its name to the Standard.



*Owen
McGarvey*

The Daily Tribune, the daily newspaper which serves the local populace, began its work here in 1925. Its publishers were George Morrell and Dallas E. Wood of Palo Alto and its thirist editor was John Robinson.

Although the population of Redwood City had made no appreciable increase since the census of 1860 some progress had been made. The San Francisco Railroad made its first through the town on October 16, 1863, a week later two passenger trains were in daily operation, one train arriving from San Francisco at 10AM, the other from San Jose left Redwood City at 11AM. Everyone who came to town complained at the condition of the streets. These complaints were because of dust in the summer and mud in the winter had decided the residents that the only way to secure improvements would be through incorporation.

A petition was prepared which secured a goodly number of signatures. It was then presented to the County Court and the Court granted to the petitioners the right to have an election called for May 11, 1867. This election confirmed the incorporation of the Town of Redwood City and the following officers were elected: Trustees, J. V. Diller, pioneer merchant; S. S. Merrill, Druggist; J. W. Ackerson, Lumber Dealer; John Titus, blacksmith and L. A. Parsons, Marshall; John C. Edgar; Assessor, Andrew Teague; Treasurer, S. H. Snyder.

The first meeting of the Board was held on the night of election May 11, 1867, and John Ames was appointed City Clerk. The first action taken was to call for bids for surfacing the county road which ran through town and a contract was let, Owen McGarvey to cover the street with broken rock 20 feet wide for 1,000 feet at \$1.50 per running foot. Mr. McGarvey had difficulty in completing this contract but the first effort at street repairs was begun. Owen McGarvey, who had come to this section in 1853, had an interesting life in this community. He acquired a holding on the Woodside Road and for many years the grade on the road fronting Menlo Golf & Country Club was known as the McGarvey Grade.

Mr. McGarvey acquired property north of the railroad, Southern Pacific depot where the family lived and only recently Henry McGarvey, surviving son of Owen McGarvey, presented this home site, which is valued at many thousand dollars, to the local American Legion Post and that organization now has a fine and substantial Legion Hall on the property. Will McGarvey, now deceased, was for many years official umpire of most of the many baseball games played on the local diamond and Henry (Jinx) McGarvey for many years was Redwood City's star pitcher.

As fast as funds could be obtained more road work was done on the main streets. In March, 1869, Heller and Phelps Streets were graded and turnpiked and "A" Street from Jefferson Avenue (then 1st Street) to 3rd St. (now Hamilton) was graded and covered with broken rock and property owners had the work completed to the railroad crossing. Congressman Timothy G. Phelps completed this latter work.

Redwood City has had many interesting events transpire within its borders since its incorporation but only a few will be mentioned.

On November 5, 1867, William Carey Jones, first owner of Redwood Farm, died in San Francisco at the age of 51 years. Mr. Jones acquired ownership of this large tract by purchase from the Arguello family when they were impoverished by the necessity of their carrying their claim to ownership of the De Las Pulgas Grant to the United States Courts.

An interesting article is here from the Gazette of May 2, 1868, “The Sheriff has expressed his determination to impound any and all stock found inside of the courthouse grounds. This course ought to have been adopted sooner as several trees have been broken by lawless cows, which walked through the gate as neatly as a man could have done.

People who own such cows should be made to take care of them or pay the pound man for doing it for them”



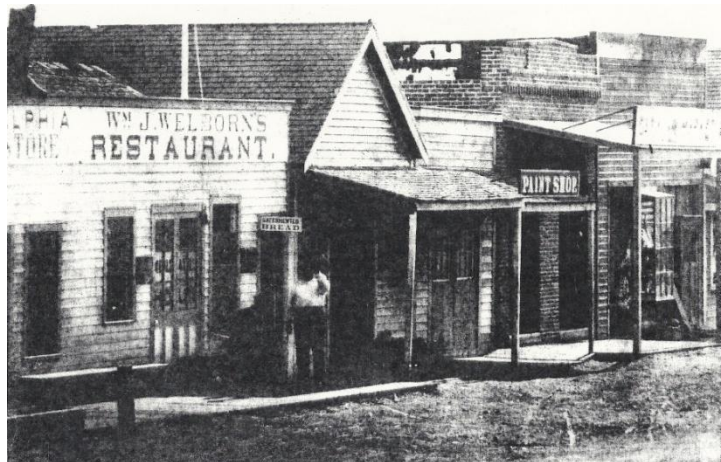
Mr. Rolla’s Coronet band, with additional instrument on the steps of the Masonic Hall on Main Street.

Another item from the Gazette of August 1, 1868 reads, “The hills around Redwood City are literally swarming with quail of all kinds, from big fellows to those just out of the egg.”

Redwood City’s first big earthquake was recorded on October

21, 1868. At 7:55 AM, the first quake began and then followed by others. The new court House was totally destroyed. Chimneys throughout town were tumbled to the ground and brick buildings were damaged generally. When the Court House was rebuilt the top story was omitted.

On February 20, 1869, Redwood City’s first Sidewalk was completed on “A” Street from 1st Street to 3rd Street and soon thereafter the owners of the property from 3rd Street to Arguello had sidewalks constructed in front of their property, namely: Peter



South side of Bridge Street c1860, the Redwood Creek is about 150 feet to the right. It was a good old western town.

Fitzpatrick, Dr. C. A. Kirkpatrick, J. W. Turner and Martin Kuck. So in 1869 Redwood City could boast of a wooden sidewalk which extended from the present Lock Drug Store to the corner now occupied by the Bank of America on Broadway and Jefferson Avenue and from there to the creek.



General Edward Conners

May 1, 1869, at the court house saw the formation of Redwood City's first "Coronet Band". Mr. Rolla was instructor and leader and each member was presented with a suitable instrument. This organization continued for many years. I believe its last leaders were installed in front of Ford's Blacksmith Shop on the South side of Bridge Street about 100 feet Andy Hansen and George Long.

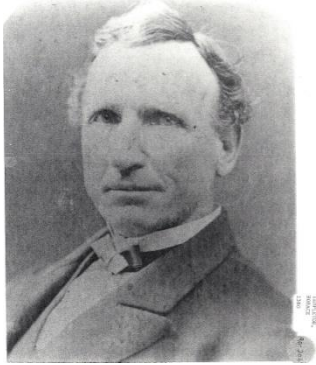
Redwood City on June 26, 1869 enjoyed the distinction of having a town pump. It was installed in front of Ford's Blacksmith's Shop on the South side of Bridge Street about 100 feet East of Jefferson Avenue. Shortly thereafter a watering trough was installed so that both man and beast could enjoy liquid refreshment. On July 22, 1869 the town trustees purchased a horse-drawn sprinkling cart which for many years was driven by Peter Earley.

On September 10, 1870 the official figures for the 1870 United States Census were released. San Mateo County was credited with 6,653 and Redwood City, 729. This showed an increase of 3,439 for the county but a decrease of 171 in the population of Redwood City.

General P. Edward Conner, a commanding officer during the Civil War and then still active in the service of the United States, on October 1, 1870 purchased the home of Benjamin G. Lathrop where the Sequoia Theatre and a number of stores now stand. The Conners continued to occupy the place until the death of the General.

The Redwood City Water Company was incorporated October 11, 1870 by Horace Templeton, Harvey Kincaid, Benjamin G. Lathrop, J. V. Diller, John Crowley

and Andrew Teague with a capital stock of \$50,000. Many years were to elapse before water mains were laid and the residents supplied with water. In the meantime practically every house in the town had a pump in the back yard and adjoining it nearby was an old fashioned privy.



*Judge Horace
Templeton*

The report of County School Superintendent H. N. Nutting showed there were 517 boys and 574 girls enrolled in the schools of San Mateo County. There were fifteen teachers employed which would indicate that some of the teachers had an enrollment of more than seventy pupils.

The two teachers employed in the Redwood City Schools were H. N. Nutting and Mrs. Jennie M. Felt.

According to County Superintendent James Tormey's report to his Institute last week there are now more than 49,000 children enrolled in the schools of the County and 1,980 teachers.

On November 25, 1871 a public entertainment was given at the school gymnasium by principal H. N. Nutting and among those who participated were Clarence Merrill who later became a prominent Berkeley business man; Eddie McClellan, one of the County's foremost florists; Eddie Fitzpatrick who was later to become the Superior Judge of San Mateo County; Robert D. Walsh, who became Redwood City's first graduate of West Point Military Academy and was a Major General during World War one; Carol Davis, who became a famous Episcopal clergyman and Chase Littlejohn, a famous scientist who in later life became one of Redwood City's most distinguished citizens. A number of others who took part in the program could be mentioned, but the above serve to show that our



John Poole

town had many fine students in its early days.

Edward Hancock, one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of the town, died December 15, 1871. The Hancock home was on the west side of Arguello Street, 100 feet north of Brewster Street. The daughter of the family, Nellie Hancock, was rated as the town's most beautiful girl.

J. V. Diller, to show his interest in the welfare of the town, erected a three story building on a 100 foot lot on the east side of First Street and presented the property, free of cost, to the firm of Mason & Company, a shoe manufacturer of San Francisco. For several years this firm prospered but then went out of business. The property later was acquired by John Christ who conducted his feed and fuel business there. The site is now occupied by the Creamery Co. and is owned by Mayor Carl Britschgi and his brothers.

On July 5, 1873, John Poole, a Civil War veteran, purchased the express wagon from C. P. Fox and announced that he would enter the express and draying business here. Mr. Poole later lost a leg while hauling big water pipe for the Spring Valley Water Company. He then turned the business over to his son John W. Poole. Mr. Poole, senior, was for several terms postmaster of Redwood City.

John W. Poole conducted the business for many years and was for a number of years County Supervisor and for 25 years a member of the Board of Trustees of the Redwood city School District. John W. Poole now has his office and warehouse adjoining the Redwood City Fire House #1. Three John Poole's have conducted this business which is the oldest here in point of continuous ownership.

All of the buildings on Main Street belonging to Mrs. Thatcher were purchased July 25, 1874 so that Stambaugh Street could be opened on to Main Street.

March 29, 1876 Redwood City had its first graduates from a State Educational institution. On that date, Lila Murch and Maria Ayers were graduated from the San Jose State Normal School. Both young ladies taught here. Miss

Murch was married to Herbert Kirkpatrick and resided here until she death, with her son, the late Hubert Kirkpatrick, on Elwood Street.

The town had its first baseball team in 1877 and on April 21st of that year the Redwood City Acmes played its first game. The Mayfield team was the opponent. At the end of the ninth inning the score was Acme 51; Mayfield 50.

Because of the adoption of the New Constitution in 1879, it became necessary to call an election for the selection of new judicial officers in the various counties of California. At the election in November, 1879, Edward F. Head was elected San Mateo County's first Superior Judge and replaced District judge W. P. Dangerfield and County Judge James Bicknell.



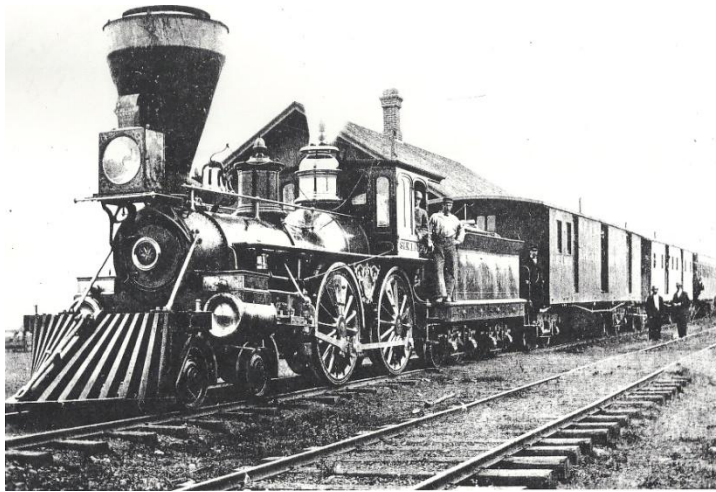
Judge Head, Blind Justice.

Judge Head became blind during his term of office and was known throughout the state as the blind justice. He was the father of two distinguished daughters. One daughter married Josiah Royce, the famous historian of the University of California and Harvard. The second daughter, Miss Anna Head, founded the Anna Head School for Girls at Berkeley and conducted the school until nearly the time of her death. Judge Head passes away on May 6, 1890 and Edward F. Fitzpatrick was appointed to complete the term.

On September 14, 1880, the President of the United States, Honorable Rutherford B. Hayes and Mrs. Hayes came to Redwood City to visit their old friend, H. W. B. McClellan. On the following day, the President addressed the people of the County from a platform erected at the corner of Broadway and Main Streets. President Hayes accompanied onto the platform by Governor Leland Stanford, General William T. Sherman, James C. Flood and other notables. Harvey Nutting, a member of the City Trustees, introduced the President and the other distinguished guests.

President Hayes gave a thrilling address after which the crowd called for Mrs. Hayes and the First Lady most graciously responded.

In 1880 Moses Hopkins purchased the old Horace Hawes home place and began to improve the property. Moses Hopkins was the First president of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company and a brother of Mark Hopkins, one of the “big four” of California Railroad building fame. Mr. Hopkins was a handsome man with a long grey beard. He was most meticulous in his dress and carried himself so erect that his square shoulders were very noticeable. He soon had Hopkins



San Francisco and San Jose Railroad, California engine c1865

Reservoir (now Emerald Lake) constructed on the back of his farm. For his string of blooded horses he built a stable that cost more than the mansion he occupied.

Soon after coming to Redwood City Mr. Hopkins returned to his old home in Ohio and Married Emily Benedict, an old friend who had not married hen subdivided the property and

it became known as Dungee Park or the Redwood Highlands. Later he sold the 40 acre home site to Alfred Pissie, a well known San Francisco architect. Mr. Pissie occupied the home until it was destroyed by the big earthquake. In 1919 Mrs. Pissie sold the placer to the trustees of the Sequoia High School and in 1923 the high school building was completed and has since been the home school for the pupils of the district.

The pioneer lumber firm of Hanson and Ackerson dissolved partnership on Mau 14, 1881, Charles Hanson acquiring the interest of his partner, John Ackerson. Mr. Ackerson came to California in 1849 and was the first sheriff of San Mateo County. Charles Hanson later changed the name of the company to The Tacoma Mill Company because of his vast holdings on Puget Sound. He was rated as the richest man in Redwood City and his big home stood until recently on the block at Arguello and Brewster Streets.

On Charles Hanson's death his son Will conducted the business of several years, and then sold all of the local business to two of his most trusted employees, Edwin B. Fox and George McNulty, who continued the firm as Fox and



Charles Hanson's home on the northeast corner of Brewster and Arguello, Redwood City

McNulty. Several years ago both of these gentlemen retired from business. George McNulty, a member of the firm, is one of Redwood City's oldest natives. He was born in the same house in which his mother was born in 1854, 19 years before her son's birth. George, as he is affectionately called by his host of friends, served for many years as a city trustee and was also Mayor of Redwood City.

Fremont Older, foreman at the Times-Gazette, and Miss Emma Finger were married at the home of the bride's parents on Finger Avenue on June 2, 1881.

November 6, 1881 was one of the saddest days of this city's history. George W. Green and a young jail trustee were sailing near the mouth of the Redwood Creek in a small sail boat with Mr. Green's wife and two daughters and a little girl friend. A sudden gust of wind overturned the round bottom boat. Sheriff Green was a good swimmer and so was Henry Von Senden, the trustee. These two succeeded in putting Mrs. Green and the girls on to the bottom of the boat but, because of their heavy clothing, were unable to save themselves. Lon Cook, father of Miss May Cook and Mrs. J. E. Ensor, was sailing nearby and saved Mrs. Green and the girls and brought them to Redwood City. Several days later the bodies of Sheriff Green and Henry Von Senden were recovered and the funeral of the sheriff was one of the largest ever held in the County.

On January 28, 1882 a contract was let for the erection of a new County Court House to replace the old one story structure built to replace the one destroyed by the earthquake of 1868. The new building consisting of two stories was building which then served as the court room for the Superior Court.

The new building was surmounted by a huge statue of Justice. It was the figure of a blind-folded woman who held in her hand a balancing scale. This building stood until 1905 when a beautiful half million dollar Court House was erected to take its place. The new Court House was completed late in March 1906 and was totally destroyed by the earthquake of April 18, 1906.



2nd courthouse on the property in which presently stands the 3rd courthouse, now the San Mateo County Historical Museum.

On March 17, 1883, Miss Annie Rooney who was born and raised in Redwood City made her debut as an opera singer at the Grand Opera House in San Francisco. Miss Rooney had a wonderfully sweet soprano voice which won her instant acclaim. She was a student of Madam Fabri who trained many of California's foremost singers.

Miss Rooney was a concert and opera singer and when she returned from her various tours lived in this city with her sister, Mrs. Peter Doyle of the County Surveyor's Department.

At about the same time that Miss Rooney was gaining prominence in the musical field, Redwood City sent another young woman out into the field grand opera. Miss Lena Devine was possessed of a voice of vibrance and beauty. A wealthy San Mateo woman out into took an interest in the young singer and sent her to Europe where she trained under famous teachers. She made her debut in Paris and immediately became a Grand Opera singer. She made one visit to Redwood City and sang at the Congregational Church, she then returned to Europe where she made her permanent home.



Charles Benjamin enlisted in RWC and fought throughout the War

A large crowd of people, on November, 1883 assembled on the wharf at the Hanson & Company Lumber Yard to watch the launching of the last wooden ship built in Redwood City. It was the Perseverance and was owned by Captain Jens Hauson. It was a perfect launching and as the ship slid down the ways, the Captain's daughter, Sophie, broke a bottle of champagne on the stern and christened the craft. The Perseverance went into the bay and coastwise trade and for many years brought a handsome revenue to her owner. With the completion of this schooner, ship building came to an end in Redwood City. However in 1915, near the present site of the Port of Redwood, one of the first concrete ships ever built was launched. It was Named Faith and was an ocean going vessel.

The Board of Trustees of Redwood City, on February 9, 1884, let a contract to County Surveyor J. J. Cloud to construct a set of flood gates on the north side of Bridge Street at the bridge. The cost of these flood gates was \$1,200 and they closed on the rising tide and opened on the ebb to flush all of the refuse out to the bay. These gates were used successfully for many years.

On March 11, 1884, Andrew Teague. One of the oldest pioneers of the County passed away. Mr. Teague was an attorney and took part in every movement for local improvement which occurred in the town. Three of his six daughters resided in Redwood City until recent years. They were Mrs. Mary Rice, wife of George Rice; well known owner of the George H. Rice Abstract Company; Mrs. Sarah Wentworth, wife of George Wentworth who started the first tannery in the town and was a member of the County board of Supervisors; and Mrs. Ott Durham whose husband was a farmer. Each of these good women have descendants who still reside in Redwood City.

On December 14, 1884 the Department Commander and other grand Officers of the Grand Army of the Republic came to Redwood City and organized the George S. Evans Post of the Order. The following



Members of the Grand Army of the Republic on the stairs of the Congregational Church on the corner of Jefferson and Middlefield Roads.



Geraldine Frisby - Cooley

soldiers of the War of the Rebellion were mustered in: P. P. Chamberlain, Benjamin A. Rankin, Levi Bartholomew, John Poole, E. W. Thompson and Henry Walker. Transfers from other posts were also made members and were: George E. Filkins, John A. Calhoun, Dr. L. D. Morse, L. M. Howard and N. Hancock. General B. G. Barney was the mustering officer. Later Sheriff Joel H. Mansfield was one of the most active members and Ludwig Werder was the flag bearer. P. P.

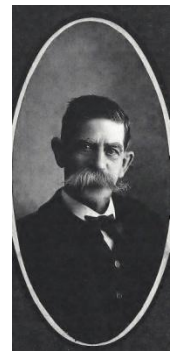
Chamberlain was the last surviving member of the founders of the Post.

On February 12, 1887 George S. Evans, Relief Corps #36, Auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized at the Odd Fellows Hall. The National Commander assisted by Grand officers from San Francisco installed the officers. Mrs. Geraldine Frisby Cooley was installed as the first president. Mrs. Cooley later

became National President of the order. The Relief Corps is still one of the city's most active woman's' organizations.

The Native Sons of the Golden West began their official career in Redwood City July 24, 1885. Grand President Charles W. Decker assisted by other Grand Officers instituted Redwood City Parlor #66. The first officers were: John F. Johnston, past president, Edward A. Eikerenkotter, President; Ed N. Wilcox, first vice-president; Henry Underhill, second vice-president; Harry Jacobson, recording secretary; Charles Ayres, Marshall; Will McGarvey, financial secretary; Will Bement, inside sentry; Fred Stalter, outside sentry; Trustees, George Eikerenkotter, Charles F. Parker and Jesus M. Vasques. The organization was perfected August 15, 1885.

A new arrival which occurred November 28, 1885 brought much pleasure to Redwood City's younger element. James E. Van Court, photographer, moved to Redwood City and opened a studio here. In the years which followed Jimmy Van Court became one of the most popular citizens who had ever resided here. He took pictures of everyone and of every place of merit. He organized hay rides and picnics. Regularly each year he took groups of boys and girls and their mothers up to the huckleberry farm of Uncle Nathan Comstock in what is now Redwood park. He was adept with his hands and fashioned toys and puzzles for children of every religious denomination. Most of the young people who wished to learn took violin lessons free from this fine man. He built a room on his home which was situated at the corner of Main Street and School House Lane and he organized and opened the present Redwood City Public Library and stocked it with his own books.



*Jimmy
Van Court*

In his later years Mr. Van Court, who had never married, became ill and friends, largely through the influence of Mrs. Henry Beeger, Sr. cared for him until his death in 1922. Redwood City was a better town than it might have been because of James E. Van Court.

The last event which I shall chronicle in the history of Redwood City occurred on the night of January 29, 1889. On that night practically every resident of the town was on the street at 8 o'clock. At that hour the new electric street lighting system began its operations and the lights were turned on. For the full length of Broadway from the Railroad to Main Street, and on Main Street from Broadway to the Five Points the big new lights shed a bright blue glare.

There was great jubilation in Redwood City over this great advance and following throughout the years the city achieved greater progress. For years the town had had a Marshall who took care of infractions of the law. Then the merchants of the city employed a night watchman to guard their premises. John Gunning was the first night watchman. He was followed by James Coleman who served faithfully for many years. Then the city decided to make its watchman a regular police officer and C. L. Collins was employed and with the growth of the town he became Chief of an enlarged police department. When Chief Collins retired his first assistant, Stanley Wood, a World War 1 veteran, was chosen and Chief Wood now heads a fine department.

Progress has also come in the school department. For many years, G. P. Hartley was principal of the grammar school. In 1895 Sequoia Union High School was started with David A. Curry as principal. Mr. Curry and Mrs. Curry, who was the mathematics teacher, continued at Sequoia until 1900 when they left to devote full time to their camp, "Camp Curry" at Yosemite National Park. Today the Sequoia High School on its two fine campuses enjoys a fine reputation as a worthwhile educational system under the guidance of its Superintendent Dr. Clyde Ogden, is looking forward to further expansion into the northern part of the district.

The elementary schools have expanded and from the one teacher of 1853 have grown to a system of over a hundred teachers under the leadership of Superintendent Andrew Spinaz.

Redwood City is no longer a little home town. It has become a city, filled with industries. It now functions under the City Manager form of government; still it is the place where, "Climate is Best by Government Test."

Conclusion

Roy Walter Cloud was the Executive Secretary to the California Teacher's Association and managing editor of the Sierra Education News, was for many years actively identified with education issues in San Mateo County.

Born at Crystal Springs near San Mateo, he is the son of Joseph James and Mary Adaline (Wilsey) Cloud, the former native of Pennsylvania and the later Indiana. The Cloud family was established in Pennsylvania and owned property which later became famous as Valley Forge. On the maternal side, Roy W. Cloud descended from very early settlers of Terrytown, New York, and comes of Revolutionary ancestors on both paternal and maternal sides.

Mr. Cloud attended grammar school in Redwood City and continued his studies in Sequoia Union High School, following his graduation in 1898, he taught school in Redwood City for the following three years. Then entering Stanford University, he was graduated with a B.A. degree in 1905. The following fall he became school principal at Bodie, Mono, County, California. In 1906 he was elected superintendent of schools for San Mateo County, remaining in this position for nineteen years. In 1925 he was made superintendent of Schools in Redwood City and continued as such until he became State Executive Secretary of California Teachers Association.



*Roy Walter
Cloud*

Mr. Cloud was married December 24th 1903 to Miss Sophia M. Kobelt, a native daughter of Oakland. Mr. and Mrs. Cloud have one son, Roy Noble Cloud, who in 1934 married, Miss Eugenia Reynolds, of San Jose; two daughters: Elizabeth Jean and Merebah, are the children of this marriage.

Roy W. Cloud was a member of the Republican Party and his religious affiliation was with the First Congregational church of Redwood City. Fraternally,

he is a Mason and Past Master of Redwood City Lodge No. 168. Other Masonic connections include, San Mateo Chapter R.A.M., San Jose bodies of the Scottish Rite, Islam Temple Mystic shrine and Sequoia chapter of the Eastern Star, of which he is a Past Patron and his wife A Past Matron.

He also belongs to Redwood Parlor, Native Sons of the Golden West and for several years served as Grand Historian of the Native Sons of the State. Mr. Cloud belongs to Court Madrone Foresters of America and to the Sons of the American Revolution.

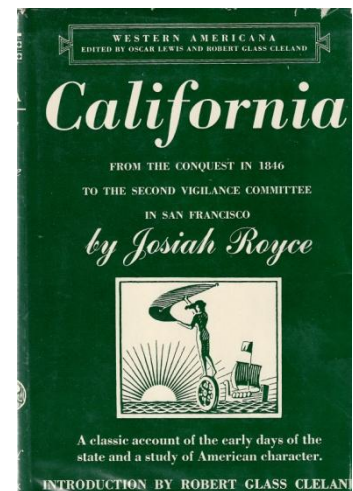
While a student in Stanford University, he became a member of Beth chapter of Acacia Fraternity and Delta chapter of Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity. In addition to other positions in educational organization mentioned above, he is past president of the Educational Press Association of America and is at this time National vice president of the Educational Secretaries Association and is regional vice president of the California Historical Association.

Editor's Note

I noted that in this manuscript Roy Cloud notes that the daughter of Judge Head, and he does not name her, married Josiah Royce of Grass Valley. He states that the second daughter, Anna, founded a school for girls in Berkeley.

At the time of the marriage to Mr. Royce, he was quite famous across the entire country. He was well known for his writings, especially the early history of California. He was a favorite son of the folks in Grass Valley, so much so that the main library in down town Grass Valley is called the Josiah Royce Library.

The book by Josiah Royce is called: "California" sub-titled: From the Conquest in 1816 To the Second Vigilance Committee in San Francisco.



A second author's note

A great majority of the people of we speak in this book are buried in Union Cemetery on Woodside Road in Redwood City. The cemetery is a treasure chest of local history and, while Roy Cloud is not buried in Union Cemetery, Joseph J. Cloud and the Wilsey family are as are most of the subsequent generations with the exception of recently. Roy W. Cloud, Roy N. Cloud and Eugenia (Jean) Cloud are all buried in Alta Mesa. There is a bench for Jean Cloud who would be so happy to see this book published.



I talked to her in the hospital the day before the evening she died. She wanted me to write this book if I could find the manuscript. Susan, her granddaughter found it when she moved from their home to the original house.

While Ray W. Cloud wrote this book, and I have retyped it word for word in his language with only a small bit of editing plus adding pictures to make it more interesting, this book is dedicated to Jean Cloud who so many of us loved and miss today.

John G. Edmonds