



## BIOGRAPHIES

(Primarily provided by Genie Barry, Sequoia Elementary School, Oakland, California)

**Anashe** - was Nisenan (Southern Maidu) from the village of Walagumne on the Sacramento River. He was the headman of the native people who lived on the land where John Sutter wanted to build his Fort. Anashe became Sutter's friend and ally.

**William Anderson** - known as "Mountain Bill" or "Red Bill." He was an English sailor with a cockney accent and a never-tiring teller of his own adventures. He came to California on a whaler. He settled on a small claim near Monterey where he made soap for Consul Larkin.

**Cyrus Alexander** - came to California in 1832, by way of Santa Fe. He was born in Pennsylvania and was a tanner. In 1844 Captain Sutter married Cyrus to Rufina Lucero, sister of William Gordon's wife, Maria.

**Rufino Lucero Alexander** – Workman-Rowland Party 1841. Born in New Mexico, a Mexican citizen, probably living near Santa Fe. Her sister, Maria, married an American named William "Billy" Gordon. When the Gordons left Santa Fe to emigrate to California with the Workman-Rowland Party of 1841, Rufina came along with her sister's family. She met an American named Cyrus Alexander and married him at Sutter's Fort in 1844. Cyrus was a tanner from Pennsylvania, who had come to California from Santa Fe in 1832. Santa Fe in the 1830s was a thriving town, busy with traders of all kinds. Many of the trappers and mountain men used Santa Fe as their trading post and rest stop. One place to get a quick view of it is in a book called **Story of The Great American West**, published by Reader's Digest and edited by Edward S. Bernard.

**Walter and Rhoda Crouch Beeson Anderson** – Americans. Came to California in 1845 (party unknown). Rhoda was in her late 30s when she emigrated to California. Rhoda been married in Kentucky to a Mr. Beeson and had two sons from that marriage: Henry (17) and Isaac (13). She married Walter Anderson, known as "Watt" or "Bear," who had three children from a previous marriage. Only one of his children was in California in 1846 – William (age unknown). Together, the Andersons had two more children who were born in Missouri - Artemesia Jane, and Washington (ages unknown). The Andersons settled 16 miles north of the Fort, on the Sacramento River. To learn more about Rhoda Anderson find the map in the very front **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis) of where early pioneers settled. Walter was known as a good bear hunter.

**Augustus and Rosalia de Haro Andrews** - American carpenter from Massachusetts, came in 1840 to Monterey from Honolulu. After settling in Yerba Buena, he married Rosalia de Haro.

**Lieutenant Francisco Arce (Teniente Arce)** - A Mexican cavalry officer. He was educated in Monterey, and was the secretary to the governor and to General Castro. One of his duties was to collect money owed to various Missions. In 1844 he was granted a rancho 4 leagues in size called *Rancho Santa Ysabel*. This was on the Salinas River. He was an old friend of Captain Sutter's.





At the beginning of the Bear Flag Revolt, Ezekiel Merritt captured Arce and 150 horses belonging to the California government, after they crossed the river using Sutter's ferry, near the Murphy Ranch. Arce sided with the Americans during the Mexican war and was made a captain in the United States Army. Information Sources: **Historic Spots in California** (by M. Hoover, H.E. & E.G. Ranch).

**William Baldridge** – Walker-Chiles Party 1843 – “Billy,” from Tennessee, a millwright. Settled on a Napa Rancho, was a partner of Chiles. Brought heavy mill irons to run a gristmill in Napa, but these had to be buried in the Owens Valley, when the trip went awry.

**Elias Barnett** - Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - lived with George Yount until 1843, then settled in the Pope Valley, marrying (1844) the widow of William Pope. Her name was Maria Salazar Pope (mother of five). She gave birth to twins after marrying Barnett, several more children later. Supported Micheltorena with Sutter in 1844-45, was part of the Bear Flag Revolt, rode with Fremont at Cahuenga Pass.

**Henry Jubilee and Clara Moreno Bee** - an English sailor and blacksmith who left the ship *Dryad* in Monterey in 1830. He married a Mexican citizen, Clara Moreno, and settled near Monterey, where made a living guiding strangers around the country.

**Josiah Belden**-- Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - born May 4, 1815 in Connecticut. Much is written about him. He traveled to Monterey, where he became a Mexican citizen and friend of Consul Larkin. He fought in defense of Señora Micheltorena and was rewarded with a 21,000 acre land grant on the upper Sacramento. He named his land *Rancho Barranca Colorado* (known now as Red Bluff). Later, he invited William Ide to caretake the rancho, while he developed some business opportunities elsewhere. Eventually, he settled in the San Jose area, married one Sarah Margaret Jones, was elected mayor of San Jose and died a rich man at the age of 77. You can read more in **Pioneers of California**.

**Alexander Bell** - native of Pennsylvania, came to California in 1842. He married Nieves Guirado in 1844. In 1845 he was foremost among those who disagreed with Captain Sutter and Micheltorena.

**John Bidwell**-- Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - Kentucky native. Schoolteacher in Ohio, Iowa and Missouri. After losing a land claim in Missouri and suffering from malaria caused by swamp mosquitoes he organized the Western Emigration Society, having heard of the wonders of California from frontiersman such as Antoine Robidoux. He was secretary of the Bidwell Bartleson Party and wrote a very readable book about his adventures. Next to John Sutter himself, he was probably the most important person at the Fort. He was Sutter's trusted friend and was given the most important jobs. Sutter hired him to dismantle Fort Ross in 1842-43 and to manage the Hock Farm from 1843-44. Bidwell became a Mexican citizen in 1844 and served in Sutter's army in 1845. However, he gave up his Mexican citizenship to join the California Battalion, where he was the quartermaster (in charge of supplies), with the rank of major. Later he became a successful miner (Bidwell's Bar is named for him) and owned the *Rancho Arroyo Chico* in northern California (now the city of Chico). John Bidwell became a senator in California's first legislature, a brigadier-general in California's militia and served as a member of the United States Congress from 1864-67.





He married in middle age the young daughter of a Washington, D.C. family, a Miss Annie Kennedy, and built a beautiful mansion in Chico. He remained interested in politics his whole life, running for governor several times.

**David Bird** – Kelsey Party 1844 - one of Sutter's men in the Micheltoarena Campaign in 1845.

**James Black** - a Scots sailor who fell sick aboard his ship and was left off in Monterey in 1832. He stayed in California, and in 1843 married Agustina Sais and settled on the *Jonive Rancho*.

**Vardamon Bennett** - native of Georgia, arrived in California in 1843. After a brief stay in the Sacramento Valley, he went to Yerba Buena to work as a carpenter. He was married to Mary Bennett, "a good woman who had a mind of her own." They were among those who took refuge at the Mission Santa Clara when settlers worried that they might be under attack by the Mexican Army. When some men hesitated to go forth to fight the advancing Mexicans, Mary seized a dog bone and threatened to wallop a man if he didn't get out there to defend the families gathered there. Among their children was a teen-aged daughter, Tillatha Catherine, known as Catherine. Catherine "married" Isaac Graham in the mid-1840s. The adventures and intrigues of Catherine and her family sound like a soap opera. For more information, read the "Isaac Graham" chapter in **Pioneers of California** by Donovan Lewis.

**Jarvis Bonney** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845 - traveled with his wife, four sons and three daughters. Joined the party at Fort Hall, having been persuaded by Caleb Greenwood, a mountain man and scout hired by John Sutter to direct Oregon-bound settlers to California. His children included 7 year-old Benjamin Franklin Bonney, 14 year-old Harriet, and Ann, who, with an older brother, died of "mountain fever" (typhoid) at Sutter's Fort. The Bonneys moved on to Oregon in 1846 when Americans were being called on to renounce their U.S. citizenship and become Mexican citizens.

**William Bradley**— Walker-Chiles Party 1843 - from Tennessee. Worked for Sutter for a while.

**John Brown** - a Swede known as "Lean John." He is famous for carrying dispatches from Los Angeles to Monterey during the Mexican-American war. He claimed to have had a career in the English navy, to have worked for Bolivar in South America, and to have arrived in California in 1828 aboard a Mexican ship. He was one of Captain Sutter's men in the campaign of 1844-45.

**Bruno** - Eastern Miwok, from the village of Muquelemne on the Mokelumne River. He worked for John Sutter as a trusted *vaquero* and was probably one of Sutter's *lancers* who accompanied him whenever he left the Fort. Bruno served in Company H of the California Battalion during the Mexican war.

**Joseph Willard Buzzell** - deserted from the whaler *Orizaba* at Half Moon Bay in 1841. After spending some time in Santa Cruz, he worked as a trapper in New Helvetia. He married Mary Frances Kelsey at the Fort. His daughter, Ellen, was born at the Fort.

**Mary Frances Kelsey Buzzell** – emigrated to Oregon in 1843 with the Hastings Party, then to California with the Kelsey Party in 1844 after Ben and Nancy drove cattle up from their California "ranch" to sell at Fort Vancouver in Oregon. Born in Kentucky, part of the extended Kelsey Family.





Her father was David Kelsey, mother's name unknown. Sisters: Rebecca, America, Josephine, Brother: Samuel. Uncles: Samuel (who emigrated to Oregon with the David Kelsey family), Benjamin (with wife, Nancy) and Andrew. The Kelseys were backwoods folk from Kentucky. They always seemed to live on the very farthest edge of the frontier, the sort of people who moved on when they could see smoke from a neighbor's cabin. Her parents were stricken with smallpox in 1845. Her father died and her mother became blind as a result. Two trappers, Joseph Buzzell and George Wyman happened by and buried her father for her. Married Joseph Willard Buzzell in 1844-45(?). Joseph had been a sailor on a whaler named Orizaba, but he deserted in 1841 at Halfmoon Bay. He spent some time in Santa Cruz before joining John Sutter as a trapper. Her daughter, Ellen, was born at the Fort in 1845, 46 or 47. Her sister America married the other trapper, George Wyman. To learn more about Mary Frances Kelsey: learn as much as you can about life on the Kentucky frontier. Reading about Daniel Boone and other frontier folk would give you a good idea of how people lived. Make a family tree of all the Kelseys. There certainly are a lot of them! A family tree will help make the connections clear.

**Casiano** - Eastern Miwok, from the village of Muquelemne on the Mukelumne River. He was a *vaquero* and a *lancero*, probably one of Sutter's bodyguards. He served in Company H of the California Battalion.

**General Jose Castro** - He was a native Californio and the most important military officer during the conflicts from 1845-48. John Sutter considered Castro his worst enemy. Castro believed that Sutter wanted to take over all of California. Castro captured Sutter during the 1845 campaign, but released him. Later, Castro talked the Mokelumne Indians into rebelling against Sutter. Castro visited the Fort and tried to buy it for the Mexican government, but Sutter would not sell. Castro opposed the American forces during the Mexican War, but was defeated. He lived for a while in Monterey, and then went south to Baja California, where he was appointed military commander.

**John Chamberlain** - Irish blacksmith, came in 1839 on the ship *California* from Acapulco, having deserted from a whaler in Mexico. He was in Gantt's company in the campaign of 1845. He married Nancy Hess in January of 1846.

**Joseph Chiles** – Bidwell-Bartleson Party 1841 & Walker-Chiles Party 1843 - Born July 16, 1810, in Clark County, Kentucky. Married to Polly Ann Stevenson in 1830 and moved to Missouri about the same time. They eventually had four children. In 1837 Polly died. He left the children with relatives and went off to fight in the Indian wars in Florida. When he returned to Missouri he heard of California from trapper Antoine Robidoux and joined the Bidwell-Bartleson Party of 1841 to go to California. A hardy woodsman, his skills were invaluable during the latter part of the Bidwell-Bartleson trip. At the Marsh Rancho in California (near Mt Diablo), he met Mariano Vallejo and through him, an old friend from Missouri, George Yount. Together, they planned to set up a partnership running a water-powered gristmill on Yount's land. Chiles planned to return to Missouri to get his children and Yount asked Chiles to bring word to his family in Missouri to join him in California, too. In Missouri he realized that his children were too young for the difficult trip, so he left them behind, but he did bring two of Yount's children, daughters Frances Young Vines and Elizabeth Anne Yount, back to California. He and Yount, along with Billy Baldrige, did establish a water-run gristmill. He managed to stay out of both the Mexican War and the gold fever. He died





in 1885, at the age of 75, with a huge funeral. The Chiles Valley in Napa County is named after him. **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis).

**Chucus** - probably Nisenan from the village of Mimal on the Feather River. He worked in Sutter's gardens near Mirnal.

**James Clyman** - McMahan-Clyman Party 1845 - the leader. He was an experienced mountain man, originally from Virginia. He had been a surveyor and kept a daily log of his travels, which has been published in book form. He had come west to Oregon in 1844. He married Hannah McCoomb in August 1849, in what was probably the first wedding in Napa, with all the local people like Joseph Chiles and George Yount invited. He bought some of Salvador Vallejo's (General Vallejo's brother) property near Napa. You can read more about him in **Pioneers of California**.

**James C. Coates** – Hastings Party 1843 - shoemaker, farmer, tanner. In 1845 served as a lieutenant in Sutter's force. Was a tanner in New Helvetia before moving to a house on the American River.

**Grove Cook** - Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - was a hunter from Kentucky. He was described as a likable but wild young man, a man of "wit and generosity that went far to counterbalance some less desirable qualities." He had been married to a sister of the famous trapper brothers, Milton, Solomon, and William Sublette in Oregon, but he divorced her. Cook became a Mexican citizen in 1844 and settled at Sutter's Fort in 1845 to run the distillery. In a fight over a mule, he killed the son of Pio Pio Max Max, a visiting Walla Walla, which nearly started a war after Sutter excused his act. He married Rebecca Kelsey Fowler at the Fort in 1845. He moved to Yerba Buena in 1846, then settled outside of San Jose on the Rancho de Capitancillos. He and Josiah Belden mined quicksilver, found on the rancho. He lost the fortune he made in a gold mining gamble, and died in Santa Cruz in 1856.

**Rebecca Kelsey Fowler Cook** – American. Emigrated first to Oregon in the Hastings Party of 1843, then to California with the Kelsey Party in 1844, after Ben and Nancy had driven cattle up from their California "ranch" to sell at Fort Vancouver in Oregon. Born in Kentucky, part of the extended Kelsey Family. Her family included her father David Kelsey, mother's name unknown. Sisters: Mary Frances, Josephine, America. Brother: Samuel. Uncles: Samuel (who emigrated to Oregon with the David Kelsey family), Benjamin (with wife, Nancy) and Andrew. The Kelseys were backwoods folk from Kentucky. They always seemed to live on the very farthest edge of the frontier, the sort of people who moved on when they could see smoke from a neighbor's cabin. Her parents were stricken with smallpox in 1845. Her father died and her mother became blind as a result. Married Grove Cook on December 28, 1845 at the Fort. He distilled a sort of brandy for Captain Sutter, and performed other general tasks. It was said that he was an attractive young man with "a wit and generosity that went far to counterbalance some less desirable qualities." Cook had killed Elijah, the son of a Walla Walla chief, in a fight over horses. Rebecca had been married to a William Fowler, Jr. in Oregon, but once in California, she left him and requested permission from Consul Larkin in Monterey to divorce Fowler. When Larkin answered that he did not have the authority to grant divorces, Rebecca went ahead and married Grove Cook, anyway! Captain Sutter performed the ceremony. The Cooks stayed at the Fort at least during 1846, then travelled to Yerba Buena (before it was San Francisco), then settled in the San Jose area.





**Nathan Coombs**– Hastings Party 1843 - native of Massachusetts. Went to Oregon in 1842. In California, met Isabel Gordon while visiting her father's rancho on Cache Creek, fell in love with her, and married her at the Fort in 1844. He may have worked for Captain Sutter for a time. He had an encounter with a grizzly bear (which he survived) while hunting in 1845. Probably served with Captain Sutter during the Mexican War. Later laid out the street plan for the city of Napa.

**Isabel Gordon Coombs** – Workman-Rowland Party 1841 – born in 1831 in New Mexico. Had four brothers (Thomas (18), John (16), William Jr. (12) and Joseph (10)), one younger sister (Sarah (8)). She came to California traveling from Santa Fe to Los Angeles along the Wolfskill Trail. Her family settled on the Cache Creek in Yolo County. She met Nathan Coombs on her father's ranch and married him at Sutter's Fort in 1844 when she was just 13. They had a son, William Gordon Coombs, born in May or June 1846. Other people in Isabel's family were her father William Gordon ("Uncle Billy") who was born in Ohio. He came to New Mexico and became a Mexican citizen.; her mother Maria Lucero Gordon was a Mexican citizen (New Mexico was a part of Mexico then) and died in March 1844 (we don't know how) in California; her aunt Rufina Lucero (Maria's sister) who met an American named Cyrus Alexander and married him at Sutter's Fort in 1844. In California, Isabel's father William Gordon, settled on a piece of land along Cache Creek in Yolo County, Quesesosi grant.

**John Daubenbiss**– Hastings Party 1843 - Bavarian, came to America in 1835 at the age of 19. Served under Sutter in the Micheltorena Campaign.

**George and Lizzie Sumner Davis** – Hastings Party 1843. Irish. Married Lizzie Sumner, who came with her parents in the same party from Oregon. They were married by Sutter at the Fort. George was employed as a baker at the fort.

**Maria Jesus Estudillo Davis** – born in California. Maria was a daughter of Don Jose Joaquin Estudillo. Her mother was Juana Martinez Estudillo, the daughter of Don Ignacio Martinez, a career army officer who had been the commandante of the Presidio de San Francisco, and had retired to a rancho near Point Pinole. The Estudillo family was one of the best of the old Californio families, well known for their generosity and hospitality. Maria was one of ten children. Her brother, Jesus Maria Estudillo, has a biography about his life in the Oakland History Room at the Main Library. When Maria was barely a teen-ager (about 1840), eighteen-year-old William Heath Davis) Jr. fell in love with her. He was a part Hawaiian, Protestant trader in Yerba Buena (San Francisco), and her family objected strongly to such a match. William courted her from afar, and finally, in November of 1847, after he converted to Catholicism, they were married at Mission Dolores in Yerba Buena, where they set up house. Maria eventually had thirteen children, though some of them died in childhood. Some of the time they lived in San Diego, where William was involved in real estate ventures. Later, they helped to manage her father's rancho in San Leandro and to try to protect it from American squatters. Later, after a family disagreement, they leased land from Rancho Felipe, near what is now the Oakland Airport. Davis Road in Oakland is named for their family, and Estudillo Avenue in San Leandro is named for Maria's family. Information Sources: **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis), **Sketches of California in the 1860s, the Journal of Jesus Maria Estudillo** (J.M. Estudillo).





**William Heath Davis, Jr.** - Born in the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii in 1822). His father, William H. Davis, was a sea captain, and his mother, Hannah Holmes, was the daughter of another sea captain and a Hawaiian princess. William Davis, Sr. died shortly after William Jr.'s birth. Hannah remarried a few years later to a John C. Jones, but William Jr. kept his father's name all his life. His stepfather enrolled him in boarding school. He also took William on two trading trips to America, first at the age of nine on the ship *Louisa*, then when he was eleven on the ship *Volunteer*. California and trading made big impressions on young William. At age sixteen, in 1838, William left Honolulu for California, where he joined his uncle-by-marriage, Nathan Spear, in trading ventures in Yerba Buena (San Francisco). In 1839 William was chosen to pilot a small flotilla of boats up the Sacramento River for John Sutter, who was looking for a possible site for his planned settlement, which would be called New Helvetia. William was seventeen at the time. About 1840 William fell in love with Maria Jesus Estudillo, the daughter of a prominent rancho owner, Jose Joaquin Estudillo of *Rancho de San Leandro*. Her family were very much against such a match, but after six years of courtship and William's conversion to Catholicism, William and Maria were married in November of 1847 at Mission Dolores. They eventually had thirteen children, though some died in childhood. William was very active in business and trading ventures for most of his life, though he suffered financial set-backs in later life. Streets in San Leandro and San Francisco are named for him, and Estudillo Avenue in San Leandro is named for his wife's family. Toward the end of his life he wrote poetry and a memoir of his life in California. His last effort is titled **Seventy-five Years in California**. It makes very interesting reading. You can find a copy most likely in the reference section of the public library. He died in 1909 at the age of 87, at the home of a married daughter in Hayward. **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis).

**Nicholas "Cheyenne" Dawson**— Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - born in 1819 in Pennsylvania. Had a good education and taught school and farmed in Missouri. His nickname came from an adventure with a group of young Cheyenne, who "liberated" him of his horse and rifle when he was found alone on the prairie. The horse and rifle were later returned to him when their pilot, Thomas Fitzpatrick bargained them back. Operated a store in Monterey, then moved to Santa Cruz. In 1844 moved back to Arkansas, married, then returned in the Gold Rush in 1849, where he made some money freighting. After returning to his family, moved to Texas where he died in 1903, having written an extensive memoir in 1901.

**Democrates** - Eastern Miwok from the village of Muquelemne on the Mokelumne River. He was a *vaquero* and *lancero* and was listed as the Orderly Sergeant for the Indian Infantry in Sutter's 1845 army.

**David Dewey Dutton** - from Massachusetts. He'd emigrated to Oregon in 1839, then traveled to California in 1840 on the ship *Lausanne*. He worked a while in Bodega, then joined Sutter as a cook.

**William Bell Elliott** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845. Born in North Carolina in 1788. Married Elizabeth Patton in 1821. Had eleven children (three died in Missouri), came west with 6 sons, 2 daughters. Took part in the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846. Mrs. Elliott is said to have supplied the needles and some of the cloth for the famous Bear Flag. He was a famous hunter, and was said to have discovered the Geysers while hunting in 1847. Here is a quote from a modern-day brochure from





The Geysers (which are *fumaroles*, holes in the earth where steam from deep within the earth pours out):

Hiking through the mountains between Cloverdale and Calistoga in search of grizzly bears one day in 1847, explorer-surveyor William Bell Elliott came upon a startling sight: puffs of steam coming from the hillside. Elliott had discovered The Geysers.

The awe-struck hunter later told friends he thought he had come upon "the gates of hell" itself.

Ran a gristmill in Calistoga, then a wayside hotel in Santa Rosa (on Mark West Creek, then settled in Upper Lake (Lake County), where he raised cattle, had a blacksmith shop and another gristmill.

Sources: PG&E brochure on The Geysers, **History of Napa and Lake Counties** (Cooper and Milberry, 1914).

**Elizabeth Patton Elliott** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845. Born about 1802. Married to William Bell Elliott in 1821, in Virginia. She and her family lived in Missouri before coming to California. She had eleven children. Alberon, Commodore, Emsley, William, Thomas, James, Celia, and Eliza Jane came to California. Churchill, Mary and Emily died in Missouri. James died in California at age five. In 1845 Elizabeth, William, and their children and lived in Napa County on Dr. Edward Bale's Ranch, which was part of Rancho Carne Humana, between present-day St. Helena and Calistoga. They lived in a cloth tent in bear country, which was quite an experience, as you may see:

The entire family had to spend the nights on a platform built in the forks of a mammoth oak tree, often watching helplessly while their uninvited guests below plundered the tent of all edibles. During the day the men frequently went on hunting expeditions; and in their absence Mrs. Elliot and the smaller children often had to take refuge in the trees to get away from prowling bears. Mrs. Elliot, however, was herself an excellent shot and of no mean prowess as a bear hunter.

She and her family were at Sonoma in 1846 for the Bear Flag Revolt, and she is said to have furnished cloth and needles for the Bear Flag. Her husband was well-known as a hunter of grizzly bears. On one of his hunting expeditions north of Calistoga, he came across steam pouring forth from the ground. This place is now known as The Geysers. She died in 1869 in Upper Lake, where the family settled after living in Calistoga and Santa Rosa areas. To learn more about Elizabeth Elliott: read about the Bear Flag Revolt and check out **Historic Spots in California** (M.Hoover, H.E. & E.G. Ranch, 1948), and **History of Napa and Lake Counties** (Cooper and Milberry, 1914).

**Charles Flugge**-- Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - German. Went to Oregon first. In 1842-43 he was employed by Sutter (who had known him in Oregon), as a clerk and advisor. Sutter sent him on important missions to the Mexican governor. He and Sutter used to play cards in the evenings. He became a Mexican citizen in 1843, received a land grant on the Feather River, and opened a store in Los Angeles. It seems he went insane in 1852, wandered off into the countryside and was found dead.

**Gasto** - Eastern Miwok from the village of Ochehamne on the Sacramento River. He was listed as a soldier in the Indian Infantry Company. He may have been one of the local Native Americans





enlisted by Edward Kern to protect Sutter's Fort while the California Battalion was campaigning in Southern California. In November or 1846, the garrison at Sutter's Fort consisted of 21 cavalymen (including Sutter) and 29 Native American Infantrymen.

**Rafael and Carmen Sierra Gonzalez-** arrived in California in 1833. Rafael was an administrator of customs and a sub-commisario at Monterey.

**William Gordon-** Workman-Rowland Party 1841 – “Old Uncle Billy,” born in Ohio, he became a Mexican citizen after settling in New Mexico. In California, he settled in Yolo County on Cache Creek.

**Maria Lucero Gordon-** Workman-Rowland Party 1841 - a Mexican citizen, she married William Gordon, had six children, sister of Rufina, died in 1844

**Talbot Green** (Paul Geddes) -- Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - born in Pennsylvania in 1810. A man with a secret. Married, the father of four, and working in a bank, he deserted job and family to emigrate to California with a new identity and a mysteriously heavy bag which he claimed was lead for ammunition. He joined Josiah Belden in working for Thomas Larkin (the American consul) in Monterey. Became a partner in 1846, the Collector of the Port in 1847. He bought land in Yerba Buena and had a street named after him (Green St.). Became a partner in a trading firm (Howard &- Green) and ran successfully for City Council. In 1849 married Sarah Montgomery (of the Stevens-Murphy Party). In 1851, while running for mayor was denounced as a runaway bank clerk named Paul Geddes. He denied everything and left to clear his name back east. In a letter to Larkin admitted his guilt, but was not heard from again.

**Caleb Greenwood--** Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 - born around 1763. A famous old mountain man and guide. Much is written about him.

**Brittain Greenwood--** Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 - 20 years old in 1844. Son of Caleb Greenwood and a ½ Crow- ½ French woman named Batchicka Youngcault. Hot tempered.

**John Greenwood --** Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 - 18 years old in 1844. Son of Caleb Greenwood and a ½ Crow- ½ French woman named Batchicka Youngcault. Hot tempered.

**(RESERVED – Fox Family) Elizabeth (Eliza) Gregson –** Grigsby-Ide Party 1845. Born in England on March 15, 1824. Emigrated to America with her family. She married a young blacksmith, James Gregson, in 1843 in Rhode Island. Emigrated to California in 1845, though at first they aimed for Oregon. Her mother, Anna Marshall, her sister, Mary Ann, and her brothers, John and Henry, came as well. They seemed to have joined the very tail of the Grigsby-Ide Party. All their oxen except for one pair, were killed by Paiute arrows in "Truckee Meadows. They packed everything they owned into a two-wheeled cart and walked the rest of the way, arriving at Sutter's Fort in October of 1845.

James was hired by Captain Sutter to cut lumber in the "Piney Woods." He also did some blacksmithing for Sutter. A few weeks before the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846, Eliza had a baby, Anna. When James left to fight in Fremont's California Volunteers, Eliza and Sarah Armstrong stayed at the Fort with Mrs. Leahy. Eliza taught reading and writing to Mrs. Armstrong and Ellen





Leahy. Eliza and other women of the Fort did everything they could to help the poor survivors of the Donner Party. After the Mexican War was over, James continued to work for Sutter. In 1848 the Gregsons went up to Coloma to work on the sawmill, and for Eliza to relieve Jennie Wimmer who had been cooking for the men, but was about to have a baby. James tried gold-mining, but became ill late 1848. Eliza also had a baby, Mary Ellen. Both little Anna and the baby became ill, and the family moved to Sonoma, where Eliza supported the family by taking in washing. By 1850 the Gregsons bought land with Eliza's brother, Henry, in Green Valley in Sonoma County, where they grew wheat and prospered. They had eight children in all. Eliza died on February 1, 1889. She and James are both buried in Green Valley Cemetery, near Sonoma. Information source: **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis).

**(RESERVED – Fox Family) James Gregson** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845. Born in England in about 1822. Emigrated to America. Married Elizabeth (Eliza) Marshall in 1843, in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Described by Eliza as "not very stout (strong)." Was a blacksmith by trade. After failing at farming in Illinois, the family decided to go to Oregon in 1845 in search of free land. They changed their course at Fort Hall, and headed for California. Eliza's mother, Anna Marshall, her younger sister Mary Ann, and her brothers John and Henry, came along. They seemed to have joined the very tail of the Grigsby-Ide Party. All their oxen except for one pair, were killed by Paiute arrows in Truckee Meadows. They had to pack everything they owned into a two-wheeled cart and walk the rest of the way. They arrived at Sutter's Fort in October, 1845. James was hired by Captain Sutter to cut lumber in the "Piney Woods." He also did some blacksmithing for Sutter. A few weeks before James took part in the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846, Eliza had a baby, Anna. Along with Allen Montgomery and others, James helped steal a herd of horses as part of the Bear Flag Revolt. Then James left to fight in Fremont's California Volunteers, while Eliza stayed at the Fort. After the Mexican War was over, James continued to work for Sutter, getting granite millstones for a gristmill on the American River. In 1848 the Gregsons went up to Coloma to work on the sawmill. James tried his hand at gold-mining, but became ill late 1848. Eliza also had another baby, Mary Ellen. Both little Anna and the baby became ill, and the family moved to Sonoma, where Eliza supported the family by taking in washing, By 1850 the Gregsons bought land with Eliza's brother, Henry in Green Valley in Sonoma County, where they grew wheat and prospered. They had eight children in all. James died August 1, 1899. He and Eliza are buried in the Green Valley Cemetery near Sonoma. **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis).

**James and Elizabeth Rogers Forsythe Griffeth**– Grigsby-Ide Party 1845 - traveled with children John (19), Calvin (17), Nancy (15), Francis (13), Mary (11), and James (5). Another child, Thomas, had died in 1839 at age 2. They settled in the Napa Valley.

**Thomas Hardy** - a Canadian. He had a rancho (the *Rio de Jesus Maria*) on the Sacramento River near the mouth of Cache Creek. He often visited Sutter's Fort, and worked as a carpenter and translator.

**George and Elizabeth Duncan Harlan** - came overland in 1846 from Indiana with two sons and two daughters.

**Harry** - one of the eight Kanakas (Hawaiians) who came with John Sutter to California from the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) in 1838. He helped Sutter establish New Helvetia. He was an





experienced sailor. Worked as a *vaquero* at the Fort, then Captain Sutter put him in charge of the Native American laborers at the Hock Farm.

**Lansford Hastings** – Hastings Party 1843 - rom Ohio, born in 1819(?). Leaving his wife Catherine McCord and perhaps a young child behind in Ohio, he travelled with two teen-aged brothers, Daniel & James. You can read more about him in **Pioneers of California**.

**Samuel Hensley**– Walker-Chiles Party 1843 - He was a trapper from Kentucky. Worked for Sutter in several jobs: as supercargo on the launch, in charge of supplies in Sutter's army during the Micheltorena Campaign, and took charge of the Hock Farm, attending to Sutter's general business. Married to Helen Hensley.

**Hincay** - Nisenan from the village of Wapumni on the northern shore of the Cosumnes River. As headman of his village, he brought laborers to the Fort.

**Isaac Hitchcock** - Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 - claimed to have been to California in 1833 with Joseph Walker. Brother of Isabelle Hitchcock Patterson.

**Homobono** – local Native American (tribe unknown). He could read and write Spanish so he was probably Mission trained. As headman of his village, he brought laborers to the Fort.

**Charles Hopper**- Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - native of North Carolina, returned east with Chiles, brought his family back in 1847, serving as captain of the party he led. Settled in Napa Valley near old friends, Chiles and Yount. Wrote a narrative of the journey, which was excerpted in local newspapers in the 1870s. Had five children, was a leading citizen of the area.

**Henry Huber**- Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - immigrant from Germany. At Sutter's Fort in 1841, again in 1846 .to run the distillery. In 1845 was a grantee of the *Honcut Rancho*, but lost it in a dispute in 1853. He was the person who encouraged Charles (then known as Karl) Weber to come to California.

**William Hudson** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845 - traveled with his wife Sarah Ann Smith Hudson and their children Martha (14) Spencer (10), Andrew (8), Martin (6), Julia Ann (4) and Lizzie (2). Another child, Mary, was born in 1846. William was a farmer and gunsmith. They settled in the Santa Rosa area.

**Sarah Ann Smith Hudson** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845. 32 years old, from Missouri. Married to William Hudson, a farmer and gunsmith. Her children: Martha (about 15), Spencer (about 11), Andrew (about 9), Martin (about 7), Julia Ann (about 5), Lizzie (about 3), Mary (born in 1846). Other relatives included her Brother-in-law, David and sister-in-law (perhaps), Lucinda Hudson York and her family. Settled in the Santa Rosa area. Information sources: **The History of Napa and Lake Counties** (Cooper and Millberry, 1914).

**William Brown Ide**– Grigsby-Ide Party 1845 - born in 1795 in Massachusetts of Pilgrim ancestry, he was a prosperous Illinois farmer and carpenter, a teetotaler (didn't drink alcohol). Settled in Tehama County near Red Bluff.





**Susan Haskell Ide** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845. Born 1801. In 1820 married William Brown Ide, a carpenter, farmer, and sometime surveyor. (Also a teetotaler, meaning, he didn't drink alcohol.) Settled in Massachusetts. William had itchy feet. The family moved west, first to Kentucky, then Ohio, then Illinois, where he bought a farm outside of Springfield. Children: James (born about 1822), William (born about 1824), Mary Eliza (born about 1825), Sarah (born about 1827), Daniel (born about 1837), Lemuel (born about 1839). Susan had three other children who died born in 1833, 1839, and 1844. Only Sarah, Daniel and Lemuel came west with their parents, plus a little boy, Thomas Croften, who was fostered by Mrs. Ide. In 1845 the family decided to emigrate to Oregon, but were persuaded at Fort Hall by veteran mountain man and sometime scout, Caleb Greenwood, to head for California instead. They were with a party called the Grigsby-Ide Party since her husband William was one of the leaders. In 1846 William took part in the Bear Flag Rebellion. In fact, he was chosen president of the "California Republic." He wrote a long proclamation declaring California's independence. After some moving around, the Ides settled in Tehama County near present-day Red Bluff, where an adobe building (said to be the Ide adobe) is a state historical site. Susan died in the late 1840s of cholera. To learn more about Susan Ide: her daughter, Sarah, wrote about her experiences travelling west. Excerpts of it are included in the book **Pioneer Children on the Journey West** by Emmy Werner. Also see **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis).

**Jesus** - Eastern Miwok from the village of Muquelemne on the Mukelumne River. He was a *vaquero* and probably one of Sutter's *lancers*.

**William Johnson** - originally from Boston. He had been a mate on the ship *Aciope*. He bought the *Gutierrez Rancho*, on the Bear River in 1845. He made trips back and forth from the ranch to New Helvetia. His ranch was the spot where the Donner Rescue Parties organized. He was married briefly to Mary Murphy of the Donner Party, but he was an abusive husband, and she left him.

**John Kelly** – one of the eight Kanakas (Hawaiians ) who came to California with John A. Sutter in 1838 from Hawaii (known then as the Sandwich Islands). His Hawaiian name was **Ioanne Keaala O Kaaina**. Helped Sutter establish New Helvetia. His wife, Manuiki, came with him. She cooked and sewed for the men. He was an experienced sailor, and became one of Sutter's *vaqueros*. He eventually married a Nisenan (southern Maidu) woman. He stayed at the Fort until the Gold Rush.

**Andrew Kelsey**-- Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - Woodsman. Emigrated with brothers Benjamin, Samuel and David (Samuel. & David went to Oregon). Traveled with Ben and Nancy to Oregon in 1843, returning with Samuel and David (and families). Part of the Bear Flaggers. With partner Charles Stone, established a ranch near Clearlake (Kelseyville). When gold was discovered, he and Ben struck it rich near Coloma, at Kelsey's Diggings, now Kelsey. In 1849, he returned to the ranch where he and Stone were killed by local Indians, as the result of their shabby and cruel treatment of them.

**Benjamin Kelsey** – Bidwell-Bartleson Party 1841 & Kelsey Party 1844. Born in 1813 in Kentucky, brother of David, Samuel, and Andrew. Described as a "man of adventurous disposition ... " The Kelseys were hunters and hard-scrabble farmers who probably did not like living too close to





"civilization," and moved to a newer frontier whenever they could see smoke from a neighbor's cabin. Married Nancy Roberts in October 1838. Joined the Bidwell-Bartleson Party in May, 1841 bound for California and arrived at Sutter's Fort on December 26, 1841. Ben and Nancy settled in Napa County, near present-day Calistoga, where Ben began raising cattle. Ben hunted deer and elk, selling the hides and tallow. In 1843 they drove cattle to Oregon and brought back Kelsey brothers David and Samuel and their families in the Kelsey Party 1844. In 1846 they participated in the Bear Flag Revolt. Ben did not like rules and authorities. He got into a disagreement with Captain Fremont, who ordered him to execute Jose Berryessa and two others on charges that they were spies. Ben refused, and Fremont ordered Kit Carson to do the deed. When gold was discovered, Ben and Andrew made a strike at Kelsey's Diggings (later the town of Kelsey in El Dorado County). With his profits, Ben bought sheep, which he sold for high prices in the gold fields. In 1859 - went to Mexico and the Southwest. Nancy and her children survived a Comanche raid in Texas in 1861. By the mid-1860s they were back in California. Ben died on February 17, 1889 in Los Angeles and was buried in Rosemont Cemetery. Other people in Benjamin's family were: brothers Andrew Kelsey (who traveled with Ben and Nancy to California), Samuel and David (who had first gone to Oregon in 1841). David's children: Mary Frances, Rebecca, America, Josephine and Samuel.

**David Kelsey** – Kelsey Party 1844 –from Kentucky, hunter and trapper. Had come to Oregon in 1843 with an earlier Hastings Party. Settled at French Camp, died in 1845 of smallpox. His wife was blinded by the same disease.

**Nancy Roberts Kelsey** – Bidwell-Bartleson Party 1841 & Kelsey Party 1844. Born August 1, 1823 in Barren County, Kentucky. Her family moved in 1826 to Jackson County, Missouri, when she was three. Married Benjamin Kelsey in October 1838 (she was fifteen). A daughter, Martha Ann, was born in 1839. A second child was born in early 1841, but died. She arrived at Sutter's Fort on Christmas Day, 1841 and there gave birth to a little boy, who died within a week. She had been pregnant the whole journey! Nancy eventually had ten children. Nancy and her husband settled in Napa County, near present-day Calistoga, where they began raising cattle. Ben hunted deer and elk, selling the hides and tallow. In 1843 they drove cattle up to Fort Vancouver in Oregon and brought back Kelsey brothers David and Samuel and their families. In 1846 they participated in the Bear Flag Revolt, where Nancy had a son (Andrew) and cooked and sewed for Captain Fremont's volunteers. After the Mexican War, Ben ran a sawmill for General Vallejo. When gold was discovered, Ben and his brother Andrew made a strike at Kelsey's Diggings. In 1850 moved to Humboldt County, and supposedly helped establish the towns of Arcata and Eureka. In 1859 they went to Mexico and the Southwest. Nancy and her children survived a Comanche raid in Texas in 1861. By the mid-1860s they were back in California. Ben died on February 17, 1889 in Los Angeles and was buried in Rosemont Cemetery. Nancy lived her last years sixty miles east of Santa Maria in a cabin in Cottonwood Canyon near Cayama Valley. She raised chickens and practiced herbal medicine. She died on August 10, 1896, at the age of 73. **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis).

**Samuel Kelsey** – Kelsey Party 1844 - son of David.

**Samuel & Lucretia Applegate Kelsey** – Kelsey Party 1844 – brother of David. Five children. One of the four Kelsey brothers – David, Samuel, Ben, Andrew. Participated in the Bear Flag





Rebellion in June of 1846. Wife may have been related to the large Applegate family that settled in Oregon. Applegate Trail named after one of the Applegate family.

**Sebastian and Elizabeth Rhoads Keyser** - native of the Austrian Tyrol and a trapper who came overland with Sutter to Oregon in 1838, joining him in New Helvetia, probably about 1841. In 1846 he was probably a Bear Flagger and had part of his left hand blown off. He was a member of the 4th Donner relief party.

**Carmel Lucero Tapia y Arce Knight** - came to California in 1843. Her husband had travelled with the Workman Rowland Party of 1841, then returned to get his family in 1842. Born perhaps 1815 in New Mexico. Her family included her husband, William Henry Knight, originally from Baltimore. He'd been educated as a doctor. Was said to have a violent temper. Was a Bear Flagger in 1846, and had fought in support of Governor Micheltoreno. Her children were Maria de la Luz (b. 1834) Carmelita (b. 1836), Gregory (b. 1839), Ellen (b. 1841), William (b. 1844), Victoriano (b. 1846). One child had died at birth in 1837. Lived at Knight's Landing, on the Sacramento River. Her husband had received the land grant in 1846.

**William Henry Knight** - Workman-Rowland Party 1841 - from Baltimore via New Mexico. Educated as a doctor, was a rancher and great hunter. Said to have had a violent temper and quick to take offence. Returned in 1842 to New Mexico to get his wife, Carmel Lucero Tapia y Arce Knight and children. In 1846 received a land grant and settled at Knight's Landing on the Sacramento River. Served in Micheltorena Campaign (in Gant's Company), was a signer at San Jose. Called to foreigners to stand up against the Californios and was active in the Bear Flag Revolt.

**François Lamotte** – a Frenchman of African descent, deserter from the *Heroine*, a French corvette (a fast-moving little warship), anchored in Monterey. A copy of the order for his arrest may be found in a book in the Oakland History Room.

**Daniel and (wife's name unknown) Leahy** – Party unknown 1845. Daniel was Irish, worked as a cooper at the Fort. Wife also Irish, born around 1826. Children Mary Ann (b. 1841 or 42), Libby (younger than Mary Ann), one son older than the two girls (name unknown) who died at the Fort. Mrs. Eliza Gregson tells of teaching little Mary Ann Leahy to write during the winter of 1846-47.

**Thomas Linder** - Workman-Rowland Party 1841 - mineralogist. Settled in the area which is now Stockton, building a tule hut. He went with Sutter on the Micheltorena Campaign.

**Henry Marshall** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845 – English, came with mother, brother and sisters. Employed by Sutter, was at the Fort during the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846.

**James Marshall** - McMahon-Clyman Party 1845 - originally from New Jersey. He was a carpenter and carriage maker. He worked for Captain Sutter and was sent to Coloma to build a sawmill. It was there gold was discovered.

**Dennis Martin** – Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 – grown son of Patrick Martin Sr. One of the rescuers of Moses Schallenberger at Donner Lake and the party left on the Yuba River.





**Elizabeth McPherson Martin** – Walker-Chiles Party 1843 – traveled with her three daughters: Mary, Arzelia, and two month-old Martha.

**Julius Martin** – Walker-Chiles Party 1843. Married to Elizabeth McPherson and moved to Missouri sometime before 1843. Had three daughters: Mary, Arzelia, and Martha (who was only 2 months old at the time of the journey). In 1843 joined a wagon train bound for Oregon, but at Fort Laramie the train met up with the Walker-Chiles Party heading for California. The Martin family joined them. After an arduous journey, they made it to California. After stopping at Sutter's Fort, the Martins settled in San Ysidro (near Gilroy). Mr. Martin ran a horse-powered gristmill. His mill was able to grind 20 bushels of wheat a day into flour. During the war with Mexico, Julius was a captain in John Fremont's American Scouts. He had also been at Sonoma during the Bear Flag Revolt. When gold was discovered at Coloma, Julius set out for the gold fields. He did well enough that he came home in 1850 with enough gold to buy 1,220 acres of land from John Gilroy (who had a huge land grant and had been in the area for some twenty years). On that property he eventually built three houses. A street was named for him in what became the town of Gilroy (Martin's Lane), but it was later changed to Odd Fellows Avenue. He died in 1891, having been blind and feisty, for the last thirty years of his life. Information sources: **Historic Spots in California** (Hoover and Ranch, et.al.)

**Patrick Martin Jr.** – Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 – grown son of Patrick Martin Sr.

**Patrick Martin Sr.** - Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 - Irish, father-in-law to James Murphy

**Don Ygnacio Martinez** - Señor Martinez was born in Mexico City in 1774. He came to California in 1799 as a Spanish officer, first in Santa Barbara, then as *alferez* of San Diego. He was recommended to return to Santa Barbara, but an error was made in his papers, and he was sent to San Francisco instead. Lived briefly in el Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe before settling on the lower Sacramento River. He married Maria Martina Arrelanes. Their many children:

- Maria Antonia (who married William Richardson, after whom Richardson Bay and the Richardson Bridge to San Rafael is named), born in 1803.
- Juana (who mamed Jose Joaquin Estudillo, who later lived on the *Rancho de San Leandro*), born in 1805.
- Maria Encarnacion (who married Abelino Altamirano), born in 1808.
- Jose de Jesus Ciriaco ( who married Carmen Peralta, daughter of Luis Peralta), born in 1815.
- Vincente Jose Ramon (who married Guadalupe Moraga), born in 1818.
- Luisa (who married Victor Castro), born in 1819.
- Francisca and Susanna, twins born in 1824.
- Maria Rafeala, born in 1826
- Maria Concepcion (who died as a young woman, unmarried), born in 1829.
- Maria Dolores (known as Lola and who married Don Pedro Higuera), the last daughter, born in 1832.

After being a soldier in California for 41 years, he retired to Rancho El Pinole with his wife and six daughters. He retired with full pay and permission to wear his uniform. He was, though retired, the *comisionado* of San Rafael, which means he managed the affairs of the new settlement and





established its borders. He was one of the nearest neighbors in the early days of New Helvetia, and he sold cattle, horses, ox yokes, rope, meat and butter to Sutter to help him get started. The town of Martinez is named after his family. He died in 1848, as the result of injuries suffered either in an attack by a bear or a "renegade" Indian. Information Sources: **Sketches of California in the 1860s, The Journals of Jesus M. Estudillo** (ed. by Margaret Schlichtman), **Historic Spots in California** (M. Hoover, H.E. & D.G. Ranch), and **The Oakland Tribune**, in the "Knaves" column, June 11, 1967.

**Perry McCoon** - an English sailor. Captain Sutter sent him to San Raphael to raise recruits for the Micheltorena campaign. He worked a while at the Fort, then moved to a nearby farm of his own. In February 1846, he married a Mrs. Lewis, who unfortunately died that June. The following year, he married Elitha Donner.

**James Thomas and Margaret Pyles McDowell** – 1845 Party unknown. Margaret born about 1821 in Kentucky. James was a gunsmith at the Fort. They had one child, Magie (b. 1842). They lived inside the Fort until 1846 when they moved across the Sacramento River.

**Charles McIntosh**– Walker-Chiles Party 1843 - half Cherokee or Delaware. Lived both at New Helvetia and Monterey. In 1845 took part in the Micheltorena Campaign.

**Samuel Green McMahan**-- Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 and McMahan-Clyman Party 1845 - native of Missouri, born in 1819. Worked for John Wolfskill on his Putah Creek ranch. Drove cattle to Oregon in 1843, returned in 1845 with James Clyman. After the Mexican War (served briefly) bought ranch from Wolfskill in Yolo County and married Lavenia Yount, widow of John Yount (nephew of George) in 1860. Buried in Sacramento City Cemetery.

**Mercado** - probably Eastern Miwok. He was part of the Indian Infantry Company and likely stood guard at the gate and kept night watch.

**James Miller** - Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 - born 1813, Irish. Settled in Marin County on part of the Los Gallinas Rancho, which he bought part of from Timoteo Murphy (no relation). The two Irishmen became close friends.

**Mary Murphy Miller** - Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 - Daughter of Martin Murphy, Sr., mother of four, including William, two daughters and baby Ellen Independence, born en route.

**Allen Montgomery** - Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 - gunsmith. Stayed behind with Moses Schallenberger and Joseph Foster, when half the wagons were left behind. When food supply got low, Montgomery and Foster hiked out. Schallenberger was left behind because he could not keep up. After serving in the Micheltorena Campaign, he lived on a rancho on the American River, the "Pine Woods." Joined the Bear Flaggers in 1846. Seems to have abandoned his wife to go to Hawaii in 1847.

**Sarah Armstrong Montgomery** – Stevens-Murphy Party 1844. Born in 1825 in Ohio. In 1843 married Allen Montgomery, a gunsmith. Became friends with Elizabeth SchallenbergerTownsend in Missouri. Settled in a cabin in Amador County. On January 29, 1846 she held a quilting party





(the first in California) which “all the people attended.” During the Bear Flag Revolt her husband was at Sonoma, and she lived at the Fort with Mrs. Gregson and Mrs. Leahy. Mrs. Gregson taught Sarah to read and write at this time. She stayed at the Fort until 1847 when her husband returned from fighting with Sutter. Was apparently abandoned by her husband shortly after when he went to Honolulu on the *Julia*. Sarah eventually divorced him. She later married Talbot Green, an emigrant, and a member of the Bidwell- Bartleson Party of 1841. He had become prominent in San Francisco (Yerba Buena), but was revealed to be a fraud. He was really Paul Geddes, a bank clerk with a family from Pennsylvania, who had embezzled money from his bank. He left San Francisco, supposedly to clear his name, but never returned or was heard from again. Sarah was able to annul this marriage, though she had a son, Talbot, Jr. She married Joseph Wallis in July 1854, an attorney from Santa Clara who later became a judge and state senator. They had four children: Joseph, Eva, Josephine, and William. Sarah was prominent in women's rights and entertained Susan B Anthony. She died in 1905 and is buried in Redwood City. Bancroft called her “a woman of somewhat remarkable qualities.” **History of California** (Bancroft), **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis).

**William Moon** - Workman-Rowland Party 1841 - originally from Tennessee. He mined for grist stones in the Sacramento Valley in 1845.

**Riley Septimus and Mary Lard Moultry** – came overland to California in 1846.. They were married on the journey. He was a member of the 1st Donner relief party. Mary's father was Fielding Lard.

**Bill Munut** - Eastern Miwok from the village of Sagayacumne or Sakayakumne. He was a *vaquero* and probably a mounted *lancero*.

**Ann Martin Murphy** – Stevens-Murphy Party 1844. Born about 1820 in Ireland. Daughter of Patrick Martin. Her family emigrated to Canada, where she married the son of family friends, James Murphy, who was a lumberman. Emigrated to Missouri in about 1840 with the Murphys and her father, Patrick, and brothers, Dennis and Patrick, Jr. because of a cholera epidemic in Canada. Her children: a baby boy died before the trip west, Mary (b. 1842), Martin (b. 1846 at the Fort). Settled in the San Raphael area, where her husband continued to cut trees for a living. He sold lumber to William Leidesdorf in Yerba Buena for a wharf. During the Gold Rush, James prospected with his brothers John and Daniel. He did well enough to buy land near Gilroy (Rancho de las Llagas), and then a large piece of property north of San Jose in 1849. He planted one of the first olive groves in the area and built a large mansion, which is now a Santa Clara County landmark, “Ringwood.” Ann eventually had nine children. **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Murphy).

**Ellen Murphy (Townsend?)**-- Stevens-Murphy Party 1844. Born 1822 Ireland. Possibly a widow since she was listed by Bancroft as being “Mrs. Townsend,” but also apparently married in 1847 or 48. Emigrated with family first to Canada then to Missouri before coming to California. Daughter of Martin Murphy Sr. Described as a spirited beauty

**James Murphy** – Stevens-Murphy Party 1844. Son of Martin Murphy, Sr. Born in Ireland in Wexford, about 1809. In 1820 the whole Murphy family emigrated to Canada and settled near





Quebec, where they farmed and cut lumber. Married Ann Martin in the mid-1830s. She was a daughter of Patrick Martin, family friends who had emigrated with the Murphys. Emigrated to Missouri in 1840, where the family fell ill with malaria (the "ague"). James' mother died of it. \* Father of two children, Mary (b. 1842) and Martin (b. 1846). Eventually had nine children. Persuaded by Sutter to join his force in the Micheltorena Campaign. Settled in Marin County, where he cut timber for Leidesdorf's Wharf in Yerba Buena. Went to the gold fields with brothers John & Daniel, and found enough gold to help him buy a large parcel of land near Gilroy and near San Jose, where he settled in 1849. Built a large mansion and planted one of the first olive groves in the area. His home "Ringwood" is a Santa Clara landmark. Source: **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis), "Riptide" (a column published in the San Francisco Chronicle, March 28, 31, and April 2, 1947), and **The Opening of the California Trail** (ed. G. Stewart).

**Martin Murphy, Sr.** – Stevens-Murphy Party 1844. Born in Wexford County, Ireland November 12, 1785. Married Mary Foley in the early 1800s. Together they had eight children. Emigrated to Canada in 1820, settling near Quebec, with several other Irish families. Moved to Missouri, establishing Irish Grove, in 1840. However, the damp climate was conducive to malaria ("ague"), and Martin's wife Mary died. Father Hoeken, a visiting priest told the grieving families about California, with its gentle climate and opportunities for Catholic families. Helped form the Stevens-Murphy Party to California in 1844. Upon arriving at Sutter's Fort, was persuaded by Sutter to join his force to fight in the Mexican War. Settled as a rancher just south of San Jose on the Rancho Ojo de Agua de la Coche, on the Monterey Road. In gratitude for the safe delivery of his family to California, he built a chapel on his ranch. He named it San Martin. His ranch was near what became Morgan Hill, on a well-traveled road and visitors were always welcome. Died on March 16, 1865, while visiting his daughter, Margaret Kell, near San Jose. His funeral was well attended. Businesses closed and courts adjourned. He was honored by many for his hospitality and interest in his community. Source: **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis), "Riptide" (a column published in the San Francisco Chronicle, March 28, 31 and April 2, 1947), and **The Opening of the California Trail** (ed. G. Stewart).

**Martin Murphy, Jr.** – Stevens-Murphy Party 1844. Emigrated first to Canada in 1820-21, where he married Mary Bulgar (born about 1807-8), then to Missouri in 1842. Malaria, due to Missouri's damp climate, took the lives of his mother and a young daughter. Other children included James, Martin, Patrick and Bernard. During the journey to California, a daughter was born at the camp at Big Bend on the Yuba River. She was named Elizabeth Yuba Murphy. Took part in the Micheltorena Campaign during the winter of 1845. Settled on four leagues of land on the Cosumnes River, where he set up the first school in Sacramento County on his ranch. His ranch (Murphy's Ranch) was the staging area for the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846 when Ezekiel Merritt seized a herd of horses near there, which was thought to be for the Mexican Army. In 1850 he bought the Rancho Pastoria de las Borregas, near present-day Mountain View and Sunnyvale. He is said to have founded Sunnyvale. Became a prosperous rancher, the first to ship grain worldwide. Financed the Santa Clara County Courthouse, founded Santa Clara College (now the University of Santa Clara). His 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated by thousands. Died in 1884, at the age of 78. His Bay View Ranch is now a Sunnyvale city park) at the corner of N. Sunnyvale and California Avenues. Source: **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis), "Riptide" (a column published in the San Francisco Chronicle, March 28, 31 and April 2, 1947), and **The Opening of the California Trail** (ed. G. Stewart).





**Mary Bulger Murphy** – Stevens-Murphy Party 1844. Born in Ireland approx. 1805 - 1810. Emigrated to Canada, where she married Martin Murphy Jr., the oldest son of a large Irish family, then to Missouri in 1842. Malaria, due to Missouri's damp climate, took the lives of her mother-in-law and a young daughter. Children: James, Martin, Patrick and Bernard (the daughter who died of malaria). Another daughter was born at the camp at Big Bend on the Yuba River. She was named Elizabeth Yuba Murphy. The "Yuba" was because she was born at the river, and some say, because as an infant she fell from the pommel of her mother's horse as they were crossing the river. Mary was able to snatch her from the swift current. Eventually, Mary had three more children. She was known as a great and generous housekeeper, but very proper. Her family settled on four leagues of land on the Cosumnes River, where her husband set up the first school in Sacramento County on his ranch. The Murphy Ranch was part of the beginning of the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846 when Ezekiel Merritt seized a herd of horses near there, which was thought to be for the Mexican Army. In 1850 they bought the Rancho Pastoria de las Borregas, near present-day Mountain View and Sunnyvale. Martin is said to have founded Sunnyvale. Martin became a prosperous rancher, the first to ship grain worldwide. He financed the Santa Clara County Courthouse, founded Santa Clara College (now the University of Santa Clara). Her 50th wedding anniversary in 1881 was celebrated by at least 5,000 people. They barbequed 7 steers, 14 sheep, and 10 hogs, as well as a wagon load of hams and one of roast chickens. They served 500 gallons of coffee, 15 barrels of beer, many kegs of whiskey and lemonade, and a freight car of champagne. She died in 1892, at the age of 85 or so. The Murphy's Bay View Ranch is now a Sunnyvale city park, at the corner of N. Sunnyvale and California Avenues. Source: **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis), "Riptides" (a column published in the San Francisco Chronicle, March 28, 31, and April 2, 1947), and **The Opening of the California Trail** (ed. G. Stewart).

**William Northgrave** - McMahan-Clyman Party 1845 --an Englishman. He burned charcoal for Sutter.

**Michael C. Nye**-- Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - became a Mexican citizen in 1844. Granted the *Willy Rancho* on the Yuba River near present-day Marysville, apparently because of services in the Micheltorena Campaign. Married Mrs. Harriet Pike in 1847. Later, his grant was invalidated, and he moved to Oregon. Died at the age of 85 in 1906, the last remaining member of the Bidwell-Bartleson Party.

**Olimpio** - Member of the Eastern Miwok tribe, from the village of Muquelemne on the Muquelemne River. (Muquelemne can also be spelled Mukelemne.) Was trained as a *vaquero*, probably at the mission at San Jose. He was the most important of all Captain Sutter's *vaqueros*, with the title of major domo. Olimpio also helped Captain Sutter by bringing in workers from nearby Indian villages and by guiding important visitors about. On occasion he acted as a courier, delivering important mail and messages. In 1848 Olimpio was made the keeper-of-the keys, in charge of all the Fort keys to the supplies, the armory, the storerooms, etc.

**Jose and Dolores Quintero Ortega** - visited the Fort with their five children, one of whom was named Maria, in 1846.





**Christina Patterson** - an overland immigrant in 1846 whose husband died on the journey. She stayed at New Helvetia and in the San Joaquin Valley. In 1847 she married Ed Robinson.

**Isabelle Hitchcock Patterson** - Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 - a widow, aged 35 in 1846. Sister of Isaac Hitchcock. The mother of Mary (17), married in 1845 to James Williams, Isaac (15), Tedra (14), Margaret (13), and Helen (8).

**J. D. Perkey** - McMahon-Clyman Party 1845 -worked for Sutter. He was a saddler, a person who makes saddles.

**Raymundo** - a local headman of Lakisamne (a Northern Valley Yokut village on the Stanislaus River). He was one of the local leaders who brought laborers to the Fort to work in the fields and gardens, or to do general unskilled labor.

**Pierson B. Reading**– Walker-Chiles Party 1843 - from New Jersey. Entered Sutter's service as clerk and chief of trappers. Commanded the Fort when Sutter was on campaign. He was active in the early politics of California and became known as "The Father of Shasta County."

**Caroline Ritchie** – Emigrated to California in 1846 - Born in Virginia, probably between 1803-1808, judging by when she married. Married to Matthew Ritchie. Had eleven children in Illinois, though four died as infants. Another child was born in California. Captain Sutter hired Matthew as a farm worker and gave them a place to live. When the survivors of the Party of Forlorn Hope arrived at the Fort, Caroline, along with other women of the Fort (like Mrs. Leahy, Mrs. Armstrong, and Mrs. Gregson) helped to find clothing for them, as well as those who were saved later. Her husband Matthew helped with the rescue of the Donner Party. The Ritchies eventually settled in Napa County.

**John Rowland** - Workman-Rowland Party 1841 - settled in the L.A. area.

**Rufino** - Eastern Miwok from the village of Muquelemne on the Mokelumne River. He was most active in bringing workers for Sutter, who regarded Rufino as one of his most loyal followers. In 1845 he was appointed as a Second Lieutenant in Sutter's army. However, Sutter had him executed when Rufino murdered his own brother-in-law.

**Allen Sanders** - McMahon-Clyman Party 1845 - a blacksmith. He worked for Captain Sutter from July until December 1845.

**Moses Schallenberger** – Stevens-Murphy Party 1844. Born November 9, 1826 in Canton Ohio. Brother of Elizabeth, who was married to Dr John Townsend. Full of high spirits, he and the younger Murphy boys played a number of pranks on the journey. At Truckee Lake he volunteered to stay behind with Allen Montgomery and Joseph Foster to guard wagons full of valuables. His brother-in-law, for instance, had brought along bolts of silk and costly fabric to sell in California, in order to have a good financial start. They built a small cabin with a fireplace. When their food ran low, the three decided to snowshoe out on improvised snowshoes. Moses was inexperienced and soon became exhausted. The other two men left him behind to fend for himself until they could send help. Moses survived in reasonable spirits and good health. He read books he found in the





wagons and trapped coyotes and foxes with traps from other wagons. Settled in Monterey, where he worked for Consul Larkin and Talbot Green in their trading ventures until the end of the Mexican War. Then he started his own trading business. When his sister and Dr. Townsend died of cholera in 1850, moved to San Jose to care for his nephew, John. In 1854 married Fannie Everitt. Bought 115 acres near San Jose and built first one house, which burned, then another, larger one. He and Fannie had five children, in addition to rearing his nephew, John. Died at 83 on January 3D, 1909. Information Source: **Pioneer Children on the Journey West** (Emmy Werner), **The Opening of the California Trail**, (ed. George Stewart, which includes excerpts from Schallenberger's memoirs).

**John L. Schwartz**-- Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - born in Germany in 1797. Obtained a land grant on the Sacramento River in Yolo County. Set up a fishing station, raised produce for sale, and built a boat, which was used to trade up and down the delta. Land grant was later invalidated. He died in 1852, age 55.

**William Scott** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845 - came from St. Louis for his health. Took part in The Bear Flag Revolt in July of 1846. Carried the American Flag to Sacramento. Worked as a carpenter for Sutter. Said to have been at Coloma when gold was discovered.

**Franklin & Margaret Swift Sears** - McMahon-Clyman Party 1845 - from Missouri. Two children. On the journey he apparently killed two Indians for no particular reason. He worked for Sutter. In March, 1846 he had a bad fall from a horse, and was nearly killed. He was part of the Bear Flag Revolt.

**John & (wife's name unknown) Sears** – McMahon-Clyman Party 1845 – from Missouri. Wife born mid-1820s. He was a blacksmith. They settled in Sonoma. John was a captain in the California Battalion. John and Franklin Sears were brothers.

**Thomas Shadden**-- Hastings Party 1843 - known as a mule trader. Received a land grant in Yolo County in 1844. Named as a visitor to the Fort in 1845-46. His family emigrated with him.

**Peter & Mary Sullivan Sherrebeck** – Peter was a Danish trader in Yerba Buena who arrived in California in 1840 by sea. Mary arrived with the Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 and married Peter. He owned lots in Yerba Buena and traded there. He was an aide to Sutter during the Micheltorena Campaign.

**Pierre Theodore Sicard** - a French sailor and carpenter. He worked at the Hock Farm as a carpenter 1842-44. In 1844 he got a land grant on Bear River, the *Nemshas Rancho*, next to William Johnson's grant. He visited the Fort often.

**John Sinclair** - a Scotsman. He'd worked for the Hudson Bay Company in Oregon, before coming to New Helvetia in 1840. He received the *El Paso Rancho*, north of New Helvetia. He was an officer in the Micheltorena campaign, an aide to Sutter.

**James & Ann Hughes Marshall Smith** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845 – Ann was born about 1795 in Wales. Had been married to John Marshall in Rhode Island. Had four children with Mr. Marshall:





Elizabeth (about 22) married to James (about 24), Henry (about 20), John (about 12), Mary (about 11). The Smith's lived in an adobe house south of Sutter's Fort. James worked for Captain Sutter.

**Elisha Stevens** – Stevens-Murphy Party 1844. Born in Georgia in 1804. Elisha was a tall, gangly man, a bit homely, with a prominent nose, a rather solitary person. He tended to be silent, but when he spoke, others listened. As a young man he had gone beaver trapping on the Upper Missouri River, and was trained as a blacksmith. In 1844, he joined an emigrant party going to California. Very quickly, he was chosen to act as leader for the group. Even though he spoke little, others in the group recognized his quiet authority and clear thinking. He was called "Captain Stevens." This party became known as the Stevens Party, or the Stevens-Murphy Party, or the Stevens-Murphy-Townsend Party. Caleb Greenwood was the guide. After reaching Fort Hall no one, Greenwood included, knew a sure trail to California. Stevens decided to follow in the tracks of Joe Walker's party of the year before, which were still clear. This led them to the Humboldt Sink, the beginning of a large desert. Luckily, they met a friendly Paiute named Truckee, who led them across the "Forty-Mile Desert." Stevens chose the way from Truckee Meadows in the Sierras, which later became a regular pioneer route. The trail Stevens blazed later became known as Donner Pass, which Elisha Stevens resented in his later life. In California, he helped to keep the guns in good repair for Captain Fremont's Volunteers during the Mexican War. In the late 1840s he led a trapper's life in the Santa Clara mountains. Stevens Creek and Stevens Creek Road in San Jose are named for him. He bought 38 acres in Kern County (now Bakersfield). He lived the rest of his life as a kind of hermit, raising chickens and tending bees. He died in 1887 and is buried in Union Cemetery in Bakersfield.

**John Sullivan** -- Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 - Irish, two younger brothers - Michael and Robert.

**Don Antonio Maria and Maria Dolores Bernal Suñol** - Señor Suñol was born in Barcelona, Spain. Though Spanish by birth, he served in the French navy. He deserted when his ship (the *Bordelais*) reached San Francisco in 1818, and he settled near San Jose. He married Maria Dolores Bernal in 1824. One of his daughters was named Paula. He was mainly a stock raiser and trader, though he was the postmaster of San Jose from 1826 to 1829 and then a *sindico* (receiver) from 1839 to 1840, and a sub-prefect from 1841 to 1844. In about 1837 he became the owner of *Rancho Los Coches* in Santa Clara County. Suñol supported Sutter by trading seed for com, wheat, peas, and beans in exchange for beaver pelts. Sunol also sold 6,000 feet of redwood to be used in the building of the Fort. Sutter and Suñol corresponded using the French language. Information sources: **Historic Spots in California** (M. Hoover and H.E. & E.G. Ranch), **Sketches of California in the 1860s: the journals of Jesus Maria Estudillo** (ed. by Margaret Schlietman).

**Nancy Griffith Taylor** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845. Born about 1829, perhaps in Missouri. Married W.E. Taylor in December 1846. Family members included her parents James and Elizabeth Rogers Forsyth Griffith, siblings John (b. 1825), Calvin (b. 1827), Frances (b. 1831) Mary (b. 1833) James (b. 1839). Another brother, Thomas, died at the age of two in 1839. Her family settled in Napa County between what is now St. Helena and Calistoga, as did many other settlers from the Grigsby-Ide Party. She and her husband both were at Sonoma during the Bear Flag Revolt. The folks in Napa County had heard some gossip that the Mexican government was going to force all the Americans leave California. Many of the Napa County settlers rushed to Sonoma to make sure





that wouldn't happen. To learn more about Nancy Griffith read **The History of Napa and Lake Counties**, (Cooper and Millberry,1914).

**William Todd** – Grigsby-Ide & Swasey-Todd Parties of 1845. Born in Springfield, Illinois, of a well-to-do family. His aunt was Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln. Member of the Swasey-Todd Party, which had been part of a larger Oregon-bound party, and broke off from the Grigsby-Ide Party of 1845. Their party was made up of 12 or 13 young single men on horseback in a hurry to get to California. Took part in the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846. William has been said to have been the artist who painted the Bear Flag design. Volunteered to take the news to the US Navy ship *The Portsmouth*, in San Francisco Bay. Was later captured by Jose Castro's forces and held prisoner. He escaped during the battle of Olompali (a rancho between Novato and San Raphael). Lived in Sonoma for several years after 1846. Moved to El Dorado County, where a valley was named after him. In 1878 was living in San Bernardino.

**Joseph Rutherford\* Walker** - Pioneer Guide and Trapper. Emigrated with his family to Missouri, after fighting in the Creek Indian Wars under Andrew Jackson. Around 1820, he joined a band of trappers heading into the Rocky Mountains and New Mexico. They called themselves "The Taos Trappers." They trapped, smuggled, and traded in contraband (things they were supposed to pay taxes on, but didn't). Trapped and explored all over New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, and southern and coastal California. In 1843, he met the Chiles Party near Fort Laramie. They persuaded him to guide them over the Sierras, which no one had done before, for \$300. He stayed active in California for the rest of his life. He died on October 27, 1876 and is buried in the Alhambra Cemetery in Martinez. Note: sometimes "Rutherford" is spelled "Reddeford." Information sources: **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis).

**Dr. John Townsend** -- Stevens-Murphy Party 1844 - a physician from Virginia, brought a large shipment of silks that he hoped to sell at a profit in California. Served as an aide to Sutter in the Micheltorena Campaign.

**Elizabeth Schallenberger Townsend** – Stephens-Murphy Party 1844. Born in Ohio (?) sometime about 1810 (?), she was in her mid-30s in 1844. Married to Dr. John Townsend, a professional man who was full of ideas and get-rich-schemes. After her parents died in 1833, she took in her younger brother, Moses Schallenberger. He was 6 at the time. In 1842 the family moved to Missouri, where they became friends with a young couple, Sarah and Allen Montgomery. When they emigrated to California, the Townsends brought a servant and a wagon full of books and bolts of silks and satins to use as a nest egg in California. When the party reached the Sierras and it became clear that the wagons were going to be very hard to get over the mountains, Elizabeth and her servant, Francis Delland, decided to travel on horseback, along with Ellen, John and Daniel Murphy and Oliver Magnant, a young single man. Elizabeth rode an Indian pony, probably traded for at Fort Laramie. The ladies had a change of clothes and some blankets, each man carried a rifle and ammunition, and two pack-horses carried provisions. They set out November 15th. The horseback party probably reached John Sinclair's ranch, a few miles north of Sutter's Fort, on December 5, 1844. They rested a few days before continuing on to the Fort, where they arrived on December 10th. The Townsends settled in San Jose. There, along with ten percent of the population, they died of cholera in 1850. "The neighbors who discovered them dead in their farmhouse bunks on January 1, 1850, found their infant son playing on the floor nearby." The child,





John, was adopted by his uncle Moses. Information Sources: **The Opening of the California Trail** (M. Schallenberger's memoir, edited by George Stewart), **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis), and **They Saw the Elephant** (Jo Ann Levy).

**William Isaac & (wife's name unknown) Tustin**– Grigsby-Ide Party 1845 - from Virginia. William worked for Sutter as a general mechanic. Lived in the upper Sacramento Valley. Built the first adobe house in Benicia. Had a son, Fernando (2).

**Frances Yount Vines** – Walker-Chiles Party 1843 - Probably born in Missouri, about 1818-20. Traveled west with her husband William Bartlett Vines (known as Bartlett), a farmer, her sister Elizabeth Ann (about 16), her daughter, Eliza (b. 1841?). Another child, Ellen, was born in California around 1845. She came to California to see her father whom she hadn't seen in 17 years! Her mother had thought he'd died, and she had remarried. Her father, George Yount, had abandoned his family in 1825, when he left Missouri to work the wild game trade, hunting and sending meat back from New Mexico to the Eastern Market. He'd fallen, instead, into the life of a roaming trapper, making his way to California where he learned the sea otter trade, and eventually working for Mariano Vallejo, who gave him a land grant in the Napa Valley. The city of Yountville is named after him. Joe Chiles was a family friend and had run into George the year before. He brought word that George was alive and thriving in California and wanted them to join him. Frances' mother and older brother declined, but Frances and her sister Elizabeth Ann decided to go. The Vines lived in George Yount's Kentucky-style blockhouse on the Rancho Caymus when they first arrived. The rancho was about 20 miles north of Sonoma. Both Frances and Bartlett were in Sonoma during the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846. Sources: **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis).

**William Bartlett Vines** – Walker-Chiles Party 1843 - a farmer married to Frances Yount Vines. Both he and Frances were in Sonoma during the Bear Flag Revolt.

**Joseph Rutherford Walker** – Walker-Chiles Party 1843 - guided the party across the Sierras. Much is written about him.

**Charles Weber**-- Bidwell Bartleson Party 1841 - Much is written about him. Founded the city of Stockton (originally Weberstown). Married Ellen Murphy of the Stevens Party. Became a great civic leader.

**Ellen Murphy Weber** – Stevens-Murphy Party 1844. Daughter of Martin Murphy, Sr. May have been born in Canada about 1824. Sister of Martin Jr., James, Bernard, Daniel, John, and Margaret. Emigrated with her family to Missouri in 1842. Described as a "spirited beauty." She was one of the party on horseback who took the route west of Lake Tahoe over the Sierras, along with her brothers John and Daniel, Mrs. Townsend and her servant Frances, and Oliver Magnant (a bachelor). Married Charles Weber, a prominent and wealthy land owner. Known as "Helen" during her married life. Had three children, Charles Jr., Thomas and Julia. Lived in a showpiece mansion in the new town of Stockton (established by her husband). She and her husband donated land for all but one of the schools in Stockton by the time of his death. **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis), "Riptide" (a column published in the San Francisco Chronicle, March 28, 31, and April 2, 1947), and **The Opening of the California Trail** (ed. G. Stewart).





**Benjamin Wilson** - Workman-Rowland Party 1841 – settled in the L.A. area.

**Elizabeth Bays Wimmer (Jennie Wimmer)** – Emigrated in 1846 with a party of 14 families. Married to Peter Wimmer, a carpenter from Ohio, had seven children. In June of 1847 Captain Sutter hired Peter to oversee a crew of Indians to dig the mill race for a sawmill at Coloma. Jennie was hired to be the camp cook, and laundress. When James Marshall, the carpenter who was in charge of building the sawmill, found what he thought might be gold, no one was sure. They compared the lump of metal to a gold coin. The coin seemed brighter and lighter in color. Then Jennie had an idea.

I said, 'This is gold, and I will throw it into my lye kettle ... and if it is gold, it will be gold when it comes out.' I finished off my soap that day and set it off to cool, and it stayed there till next morning. At the breakfast table one of the work hands raised up his head from eating and said, 'I heard something about gold being discovered, what about it?' ... I told him it was in my soap 'kettle ... A plank was brought for me to lay my soap onto, and I cut it in chunks, but it was not to be found. At the bottom of the pot was a double handful of potash. .. which I lifted in my two hands, and there was my gold, bright as could be.

Just about this time Jennie was pregnant, and Eliza Gregson came to help with the cooking and washing duties. James Gregson came along to help with the building. In early August of 1848 Jennie gave birth to a son, Benjamin. She ran a boarding house for a while, then the family moved to southern California. Information Sources: **Pioneers of California** (Donovan Lewis), **They Saw the Elephant** (Ann Levy).

**William Workman** - Workman-Rowland Party 1841 - settled in the L.A. area.

**America Kelsey Wyman** – emigrated to Oregon in 1843 with the Hastings Party, then to California with the Kelsey Party in 1844 after Ben and Nancy drove cattle up from their California “ranch” to sell at Fort Vancouver in Oregon. Born in Kentucky (?) in 1832, part of the extended Kelsey Family. Her father was David Kelsey, mother's name unknown. Sisters: Rebecca, Mary Frances, Josephine, Brother: Samuel. Uncles: Samuel (who emigrated to Oregon with the David Kelsey family), Benjamin (with wife, Nancy) and Andrew. The Kelseys were backwoods folk from Kentucky. They always seemed to live on the very farthest edge of the frontier, the sort of people who moved on when they could see smoke from a neighbor's cabin. Her parents were stricken with smallpox in 1845. Her father died and her mother became blind as a result. Two trappers, Joseph Buzzell and George Wyman happened by and buried her father for her. Joseph later married her sister, Mary Frances. America married George Wyman at Sutter's Fort at the age of fourteen on September 2, 1846. Captain Sutter performed the ceremony. To learn more about America Kelsey: learn as much as you can about life on the Kentucky frontier. Reading about Daniel Boone and other frontier folk would give you a good idea of how people lived. Make a family tree of all the Kelseys. There certainly are a lot of them! A family tree will help make the connections clear.

**George F. Wyman** – Hastings Party to Oregon in 1843 & Kelsey Party 1844. Trapper, hunter, general worker for Sutter. Married America Kelsey on September 2, 1846 when America was 14 years old.





**Yole** - a local headman of Sequamne on the Mokelumne River, an Eastern Miwok village. He contracted with Sutter to bring laborers to the Fort.

**Lucinda Hudson York** – Grigsby-Ide Party 1845. Born about 1822-24, lived in Missouri before emigrating. Husband's first name may have been John. Had two children, William (a toddler of two or three) and baby David who had been born on the trail (his twin died). Other family members in the party: brothers, David and William, and a sister-in-law (perhaps Sarah Ann Smith Hudson). She settled at the head of the Napa Valley, on Hudson Creek (called that after the David Hudson family, who lived across the creek) in what is now Calistoga. They lived in a split-redwood cabin that was only 10 x 15 feet. By this time they had another son. The York, Hudson, and Elliott families all lived close together, near where the Benjamin Kelsey family was already been living. Lucinda's husband is said to have grown the first wheat crop in this part of Napa County. Information Source: **Historic spots in California** (M. Hoover and H.E. & E.G Ranch).

**Elizabeth Ann Yount** – Walker-Chiles Party 1843 – 16 year old daughter of George Yount who had a ranch in Napa. She was Frances Yount Vines' younger sister.

