

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

Collins  
Family

## COLLINS BIBLE RECORD

Submitted by Mrs. Jean Mc Nutt, 758 Hillcrest St., El Segundo, CA 90245

Bible printed in 1804 is now in the possession of Woodrow W. Hall of Muskegon, MI. The Bible was brought to Ludington, MI about 1884 by Mary Jane Collins, daughter of Jared Collins, who married William Hall 1871, Parkhill area, Ontario, Canada. They were grandparents of Woodrow Hall.

An account of the children born to Ezekiel Collins at Southborough (MA)

1. Born to Ezekiel Collins and Abigail his wife a son named William December 27, 1769
2. Born to Ezekiel Collins a daughter named Anna October 6, 1771
3. Born to Ezekiel Collins a daughter named Mary January 31, 1774
4. Born to Ezekiel Collins a daughter named Abigail March 19, 1776
5. Born to Ezekiel Collins and Anna a second wife a son named Silas August 26, 1778
6. Born to Ezekiel Collins a daughter named Elizabeth July 14, 1780
7. Born to Ezekiel Collins and Anna his wife a son named Ezekiel April 13, 1782
8. Born to Ezekiel Collins and Anna his wife a daughter named Anna April 5, 1784
9. Born to Ezekiel Collins and Anna his wife a daughter named Huldah May 20, 1786
10. Born to Ezekiel Collins and Anna his wife a son named Abishai September 16, 1788
11. Born to Ezekiel Collins and Anna his wife a son named Stillman April 26, 1791
12. Born to Ezekiel Collins and Anna his wife a daughter named Ruth July 4, 1793
13. Born to Ezekiel Collins and Anna his wife a daughter named Martha August 21, 1795  
Fitzwilliams (N. H.)
14. Born to Ezekiel Collins and Anna his wife a daughter named Polley March 18, 1798

Deaths

Polley Collins died January 22 1800 aged twenty two month and four days

Silas Collins died Marth the 10 1803 aged twenty four years six months and twelve days

Ezekiel Collins the parrent of the before mentioned childred died February 9 1808  
aged 59 years

Anny Collins the wife of Ezekiel Collins died August 20 1817 aged 59 & 8 monts

All of the above appear to be in the same handwriting except death of Anny, and very legible.

Marriages

Faint and difficult to read.

July 25th 1813 Stillman Collins and Betsy Collins married

August 25th 1811 Abishai Collins and Sarah (?) married

Two unreadable entries

Ezekiel Ramsdell born Mar. 4 1814

Betsy Collins born Jan 29th 1814

Married June 26th 1839

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

14 389.1

## HOMESTEAD PROOF.—TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.

*John Meistrell* being called as a witness in his own behalf in support of homestead entry No. 16735, for *Sec 24 T 9 S. 17 R. 17 N. 17 W.* testifies as follows:

Ques. 1.—What is your name—written in full and correctly spelled—your age, and post-office address?

Ans. *John Meistrell my age is 37 y. 6 mo.*  
*My post office address is Hato Rocks County Kansas*

Ques. 2.—Are you a native of the United States, or have you been naturalized?

Ans. *I am a naturalized citizen of the United States*  
*Was naturalized in 1883-5*

Ques. 3.—When was your house built on the land and when did you establish actual residence therein? (Describe said house and other improvements which you have placed on the land, giving total value thereof.)

Ans. *House was built on the land in 1878. I established my residence therein in 1878 or about the 27th day of Oct. My house is stone and frame 1 story 25 x 30 feet. Comfortable good kitchen house and cellar. Well worth \$500.*

Ques. 4.—Of whom does your family consist; and have you and your family resided continuously on the land since first establishing residence thereon? (If unmarried, state the fact.)

Ans. *My wife and mine children five of whom are now of home*  
*we have resided upon the land continuously since first establishing residence thereon in Oct 1878 under Pre-emption*

Ques. 5.—For what period or periods have you been absent from the homestead since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did your family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence?

Ans. *I was never off the land longer than eight days*  
*four times. My family has never resided off the land*

Ques. 6.—How much of the land have you cultivated and for how many seasons have you raised crops thereon?

Ans. *Have cultivated about 95 acres for five years. Have raised previous crops on the land*

Ques. 7.—Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals of any kind on the land? (If so, describe what they are, and state whether the land is more valuable for agricultural than for mineral purposes.)

Ans. *There are no indications of coal, salines or any minerals on the land. The land is more valuable for agriculture*

Ques. 8.—Have you ever made any other homestead entry? (If so, describe the same.)

Ans. *I have never made any other homestead entry*

Ques. 9.—Have you sold, conveyed, or mortgaged any portion of the land; and if so, to whom and for what purpose?

Ans. *I have not sold, conveyed or mortgaged any portion of the land*

*John Meistrell*

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the claimant before being subscribed, and was sworn

before me this *30th* day of *December*, 188*3*.

*D. W. Darned*  
*Probate Judge*  
*and ex officio Clerk of said Court*

NOTE.—If naturalized, the claimant must file with this copy of his certificate of naturalization. In a community where a foreign born citizen must file a certified copy of a declaration of intention. In making proof, the party must execute for each and duplicate of the above of six lines.

(SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.)

The following entries are faint and difficult to read, but appear to be in the same handwriting.

Born to Stillman Collins and his wife, Betsy January 29th 1814

Born to Stillman Collins and his wife, Polly November 6th 1815

Phebe Collins born January 1th 1818

Jared Collins born January 29th 1820

Silas Collins born February 26th 1822

Roxanna Collins born March 15th 1824

Betsy Collins the Wife of Stillman Collins died April 10th 1824 aged 29 years nine months and 29 days

Phebe Collins died September 8th 1839 aged 16 years and 8 monts and 8 days

Polly C Collins died October 23th 1835 aged 19 years and 11 monts

Different handwriting

Stillman Collins died Sept. 10, 1840 aged 49 years

Elizabeth Woods born December 30 day 1755

Anna Woods born December 2 day 1757

NOTE: Elizabeth Woods, also known as Abigail, was first wife of Ezekiel Collins.  
Anna Woods, sister of Abigail, was second wife of Ezekiel Collins.

Betsy, wife of Stillman Collins, was Betsy Goodale.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ELLIS ISLAND

The Ellis Island Restoration Commission is completing a history of the island for publication by the National Park Service. They would like to hear from anyone who had any association with the island. If your information concerns an immigrant, please provide the name of the ship, date of arrival, conditions on board, the treatment at Ellis Island, length of processing ordeal and transportation to final destination. Photos, brochures, licenses, tickets, etc. are also being sought. Please contact:

Prof. August C. Bolino, Box 1314, Cardinal Station, Washington, DC 20064

From: Denver Post, reprinted in the Sept. 1981 Colorado Genealogical Society Newsletter.

\* \* \* \* \*

After teaching the immigrant Americanism, it might be a good idea to tell the natural-born citizen what it is.



THE FIRST MILITARY ORGANIZATION IN ALBANY, NEW YORK  
REVOLUTIONARY WAR

John Boyd Thacher, a former Mayor of Albany, was a well-known collector of rare books and manuscripts. He received from England the following document, giving the names of the first military organization in Albany, New York, enlisted at the outbreak of the Revolution:

"We the Subscribers being well convinced of the absolute necessity of raising a sufficient Body of Provincial Forces for the Defence of the Constitution and the preservation of our Just Rights and Liberties when the same are in the most eminent Danger of being invaded have therefore Voluntarily inlisted into the Provincial Service under Capt. John Vischer, Benjamin Evans, first Lieutenant, Joseph Fitch 2nd & Guy Young Ensign and do hereby promise and agree that we will severally do execute and perform all and every such Instructions, directions, Orders and Military Discipline and Duties as our said Officers or either of them or the Commanding Officer for the Time being on this new Establishment shall from time to time give or send to us during the time that our Service is required in the unhappy Contest between Great Britain and the Colonies and we do severally promise and engage not to go from or quit the said Service untill we shall be discharged or dismissed from the same by the Continental Congress or the Provincial Congress of this Colony or by the General Committee of the City and County of Albany under the Penalty of forfeiting our Wages and being deemed in the Eye of the Publick as Enemies to our Country. And we the said Officers do severally promise and engage under the most solemn Ties of Honor and Love to our Country that we shall and will from time to Time and at all times during the said Contest between Great Britain and the said United Colonies to perform and execute in our several and respective Stations all and every the Instructions directions orders Military Discipline and Duties as the Continental or Provincial Congress or the General Committee of the City and County of Albany or the Commanding Officer for the time being shall recommend or give or send to us or either of us. And we do likewise severally promise and engage not to go from or quit the said service until we are Discharged or dismissed from the same by the Continental Congress or the Provincial Congress of the Colony or by the General Committee of the City and County of Albany. Under the penalty of forfeiting our Wages and being deemed Enemies to our Country. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hands this third Day of June 1775.

John Visscher  
Benjamin Evans  
Joseph Fitch  
Guy Young  
Thomas Wheeler  
William Carr  
William Armstrong  
Samuel Wheeler  
Wm Faulkner  
Wm Dickens  
Jacob Fine  
Joseph Perkins

John Gray  
Amos Eastwood  
James Mc Carty  
John Birch  
James Grey (?)  
John Mc Enry (?)  
Elijah Daniel  
John Cummins  
William Magie  
Gideon Stearns  
(or Steevens)  
William Eyre

THE  
HOLY BIBLE:  
containing the  
OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS,  
together with the  
APOCRYPHA  
TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORININAL TONGUES,  
and with the former translations diligently compared  
and revised,  
by the special command of his majesty King James I of  
England.  
WITH MARGINAL NOTES AND REFERENCES.  
to which are added,  
AN INDEX;  
an alphabetical table of all the names in the OLD and NEW  
Testaments, with their Significations;  
AND TABLES OF SCRIPTURE WEIGHTS, MEASURES,  
AND COINS.  
Embellished with eleven engravings.  
Philadelephia:  
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY M. CAREY,  
No. 121 Chesnut Street.  
1814.

## **MARRIAGES.**

**Joseph Collins & Hannah Herbert  
were married, Nov. 2, 1800.**

**Theodore A. Marks and Cornelia A. Anderson  
were married , Oct. 17th, 1880.**

**Abram Marks and Elizabeth Collins both of  
Middletown, New Jersey,  
were married, December 14th, 1848.**

## BIRTHS.

Joseph Collins was born March 26th, 1775.

Hannah Herbert was born Jan. 25th, 1780.

Ann, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Collins was  
born, July 23rd, 1801

Zeboeth, son of Joseph and Hannah Collins was  
born August 18th, 1803.

Elisabeth, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Collins  
was born Feb. 10th , 1805.

Arinthea, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Collins  
was born March 6th, 1807.

Peter, son of Joseph and Hannah Collins was  
born June 11, 1809.

John Fountain, son of Joseph and Hannah Collins  
was born May 21, 1812.

Ioel, son of Joseph and Hannah Collins was  
born Sept. 10th, 1813.

Susan, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Collins  
was born Oct. 27th, 1815.

Lidurania, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Collins  
was born Jan. 18th 1818.

Isaiah, son of Joseph and Hannah Collins was  
born Oct. 20th, 1820.

William Henry, son of Joseph and Hannah Collins  
was born March 25th, 1823.

May Elisabeth, daughter of Joseph and Hannah  
Collins was born June 23 1825.

## **BIRTHS.**

**Mary Walling, daughter of Laird and Ann**

**Walling was born April 8th 1837.**

**Ann Amelia, daughter of Ferdinand and Lidurania**

**Hetfield was born Sept. 30th, 1839.**

**Sarah Matilda, daughter of Ferdinand B. and**

**Lidurania Hetfield was born**

**Jan. 23rd, 1841.**

**Linda Virginia, daughter of Theodore A. and**

**Cornelia A. Marks was born May 8th, 1884.**

**Lydia F. , daughter of Abram and Mary E. Marks**

**was born Jan. 17th 1852.**

**Theodore A, son of Abram and Mary E. Marks was**

**born April 10th, 1850.**

**Willard Glenmore, son of Theodore A. and Cornelia**

**A. Marks was born July 24, 1889.**



## DEATHS.

Elisabeth, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Collins  
departed this life, August 18, 1805.

Peter, son of Joseph and Hannah Collins  
departed this life, April 19th, 1821.

John Fountain, son of Joseph and Hannah Collins  
departed this life Oct. 5th, 1812.

Isaiah, son of Joseph and Hannah Collins  
departed this life Sept. 19th 1828.

Ann, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Collins  
departed this life Feb. 2nd, 1838,  
Aged 37 years, 6 months & 21 days.

Sarah Matilda, daughter of Ferdinnand B. and  
Lidurania Hetfield, departed this  
life, April 2nd, 1842.

Joseph Collins departed this life, Oct. 20th,  
1836, in the 62nd year of his life.

Mary Elizabeth Marks departed this life,  
March 2nd, 1853 in the 27th year  
of her age.

Abram Marks departed this life Sept. 21st,  
1853 in the 27th year of his age.

William Henry Collins departed this life in  
the City of New York, April 29th,  
1856, aged 33 years, 1 month, 4 days.

Arintha Smith departed this life, Oct. 17th,  
1890, aged 83 years, 7 months, 11 days.

**DEATHS.**

**Hannah Collins** departed this life,  
March 23rd, 1879, aged  
97years, 1 month, 26 days.

**Lydia F. Prettyman** departed this life,  
Nov. 17th, 1888, aged  
36 years, 10 months,

**Linda V. Marks** departed this life,  
March 22nd, 1920, aged  
35 years 10 months, 22 days.

**Cornelia A. Marks** departed this life,  
April 24th, 1936, aged  
81 years, 15 days.

Collins  
FAM

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

## TWO COLLINS FAMILY BIBLES

### In the Possession of Ann George, Ada, Oklahoma

These two Collins Family Bibles came into my possession through my aunt, Willie McClure Green, who was a sister of my mother, Mrs. Louis George. They were two of the three children of Josephine Collins and John Henry McClure. I feel sure that due to the color of the ink and the fact that all the handwriting was the same and included all ten children of E. W. Collins and Jane Murphy Collins, that Mrs. Collins (Jane) must have brought it to Texas with her from Alabama when she came to live with her son, John Louis and family, at Cothran's Store, better know as Tigertown, Texas.

Both these Bibles are well worn and the older one is all to pieces, looking as if it had had much use and been through either a fire or a flood. The title page is gone from it but the other one contains different handwriting and also different colored ink, still black.

Mrs. Jane Collins is buried at Tigertown and is surrounded by her four sons, Albion Young, John Louis, Edward Forbern, and Alfred Clay

#### COLLINS FAMILY BIBLE

##### BIRTHS:

ELIJAH WILLIAM COLLINS was born February the fifth in the year of our Lord 1797.

JANE MURPHY was born the 17th day of June in the year of our Lord 1802

REUBEN EDWARD COLLINS was born January the 22nd day in the year of our Lord 1800

##### MARRIAGES:

ELIJAH WILLIAM COLLINS and JANE MURPHY was married the 16th day of June in the year of our Lord 1819

R. M. COLLINS and M. K. WOND (WARD/WORD) married Sept. 1st, 1852

##### BIRTHS--Children of E. W. and Jane M. Collins

1. Albion Young Collins was born the 12 day March in the year of our Lord, 1829

2. John Lewis Collins was born the 7th day of February in the year of our Lord, 1831

3. Palmyra Francis Collins was born the 26th day of May in the year of our Lord, 1833

4. Mary Jane Collins was born the 11 day of March in the year of our Lord, 1834

5. Mahala Jane Collins was born the 11 of August, 1838

6. Alfred Clay Collins was born June 10th One thousand eight hundred and forty.  
(On back of this page)

John Collins was born March the 18th, 1782

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- Tree Talks, Central NY Gen. Society, 1998  
From Phyllis Inslee
- Oregon Pioneers Vol. 4 L-M Oregon Gen. Society  
From Sandy Clem
- The Masear Mystery, Including Condell, Corey, Legner, Libby families.  
From Jessie Glover
- Hinkle and Liddell Families  
From Jessie Glover
- Indians and Intruders by Sharon Ashton; Vol. 1-4  
From PCHGS
- Guide to Cherokee Indian Records Microfilm by Sharon Ashton,  
From PCHGS
- Dawson, Graham and Allied Families by Gid Graham  
From Ruth Canterbury
- New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. 155  
From T.K. Treadwell
- Seminole Burning by Daniel Littlefield  
From Marilyn Norman
- Non Cemetery Records Hughes Co. Okla.  
From Brenda Tollett
- Peace in the Valley Kimble Co. Cemeteries  
From Deward A. Strong and Karen Strong Knock
- The 1880 Census of Scott Co., Ky  
From PCHGS in memory of Joyce Hopkins
- The 1870 and the 1880 census of Jackson Co. Indiana by Geraldine Prather  
From PCGHS members in memory of Joyce Hopkins
- Deeds of Franklin Co. Georgia, 1784-1826 by Southern Historical Press  
From Ruth Canterbury
- Johnson Co., Arkansas Marriages 1908-1924, by Jimmie and Doris Newberry  
From Gloria Reed
- 1920 Texas Soundex Roll #140 H-316-H325 Kissie  
1920 Texas Soundex Roll #179 K-360 Agnes-K-415 Willie  
From Rosa Hodges Quinten
- Microfilm: "Ada Evening News" May 1, 1901 - Oct. 31, 1901  
From The Ada Evening News and Brenda Tollett
- CDs: #226 Marriage Index of Georgia 1754-1850  
#511 Gen. Records Early Tennessee Settlers 1700-1900s  
#174 Virginia Vital Records 1600s-1800s  
#503 Virginia Colonial Records 1600s-1700s  
#164 Mortality Index United States 1850-1880  
From Karen Strong Knock
- 1930 Oklahoma Federal Census, purchased by PCHGS

**M. K. Collins was born 13th Nov., 1834**

**DEATHS:**

**Mary Jane Collins deceased the 7 day of July, 1838**

**Jane Collins, deceased the 20 day of February, 1905**

**J. L. Collins, deceased the 11th day of November, 1911**

**BIRTHS: Children of E. W. and Jane M. Collins**

**1. Manurva Young Collins was born the 20th day of July in the year of our Lord, 1820**

**2. Edward Forebern Collins was born the 14th day of April in the year of our Lord, 1822**

**3. Calvin Preston Collins was born the 19th day of July in the year of our Lord, 1822**

**4. Robert Murphy Collins was born November the 18th in the year of our Lord, 1826**

**DEATHS:**

**Manurva Young Collins deceased the 28th of January, 1824**

**Calvin Preston Collins deceased July the 22nd, 1827**

**Elijah W. Collins deceased August 8th. A. D., 1840--aged 43 y., 7 m., 3 days**

**COLLINS FAMILY BIBLE**

**Published at Hartford, Conn., 1872 and now in possession of Ann George, Ada, Okla. This Bible was evidently that of the John Lewis Collins, married in 1853, Aug. 11th.**

**Page 1: Births**

**1. John L. Collins Feb. 7th, 1831**

**1. Jane Collins May 29th, 1833**

**3. Josephine Collins Oct. 20th, 1854**

**4. Robert M. Collins Sept. 2nd., 1857**

**5. Cora B. Hadden April 13th, 1866 (Wife of Robert Murphy Collins)**

**Deaths**

**Jane Collins deceased February the 20, 1905**

**Josephine McClure (Collins) deceased April the 22, 1908**

**John L. Collins deceased November 11, 1911**

**Page 2: Marriages**

**John L. Collins and Jane Frazier, Aug. 11th, 1853**

**John H. McClure and Josephine Collins, Aug. 12th, 1875**

**Robert M. Collins and Cora B. Hadden, Feb. 2, 1882**

**Wl. Collins and Minnie Cannon, Sept. 6, 1908**

**L. A. Johnson and Sallie Collins, Sept. 2. 1909**

**J. W. Collins and Ethel Taylor, Nov. 29, 1914**

**John Young Collins and Catherine Cox**

Page 3: Births

Children of J. L. & Josephine Collins McClure

John N. McClure Feb. 28, 1877

Willie U. McClure (F) Jan. 4th, 1879

Jim H. McClure (F) Feb. 5th, 1881

Children of Robert M. Collins and Cora Hadden

Jim Young Collins Dec. 28th, 1882

Wm. L. Collins Feb. 17th, 1885

James W. Collins Jan. 25th, 1887

Sallie R. Collins Sept. 6th, 1889

Jane Murphy Collins was born 17th day of June, 1802

Deaths

Jane Murphy Collins dest. Sept. the 5th, 1885

Page 4

Louis Lee Collins June 19, 1909

Carl M. Collins

Nolan Collins

Idell Collins June 27, 1917

George Marie Collins

Robert Frazier Collins 1921

Deaths:

Louis Lee Collins 22nd of November, 1910

Robert F. Collins 1922

Copied from PCH&GS Quarterly Vol. 5, #4



Compress in  
early days of  
Ada. Left to  
right: Bob Dun-  
can, Robert T.  
McKeown, S. J.  
Armstrong, Mart  
Walsh and Slim  
Chapman.



CORNELIA FENENGA WARNER  
800 LEES AVE  
LONG BEACH, CA 90815-5010

A MEMORIAL TO OUR GRANDPARENTS

FRANCIS LEE COLLINS  
AND  
MARY JANE PEYTON COLLINS

We tread the paths their feet have tread  
Their written words we linger o'er  
But in the sun they cast no shade  
No step is on the conscious floor.  
Whittier



Since time in its ceaseless course is so busily engaged in bringing in new generations and pushing the old generations into the ages, we have felt since we are the in-between, the link, between the coming in generation, and those who have gone before, that perhaps while we still remember, it would be a worthy project to put down some of our memories. If we had had ears to listen more carefully, we would have had more stories to tell but it all seemed so usual to us at that time, I fear that we missed a great deal.

THE STORY OF OUR GRANDPARENTS  
FRANCIS LEE COLLINS 1832 - 1876  
MARY JANE PEYTON COLLINS 1834 - 1926

by their granddaughter

MAE MITCHELL WINCHELL

Part I

The story starts near Birmingham, Alabama, where Francis Lee Collins was born November 24, 1832. He had a twin brother who was two days younger. The father passed away when the boys were quite young. We do not have too much information about Grandfathers' early life, he was the stronger of the brothers and seemed to have chosen the outdoor life. They had an uncle who was a doctor and because the twin brother was never very strong, their uncle offered to educate him in the field of medicine and he too became a doctor.

Grandfather lost his mother when he was twenty and at this time there was quite a bit of excitement in California over the Gold Rush; so with his parents gone and his brother living with his uncle, he decided to try his luck in the far West. With some friends he struck out for San Francisco, the Port of entry to the Gold Fields. They made their way from the Port of New Orleans to the Isthmus of Panama, going over land to the Pacific. There they took passage on a freighter bound for San Francisco. Unknown to the passengers the ship had been condemned as being unseaworthy and they learned later to their sorrow that the Captain was not a licensed navigator. They soon ran into bad weather and the ship was badly damaged. The Captain lost his direction and for seventy-two days they drifted on the Pacific Ocean, lost and no help in sight. They ran out of food and many were ill, especially the children, and some of them died from diarrhea. The need was so great for food and the feelings were running so high against the Captain, that if it came to the worst, he would be the first one to go.

A tramp steamer, noting their flag of distress came to their rescue, and did what they could to relieve their distress. They towed them to Avala Bay, which is now known as Morro Bay. When the ship landed and the condition of the passengers was known to this little Spanish Settlement, a kindly priest took charge of the passengers and with good food and medicine, they were soon able to go on their way to new homes and friends.

Among the passengers were Dr. Matthews, his wife and their two little girls. This family formed a warm affection for Grandfather; he was like an older brother to the little girls and he must have taken the place of a son to the doctor and his wife; so when they decided to go to San Jaun, a Fort near the present city of Hollister, they invited him to go with them. Dr. Matthews practiced medicine in this area

for many years and was known throughout the area as the "Good Doctor" and a friend to the poor.

At San Jaun, Grandfather met the Jordan Family, (Uncle Jimmies' father) and heard all about the San Joaquin Valley and the thriving town of Visalia. It was a cattle country and as Grandfather liked that kind of life, he decided to go to the San Joaquin Valley. His first stop was at a little settlement known as Elk's Bayou, near the present City of Tulare. It was here that he first met Grandmother, as her family was living there.

The story runs something like this: Grandmother and her sisters were out walking one Sunday afternoon when some young men on horse back came along and stopped to talk to the girls. People were friendly in those days, and as there were only two classes, you were a lady or you were not and the same applied to men, you were a gentleman or you were not; the girls must have been able to judge, for they invited the boys to their home and rode back with the boys. The boys, especially Grandfather, must have met with the approval of the family, as he and Grandmother were married after a swift and short courtship.

They moved to Visalia and there built their new home, the first brick house in Visalia. The house is gone but the sturdy oak trees stand in the yard like sentinels guarding the past. My memory seems to be quite sketchy regarding Grandfather's part in the family. He was a hard working man and provided well for his family. Mother talked about him often, she said she looked like her father, had his disposition. He had brown curly hair and so did she. I wish I could remember more about him. The children idolized their father. He was away from home a great deal and his home coming was always an occasion. More about Grandfather later.

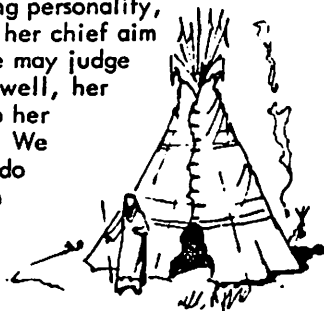
GRANDMOTHER

Grandmother was born at Cape Girardeau, a military Fort on the Mississippi River, 90 miles south of St. Louis, Missouri, September 19, 1834. She was the seventh child of John and Elizabeth Higgins Peyton. It was at this Fort that Grandmother spent her early girlhood days. Her father was a doctor and his patients lived over a large area, and he had to travel many miles on horseback to visit the sick and wounded. Grandmother was his assistant and helper on these visits. In pioneer days the doctors made their own medicines from berries, roots and herbs they gathered from the woods. The handy corner drug store was unknown in those days, so the doctors carried their drugs and instruments in their saddle bags. Grandmother's close association with her father gave her a liberal education in caring for the sick and many years later

.. she was able to apply this knowledge in caring for her own family, her neighbors and to the Indian Tribes in Squaw Valley. The Indians of the Cape Girardeau area called him the Medicine Man and many of his medicines came from the Indians. Many, many years later Grandmothers' grandchildren were the unhappy victims of some of these brews made from wormwood and tea made from sassafras leaves, from the prescriptions of her father, from the medicinal ingredients gathered in the woods of Missouri along the Mississippi River. Sulphur and Molasses was a must in the Spring. It was supposed to thin the blood. It certainly did no harm as we were all healthy youngsters, in spite of living in an area infested with malaria.

Grandmother had five brothers and three sisters: they were Elizabeth R., Thomas B. (John and Celia were his children, Vivian Fredrick of Bakersfield his granddaughter), John P., Samuel F., Emaline F. (Aunt Em Pinnell), Phillip, Warren and Lodosky Elizina, (Aunt Dice Pate (Children John and Nettie). When Grandmother was twelve years old the family moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where some of the family were living. The trip was made by Wagon Train and many were the hardships and trials endured. The Indians were hostile and the men had their guns ready to fight off an attack day and night. There were times when the Indians shot the oxen and left the families without transportation and some paid for this experience with their lives. These attacks and massacres on the pioneers left an unforgettable impression on the lives of these young people, horrors that they were never able to forget. Grandmother to her dying day was afraid of Indians, though in her young married life she had many friends among the Indians, nevertheless she was always prepared for an attack and always had her favorite weapon handy, the axe.

The family lived in Texas for seven years. Some of the family had migrated to California, but because of failing health, Grandmother's parents were unable to make the trip West, so she stayed with them until they died. They are buried at Fort Worth, Texas. Strange as it may seem, we do not have any information about great grandmother Peyton. I am sure Grandmother must have told us about her, for she must have been a very important member of the family of five sons and four daughters and the wife of a country doctor. We know her maiden name was Higgins and her mother's name was Black, but my memory has drawn a blank from that point. I would like to think of her as a very strong personality, deeply religious, a devoted wife and mother and her chief aim in life was to raise an honorable family and if we may judge her by some of her children, whom we knew very well, her wish was granted. Grandmother was very close to her father and it was of him that she talked the most. We do not know where the family came from, but we do know that there is a very large clan of Peytons in Virginia, and I think from reading a book "Prom-



inent Families of Virginia," and comparing family names and occupations, such as: that the men were all six footers and were military men and that some chose medicine, as their life's work. Grandmother talked a great deal about Virginia and always claimed she was related to Pocahontas, which we know was only wishful thinking on her part. I think it is possible our family originally came from Virginia.

After the death of her parents Grandmother decided to join her family in California. Her sister Elizabeth had married and was settled in Texas, so Grandmother joined with some friends who were going to California. The trip was long and many hardships were endured from the elements, poor roads and rivers to cross and many times there was doubt if they would be able to make the other side. Again they had trouble with the Indians, but after many weeks on the trail they landed in Los Angeles, at that time a small Spanish settlement. Stockton, California was their destination, where Aunt Dice was living. From San Pedro they took passage on a freighter to San Francisco and on to Stockton on a river boat. Shortly after her arrival, the Pate family moved to Tulare County, where Aunt Em Pinnell was living and where she was to meet Grandfather in an most unusual way. They were married in 1858 and started their new life in Visalia where all of their children were born. Grandfather built the first brick house in Visalia and was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge. Grandfather was engaged in the stock business, cattle and hogs. In the summer time he moved his stock to Squaw Valley, where the pastures were green and water plentiful. The family always enjoyed this time of the year. They made friends with the Indians and learned much of Indian lore. Grandmother, due to her early training and as her father's nurse, was able to put her knowledge to use in this little settlement. In appreciation of her services and kindness, many of the little babies she help bring into the world, were named after her and Grandfather. There were little Marys and Janes and Franks all over the place. The Indian women would work all day for a cup of sugar or salt and a bright red ribbon was their prize possession.

In the Fall when the stock was ready for market, Grandfather and some of his trusted Indian boys would drive the stock, overland to Stockton, where they were loaded on to a river barge and towed to San Francisco and auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Because the San Francisco stores had so much more to offer than the stores at home, Grandmother always had a list of merchandise for him to bring home, such as bolts of cloth, material for dresses, muslin for sheets and pillow cases and other items too numerous to mention, but not available in the little country stores. It was on one of these trips that Grandfather bought a sewing machine for Grandmother.



What a luxury that must have been and a welcome surprise, as all sewing was done by hand and mostly done at night with aid of coal oil lamps. Can you imagine or appreciate the work involved, sewing for seven children by hand, and hemming sheets and pillow cases, by hand, though no doubt the older girls helped as all were expert with the needle. This sewing machine was very different from the machines we know today. It was propelled by turning the wheel by a handle but that must have been a great improvement over the method by hand.

In the Fall the family would move back to Visalia and to school. School in those days must have been really rugged. The teacher was known as the Master and ruled with an iron rod, plus a cat of nine tails. The school day was from sun up to sun down. Mother was four years old when she started to school and Aunt Alice two years older; they had to walk two miles and the little girls would soon tire and Mother would lie down beside the dusty road and go to sleep. One of their parents were always on the watch and would make her get up and go on and then the same thing would happen again. They carried their lunch in a little tin pail and it was all gone long before noon. Do you wonder why? All the children went to school and made the best of what school had to offer in those days. Uncle Frank was the only one to go to college and he was married with an eight year old boy, when he received his doctors degree. We were all very proud of him on that day. He had worked hard for the money to go to school working long hours in the harvest fields. Aunt Georgia helped too, cooking for the men that worked in the harvest.

The last summer they spent in Squaw Valley, Grandfather suffered a sun stroke and after an illness of eight months he passed away, April 18, 1876, leaving a family of seven children, the oldest sixteen years (Aunt Alice) and the youngest eight months (Uncle Frank). A widow at forty-two and with this large family to care for, Grandmother was facing a new life. Knowing Grandmother as well as we all knew her, we know she never indulged in self pity, she had a job to do and she did it to the best of her ability. There was not much money left, but there was stock, which could be sold to bring in money. The Children all helped with the chores and Grandmother did nursing, so they got along. She depended a great deal on her relatives and neighbors for advice and many times she was ill advised in her business affairs. I remember Mother saying good milk cows sold for \$2.50 each and chickens for \$3.00 a dozen, eggs for 10¢ a dozen and that was in trade at the store. They had a garden and much of their living was raised at home. They had their meat, milk, butter and eggs and fruit from the family orchard. I remember huge bars of yellow soap made from concentrate lye and grease. Grandmother was a very religious woman, and though her schooling consisted of only nine months at the little school at Cape Girardeau, she was well read. She

kept up with the news of the day and read her Bible daily. Sunday School and Church was a must in that family and I think it is safe to say that most of the children did their early sleeping on the church benches. New shoes were a luxury and were worn only on special occasions.

The girls were all handy with the needle and made their own clothes, as store clothes for women were unheard of in that section of the country. Mother worked in a tailor shop and was very proud of two wedding suits she had helped to make for some of the elite of Visalia. Aunt Belle, Aunt Lo and Aunt Annie opened up a fashionable dress shop in Tulare, which at that time was the terminal for the Southern Pacific Railroad, and a thriving community of all sorts of citizens. Their customers were the best in town and paid well for the work, but the ones who paid the best and complained the least, were the Ladies of shady reputation. They were generous in their praise of the work and always gave the girls any yardage left over, which was quite an item in those days. They always bought more of everything than was needed.

It was here that Aunt Belle met Uncle Will and after a swift courtship they were married in Aunt Alice's home and set up house-keeping in Visalia, where Uncle Will had a restaurant.

So as the children married and established their own homes, grandmother was left alone except for the boys. Uncle Lute was a drifter and was away most of the time and after Aunt Belle was married, Uncle Frank lived with her and went to school. In later years Uncle Lute maintained a home for Grandmother, until he met with an accident, while working for the Santa Fe Railroad and spent months in the hospital at Los Angeles.

Grandmother sold her home and what stock she had left and made her home with the girls. I think she was quite happy with this arrangement, as she felt she was useful and was needed and that was her life. I am sure she was on hand when each grandchild was born, Warren Collins, being the exception. I know she was at our house when we made our appearance. In our family Clyde was her favorite, he being the first grandchild and born at her home. She could never see any wrong in any thing he did or said and I know she was tops with him. She was very fond of her grandchildren and was always telling us we had good blood in our veins and she lived to see and hold and rock her great grandchildren and to give advice to the young mothers.

I don't remember too much about Grandmothers' home in Visalia as our visits were mostly in the summer and of short periods. I do remember she always seemed glad to see us and made us feel very welcome. She always seem to have on hand the things we liked most, such as stacks of golden doughnuts, big square pans of peach cobbler

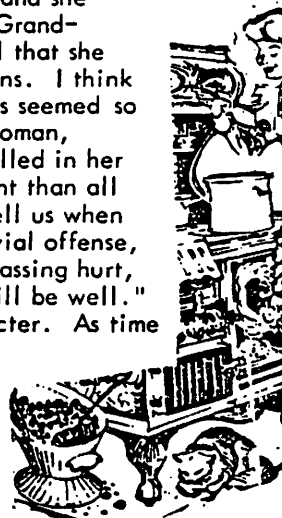
and home made bread and butter which she had churned by hand and always apple cider. Grandmother was a very tall woman and always seem to wear dark clothes. She had a fair complexion and light brown hair, which was parted in the middle and combed straight back with a knot at the back of her neck. I don't remember her ever wearing it any other way. She always wore an apron, either white or checkered gingham as the occasion required, it was the style in those days.

I remember we slept on pallets out doors and the first one to awaker in the morning would rush into the house and get in bed with Grandmot and she would tell us stories of her early life and the ones we liked best were the ones when the men fought off the Indians. Grandmother was an early riser and was always awake waiting for us.

I remember my father showing us a burnt spot on the floor in front of the fireplace, where he and Mother had stood when they were married and where the preacher had stood and all the other members of the family. That seems so long, long ago. Grand mother had a comfortable home, nothing fine or fancy, but comfortable and the feeling of friendliness. On the porch there were boxes of geraniums, huge plants that seemed to bloom all the time and there was the Passion Vine that covered the end of the porch and in the yard the rose bushes and jilly plants and marigolds. There was pasture land all around the house and cows and horses grazing on the salt grass. I remember Old Nell, a sorrel mare, Grandmothers buggy horse, she was gentle and didn't seem to mind if we all piled on her back at once. I don't remember ever falling off.

I wish I could remember more of those early days, I know there are many things that could be told that are of great interest, but I remember Grandmother best in later years, when she spent more time with us. In her younger days she was a faithful reader of the Bible and the newspapers, a practice she kept up as long as she could see.

Nursing and cooking were her greatest arts and she didn't have to take second place to anyone. Grandmother was always busy and I remember so well that she sang little songs while she worked, mostly hymns. I think she felt it was a sin to be idle and there always seemed so much to be done. Grandmother was a proud woman, honest and righteous, loyal to all and she instilled in her children the values she felt were more important than all the worldly goods in the world. She used to tell us when we would be complaining about some little trivial offense, important to us, but to the wiser head only a passing hurt, "Hold your head high, walk bravely and all will be well." I think that Motto was a real part of her character. As time



knows no end, so it was with Grandmother, who spent her last days with Aunt Lo at Grass Valley. Uncle Lute was living with Aunt Lo and helping take care of Grandmother, who was conscious to the end. Just before she died, she said "I am so tired," and passed away peacefully at the age of ninety-two. She had earned a well deserved rest. The remains were cremated and the ashes buried beside Grandfather in the cemetery at Visalia. With a lantern in her hand she lighted the way for her descendents to follow.

## MORE ABOUT GRANDFATHER

Our family lived in New Monterey from 1906 to 1909. Our next door neighbor was a Mrs. Mossep, a friendly neighbor who visited often. Her sister, a Mrs. McIntyre from Idaho was visiting at the time Aunt Belle and Uncle Will were visiting us, so the sisters called. During the visit they were comparing notes of the early days of California and to their surprise they discovered they were talking to Dr. Matthews' daughters and the daughters were visiting Frank Collin's daughters. It was such a happy occasion and as we had an enlarged picture of Grandfather hanging on the wall, the sisters took it down and cried and talked to it as if he were there in person. Mother and Aunt Belle cried too. I heard the story again from those two pioneer women and I will never forget them and the affection they had for Grandfather. This experience does not come to very many people.

It has been over twenty-five years since I started the story of our family. Mother was living then and we made notes as she remembered the story. There is probably much of interest untold and there may be some discrepancies, but I am sure of the dates and facts and the story is true as told to me by Mother of these two wonderful people, whom we are proud to call "Our Grandparents."



with his tools and medicines tied to his saddle, and no doubt many of the ways he traveled were very faint trails, to be followed only by a woodsman. But he always kept his bag packed and ready for calls. And his medicines, he made them himself- from herbs and roots found in the forests. Many of his cures came to him from the Indians. Mary Jane was his assistant. She helped him make his medicines and before that to gather the ingredients from the woods. Years later when she was far from the banks of the Mississippi River and in a section where plants and herbs were quite different, well do I remember how she was always making brews and dosing us. No child in her area ever escaped his share of the sulphur and molasses, given in the spring to thin the blood which had become thick and torpid during the cold winter months. Also a little bag filled with asafetida, a gum resin with the odor of garlic or onion, was to be worn around the neck to protect the wearer from diseases. And, one I remember, the Yerba Buena shrub brewed to bring down a fever. Well, the doctors now with their penicillins and auromyacin wouldn't think much of her remedies, I suppose, but she raised seven children and never lost one, and in those days when infant mortality was high, that wasn't such a bad record. If her father had lived a few years longer, she might have become known as a doctor, at least as a nurse. Women in those days weren't allowed to hold positions in a professional line. Women could teach or nurse, or sew or cook, but I don't suppose she would have been allowed to be a doctor. She was about sixteen when she lost her father, but every woman, no matter what age, had to accept the domination of some male member of her family. Since her father was gone, her brother Thomas could and did set the rules for her deportment until such time as her husband could be responsible for her. I remember an amusing but pathetic little incident which will show you just how closely she was ruled by her brother. Mary Jane had gone to make an overnight visit with a friend whose gift to her on parting was a handkerchief. Store bought things were treasures and she was delighted but brother Tom on examining the handkerchief found it was scented with musk. No nice girl uses scent, especially musk averred Brother Tom, so it had to be destroyed. He dug a hole and buried it in the woods. This story always made me boil, but Grandmother accepted it as one of those things which can't be helped. Dear Brother Thomas, wouldn't you have liked to confront him with a vision of a Bikini bathing suit?

But to go back a bit. Why did this family decide to leave their home on the beautiful banks of the Mississippi? I don't know. Grandmother must have told us but I have forgotten. Maybe there were floods. Maybe because friends or neighbors had gone on to California, or maybe because of that madness that was sweeping the country at that time, gold. Or maybe the banks of the Mississippi River had become too thickly

# THE STORY OF MARY JANE COLLINS FOR HER GREAT GRANDCHILDREN AND OTHER GREATS WHO MAY COME AFTER

as remembered by her granddaughter

FLORENCE WYRUCK WAGNER

Do you ever stop to think that you are one in a long line? Or that family history is like a scroll that unwinds and unwinds; there is no beginning and no ending. Right now, my grandchildren, you are at the very end, and I suppose it never occurs to you that you are yet another link to the future. I used to be the last link and now already in these few years I can easily see many years past and some of the unreeling future. When I was as young as you, my grandmother was the link to the past, now she is your great, great grandmother, and I once the tail end, am now the middle, two generations to her, and two generations to you. I often wonder about some of those people who were before my memory, but now there is no one to tell me of them and their stories are forgotten in our family. It is because of this that I am going to write down some of the family history, which you may find interesting in times to come when there is no one left who remembers it and can tell it to you. None of these people were famous, or important except to themselves and those who loved them, but some of their stories appear in history and in fiction. My stories mostly are of the Collins family and their children, since most of my stories came from Grandmother Collins. And how grateful any of her grandchildren would be today if she would have written down some such account as this. My stories necessarily are sketchy, since I have forgotten much which she told in those long ago days.

Mary Jane Peyton was her name in those days when she was a little girl, and she lived far from here (California) in Missouri on the banks of the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau, ninety miles south of St. Louis. As far as I can figure out this was around 1834. George Washington had been gone only a short time and Abraham Lincoln was a growing boy. If Grandmother had stories of her mother I have forgotten them, it was of her father she talked, and in whose footsteps she would have liked to follow. Her father was a doctor in this little settlement of Cape Girardeau but he doctored all over the whole area in which he lived. He was not in any sense like any doctor you have ever known - he wouldn't have known what you meant by shots, except that I have no doubt he carried his shooting arm (gun) on his saddle bag. Yes, my children, he went to his patients on horseback



Apparently, pgs 9 & 10 are blank or filled with pictures  
my grandmother lost the original, somehow



crowded with people. There was an old pioneer saying that if you could see the smoke from your neighbor's cabin, he was too near. Time to move on. Moving on was in the tradition of these pioneer people, their immediate ancestors had moved here from the east coast, Plymouth, Virginia, Massachusetts, and other points along the Atlantic coast. There was still lots of moving room West, and California was beckoning.

At that time there were several ways to get to California from Missouri. There were some who sailed on the Gulf of Mexico to the Panama Isthmus (no Canal in those days.) They crossed the Isthmus in horse drawn vehicles, and took ships again on the Pacific side. This is what Grandfather Collins did, as I will tell later. Some brave souls sailed around the southern tip of South America, Cape Horn, known for its storms and hazards. There were the overland routes, the northern of which came into the great Central Valley over the Donner Pass and the Southern route called the Santa Fe Trail which came into the valley through the Walker Pass to the east of Bakersfield somewhere near the present Tehachapi Pass. Both were hazardous, difficult mountain passes: deserts in which water was scarce and uncertain, and hostile Indians, in the south the Apaches and the north the Sioux, as well as other ill disposed tribes.

Mary Jane was twelve when the preparations for the move were completed. What soul searchings and heart breaks, so many treasures to be left behind. Only a very small part of their belongings could go with them and only the easiest to carry. To be left behind were pets, friends, treasured pieces of furniture and their home. How they could bear it, I don't know, but they did and so did thousands of others moving in the same direction. But one thing they did not leave behind was the Peyton family Bible, bearing the record of the family, dated 1800 and having written in it the names and birth dates of the Peyton children, nine in all of which Mary Jane was the seventh. The Bible went with them to Texas for they had decided on the southern route, probably because they had friends and relatives in Fort Worth.

The trip to Fort Worth by wagon train was hard and dangerous: rivers to forge, mountains to cross and always fearing attacks from the Indians. They were attacked but were able to drive the Indians off and escape. And once they came upon a wagon train not so lucky as they, in this case the wagon train had been burned and all the people killed. Small wonder that thereafter Mary Jane never liked Indians, and never trusted them, though she was to live among them later.

She stayed in Fort Worth for nearly seven years. Neither her father nor her mother were able to continue the journey to California and Mary Jane stayed with them as long as they lived. But when she was nineteen her parents were gone and most of her brothers and sisters had gone out west, so when the opportunity offered, she joined a wagon train with friends whom she had made in Fort Worth and again

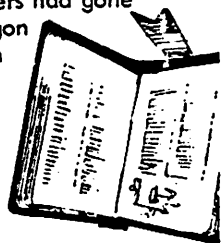
set out to face the hazards she had faced before, and this time too the dry waterless deserts. Oxen move very slowly but can stand more hardships than horses, and it was many long wearisome months before they arrived at Los Angeles, then just a small settlement largely Mexican. Here she boarded a ship at San Pedro, and eventually came to San Francisco to board a river boat for Stockton where her sister Dice was living. Now Mary Jane's Odyssey was nearing its end. Her next move would bring her to the community where she was to meet her husband. Dice and her family were moving to Tulare County and Mary Jane went with them.

Life in those days was a serious business. Everyone worked — there was no place for loafers in a pioneer family. These were farming people, and though in America, women did not work in the fields except in dire emergency, yet there was always work for women: cooking, baking bread, making cheese and butter, chickens to raise and care for, sewing, for the family in a day when the sewing was done by hand and all clothing was made at home and many other things, sometimes even milking and caring for the cows.

All these things Mary Jane must have done, preparing herself for the time when she would need to know how to take care of a family. But there was some time for fun, too. There were parties in which the whole community took part, probably held at the schoolhouse or in someone's home. And there was square dancing, though waltzes were frowned upon. There were games — Skip to my Lou, Spin the Plate, (drop the handkerchief and others — simple but fun, as I know because we still had such entertainment when I was young. And there were box socials and picnics and on Sunday afternoons long walks of exploration of their new surroundings.

It was on one of these Sunday excursions Mary Jane met the young man whom she was to marry. With a group of her young friends she had been with for a walk, flower picking probably, as that was always a handy objective for getting out and wandering in new areas, when they met a group of horsemen, young fellows, also driven by the need to go somewhere and see someone. In that vast, lonely, and empty land, new friends were eagerly welcomed. One didn't wait for introductions, one just got acquainted. In this group was Francis Collins who was himself newly arrived here and who had stories of his journey, even as Mary Jane had. They became friends and he invited her to ride home behind him on his horse. And so Mary Jane found a husband.

This Francis Lee Collins had come as far but by a different route than had Mary Jane. He had been born in Alabama, one of a pair of twins. When the boys were partly grown his father died and left the mother with two boys to raise. An uncle, who was a doctor, offered to raise one of the boys and educate him. Since Frank was the stronger and hardier of the two, so better able to care for himself, the uncle chose



1834  
19  
1853

the other twin. When his mother died not long after, he decided to go to the new land to the west, to see if he might better himself. First, he went to Texas where he stayed some time, as a cowboy. Then like so many others he decided to try the new world of California. But he did not go overland. He took a ship from the Gulf of Mexico port, New Orleans, sailed to the Panama Isthmus, and there disembarked. At that time there was no canal across the Isthmus and travelers must cross by wagon train, a short but mean trip. In that tropic jungle disease was often and swift, mosquitos and insects of all kinds abound as well as snakes and ferocious animals and savages. Many of his fellow travelers died but Frank got across to the Pacific shores and hoped the worst of his troubles were over, but it was not to be so. With others of his party he took passage north to San Francisco on a freighter, whose Captain promised to land them at their destination. They did not know it but this ship was unseaworthy and the Captain was not a Navigator, so they had not been able to get a permit to sail. It was not long before they were in trouble. During a storm the ship was badly damaged and the captain was not able to find his bearings. There was sickness and food was scarce and it was doubtful if they would ever see land again, so lost they were. Then a tramp steamer found them and towed them in and they landed on Avalon Bay which is now San Luis Obispo County, with very few of their belongings but thankful to be ashore. There were some farms along the coast and the Capistrano Mission and these people helped the new comers to get on their way again. Frank stayed on one of the farms for a while and worked until he had made himself a small stake and had refitted himself with clothing as he had lost even his shoes. Many were the stories of the great interior valley and its richness, so he decided to go into this San Joaquin Valley and see if it was good cattle country. And so he did, and found Mary Jane and his cattle range too.

In 1858 when they were married, Frank was twenty-six and Mary Jane, was twenty-four. Visalia at that time was a new but thriving settlement and they decided to make that their home, and they did so for many years. They had a comfortable home there, a brick house, the first one built in that little town. But they had a second home too. In winter Frank quartered his cattle on the wide open ranges in the nearby area but in summer he drove his cattle into the hills and mountains twenty or twenty-five miles to the east of Visalia. So the family had to have a home there too, and their home was in Squaw Valley. This area is at the foot of some of the most marvelous country in the Sierra. Giant forest with its redwoods was just above and above that, Mt. Whitney. In those days these marvels had not been open by free-ways but there must have been many trains and logging roads in and near the foothills.

So they lived happily and comfortable until disaster befell her and her seven children who ranged from Alice, the oldest at sixteen and Frank, the youngest who was one year old when they lost their father. Grandfather, who was rounding up his cattle during an intensely hot spell, suffered a sun stroke and was taken home very ill. You may be sure he had good care as Grandmother was a competent nurse, and with several nearly grown daughters to help her, did everything for him. But doctors did not have so many advantages in those days, no hospital, no miracle drugs, and not too much training in many cases, and though they cared for him, they could not save his life. He lingered on for eight months and then he was gone. He was forty-four years old. I cannot tell you of the depths of Mary Jane's grief and despair. But I know she admired and loved her husband greatly and as long as she lived, a long life, she remembered and talked of him and hoped to see him in the after world, as her religion taught her to hope. And she was a deeply religious woman. But she was not one to give up and brood. She now had sole care of seven children, some of them quite young and they must be fed and clothed. Fortunately she had her house. She had had no training or practice in handling money or business affairs and she came out quite badly in the settlement of her husband's business affairs. Grandfather had had a partner in his cattle business, and this man managed to get a very good settlement for himself, leaving Grandmother to take the losses. And Grandfather, always a warm trusting friend, had signed an unsecured note for a friend, and that was lost. I don't know if she had advice or if she made these mistakes herself but she was left very badly off financially. By little stories and bits here and there I can see how she must have managed for her family. She baked the best bread I think I have ever tasted and that could have been one source of income; she made beautiful button holes, and was very adapt with her needle, so she probably did dressmaking. I know all her daughters did later. She was a very efficient nurse and could have done that. She had a cow and I know she sold part of the milk. An amusing incident came about the ownership of the cow. There was a family of Millers who lived near, and one day the little girl, about five, came to the door and said, "Mrs. Collins, will you give us your cow?" - Grandmother explained that she could not give her the cow as she needed the cow for her own children.

But said the little girl, "Ed said you would give us the cow." Ed was her brother.

From over behind the shrubbery where Ed was out of sight, but not out of hearing came Ed's voice "I said maybe." And so "I said maybe," came to be a family byword.

Brother Ed grew up to be an opportunist, an important local lawyer

and a member of the State Senate but Grandmother who had a keen sense of humor always thought of him as the boy who said, "Maybe."

And the years went by and the children grew up. All had gone to school, and that was not as usual in those days, as it is now. But she had done the best she could do for them. They kept their home in Visalia until the home was destroyed by fire. Very little was saved, and that is the reason that there are so few antiques treasured in the family. Alice who had married and had been widowed was living with her at the time and she, too, lost most of her belongings. The other girls married and had homes of their own and from now on Grandmother made her home with one or another of her children. Whenever she felt there was need for her, where she could lend a hand, that was where she was to be found in sickness or when there was extra work at harvest. Two of her daughters lived in Visalia, so much of her time was spent there. The others had scattered to other communities and it was at Grass Valley that the end finally came to her. She was ninety-two and had long been ready to go. She had outlived two of her children, Aunt Alice, and Aunt Annie. She was living with Lola at the time of her death.

And now, what did she look like and what was she like. The thing I remember best about her appearance was that she held her head high, and looked straight into the eyes of the person with whom she was meeting or talking. She stood very straight with shoulders up and her walk was stately, measured and unhurried. Unfortunately grandchildren have to remember their grandparents after the years have begun to tell, but I remember very blue eyes, which later became dim and faded. It was not a merry face, though she had a quiet humor of her own. Her high bridged nose and quiet considering eyes gave a look of one who saw a great deal and thought about it and tried to understand. Her clothing as I remember was plain and dark, navy or gray. Always neat and tidy but with no pretensions as to fashion, though her daughters without exception were all smart dressers, very conscious of styles. And always in afternoon or evening when heavy dirty work was done, she wore a starched white apron often trimmed with handmade lace. For work and about the home place a sun bonnet, since in those days women cared for complexions and sun burned hands or faces were no sign of beauty. And whenever she went abroad, no one, in contrast to what you see on TV, went abroad bareheaded. Wagon train pioneer women marching beside their wagons or riding on them with their bare heads is simply ridiculous. They all wore sunbonnets.

And what kind of a being was she? A thoughtful, serious woman, who in spite of hardships and disappointments never lost her faith in God and His goodness. Her reading was the Bible and a local newspaper, and my picture of her most frequently remembered was grandmother seated in her rocking chair reading her Bible from which she often quoted long passages. I believe she was a good mother, I know she was a good



Grandmother. She was kind and made an effort to have us like her, there favorite dishes, cookies she prepared for us when we were near. I loved to talk about her childhood home and her experiences and her life in California, though I am afraid I didn't listen as I should have. She was a good neighbor, willing to help out in times of sickness and emergency or lend a start of yeast or a few eggs. She attended church regularly and tried to live up to her religion. Although her means were modest she was interested in what went on in the world. I remember going to visit her in Grass Valley where she was living with Aunt Lola. At this time she must have been past ninety. It was just after the California traffic maximum had been increased from thirty to thirty-five miles an hour. Her greeting was, "Well, Tottie (my nickname) how does it feel to go thirty-five miles an hour?" To one who had crossed the plains, deserts and the mountains behind or beside oxen, thirty-five miles an hour must have seemed a fantastic rate of speed to travel. She was amazed about that as one of us would be of the first man to go to the moon. So far have we traveled, she would be considered very naive by present standards. To a bride coming into the family, she said, "You are marrying into a good family. None of us has ever been jailed." Good character meant integrity not social position. But she wasn't so slow, either. I wished someone would name a baby girl after her, but just then Mary wasn't so much in vogue, 'corny' I think was the word for such old-fashioned names, and what mother wants her daughter to grow a complex because her name is 'corny.' But one great granddaughter drew Jeanette. "Ah," said Grandmother, "she is named for me." Well, this is the Mary Jane Collins I knew, courageous, patient, and kind. To the later generations, she might seem negligible, but to me she was the salt of the earth. I was her oldest granddaughter and I am proud to have been able to write this memorial to her.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Although the memories we share  
Of one no longer here  
Are always close, today they seem  
Especially near and dear,  
And though things cannot be the same  
When those we love are gone,  
It's sweet to know through all the years  
Our memories live on.

## THE DESCENDENTS OF FRANK AND MARY JANE COLLINS

### THE CHILDREN ARRIVE

Alice Augusta — Born November 9, 1859; died December 19, 1917  
 Cynthia Emaline — born March 1, 1861; died August 9, 1941  
 Frances Arabella — born June 8, 1863; died August 2, 1931  
 Anna Lee — born January 15, 1865; died June 20, 1911  
 Elzina Lodosky — born November 10, 1866; died May 28, 1954  
 James Louis — born March 20, 1868; died June 21, 1931  
 Frank Thomas — born July 7, 1875; died February 24, 1954

### THE CHILDREN MARRY

Alice Augusta married Francis Wyruck August 15, 1883  
 Francis Wyruck died July 1884

To this union was born:

Florence Ardell, January 18, 1885

Alice Augusta married James B. Jordan April 1886

To this union was born:

Amy B., March 29, 1887

Harry Jordan, May 1, 1889

Francis Lee, March 23, 1894

Grace Marion, March 29, 1896

Alice, May 12, 1901

### THE GRANDCHILDREN MARRY

Florence Ardell married to Allan Wagner June 21, 1910

To this union was born:

Allan John Wagner, March 21, 1911; married Elizabeth Ann

Landsberg February 6, 1936

Jean Marie, October 11, 1913; married Lee Irwin Walsh

June 27, 1934. This marriage dissolved

Jean Marie married James William Morris, August 4, 1941

Barbara Louise, December 16, 1916; married James Franklin

Fenenga December 17, 1938

### THE GREAT GRANDCHILDREN ARRIVE

Elizabeth Ann, daughter of Jack and Elizabeth Wagner  
 born February 3, 1937

Teri Jean, daughter of James and Jean Morris

born November 18, 1946

Allyn Ruth, daughter of Franklin and Barbara Fenenga

born November 6, 1940

Robin Gail, daughter of Franklin and Barbara Fenenga  
 born June 24, 1949

Gerry Lincoln, son of Franklin and Barbara Fenenga  
 born 1952

Laurel Jean, daughter of Franklin and Barbara Fenenga  
 born June 24, 1953

Cornelia Gay, daughter of Franklin and Barbara Fenenga  
 born January 30, 1958

### THE GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILD ARRIVES

Allyn Ruth Fenenga married Billy Charles Austin, February 20, 1960

To this union was born:

Elizabeth Marie, December 7, 1961

Susan Marie, May 1964

Sarah Jennifer, June 28, 1967

### THE GRANDCHILDREN MARRY

Amy B. Jordan married Arthur Childs September 21, 1909

Arthur Childs died November 3, 1947

### THE GRANDCHILDREN MARRY

Harry Collins Jordan married Sarah Linda Wight May 5, 1917

To this union was born:

Adeline Elizabeth (Betty), March 14, 1919, Dallas Texas

Harry Jordan, Jr. (Bud), March 10, 1920

### THE GREAT GRANDCHILDREN MARRY

Elizabeth Ann Wagner married Ivan Polk, April 4, 1959

Adeline Elizabeth married William McKenzie, September 20, 1940

Harry Jordan, Jr. (Bud), married Shirley Bean, September 1945

Judith Ann, daughter of Adeline Elizabeth and William A. McKenzie  
 born October 20, 1941. This marriage dissolved

Adeline Elizabeth McKenzie married Major Owen M. Seaman 1942.

Killed in action December 20, 1943

Adeline Elizabeth Seaman married John Paul Schafer May 25, 1945

Owen M. Jr., son of Adeline Elizabeth and Major Owen M.

Seaman, born March 13, 1944

Lynda Merle, daughter of Harry Collins, Jr. and Shirley Bean

Jordan born September 8, 1946

Scott George, son of Harry Collins, Jr. and Shirley Bean Jordan

born June 10, 1949

## THE GRANDCHILDREN MARRY

Francis Lee Jordan married Helen Farmer June 27, 1917

To this union was born:

Frances, January 25, 1920; married Jack Howard September 11, 19

Richard Jordan, March 10, 1922; married Marjorie Cross

June 2, 1948

Robert Lee Jordan, July 19, 1925; married Marilyn Haefl

June 10, 1948

## THE GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN ARRIVE

Nancy, daughter of Frances and Jack Howard

born February 24, 1950

Katherine, daughter of Frances and Jack Howard

born October 29, 1951

Sandra, daughter of Richard and Marjorie Jordan

born February 26, 1946

Richard, son of Richard and Marjorie Jordan

born February 6, 1948

Marilee, daughter of Richard and Marjorie Jordan

born May 30, 1954

Kristin, daughter of Robert Lee and Marilyn Jordan

born May 8, 1950

Jeffrey, son of Robert Lee and Marilyn Jordan

born March 24, 1952

## THE GRANDCHILDREN MARRY

Grace Marion Jordan married Winslow H. Strout

To this union was born:

James Herbert, November 30, 1916; died 1933

Betty Marion, December 9, 1924; married Lee Attaway

April 6, 1945

To this union was born:

Susan Lee, August 23, 1950

Janet Lee, July 20, 1952

Nancy Lee, December 18, 1958

## THE GRANDCHILDREN MARRY

ice Jordan married George Borns Day, October 3, 1924

To this union was born:

Martha Louise, August 26, 1925; married to Anthony

Villegas

To this Union was born:

Carol Ann, July 20, 1946. Marriage dissolved

Martha Day Villegas married Glenn Alvin Brown

To this union was born:

Glenn Alvin, Jr., October 1, 1955

Wendy Eileen, September 23, 1962

George Ann, Jr., August 1, 1929 married to Carolyn Lindsay

To this Union was born:

Elaine Alice, December 29, 1952

Georgi Ann, August 1, 1955. This marriage dissolved.

George Born Day, Jr., married Gloria in England

To this union was born:

Alice Jordan Day, November 30, 1962

Sara Alice Day, married Henry Louis Barsanti

To this Union:

Henry Louis Barsanti, Jr., November 23, 1950

This marriage dissolved

Sara Barsantti married Robert Connell

To this union was born:

Mary Cynthia, January 3, 1960

Amy Michele, May 20, 1962

Ann Estier, May 27, 1964

Martha Villegas married

Carol Ann married

## THE CHILDREN MARRY

Cynthia Emaline married to Joseph James Mitchell..December 19, 1883..

To this union:

Clyde Thomas was born October 4, 1884  
Mae Stella September 24, 1886 *died July 14, 1965*  
Darrell Collins July 8, 1890, Died in France 1918..First World War  
Buried in France

## THE GRANDCHILDREN MARRY — GREAT GRANDCHILDREN ARRIVE

Clyde Thomas married Jessie Allison, 1905

To this union:

George Harold was born March 1, 1906. Married to Margaret Pymm  
Doris Ella was born November 15th 1907..Married to Harold Sarah  
May 20, 1925  
Ethel Grace, May 17, 1911..Married to Paul Chadwick.  
June 20, 1935

Mae Stella married Charles Henry Winchell August 19, 1909

To this union:

Muriel Emaline born June 1, 1910..Married to Earl Carllon  
June 9, 1939.  
Charles Robert born March 21, 1916. Married to Bernice Iverson  
December 31, 1942

## THE GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Doris and Harold Sarah

To this union:

Geraldine Mona..born January 4, 1927..Died April 26, 1931  
Automobile accident.  
Dolores Elinor, born July 7, 1928..married to William  
Zurilgen..March 5, 1946  
Norine Ethel, April 9, 1933..Married to Thomas William Penland  
March 3, 1951, Died in the Service, July 27, 1951.  
Norine married Ralph Thissen..August 2, 1953.

## GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Muriel and Earl Carllon..married June 9, 1939.

To this Union:

Thomas Alfred was born May 25, 1940.

Charles Robert and Bernice Winchell..Married December 31, 1942

To this union:

Bert Charles was born September 10, 1944  
Annie Jeanne, September 24, 1947  
Christine Cheryl, June 5th 1951

## EAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

George Harold Mitchell. Margaret Pymm Mitchell.

To this union:

Ruthy Mae was born January 25, 1928..married to Thomas  
McCarthy  
Darrell...born May 12th..1931  
Anna Jeannette..December 31, 1945  
George Harold...January 24, 1949  
Aline Evet.....August 30, 1951

Dolores Sarah and William Zurilgen.

To this union:

Lynn born June 2, 1947  
Cheryl Elaine, December 2, 1948  
Muriel Blaine..August 8, 1956  
Laurie Paul... May 7, 1963

Aline and Thomas Penland...

To this union:

Lynn born February 5, 1951  
Aline Sarah Penland and Ralph Thissen.  
To this union:  
Berly Ann, born September 1, 1954  
John...born January 1, 1956  
Roah M. ....born August 26, 1957

Muriel Grace Allison Mitchell married to Paul Chadwick  
June 20, 1935

To this union:

Paul was born July 13, 1941  
Elaine...born April 15, 1944.



## THE GRANDCHILDREN MARRY

Francis Lee Jordan married Helen Farmer June 27, 1917

To this union was born:

Frances, January 25, 1920; married Jack Howard September 11, 19

Richard Jordan, March 10, 1922; married Marjorie Cross  
June 2, 1948

Robert Lee Jordan, July 19, 1925; married Marilyn Haefl  
June 10, 1948

## THE GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN ARRIVE

Nancy, daughter of Frances and Jack Howard  
born February 24, 1950

Katherine, daughter of Frances and Jack Howard  
born October 29, 1951

Sandra, daughter of Richard and Marjorie Jordan  
born February 26, 1946

Richard, son of Richard and Marjorie Jordan  
born February 6, 1948

Marilee, daughter of Richard and Marjorie Jordan  
born May 30, 1954

Kristin, daughter of Robert Lee and Marilyn Jordan  
born May 8, 1950

Jeffrey, son of Robert Lee and Marilyn Jordan  
born March 24, 1952

## THE GRANDCHILDREN MARRY

Grace Marion Jordan married Winslow H. Strout

To this union was born:

James Herbert, November 30, 1916; died 1933

Betty Marion, December 9, 1924; married Lee Attaway  
April 6, 1945

To this union was born:

Susan Lee, August 23, 1950

Janet Lee, July 20, 1952

Nancy Lee, December 18, 1958

## THE GRANDCHILDREN MARRY

ice Jordan married George Borns Day, October 3, 1924 *died Jan 65 Dec 4, 1964*

To this union was born:

Martha Louise, August 26, 1925; married to Anthony  
Villegas

To this Union was born:

Carol Ann, July 20, 1946. Marriage dissolved

Martha Day Villegas married Glenn Alvin Brown

To this union was born:

Glenn Alvin, Jr., October 1, 1955

Wendy Eileen, September 23, 1962

George Alvin, Jr., August 1, 1929 married to Carolyn Lindsay

To this Union was born:

Elaine Alice, December 29, 1952

Georgi Ann, August 1, 1955. This marriage dissolved.

George Born Day, Jr., married Gloria in England

To this union was born:

Alice Jordan Day, November 30, 1962

Sara Alice Day, married Henry Louis Barsanti

To this Union:

Henry Louis Barsanti, Jr., November 23, 1950

This marriage dissolved

Sara Barsantti married Robert Connell

To this union was born:

Mary Cynthia, January 3, 1960

Amy Michele, May 20, 1962

*Ann Estier, May 27, 1964*

*Martha Villegas married*

*Carol Ann married*

## THE CHILDREN MARRY

Cynthia Emaline married to Joseph James Mitchell..December 19, 1883..

To this union:

Clyde Thomas was born October 4, 1884 *July 14, 1885*  
Mae Stella September 24, 1886  
Darrell Collins July 8, 1890, Died in France 1918..First World War  
Buried in France

## THE GRANDCHILDREN MARRY — GREAT GRANDCHILDREN ARRIVE

Clyde Thomas married Jessie Allison, 1905

To this union:

George Harold was born March 1, 1906. Married to Margaret Pymn  
Doris Ella was born November 15th 1907..Married to Harold Sarah  
May 20, 1925  
Ethel Grace, May 17, 1911..Married to Paul Chadwick.  
June 20, 1935

Mae Stella married Charles Henry Winchell August 19, 1909

To this union:

Muriel Emaline born June 1, 1910..Married to Earl Carllon  
June 9, 1939.  
Charles Robert born March 21, 1916. Married to Bernice Iverson  
December 31, 1942

## THE GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Doris and Harold Sarah

To this union:

Geraldine Mona..born January 4, 1927..Died April 26, 1931  
Automobile accident.  
Dolores Elinor, born July 7, 1928..married to William  
Zurilgen..March 5, 1946  
Norine Ethel, April 9, 1933..Married to Thomas William Penland  
March 3, 1951, Died in the Service, July 27, 1951.  
Norine married Ralph Thissen..August 2, 1953.

## GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Muriel and Earl Carllon..married June 9, 1939.  
this Union:

James Alfred was born May 25, 1940.

Charles Robert and Bernice Winchell..Married December 31, 1942  
this union:

Bert Charles was born September 10, 1944

Janie Jeanne, September 24, 1947

Christine Cheryl, June 5th 1951

## BEAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Gold George Mitchell. Margret Pymm Mitchell.

this union:

Lois Maury was born January 25, 1928..married to Thomas  
McCarthy  
Frederick..born May 12th.. 1931  
Anna Jeannette..December 31, 1945  
George Harold...January 24, 1949  
Arlene Ever...August 30, 1951

Dolores Sarah and William Zurilgen.

this union:

David Lynn born June 2, 1947  
Arlene Elaine, December 2, 1948  
Muriel Blaine..August 8, 1956  
Bernice Paul... May 7, 1963

Christine and Thomas Penland...

this union:

Erica Lynn, Born February 5, 1951  
Arlene Sarah Penland and Ralph Thissen.  
this union:  
Liberly Ann, born September 1, 1954  
John..born January 1, 1956  
Cora M. ....born August 26, 1957

El Grace Allison Mitchell married to Paul Chadwick  
June 20, 1935

this union:

William Paul was born July 13, 1941  
Arlene Elaine...born April 15, 1944.

#### THE CHILDREN MARRY

Frances Arabella married William R. Stuck September 16, 1888

To this union:

Lillian Roberta, born December 8, 1890. Married Wade P. Hill  
August 25, 1917. Wade died April 1952. Lillian died April 6, 1962

Vivian Frances, born September 8, 1892. Married W. O. Maxwell  
June 8, 1920. This marriage dissolved

Vivian Maxwell married C. B. Ault June 8, 1932

#### THE GREAT GRANDCHILDREN MARRY

Wade P. Hill, Jr., married Robin Lyford June 10, 1944

To this union:

Pamela, born August 1, 1946

Elizabeth (Beth), born September 8, 1948 married *Partridge*



#### THE CHILDREN MARRY

Anna Lee Collins married John Henry Carroll

To this union:

John Henry was born, died at birth. Adopted a son, Fred Carroll

•



#### THE CHILDREN MARRY

Elzina Lodosky ( Aunt Lo ) married Ellis Francis, August 20, 1889.

They adopted two boys, Ross and his son Ross, Jr.

Uncle Ellis died in 1928.

Aunt Lo married Richard Rollins in 1939. Richard Rollins died in 1947.

Aunt Lo died May 30, 1954



#### THE CHILDREN MARRY

Frank Thomas married Georgia Helen Howe, October 24, 1901

To this union:

Warren Howe, born December 7, 1904. This marriage dissolved in  
1934. Married----Kenneth, October 17, 1956.

## Plains Veteran of Ox Cart Days Passes at 91

Mrs. Mary Collins, Who Had  
Part in Building First  
House at Visalia,  
Dies at Peardale

The passing of each year marks a decided thinning in the ranks of the pioneers who came to California when the state was in its embryonic stage. Another of the old pioneers answered the final call Sunday morning shortly after nine o'clock when Mrs. Mary Jane Collins passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Richard Rollins of Peardale. At the time of her passing she was aged 91 years, 3 months and 14 days.

Born in 1834

She was born on the 19th day of September, 1834, and came from the eastern states to California when a young woman 23 years of age. Accompanied by her parents she crossed the plains by the slow means of transportation, crossing the barren waste lands now converted into farm lands and cities and jolting over the rough mountain passes now smoothed and levelled with paved highways.

Los Angeles was the destination of the pioneer family and at their arrival was but a small town. A little later the deceased accompanied by her family moved to San Francisco making the trip by boat, then moving on to the San Joaquin valley where residence was made.

The deceased pioneer and her husband, the late Frank J. Collins, built the first house in what is now known as Visalia and lived there for many years. She has lived with her daughter at Peardale for the past two years and was well known and respected by the residents of that section.

Left to mourn her loss are three daughters, Mrs. J. J. Mitchell of Madera, Mrs. W. R. Stuck of Los Angeles and Mrs. Rollins of Peardale. J. S. Collins of Los Angeles and Dr.

Frank F. Collins of San Francisco are sons of the deceased.

Funeral services will be held under the auspices of the Christian Scientists at 11 o'clock Thursday morning at the Harris Mortuary Parlors. The remains will be shipped to Sacramento for cremation.