

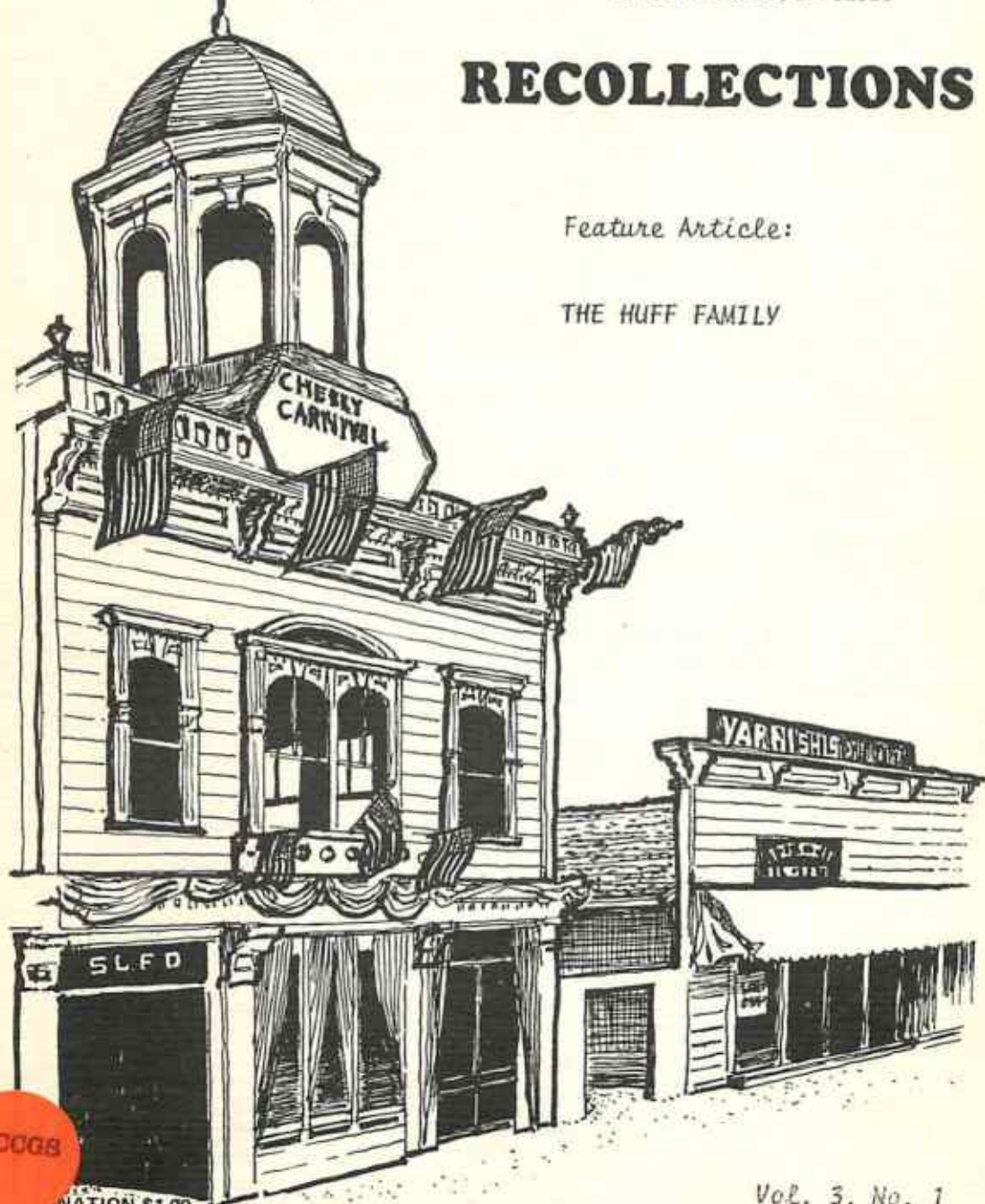
SAN LEANDRO

List from:
PROF. GRANVILLE W. HUGH
LAGUNA HILLS, CA 92653

RECOLLECTIONS

Feature Article:

THE HUFF FAMILY



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CONTRIBUTION \$1.00
SUBSCRIPTION (6 ISSUES) \$5.00

Vol. 3, No. 1
March, 1971

Why Celebrate Our CENTENNIAL-BICENTENNIAL In 1972 ?

Since our committee's appointment by the City Council in 1967 to explore the possibility of a historical landmark for our city's shoreline, many things have been accomplished. In inventorying our points of historical interest, the research team learned of an unusual coincidence. In March of 1772, the San Leandro area was first explored by a party of Spanish soldiers led by Don Pedro Fages who camped near Arroyo San Leandro. Exactly one hundred years later - to the month - San Leandro became incorporated as a city on March 21, 1872.

* So - in 1972, we celebrate both our 100th year of incorporation as a city - our 200th year of exploration. Our celebration theme - YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW - includes all the rich early Spanish history and folklore along with the early Portuguese agricultural development, the war years, the industrial and residential boom, the modern era we now find ourselves in and the future we dream about.

* During its first year of publication "RECOLLECTIONS" was designed to inform our community of significant programs planned by the committee and to let you know how you can become a part of the celebration. Many people are now involved and we welcome all interested citizens to start participating now. Please contact Jack Neavill, Committee Secretary, City Hall, 638-4100, Ext. 300; or call any of our committee members listed on the back page.

* This is why we are celebrating our Centennial-Bicentennial in 1972 and request ideas from you or your group on how you can become a part of your city's centennial-bicentennial celebration.

* Remember the important part of '72 is the **YOU** in '72.

BILL SUERSTEDT, Chairman
Historical-Centennial Steering Committee

COVER:

The pen and ink line drawing on the cover was done by Paul Mathes, City of San Leandro Community Development Office. The drawing was made from a photo of the old San Leandro Town Hall in 1909. The building is still standing on Davis Street minus the gingerbread. The drawing will decorate the first few issues of "Recollections." We're looking for a contributor for future covers. Our thanks to Paul Mathes for an excellent rendering.

The two official Centennial symbols are pictured on the back cover, together with the city seal. The lower left symbol was designed by Wolfgang Lederer, California College of Arts and Crafts Design Department Chairman and the second by Allen Ainsworth, Skyline High School graduate.

THE EDITOR

SAN LEANDRO
"R E C O L L E C T I O N S"

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Published by the
City of San Leandro
HISTORICAL-CENTENNIAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Publications Committee

Brent Galloway, Chairman	Josephine Roberts
Steve Ewing	Harry Shaffer
Albert Gillock	Leona Ward
Carlos Almeida	John Sandoval

MARCH, 1971

Volume 3, Number 2

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

IT'S OUR 99TH ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH!

1. PUBLICATIONS. Past issues of San Leandro Recollections have included the following feature articles:

Vol.1, #1 Oct. 1969 The Peraltas by Harry Shaffer
Vol.2, #1 Jan. 1970 Daniel Best by Brent Galloway
Vol.2, #2 Mar. 1970 Anthony Chabot by Walter Petersen
Vol.2, #3 May 1970 The Estudillos by John Sandoval
Vol.2, #4 July 1970 The Lewellings by Rev. Franklin Rhoda and Brent Galloway
Vol.2, #5 Sept. 1970 The Roberts Family (Joseph Roberts) by Mrs. Lois K. Tusher
Vol.2, #6 Nov. 1970 The Estudillo Sons-in-law (Davis, Ward, Nugent, Cushing) by John Sandoval
Vol.3, #1 Jan. 1971 The Oakes Family by Nelda Oakes Gallettini and Ardell B. Barresi

Copies of all these issues are still available from the San Leandro Centennial Committee, 835 E. 14th Street, San Leandro, Calif. 94577. Incidentally, we intend to continue publishing this magazine all through the Centennial Year 1972. And if an active historical society results from the centennial we may be able to continue as its publication after 1972.

We still need historical articles anywhere from 500 to 3000 words in length. Our list of topics on the last page is only suggestive. If you know of someone who can write a story on any old-time San Leandro family, person, event, business, etc. we will be happy to edit and print it. We are working on several now. Send in photos or illustrations too, if possible.

We would also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hansen of 10927 Bancroft Avenue for the loan of the Thompson & West, 1879 Historical Atlas of Alameda County

Centennial Committee News (Continued)

to the Centennial Committee. We are taking good care of it, and it has been immensely helpful already.

2. BEST OF RECOLLECTIONS. The Recollections Promotion Committee has been energetically at work to increase public knowledge and sales of our magazine. Their first effort is a free issue with one complete article (The Peraltas) and selections from our other past feature articles. The Committee has secured the support of many of our local businesses in financing and distributing this free issue. It has been produced to coincide with San Leandro's 99th Anniversary, March 21, 1971, and will be ready for distribution at the dedication of the new State Landmark at Mulford Point on the Marina.
3. CENTENNIAL HISTORY BOOK. The new history of San Leandro is coming right along. Harry Shaffer is finishing Chapter 8 which covers up to the turn of the century. The stories of the first town board of trustees and many other early citizens are covered in this chapter, as well as the 1892 predecessor of the annual Cherry Festivals. A new committee is at work selecting a printer to print the book. We're planning to have it ready for sale in nine months (December of this year).
4. MICROFILMING. In taking an inventory of the issues of the San Leandro Reporter donated to the San Leandro Library by the Stuart Library, U.O.P., it has been established that VOL. 1, NO. 1 of the paper was the May 17, 1879 issue. We had reported in our July, 1970 and November, 1970 issues that the first issue of the San Leandro Reporter was that of May 18, 1878, which is incorrect. This means that on microfilm we are only lacking 440 issues from the entire run of the paper, 1879-1951.
5. ORAL HISTORY. Another interesting tape has been added to this collection, an interview with Mrs. Meta Evans of

Centennial Committee News (Continued)

Hayward. She is a granddaughter of George A. Harlan (1832-ca 1907), who came to Alameda County in 1853 with his half-brother, Jacob W. Harlan. Harlan Street is named for Jacob Harlan. George married in the next three years and settled near Centreville. We will include his story in the upcoming article on the Harlans. His daughter Melinda Harlan married James West in San Leandro in 1879 and they raised a family in San Leandro including Mrs. Evans. James West had a blacksmith shop on Davis Street and Mrs. Evans gave us some interesting recollections. As soon as our tape recorder is repaired the committee will be back doing more interviews.

6. CASA PERALTA. Research is underway to trace the history of the Casa Peralta in order to establish its historical importance and secure funds for its preservation. We know its history since Mrs. Herminia Peralta Dargie remodelled it, but we need information on its history prior to 1927. Anyone who can contribute information is urged to write the Centennial Committee, 835 E. 14th St. So far we have learned that a dwelling was built on the site between 1862 and 1869, that Mrs. Ludovina (Peralta) Ivey and her husband William H. Ivey acquired the property in 1874 and owned it at least till 1900. In about 1890 they rented it to the Sturtevant family. Some of the Sturtevant daughters ran a kindergarten in the front yard and later went on to become teachers. It seems possible that Mrs. Ivey may have continued to own it until Mrs. Dargie bought it, since they were sisters, both daughters of Ignacio Peralta. The present house may also be the house built between 1862 and 1869; we have a photograph of it before the remodelling. But these are speculations and we need facts.
7. HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS. Photos from the Centennial Photo and Document project have been appearing regularly in the Hayward Review (Thursdays) and the San Leandro Morning News. Many people have contacted the Committee with new identifi-

Centennial Committee News (Continued)

cations and new photos loaned for copying. The response has been great and so has the support of the newspapers. Photo #880 has been copied and the collections of Leslie Freeman, Mrs. Sadie (Garcia) McMillen and the Galloways are being copied. The second computer index (covering about the first 300 photos) is now available in the Californiana Room of the San Leandro Library. Everyone is invited to look at these and the interesting photos copied. Five volunteers in the library are hard at work to bring the indexing up to date. In addition, samples of postcards have been printed to see whether they might be of interest or saleable to raise funds for Centennial events.

8. MULFORD POINT HISTORICAL LANDMARK. The Mulford Oyster Beds dedication March 28 is a first step toward our 1972 Centennial-Bicentennial. A number of residents plan to wear old-fashion apparel in honor of the occasion, which will also mark the 99th anniversary of the City's incorporation and the 199th anniversary of the Spanish exploration of the valley. Leonard Verbarg, historian and editor of the Knave will give a keynote address. Chairman Bill Suerstedt points out that the Centennial is "a short year away".
9. PIONEER FAMILIES COMMITTEE. The Historical-Centennial Steering Committee is forming a Pioneer Families Committee representing early San Leandro families. Philip Begier and Mrs. Petra (William H.) Kerry are its first members.

THE HUFF FAMILY

by Brent Galloway

It was in December, 1859, that Socrates Huff moved into San Leandro, in the vicinity of the present Huff Avenue. He lived there with his family for the rest of his life (1859-1907) and played a prominent part in the history of our town and also of Alameda County, as we shall see. He came to Alameda Co. in 1849, and his three brothers and two sisters were also early settlers in the county (for example, all were living in Alameda Co. in 1859). It has been an interesting task to investigate their geneology and to piece together an account of their lives. Most of the information is scattered in obscure records set down or published before the turn of the century, and much remains to be done. But what has come to light so far is an interesting story.

The first American Huff was of the early Dutch immigration to New York state. An intermediate descendant apparently settled in Georgia and raised a son there. This son, whose name may have been William Huff, left Georgia and came to Central New York. He lived to be "over 100 years of age, and some of his children also reached advanced age". One of his children was William Huff (1800-1848) who was born in New York state.

Young William Huff moved to Ohio, where he married Pleasa Garver (1806-1830) and settled in Crawford Co. before 1826. A history of Crawford Co. shows a William Huff settled in Liberty Township as early as April 11, 1821. He was the only resident in that area at the time and had arrived the same year. Another William Huff is shown entering land in Liberty Township in 1824 for the first time. It seems possible from this that the father was named William and that it was he who settled in Crawford Co. in 1821 with his family. Then his son William may have married in 1824 and settled on new land near his father. But this is just theory.

Pleasa Garver was apparently a daughter of Frederick Garver

(1770's-1850's) and his wife Sarah (born about 1775 in Pa.). Frederick was born in Maryland but moved to his wife's state, Pennsylvania, where Pleasa was born. As early as 1812 he moved to Ohio where he had three sons, John born about 1812, Frederick Jr. born between 1810 and 1815, and David Garver born about 1820 and perhaps three more daughters and another son. He settled in Whetstone Township of Crawford Co., Ohio between 1826 and 1829. About 1829 he moved to Cass Co., Michigan, probably with William and Pleasa Huff who moved to adjacent Berrien Co., Michigan in the same year. The Huffs and Garvers were among the first settlers of these areas of Michigan, and Garver Lake in Cass Co. is named after Frederick Garver. Finally, sometime before 1840, Frederick and his wife and sons moved across the border to Elkhart, Indiana, where Frederick died at age 75 and where his sons continued to live. ---

In the 1820's Crawford Co., Ohio was a real wilderness, the frontier of the day. In these pioneer rough-hewn and homespun surroundings William and Pleasa Huff had three children: Drene Huff (born March 23, 1827 (1826?), died May 19, 1881), Socrates Huff (born July 1, 1827, died September 26, 1907), and Mariah Huff (born 1828, died 1879). In 1829 the family moved from Ohio to Royalton, then to St. Joseph, both in Berrien Co., Michigan. These sections were unbroken forest of heavy timber at the time and many Indians lived in the area. But a home was soon made and William and Pleasa had another son here, Lucien Bonaparte Huff (born March 14, 1829, died February 19, 1895).

But Pleasa did not survive long as she died in 1830 after the census. Only 45 families were shown in the census, for the entire county. William Huff soon married again, however. On January 20, 1831 he married Julia Ann Smith in St. Joseph (born January 17, 1812 in Ohio, died May 17, 1898). Julia was a daughter of Timothy Seymour Smith (1784-1859) and Margaret Consalus (D. 1816), and a granddaughter of Dr. David Smith (born about 1740 in Ireland, a captain and major from Connecticut in the American Revolution). Julia was also a half-sister to Henry Clay Smith, later of Alvarado, Calif., who introduced the bill creating Alameda County.

William and Julia Ann Huff had two sons in St. Joseph: Edward Huff (born in 1834) and George W. Huff (born in 1838). William Huff became an owner of "landed interests in the new settlement of St. Joseph, but his career was chiefly that of a country merchant and Indian trader." He was the first town supervisor, being elected in 1834, 1836 and 1837. He was also a School Commissioner in 1837. And he must have prospered because in 1840 he built and opened a hotel, "Perkins House", at 24 State St., corner of Ship St. An amusing story is told about him, that he was stingy and that Julia had to pick berries to get clothes money. He died in 1848. Socrates and Lucien headed west early the next year.

Julia remarried on June 4, 1850 to Joseph Thompson (born about 1812 in New York state). They are shown on the 1850 census of St. Joseph with Edward and George Huff, but Edward came to Alvarado, California later the same year. Julia and Joseph came west overland between 1850 and 1854, probably bringing George W. Huff. Julia's father, Timothy Smith and several of his children came to Alvarado in 1854 and settled nearby. After a while the Thompsons moved to Livermore where Joseph died; they had no children of their own. Julia Ann survived him and moved back to Alvarado. She was a great Methodist and a fine cook. She often walked into town with a cane. Eventually she moved into the Pratt Old Ladies Home in San Jose, where she died in 1898.

Not long after William Huff died rumors of the discovery of gold began to reach St. Joseph. They were confirmed New Year's Day, 1849 when letters were received in town from California. Socrates and Lucien Huff at once began to organize a wagon party. There were relatives and friends already in California; Julia's half-brothers, Henry Clay Smith and Napoleon Bonaparte Smith, had come overland in 1845, and Henry was established at Mission San Jose. In 1846 another group of Berrien Co. pioneers, the Harlan party, had crossed the plains and were already at Coloma and at Mission San Jose. So the two Huff brothers, along with four other townsmen, Lewis Cass Wittenmyer, Augustus M. Church, James M. Morton and A. P. Pinney, set out in February, 1849 for California.

They bought mules in Indiana, wagons in Chicago and provisions in St. Louis. Ascending the Missouri from St. Louis on the steamer "Dacota", they soon ran into trouble. Sixteen miles from Council Bluffs the boat sank. The men escaped but only the mules and wagons were saved. Undaunted, they refitted at Council Bluffs, crossed the river and started across the plains. The trip is described as long and dreary. The party travelled the usual route by Salt Lake and the Truckee Pass and arrived at Bear River near Steep Hollow on August 12, 1849.

Lucien went on to Mission San Jose, while Socrates and the other four of the party remained to begin mining. Socrates tried his hand and met with some success, but after two weeks he moved to Sacramento where he believed business would be more profitable. His friends remained at mining on Yuba and Deer Creeks, especially at Goodyear's Bar on the north fork of the Yuba. He engaged in business in Sacramento only a short time before the hardships of the overland journey and the malaria of Sacramento took their toll. So probably in late October or early November of 1849 Socrates Huff moved to Mission San Jose for his health. There he was employed by Henry Clay Smith, probably running a steamer for him, and remained until March, 1851.

In that month Socrates and Henry Smith left by boat via the Isthmus of Panama for a return visit to St. Joseph, Michigan. On June 4, 1851, after a stay of several months, they began the trip back to California with a company of nineteen friends and relatives from Michigan and Indiana. They sailed from New York to Chagres on board the "Prometheus", crossed the Isthmus of Panama on muleback in the rain, sailed to Acapulco on a ship whose leaks they had to stuff with mattresses and finally sailed to Monterey and San Francisco on the "Sea Bird". They arrived in August.

Upon his arrival back in Alameda Co., Socrates bought a freighting vessel and ran it between Alvarado, San Francisco and Stockton until November, 1852. Returning to the east again

(probably Michigan) he was married there on February 14, 1853 to Miss Amelia Cassaday (born May 16, 1834 in Pa., died January 14, 1905 in San Leandro). The young couple then proceeded to Iowa and on May 1, 1853 started overland to California, Mr. Huff driving a large band of cattle and horses. The stock was driven to Green Valley, Contra Costa or Alameda Co., to the farm later occupied by Hon. D. N. Sherburne [in 1883]. The Huffs settled and remained there till 1857 when they moved to Haywards. Eighteen months later Socrates and his wife and children made another trip to Berrien Co., Michigan, but finally returned in December of 1859 to settle in San Leandro.

Socrates and Amelia Huff had seven daughters: Ida C. Huff (born about 1854, died _____?, married 1880-88 J. F. Sloane born in Pa., died _____?), Jenifer E. "Jennie" Huff (born about 1856, died about February 22, 1927 - buried Feb. 25, 1927 Mt. View - never married), Katherine "Katie" Huff (born June 3, 1859 - possibly 1858 - San Francisco, died November 10, 1884 San Leandro never married), Nellie E. Huff (born March 19, 1860 San Leandro, died October 12, 1937 Letterman Hospital, S. F., married 1880-1891 Orrien P. Downing, born Valparaiso, Chile about 1857 of Mass. parents, died May 16, 1913 San Rafael), Callie [or Carrie] Huff (born May 10, 1862 San Leandro, died August 11, 1944 San Francisco, never married), Maud "Mamie" Huff (born November 14, 1864 San Leandro, died November 24, 1948, never married), and Laura B. Huff (born May 24, 1869 San Leandro, died February 19, 1936 San Mateo, married 1893-1907 Bush Finnell, born October 6, 1871 Berryessa, Calif., died August 11, 1946 Colma, Calif.)

Information is still needed on the daughters and their descendants. All that is known at present is that Ida had a son, Sidney H. Sloane (born 1889 in Spokane) and that her husband in 1892 was secretary and treasurer of Lindsley Mercantile Co. of Spokane. Nellie had two daughters by 1892, Edith and Bonnie Downing; her husband was a wholesale druggist in San Francisco in 1892. And Laura and Bush Finnell lived in San Francisco in 1907, later in the area of San Mateo and Burlingame. The other daughters lived in San Francisco for many years. On April 19, 1906, the day after the great quake, a huge mass meeting was held on

the Plaza, with Mayor Gill presiding, to discuss relief efforts. Jennie Huff was one of five appointed to the Commissary Committee and by the week following, over 2000 meals had been served to refugees.

Socrates Huff began his first year in San Leandro showing an estimated \$13,000 worth of real estate and \$12,000 worth of personal estate (1860 census). He quickly entered into civic and political events when he served as an Eden Township delegate to the Republican County Convention in August 1861. On September 29, 1862 when a great mass meeting was held in San Leandro to raise funds for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers, Huff was on the executive committee (over \$12,000 was subscribed in the county). He was soon elected (by 1344 votes) to the offices of Alameda County Tax Collector and County Treasurer on September 2, 1863. He was re-elected in 1865 and served till September 3, 1867. Almost twenty years later he ran for the office of Alameda Co. Treasurer again and was elected in 1886, 1888 and 1890. He could have had the nomination in 1892, but decided to leave public affairs in that year. In his five terms he gained an outstanding reputation for honesty, integrity and ability.

Still in the 1860's, Socrates Huff was one of the trustees of the corporation formed September 18, 1864 to build the First Presbyterian Church in San Leandro. The church was completed (corner of Clarke and Hepburn) and dedicated April 11, 1867, where part of it still stands. In the period from 1863 to 1870 Huff was also engaged in a mercantile business in Carson City, Nevada, while maintaining his farming and real estate interests in San Leandro. He was one of the organizers of the Union Savings Bank (at the corner of Broadway and 8th St. in Oakland), established July, 1869. He was one of its directors at least till 1890 and also a director of its offshoot, the Union National Bank (formed 1875 to take over U.S.B.'s commercial business).

Having quit the Carson City business, Huff is shown on the 1870 census as a retired merchant, with \$20,000 real estate and \$5,000 personal estate. His eldest daughter was away at the time, but the other six were at home and the four eldest were



*"Socrates Huff, from Wood's History of Alameda Co., 1883."
All illustrations provided by Brent Galloway.*



RES. OF S. HUFF, WARD AVE.

*"Socrates Huff's home near Huff Avenue, from inset on 1892 map
of San Leandro published by J. E. Quinn, real estate agent."*

attending school in town. Later the same year he was shown as a capitalist or banker. On October 7, 1871 Socrates Huff was foreman of a jury finding George Anistables innocent of whatever he'd been charged with.

In February of 1872 a meeting of San Leandro citizens considered incorporation and, being favorably inclined, appointed a committee to draft an act of incorporation. The committee consisted of I. A. Amerman, A. T. Covell, Socrates Huff, Stephen G. Nye and J. H. Putnam. Their act was approved on March 21, 1872 and this is the date we will celebrate as our Centennial date next year. Socrates Huff was elected to the first Town Board of Trustees (equivalent of our City Council) on May 13, 1872. Terms were for one year. He was elected again in 1875, 1876 and 1877. Huff was appointed September 20, 1881 to replace Robert Parker who had moved, and he served out the term (till May 8, 1882). Finally he ran the last time, was elected May 14, 1883, and served till November 12, 1883 when he resigned. All told Socrates Huff served six terms.

In the 1860's or 1870's Socrates erected a fine home (2 stories plus attic), surrounded with orchards and gardens, at what is now 476 Estudillo, corner of Huff and Estudillo Avenues. Carriage driveways were in front, as were a fountain and gardens (see illustrations). Huff also constructed a stone fence of imported lava from Mt. Fujiyama, Japan. The elegant residence was a showplace in San Leandro, being one of the few homes in San Leandro illustrated in Thompson & West's atlas of 1879 and also on the margin of Quinn's map of 1892. In 1879 Huff owned 13½ acres of land, most of which he farmed. He raised a 179 pound pumpkin in November of that year.

Socrates Huff was shown in the 1880 census as a capitalist (i.e. banker), living at the Ward Ave. home with his whole family and a Chinese cook named Nam, a young man of 20 years. In 1880 Socrates was a delegate to the National Republican Convention at Chicago which nominated James A. Garfield. The following year (April 19, 1881) he was instrumental in the incorporation of the San Leandro Plow Co. and served as its

President. The plant included the plow shop, a planing mill, machine shop, foundry and paint shop, and was located where the Caterpillar Tractor Co. shop now stands [it was sold to Daniel Best, September 11, 1886]. Besides his farming and real estate interests he continued in the banking and insurance business, and as we've seen he served on the Town Board of Trustees, and as County Treasurer as well, in the 1880's. He is often listed as S. Huff.

Mr. Huff chaired a mass meeting in town in January, 1892 to discuss putting in a sewer system (town government had to be reorganized so that bonds could be sold). Later that year he exhibited some of his fruits and vegetables at the Alameda County Fair. On March 4, 1893 Articles of Incorporation were filed for the new Bank of San Leandro (capital of \$100,000). Socrates Huff was the organizer and President of the bank which opened for business May 15, 1893. Later his wife was one of the women who decorated the City Hall for an important Woman's Suffrage meeting in San Leandro September 19, 1896. And it may have been in the late '80's or early '90's that Socrates bought some oyster beds off the San Leandro shore. Douglas U. Toffelmier was the manager of the Huff oyster beds when his son (now Dr. Douglas Toffelmier of Oakland) was a young boy. Dr. Toffelmier remembers big sacks of oysters arriving at the house. The author's grandmother remembers an old Chinaman coming by in the 1890's with baskets of oysters from the Huff beds hanging from a shoulder pole. He sold oysters around town.

In his old age Socrates was called "Scrate Huff". Some called him "Straight" instead because of his erect carriage and height. Children would ask him for pennies, which he would give them only after asking what they had done with the last one. In the twentieth century he took an active interest in all the business affairs he was identified with until about 1906. His wife passed away in early 1905, but he passed his eightieth birthday July 1st, 1907. He died at 12:35 a.m. in the morning of September 26, 1907, at his residence on Estudillo Avenue. At his death he was a member of no organization save the Society of California Pioneers; he was its First Vice President at the time, and many of his poll-bearers were from its membership.

He, his wife and six of his daughters were buried at Mt. View Cemetery. After his death his daughters sold the house and a surrounding acre to Douglas U. Toffelmier. Toffelmier moved the house to an unknown Callan Ave. location and built a new house on the land in 1912. The new house was bought by Louis H. Bill in 1917, remodelled and became the Bill Estate, still surrounded by Huff's lava fence. It was finally sold and demolished to make way for the new San Leandro Fire Station recently completed. The original Huff home is believed to have been torn down for subdivision.

In the little space remaining I can only sketch in the briefest fashion the lives of Socrates Huff's brother Lucien and sisters Irene and Mariah. For his half-brothers, Edward and George W. Huff, so little is known that we can give it all. Edward Huff came to California and Alameda Co. in late 1850 (at the age of 16). He probably came to Mission San Jose where his uncle Henry C. Smith was established. Edward was shown there in the 1852 census. Between July, 1859 and July, 1860 Ed Huff was married to Hannah (born about 1835 in Ireland) whose last name is unknown. They lived in Alvarado the rest of their lives. He gave his occupation as a laborer in 1860 and a teamster in 1870. He ran a saloon in Alvarado in 1879 and is shown as a laborer there with his wife in the 1880 census. He was still living in Alvarado in 1894 in his mother's house. He is remembered as a very genial man, stout and bearded. He brought the mail. He and Hannah had no children.

George W. Huff's date of immigration to California is unknown, but it seems likely he came west with his mother and step-father. He was shown a laborer, age 22, living with his uncle Henry Smith in the 1860 census of Alvarado. He was married on June 7, 1866 in Martinez to Mary A. Slusher (born about 1850 in California of Indiana parents). They settled in Livermore and George was elected or appointed Constable for Murray township on June 1, 1868. He served till August 8, 1869 when he failed to qualify. He and his wife had three children by the 1880 census: Ida Huff (born about 1867), Henry Huff (born March 13, 1871 at Livermore, died February 14,



"Lucien Bonaparte Hubb,
from a colored portrait".

"William George Hubb,
son of
Lucien and Nancy (Harlan) Hubb,
from a tintype."



1891 in Alameda Co. as result of an accident, never married, employed as a laborer), and Caroline Huff (born about 1874). They are shown living on First St. in Livermore. George's wife was called Mattie Huff. They lived and died in Livermore, but nothing more is known of their children.

Socrates Huff's full brother was Lucien Bonaparte Huff (1829-1895) (the father must have appreciated the classics). Lucien had come overland with his brother, arriving in California August 12, 1849. He proceeded to Mission San Jose where he met Nancy Jane Harlan (born June 19, 1833 in Berrien Co., Michigan, died December 12, 1856 in Alameda Co., Calif.), her father George Harlan (1802-1850), her sister Mary Ann [Harlan] Smith (1826-1922) and Mary Ann's husband Henry Clay Smith (1824-1875). Nancy had come west in 1846 with the Harlan party, led by her parents. She was very pretty, tall and slender and full of fun (her sister called her a regular cut-up). Lucien Huff courted her as did Bill Norris. Her father knew Lucien from Michigan and favored him and Lucien and Nancy were married in 1849. They continued to live at Mission San Jose where Lucien was major domo of Henry Smith's ranch. They may have lived in Alvarado in 1853 as the author has a book autographed "Lucien B. Huff, 1853" on the cover and "Lucien B. Huff, Alvarado" inside. The book is the New Clerk's Assistant...designed for the use of County and Town Officers, Merchants, Mechanics, Farmers and Professional Men....by John S. Jenkins (1852, 4th Ed.).

Lucien and Nancy Huff had three children at the Mission: Mary Irene "Dena" Huff (born May 10, 1850, died October 14, 1920 Oakland), Sarah Maria Huff (born January 11, 1852, died January 29, 1853), and William George Huff (born December 19, 1855, died November 14, 1935, never married). But Nancy died on December 12, 1856, a week short of being 21½ years old. She is buried with her daughter Sarah in the old San Lorenzo cemetery; the stone is still legible. Lucien then, on Sept. 1, 1858, married Mary Jane Lee (born November 7, 1835 Canada West, died March 6, 1915 Oakland, step-daughter of Henderson Lewelling). A month later (October 5th), Lucien bought a

block in East Oakland, now bounded by E. 14th and E. 15th Sts. and 9th and 10th Avenues. He built houses on the land, living at 474 E. 14th St. for the rest of his life and renting the others. Sometime in the 1860's he bought a 825 acre grain ranch near Livermore which produced, in good seasons, 20,000 sacks of grain, worth \$25,000. It was located due east of Dublin (about 8½ mi.) and north of Livermore (about 3 mi.) where Alamo Creek joins Cayetano Creek (Sec. 20 of T.2.S and R.2.E).

The 1860 census shows Lucien Huff as a farmer with \$1200 real estate and \$1200 personal estate; 1870 shows him a trader with \$60,000 real estate and \$15,000 personal estate. The Brooklyn business directories show him in real estate from 1872 on, and in 1879 he owned 900 acres. He was a prominent stockholder and superintendent of the Oakland, Brooklyn and Fruitvale Street Railroad Company [founded in 1871]. On one occasion, to secure rights to lay a track on Broadway which a rival company also claimed, "the Brooklyn men, under the leadership of Superintendent Huff, had their hands at work all along the line from early dawn, and thus by adding physical effort to moral right they have become complete 'masters of the situation'. The Oakland men seem entirely nonplussed, and the press and the public are nearly as a unit on the side of the Brooklyn company." Lucien was also active in the Republican Convention in San Leandro in 1871. A few years later he "gained considerable notoriety through being foreman of the Grand Jury that brought charges against four members of the Board of Supervisors for willful misconduct in office". He was a member of the Society of California Pioneers but resigned about 1892 or 1893.

As to Lucien Huff's descendants, his son William George Huff is first listed in business directories in 1877-78. He is shown as a bookkeeper in the 1879 directory of Brooklyn township, living at 474 E. 14th St. In 1880 he took the census of Livermore and Murray township, and was farming there, probably at his father's ranch. The census is taken in his strong but elegant handwriting. He lived most of his life in

the East Oakland house and later drove wagons and trucks. He was a member of the Society of California Pioneers and had an immense knowledge of early settlers and pioneers of the East-bay. But Will Huff never married and his sister Dena was the only child who left any descendants. She was married on July 14, 1869 to James Alvan Webster (born June 21, 1843 Maine, died March 14, 1921 Oakland) whom she met in school in Oakland and whose parents settled in East Oakland in 1854 (Alameda in 1852).

The father, Alvan Bacon Webster, was a sea captain in Maine, then for many years a real estate and insurance agent in Brooklyn (East Oakland) and the Brooklyn Township assessor for 16 years. James Webster was sent up to British Columbia for Wells Fargo in the early 1870's, and Dena had their son Henry at Victoria in February of 1873. About 1876 they returned to East Oakland and James became Deputy Treasurer of Alameda Co. holding the post five years. He then served as Alameda Co. Treasurer 1881-1886. In 1886 he moved to a ranch a mile and a half north of Vacaville where he was very successful in raising fruit. He was President of the California Fruit Association upon its incorporation in 1889. He finally returned to East Oakland with his family about 1895 where they lived the rest of their lives. James was one of the founders of the Brooklyn Masonic Lodge and was very active in it. James and Dena Webster had ten children: Lucien Alvan (ca 1870- before 1880), Frederick Eben (1871-1873), Henry Stevens (1873-1873), Frank (1878-1962, my grandfather), Helen (born 1880), Edith (1882-1963), Alvan Bacon (1884-1884), James Guy (1889 - before 1891, twin), Irene (1889-1969, twin), and Phillip Webster (born 1896).

Irene Huff (1826-1881), sister of Lucien and Socrates Huff, had come west sometime in the 1850's, possibly with her step-parents. By 1859 she was married to John Willard Carrick (born 1824 Maine, died August 4, 1898 Ingoma, Calif.). Will Carrick, as he was called by the family, was active in the Eden Masonic Lodge as early as April, 1857. He was elected to the office of Alameda Co. Treasurer in 1859, serving till 1863,

and was also elected County Tax Collector, serving from 1861 to 1863. He and his family lived near St. Mary's College here in the East Bay for a number of years. Will and Irene Carrick had two children: Ada Irene Carrick (born November or December, 1859) and Frederick Andrew Carrick (born May 10, 1866, died December 28, 1926 San Francisco). Ada Carrick married Andrew Brown, a tea-taster; they had no children and lived in Presidio Terrace in San Francisco. Fred Carrick married Etta Mendenhall (born July 20, 1868 California, died July 17, 1936 San Jose), daughter of pioneer William Mendenhall who came to California in 1845. Fred and Etta Carrick had three daughters around the turn of the century, Elizabeth, Marietta and Irene.

The second sister of Socrates and Lucien Huff was Maria Huff (1828-1879). She had come to California by 1856, and when Nancy Harlan Huff died in that year, Maria took charge of many of the arrangements. She hung black velvet over all the mirrors and lit lots of candles inside. In 1858 or 1859 she married a widower, William Henry Souther (born in 1823 in Oldham Co., Kentucky). He had married first in 1844 to Catherine Bigelow (born 1828 New York, died August 9, 1856 San Leandro). They lived in Illinois (probably Moultrie Co.) till about 1848 when William drove a herd of cattle to Mineral Point, Wisconsin. In spring of 1849 he came overland to Auburn, Calif. where he undertook large mining operations. "In connection with Messrs. Bowen and Butterfield, he cut the first tunnel turning the middle fork of the American River, at Horseshoe Bend. The bed of the river thus exposed afterward yielded millions of dollars' worth of gold. In 1850 he sold out and located at Michigan Bluffs and opened mines at that point, many of which in later years proved immensely rich, among which was the noted Grey Eagle Mine, which in 100 days produced \$100,000".

In 1852 Souther returned east for his wife and family and came overland to San Leandro. He located in that year on a large farm in the hills near San Leandro. This farm of about 300 acres was sold to Gilbert Tompkins, who continued to call it the Souther Farm and raised trotting horses on it. (In 1899 he sold it to Mrs. Josephine Wallace, wife of Alexander Dunsmuir, and she erected the mansion still standing there. After her



*"Probably Maria (Huff) Souther,
sister of Socrates, Lucien
and Irene Huff."*



*"William Henry Souther,
husband of Maria Huff and owner of
the Souther Farm 1852-1867."*



*"James Alvan Webster,
husband of Dena Irene Huff and
Alameda County Treasurer 1881-1886."*



*"Dena (Huff) Webster,
daughter of Lucien and
Nancy (Harlan) Huff."*

death the property passed to Edna Wallace Hopper and was sold in 1906 to I. W. Hellman, Jr. for \$50,000.) Besides farming here Souther also raised stock in the San Joaquin Valley at the same time. But in 1856 his wife died leaving five children: Angeline E. Souther (born ca 1845 Illinois, married E. A. Sawyer, born October, 1831 Mass.), Merian Souther (born ca 1847 Illinois, married S. Charles Wood, born ca 1845), Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Souther (born ca 1849 Wisconsin, married Curtis Lathrop born ca 1846), Catherine Souther (born ca 1851, died ca 1892, married C. L. Conner, Jr., born 1849 Alabama), and William Henry Souther, Jr. (born ca 1855 California). So William Souther married Maria Huff.

They continued to live on the farm near San Leandro (it was actually in Brooklyn township). William Souther was elected Justice of the Peace for Clinton township September 5, 1855. He served a one year term and was re-elected from Brooklyn township each year from 1857-1861 and 1863-1866. He was also one of the associate judges for Alameda Co. for four years. Here William and Maria Souther had three children: Sarah Souther (born December 1859 or January 1860), Lucien Souther (born ca 1861), and Cally Souther (born ca 1863, married Ronald McDonald). In the 1860 census William H. Souther and family are shown living in Brooklyn township, San Leandro Post Office. He was a farmer with \$130,000 real estate and \$15,000 personal property, one of the wealthiest men in the county.

In 1867 they moved to Gilroy where William was farming and stock-raising on the Pacheco Ranch for the next seven years. Part of the family shows up on the 1870 census of the Gilroy area. In 1874 William Souther moved to Bakersfield and was engaged in large farming operations for several years. "While there he became interested in the large irrigation schemes of that period and was superintendent of the Kern Island Canal and the Buena Vista Canal. These enterprises required over a million dollars of capital, and necessitated the constructing of hundreds of miles of ditches. The duties and responsibilities of Mr. Souther's position soon broke him down and he was compelled to suspend his labor and seek a restoration of health.

In 1878, after a partial recovery, he came to Los Angeles County and located at Newhall. There he engaged in extensive farming and stock growing, occupying about 13,000 acres of land in his operations. Not meeting with the desired success in these enterprises, in 1881 he sold out and went to the Mojave and Calico Mines in San Bernardino County and spent the next two years in mining enterprises. In 1883 he returned east, remaining until the next year, when he again came to California. This time he located near Covina and entered into horticultural pursuits upon a twenty acre tract of land located in Covina school district, about one-fourth of a mile south of the San Bernardino road, and a half mile east of Covina. He (had) also under his care seventeen acres in orange grove belonging to his son (Lucien?), "as of 1889. His wife Maria died in 1879; we haven't learned when William died.

As to the descendants, Angeline's husband, E. A. Sawyer, came to the California mines via Panama in 1853. He mined in northern California for three years, then moved to San Francisco to open a wood and coal office there. Later he engaged in stock-raising near Hill's Ferry, but in 1867 came to San Benito County where he still lived in 1903. He bought a farm and raised hops and sorghum for three years. Then about 1870 he began raising sheep and cattle near Hollister, which was still his business in 1903. He and Angeline had six children: Charles (born ca 1865), Katie (born ca 1869), William (born ca 1871), Clarence (born ca 1873), Eugene (born ca 1876) and Frank Sawyer (born late 1878 or early 1879). For his second wife Mr. Sawyer married Mrs. C. W. Wentworth, Angeline having apparently died about 1880.

Merian (or Marion) Souther had married S. Charles Wood (of Illinois, from New York parents). He was a stock-raiser near Gilroy in 1870 with his wife and daughter (\$1850 real estate, \$7000 personal estate). In 1880 he was farming near Hollister with his family. He and Marion had at least five children: Dena (born April, 1870), Lulu (born ca 1872), Mabel (born ca 1874), Clara (born ca 1876) and Elsie Wood (born ca 1879).

Lizzie Souther married Curtis Lathrop (of Illinois), a merchant in Hollister township in 1880. They had four children by that date: Reuble (born ca 1870), Herbert (born ca 1874), Myrtle (born ca 1876), and Winona Lathrop (born ca 1878). The family later moved to San Jose and lived there many years. Lizzie attended the Panama Pacific Exposition.

Catherine Souther married C. L. Conner, a native of Alabama, but had no children. Mr. Conner, it is believed, came to California with his father while very young in 1857. He may have grown up in the mining country, a farm in the Sacramento Valley and Santa Ana, Orange Co., where his father lived successively. The son served two years' apprenticeship to railroading and lived in Gilroy for a while. In 1874 with his father-in-law, W. H. Souther, he came to Kern Co. with a band of cattle and tools and supplies to improve the Livermore ranch, then in its "wild state". Conner, as superintendent of this ranch (later well-known as the Greenfield Ranch), put in fences, irrigation ditches and large buildings. Then more than 5000 acres were seeded in wheat for experimental raising of grain. The yield was good but the market was too distant to make grain culture profitable. So Conner turned to stock-raising. In 1892 about 12,000 acres were devoted to alfalfa and the stock was raised on the other 3000 acres. At this point the ranch was very successful.

Henry Souther, Jr., was residing in San Francisco in 1889 and was then cashier of the Home Mutual Insurance Company. In 1880 Sarah Souther was living with her sister and family, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wood near Hollister. In 1889 she was still single and was living with her father at Covina. Lucien Souther was getting a start farming near Hollister in 1880, but had moved to Kern Co. by 1889. We have not discovered whether these three children of William Souther ever married. The last child, Cally Souther, married Ronald McDonald, superintendent of Bellevue Ranch in Kern Co. till 1891. It was the headquarters of the Kern County Land Company and a beautiful, green place. They had one son, Ronald Jr. (born ca 1884), and moved to Bakersfield about 1891. The couple later separated amicably and Cally raised the son.



"Socrates Huff",
from Tribune Publishing Co.: Alameda Co., 1898."



"Lucien B. Huff, from a photograph."

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* * * * *

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brent Galloway is a Ph. D. Candidate in linguistics (American Indian languages) at the University of California, Berkeley, with a minor in music composition. A graduate of U.C. Berkeley and San Leandro High School, he will return to British Columbia for more field work this summer for his dissertation (a grammar of Chilliwack Halkomelem). He is a great, great grandson of Nancy Harlan and Lucien B. Huff and has been gathering genealogical and biographical information on both families for several years.

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